

2011-12-02 23:48:00

December

Hard to believe that the year is almost over - harder still to accept the light snow falling this evening as Narcissa and I returned from our engagement.



 [alt_lucius](#)

But first of the month accounting completed; party invitations sent; board commitments settled for next quarter; ridiculous number of invitations declined or accepted; Court docket set through end-of-year; arrangements for Our Lord's tree-lighting in New London complete. Truly the most remarkable thing is that the schedules are by turns crammed with meetings that must occur prior to year's end and lightened by the call of the all-important cocktail hour.

We have been asked to attend the Yule Ball as guests along with the dignitaries from Austria and France; despite being held the night prior to our own small celebration at the Manor, we have accepted. Understand the evening's entertainment concerns two of our own. Shall be intrigued to see it. (Also hear that there ought to be more than a little in the way of unofficial entertainment.)

Draco, Mr Marvolo: The Headmistress reports that your assignments have been completed to her satisfaction. Trust you shall be able to demonstrate your aptitude on our next visit as well.

Have been on several tours of camps over the last few weeks. Could concede the point that additional consistency across the regions would be useful but remain unconvinced that it ought to become a priority. Believe the realm has more pressing matters to occupy our time, not least of which being the continued development of supply chains. A vital component to such supply, naturally, involves ensuring that those substances we cannot produce in domestic enterprise are imported from sympathetic sources - those governments and organisations with a similar approach to protecting the magical standards for which Our Lord has made the Protectorate famous. We must look to the future, rather than police the present.

Fortunately the holiday season affords ample opportunity to discuss

weighty matters of state in less formal settings.

But it grows too late for political rambling.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-12-03 05:08:44](#)**

Private Message to Draco and Pansy

Nolan told me that he's arranged for your Merlin song to be performed at the Yule Ball.

Suspect he wishes it to be a surprise to your fellow students.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-03 16:55:34](#)**

Re: Private Message to Draco and Pansy

Brilliant! Don't worry, we can keep it a secret from the others.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-04 04:38:51](#)**

Re: Private Message to Draco and Pansy

That really is marvellous! Thank you for letting us know, Lucius!



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-12-03 12:52:58](#)**

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Over the last two weeks have resolved the difficulty with Fudge, since you seemed unable to manage it at the administrative level.

Inform me immediately if she interferes again - or if you suspect as much.

Nonetheless, have no intention of attending Umbridge's party and cannot send a declination now that she has the idea we will be attending. Hope you had no prior plans on the 17th.

2011-12-03 08:30:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony and Dora



I think it's the best solution.

I want to try, anyway. After breakfast this morning?

 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-12-03 14:09:18**

(no subject)

Well. It's worth trying, isn't it?

I'm happy to go along with you if you want. You might need a hand to keep from being smothered by dust--or other things, if you're right about the protections that may be lurking to surprise you.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-03 17:18:05**

(no subject)

Did we ever work out an answer to 'what's the worst that could happen, anyway?'



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-04 03:33:13**

(no subject)

Well, at least we know a few things, like the Floo's definitely closed up.

I think, if I'm quick enough, I can get inside and set a few rudimentary protections of my own. They might realise someone's breached the place but I'm pretty sure I can close it up again before anyone can get past the rest of the protections.

Best I do it alone, though. Besides, you two are busy with the post-Tree-lighting crowd.

2011-12-03 10:35:00

Today's YPL event

Students and guests:

We look forward to gathering today at 1pm in the Great Hall. From there, we'll split up into some other nearby spaces for the presentations. You may wish to bring something for notes. We have some excellent specialists coming, and I'm sure they'll have a great deal to share.



 **alt_sinistra**

Again, please remember that you will be divided into four groups, and that our CCF students will remain for an extra hour for some additional training.

I have had a question about how graphic the material might be. I've been told that while the instructors will be medically precise, you needn't worry in this session about looking at injuries or anything of the kind. (The exception may be our CCF sessions, depending on the case studies they choose.) Should you feel queasy for any reason, please quietly excuse yourself as needed without disturbing others.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-03 16:34:20**

Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Miss Perks -

Thank you again for making the excellent suggestion regarding the medwizardy topic: you're quite right that it's a subject more of us should know about, though of course everyone hopes not to have to deal with a sudden emergency. I think you'll find the planned sessions quite interesting.

I do have another reason for writing, however - two, rather, and both a little delicate, so I do hope you won't take offense.

First:

I realised this morning that I had not seen you stop by for help with dress robes for the ball. I know you're quite resourceful, and I'm sure you have something well in hand, but I wanted to reassure you that if you do have a need, even last minute, that I'd be glad to help the best I can.

Second:

This year, I find myself quite behind with some routine tasks in the tower, and it occurred to me that you might be willing to help me out. Most of it is not very difficult - cleaning lenses, polishing brass fittings, and filing charts. Not exciting, but not unpleasant, either.

I'd pay, of course, for your time. The scheduling is quite flexible, as well. I've a few smaller things (they'll take an hour or two with both of us working) that I'd like to get done early this week, but the rest could happen any time before the Ball. The one thing is that I need to be nearby, as there are some protective charms I'd need to lift for you.

If you're interested, do let me know, and we can talk further about the work and schedule. If you don't feel you have the time or interest, that's just fine, but I'd like to know so I could approach a second choice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-03 17:16:46](#)

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Oh -- thank you for your concern, but Pansy gave me some dress robes as a gift and I'm quite happy with them. And we both tried on our outfits for the Yule Ball the other evening to make sure everything fit and looked nice, so I know I have stockings that match and shoes that fit and everything. But thank you

About helping with tasks, I'd love to help ~~especially if you're paying me~~ with the things you mentioned. In addition to the usual classes I'm in Care of Magical Creatures, Ancient Runes, and Dark Arts, and I go to YPL of course and Pansy and I are still doing those study sessions where we offer to help younger students with Transfiguration (although there are a lot fewer people needing help these days) and so on but we move those around a bit anyway because everyone's got so much going on. Anyway, I don't know when you're free but I'm sure there's a time that would work.

I'm really looking forward to the YPL meeting today, thank you so much for organising it!



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-03 18:10:10**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Oh, excellent. I thought something like that might be the case. I look forward to seeing them at the Ball.

As to the tasks - today is obviously quite busy, but perhaps tomorrow afternoon, for an hour or two, at 4? I'd be able to show you what I have in mind, and we can discuss payment as well. Otherwise, Monday the same time would also work well for me.

I'll see you this afternoon.




 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-03 19:20:58**

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Healer Stint is here early, and has asked to be shown around the school. We'll have to end up with you - he's quite firm on that - but I'll take him everywhere else, first. Just wanted to give you a little warning.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2011-12-03 23:49:37**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Thank you for the warning. I appreciated it.

I think the afternoon went well as far as the seminars are concerned. The students seemed interested, most all of them, and the presenters were excellent. I wish I could have sat in for the whole of it.

Stint, as you know, is another matter altogether, and I've no idea whether to breathe freely now or not. Bother him.

He's not staying beyond supper, is he?



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-04 00:14:24**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

It certainly was as good a choice of topic as I can think of recently. I'll make the argument next week that something along these lines would be a good yearly addition to the schedule.

On Stint - no, thankfully. He implied heavily, before we came up to see you, that he would like to take me out to Hogsmeade for the evening, but I was firm that I have other plans and commitments.


I'm sorry that meant he stayed for supper here, but there is only so much of him I can take at once by myself.

Of course, then he attempted to ask me out for both the Sunday evening and Monday evening next week, when I'm in New London for meetings. Thankfully, Campanella and I have plans for a concert on Sunday since her husband's doing field work at the moment for latest research project, and my parents, of all things, asked to see me when I'm done with the meetings on Monday.

Campanella and I might end up having to dine with Stint beforehand if he keeps being quite that persistent, though. I suppose it's too much to hope for some emergency to require his skills that evening.

Was he very difficult with you? I missed a bit of it since I had to run down and make sure everything was set up properly.



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-12-04 00:51:16**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Well. He wasn't terribly pleased by the reports filed about my performance during the First Task.

I told you that St Mungo's insisted on sending someone to be a 'resource' to me in the event that more than one of the Champions should be injured, or any of them severely. As if they weren't going to have trauma and burn teams standing by in case they'd be needed--which they did in any case.

Anyhow, they sent Albertus Behm, who was perfectly lovely. Made himself helpful. Was in no way intrusive or obnoxious. And, in the

end, submitted a fully positive report of the proceedings that highlighted aspects of my performance that I had not myself boasted of in my own parchmentwork on the event.

This seems to have aggravated Stint and his cronies, and I daresay Healer Behm will not be asked to cover the next Task. Naturally, Stint took every opportunity to disparage the seriousness of the injuries suffered--as if the dragons had somehow fallen short and failed to challenge me as expected.

He's demanded copies of all my parchment work, my inventories before and after the Task, my requisition reports, all intake and discharge records for the term. And. He wants me to write up detailed treatment reports on two student he pulled completely at random from my records: one hexing injury and one allergic reaction to broom oil. Honestly.

And then, well, you saw what he was like when he got his hooks into Mr Marvolo.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-04 01:05:00](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey


Oh, goodness. As if you don't have better uses for your time than making all those copies and reports. (I mean, I understand that some reporting is necessary. But that sounds entirely unnecessary.)

And that's a pity about Healer Behm, too. I thought he looked like a nice sort, the few glimpses I got, and I'm glad that was true. (I seem to remember Campanella thinks highly of him too, and she's certainly seen enough trauma injury to recognise the best.)

And yes, I did catch the bit with Mr Marvolo. How difficult. I'm glad the healer did finally get control back: I was having trouble figuring out how to do so without Stint being primed to be difficult next week.

I didn't catch the beginning of the hex Mr Finnegan suffered, however. (At least I had an excuse for being elsewhere at that point: getting Peeves out of the classroom so we could use it really does require someone familiar with his ways.)



 **alt_poppy at 2011-12-04 03:38:20**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

It's so like Stint to seize the spotlight, but to completely overthrow both the schedule and the topic for the session--that was beyond arrogant.

It was rich, though, when he finally persuaded Mr Marvolo to let him examine his shoulder and found no scarring at all after carrying on and on about how it requires the highest expertise to manage shoulder wounds and how ticklish it is to heal dragon injuries, especially.

And then didn't he talked himself in gyrations when there was only that feathery line of newly healed skin! Then it was 'how fortunate that it was the tail spikes and not the claws' and 'how exceedingly lucky he'd only been grazed and not impaled'.

He was just digging in with how the boy could expect to suffer residual pain when using magic and how his range of motion might be permanently impaired when Healer Mytens made it clear she had her own presentation to make and he could take his fascination with Mr Marvolo's injury out into the corridor if he wished to pursue his inquiries with the boy.

I thought the session with Mr Finnigan was excellent. I do wonder if that was merely fortuitous or whether Grandin talked the boy into allowing himself to be hexed in order to have such a vivid injury for demonstrating primary, secondary, and tertiary treatments.



 **alt_poppy at 2011-12-04 03:46:37**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

I apologise for going on about him, Aurora.

It's one thing to suffer his professional antagonism, but having to bear his unwelcome interest must be especially difficult.

What an odious, irritating, horrible boor.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-04 03:57:26](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Oh, don't worry about that. Better to get it out of your system, no? Or isn't that what you've told me about toxins, or they fester? (And honestly, it's a relief to have someone who shares my opinion of him to talk to.)

But it was very like Stint to try and claim the spotlight like that, and refuse to budge over. (And after he'd gone on in meetings about how important it is to have a clear idea of what material to cover, and sequence it, too.)

I'll have to remember Healer Mytens and her technique though - our agenda is packed next week, and I refuse to build in too much extra time for people like Stint to use up without warning.


I did think Mr Marvolo handled it with exceedingly good grace, all things considered. As to Mr Finnigan, I'm not sure - the expression I caught from him suggests he was not pleased by the state of affairs, but I admit I don't know him as well as some of the others of his year.

I did think Healer Grandin's teaching technique and explanations very nicely done, the few minutes I caught before circulating through the sessions again. Very clear and precise, neither overstating the problem or ignoring the potential concerns.

I'm glad I had a more pleasant evening to look forward to - I do enjoy my Saturdays of marking (and a drink and good chat) with Raz, though at the moment he's off doing a round of the building.

(Though, I have to say: tonight's essays are rather abysmal. The Yule Ball's already distracting people no end, apparently. Makes for amusing errors to read out loud to Raz, but we'll have to recover some material in class.)




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-04 13:47:25](#)**
(no subject)

That was a really nift programme, Professor Sinistra.

I think Sally Anne Perks shouldn't have to take end of term exams since she had such a good idea.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-04 14:27:59](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, come on!

If that's all it took to get out of exams, Weasley, you'd be stuck in 4th year forever.

Or are you hoping that if she doesn't have to sit her own exams, she could take *yours* for you?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-04 14:37:05](#)**
(no subject)

I just think it would be a nice way to reward people who contribute ideas for YPL programmes.

No need to be nasty, Patil.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-04 15:53:58](#)**
(no subject)

I am very glad you found it so interesting, Mr Weasley. (And certainly, I have given Miss Perks credit for the idea.) I'll be proposing that something on the topic be a regular part of future years.

As to exams - alas, were it so easy to get out of them.

2011-12-03 11:34:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Okay. I've straightened it out, and I don't have to work security until post-event tonight. If you still wanted to have tea first, I could meet you at Blaison. Or we could just have something from the Fresher's kiosk during the Tree-lighting, couldn't we?



 [alt_lana](#)

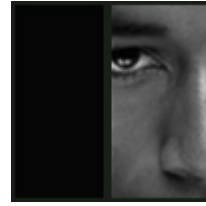
It should be beautiful tonight: I hear we're expecting more snow!

2011-12-03 17:15:00

(no subject)

Say, Finnigan.

That looked painful. Glad it was just a hex and not something contagious.



 [alt_blaise](#)




 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-04 01:30:28**

(no subject)

Thanks, Zabini.

At least the Healers doing the training were able to make some use of it.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2011-12-04 03:00:07**

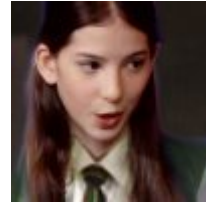
(no subject)

I mean to say, though, having all those lumps swell up on your neck like that must have been fairly alarming. I don't suppose you could see it, but they turned all purple and black.

Nott had just about convinced Goyle to wager on whether they'd split open and spew puss when the Healer got round to casting the Cease Progression charm or whatever he called it.

2011-12-03 19:31:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




I know it had to have been you who hexed Finnigan, Ron. Don't try to tell me it wasn't.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

At least the results were pretty spectacular.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-04 03:04:14**
(no subject)

Who, me?


It could've been anyone. There was a whole crowd of us out there in the corridor before that second session.

I think it was Bundy, myself. Been waiting to get Finnigan back ever since this summer, hasn't she?

Mind you, I thought it was brilliant.

And those lumps came up so fast. Right off the side of his neck! Blimey.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-04 03:07:26**
(no subject)

And the funniest bit was the way the Healer latched onto him and marched him in to use him for demonstrating. Hilarious how he kept taking the piss about a CCF student letting himself be caught out like that!

Thought Finnigan was going to lose it before he finished with him.



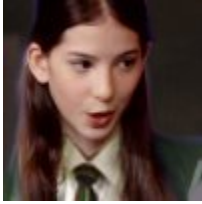
 **alt_ron** at **2011-12-04 13:50:30**
(no subject)

Of course, it might've been me.

You should've seen Finnigan last night. He was totally fuming! I swear there was smoke trying to come out his ears when we came up for bed.

I put up a fair few protection charms, you can bet! And I'm still alive this morning, so I guess they worked.

Either that or he hasn't decided what he wants to do to get back at me yet.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-04 17:06:45**
(no subject)

Yeah, well, if he were a Slytherin he'd give it at least a week, so you start to relax your guard.

But he's a Gryffindor so who knows?

[2011-12-04 07:51:00](#)

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

I'm sorry, Ned. I didn't realise you wanted time alone last night or I wouldn't have told Vani to meet us at Blaison.



 [alt_lana](#)

But we'll be together again tonight, and it's sleighing! I can't wait to see how Whitacre's got up the hunting lodge, too. I think it sounds so charming. And romantic, too. I mean to say, Epping Forest is lovely this time of the year, all wrapped up in snow.

I'll expect you at half-five, and we'll Apparate together.

Now, we do need to get our diaries straight for the coming weeks. Wright knows that I plan to accompany you to the Malfoys on the 23rd, and there's the St Mungo's gala, but I'm not going to be able to make the Philharmonic, I'm afraid, or the Consort's programme on the 11th, which I'd really hoped we'd be able to hear. (That's all right, though, as they're playing for Papa's festivities at the store, so we'll hear them there. You are able to come for that, aren't you? On Wednesday.)

Do you have any conflicts with Mama's supper before the Opera on the 10th? (Do try to make supper even if you have to meet Mr Crouch later; it would mean so much to my parents if you were there. But. If it's a choice between that and twelfth night with my grandparents, you know TN's much more important, right? Abuelita is still so fragile, but they're determined not to break tradition.)

Then there are two potential conflicts: on the 9th, Sophia Novello's having a soiree and one doesn't like to offend Whirl's society writer, and accepting might mean she'll give more space to Papa's guests on Wednesday. So I've said yes, but the Faust-Mackrells have also invited us that night, and, of course, Jacqueline Mackrell's important. I know Mr Crouch will expect you to be there, and it will be packed with people from the department. So we'll just have to juggle a bit that night.

It'll be a bit easier on the 16th, which is Sarah's gallery party, but Bobolis has also invited us for cocktails. I hear his penthouse is amazing, so we shouldn't miss that. We can stop in there and go on to

Sarah's as soon as it's polite to run off.

We've also the MLE gathering and the Ministry party to attend, but for those, schedule isn't an issue. If either of us is on duty, it'll be an excuse to just pop in and out, and that's all that's really necessary for those.

Oh, and there's the Yaxley's party on Boxing Day. Are you able to make that?

And I'm still poking Orion about having something small at ours, too: if we made that the 18th, could you be there?

Let me know about these dates, will you? And I'll see you at half-five!

[2011-12-04 09:15:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Feeling better?

I suppose that business yesterday must make asking someone to the Ball loads more difficult.



 [alt_padma](#)

It was utterly impossible no one should have seen it happen. And how that one made such a cake out of 'getting caught with your guard down' - I thought it was well rude. Especially since it was obviously Weasley and Perks. I can't believe no one said anything, especially Clearwater. She's useless.

How are we going to get them back for it?



 [alt_seamus](#) at **[2011-12-04 17:13:43](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, once those Healers got around to FIXING me instead of demonstrating everything under the sun that would HALFWAY fix me I felt fine again.

I don't believe for a minute no one saw, but Weasley -- or Perks, but I reckon Weasley -- was clever enough to pull out his wand while everyone was busy coming into the hall and there was enough noise no one heard him.

I'm going to get back at him, don't worry. He knows it, too, he spent about a half hour last night casting every protection spell he could think of before he went to bed.

I've been thinking about that lecture in Dark Arts we had a month or so back, about cursed objects and how sometimes they have layers of spells -- maybe I can come up with something where whoever Weasley runs to for help will get hit with some nasty jinx as well. Of course I wouldn't want to jinx Madam Pomfrey but there's plenty he goes to Perks and Parkinson for, or his brothers.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-05 16:52:45](#)
(no subject)


That's a brilliant idea, actually.

It would be such a shame if someone ruined Perks on the night of the ball. Did you hear someone said she's got a date already but won't say who? I bet it's Crabbe and she's well ashamed to admit it.

Oh. And. Don't tell anyone this, but you know Marvolo asked Chang? Well. She's sort of been a watering pot about it. From what Chambers was telling the Corner last night, she felt like she had to accept, because it's *Harry Marvolo*, you know, who did the asking. But I don't think he realises that she's been seeing Diggory since a week or so after we got back to school. And she had to tell Diggory she can't go with him because Marvolo asked and she's all in a state over it.

But I don't want Marvolo to think he did anything wrong. He may not have *actually* known that she and Diggory are together and he's got the right to ask whomever he likes. She doesn't know him well enough to know she could have said 'No.' But now it's done and Diggory's probably taking Bundy or Rohani or someone. There's no use making him feel bad about it. Right?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-05 16:53:42](#)
(no subject)

And if he *did* know and he did it on purpose, it's a well brilliant way to get into Diggory's head!

[2011-12-04 12:01:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Moony and Dora



Merlin. It's worse than I remembered.


And not ... entirely empty. But at least it's secure, for the moment. Remus, we're going to have to put stronger protections on as soon as possible. I'm sure that it's only a matter of time before someone notices. And the Floo's open now but there, too, they're worse fools than I'd think possible if the Floo Board doesn't have it red-flagged for activity.

 [alt_sirius](#)

Anyway. We can go later, all of us, to have a proper look.

Sorry about missing breakfast. Any leftovers?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-04 17:09:11](#)

(no subject)

What do you mean, 'not entirely empty?' And how long do you think we have to put together those stronger protections?

As far as breakfast, we saved you a couple sausages.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-04 17:17:28](#)

(no subject)

Sausage: grand, thanks.

And yeah, of course it's not *empty*. I mean to say, it's full of furniture and all their old junk. What I mean is, it's not entirely *unoccupied*.

We seem to have inherited an elf. I dunno why I thought he'd be dead along with her. Oh. And we'll have to do something about her portrait. It, er, doesn't like me very much. Nothing new there, either.


As for how long - I don't know. I've told the elf not to allow anyone entry without my express permission, not to leave the house and not to tell anyone outside of the house anything that goes on there.

But someone could get in now, with the key. I think. I'm not sure.

Maybe this was a mistake.

I'll come back through and we can talk about it properly. All three of us.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-04 18:04:50](#)**

(no subject)

Bloody hell.

If you come through the floo, and someone DOES get in -- despite the elf, and although I'm sure it would try its best I don't imagine it would offer more than a minor inconvenience to Bellatrix -- would they be able to see where you'd gone via floo? Perhaps you'd better apparate (I know, I'm sorry).



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-04 18:05:34](#)**

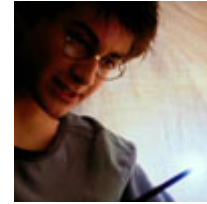
(no subject)

How long does it take to cast the Fidelius charm?
Do you know how to do it?

2011-12-04 17:46:00

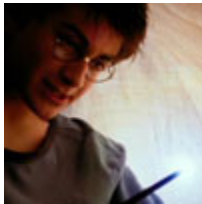
(no subject)

I still haven't figured out the second thing yet. Because alot of people have been asking, I figured I'd just tell everyone this way. It's still an egg. It still screeches when you open it. I tried putting earmuffs on it, but that didn't help.



 [alt_harry](#)

Anyways. Who is staying here for the Yule Ball? I guess pretty much everyone is. And it'll be fun. ~~I guess.~~ It'll be fun spending Christmas here when everyone else will be here too.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-12-04 22:55:13**

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

She said yes.

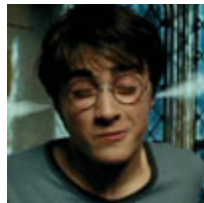
That's why I ordered the flowers. So, you know, it'd be classy. She turned really red and I thought she would say no, but she said yes! So I guess I've got that taken care of.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-05 03:11:18**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Flowers were a nice touch. I bet Lavender Brown will be cooing to everyone about how you're a *proper gentleman* now.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-12-05 03:25:01**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

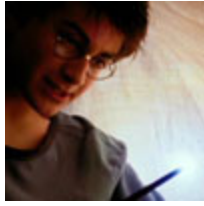
Which is why I didn't ask Lavender Brown.




 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-05 03:27:49**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Hey, Lavender's well fit. Well vapid, too, more's the pity.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 03:30:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yeah. You can say that again.

For both.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-05 03:43:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Speaking of, what do you think of Daphs' plan to ask a bloke to the ball instead of accepting an invitation from one? Mental or clever? I can't quite decide which.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 03:47:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I think she just should've gone with Blaise.

But asking someone isn't mental. I think it's kind of cool. If she gets someone to say yes.



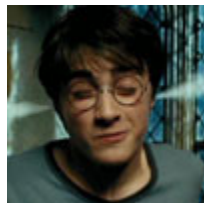
 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-05 03:52:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

But she and Blaise "aren't ready to be serious," remember?

I mean, the truth of it is that they dated because they thought it gave them status and made them important. That's what I think, anyway.

I'm sure she'll get someone to say yes. I doubt it will be Auror Crouch, though.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 04:03:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy


Hah! Good one.

But showing off and all is sort of the point of a ball. At least a little bit. So you'd think they'd

be all about that.

I don't get it.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-12-05 04:05:24**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yeah but everyone expects them to go together, so that's not very cool or impressive - I bet that's what they think, anyway.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-05 01:36:05**

(no subject)

Did you try putting the earmuffs on yourself?

I mean, that's actually sorta brilliant, mate. Maybe you need a special interpretation charm on a pair of earmuffs. Like the kind Professor Sprout uses with Mandrakes, maybe? Really good ones, I mean.

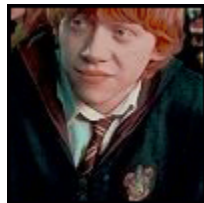


 **[alt_harry](#) at 2011-12-05 02:30:16**

(no subject)

I tried that first!

I didn't think of putting an interpretation charm on it, though. I don't even know if it's trying to say something, or if the sound does something else, like you've got to use it to open a door or break glass or something.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-05 02:52:56**

(no subject)

Hm.


I haven't heard what kind of horrible noise it makes, only I've heard what people said who did hear it.

Is it like the noise Fwoopers make that sends people mad?

So when you opened it with ear muffs on, you weren't able to see

what its secret is? Or did everyone nearby make you shut it again so they didn't have to listen? Only- maybe you have to open it someway that the noise would be muffed. I mean, not with ear muffs you'd wear, but some kind of all over muffling thing for the egg.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:27:51](#)**
(no subject)

I wrapped it in a blanket too.

Maybe I ought to bury it. Or put it in ice.

I've never heard a Fwooper before, but it's sort of like a Mandrake, though. Because it's so screechy that even if you wrap it in something, it's still annoying and screechy, just a little less loud.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-05 15:10:16](#)**
(no subject)

Say. Putting it in ice seems like a good idea!

Unless the noise would shatter the ice and send it flying like arrows in all directions. Actually that would be something to see! Dead dangerous, of course. But wicked ace!




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:13:31](#)**
(no subject)

I will be staying for the Yule Ball. Have you asked anyone to be your date yet, Harry?

From,

Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:24:29](#)**
(no subject)


I thought ~~third years couldn't go?~~

~~Unless they were asked.~~

Who're you going with, then?

I'll be going with Cho Chang.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-05 03:27:27](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you're going with Chang?

But Oh.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 03:29:11](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I mean, I just asked her today, but she said yes and everything.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-05 03:31:23](#)
(no subject)

Cho Chang, I see. She's older, isn't she?

Justin Finch-Fletchley asked me. But if you So I said yes.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 03:31:44](#)
(no subject)

That's ace, Hydra.

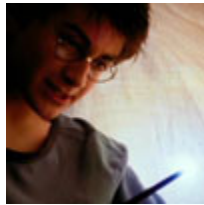
I'm sure you'll have a good time. Finch-Fletchley seems nice.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-05 03:36:34](#)
(no subject)

I think I will have a very good time, yes. I was really ever so happy when it was Justin who asked me. It was unexpected, but I think that made it that much better.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-05 03:43:04](#)
(no subject)

Well, good.

I'm glad you're staying over hols.

It's going to be alot more crowded here than when it was just the three of us.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-05 04:51:36](#)
(no subject)

I'm staying, of course! And so is Pansy. It's going to be brilliant, I can't wait!

2011-12-04 21:19:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice and Frank



Allie,

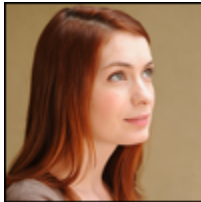
We've hit upon a solution to our little problem of becoming cramped over on Doughty Conduit. (Er, Frank. We're getting a bit too cramped at Doughty Conduit and so far the things we've tried have attracted the wrong sort of attention. Nothing to worry about but it's caused us to be a little more creative in our thinking. Just in case Allie hasn't caught you up.)


 [alt_sirius](#)

But you know how it is. One solution leads to another problem.

So. I'm trying to remember the steps of the Fidelius. I know there's the perimeter walk and the hearth ash bit and I remember the runes to obscure north and west, but I can't visualise the rune for east, at present. And I've drawn the one for south a few times but it doesn't look right. And there's the spell itself, of course.

And we also wondered - Well, I mean to say, we thought. You see, it needs to be done quickly and without anyone noticing. But we wanted to ask if one of you would be Secret Keeper for us. Either of you. And if so, could you pop down to London tomorrow, and we can have a go at it tomorrow night?



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-12-05 03:04:35**
(no subject)

I remember the directional runes well enough, love. I helped Dumbledore carve them in the ground around Moddey. Frank and I can both be down there first thing tomorrow to help. I'll talk to Arabella tonight to compare notes and make sure we won't miss anything.

How's your supply of salt? We'll transfigure the soil, of course, but we need to have enough true salt on hand to mix it with. We won't need nearly as much as we did for Moddey -- thank heaven we were by the sea. We can bring some with us.

A good astronomy chart would be nice if you have it. Ours is a bit out

of date. As long as we go by dawn and dusk for each pass-through, it ought to be fine, but I want to err on the side of caution.

And a sharp silver knife.

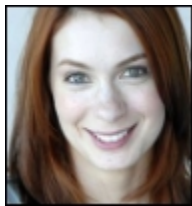
And yes, I will be your secret keeper, as long as it's something that all three of you have agreed on.




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:11:48](#)**
(no subject)

I'll get the salt together while you talk to arabella.


a cauldronfull ought to do, you think? one of the medium sized ones.



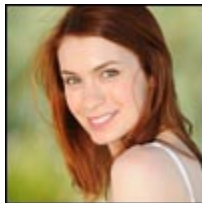
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:12:59](#)**
(no subject)


Yes. But be sure you don't rush it. As close to pure as we can get between now and tomorrow. I can come out and help you once I'm done.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:14:15](#)**
(no subject)

nothing doing. you're going to rest up for tomorrow. you'll need it. I'll get steve and jacinda to help out. between the three of us, we ought to get it up to the general's standards.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:16:45](#)**
(no subject)

Well. I'll be sure and head to bed after picking Arabella's brain, then.



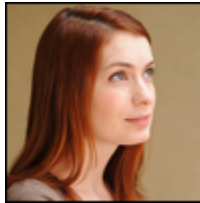
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-05 03:15:00](#)
(no subject)


Yes, we've all agreed. In fact, Dora's been helping try to infiltrate, until we figured out I had to go alone.

Moony will have to go get the chart in the morning. I've been doing some of the calculations this evening - two sets, depending on whether it's you or Frank.

One of the benefits of our relationship with Sabola is that we've plenty of good pure salt. And there's a healthy supply of ashes in the kitchen hearth.

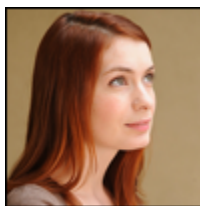
I'm not sure about whether we ought to use dusk and dawn, though. I think the adjusted midnight might be better for this location.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-05 03:19:38](#)
(no subject)

You know the property best, love. If midnight strikes you as the most appropriate, then I'm likely to agree. And given the time of year, the days are very short.


And we'll bring plenty of extra. You can never have too much salt.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-05 03:34:17](#)
Private Message to Sirius Black

And how has everything been going, then?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-05 04:11:21](#)
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

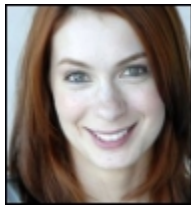
All right. I mean to say. Not without its tensions. But I think we're coming into a new rhythm. We've started eating breakfast together every morning. Remus and I mostly take turns with the cooking so it's ready when Dora gets home from the Ministry. I missed today's, unfortunately. Still, it's a good chance for us all to spend


time together and talk.

I care about Dora very much. We both do. But I never expected to exchange places. I didn't think it was possible. I'd've left forever before I came between them. Even if it meant only seeing him now and then.

Allie. I've loved him most of my life, I suppose. And to find out that he's felt the same and we never

It's like someone's turned on a lamp in a dark room. And it's hard to restrain how it feels, now. It's hard to conceive that being this happy means someone else is not, quite. But we'll manage.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2011-12-05 04:26:13**


Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

It's certainly not perfect, but life is far from perfect.

I do think that of all of you, I'm worried the most for Tonks. Because she deserves to be with someone who loves her back, loves her like you and Remus love one another, and although this set-up does provide her with support, and she does care for both of you very much and you for her, it's just not the same.

But from what I've seen, you three are doing the best you can with what you've been dealt, and I admire you all for it.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2011-12-05 03:06:31**

(no subject)

What are we protecting?

It isn't where I think, is it?

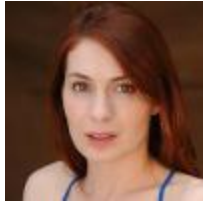



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2011-12-05 03:15:50**

(no subject)

Depends on what you think.

I've opened up Grimmauld Place.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:21:56](#)**
(no subject)

Merlin. I take it that by "have opened up," you mean you've already found your way into the house and haven't killed yourself in the process?

And that we've been lucky enough not to trip anything in the process and raise the suspicion of certain Lestranges and Malfoys?

I see your need for haste.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-05 03:50:20](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, we tried the Floo but it spat us both back on the hearth at Laszlo's. Then I tried the Floo myself but that didn't work, either. We took ourselves over there and cased it carefully. No one was watching the place. I don't have a key anymore - I mean to say, I didn't have, before last night - and Dora couldn't even turn the knob on the door. We gave up.

But I got to thinking. The London Tree-lighting thingy was last night, so everyone's attention was focused there. I figured there wouldn't be any better time to sneak in, if I could, and get a few rudimentary wards up to keep them out, even if they've got something set to tell them the house has been breached.

You remember the last time I went by there to have a look, I felt *pulled* toward the door. It was the same this time. I just touched the lock on the door and I felt ... sort of a jolt of electricity. A shock, I mean to say. And then the knob opened smooth as silk.

I was there all night last night, finding out what Kreacher had to say and making sure he couldn't cause us any trouble. I set wards straightaway after that and spent the rest of the night looking through my father's office for any notes he might have left about what protections he had put on before his death.

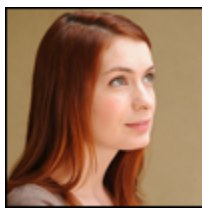
I reckon the Floo Board will take forever to report any change; they can't monitor every opening and closure. And I haven't gone through; I took Moony's advice and Apparated back from the next-door garden. (Spent most of the afternoon recovering -


hence the maths.)

There's another factor. My mother's elf. Circe. MY elf. Was still taking care of the place. I've sworn him to secrecy but the sooner we can put it under our Fidelius the better. And then we can use the Floo to come and go.

I hadn't figured on the state of the house. Mother was a virtual shut-in for years, I'd heard that. But she at least used to insist on cleanliness. Dust, debris - I was attacked by doxies when I opened a cupboard. I was half-expecting my old schoolroom to have been transformed into the wedding feast table in Mrs Haversham's house, or summat.

And she's left a portrait in the entrance hall. Allie, it's ... indescribable. The moment I walked by she started screaming at me. And it's got a permanent sticking charm on it. I found that out when I told Kreacher to take the bloody thing down. I've covered it for the moment but ... I dunno. I'm a bit worried that Dora will decide there's no way we're raising Bea in such a house. I couldn't blame her if she did do. But I don't know what alternatives we have, at this point. The business can't afford a larger premises and they can't very well apply for licences to expand the current flat without having to answer a lot of prying questions. 'My husband's left me for our dog and we need another bedroom' is hardly a good reason in the Ministry's eyes, is it?



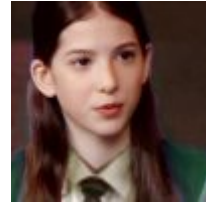
 **alt_alice** at **2011-12-05 03:58:43**
(no subject)

I'm sure we can work out something with the portrait. At the very least, if you don't end up making it a permanent residence, it's a place we can make secure and safe right in London, which we need desperately.

And I have every faith that with some hard work and time, we'll get it looking like a proper place for a family.

2011-12-04 22:51:00

Private message to Pansy



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

So in Hogsmeade last weekend I bought loads of yarn from Witch-Crafty to knit presents. I was thinking I'd knit some nice striped wool socks for Professor Sinistra, but then I started thinking, maybe I should make presents for all my professors? Professor Slughorn would certainly like it, and actually the Strettons started making a pineapple jam this year that's quite nice. Not crystallised pineapple but I do think he'd like it (especially if I added a note saying that SOMEDAY WHEN I AM RENOWNED THROUGHOUT THE PROTECTORATE for who knows what, I look forward to sending him a proper gift). I mean he'll know I'm kissing arse but he approves of that sort of thing.

I can't quite decide about Acton, though. Though she's pretty stupid. I don't know if she's ever noticed or cared that I don't like her.

Brutka, Babbling, and Grubbly-Plank I like so it would actually be a gift from the heart (more or less) but then I'd have to decide what to do for Miss Professor Carrow. How much trouble do you think I'd get in if I gave her a pair of wool socks with a very subtle hex that made them super itchy? I'm pretty sure I could make it look like I'd tried to charm them to NOT itch and mucked it up, it's an easy mistake to make.

Do you give gifts to the teachers? Finnigan does, did you know? That's part of what got me thinking about it last year (only it was too late when I found out). It's really his foster-father who does, of course, which is rather different since it's the sort of gesture that says 'don't mess with me, I have someone rich and powerful looking out for me.'

(I'm not knitting socks for my friends, though, everyone other than you would think it was naff. SOCKS. But really nice knitted wool socks -- with stripes! -- those are actually pretty nift. Well, maybe Neville would appreciate them. Ron certainly wouldn't. Or Daphne, ha, can you imagine Daphne's reaction if I gave her socks?)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-05 05:17:02](#)
(no subject)

I think if you made Mrs Professor Carrow socks that were bright pink, sparkly, AND itchy, you'd be my personal hero.

And Slughorn would like pineapple jam, I'd bet. He'd appreciate that you were being thoughtful.

I've never thought of giving teachers presents. But I think that the sorts of presents you're planning on giving are just the sort of thing one *would* give to a teacher, not too fancy or over expensive, and very thoughtful.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-05 05:19:41](#)
(no subject)

Yes -- I can't be extravagant but I can be thoughtful, even for teachers.

I hadn't thought about making them bright pink and sparkly. I actually have a skein of bright pink, sparkly yarn, because I was thinking I'd knit something for Hydra. I'm not sure I have enough of it to knit something for Hydra AND something for Miss Professor Carrow, though, and Hydra would actually really appreciate it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-05 18:20:50](#)
(no subject)

True. I think that if you made them knobbly and vomit-coloured, she'd probably like them more anyways. Mrs Professor Carrow, I mean. Which would make her more likely to wear them at least once, and then get the full itchy effect.

2011-12-05 14:09:00


Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

I think you didn't see me, but I was turning around the corner of that stairwell just as that boy hexed you in the stomach. (That was Laurent Coty, I think. And it was his friend Henri Toubon along with him, wasn't it?) I was so surprised that I'm afraid I froze where I was. Anyway, they didn't see me. And then you took off so quickly after you picked up your book bag that that I didn't even have a chance to ask you: are you all right?



 [alt_luna](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-05 22:24:12**
(no subject)

Oh, hullo, Luna.


Yes, I'm fine, thanks. I say, kind of you to ask. But really, it's nothing.

Well. I say nothing. One of my inkpots broke when Coty tossed my bag and it hit the wall a bit hard. Ink all over three of my homework assignments. Still. That's why one copies them before turning them in, what?

How are you, then? I say, any more missing shoes?

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at **2011-12-06 00:57:49**
(no subject)

Oh, dear. I'm very sorry. That doesn't sound like nothing to me. It rather sounds like something you certainly don't deserve.

And if you've made copies of your assignments I suppose this means this has happened to you before?

So you don't need any notes or anything? I'd be happy to show you mine in any of the classes if you think it might help.



[alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-06 16:13:35](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for the offer, Luna, but as you're in third-year classes and I've been sitting in on the fourth-years, I rather think your notes wouldn't apply, what?

But I do appreciate the sentiment. Truly.

And really, it's nothing. They just like having a bit of fun at my expense. It's odd to me, as I've lived in France almost my whole life, but to them I'm just a *rosbif* and a Squib's not a very good wizard in the bargain. So. I suppose they like thinking they can get me down.

Which is why I refuse to let it fuss me, do you see. Rather like people thinking it's amusing to hide your things in well odd places. It's just how it is, no use getting upset over it.


Besides, copying homework assignments isn't difficult. It's just a simple spell. One of my tutors showed me two summers ago.

Has anyone asked you to the Ball yet? I don't know if you even care to go, but I know third-years require someone inviting them. That is, my roommate JP doesn't have a date yet, if you'd like to go and no one has asked. I don't suppose you ought to be like Greengrass, that would almost be like inviting yourself, what? But I think you'd enjoy it if you got to go. And I don't know many others and JP is just really even more shy than I am, which is hard to imagine. So I offered to help him. Because I already asked someone, or I'd be happy to ask you, you know.

Oh, dash it. That has to have been the most backward invitation on behalf of another bloke ever put to parchment. It's just that this sort of talking to a girl is altogether different, isn't it, than just chatting, what?

-Justin



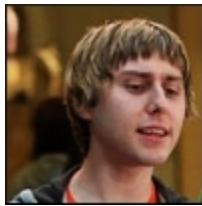
 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-07 03:56:40](#)
(no subject)


I suppose my notes wouldn't do you much good, but if there is another way I can help, won't you let me know? Even if it's just to talk.

And you do know you can go to Madam Pomfrey, if any of the hexing gets too uncomfortable? She's very good, and she knows when to ask questions and when just to let things be.

Well, if your friend is shy, you are a good friend to ask for him. I'm not offended. I understand, since I'm sometimes a little--well, not exactly shy, but I like to keep my own counsel at times.


Would he be too shy to talk to me, do you think, now that you've broken the ice a bit? If he isn't, perhaps you could introduce us at breakfast?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-07 16:07:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, it sounds as if you two found a few things to chat about, what?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-07 17:26:52](#)
(no subject)

Yes, we did. Thank you for introducing us. I think this will work out very well.

Anyone who hates kidney pie as much as I do is surely a kindred spirit.

2011-12-05 22:58:00

Private Message to Bella and Lucius

Bella, I don't know if you've put your charm for Walburga's house aside somewhere or not. I admit I had done, myself, and it's only by chance that I came across it in my dresser drawer this evening after Lucius and I returned from the Averys'.



 **alt_narcissa**

The thing's gone from black to green. That means someone's opened the door.

Now, I don't want to give Draco another turn to make him think his mother's gone off writing to supposedly dead people again. But if that horrible former cousin of ours is dead ... then ... Is there any hope that it's Regulus, returned again?

Lucius, ought we to go immediately and see who's gained entry?



 **alt_lucius** at **2011-12-06 04:19:39**
(no subject)

No, you ought not do. But I've sent MLE to the place straightaway.

Dearest. I know you wish it to be Reg but it's far more likely that someone has forced a way through Orion's protections in hope of recovering some of the family's effects.

Let them handle it.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2011-12-06 04:22:08**
(no subject)

What? Rodolphus was clear on that score, husband. No one but one of Orion's sons could open that door. If it's not Sirius, it must be Reg.

Mustn't it?

Why send MLE when we can go in an instant and see for ourselves. What if he leaves again for wherever he ran in the first place?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-06 04:32:37](#)
(no subject)

Dear heart. If it were Regulus and this were evidence that he had run from Our Lord again, it would be our solemn duty to lead MLE to him, to bring him before Him for His justice. He would have been foolish in the extreme to return, if he had actually - *successfully* - hid himself away. But deep down you know, my love, even if you are loathe to admit it to yourself: He is gone. Forever, this time. It pains me that we must continue covering this ground. Frankly, it would be worse for him if he were alive, as we would have no choice but to judge him a traitor.

Please, accept this as fact. You only upset yourself more by clinging to the notion that he might not be dead. It is time to let him go.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-06 04:37:13](#)
(no subject)

But how can you be so sure? I couldn't get in, nor could Bella. Rodolphus and Barty were both certain that only a son of the House of Black could unlock the charm holding the house.

But Bella finished Sirius Black. So, who else could it be? How could a common criminal have broken through when we of the same blood could not open the door?

What are you not telling me, Lucius?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-06 04:40:21](#)
(no subject)

Not here, Rio; I shall come to your apartments momentarily.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-06 04:45:31](#)**
(no subject)

If you're about to tell me what I think you're about to tell me, Scip, then you'd best simply go with MLE to the house.

Tell my sister to do it properly this time.

No, on second thought, I'm coming with you both.

2011-12-06 09:33:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius Black



 [alt_alice](#)

Are you quite as exhausted as I am?

I'm sorry we couldn't stay. Frank can get a little insistent some times, and he was quite adamant about our going home so I could get some sleep. I can carve out some time next week to come by and help fix up the place a little more, though.

And we ought to test it, just to be sure.

And I know you're tired of my saying so, but we really ought to tell Minerva and Arthur.

And Frank is making faces at me because I'm supposed to be resting, so I'd better put this aside for now.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-06 15:11:36**

(no subject)

So knackered I think I might actually be able to sleep here. But then I did kip most of Sunday afternoon. Well, at least I'll be ready to go right about the time Bea does her evening wake-up call.

Thank you both. Do you feel all right, otherwise? You were fantastic, you know, throughout. Couldn't have finished in time without Frank, either. One thing I'll say: My father's protections came in handy. Glad I found that foe-glass so we knew to get a move on.


It was fun, though, barely making it back inside before seeing the shadows on the square. Sort of like the old days.

As far as telling the others: Yes, I know, I shall. I want to make sure the Floo's really safe first, and as you say, test things. Wait a bit while MLE give up.

I mean to say, we can't Apparate to the square while they've got a watch over it. And you'll have to tell everyone, after all, so they can even get here. If they want to use it.

Maybe this wasn't such a brilliant idea.



 **alt_alice** at [2011-12-07 04:15:15](#)
(no subject)


Now that I've taken a rather considerable nap and had some of Victor's fish stew, I feel much more human. I won't be undertaking any complicated spells for the next few days, though, I can tell you that.

What's done is done, and as safely as possible. And with all the things that could have gone wrong, I think everyone will be more relieved than anything. Yes, you probably should have told everyone before trying to break in, just so they could get some initial worryworking out of the way (honestly, between you and Severus, I feel like such a broken record), but I understand your wanting to keep it discreet.

I can tell everyone at the Christmas party. So that'll sort out. And you'll have tested the floo, so they won't have to Apparate into the square if they do want to use it.

Right now, there isn't a terribly urgent need for a London safehouse, but if there ever was one, now we have a place that isn't as fraught with security concerns as Moddey Dhoo. I think that it's a good step forward.



 **alt_sirius** at [2011-12-07 04:32:42](#)
(no subject)

Allie, you know I love you, but if you insist on comparing me and Snivellus I may have to repeat that ritual with a new secret keeper.


One thing about this business is good and that's the thought of sweeping out that crusty, loveless place and making it a real home.

Still not sure how to silence that portrait. I'm none too keen on bringing Bea through with my mother shrieking every time someone walks past.

Besides, there might be more things in the house we could use,

like the foe glass. I dunno; I haven't really had the heart to have a proper look in most of the rooms.




 **[alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-07 04:41:06](#)**
(no subject)

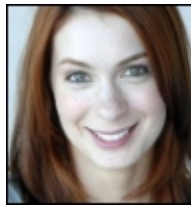
I'd imagine it has been a bit surreal for you, being back in your old home again.


Between the lot of us, we'll sort out something with the portrait. I'd bet Bill would be able to do some research on it, and I can take a poke at it as well when I come back later this week.



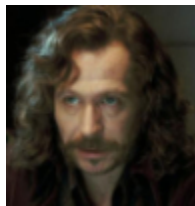
 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-07 04:55:51](#)**
(no subject)


It's been nearly 20 years. But hardly a thing's changed.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-07 04:59:53](#)**
(no subject)

Are all your old rock posters still on your walls? That Parkinson girl found your hiding place for your records, I'd imagine she did some digging around in your old room. I hope she didn't disturb things too much.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-07 05:14:38](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, she admitted to nicking the records. You know, half those posters I put up only because I knew it would irk Mother no end.

I've only been up to the top level twice so far. (As you know, we're not ready to start travelling back and forth every day just yet. One thing at a time.) I thought Reg's room might make a good nursery for Bea but - I can't quite bring myself to open the door. Not sure why. That pathetic little sign of his never made any difference when I lived there.

||||| Tomorrow I'll test the Floo. If nothing happens, I reckon I can spend part of the day looking through Father's papers, see if I can find any notes on the spells he put on the house before he died.

2011-12-06 11:11:00

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



 [alt_terry](#)

I'm continuing to work on trying to master the animagus transformation. I managed to pinch one of the git's books, and I've charmed it to hide it in my magical wristband.

Unfortunately, it doesn't have much, not even a whole section on the transformation, just a few cryptic remarks. He doesn't have anything else in his library on the subject, at least that I can find. But I keep poring over the book, over and over again. And I've been doing something kind of hard to explain. It's meditating on what animal I could be. Like, what's my character like, and what kind of animal could that be?

It's tough. I'm not sure what I'm really like, exactly, down deep inside. After so many years of pretending, it's hard to figure out the real me.

And I've been continuing to try the one beginning exercise I know that's supposed to help, concentrating to try to figure out how to grow my own hair. Or my fingernails.


Last night, I was thinking hard about the fringe over my forehead. And I was tired, and I was starting to feel sort of hacked off about the whole thing, because, like, I'd been trying this for so long and nothing; when's this going to work?

And all of a sudden I felt this sort of warmth, and then a tingling on my face, over my eye, and there was something tickling the eye itself. Surprised me so much I had to clap my hand over my mouth to keep from letting out a yell. I went over to the little mirror he has stuck to the wall where he shaves in the morning.

And I discovered I had what looked like a sort of veil over my right eye. I looked closer and realised that my eyebrow had suddenly sprouted hair, so long it was hanging down toward my chin. Not my own colour, but sort of a dirty grey. And not all the hair, either, but just a few, in silly-looking patches. I had to trim them off with a pair of scissors. If you look close, it now looks like I have some grey hairs on that eyebrow. I don't think the git will notice.


Not what I was trying to do. But it's the first hopeful sign that I might actually have a chance at figuring this out.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-08 02:28:55](#)
(no subject)

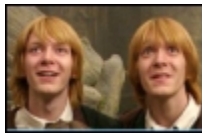
That's wonderful, Terry. Let's hope you manage to figure it out.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-08 02:30:13](#)
(no subject)

It's weird to be over the moon thrilled about my right eyebrow. But I really am.

Except I've been trying again ever since and can't figure out how I did it.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-08 02:31:19](#)
(no subject)

If you did it once, you'll do it again!

Excellent start, Professor.

How have you been doing otherwise? Is the git mostly leaving you alone?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-08 02:58:35](#)
(no subject)

Well, he wasn't paying too much attention to me for awhile. Then, unfortunately, he paid a lot of attention to me last week. That book on healing spells sure was useful.

Now he's back to ignoring me.

I'm all right, otherwise. I've grown a bit, but my shoes still fit, which is good. Dudley's feet got frostbit because all he had when the weather turned was rags for them. His toes have been giving him a lot of pain since then, but of course I don't dare let on that I have a wand I could use to treat him. But I've given him some of the socks you sent me from your Mum, and I hope that'll help.

[2011-12-06 12:25:00](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

And I suppose you've been lying to me, as well.

How long have you known? Is *that* your secret mission, then? Finding where he's hidden himself?



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Well, we've done that for you, if you're still looking. Not that it will do you much good, now.

Oh, I could murder us all for not keeping a closer eye on Grimmauld Place! I'd given it up for lost - but any of you could have changed that with a word. A single *word*. If only we'd been ten minutes earlier.

Just so you know, Barty, next time you and Bella and Lucius have a very great secret, kindly do not try to protect me from it 'for my own good.' That sort of nonsense only gets us into the sort of fix we're in now.

And now it *is* lost, at least for the time being. Though I hope not for long.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-06 21:04:51](#)
(no subject)

Narcissa.

Only have this moment, but will check back when I'm able.

What has happened? The house has opened? I assume the alarms went off.

As for secret-keeping with respect to your cousin, that's a matter under investigation. Bellatrix's investigation. There isn't anything more I can tell you even now.

I'm sorry.

Truthfully.

If I could be there, I'd provide a target to hex if it would help. Or a shoulder if you preferred. I wish-

If I were able to come quite late some night, would you see me?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-06 22:07:13](#)

Barty.

Yes, the alarms went off. But after everyone's assurances - including Bella's - that Black was no longer any kind of threat, I ... I'd put the charmed key away. I noticed late last evening that it had activated.

By the time we arrived the house had vanished. He must have put it under Fidelius, possibly a powerful disillusionment on top of that. I almost thought I saw something moving in the moonlight but - we were too late. Who knows if we missed capturing him by ten minutes or two hours or even a whole day. There's no way to know.

My sister has ordered the place kept under watch. If he's hiding in there he'll have to venture out sometime.

As to your offers. Lucius, bless him, has been quite willing to stand up to both my extremes. And well he should do.

Your request, however. Barty. Really. It's not that I would not care to see you, as well. But not - like that. No.

Too

No.

It's a pity. I thought perhaps your mission really was to track him through his allies, and you could come home.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-06 22:27:36](#)

Re: Barty.

No.

I w



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-07 16:29:44](#)

Re: Barty.

[1:15am > 11:30am]

Apologise for that last. Was interrupted.

Apologise more generally.

Miss you. v. m.

2011-12-07 19:30:00

Private message to Raz

Raz -



 **alt_sinistra**

I've been up in office hours, working with some of my newts. When I went down to my classroom to fetch the next round of marking, I checked for anything hexed (that is a most useful charm you taught me, even if I am near saying it in my sleep now) and one of the blameless-looking essays from my 2nd years glowed.

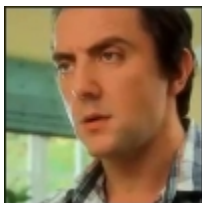
Same pink parchment, same hand. It looks like it had been glamoured to look more like an ordinary essay, but the glamour had started fading - that pile came in Monday, and they've been stacked on one of my shelves since then. (So, how did it get in there? Because both the hex and the concealment is well beyond a 2nd year.)


The intention of the runes for the hex, based on something in the letter, would be unpleasant. But the more I look at it, there's something in the design that makes me think it could have ended up being quite a bit worse - whoever set it was a bit too emphatic.

When I came back upstairs, Vesta Chambers took one look at me and immediately got the others to agree to stay longer. I'm glad of the company, and they're being dears. They're currently explaining basic chart skills to a couple of second years who came for help, saving me the trouble, and Maxine O'Flaherty has tried twice to get me to drink more tea.

What I really want is a stiff drink or three, but not with two classes still tonight. Later, I suppose.

I am being very cautious. Promise.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-08 03:32:15**
(no subject)

Bloody Erebus. I know that you are being cautious, but this has got to stop. It's gone beyond harassment and threats at this point- someone's trying to hurt you.

Pardon me, cos I know you're a modern witch and can look after yourself, but no, I'm not having that.

It's certainly not a second year, and I'd wager to guess it's not someone who typically uses pink parchment, either. Someone in Ancient Runes and Dark Arts...unless she has help from her friends....

Now that's an unpleasant thought.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-08 03:44:33](#)**
(no subject)

I appreciate the care, truly, love.

Looking at it more soberly (now I'm over the initial scare), though...

It's two Thurisaz back to back, points out, Isa between them, with Hagalaz on top, with the suggestion of a tower in how it's drawn. My best guess without going by the library is that the person who triggers it experiences miserably bad weather in the near future.


Which, if whoever had left well enough alone, would be one thing. But there's a certain quality in the drawing (you know how students are, with that "if so much of this is good, more is better.")

From the ranting in the letter, I think it was intended more "be miserable in the rain" or even "come down with a nasty cold" - just that I think it actually came out closer to something that could lead to a bad fall or worse. (Ice, towers, and stairs not being the best combination, really.) That doubled Thurisaz and the implied amount of chaos, more than anything else.

Not that "May you be miserable" isn't bad enough, mind you. Just ... better than it could be, in terms of intentions.

So. What next? Do we tell Minerva? Do something else? I am going to take steps to tidy my classroom and office so that there's very little left out for something to be slipped into, but that only goes so far.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-08 03:53:11](#)
(no subject)

Whether it was intended or not, if you fall down those tower stairs you're probably going to be hurt, perhaps seriously so, and when this person sees that you're dodging their efforts, I fear that they'll try something even more elaborate next time.

As for telling Minerva, what can she do? Make an announcement to the student body at large? I'm not sure that's the best message to send.

If she weren't so busy and weren't so ambivalent toward me, I'd ask Bella to come in and act as if she were setting up surveillance equipment in your office. That'd put an end to things, right quick.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-08 04:00:53](#)
(no subject)


True, on all counts.

On telling Minerva: Not so much her being able to do anything you can't (and I quite agree, speeches would scarcely help.) More that if something else happens (or, Circe forbid, something happens to a student caught by accident) you know she'd have our heads for not warning her. But I can also see an argument for not doing so just yet.

As to your sister-in-law - it would rather imply that something **is** up between us. Besides the other practical issues. ~~And I'm not sure I want her in my office.~~

Blast. I'm not sure there is a good answer, without some other kind of data.



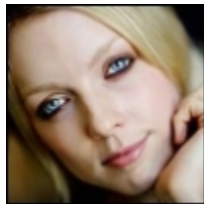
 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-08 04:06:13](#)
(no subject)

I really doubt that Bella is the sort to determine my concern for you as verification of romance- or, more specifically, to care. If others knew that

Bella came on my request, they might...

Well, that's part of the problem, isn't it?

Whoever's sending you the hexed letters thinks they have my permission.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-08 04:11:20](#)**
(no subject)

It was the observing audience I was thinking of, yes.


I...

I do see your point.

But I am also thinking about what you said about the last one. That changing behaviour is, in some ways, handing over control of what we do to someone else. (A very obsessive and small-minded someone else, no less.) And I don't like that solution much either.

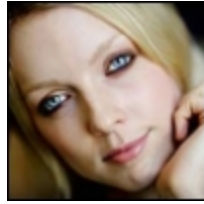
The one benefit of telling Minerva is that it would be much easier to sort out class lists, and who's in both Dark Arts and Ancient Runes (and female, and a high enough year.) There can't be that many candidates when you put all of that together, can there?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-08 04:21:01](#)**
(no subject)

It just makes me feel rubbishy to think that people might conclude that we're hiding what we have between us for any other reason than to protect your privacy- and mine, too.

Not many candidates, no, unless she has that help from her mates that I mentioned. And if we can pinpoint who it might be... well, what would you want to do with that information, once you had it?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-08 04:26:27](#)
(no subject)


Well, yes, on the first bit. Just... I don't want to be rushed into it by someone else, if you see what I mean. Because going public has consequences too.

On what to do with the information: honestly, I'm not sure. She hasn't actually hurt me yet, after all. It's hardly the sort of problem that detention would solve, and yet, would harsher punishments actually change the behaviour, or just make her stop targetting me and focus on someone else, perhaps much less able to take precautions?

I do wonder, though, how much someone has to be hurting or lonely, to make this kind of obsession seem like the sensible thing. And whether there's any help for that.

But at the same time, this can't go on, you're right.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-08 04:47:40](#)
(no subject)

That it does. ~~But don't you want~~

If you find out who it is, you can always go to MLE and file a complaint. If the witch is of age she could even be called in front of the Wizengamot.

Or, you know, if she's one of my newts (Merlin... I just can't fathom who) then I could talk to her. Though if she's that obsessed then she might feel singled-out, even special, if that were to happen.

Well, I reckon the good news is that she hasn't gotten past you yet. Small favours. Truth is, I'm just as stumped as you are. I think you're right, though, and we should at least let Minerva know what's going on.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-08 05:04:54](#)
(no subject)

On Minerva - you, me, both of us? (Bearing in mind I'm gone Sunday and Monday.)

Don't think I don't want to shout how I feel about you to the four royal stars - I do.


But at the same time, we both know it'll take some time for everyone else to gossip about and get used to, and ask questions about, and so on, even if everything goes the best possible way.

And right now, this week, that thought's awfully tiring, as much as the end result would be wonderful. (That's the meeting prep, and the two planning sessions this week. Though I am looking forward to a little time in New London.)

Right. I have class to set up for. My office is much tidier, the classroom's about halfway done. I'll continue to be sensible and cautious and very wary.

And I love that I have you to worry over me. Even while I wish you didn't have to.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-08 05:14:14](#)
(no subject)

Both of us, I think. Because it concerns both of us equally.

Oh, so you're saying you're not ready to move on from "are you an item" questions to questions about when we're getting married, when the sprog are coming, where we summer, and when I'm going to take you away from Scotland and set you up with a nice house in New London so that you can have your friends over to play cards all day?

Sensible, I must say.

I wish I didn't have to worry, either, but... it's like you said last time: if we can't outsmart one of our own students, what good are we, really?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-08 14:49:36](#)
(no subject)

On Minerva: First one to catch her at a good time to set up a chance to talk does so? (My schedule's same as usual through Saturday, with the addition of those CCF sessions tonight and Saturday. I'm planning to apparate into New London first thing Sunday morning, and be back by about 8 on the Monday.)

On the rest of it... yes. Maybe I'm just greedy (or hopelessly unrealistic) to want something that suits us, not everyone else's assumptions. Or even just time to talk about it fully before other people wish it into being for us.

I want a life that has you in it. But also the stars, and I hope teaching of some kind, and ... who knows what else, because I'm sure I don't yet. (Honestly, I'm still getting used to the part about you being in my life.) A steady diet of card parties is not high on the list, though.

I did sleep better than I was afraid I might, I feel like I've got the materials for tonight's planning session under control, and I'm up early enough to lose myself in some nice professional reading. Along with the daydream of being somewhere with you for a few days with no one else around, and nothing on the calendar.

[2011-12-07 20:39:00](#)

Private Message to Neville Longbottom

Neville,

Do you know yet what you're wearing to the ball? I don't!




 **[alt_susan](#)**

Are our dress robes supposed to match or have complementary colours or something?

All of a sudden I'm horribly nervous about the whole thing and I don't even know why--I'm just glad I didn't get sent down for remedial etiquette, but there's always time for them to change their minds about that!



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-08 02:26:41](#)**
(no subject)

Mine are black and white, which means anything you wear will probably go with them just fine. That keeps it simple.

I expect everyone's a little nervous, the way that people are going on about it. I'll make you a deal: if you trip over my feet, I'll just laugh about it, as long as you laugh if I trip over yours. And if we're both laughing, I'm sure we'll have a good time.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-12-08 03:27:28](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks! Simple is definitely a good thing.

And yeah, I'll take a good laugh any time. At least if we're tripping over each other's feet and laughing we won't be bloody depressed.

2011-12-07 22:31:00

*Private message to Victoriana
Greengrass*



Mother,

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of clematis. I'm sure that both I and my roommates will find them terribly useful for staying up late and studying, but meanwhile, I've had to put them on a table right outside our room so that they won't disturb our sleep! This is a particularly strong hybrid you've hit on this time, isn't it? I do so like that rich, purpley colour, too.

 [alt_daphne](#)

Now, I happen to know that I'll have the room to myself around eight o'clock on Friday morning (I shall skip breakfast), and that Fridays are when Father has early meetings in addition to being when Queenie's chorale group practises. So, by that calculation, you should be alone in the house at that time, yes?

Because I really do need to speak with you, Mother. In person. And I think a fire-chat should be as good an approximation as we can manage at short notice.

Please tell me that I can count on your for eight o'clock?

Love,
Daphne

[2011-12-08 11:41:00](#)

Order Only - Private message to Severus Snape



About what we were talking about yesterday,

Harry gave me a book today that says that there have been at least three cases where people successfully faked the curse. He found it in the library, the book I mean. That's not exactly what you said, so I thought I should ask, because maybe you meant something else or knew something else.

 [alt_hermione](#)



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-09 01:32:37](#)
(no subject)

Miss Granger,

The cases in which people were successful all involved wizards of much greater age and experience than yourself.

While I believe that you are a very intelligent young woman, and I trust that Mr Marvolo is not incapable of guile despite initially being sorted into Gryffindor, I do not believe that you have the necessary mental bond.

It is not difficult to mimic extreme pain, as long as no one interferes with your performance. It is, however, difficult to mimic the precise timing of the Cruciatus Curse. A clever observer will recognise even the slightest delay in reaction - or, more tellingly, the slightest prematurity of 'pain.'

I believe that you shall make the best decision for yourself and your 'master.'

It will be easy for me to concoct palliatives. I do not imagine Mr Marvolo will be capable of a truly devastating curse.

2011-12-08 16:24:00

Private Message to Padma Patil and Vesta Chambers



 **alt_penelope**

Right. I'm coming to you two in confidence because you always seem to know everything that's going on in the Tower.

Patil, you and I already talked about the importance of keeping secrets secret. Avery and I spoke to the Prefects and I thought we put an end to breaches of confidentiality. But since then, someone obviously talked to a reporter about Professor Sinistra and Professor Raz. And I know that someone else told about the dragons being the first task. Now, I've learned that our Beauxbatons guests know about the CCF project Professor Sinistra asked us to help organise with regard to the Ball.

You both ought to recall that Professor Sinistra instructed the CCF specifically to keep our efforts quiet. Even though few students entered the year with much in the way of social graces, it's beyond embarrassing to make that clear to half the wizarding world. And while it's true Beauxbatons are living just outside our quarters, that's no reason to be careless. I should have thought Ravenclaw more than capable of protecting Hogwarts' reputation.

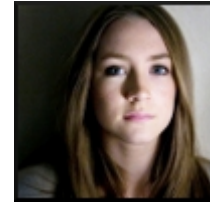
Now, I know one or the other of you have got to have some idea who might be blabbing. I want to know who. And...I'd consider it a personal favour if you'd tell me what you know.

You don't have to reply here or anything. If you'd rather come and talk to me in person that's fine. I hope to hear from you, though, so we can put a stop to these leaks.

2011-12-09 09:25:00

Colder

I've just realised that even though some of the third year girls are going to the ball, none of the third year boys are. Because even though there might be a few older girls, like Daphne Greengrass, who are planning to ask boys, they're probably not going to be interested in the company of someone who is younger.



 [alt_hydra](#)

I wonder why it's acceptable for older boys to keep the company of younger girls, and not the other way around? It must change quite a lot once you're an adult, though. My Nanella's boyfriend Pascoal is much younger than her, but that seems to be one of the things she likes best about him.

Do people remember the quiz that went around last year, about the students who were in year 3 back then? It had categories like "Most Fit" and "Mousiest" and "Most Heroic" and "Least Fanciable."

I've heard some talk that there's going to be another quiz again, and this time it will be even more detailed, and include more years than just year 3.

Maybe it's just a rumour, but if it's not I thought people might want to know, so that they're not caught off guard.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-09 16:56:24**

Private message to Remy

It was Elizabeth Stevens and Samantha Montgomery who were talking about the quiz. They were coming out of their dormitory and didn't see me sitting at the bottom of the stairs.

They said that last year's quiz was immature and didn't make enough of a splash. And it sounded as if they were already working on it because they said something about how it was going to be so much better if it were written by Slytherins.


I know they're planning to include year 3 because they were suggesting Norma for "most likely to die a virgin."

Norma and I aren't very good friends but how can you tell someone's going to die a virgin when they're only 13?

Elsie and Samantha are usually nice to me, but they've never been anything but nice to Norma, either. I just wish I had heard them say what they're planning to write about me. Because if it's something Mummy wouldn't like....well, I don't know what I'd do but at least I could be prepared.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:03:25](#)**
(no subject)

That's interesting. Where did you hear that about the quiz?

Because really, it's not very *original*, is it? To copy whomever did it last year?

As for girls going but boys not, Mum says girls mature faster than boys. And really it's true, if you think about it. We all seem to be ready for more grown-up things sooner and it's like older boys are better able to understand what you're thinking, or what to say, and when not to say anything. And I think boys like a girl who's a little younger mostly because they can feel more grown-up themselves. Don't you think?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:09:51](#)**
(no subject)


I just heard it from different people. You're right, it's not very original.

I suppose that's all true, but really, I was just thinking it's too bad that none of the year 3 boys will go to the ball when so many of the girls will, because there's really nothing they can do to change that.

But I suppose not all boys like girls who are younger. And Cho Chang must like younger boys, too.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-09 17:11:43](#)
(no subject)


Oh, Chang. Well. Boys like *girls*, generally, either way.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-09 17:12:17](#)
Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

You're not upset because Marvolo asked Chang, are you?




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-09 17:15:42](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

No, not really. But I was surprised. I didn't think he had ever talked to her before, ever. So I guess that means that he's asked her just because he thinks she's pretty.

I suppose I didn't think he was the sort of person who liked people just for being pretty.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-09 19:04:45](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Well, I don't think Marvolo would stay with someone just because she's pretty. But it's certainly something most boys notice, even if they say they don't.

The thing is, I don't think he knew it, but Chang and Diggory started dating a little bit at the start of school. I think if Marvolo hadn't asked her she'd've gone with Diggory instead. Only he *did* ask and she thought she didn't have a choice, did she?

So I dunno. I mean, now Diggory's going with one of the Durmstrang girls and you've got your date with Finch-Fletchley and who knows how everything will end up?

Besides, you can still dance with Harry if you want to, right?

But about that quiz.... The thing is that last year it was so rude about people. I wouldn't want someone to think they could do that again. And especially with the foreign students here, it doesn't look well. Does it?

So if you did know who's thinking of it--and I'm not saying you do, but if you did--you could tell them it's a bad idea? I mean, Clearwater's already about round the twist over what she thinks is people betraying state secrets or something. Imagine what she'd do if one of those quizzes comes out? It might be entertaining to see her head slide off like Nearly Headless Nick's but somehow I doubt we'd be pleased with the end results. Honestly, she's so predictable.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-09 20:55:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

If she didn't think she had a choice, does that mean she doesn't like Harry all that much in particular? Because most girls would be thrilled to go with him, just because of who he is.


Diggory is older than Chang, so I guess she must fancy older boys after all.

Harry can dance with me if he asks me to, but I'm looking forward to dancing with Justin. I've been practising some different dance steps so that I'm ready, and Aunt Narcissa is going to pick out my dress robes and accessories.

Last year's quiz? ~~But weren't you~~ Well, I really don't know the specifics about who's planning to write this years, but if I find out who it is, I'll see what I can do to talk them out of it.

From,
Hydra




 **alt_padma** at [2011-12-09 21:07:37](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Well. I wouldn't say she doesn't fancy Harry, either because of who he is or just for himself. I mean, I dunno what she really thinks. Only obviously anyone in her position would be flattered. Davies says she thinks highly of his Quidditch skills but who doesn't? But right now, anyway, I think she fancies Diggory a little more.

I guess you prefer things Mrs Malfoy would pick out, as far as robes, to anything from Kosette? Not that Kosette doesn't make beautiful clothes--she does--but they're a bit dark for your colouring. Just so you know, Mum would love to design something for you, if you ever wanted.

I dunno who wrote last year's quiz, either, but it could have been handled better.




 **alt_hydra** at [2011-12-09 21:23:46](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Diggory's really handsome, so it only makes sense.

Aunt Narcissa really wanted to help, is all. She adores Draco, of course, but I don't think she would mind having a daughter and I make a good substitute. And it would be lovely to have something by your mother one day, so I'll remember that.

From,
Hydra



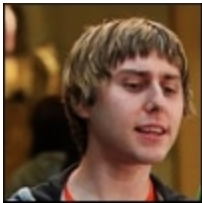
 **alt_hydra** at [2011-12-09 20:04:06](#)
Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley


You might have some plans to study or do something with JP tonight, but if you're not too busy, I was wondering if you would want to meet Tevis, my rabbit?

I don't usually bring him out of the dungeons because I worry that something will happen to him, but I think just this once it should be safe, so long as I'm careful.

Because I think I've been cooping him up in my room and treating him like he might have an allergy, when he really doesn't have any at all.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-09 20:59:12](#)

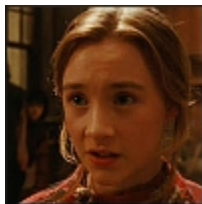
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Hullo, Hydra.

I'd love to meet him. Cheers, thanks for asking. And it's kind to think that he might want to stretch his legs now and then, as well.

I've been meaning to ask you, what colour are the robes you're wearing to the Ball? Some of the others have been practising changing their sleeve lining colours or their cravats and I thought I'd have a go at it, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-09 21:00:45](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

I'll bring him up to the Great Hall after supper, then. He knows how to walk on a lead - or hop, rather.

My Aunt Narcissa said she would pick out my dress robes, and she knows my favourite colour is pink, which.. well, I know boys don't like pink very much, do they? But the robes might not be pink all over, or even pink at all. I won't really know until they arrive.

From,
Hydra



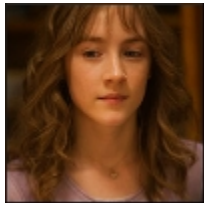
 [alt_justin](#) at 2011-12-09 21:23:55

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Pink, well.

Perhaps we'll just wait and see what your aunt sends, what? I think I'll just practise anyway. I might be able to manage something that'll look well anyway.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at 2011-12-09 21:28:46

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

I think white's supposed to go with everything, more or less.

And even if the robes are pink, they can't be worse than the robes Mummy sent, which are all black and have lace and buckles and netting in strange places. I suppose she thinks that what looks good on her might as well look good on me, and hasn't considered that we don't really look much alike at all, for a Mother and Daughter.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at 2011-12-09 21:36:16

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Yes, I was rather thinking silver. Or possibly gold. Both go with pink. Though metallic is supposedly more difficult, what?

Er. No, I can't quite imagine you in the sort of thing Auror Lestrangle wears. I don't think it would suit you at all.

But I think something like that is just as much in feeling comfortable, isn't it, as it would be in simply looking the part, what? I mean to say, I had to get used to robes and such. ... On account of being inside all the time, I mean, of course. But now I don't think they're well odd at all.

Anyway. I don't think you should have to pretend to be anything you're not, Hydra. Truly.

See you after supper.

-Justin



 **alt_hydra** at **2011-12-09 21:48:03**

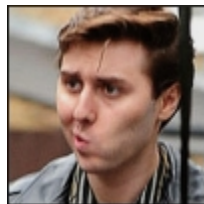
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, I didn't realise that they don't wear robes indoors in France. Of course, not everyone wears full robes while at home here, either, but some traditional families do.

I remember Draco saying that some muggles made fun of his robes when he was lost in France. I suppose that living somewhere where there are muggles, and they're not in camps...that would really change things a lot, even things like fashion.

And thanks for saying that. I don't think Mummy really wants me to pretend, either.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at **2011-12-09 22:23:30**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Well. Let's say I was never made to wear them, at least. Not until I started in school. I think other people did, perhaps. I'll have to ask JP, I've never bothered to find out, what?

And yes, it does rather change everything, Having muggles about, I mean.

I think I know what you mean. About your mother, that is. I'm sorry Pity

Your father seems an all right sort, though, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-09 23:10:14**

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Well, it's complicated, and I wouldn't expect you to know what I mean. It will bore you, I think, to have to hear about it. She just has high expectations, but then she's really too busy to pay much attention, most of the time.

Daddy is better at paying attention and having more reasonable expectatons, yes.

Oh, it's dinner soon. See you!

From,
Hydra

2011-12-09 10:26:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot and Dora




 [alt_lupin](#)

I've been working on cleaning up some of the bedrooms over here (so we'll have somewhere to sleep -- there's what looks to be an old guest bedroom that's not in terrible shape that would make a lovely room for Bea) and I took a look in the drawing room. Kreacher's kept it spotless but it's about the most un-child-proofed room you could ever ask for. Still, if we take care of the doxies living in the curtains and put some sort of ward around the shelves...

Do you suppose we could get it clean and safe enough to host the Christmas party?

We've got to tell everyone else eventually, and 'everyone's invited to a party at our house, see Alice for the address' might, er, distract Molly and Minerva everyone from the fact that we didn't discuss it with anyone before we opened it up?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-09 16:57:39**
(no subject)

I suppose it makes sense to put the nursery on the second floor. I'd been thinking she might like Reg's my old room, at some point. I think if I reverse the sticking charms on those posters they'll respond.


Seems a bit ridiculous now, having Muggle girls in bathing costumes on the walls. Certainly made a statement at the time, though, which was the point, of course. Or Harry

But at least for now, yeah, it's best if Bea's just down the corridor. Dora, I thought maybe you'd like the third guest room (the other one without Grandfather Phineas) for your own. It didn't look too bad when I checked it.

We could convert my father's study. Perhaps.

As for hosting Are you sure you want to do that? Have Christmas there, I mean? It's far from the cheeriest place just at present. And it's far for all the Moddeyans to go.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-09 17:08:05](#)
(no subject)

It is a bit far for the Moddeyans but if it's at Moddey, you won't be able to come at all.


And most of the cheer is provided by the company, wherever you hold a party.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-09 17:18:46](#)
(no subject)

You had a family Christmas party growing up, didn't you? Was it in the drawing room or somewhere else?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-09 17:25:52](#)
(no subject)


Alice would have it at the safehouse again, if we needed it to be.

On years when it was our turn to host, yes, we put a tree in the sitting room, usually. Mother didn't like it in her drawing room (big surprise there). She preferred to take us all to Blackmoor or one or the other of our grandparents' houses. Probably to avoid having to decorate.

I can't think of anything that would insult their memory more than having Squibs, halfbloods and Muggleborns over to dinner on Christmas, for that matter.

I guess we could get a tree for the parlour, and eat down in the kitchen. If Molly doesn't do her nut about opening the place up, she'd probably be willing to come help with the cleaning out now and then.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-09 17:34:48](#)
(no subject)

I'd say that's an excellent reason to host it -- surely it'll send any ancestral House of Black ghosts screaming into the great beyond, seeing

the group we'd invite!

Molly might help with the cleaning, if she can forgive us for opening it up without asking first. For that matter, it's safe and warm with loads of guest beds; if Kingsley and the Players don't have an engagement they might enjoy spending a week as guests of the Most Noble and Ancient House of Black. The whole Order might well find this place useful: it's secure, not as secure as Moddey but not as necessary to keep closely guarded, either. And it's accessible by floo, which makes it less secure but also a good deal easier to get to.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:04:58](#)**
(no subject)

I think that's a terrific idea! It would give us a deadline for getting the place looking liveable, and it's not as if Bea's moving about on her own yet, so we've time for sprog-proofing.

Some time, anywiz. Have you seen how hard she's trying to swim across her mat when there's a toy she wants out of reach? She could figure out crawling in a hurry and surprise us.

At any rate, I think it would be lovely to have everyone come there. Unless you think they'll all be afraid the Floo isn't safe. You know Madam P will fuss, but what if Arthur thinks it's concerning? Or Bill? It's not as if they can Apparate to the square with MLE sat out there like cats watching a fish bowl.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:17:24](#)**
(no subject)

They might be hesitant about the floo. I think there might be a way to apparate, if we can find a spot that's inside the Fidelius but outside the permanent anti-apparition spell or whatever it was Sirius's father (or grandfather, I'm not sure if we even know) put on the house.

It'll give us a deadline, yes. Possibly a bit of an ambitious one, but provided we keep a close eye on Bea (I wouldn't count on her not being mobile by Christmas) as long as people were careful of the decorations and the curtains we could almost hold a party there

now. Well, so long as no one sat on the green couch. I think there might be something under the cushions.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:28:59](#)**
(no subject)

There's the schoolroom, too, at the top of the house. The children could play up there until it's time to eat.


Wait. Are we having all of Moddey or just Molly, Arthur, Bill, Alice and Frank, Poppy, Minerva - just the proper Order members, I mean?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:36:02](#)**
(no subject)

I was thinking just the Order. The children might enjoy the outing, though. Hard to imagine Molly and Poppy thinking anything but Moddey is safe enough, though.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:38:22](#)**
(no subject)


Definitely not the green couch.

The brown one in the library's always been the most comfortable sofa in the house. We could move that down and shift the other.

Oh, and I've just found the key to the wine cellar and the one for the attic.

I bet we could get some good quality doxycide for Laszlo and no one would notice if some didn't make it to your shelves.



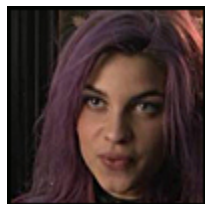
 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:42:03](#)**
(no subject)

Good thought on the doxycide.

Shifting the green couch ... hm. I haven't explored

the cellar much. Did your father have one of those rooms for magical experimentation and securing dangerous objects? With the stone walls and the seven locks on the door, you know. We could just put EVERYTHING dodgy in it and sort through at our leisure, though I suppose with some of the items on the shelves in the drawing room, just picking them up is a bit risky.

Is there any wine in the wine cellar? That's drinkable, I mean.



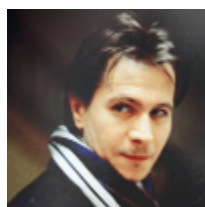
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-09 17:56:09](#)
(no subject)


It should be safe. Only I was thinking it would actually be nice if we could tell some of them so someone who's not yet been invited in could check and see that the Floo really has disappeared from

the network.

If it has, it would only be a matter of Alice's inviting each of them first, wouldn't it? And then there's no way for MLE or the Floo admins to block it. Shouldn't be any way. But I'd feel better knowing we'd properly checked it.

The green couch? Be careful. You never know what might've got in there.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-09 18:32:27](#)
(no subject)

Good idea, you. I've left it in Molly's post and we'll see.

Here comes the flood, by the way. Just you watch.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-09 18:34:03](#)
(no subject)

This should be fun. And just as I have to go open up the shop, too.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-09 18:45:20](#)
(no subject)

And I say again: Berk.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-09 20:27:41](#)
(no subject)

Just for that, you can be the one to answer
Poppy.

She's always had a soft spot for you, after all. I'll
just get 'Sirius Black!' and a deal of huffing and puffing.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-09 20:30:29](#)
(no subject)

Right, I'm on it.

I suppose it would be a bit tactless to say 'you
know, this sort of attitude is precisely why we
decided it would be preferable to get forgiveness, rather than
permission.'




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-09 20:32:54](#)
(no subject)

Yes, and so would 'We're grown men, now, you
know, and not ickle third-years in need of
mending. We're capable of assessing the risk and
deciding for ourselves what's acceptable.'

Stick with needing elbow room and a better hideout than the
mews.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:37:10](#)**
(no subject)

That's what I'll say next. They approved the idea of us working on a muggleborn underground railroad, didn't they? Well, here's a hideout that doesn't compromise Moddey.


I started with 'we kept you in the dark for your own safety,' we'll see if that one flies...



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:41:04](#)**
(no subject)

Or if that doesn't work there's always 'if Severus Snape can take a little initiative why should we have to get full Order consensus to take a look in Sirius's own house?'




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:45:12](#)**
(no subject)

Oi. Bad enough you made me Apparate a few days ago. Now you've got to mention the big-nosed git?

Bloody Erebus. I suppose we've inadvertently invited him, haven't we?


Perhaps we'll be lucky and he won't come.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:21:27](#)**
(no subject)

I've been thinking about MLE watching for a sign of life. I wonder if it makes sense to put some of the silver out on the market. For one thing we could use the dosh; for another it might make them wonder if the problem was that a thief got in somehow. It's possible that my father put on a protection to disillusion the house if anyone ever broke into it, right? I mean to say, it's a believable notion? And would Sirius Black really be so daft as to sell items that had to have come from inside the house?




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:38:08](#)**
(no subject)

Now THAT is an interesting idea.

We'd want to be absolutely sure it couldn't be traced back to us. Or to anyone else we care about.

I'm not sure they'd be fooled. After all, not only did you get in, you got a Fidelius Charm set on it within a few hours. The money would be useful, though.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:32:03](#)**
(no subject)

Speak of the warlock... Molly's asking what the plan is for Christmas.

Shall we answer? Allie will have to tell them the address but we can extend the invitation.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:36:50](#)**
(no subject)

I'd say you're ultimately the host, so you'll have to be the one to speak up.

(Why yes, Padfoot, I AM dropping that in your lap.)



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 17:40:00](#)**
(no subject)

Berk.

Yes, all right.

2011-12-09 10:27:00

*Private message to Minerva
McGonagall and Aurora Sinistra*



Minerva -

Professor Sinistra and myself wanted to make you aware of a situation happening in the castle, not necessarily because it requires your intervention, but because neither of us has a firm idea as to how it will resolve itself yet.

 [alt_rabastan](#)

As you know, I get my share of post and some of it is, for lack of a better word, fan letters. Occasionally these type of notes come in from students, too, though it's usually harmless and typically only happens around Valentine's Day.

Due to recent implications made within the papers, Professor Sinistra has found herself on the receiving end of more post, both from outside and within the castle.

One student in particular has been hiding notes amongst her teaching materials, written with the intent to both threaten and harm. They haven't succeeded, fortunately, but given the degree of this student's obsession it's well possible that the situation will escalate. I hope you feel, as I do, that Professor Sinistra has the right to protect both herself and her property to whatever extent she feels is necessary.

She might have more to add in her own words here, too.

Rory?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-12-09 17:55:46**

(no subject)

Thank you.

There is, as Raz says, the issue of protection. The most recent letter had a hex on it that I don't think was intended to be more than uncomfortable. However, the way it was actually done, it could have been quite nasty. I've taken several precautions to make it difficult to slip something else into a pile of parchments for grading, and with my office, room, and classroom

doors, but that may simply lead to some other attempt (and, frankly, complicates my teaching if I have to keep it up for more than a few weeks.)

And beyond the issue of protection - which I'm taking seriously, obviously - there's a part of me that worries about whoever this is, and why she thinks it's a good approach.

I wanted to let you know, but also to ask if it might be possible for us to have access to class lists: due to the hexes used and some of the delivery, we have some idea who it might be, but the lists would help us narrow it down.




 **alt_mcgonagall** at **2011-12-09 18:32:14**
(no subject)

Of course you may have access to class lists. Thank you for informing me of the situation. I realise that you will have to be the ones to determine the culprit, but may I ask that you allow me (or the culprit's

Head of House) to confront them? It seems like a very delicate matter, potentially.

If it is not too bold, may I ask whether the letters surmise a relationship between the two of you?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-09 18:39:35**
(no subject)

I don't object if Professor Sinistra doesn't. You are the Headmistress, after all.

Yes, it so happens they do.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-09 18:41:23**
(no subject)


And I certainly don't mind if you - or the Head of House - are the ones to deal with the outcome.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-09 18:45:38](#)
(no subject)

And are they correct in their surmise?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-09 19:01:08](#)
(no subject)


Rory... do you mind if I answer that?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-09 19:02:22](#)
(no subject)

Go right ahead.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-09 19:07:21](#)
(no subject)

Yes, they're correct. But we're not interested in publicly confirming our relationship at this moment.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-09 19:10:30](#)
(no subject)

Of course I shall respect your privacy.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-09 19:13:09](#)
(no subject)

Thank you - on both counts.

2011-12-09 11:18:00

Order Only: Holiday Get together?

Before we get too close to Christmas, I think it might be a good idea for us to try to settle on a date for a holiday get together. Of course, I can't offer the Burrow since Percy's living here, although I'd be happy to cook and bring a lot of the food (as you know, I never need much of an excuse to whip up a feast!)




 [alt_molly](#)

I assume we'll use use the same safe house we used last year?

I have a barter network get together on the 21st, but otherwise Arthur and I are quite open up until Christmas.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-09 17:43:47**
(no subject)

It's a coincidence you should ask about that, Molly.

We - that is, myself, Remus and Dora - have an invitation to extend to the Order: Christmas at ours.

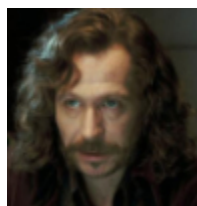
Alice will have to provide the address. But we think it'll be a very useful place, once it's fixed up a bit.




 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-12-09 19:14:24**
(no subject)

That's a lovely offer, if rather mysterious.

Have you found a place to use as a safe house for the smuggling, then?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-09 19:22:48**
(no subject)

Well.


Possibly?

We had to put it under Fidelius immediately because that was the only way to keep MLE from getting in. I dunno if they had the

alarm on it themselves or if Cousin Narcissa kept that honour but either way, we're lucky no one was watching it all the time. Which is what I figured had to be the case.

Anyway. It's possible we could use it for the smuggling. But actually, we're thinking it might be more useful as a sort of headquarters for the Order. In London, that is.



 **alt_poppy** at [2011-12-09 19:42:52](#)
(no subject)

Hang on.

Is this your parents' London house you're talking of?


You've opened it?

Sirius.

You're lucky we're not all being ~~invited~~ commanded to attend another holiday season display of the mangled corpse of the Dread Rebel Black.

I cannot believe you took such a massive risk without letting the rest of us know.




 **alt_lupin** at [2011-12-09 20:34:02](#)
(no subject)

The trouble with bringing this sort of thing to the Order first is that dozens of people would have got involved. In an attempt to protect Sirius we'd have endangered half the Order.


Whereas with just a handful of us, if MLE had arrived we'd have apparated or portkeyed away. The worst case was they'd have access to the house, and we wouldn't.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-11 03:36:26](#)**
(no subject)

Invitation accepted, love. I'll make arrangements with getting people the address.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-11 03:42:03](#)**
Private Message to Sirius Black


I suppose this was one way to tell everyone.

Have you had a chance to spend more time there yet?

This next weekend I ought to be able to come up again to help clean the place up a bit and help get ready for the party.

Last year, we had a few of the adults from Moddey come along -- and I was wondering if we could extend the invitation to Victor, Arabella, Stephen McGivern, and Jacinda. If it'd be a bit much to have everyone there, that's understandable, and we'd have to make special arrangements for Victor and Arabella as they can't get there on their own steam as it were, but that's something we can sort out. Just let us know.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-11 05:28:17](#)**
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

It was Moony's idea and - well, Dora thought rather a lot of it, too.

We've been in and out of the place. Moony and I spent the full moon last night. In the cellar room, just in case Snape's Wolfsbane has any new side effects we didn't expect.

As for including the others, I wouldn't mind, but the square is under watch. So we may have to Apparate them to Laszlo's and then Floo in from there.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 18:31:34](#)**
(no subject)

Hang on. Dora's telling me she wants someone who's not Alice to tell you the address, so you can check and make sure the Floo's really been disconnected from the network, even though it still works between Doughty Conduit and here - but that should be just because we were here when we performed the Fidelius.

So. Er. It's 12 Grimmauld Place. Give it a go and tell me, will you, whether it works or not?




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-09 19:06:04](#)**
(no subject)

Right. It should appear that there is no Floo into number 12 Grimmauld Pl, though really there is, but only if you've been invited by our secret keeper. The trouble is that there is no trouble for the three of us, because it's open to us.

Only that means we can't be completely sure it's not visible to everyone.

Mind you, MLE haven't come billowing out of the fire yet, so that's a fairly certain sign we've got it right. It would be nice to have that confirmed, though.




 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:32:35](#)**
(no subject)

I tried it, but the Floo was closed. I tried to apparate past it, but no luck.

Whatever security you have on it, it's working.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:34:26](#)**
(no subject)

Brilliant!

I'm so glad it worked.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-09 20:42:42](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, excellent.

Well, when Allie's available, she can let you in on the secret, officially, and then it ought to open when you come through again.

[2011-12-11 12:06:00](#)

A short interlude

I'm in New London for two days of YPL meetings. It's hard to be away from Hogwarts - and a long list of things that need attention - but a change in routine is also surprisingly pleasant.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

I've never been a morning person, and apparating over distance first thing is worse, so I made sure to get here in plenty of time for a walk to clear my head before we started our meetings this morning. But that's given me time to be delighted by the shop windows, particularly this year's fashion for sparkling light charms - so delicate - and the wider color palette.

I saw a gorgeous window in silvers and blues and purples, as well as many with more classic greens, reds, and golds. And of course, the charmed displays are wonderful: my favorite was several windows of Hogwarts and Hogsmeade in winter with a cunningly done Quidditch match in progress. And there's the smell of pine in the air, and the clusters of little stalls, and banners snapping in the breeze... And of course, a pleasant little pastry at one of the nearby cafes to put me in the best possible mood before we started this morning.

I'm looking forward to being able to make a great deal of progress with the YPL plans for this spring and summer, but also a few chances to relax. I'm eagerly anticipating a performance tonight and then there's dinner with my parents tomorrow, and a few other errands and tasks to finish getting ready for the holidays.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-11 17:35:06](#)**

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Ugh. Stint. He's been pushier today, not quite grabby but near it. And invitations to both lunch and dinner. Thankfully, I already had made other plans. (And dealing with people griping because we're here on a Sunday when it's mostly his and Helpmann's fault is annoying. Though on the whole, I'm glad to have these meetings out of the way before the holidays for various reasons.)

He did try to throw a fit about your preparations for the first YPL event, and in general. But because of your inventories, and the report of your skills from Healer Behm and last week's reports, and a

little private strategy with others on the committee, it was quite easy to convince the rest that matters were in fine hands. I have no faith it will hold, but perhaps it will give you a little break.

We may well have an assigned healer come along for the January event, just in case something goes wrong while we're away from Hogwarts, but Stint's bowed out there, too.

Apparently, he dislikes the cold rather intensely, and found Hogwarts tedious to apparate to last week. I had not expected to spend the next two days declaiming my love for Scotland's climate and glorious isolation, but there you are. I am amusing myself in boring parts of this meeting writing a list of ways to be enthusiastic about our weather.

I am, by the way, assuming you would rather not spend a day in January on a snowy hillside supervising a large number of students trying to achieve various goals. If I'm wrong about that, do let me know.

And since I didn't have a chance to catch up with you before this - I think the CCF planning sessions went well enough, though we obviously need a bit more coordinated practice. I think everything's in good order for the other sessions, and Felix was indeed able to find me a few of the recordings you were hoping for, so we'll have a better variety of practice pieces.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2011-12-12 04:34:01**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

If Facinorous Stint ever grabs you, I hope you will not hesitate to hex his bits off. Such a nasty piece of work, that one.

Thank you for your efforts on my behalf. I hate to think of your having to expend your own political chits on my behalf. But I'm extremely grateful.

Kind of you, too, to find someone to staff the January expedition. It's not that I prefer sitting at home or shudder at the thought of trekking, even in January. But, under the circumstances, it would be unwise to leave my post, even in support of the YPL. So, alas.

I will be pleased to consult with the appointed healer in advance to

advise her or him of relevant issues regarding certain of the pupils who will participate--and I'd very much appreciate it if we could meet (again) following the event, however briefly, so I may update my records fully with respect to any injuries or issues that have might occurred.

Finally, I'm very glad to hear that your meetings are going smoothly--and am pleased to know we'll have appropriate music for our comportment lessons.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-12 04:46:30**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

I am holding a good hex in reserve (I could probably get him removed from the board, but it'd be a mess.)

As to the politics - honestly, I think he's been wearing on some of them a bit. So some cost, but not as much as it might be.

I will certainly let you know when we've a healer appointed (might be a few weeks), and consult. I'll bring a copy of the plans by this week, so you can see exactly what might come up in the ordinary way of things. (Mind, I've given up on expecting any YPL event going the way it was planned.)

Perhaps we might find a time to talk over it (and I can show you the robes I'm picking up tomorrow?) after one of the sessions this week, if you can be away from your ward for that long?

I'm to bed now, so I'll be up to dealing with more meetings in the morning.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-12 17:28:38**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

Poppy -

A few more thoughts from the morning.

The new robes are glorious, painful as it is for me spend this much on clothing. (I'm waiting on a couple of final alterations at the moment.) But I'm now quite confident I won't shame anyone at the Ball, or various other invitations.

I do have a favour to ask you: do you have a recommendation to help me get through the next ten days or so? What with one thing and another, I've got a tremendous amount to do, and being here last night reminded me exactly how tired I am already.

You know I hate to rely on anything like a regular potion (both you and Mum have rubbed off on me that way), but the more I think about it, the more I think that might be the best choice. (Once we get through the next week, everything eases up a bit.)

I've also got something I'd like to talk to you about - in person, by preference, though if we had to, it could be the journals. But privately.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-12 02:45:41**

Private message to Rory

Hey you- keeping a subtle eye on your side of the castle. An empty tower and personal quarters might be sorely tempting for our pink-parchment quill friend.

When I'm in the city I'll have to have a look at that keen-sounding shop window with the quidditch match. And speaking of- got another invite in the post this morning. It's a New Years gala by the National Quidditch Association, and a lot of my old mates are sure to be there. I'd love it if you came with me, but there's that... well, New Years Eve, yeah? And you not knowing many others there, and having no reason to meet them, it'd be pretty evident to all and sundry that you're along as my date.

So if you have another party you'd like to go to by yourself, or if you'd rather ring in the New Year with family, I'd understand.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-12 03:02:51**

Re: Private message to Rory

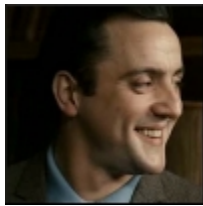
Thanks for the watchful eye, love. I feel better knowing that.

For New Year's... I'd like that, I think, as long as you promise to help me catch up on who's who beforehand. (I never thought I'd regret not following Quidditch properly, but there you

are.)

The meetings today went decently, and the concert tonight was glorious. That and some walking today also gave me space to think about a lot of things. I'm still nervous about going public, but I think I've got a better idea why now, and how we might fix that, together.

Miss you. Miss just knowing you're nearby, particularly. Should be back sometime around eight tomorrow evening - depends how long dinner with my parents goes. I'll have some things to drop off in my rooms, but after that want to be up the top of the tower for a bit. (You'd be welcome once the place is clear of students, if you're free.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-12 03:26:21](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

I know it sounds like it will be terribly blokey, but there are a good deal of female quidditch players, coaches, strategists, promoters, and whatall too.

And since the quidditch world exists within its own separate sphere, there's not quite so much jockeying for position-that stays on the pitch, see? The person I want you to meet most is Cal, though- Cal Pummel (Falcons strategist), an old and dear mate of mine. The rest of them aren't too shabby, either.

Ah, and on that next bit: how do you plan for us to fix the Peter Purvis? Or should we talk about it tomorrow night?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-12 03:41:30](#)

Re: Private message to Rory


Glad to go, honest, and no other plans I actually wanted to go to even. (And I do want to get to know people who are important to you, you know.)

On the nerves: we'll need to talk some tomorrow night, but to put it in my own field's terms, being a binary star's different than being solitary, and my sense of gravity's still off. Which makes me feel all shaky.

I could show you easier than tell you, really, but I think talking through how to answer the obvious questions, and getting them in perspective will help the nerves a lot.

Some of it, too, is just overwork - dinner, tonight, Campanella and I were talking about the number of things that got dropped in my lap, (even without Pink Parchment Girl), and, well, it's no wonder I feel scattered. There's fixes for that too, and it should only be particularly bad for another week or so.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-12 03:56:21](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Well how do you reckon I feel, going from the protectorate's most eligible bachelor to "officially dating?" I'm leaving Barty all alone to shoulder the burden by himself, and it's bound to make him sour. Granted, I've officially dated various others off and on over the years, but you're the first woman who waited for *me* to suggest going public first, and then took some time to decide how she felt about that, too.

For the record, despite my choice of words we are not required to do anything official, or even verify anything for the press. It's more that we can just be "us" a little bit more in front of other people, I figure. That's all.

On the overwork, let me know if there's anything I can do to help out, will you? I reckon that if you hadn't had to apparate early this weekend you'd feel a lot more sorted out. And the stars just aren't as crystalline in New London, are they? Good thing they'll be waiting back here for you.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-12 04:10:54](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

(Imagine me sitting here and laughing, and trying to figure out how to answer you, would you?)

I keep telling you I'm not like lots of other women. I'm glad you're patient with me.

And no - we don't have to do anything official. But people will

ask, and it'd settle me to be flat out clear on what I say, and how I say it to handle that well. And there are a few people that, if we're being a tiny bit more public, I really should tell before it gets picked up by the papers as a fact.

And you do know, if I dance with you at the Yule Ball (which I certainly would prefer to do, thank you, given the effort involved in what I'm going to be wearing) that it's going to be undeniable to not only our students but our colleagues? I'm not that good an actress.

It helps Minerva took it well, too. (Though now I'm wondering what my parents are going to ask tomorrow. They're being entirely mysterious about why they really must have dinner on Monday.)

On the overwork: unfortunately, not too much you can do without more gossip. It's those cursed etiquette and dance lessons, and the fact that at least a quarter of the girls in the upper years seem to see me as the nearest convenient agony aunt. I can scarcely turn them away, but it does take time. I've got a plan for getting my lesson plans and marking so they don't take much time next week now though.

As to the stars - quite. (And I've a lousy view from this window, anyway.) But I've got a projection up, and it's quite soothing. Tomorrow will be much nicer.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-12 04:34:53](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Trust me, love, I am bloody thrilled that you are not like the other women I've dated.

We can sort out what to say and practise our dancing all in one go, if you like. Though I don't know that I can help you deal with the upper year girls. I've had a few of the boys come round asking me about how to avoid the clap (at least they haven't forgotten it went around last year), to which I cheerfully tell them to see Madam Pomfrey, "*because there's nothing that gives her greater pleasure than helping a young lad avoid strange oozings from his knob.*"

Being a teacher is really more fun than it ought to be, on

occasion.

And now that I've left you with THAT pleasant image, I suggest you concentrate on your projection for a while...



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-12 04:40:03**

Re: Private message to Rory

Glad you're all right with that, then.

I'd much appreciate the dancing practice, yes. I've had the proper lessons, and brushed up, but I want to do you proud, and that's easier with practice.

I am glad you're finding amusement dealing with the boys - and that's much simpler than what they ask me, as disturbing as the image is. ("How do I know if he actually likes me, or is just saying yes because he'd like to spend time with my best friend?" is not a question Poppy has tremendous patience with.)

But yes. Projection and sleep for me, so tomorrow will go well (and so I'll have plenty of energy left for talking, dancing, and other things in the evening.)



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-13 00:47:38**

Private message to Arca and Volans Sinistra

Mum, Dad -

I didn't say this enough at dinner, but thank you again. I can't tell you what it means to be trusted with pieces passed down through the family - however did you round them all up from the relatives? And the charms on them will certainly make me feel more confident at the Ball!

I tried on that belt from Great-Aunt Imogen as soon as I got home, and she did stunning work, both with the design and the charms for grace and elegant movement (and it looks like it could have been made to go with my new robes.) And the earrings are amazing - you're right about how they cast the face in the best light possible.

I'm stunned you got Auntie Alphecca to part with the topazes - she's

clung to them for so long. (Do you think all her friends will notice at the next tea party if she spills while pouring?) I particularly love the pearls, and I promise, I'm not offended by the charm design at all. A little subtle help with the social graces is much appreciated given the circles I'm moving in lately.

And thank you, too, for trusting me enough not to ask details about my relationship with Raz. I care about him a great deal, and you know I don't say that lightly about anyone.

But being more precise about it is still complicated right now and it's such a gift to have you not press me for details before I'm ready. I do think I'll have more to tell you soon - just not quite yet.

I'll certainly let you know when I might be free at least for an afternoon's visit, as soon as I can get my social obligations to stay put for more than a few hours. It was wonderful to see you, and I'll be writing soon, I'm sure - with more about the Ball and the Malfoy's party, if not before.

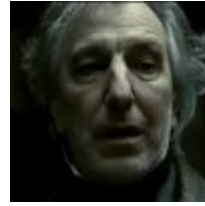
Much love,
A.

2011-12-11 12:09:00

Order Only -- Lupin.

Lupin,

I expect your notes on the Wolfsbane potion at your earliest convenience.



 [alt_severus](#)

It may not be a new formulation, but it is imperative that I learn what the results of holding the process in the midst of brewing were.

Others,

Miss Granger is working out well.

So far I have not met with Milland's factor. There have been no signs of trouble otherwise.

2011-12-11 14:55:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley and Vani Johns



Could either of you go for supper tonight? I've only an hour, I'm afraid, because I'm working. Or we could go for drinks when I finish. I think I could meet you at The Hedgepig by half-ten.

 [alt_lana](#)

Only I really need to talk to you both. Something happened at supper last night--my parents' big gathering before the Opera. You were right, Sarah, when you saw me at the interval: I was terribly upset. And trying not to show that.

Oh, I don't know! Honestly. You have to tell me what I should do.

I mean, they'd drawn up the dowry parchments and signed between them before they ever told me.

Vani, you know I told you Ned was so out of sorts last weekend and I thought it was because I'd asked you to meet us for supper when he'd wanted to see me alone? And, fair enough, we're almost never completely alone. And then Whitacre's party should have been a time, but there were so many people and we were just thronged. Even the sleighing wasn't private--we went in great sledges with four couples in each. And it was wonderful, but Ned seemed so put out, and I thought maybe he was angry with me. Or worse.

I nearly fainted when Papa stood up last night with everyone there and told them all I'm to marry. And they all welcomed Ned to the family.

And I was supposed to be so pleased.

Well, no. I was supposed to be overcome with happiness.

And I don't know what I was instead. Only. It's not what I expected at all.

2011-12-11 22:40:00

Private Message to Charles and Ned Pennifold



 [alt_lucius](#)

Good of you to have us in after the Consort performance, Charles. And with such news! Ned, Narcissa and I wish you every happiness, again. Trust that working for Barty, you know what sort of career Miss Sandoval has ahead of her. Perhaps it is your expectation that you and she shall see more of each other within MLE's walls than in your own home! Certainly, a couple more dedicated to the glory of the Protectorate could not be found than the two of you.

Now, Charles, if you wish to discuss Obscurus' release dates for the next calendar year, should be able to see you this week. Possibly Thursday? Contact Weasley; realise it is less than ideal to conduct business outside of the Board but it remains a necessary measure at present. Or if you'd prefer to join me at the Elysian on Friday, it would give us an opportunity to discuss the other matter you asked about.

We shall see you and Ygraine Tuesday evening for the Philharmonic. Ned, let us know if you and Miss Sandoval would care to take drinks Saturday before the St Mungo's annual auction.

2011-12-11 22:49:00

*Private Message to Rodolphus
Lestrangle*

I've a development to report. Two, actually, though you may already know about one of them.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Let me know when you're available for a visit.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-12-12 04:00:30**
(no subject)

At your leisure, of course. Thought it'd be best to wait til morning, at the least.

Nothing the matter, I hope.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-12 04:04:24**
(no subject)

Well, that rather depends on whether you think it's a problem. Perhaps it's not nearly as much of a setback as it seems.

Though if it is, it rather explains why Miss Sandoval seemed distracted during tonight's concert.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-12-12 04:15:41**
(no subject)

The Wilton Consort, you mean? I believe Miss Sandoval was there working. Do hope nothing went wrong, as I understand Miss Sandoval is taking her tutelage under Auror Wright quite seriously.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-12 04:17:09**
(no subject)

No, nothing went wrong. At the concert, that is.

You've not spoken to her since before the weekend, then?




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-12 04:25:24](#)
(no subject)

We last spoke on Thursday, I believe. She was in fairly good spirits, excited about both her work and a number of upcoming social events. ~~Though she was worri~~

Where are you going with this?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-12 04:29:00](#)
(no subject)

Ah.

Well, perhaps I was misreading her mood. After all, it may not change anything - in practice.

When you next speak with her, you ought to know that congratulations are in order. I'm sure she and Ned will make a handsome pair.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-12 04:37:14](#)
(no subject)

Ah, so that's it. Yes, of course they will make a handsome pair, as was always planned, I'm sure.

Do you still want to meet for a visit?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-12 04:50:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, I've spoken to Aleta Featherstone, regarding the other matter before us.

But that can certainly wait until later in the

week, if you prefer to address this news, first.

(And as for planned, I've no idea. Ned certainly is very pleased with himself and proud of his catch.)




 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-12 04:56:38](#)**
(no subject)

That is very generous of you.

I am sure Mr Pennifold is well-pleased indeed.
I am less sure if he truly understands anything at all about the catch he's caught.

But no, I'm eager to begin our work on the other matter you speak of. How does mid-week sound?



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-12 05:09:08](#)**
(no subject)

I know that Miss Sandoval aspires to be like our Bella in every way. Perhaps, as a mentor of sorts to *her*, you ought to open Ned's eyes to the kind of life to which *he* may be consigning himself. Though as Lucius has already commented to him, clerking for Barty ought to be lesson enough. My personal belief is that - idealistically, to be sure - he imagines that Miss Sandoval will balance her home and career more equally.

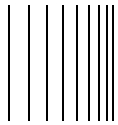
Mid-week would be fine, dear. We can compare notes. I've a number of options for consideration.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-12 05:19:46](#)**
(no subject)

To be perfectly frank, I really don't care about where young Neddy ends up.

I admire Miss Sandoval's aspirations very much, but I think you and I both know that there is only one Bella.



Options are welcome. I'll bring Rigel - he being the reason for the visit, of course.

2011-12-12 09:08:00

Private message to Lana Sandoval


I have heard that congratulations are in good order, Miss Sandoval.



I hope that we can meet for tea at Le'Strange soon, and that you can tell me of your plans.

 [alt_rodolphus](#)



 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-12-12 18:14:17**
(no subject)

I'd rather you not congratulate me.

But, oh, I'd so like to see you. Please. Could it be this afternoon or tonight? I work late tomorrow.

To be honest, I'm a bit of a mess over this. I'm not sure I've any choice in the matter, and I-




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2011-12-12 18:23:02**
(no subject)

I'm available today. For you, at least.

Yes. The news was something of a surprise even to myself, given that when we last spoke, you were wondering if things between you and Mr Pennifold were at an end. I can only imagine, then, how disorienting this change of course must be for you.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2011-12-12 18:37:09**
(no subject)

I suppose I should want it, but I don't. Or not for the reasons I'd want to want to be married.

You're right: I really thought Ned was going to drop me, and anyway, I had more than half a mind to drop him when the holiday engagements were done with.

I keep thinking that this might not have happened if Orion and I

hadn't shifted out to the carriage house. I thought that was the perfect way to escape from all their worrying and watching, but now I think Papa's been worried I'll ruin myself. As if that were a danger with Ned!

And I'm furious he went and made a bargain with Papa without even asking if I'd be willing. Because, of course, Papa thought nothing of it, he's so traditional. But Ned. I want to hex him. Only I can't, can I? Because I don't know what he suspects-



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-12 19:08:47](#)
(no subject)

Do you think he saw to it that you were purposefully excluded from the process?


Putting tradition and even...marital outcome aside, I would not wish for you to be yoked to someone who refuses to see or hear you.

Yet hexing is perhaps too direct at this juncture. Yes.

On one hand, I laugh at the old-fashioned notion of young women as potions on a shelf, just waiting to 'expire' or 'be ruined.' But then again I'm a father myself, and sympathise with at least the general notion of concern that your father has for you.

At any rate, perhaps I can offer some balance of perspective. Among other things.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-12-12 20:28:06](#)
(no subject)

Well, I think he may have wanted to tell me before Papa announced it. But he didn't try very hard, did he? Just sulked about our not ever really being alone, but didn't say why it was so important just now.

Oh, Ned is just Ned. He's nice enough. You know, a year ago I was over the moon that he wanted to be with me. Only, I don't know.

It's a perfectly good match. And really it makes sense in so many

ways. Only, I thought-

I don't know.

I thought I'd be in love, I guess.

I really want to see you, Rod. For balance and perspective. And other things. Maybe we could start with those?

2011-12-12 09:14:00

Private message to Hopkirk and Braithewaite



 **alt_bellatrix**

Hopkirk, please add to Saturday's finalised records:

V5.01-S5 (completed on 10:16, Saturday, December 10)

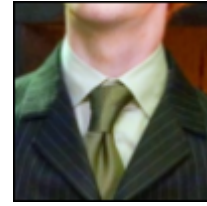
Changes noted: in lupine form, attending healers saw subject's vitals improve and bleeding slow. Back in human form vitals worsened again, showing no difference from previous variables. However, Pelton's report today verifies tissue changes when compared to earlier subjects. Attach copy to finalised record.

V5.02-S5 expected to execute January 9.

[2011-12-12 10:57:00](#)

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Penny, something has come up, an event I've been asked to attend as Mr Malfoy's clerk, and so I won't be able to stay in Hogsmeade past 1:00 this coming Saturday. The room at the Protector's Circle is reserved starting at noon, but I could check to see whether I could change the start time to a little earlier. Could you meet me at 10:00 or 11:00 instead of noon?



 [alt_percy](#)

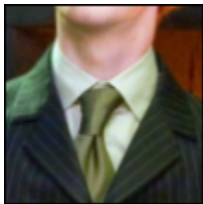



 [alt_penelope](#) at **[2011-12-12 17:05:08](#)**
(no subject)

Perce, you know I've got Potions NEWT group Saturdays 9 to 11.

I guess we could meet at half-eleven if I don't put my things away before leaving the castle. We could get something in the dining room if the room's not available.

What's Mr Malfoy got you doing on a Saturday? Something important?




 [alt_percy](#) at **[2011-12-12 17:20:39](#)**
(no subject)

He's asking me to attend a holiday event in his place, as he has another commitment at the same time. An open house hosted by Dolores Umbridge. You know I'd much rather be with you, but it will be an opportunity, you know. To meet the right sort of people and so on.

Half-eleven will be better than noon. I'll change the reservation accordingly.



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-12 17:29:34](#)
(no subject)

Let me get this straight. You're going to a party?

Well, are you really going to want to have lunch, then?

I just

~~How long is the party? Do you have to go right at 1:00? Why not go later~~

I guess you don't have to eat much. And it'll be good to see you, even if it's brief this time. We'll just have to make the most of it.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-12 17:35:52](#)
(no subject)

I'm not going because it's a party. I'm going because Mr Malfoy requires it of me, and yes, because it's a networking opportunity.

I will have lunch with you, of course. And yes, we'll make the most of it.



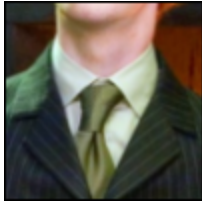
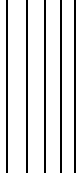
 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-12 17:41:53](#)
(no subject)

No, I understand. And I shouldn't get upset about it, not when it really is work-related for you.

It's just that after what happened last time, I really wanted this Hogsmeade trip to be more pleasant. And now it's getting cut short. That's all.

But I know how hard you try to please Mr Malfoy and how important it is not to disappoint him.

It's okay.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-12 19:38:43](#)
(no subject)

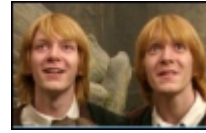
I'll make it up to you. I promise.

2011-12-12 14:09:00

So...


our plans are set nicely for the 22nd.

How about for the rest of you?



 **alt_gredforge**



 **alt_lee at 2011-12-12 20:17:01**

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

Yeah, I'm set, too.




 **alt_gredforge at 2011-12-12 20:17:09**

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

Really? Who'd you ask?



 **alt_lee at 2011-12-12 20:17:45**

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

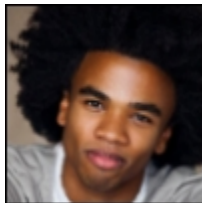
Jane Bradley.




 **alt_gredforge at 2011-12-12 20:18:04**

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

Huh. Haven't heard you talking about her before.



 **alt_lee at 2011-12-12 20:18:53**

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

I let her copy my potion notes. Owed me a favour.

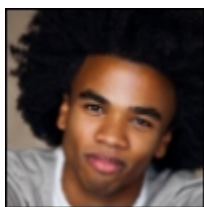



 **alt_gredforge at 2011-12-12 20:19:33**

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

Well, that's romantic!

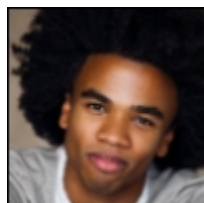
(Shouldn't a Ravenclaw get thrown out of the library for that sort of thing?)



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-12 20:20:07](#)

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

Nah, Jane's all right. Should be fun.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-12 20:23:10](#)

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

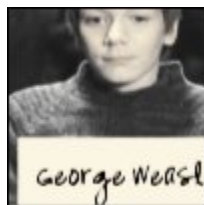
Who are you two going with?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-12 20:23:26](#)

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

Angelina Johnson.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-12 20:23:40](#)

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

Katie Bell.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-12 20:20:37](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

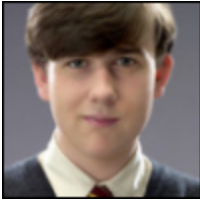
Better get a move on, Ronnikins, or all the good ones will be taken.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:30:48](#)

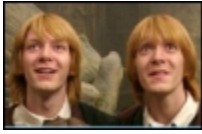
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

OI!



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-12 20:24:41](#)
(no subject)


I'm going with Susan Bones.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-12 20:25:25](#)
(no subject)


Are you? Well, well, well. How very interesting.



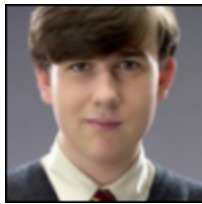
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:31:11](#)
(no subject)


Why is that interesting?



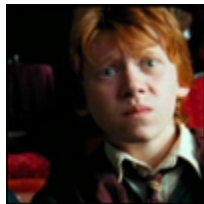
 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-12 20:34:18](#)
(no subject)


Why, I suppose that he already has a date.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-12 20:39:00](#)
(no subject)


Don't most people by now?



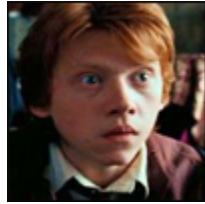
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:41:32](#)
(no subject)


They do?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-12 20:44:49](#)
(no subject)

Uh, yeah, I think so. Susan said her roommates all have dates by now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:47:26](#)
(no subject)

Even Midgen?

You're having me on.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-12-12 20:50:03](#)
(no subject)

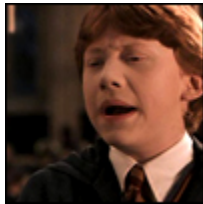
Going with Summers, isn't she? She asked him, though, and he didn't have the heart to tell her no.




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-12-12 20:42:10](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Sue said something about that.

Dead naff, you ask me. Dancing and that.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:45:53](#)
(no subject)

Right!

Wot he said!

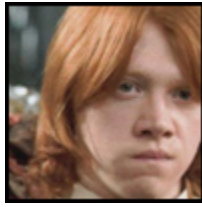



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-12 20:47:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, look. Smith said something boorish. And Weasley agreed with him.

And you wonder why neither of you have dates.


Honestly.



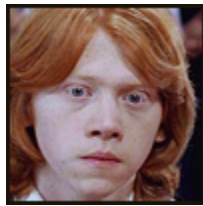
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:49:33](#)**
(no subject)


What, and you do? Who're you going with?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:51:02](#)**
(no subject)

Not that it's any of your business, Ronald. But Roger Davies asked me on the last Hogsmeade trip.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:56:48](#)**
(no subject)

Oh.

What's so great about Davies?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:46:37](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, I suppose it all depends on who you're dancing with.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:47:51](#)**
(no subject)

And the music. If it were up to us, for example, we'd veto any song by Celestina Warbeck.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:50:52](#)**
(no subject)


Exactly.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:48:37](#)**
(no subject)


And you think dancing with a poncy little Frog isn't naff?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:53:40](#)**
(no subject)

Not as naff as other things you could do, no.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:54:25](#)**
(no subject)

I've done lots of naffier things myself.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:57:48](#)**
(no subject)

And you're bragging about it?

Daft, you are. This whole ball thing is daft.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:54:34](#)**
(no subject)

Hang on there.


What's Luna done to you?



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:56:42](#)**
(no subject)


Who says she's done anything? I'm just asking her a question.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:29:28](#)**
(no subject)


I didn't expect to be able to go, but Jean-Pierre Anouileh asked me. Which was quite nice of him to do.



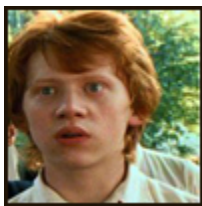
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:31:56](#)**
(no subject)


Hang on. Is everyone going, then?



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:36:44](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, lots of people. Everyone I've heard talking about it is quite excited.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:34:01](#)**
(no subject)

So. What? You just went up and asked them? Katie and Angelina, I mean.

And they just said yeah?

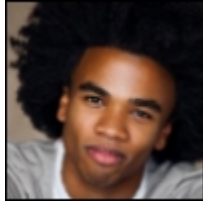
How'd you get them alone? I mean, all the witches just go around in herds, don't they?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-12 20:36:17](#)**
(no subject)

Catch the eye, give a wink, ask the question. Takes savoir faire.

Come to think of it, maybe that's why you're having trouble.




 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-12 20:38:13](#)

(no subject)

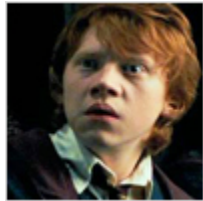
Yeah, no wonder!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:40:15](#)

(no subject)

Nice.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-12 20:39:29](#)

(no subject)

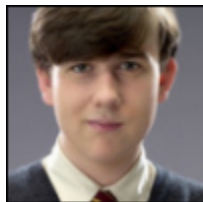
OI




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-12 20:42:27](#)

(no subject)

It really isn't that hard, Ron. To ask, I mean.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-12 20:43:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Was there somebody you wanted to ask?




 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-12 20:44:18**

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

No!

I mean to say, why'd you pick Bones?




 **[alt_neville](#) at 2011-12-12 20:49:29**

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

Because she's quite nice, really. And I knew she wouldn't laugh at me. I got to know her a bit, since she was roommates with Hannah, you know.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-12 20:59:59**

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

Oh, well.

That's all right then. If you like that sort of thing. Dancing and all, I mean.

2011-12-12 16:00:00

Private Message to Ron Weasley


En't you the least bit fussed that everyone seems to be going mad for all these foreign blokes?



 [alt_zacharias](#)

Besides, I thought you agreed with me that dancing is naff. Dancing with a poncer is even more naff, then, innit?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-12 21:03:38**

(no subject)

Well, I mean it's just Luna, innit? I can't see how it matters if she goes with one of the French blokes.

You think he's a shirt-lifter, though? That JP bloke, I mean. Really?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2011-12-12 21:07:32**

(no subject)

No, I don't care one way or the other what Loony does. It's her lookout.

My point was that she said it depended on who you're dancing with. Meaning she obviously thinks it's worthwhile to go with this whatever his name is. Finch-Fletchley's mate. And I don't see how it could be, that's all.

I've seen enough of these French blokes anyway, to think they're all bloody shirt-lifters. And my dad says it'll be a problem if we're all supposed to get Frenchified. They're supposed to be learning to be like us, not the other way 'round. Innit?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-12 21:17:20**

(no subject)

Well, it's true he won't learn much about being like the rest of us from spending time with Luna.

Ha! He'll think we're all a bit mad, won't he?

Or maybe he'll just think he doesn't quite understand what she's on about.




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-12 21:09:39](#)**
(no subject)

And anywiz, what did you mean asking Patil what's so great about Davies? As if you wouldn't want to be Quidditch Captain, mate.

Not that you'd have a chance with Patil, though. Not if she's being asked by a 6th-year.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-12 21:15:24](#)**
(no subject)

He's great at Quidditch, sure, but he's really full of himself. Barging about expecting everyone to get out of his way as if he's head mugwump or something.

And, well, I mean it's his lookout if he wants to go with Patil, but really. What do you think he wants with her?

Bet he won't get it any more than Page did. And who could stand listening to her talk about herself all the time?



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-12 21:38:50](#)**
(no subject)

No idea.

Girls are weird.

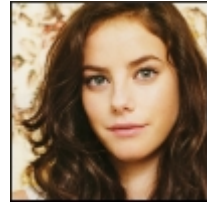
2011-12-12 16:36:00

Private message to Barnabas Bole

Barney,

If you're not otherwise occupied this evening, I was wondering if I might have a word with you in private before Curfew. There's an excellent view from the sitting area at the top of the Divination Tower, and according to Professor Sinistra's lesson from last week, the Geminid meteor shower is due to peak.

Fondly,
Daphne Greengrass

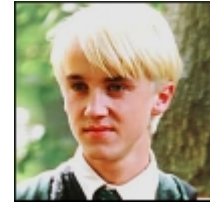


 [alt_daphne](#)

2011-12-12 17:51:00

A little helpful service

Since I reckon a few blokes are going to be feeling a bit regretful that they took so long to open up their eyes to the fact that dancing is neither naff nor poncy, I figure it might be helpful if we compiled a list of people who are still without a date, just to make it easier for them to find one another, if they so choose.



 [alt_draco](#)

Because get this: dancing with a girl is actually the *opposite* of poncy, as it so happens.

Year 4

Ron Weasley

Zacharias Smith

Katrina Bundy

Linus Moon

Mandy Brocklehurst

Seamus Finnigan

*Daphne Greengrass**

Michael Corner

Gregory Goyle

Vincent Crabbe

Millicent Bulstrode

Theodore Nott

Year 5 (here's where things get murky, as I really only know about goings-on in Slytherin)

Erasmus Croaker

Troy Derwent

Jack Sloper

Horace Moon

Nerea Gray

Vicky Frobisher

Anthony Rickett

Ogden Begy

Year 6

Alfred Montague

Cassandra Calderwood

Miles Bletchley

Duncan Inglebee

Feodor Gallez
Geoffrey Hooper
Kenneth Towler

Year 7

Agnes Wright
Barnabas Bole
Josephina Gamp
Maxine O'Flaherty
Gemma Bundy
Faemarina Anderson
Herbert Fleet
Welhelmina Rigg
Horus Diggle
Russell Cadwadaller
*Karoline Moon***
*Penelope Clearwater***

* Daphs is only on the list as a technicality.

** Technically on the list, but disqualified as they're both seeing blokes who are already out of the school.

Who else have I missed? I didn't include third-years, but some of them might be available. If anyone knows about the students from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang, you can add their names here, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 01:55:25](#)

Private message to Draco

Milli would very much like to go with Greg, if he'd ask her. She doesn't want to do the asking. (Pansy tried to drop a hint but you know how Greg is. If she'd wrapped the hint around a brick and dropped it on his foot it might have worked a bit better.)

Anyway if you have a chance to shove Greg in that direction I'm sure Milli would appreciate it.

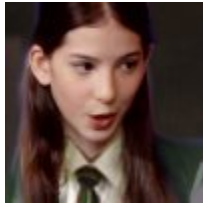


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 02:00:29](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

So you really do have a date, right? Because I kept your name off, but I thought I should...double check.

I'll see if I can bludgeon some sense into Greg, but unfortunately he's under the influence of Vince, who's currently touting Smith's whole "dancing is for shirt-lifters" philosophy.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 02:05:15](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Yes, I really have a date!

I don't know what's wrong with some boys. You're right, dancing with a girl (when you're a boy) is about the last poncy thing ever.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 02:10:47](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Sorry, sorry, not trying to be rude. Just checking.

I reckon it depends on background and how you were raised. My parents went to dances and balls all the time when I was growing up, and I had to take classes in etiquette and deportment, which included dancing lessons. So it never seemed like a poncy sort of activity to me, not when men like my Father and the Lestrangle brothers and Ari Baddock did it and seemed to enjoy it, too.

So Weasley, well, I reckon it makes sense he's never been exposed to that sort of thing. I'm more surprised about Smith, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 02:24:07](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

I know you're just checking -- sorry, I didn't mean to sound like I was snapping at you. Teddy thinks I made up a boyfriend and then I will pretend to get jilted on the day of the Ball so that I can go by myself and it will be because someone was a cad, not because I'm too much of a loser to get a date at all. Or at least he was saying that MAYBE that's what I was up to. I just

Did Smith have etiquette classes and the rest? It certainly doesn't show, if he did.

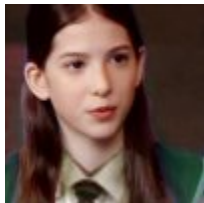


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 02:43:34](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Teddy wanted to ask Hydra, did you know that? He was annoyed that Finch-Fletchley beat him to it. Or he seemed annoyed at first, but then he recovered right fast. It's hard to really get a peg on what Teddy cares about, sometimes. I don't see how anyone can really "make up" a date, though. There's *not* that many people in the school - unless they're counting on the foreigners to make things confusing and difficult to keep straight.

About Smith, I'd doubt it. He's pureblooded, but not in the cultured Wiltshire way. More in the "hole up in the North country and listen to quidditch on the wireless and drink lager" way.

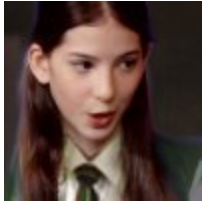


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 03:13:25](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Ooh, I didn't know Teddy wanted to ask Hydra. Guess he should've been quicker about it, then! I don't think they'd suit, anyway.

That's about what I'd figured, about Smith.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 01:56:33](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I heard a rumour Letchley asked Cassandra and she turned him down. Even the pureblood girls think he's a creep.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-13 02:49:54](#)

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

Well, good, serves him right. I know that Evelyn has warned the girls in her year to steer clear of him.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-13 02:51:31](#)

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

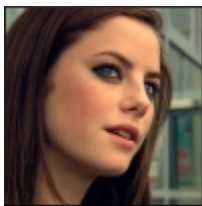
He hasn't been after her or anything, has he? Because we'd be happy to hex him or give our beater bats a workout if necessary. All in a good cause.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-13 02:53:15](#)

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

No. He kind of gave her a weird look a couple of times, but she's stayed well away from him. And she's agreed she'll tell me if he tries anything. But he hasn't.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 02:55:18](#)

(no subject)

Draco, thank you for putting this together.

Ron Weasley, Zacharias Smith, Linus Moon, Seamus Finnigan, Michael Corner, Gregory Goyle, Vincent Crabbe, and Theodore Nott - what's wrong with you? Even if you don't have a sense of romance or one jot of rhythm, couldn't you at least look at the Ball as a school-wide event in which we are playing hosts to our foreign guests? From that angle, isn't it wise if you at least make an effort?

This is just like the play all over again.

I suppose Linus Moon and Theodore Nott deserve a little credit for at least having asked girls who already happened to have dates, and thus had to turn them down.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 03:14:52](#)

Private message to Daphne

Who'd Linus Moon ask?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 03:23:45](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

He asked Morag, but she had already said yes to Eddie Carmichael.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 03:34:58](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

Oh, how nice for Morag to have two boys after her! She used to be convinced that she was clumsy and unattractive. (And, well, she's still clumsy, although she's getting better. But she was always pretty.)




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 03:55:56](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

Well, neither Moon nor Carmichael are the most fetching too look at, but they're both very nice, even if Moon can be sort of gormless, especially for someone who gets good marks. Still, Eddie's a fifth year, so good for her!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 03:20:07](#)
(no subject)

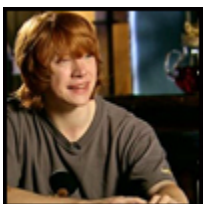
Smith will be lucky if anyone takes him seriously after acting such a pillock.


Who'd want to go with a boy who's just going to refuse to dance?
Honestly.



 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-13 03:41:14](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps he's embarrassed because he's not particularly coordinated? But then there's those classes in remedial dance and etiquette that are being offered, so there's really no excuse!

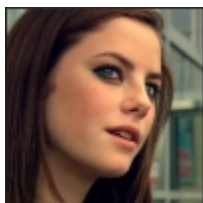


 **alt_ron** at [2011-12-13 03:51:16](#)
(no subject)

It's not the same as the play at all, is it? I tried out for the play and did my part.

Only this is dancing.

Are you saying we ought to all be taking foreign girls? Which of them hasn't been asked yet?




 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-13 04:00:09](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you know I meant Smith. He was the one that kept jarveying on about plays last year. I agree, you *did* do your part.

You don't have to take a foreign girl; I think it's more important to be supportive of the idea itself as a student representative of Hogwarts.

Do you want me to help you find a date? I wouldn't object.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-12-13 04:28:40](#)
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Erm. D'you know anyone good who hasn't been asked yet?

I mean, not Bullstrode, all right? I know you room with her and all, but, yeah.

It'd be all right if it was one of the foreign ones ~~cause they're~~ ~~leav~~, but not that one Durmstrang witch with the one eyebrow and the birthmark.




 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-13 04:36:09**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Millie doesn't want to go with you, she wants to go with Greg.

So, tell me more about what you consider "someone good." Do you like blondes or brunettes? Tall or short? Ample chested or slight? Talkative or stoic? Curly or straight?



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-13 04:42:47**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Uh.

Y'know, on second thought, I think I'll just work on this myself.

Er. Thanks, though.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-13 04:47:41**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Oh, Ronald, you disappoint me.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-13 05:00:24**

(no subject)

Oh, and you can remove my name, as well as Barney's.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 05:03:23](#)
(no subject)

You asked him to go with you, then?


A seventh year, Daphs? Good show. Quidditch player, too.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 05:03:46](#)
(no subject)

I did, and he happily accepted. Cheers!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 14:37:36](#)
(no subject)


I did a little asking about after you posted this.

I'm not sure who Delacour's going with, no one in Beauxbatons seems to know. Archimbault's asked Anderson, just last night. Toubon means to ask Calderwood, I think. I'm pretty sure everyone else from Beauxbatons has dates.

Oh, and someone said this morning that Poliakoff and Tupolov are still looking for girls to ask. Poliakoff might have better luck if he'd make sure he hasn't spilled something on his robes before asking anyone.

And if any boys are looking for girls, I heard Katla Knopf is still available. If you dare to ask her!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 15:09:55](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Padma. Say, which one is Katla Knopf again?

Is that really all the foreigners who are left? That still leaves a lot Hogwarts students without dates, but then I suppose if they just ask each other, problem solved.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 15:16:59](#)
(no subject)

Knopf is the one who looks like she could be Goyle's cousin or something. I swear she might have been able to swim here on her own if they hadn't had a ship.


And I guess a couple of them were already dating (like Ivanovich and Alexandrova) and there's at least one pair where one of them is from Durmstrang and the other from Beauxbatons.

I think Evgeni might still be waiting to figure out who to ask as well.

But after all there's only a week to go, or nearly!

Has anyone heard who's playing yet?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 15:44:47](#)
(no subject)

Father knows who's playing, but he hasn't even told me. It's all meant to be a surprise.

[2011-12-12 20:02:00](#)

Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

I've been meaning to ask: did your mother have anything useful to tell you?



 **[alt_padma](#)**

And does that have anything to do with your asking Bole? You are asking him, right--that's what your message was, wasn't it?

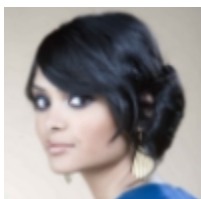



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-13 01:57:11](#)**
(no subject)

No, she didn't. In fact, I would say that her lack of information spoke volumes in itself.

Sorry to be mysterious, but I... I'm not really up to discussing it just now.

Barney and Josephina have been on the outs since Halloween, but I can tell he's waiting around to see who she asks before he makes a move to ask someone himself. But everyone knows that Josephina's convinced she can get Krum to break his date with the mystery girl and ask her, instead. I figure I'll see if I can save Barney the trouble of being stuck with whoever is leftover on the night before the Ball. Whatever his reputation, he is rather nice to look at, after all, and a 7th year, too.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-13 02:08:33](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. I'm sorry, Daphs. It must be unsettling, especially if your mum isn't really doing anything to make you feel more assured about things. I don't mean to pry, you know, just--if you do feel like you want to talk, you know I won't tell anyone about it.

And who in school doesn't know that Barney and Josephina are on the outs? Honestly, their row in Hogsmeade was legendary. We could hear them clear up at Scrivenshaft's.

But then, everyone also knows Barney's well dangerous--and not

just with his bat. I think Josephina's well shut of him, personally. You'd better go careful.




 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-13 02:32:38](#)
(no subject)

She keeps saying that she *doesn't want to lie to me* - trouble is, she doesn't have anything true to tell me, either! I think she's been nursing a bit of a fantasy all these years, too, and that isn't helping things.

Oh Padma, but you don't like Blaise, either, and I know how to handle him well enough, don't I? I know what you mean, though... he's got that beater's aggression, but the way he was with Josephine just seemed so passionate, really.

I don't know. There's something about some boys, where I look at them and think: "I could straighten you up and make you behave, I just know it."



 **alt_padma** at [2011-12-13 02:44:12](#)
(no subject)

I don't like Blaise because he behaves as if he's superiour to everyone and everything that isn't him. Or Slytherin. Or whatever.

And you and Lav feel the same way, I think, about bad boys. I dunno. I don't like someone who's completely stiff-backed, but...Grant was always trying to get me to do things, snogging and all, and well--it's just that it seems like it could really do some damage. Long-term, I mean.

And my parents. They may not be paying much attention lately but that'd get them utterly in a state.

Oh, by the way, do you know anything about the quiz Hydra mentioned a few days ago? Who's thinking of putting one together, I mean?




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 02:49:58](#)
(no subject)

Oh yes, that's exactly how Blaise is, heh. But it's really part of his charm, when you get to know him better.

Snogging is brilliant, though! What harm could it really do? If you mean to your reputation, well, it's just snogging. And as for Lav, I thought she liked *gentlemen*. Or is that just what she's telling me, hmm?

I haven't heard anything about a quiz, so if Hydra heard that from someone, I bet she wasn't meant to. But she's the sort of person who could be listening nearby and no one would notice. I wonder if that's a technique her mother taught her?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 03:15:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh, snogging's all right. It's when they want to do more. And it's what people think is happening, you know? I dunno if I ever told you but Sandoval gave me loads of advice about making sure no one has an excuse to accuse you of moving faster than you really are. And her family's really traditional in a similar way to mine.

Lav wants a gentleman on the outside and a beast on the inside, if you know what I mean.

I dunno about Hydra eavesdropping, though. I just want to make sure if there's a quiz like that, whoever's doing it is prepared for the consequences. That's all.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-13 04:06:05](#)
(no subject)

It is true that people always tend to believe what the boy has to say about these things, no matter how much the girl's story differs. I myself am determined to find a way to get insurance against such an incident - when the time comes, I

mean.

Haha! Now who in this *castle* fits THAT description, do you think?

As for the quiz, if they're silly enough to do it, then let them suffer the consequences, I say!

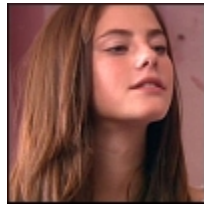


 **alt_padma** at [2011-12-13 04:13:16](#)
(no subject)

I'd say who fits the description but I don't want to upset you again.

Yes but if there's a quiz people will blame

You're helping Weasley? Why?



 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-13 04:26:21](#)
(no subject)

Now don't be - unless...well, if you mean Rizzer, yes, he is rather that, isn't he?

Because I don't think that Smith should win this one, that's why.

2011-12-12 21:46:00

Private message to Padma Patil


Bloody hell, how embarrassing.

And I still have no idea who I'm going to ask. I was thinking maybe of asking Su Li but then someone else asked her. I suppose Katrina Bundy's not too awful.



 **alt_seamus**



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-13 03:49:43**
(no subject)

Well, I did tell you to shift yourself and just ask someone.


Why don't you just ask Brocklehurst, then?



 **alt_seamus** at **2011-12-13 03:54:08**
(no subject)

I might not fancy girls but I have SOME standards. And Brocklehurst is spotty.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-13 03:55:39**
(no subject)

Oh, for Lakshmi's sake!

Ask Bode then, or Bradley. They're third-years so they're sure to want to come.

[2011-12-12 21:52:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

What Greengrass said. Uh. Is it really like the play, do you think? I mean, I did that because everyone said it was important to show loyal and all.



 [alt_ron](#)

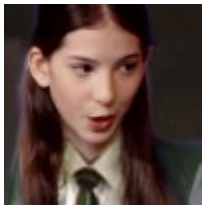
D'you think it's really important to go to this ball thinger?

Cause, I mean, there's almost no one left to ask that's not a troll. I mean to say, Bullstrode?

Does anyone know any of the foreign girls that don't have dates yet?

I can't believe I'm even thinking about it.


Blimey.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 05:02:56](#)
(no subject)

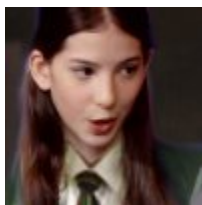
Didn't Daphne offer to help you with this? I'd think she'd be quite expert.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-13 20:48:38](#)
(no subject)

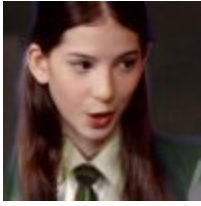
Uh.

I didn't think it was such a good idea to let a Slytherin find me a date. At least not Greengrass. I mean, she was probably just having a laugh, anywiz, offering to help me.



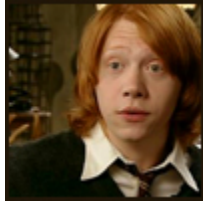
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 21:17:33](#)
(no subject)


She couldn't have possibly tried to set you up with Milli. She knows Milli wants to go with Greg.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 21:18:25](#)
(no subject)

And I suppose I can't blame you for not wanting to let a Slytherin find you a date. After all, I'd eat my dress robes before I'd ask a GRYFFINDOR to find ME one.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-13 21:26:18](#)
(no subject)

Why? It's not like we'd stick you with some mountain troll just so we could laugh about it with our mates.

We'd find you a proper date.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-13 21:28:39](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Hang on.


D'you mean you still need a date?

You were just saying you have one so no one would take the mickey, innit?

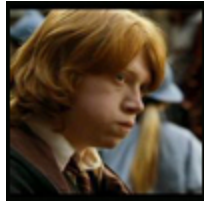
Cause, I mean. Well.


You're a girl, so we could go if you want. That'd be all right.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 21:29:07](#)
(no subject)

I HAVE A DATE, RON!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-13 21:54:46](#)**
(no subject)

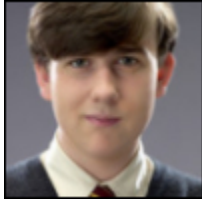
Well, all right.


You don't have to get shirty about it.



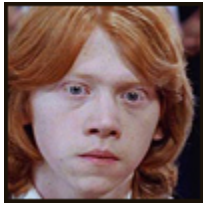
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-13 05:03:53](#)**
(no subject)


And I don't think it's OBLIGATORY to go to the Yule Ball. For you, anyway, it is for the Champions apparently (AND they all have to have a proper date). It's just fun. And if you aren't there you'll miss out.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-13 16:36:48](#)**
(no subject)


I'd suggest that you might ask Evelyn. I don't think anyone has asked her yet. But not if you're going to refuse to dance and scowl about the whole thing all evening.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-13 20:49:09](#)**
(no subject)

Nice.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-13 23:08:55](#)**
(no subject)

Well, you know she's really shy, Ron. If you act like you don't want to be there, she'll reckon it's all her fault, and it'll make her miserable. Anyway, wouldn't you rather go with someone in our year?

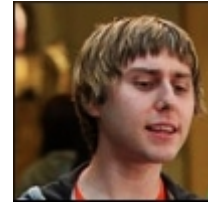
That is, if there's anyone left. I'm not sure there is.

[2011-12-13 11:11:00](#)

Méssage Privée au Mlle Hydra Lestrange

Hydra,

Thanks again for introducing me to Tevis. I had quite a lovely time talking, as well. About everything. ~~And~~ It was well brilliant, spending time with you.



 **[alt_justin](#)**

I was wondering. It's Hogsmeade this weekend, what? I don't suppose you'd care to walk down together? I've got a little pocket money for a butterbeer if you like. Or some chocolates at Honeyduke's, if you'd prefer to indulge that sweet tooth.

Let me know. If Harry asks or anything, that's all right, I understand.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-13 18:36:21](#)**

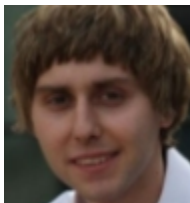
(no subject)

I had a brilliant time, too, and so did Tevis. He liked leaving the dungeons for once. Also, I've been doing some reading...by that author we talked about? I don't know what I think just yet but maybe we can discuss

it sometime soon.

I would love to walk to Hogsmeade (without Tevis, as he hops too slow). Butterbeer and chocolate are best when eaten together, you know! Harry won't ask, and even if he did, I could tell him No, thank you. He would understand, I'm sure.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-13 19:02:08](#)**

(no subject)

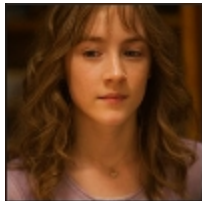
Smashing! Shall we meet in the entrance hall or would you like me to come to your Common Room entrance to walk you?


Oh, I've a feeling JP might ask Luna as well. You know they're going to the ball together? He asked me to ask her for him, he's that shy. I say, would you mind terribly if they walked along with us? Only I think JP would rather someone else were with them so he doesn't have to do all the talking. We don't have to stay all together, if they seem to be getting on well enough.

And it's funny you should mention that author. I've been thinking about him, too. I even--well, perhaps I'll wait, shall I, to tell you, until you've had a chance to review his work more closely.

So. Honeyduke's and then the Three Broomsticks. Capital! Can't wait.

-Justin



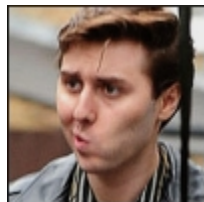
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-13 19:18:01](#)
(no subject)


I don't mind meeting by the entrance hall, but it does get more crowded with people around there, so perhaps the common room entrance is better? And I don't mind if JP and Luna come along, either.

Luna seems to know a lot about animals, even some I've never heard of...

Bother, I've got so much catching up to do in arithmancy, you know. Only there's so many other things I'd rather be doing.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-13 19:38:04](#)
(no subject)

That's all right, I'll come down. It's more time to spend with you, anyway, what?

Though I did get a smidge lost on the way back Friday night, I don't mind telling you. Jolly confusing, those dungeons. I kept taking the left turning when I wanted the right.

Could have had something to do with my bally old feet being off


the ground, what?

I wish I were taking Arithmancy or I could help you more. But there's a lot of maths, aren't there? I say, I can help you there, anyway. We've had loads of Astronomy and theory and all. And I was quite good in maths during my early tutoring.

Maybe...after supper? You could show me what you're struggling with.

Oh, and I say, I can show you how my charm-work is coming along. I've got silver looking very good, if I say so myself!



 **alt_hydra** at **2011-12-13 20:40:39**
(no subject)

Why were your feet off the ground? I don't think there're any billiwigs in the dungeons. Except...oh. Maybe because of mind-reading?

Pansy is in Arithmancy, but I'm not sure I should ask for her help when she's already ahead by a year. There are a lot of maths and numbers, which I seem to have trouble with because I can't really visualise them properly. But if you want to give it a try I suppose it couldn't hurt?

And I'd like to see how the silver is coming along, too.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at **2011-12-13 22:04:00**
(no subject)


Definitely the mind-reading. They ought to warn people: Caution: Legilimency may cause flotation. Levitation. Something like that, what?

Why don't we do this? Find me after supper and you can show me the maths you need done. Then you can read my mind for the answers.

That way I'm not doing it for you, and you'll get to practise.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-13 22:44:40](#)
(no subject)

Or cause one to get lost and turned 'round
while in the dungeons, or um...leave one with a
tendency to day-dream during lessons. That's
me, I mean.

Oh, okay.

Okay. I'll find you after supper, then.

From,
Hydra

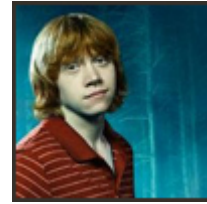
2011-12-13 13:54:00

Private Message to Katrina Bundy

So, um. Bundy.

Did you want to go to this ball thinger? I mean, just as mates. Cause everyone seems to be going and uh, maybe it would be good to go and not seem like we weren't falling in. Know what I mean?

Ron



 [alt_ron](#)

2011-12-13 14:12:00

Is everyone else

having as much trouble concentrating in lessons as I am? Only it seems like things that are normally terribly interesting, like switching spells and cheering charms and the theory of relative tonality just aren't nearly as fun to think about as the ball.



 **alt_padma**

I've been practising the charms to do up my hair the way I want for next week. Edgcombe, I think I overheard you and Chang in the girls' bathroom this afternoon. It was you two, wasn't it? I wouldn't ask except I thought I heard her say that she thought her eyes were getting puffy ~~from all the crying~~ and I have some of that creme that you borrowed last year ~~after Carmichael~~. I've also got plenty of clips, if you or she wanted to borrow anything.

I don't think I've ever wanted lessons to be over and done for the term before! I'm sure I'm going to utterly fail every test, I just can't *think*. Does anyone else need extra revising?

Oh, and CCF, don't forget that we've a meeting this evening, after dinner!




 **alt_harry at 2011-12-13 19:44:45**

Private Message to Padma

What's going on with Cho?



 **alt_padma at 2011-12-13 19:48:27**

Re: Private Message to Padma

I don't know if I should tell you if you don't know already.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2011-12-13 19:49:05**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Tell me.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-13 19:53:41**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Well, all right. But remember, you asked.

She likes you, Marvolo. But before you asked her to the Ball, she had started dating Cedric Diggory. And she really, really fancies him. And he really fancies her, too, I think.

So when you asked her, she didn't know that you wouldn't be offended if she said no.

It's not your fault. And she knows that, too. But that's why she's been not as excited about the ball as she ought to be.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2011-12-13 19:56:47**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Oh.

I didn't know.

So thanks for telling me. I guess.

~~It's not like I made her say yes.~~



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-13 19:59:24**


Re: Private Message to Padma

I knew you wouldn't like it.

And of course you didn't make her say yes, but what else was she supposed to say?

You could let her dance with Cedric, anyway, as much as she wanted to. That would help. You'd have to dance with his date, though, it's only fair.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 20:00:21](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

That she was going with someone else.

Who is he taking?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 20:09:11](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

He asked Karo Moon, so that neither of them would be without a partner but neither of them had to worry about it being a real date.

Harry, she didn't *know* she could say no. Don't you understand? She doesn't blame you or anything. She's just upset because you're not Cedric.

It's too late now, anyway.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 20:13:59](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

No, it isn't. I'll just tell her she can go with Cedric if she'd rather. It's what they both want anyways.

And I'll just take someone else.

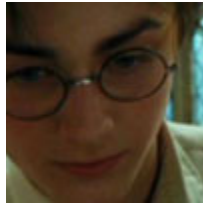
There are still people who haven't been asked.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 20:16:04](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

You could ask Parvati. She's supposed to go with Cormac McLaggan but ever since she said yes he's been acting really creepy.

If you asked her she'd have to tell him there's been a change.




 **alt_harry** at **2011-12-13 20:23:00**

Re: Private Message to Padma

I don't want her to *have* to tell someone something.

I don't want anyone to *have* to go just because I ask.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-13 20:31:45**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Look, now you're just being disagreeable.

She'd actually really like it if someone gave her the opportunity to ditch him. I told her not to accept in the first place but she's self-conscious about her nose and so she thought maybe no one else would ask and it all got very dramatic and it didn't have to be.

So you'd actually be doing her a favour, dummy. And you'll be doing Cho and Cedric a favour, too.

The only one you won't be doing a favour is Karo Moon but that's okay I don't think she'll mind. Tamblyn says he's pretty sure Baddock's going to surprise her, anyway, by showing up.

Oh, and McLaggen, of course. But he's a git.




 **alt_harry** at **2011-12-13 20:35:03**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Fine. Whatever.

If Cho says that's what she wants, I'll ask Parvati.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-13 19:55:28](#)
(no subject)

It is hard to concentrate, and i'm not sure it's fair to give us so much to think about, like dancing and feasts and live music when we still have lessons to study for. Though it helps that I'm the only one in my dorm going to the ball, and when I'm in my room with Norma and Cressida things are the same as always.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-13 20:02:07](#)
(no subject)

That's right, you're going with Finch-Fletchley. He seems quite nice, I guess.

Other years, it's been like our lessons and exams and things are the good sorts of distraction. You know, they've kept us going and given us reasons not to worry too much about other things--because no matter what sort of plague was happening out there, or Dementors searching for that horrid Snape or whatever, you knew exams were coming like it or not, so it was a way to not have to think about everything else.

But this year I would much rather think about the something else. You know?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-13 20:45:53](#)
(no subject)

He actually is quite nice.

I suppose you're right and this is the first year where there hasn't been anything troubling for everyone to think about. I wonder if all of our marks will get worse because of it, though. That would be an odd and unexpected sort of result, that.

From,
Hydra

[2011-12-13 15:12:00](#)

Private message to Pansy

Did you know that Cho Chang was seeing Cedric Diggory? I didn't. Trouble is, neither did Harry. So to make a massively long and complicated story more manageable:



 **[alt_draco](#)**

Harry asked Cho to the Ball.

Cho said Yes.

Harry found out that Cho only said Yes because he's Harry Mavolo.

Harry found out that Cho fancies Cedric and vice-verse.

Harry suggests that Cho go to the Ball with Cedric instead (response pending).

Harry asks me who he should ask if Cho wants to go with Cedric.

Hydra and Millie are ruled out. For different reasons. As is Parvati.

Brocklehurst is pondered as an option.

Which is where you come in.

Do you think Mandy Brocklehurst would want to go with Harry? I reckon you know her a bit from those strange tea events that you go to every so often. Is she still without a date or has someone asked her since I posted my list last night?



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-13 23:07:48](#)**

(no subject)

This is all getting rather complicated!

I'm talking it out with Sally-Anne.

Mandy is sweet, sort of shy, but nice enough. She may have someone who is planning to ask her, though, I've got to make sure first.

I'm so glad we got everything sorted out the way we did.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 23:21:33](#)**

(no subject)


Yeah. I guess I'm lucky that as soon as I heard there was a Ball, I knew straight-away who I wanted to ask as my date.

Too bad so many of the rest of them took their time being gormless twits.

Not Harry, I mean. But he didn't have to break his date with Chang either, for Merlin's sake. He could have told her to dance with Diggory and have a nice time and to just think of it as an outing between friends who... don't yet really know each other.

Daphs was put out that Weasley turned down her offer to find him a date - and she could have probably done a proper job of it, too. And Smith, well, he'll spend the night of the Ball alone with his fantasy quidditch manuals, or something.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 03:44:53](#)
(no subject)

Smith is an utter berk.

And you know Harry. He can be a bit stubborn sometimes. I'm not surprised he's trying to do what he thinks is best, even if it makes things difficult for him.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 04:49:52](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I know. But then he ends up unhappy and frustrated, and he's so worried about not making anyone else upset that he forgets to make room for himself, too.

So, any word on Brocklehurst?



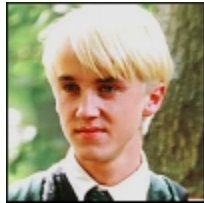
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 15:52:21](#)
(no subject)


The latest word is that she's not quite free. I'll let you know if that changes.

Who else would be a good option? Any other third or fifth years?
Ginevra Weasley might still be open to going.

Or someone from Beauxbatons, that's always an option.

And Vicky Frobisher has a bit of a crush on Harry, she likes Quiddichers.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 16:05:39](#)
(no subject)


Well, there's Hydra's housemates, Stein and Bode, but they're attached at the hip - he'd probably have to ask both of them.

Ginevra **W.** you mean. I suppose she would do.

Frobisher... she has so many problems, I'm pretty sure Harry wouldn't want to go there.

Not sure who's left in the Beauxbatons lot. I'll ask around.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 18:26:34](#)
(no subject)

Point about Frobisher.

And you're right about those two thirdies, they've got a Permanent Sticking Charm or


something.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 18:43:09](#)
(no subject)

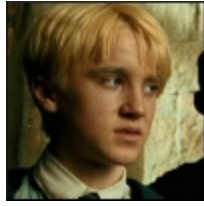
What about Honoria Sandoval?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 15:59:51](#)
(no subject)

I'd imagine he's also a bit put out to find that the girl he was crushing on liked someone else first.

That can't ever be fun.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 16:07:56](#)
(no subject)

If Chang had told him about Diggory up front it might've stung, but he would have got over it. But these last few weeks he's been fancying her and not having a clue she was weeping in loos over Diggory.


That has to make it even worse.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 18:27:52](#)
(no subject)

From what little I know of Chang, she is a bit on the sensitive side, so I'd imagine this isn't the first cry-in-the-loo she's ever had. But yes, that can't have been pleasant to find out.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 21:22:53](#)
(no subject)

Hmm, I wouldn't have thought sensitive and weepy would be Harry's type. I think he fancied her just because she's a seeker, to be honest...though it's hard to tell with him, he doesn't talk about girls very much.

I suggested Sandoval, by the way. We'll see what he says.

Good bloody night, this has been a trail to sort out.

2011-12-13 15:37:00

Order Only: An owl

Well, Dora, I suppose I may have to admit that I may be misjudging your cousin Hydra. Or else she's far more insidious than we thought.



 [alt_sirius](#)

I've had an owl from my old student, Justin Finch-Fletchley. He says he's been carefully asking people's opinions about whether I'm really alive or if my post after the Quidditch World Cup was written by an impostor. When he found out that even Hydra Lestrangle thinks, possibly, it was real and not a fake, he figured he could chance sending me an owl.

Merlin, he's been saving up a lot to say.

First, I was right: The French government have taken an interest in his mother. Laura's under watch. They still believe our story, that she's a Squib, so no one is expecting her to perform magic. But they made it clear to Justin that his conduct will directly determine whether she's allowed to continue living in their home or whether they're going to seize her property. So he's more than a little worried about that and trying his best to keep up the charade that he was simply born into a family that thought he wouldn't have any magic, rather than one that didn't know magic existed.

Second, he's having some trouble, because of his status, with some of the older boys. Well, we knew that might happen. I warned him he could be in for some hazing. There are two in particular who seem to delight in bullying him. He makes it all sound like it's nothing but he did ask for a few more defensive tips. I'll have to consider how to get those back to him without alerting anyone.

Third. Circe. This is the heart of it all.

He'd just gone on rather a date of sorts with none other than Hydra Lestrangle. Dora, he's quite taken with her, I'll have you know. Kissed her. I think it's a first kiss for them both, from what he has to say (though how he'd know about her I couldn't tell you). He makes it all sound very innocent and honestly I can't imagine him behaving anything other than a gentleman, so I believe him about that. What I'm not sure of is that she's all that sweet as he makes her sound. Something about an animal-lover and her pet rabbit and not wanting to take Arithmancy. Well. That part was a little harder to follow. He

says she was withdrawn at first but as they got to talking she told him all sorts of things about her mother, how she knows she's a disappointment and how she sometimes does things just because she knows it irritates Bella. Things like not eating meat. She asked him things about living in a country where the muggles are in charge and he told her about films and transportation and clothing and answered some of her questions about lies her mother's told her. She'd taught her that hugging a muggleborn would make her hair fall out!

Well. Anyway, the point is that he clearly fancies her rather a lot. But he's also well aware that he's lying to her about who he is and how much worse it would be for her to actually be dating a muggleborn. (Actually, he's quite pleased about 'defiling' her in Bella's eyes, in those terms, even if it has to be kept a secret. Sort of a vicarious revenge for making him think Bella had actually killed me.) But he does feel a little guilty that he has to deceive Hydra on any level.

Now, the other problem I have and I'm not sure how to tell him, is that he could be the one being deceived. What if Hydra's just drawing him out? I've been worried for him, you know, that he'll give himself away. And we all know what sort of idiots boys are when they're interested in a girl. He might well tell her things he can't cover up or keep consistent later. She could be trying to lull him into a sense of security so that she can report back to Mummy. I want to warn him about that.

But then there's something that worries me even more than his getting close to Hydra. He doesn't say it right out, but I think he's hoping he can learn something about Bella that will help us. I don't want him messing about with that at all. Not only does it put him in terrible danger but it'd put his mother in jeopardy. I don't think he'd do anything deliberately foolish but - he knows Bella's a Legilimens, too. Another reason to go careful.

I shouldn't answer, I know. It's for his own good if I don't send him anything potentially incriminating. But I don't want him running away with the notion that since he's in England, he can act as some sort of spy.

Especially if it's Hydra who's really the spy, and not Justin.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2011-12-13 22:36:01**
(no subject)

My cousin Hydra, is it?

Let me see if I've got this straight. You think she's seduced your wee lad and is reeling him into her mother's nets? Because she knows what sort of idiots boys are when they're interested in girls?

Well, I can't argue with you on that last. Though I'd point out that they might be even bigger idiots when they're interested in other boys.


Just sayin', there.

Seriously, though. That is rather a lot he's got to juggle. About his mum and his own situation. And if he's really got it in his head he could use Hydra to find out some sort of big information about Bellatrix, well. Someone ought to set him straight before he goes completely off the rails. Especially now he thinks he knows something about your being alive because it really wouldn't do to have him dragged into interrogation by MLE. Or-

Actually.

If we're going to be paranoid about all of it, do you think there's any chance you're the one being played? I mean, they might've got to him already and told him to see if he could draw you out of hiding.



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-12-14 01:55:16**
(no subject)

Well, you're the one she talks to - and about. Apparently she's very impressed with pink hair.

As for the seduction, I dunno if she had a particular plan about Justin. She could have orders to get close to anyone from outside, in hopes of finding out more about how the French are leaning, or any other information she could use.

Justin's not a poufter, Dora. Nor is he usually an idiot. But yes, I can imagine he's got rather a goofy grin on his face, given the tone of the letter. It has that newly awakened feel to it.

But to your main idea. The timing's suspicious, isn't it? It's definitely a possibility. The only thing is, if they suspected he knew me and said nothing - well, I mean to say, he'd not still be at Hogwarts, even if they were using him to get to me. And he'd surely not be writing openly to Hydra in his journal. I don't think.

Of course, there's a school of thought that says give them what they want, then, and post something. And see what happens. Maybe I can find a way to answer him without making it clear to everyone that he's the one I'm addressing.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-14 02:02:08](#)**

(no subject)

I can't imagine he'd still be at school, going on dates with Hydra, or any of it, if anyone in MLE had any idea.

As long as you're careful not to tip your hand too far, Sirius -- MLE certainly knows you're alive, even if they're not admitting it. That picture that ran in the newspaper was you, and they're perfectly aware they never recovered your journal. If you wrote another public post it would hardly tell them anything they didn't know already.

At any rate, discourage him from playing at Secret Agent if you can; he's far too young, and naive, to run any risks.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-14 02:13:36](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, I'll be careful. I agree - I don't want him putting himself into any hot water on my behalf, certainly. And he's no match for Bella, no matter how invincible or clever he thinks he is.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-14 04:06:37](#)
Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

Don't be daft. 'Justin's not a poufter, Dora.' Really.

I'm sure I can't see what you're worried about in telling our friends. I didn't sign on to be your beard. Especially not if you try to pass things off as my being dim.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-14 05:29:36](#)
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

It's only a matter of deciding when it's the right time to tell. And I thought that was something we all agreed we'd all agree about first.

Everyone knows I'm equally interested in men and women but you know Moony likes his privacy. I'm not going to be the one to force him into the open.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-14 13:55:55](#)
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

Exactly. Everyone knows you've been an idiot with people of all sorts. No one was going to think I meant anything but a private joke ribbing you. Until you got defensive.

Really, though. Poufter? That's a terrible word.

Are you feeling insecure, then? I can't see why.

I know Remus well enough to know he's not ashamed of you or how he feels about you. So you needn't lose your head.

Or lecture me.



 **alt_sirius at 2011-12-14 18:14:35**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

You're right - you having a friendly jab at me isn't anything anyone would think odd, any road. I just didn't think the comment made sense when it was about Justin, not me. Especially since it'd be easy to accuse him of feigning interest in girls, given his manner. But he's as red-blooded as the next hormonal teenage boy.

What term would you prefer? Ponce? Nancy? Shirt-lifter? Limp-wrist? It's not insecurity, love. It's self-recognition. I'm not offended; why should you be? Besides, there's a difference between a bloke who fancies other blokes and one who minces about with a lisp and a penchant for pastels, after all. I might be the first but I'm never the latter.

And it wasn't meant as a lecture.



 **alt_nymphadora at 2011-12-14 18:44:09**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

It was never about Justin at all, you tit. I don't know anything more about him than you'd just told and that was all about his kissing a girl and liking it more than a little bit.

You, though, I know about. And it was a strange limit for you of all people to put on the phrase, when everyone in the Order are looking forward to the holiday party just to find out whether you've got yourself out or in deeper with Terri. Or Paul. Or both. Or someone new--girl, boy, or pup--you've picked up in the beer garden.

Want to know how the wagers are running?



alt_sirius at 2011-12-14 19:26:56

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

There's a pool?

then.

We ought to wait until it's over 100 Galleons,



alt_nymphadora at 2011-12-14 19:30:29

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

Especially if we could angle for a cut.



alt_sirius at 2011-12-14 22:03:26

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin

Too right. If no one gets it, house takes the pot, eh?

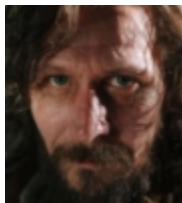


alt_lupin at 2011-12-14 02:05:19

(no subject)

I can't imagine MLE trying to use a child to draw Sirius out when they're still denying to the world he's even alive. Bellatrix doesn't like to look foolish. Besides, they couldn't possibly trust him.

Hydra, now -- but didn't she warn you, last time, when her mum WAS up to something? She had that classmate of hers send you a message so her mum wouldn't notice.



alt_sirius at 2011-12-14 02:09:43

(no subject)


He mentioned that, actually. He said they talked about Sally-Anne Perks and Hydra told him she'd entrusted Sally-Anne not just once but twice with information that could have been very damaging.

Once was telling our Dora about Bella's visit not too long ago. The

other time was warning Luna Lovegood not to state too openly that she thought I was alive, exactly because Bella was denying it left and right.


And he'd hardly include *that* in the letter if he were writing under duress. There'd be no need to implicate Luna in anything.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-14 02:38:14](#)
(no subject)

No. Or Miss Perks, I should think. She's a half-blood, isn't she? They wouldn't go easy on her, if they knew she was passing messages to frustrate whatever Bellatrix is up to.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-14 02:53:30](#)
(no subject)

Exactly.

Besides, I think Justin is already somewhat friendly with Miss Perks and with Luna as well. Well, he's a friendly sort, anyway. But he even said in the journals here and there that he's trying to be as friendly as he can be with as many different sorts as possible and no use offending anyone. Knowing him, though, he may behave affably with all types but he'll gravitate to the ones who are naturally more inclined to fair play and decency.

You can read it if you like. Though I warn you it's five pages long.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-14 02:55:06](#)
(no subject)

He sent you a five page letter?!

Are you sure he's a boy?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-14 03:44:49](#)
(no subject)

I said he had a lot saved up.

It's like Harry, last time he and I had a fire chat.
Verbal diarrhoea, that one, once he got started.

This is the same sort of thing, only in a letter.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-14 02:55:40](#)
(no subject)

And I'd love to have a look, if you don't think
he'd mind someone else reading his private mail.
You have all sorts of interesting correspondents;
no one EVER sends ME owls.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-14 02:58:48](#)
(no subject)

No, he won't mind.

Next time Miss Parkinson sends me a letter, you
read it, then, and tell me what it says.

2011-12-13 15:38:00

Private Message to Cho Chang



 [alt_harry](#)

Hi.

So I heard that you and Diggory were going out and all. And you were going to go with him to the ball. Before I asked you.

It's okay. Really. It's not that big a deal.

I mean, if you'd have said something when I asked, I would've understood. And I didn't know. I wouldn't have asked if I knew.

There are still lots of people who haven't been asked yet. If you want to go with him because he's your boyfriend or something, you ought to. I'll just ask someone else. Because I want you to be happy. And I don't want to take someone else's girl. I'm not that sort of person.

So maybe you could talk it over with him and let me know once you have.

I don't want you to think I'm angry or something, because I'm not. I just want to know so I can sort out if I need to ask someone else. That's all. Okay?

[2011-12-13 15:54:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy



 **[alt_harry](#)**

So it turns out Cho just said yes because she thought she had to. Because it was me asking. And Cedric Diggory is her boyfriend. And now she's sad because she wanted to go with him.

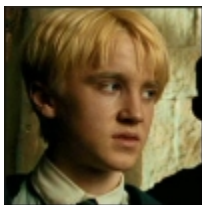
So I told her that it was okay and she could go with him because that's what they both want.

And now he'll have to turn down Moon only that's not too bad because they were just going as friends.

But I have to ask someone else. Padma said I should ask Parvati because she's got a date but she doesn't like him.

I'd ask Hydra, but she's already got a date, and I don't want someone else getting broken up because of me.

I hate this. All of this. It's so stupid and complicated at the same time. And why didn't she just say she was going with Diggory? Did she really think she just couldn't say? Did she think I was that much of a prick or something that I wouldn't take no for an answer? And Parvati is probably going to say yes for the same reasons too. It's all a giant mess.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 21:41:28](#)**

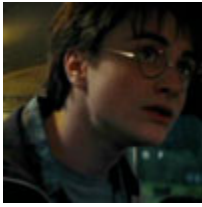
(no subject)

Well, this is a bit of a bloody mess, isn't it? Moon's still with Baddock, so I figured she was only going along with Diggory as a favour. I hadn't heard about him and Chang, though. But it figures Padma would be the one to know (I'm assuming it was her who passed all this along).

Even though Hydra's got a date I know for a fact she's supposed to go with you if you ask her, and Finch-Fletchley's supposed to let her, so there is always that. Finch-Fletchley's a decent enough bloke but I seriously doubt Auntie Bella sent Hydra all those dress robes just so she could go to the Ball with the Beauxbatons' *rosbif*.

Isn't there someone out there who doesn't have a date yet who would really, really like to go? With you or anyone else, for that matter?

Um... I don't think Greg has gotten up the nerve to ask Millie yet.



 **alt_harry** at [2011-12-13 21:44:53](#)
(no subject)


Well, I'll tell him to get on it already.

And like I said, I've already made a mess, asking Hydra would make it even more of one. And she seems happy enough to be going with Finch-Fletchley.

Is she?

But yeah, I probably ought to check around to see if there's someone who really needs a date first. I really don't know Brocklehurst that well at all. Do you know if she's keen on going?




 **alt_draco** at [2011-12-13 21:50:17](#)
(no subject)

I reckon she's happy enough, from what I can tell. But she'd still do it in about a second, I'd wager.

Of course Brocklehurst is keen to go, she's a girl. And everyone's been avoiding asking her so she'd likely be doubly thrilled.



 **alt_harry** at [2011-12-13 21:51:46](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I figure she would. Hydra I mean.

I just don't want to be that sort of person. You know? And it'd be different if she was unhappy.


Sally-Anne and Pansy know Brocklehurst I think. They have tea sometimes or something.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 21:56:40](#)
(no subject)

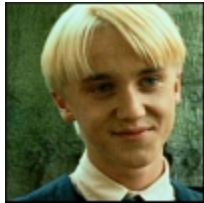
Oh right, tea of the strange people, or something. Pansy thinks it's a laugh. She could probably tell you more about Brocklehurst, too.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 21:57:24](#)
(no subject)

Crabbe doesn't like her, does he?

Who does he like, anyhow?

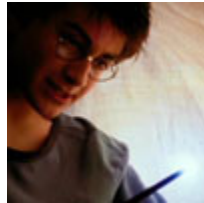



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 22:00:24](#)
(no subject)

Food?

Dark Arts?


I don't think it's really a *who*.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 22:02:12](#)
(no subject)

Good point.



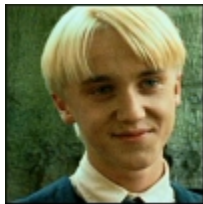
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 22:08:09](#)
(no subject)

So. Now I've got to wait and see if Cho wants to break it off. And find out about Brocklehurst. And if Cho breaks it off and Brocklehurst seems okay, I've got to ask her. And if she says yes, then I've got to tell Padma that I'm not going to ask Parvati. But if she says no, I'll ask Parvati. And if Cho doesn't want to break it off, then I'll just take her because at least I tried.

This is worse than fighting the dragon.

Really.

Could you do me a favour and ask Pansy about Brocklehurst for me? Because if I have to explain to one more person what's going on I think my head is going to explode.

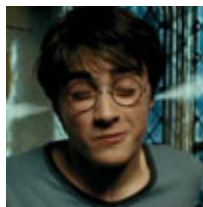



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-13 22:12:21](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, mate.

Sure, I'll ask her. And she might have suggestions besides Brocklehurst, too.

I'll get back to you.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-13 22:14:59](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, yeah. I'm sure you are.

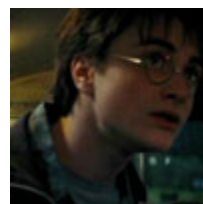
Just let me know what she says.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 16:10:29](#)
(no subject)

Alright then. From what I've heard, Brocklehurst *might not be free*. Don't ask me what that means. Frobisher fancies you - she's that bony one who refuses to eat. Oh, and Weasley's little

sister doesn't have a date.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-14 19:24:45](#)
(no subject)

This is just between us, but I really don't fancy Frobisher back. She looks like she'll break in half if someone tries to dance with her.

And Ginny, is it? Is she the one that goes on about clothes?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-14 21:07:39](#)
(no subject)

She's a model for that *Purest Sparkle* magazine, so yeah. Which means you wouldn't have to worry about her wearing hideous robes like her Brother's, at least.

There's also Honoria Sandoval, a third year. Lana Sandoval's younger sister.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 05:53:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm gonna go ahead and ask Honoria, I think.

2011-12-13 16:45:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oi.

What is it with girls? I mean to say, either they're all googly about this ball business or they're all going around everywhere all together in a huge herd so you can't even talk to them or then they get all offended if you actually ask them.




 [alt_ron](#)

Not half mad, innit.

So. Who's left that's decent?

What's Brocklehurst like?

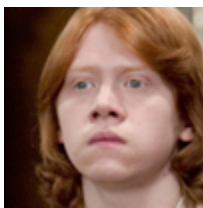



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-13 22:58:00**
(no subject)

What about Katrina Bundy, then? ~~Did she say no?~~

Or Neville's little sister?

Mandy's sweet enough, even though she can be a bit shy. But if you do want to ask her, you ought to let me know quick, so I can pass it along.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-13 23:10:58**
(no subject)

Yeah. Bundy acted like I'd been a complete berk to even think of asking her.

Sheesh.

And why does everyone think I ought to take Evelyn? That'd just be odd, yeah? ~~And I don't want her to think~~

So, Brocklehurst. Is she the spotty one or is that Fawcett?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-13 23:16:42](#)
(no subject)

Just that it'd be nice, because if there's no girl you particularly *want* to take, it'd give her a chance to go. That's all.

And honestly, Ron. Yes, Mandy does have a delicate complexion. And she's a bit self-conscious about it. But there are potions for that sort of thing, and I'm sure she'll try and look her very best if someone does ask her to the ball.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-13 23:25:35](#)
(no subject)

Well all right then. I guess I could ask Brocklehurst if she'd say yes. But I don't even know her-

and what if she said no?


I don't see why this has to be so complicated.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 05:02:26](#)
(no subject)


You can ask her or not, either is just fine. I just need to know if you're planning on it, because if not, I know someone else who is looking for a date, and he'd like to know.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 05:03:35](#)
(no subject)

And if you were to ask her, she's a friend, so I'd hope you'd be nice to her. Spots or no.




 **alt_ron at 2011-12-14 12:53:32**
(no subject)

Well of course I would.

Is that what you think I'm like?




 **alt_pansy at 2011-12-14 15:43:07**
Private Message to Ron Weasley

I know you can be very thoughtful and sweet, and you are a good friend. You also have a great sense of humour, which is one of the reasons why I like you so much.

I also know you don't particularly want to go to the ball, and aren't expecting to have much fun.

I'd just rather she see the first Ron and not the second, that's all.



 **alt_ron at 2011-12-14 16:14:07**
Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Oh. Well, yeah.

I mean, I'm not a total berk usually. But yeah, I don't even know Brocklehurst, but she's one of your tea of the strange people, innit? So that's all right.

I wish Luna weren't going with that French bloke because she wouldn't get the wrong idea if I asked her.

D'you think Brocklehurst likes dancing, though? Does she, like, already know how or anything?

And, really. Who's this other person who might be asking her?



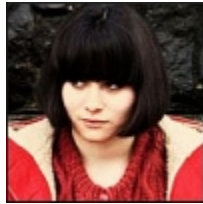
 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-14 18:33:05**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Harry found out that Cho Chang really wanted to go with Cedric Diggory, and he's trying to find out who else he can take so they can go together.

Mandy was just one of the people he was thinking about, but I've told him that she's possibly taken, so you don't have to worry about him asking her first. That isn't to say that someone else won't, though.

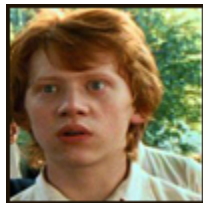
I'm not sure about Mandy's take on dancing, but you can always ask. I was thinking about going to one of the lessons they were offering if you want to come along. We could be practise partners. And it won't be all formal dancing, because there'll be a band, and you can't waltz to rock and roll, and that sort of dancing is the kind anyone can do.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-14 20:01:22**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

So, do you think you'll ask her? Or someone else?



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-14 20:27:38**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Well, I don't know who else I could ask, do I?

And don't say Evelyn. She can't go, anywiz, cause she's just a second-year. I had to ask someone about that and I looked really daft because I guess everyone knows that and you lot were just having me on about it. Even Nev. What did I do to all of you?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 20:31:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

You could always take Honoria Sandoval. She's a thirdie, isn't she?

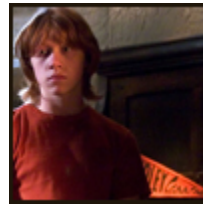
And I guess I forgot what year Evelyn was. I didn't mean anything by it.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 20:32:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

But yes, if you are planning on asking *anybody*, it'd better be sooner rather than later. And please let me know if you decide against Mandy so I can pass it along.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-14 20:46:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Well, of course I'm going to take someone. I mean, I don't want to be the only bloke who's not going.

Only, I don't really know Sandoval, either. Except that she's besties with Gin, and then, y'know, Ginny might get all tetchy cause she's not going.

Wait.

She's not, is she? You haven't heard that some git's asked her, have you?

Anywiz. Thing is, ~~all my real friends are going with people who won't want me around and~~ if I don't even know my date very well, then what will we talk about?

Say, what about Sally Anne, anywiz? What's with that? She doesn't really have a date, does she? Or she'd say who it was, wouldn't she? Only, when I asked, she nearly took my head off, y'know.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 21:08:09](#)


Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

As far as I know, no-one has asked Ginny, but they still might.

And yes, Sally-Anne does have a date, but both of them wanted to keep the gossip down, so they've decided to be very quiet about it. Rest assured he is a real boy. I think she's just touchy because she's tired of answering all the questions from everyone. Not to mention if lots of people keep asking her, it's like they're surprised that she got someone who'd be her date to begin with. Not that you mean to say that to her, mind, but if everyone is asking her, I can see how it'd make her touchy.

To be fair, by keeping it so mysterious, she is rather opening the door for people to bug her about it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-14 12:55:20](#)

(no subject)

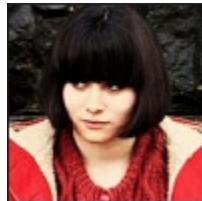
So, hang on.

Who's the other bloke that wants to ask her?
Has he done it already?

I'm totally not doing that again.

You should have heard the meal Bundy made of me being too late.

Nightmare, really.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 15:37:18](#)

(no subject)

He's waiting to hear about you, actually. I told him that someone else might be interested.

So as far as I know, he hasn't asked her yet.



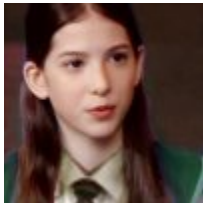
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-13 23:00:17](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne

What do you think?

I mean, there's not many people left, do you think she'd be happier with Ron, or Harry?

And if I tell Draco to tell Harry not to go with Mandy, who else should he go with?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 23:14:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

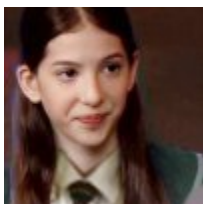
Mandy's awfully shy. I don't know how she'd feel about being one of the Champion's dates. Never mind Champion Harry Marvolo's date.

But I don't know how she'd feel about being Ron's date either. If he can pull himself together and act civilised she'll have a good time but if he sits around pouting about how dancing is naff ... well come to think of it she's not much of a dancer so maybe she'd RATHER go with someone who thinks dancing is naff.

Ron had better ACTUALLY GO, if he's going with Mandy. If he hurts her feelings I'll find out how Fred and George did those rabbit ears they gave him for his birthday that time.

I wish Linus had asked Mandy (he's the one who asked Katrina Bundy) -- I think she fancies him. And then Katrina would have said yes when Ron asked her and it would all be settled (except for Harry!)

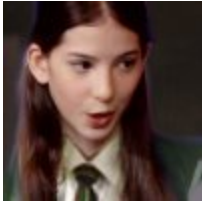
OH you know who might not have a date yet? GINEVRA WEASLEY. And she'd LOVE the attention that comes with being a Champion's date!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 23:17:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Although come to think of it I'm not sure I'd wish Ginny W. on anyone I like.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 23:18:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

'Is she the one with spots.' HONESTLY. Tell her to go with Harry. Ron deserves to be stuck going with HIMSELF.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-13 23:21:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I was thinking we should just send Mandy a Private Message and ask her which boy she'd rather go with but what if she says Ron and he says 'oh no, she's the spotty one! forget it!' how hurtful would THAT be? Especially if Harry went and asked someone else in the meantime.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 03:51:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I think Harry needs a date, and asked Draco to ask me after Mandy specifically, which means he was considering her.

For someone who doesn't seem like he cares who he goes with, Ron's being awful picky.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 03:56:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Ginevra is an option, for Harry, I mean.

But you're right. Only if Ron treated her nicely. Because Mandy's one of us. We can't set her up with someone who'd make fun.



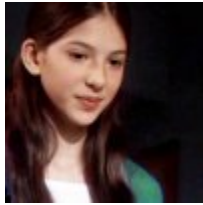
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 15:54:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

So Ron seems to be coming around to Mandy, and I don't want Harry pulling the rug from under him because then he'll pout and won't go at all.

I told Draco to tell Harry that Mandy might be spoken for, and gave a few other options. We'll see.

I feel quite sorry for Harry. Apparently he had a bit of a thing for Cho, and it's not fun to scramble at the last minute for a date you don't particularly care for after finding out the girl you like is going with someone else.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-12-14 16:08:04**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Sometimes I think it would be easier for all of us if Harry didn't mind being treated like he's special for being the Lord Protector's son.

But I'm really glad he decided Cho should go with Diggory, if that's what she wanted.

Anyway, I hope he finds someone to go with who he has a good time with. Ron, too. (I'm less annoyed now than I was.)



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-14 18:38:21**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I think Ron was just being touchy because he'd been turned down and he didn't really want to go. And he was being a boy. They don't think about how things like that could be hurtful. At least we know he'd never say that to Mandy's face.

We could have a little getting ready party for everyone in the Tea of the Strange, couldn't we? Make sure that everyone's robes look sharp, and practise hair and make up. And we could get Mandy a little of that cream. The good kind.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-12-14 22:39:55**

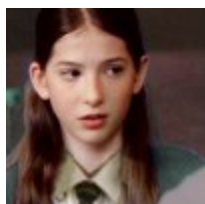
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Oh, that's an excellent idea. We should get her the cream soon, though, it needs a week or so to really work properly.

Did you see Hydra wants to come practise hair charms with you

and me and Daphne? I told her we'd love to have her come.

The way her mum talks to her just makes me so sad. She's been looking so absolutely happy for the last day or two, too, I think she's REALLY looking forward to going with Justin.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-14 22:47:43](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Milli's robes don't fit her properly. I think her mum thinks she's built like Daphne and weighs at least a stone less than she actually does. She tried to charm them to fit her better but she just mucked them up. (And I offered to help her with them but that made her even more cross and then she stuffed them in her trunk and hasn't taken them out since.)

Anyway, if you want to try, or tell Daphne to have a go... that might not be a bad idea. I think they're salvageable (unlike those awful things Ron's mum sent him) but they'll need some work.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-14 23:51:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I'll pass it along.

2011-12-13 17:00:00

Private message to Padma Patil


So I asked Bundy after breakfast but she's already going with Linus Moon. I guess he asked her last night. Or this morning. Or -- I don't know, anyway, he got to her first.



 **alt_seamus**

You know, I think I'm just going to go by myself and dance with all the girls who went with boys who are going to sit off in a corner and say that dancing is naff.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-14 01:12:56**
(no subject)

Probably the best plan at this point.


You know Harry Marvolo's in a scramble now? So even if there were anyone else left worth asking, he'll get there before you as well.



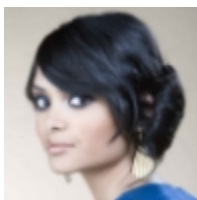
 **alt_seamus** at **2011-12-14 01:38:33**
(no subject)


Or after! I can't think of anyone who wouldn't jilt me to go with Harry Marvolo (if I could, I'd have already asked them.)



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-14 01:43:11**
(no subject)

Well, that too.



 **alt_padma** at **2011-12-14 01:43:47**
(no subject)

But this sort of works out better for you, doesn't it? You don't have to pretend to fancy a girl now.

2011-12-13 23:30:00

Private Message to Eloise Midgen


Argh! *This* is exactly why I didn't tell you I had a date to the ball!

I am absolutely, 100% *not* being disloyal to Han's memory by going to the ball with Neville Longbottom. I don't fancy him that way and he certainly doesn't fancy me.

Between you calling me a traitor and Megs saying how romantic it is, I'm ready to throttle you both.

Now leave me alone so I can finish this bloody Potions parchment--I am *not* getting a P this year because of you two.

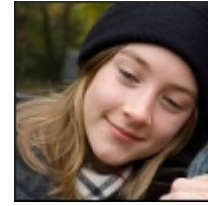


 [alt_susan](#)

2011-12-14 08:34:00

Owls

Aunt Narcissa, your owl came at breakfast. I didn't even finish my toast, I just went straight back to the dormitory to look and *thank you...* they - it's just so perfect. Thank you so much!



 [alt_hydra](#)

Well, guess what I walked in on in the common room, on my way back out? It was Gregory Goyle and he was asking Millie to go to the ball with him. I think that's what he was asking, at least. His mouth was full of bacon so it was hard to tell. But Millie was smiling, so there must have been something big going on.

What an exciting start to the day. And it's a day that's in the middle of the week, so the rest of the week is sure to just fly by now, and soon we'll all get to go to Hogsmeade.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-14 16:18:26**

Private message to Remy

Let's just not do anything with that quiz, if you don't mind. I think Padma Patil is right and quizzes like that just upset people. Even if she was one of the people who wrote last year's, well, perhaps she feels bad

about it now.

That and Elizabeth and Samantha's quiz was ever so much nastier than I could have imagined. Elizabeth is usually so nice, too.

So hopefully that was their only copy and we can just keep them from sending it out and ruining the Ball.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-14 16:28:01**

Private message to Justin

I have bad news for you: **it's pink.**

No, not so much, really! More winter ivory (I think

that's the name of the colour), but with a pink undertone in certain lighting. There's something a little sparkly on the bodice and the skirt, too. So I think either silver or gold would match.

Thanks for helping me with Arithmancy last night, by the way.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-14 18:40:32](#)

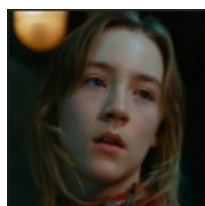
Re: Private message to Justin

Well, I think the silver looked rather good so I'll keep working on that, what? So long as I'm not the one wearing pink, it'll be all right.

Though looking at your exchange with your mother, I'm rather sorry we didn't do more revising and less mind-reading.

Anything I can do to help?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 18:49:42](#)

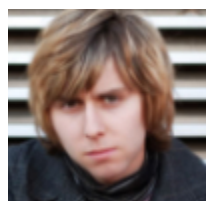
Re: Private message to Justin

She's being such a **bitch**.

Oh, sorry!

Well, no. It's true. She's just being how she always is. I actually expected it to be much much worse, and thought she might forbid me to go with anyone but Harry, but it doesn't seem as if she will...

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-14 19:23:32](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I did tell your father he could share my request with your mother, after all. Not that I would have dreamed of telling him how to manage his affairs,

mind.

...

Of course, if you've had a change of heart, now, I'll understand.

-Justin



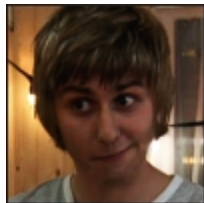
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 19:58:36](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

What if I haven't?

Because I want to go with you. Not because it will get under her skin or for any reason having to do with her, or anyone else actually. Just because I want to.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-14 20:04:34](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

You haven't? ~~Even though she said~~

Brilliant!

I mean to say, I'm very glad to hear it. I don't mind telling you I'd have stood aside but I'd have been quite disappointed to do so. At this point, what?

And don't be sorry. About earlier. Well done, you.

-Justin



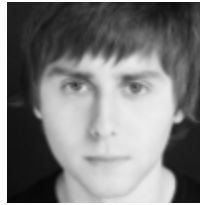
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 20:21:07](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

No, I really haven't. Plus there's no one to stand aside for, and even if there were, well, I'd be ever so cross with Harry for possibly the first time ever. He won't do that, though - he tries to do the right thing when he can.

It might be hard to believe but that's the first time I've ever called her that. For some reason I always thought she'd be able to sense it if I did.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-14 20:38:41](#)

Re: Private message to Justin


Oh, not because of ~~Har~~ Marvolo--at least, not directly, what? Simply because...because she doesn't seem to approve of ~~my~~ ~~bae~~ me.

I say, I was well shocked at that. Not that you'd never dared before but that you even used that sort of language, what! Though, I hope you'll not think less of me if I venture to agree.

I suppose you'll have to practise Occlumation, then, if you plan to go on thinking along those lines.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 20:52:40](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

But she doesn't approve of anyone, like I told you the other night. I mean, there would always be something, like "Oh, Hydra, he came from France and grew up around muggles." Or, "His hair is rather on the fair side and you're certainly fair and I just don't think that would look particularly nice, hmm?"

Well, Daddy calls her that all the time, and he's married to her. So no, I don't think less of you at all.

She would definitely see it as a sign of disrespect from me, though, so you're right. I should probably practise that, only I don't know with who.

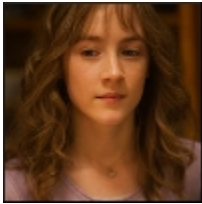
From,
Hydra




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-14 16:47:57](#)**
(no subject)

It sounds as if things are very exciting there at Hogwarts just now.

I'm sorry you won't be able to come for a visit this month, but that only means that Bea will be ever so much more interesting when you do get to meet her! And, anywiz, the castle is so beautiful at Christmas--and I guess it will be absolutely at its best this year with the tournament and so many guests. I suppose everyone there is absolutely beside themselves anticipating a ball, too. It sounds like wonderful fun.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-14 17:35:38](#)**
(no subject)

They are. We were just talking yesterday about how it's hard to concentrate on studies. Only it's very important not to get caught up in things and slip behind. Which is exactly why I made sure to work on Arithmancy last night.

I'm sorry, too. But, you might want your first Christmas-season with Bea to be just you and your husband, because it's a special time of year. And in the summer there aren't as many parties and things. Only is Bea's birthday in the summer? I can't remember. But maybe if she has a party it would be a good event for the whole family to attend.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-14 17:57:24](#)**
(no subject)

Well, yes, it will be special, this first Christmas with Bea. But we always love to have friends about, so we would have liked it very much if you'd been able to come.

That's a brilliant idea, though, for a family party when Bea turns one. Her birthday is 30 May, so she's just sixth months now.

Goodness knows what she'll have got up to by then. I expect she may have been hired away from us to work at Harrods: she's the best saleswitch I know!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 18:01:44](#)
(no subject)

I'll still be at school in May, but it will be close to the end, if you think the party might wait a little while longer. If you decide to have one, I mean.

But you're right, she'll be awfully different at 12 months instead of 6. She might even be walking. And changing into new colours.

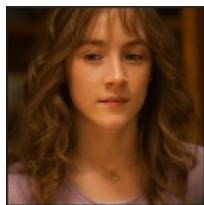
From,
Hydra




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-14 18:14:22](#)
(no subject)

If we have a party, we'll wait it for you. It's not as if Bea will know one way or the other, and it might mean she'd have two parties instead of one, mightn't it? One with just her parents and another with the rest of you. What little girl wouldn't like two parties?!

She does change her hair some already and her nose, though it's more that it changes when she wants to scrunch it and it just sticks like that. She mostly imitates us, but I expect that soon she'll be imitating the animals in her picture books. My mum always told stories about how I learned to make my nose look like a pig's and a bunny's before I started talking!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 20:27:01](#)
(no subject)

I think most little girls would very much like two parties. Especially at that age, where they love to smash their face into the cake or toss handfuls of it around the drawing room.

You can make your nose look like a rabbits? Really?

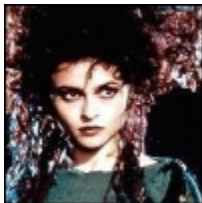
From,
Hydra



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-14 20:32:47](#)
(no subject)

True, that!

Yes, and I'm in better form now than I have been in ages. When Bea fusses, I try the most outrageous faces you can think of. I think she's cutting another tooth just now, so it's a proper circus around here some nights!




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 17:59:24](#)
(no subject)

What did your Aunt Narcissa send you this time? I do hope you haven't spent that pocket money that your Father sent you on sweets, and then looked elsewhere for someone to furnish you with whatever it is you

need.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 18:03:44](#)
(no subject)

No Mummy, I didn't spend the pocket money. I was saving it for your Christmas gift.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 18:20:16](#)
(no subject)

Now that has the sound of a well-rehearsed answer.


I am pleased to see that you've told Mrs Ponds up there that you're putting extra time into your Arithmancy. Looking through your homework these last few weeks, I would recommend that you re-double your efforts. Integrate yourself with a study group dedicated to the subject.

There's sure to be one somewhere in the castle - you need only find some Ravenclaws and have them point you in the right direction.

Now, another matter to address: this Yule Ball. I'm sure you gathered from my delivery of the dress robes that you had my blessing to attend, should the right person ask, but your letter dated 30 November indicates that you accepted an invitation from someone else, after your Father gave you permission to do so.

I am quite disappointed with both of you that I wasn't consulted on this matter.

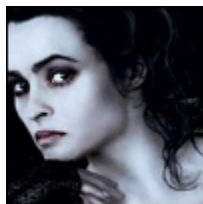



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-14 18:37:06](#)**
(no subject)

Looking for a study group is a good idea. I'll be sure to do that straight away. Thank you for the idea, Mummy.

And the Ball, well, I did write to you directly after the invitation, only I didn't realise you wouldn't be reading your post until now. I was also sure to tell you that if the "right" person did end up asking, then Justin agreed to step aside so that things would work out.

From,
Hydra

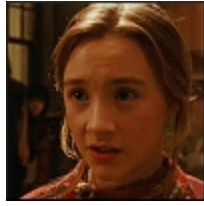


 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2011-12-14 18:40:17](#)**
(no subject)

I wouldn't count it as a particularly novel idea, Hydra. I don't see why you hadn't yet thought of it yourself.

Work has kept me very busy, as you know, but even if I come to it late, I never fail to read your correspondence.

Now, this Justin Finch-Fletchley with the Beauxbatons Delegation... He's that son of squibs, if I'm not mistaken. Gentry class and well-off, but even so, I can't say that I am much impressed with either yours or your Father's judgment.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 18:42:38](#)

Private message to Mummy

I know he's not Harry, Mummy, but Harry was so set on asking someone else that I decided it would be a good idea if I accepted an invitation from someone else, too. And then I would go to the Ball and have such a wonderful time that Harry would notice, and his jealousies would be provoked. It was all part of a plan, you see.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 18:45:07](#)

Re: Private message to Mummy

I never said this conversation was private, Hydra.

But since you name Harry directly, I will allow it. Now, I can't say that your plan is entirely a bad one, even though I'm not sure that this Finch-Fletchley boy is capable of provoking Harry's jealousy.

Who gave you the idea to make Harry jealous?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 18:45:52](#)

Re: Private message to Mummy

It was my idea, Mummy.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 18:47:02](#)

Re: Private message to Mummy

Now Hydra, we both know your history of needing assistance to succeed. That's exactly why I suggested you work with a study group.


Anyway, perhaps you'll get lucky and it will work.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-14 18:59:25](#)
(no subject)

Families who practise purity breeding often end up with squibs, just like my great-grandparents did. Introduce a new pureblood line and the problem solves itself. But you knew that already, wife.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 19:00:33](#)
(no subject)

Oh yes, and the Jugsons have been counting their fortunes ever since.

I still wonder if that little tangle back in the Lestrangle line is why Hydra showed her magic so late, you know.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-14 19:01:17](#)
(no subject)

Eighteen months is hardly late.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 19:02:16](#)
(no subject)

Really? Perhaps not by your standards. I showed my magic within a matter of weeks, and so did Rigel.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-14 20:49:52](#)
(no subject)


It was no trouble, Bella. I offered.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 21:01:08](#)
(no subject)

I wonder why I ever bothered to send her three sets of robes myself, then, seeing as it was quite a bit of trouble for me.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-14 21:06:08](#)
(no subject)


I'm sure I don't know, sister. Perhaps in future you needn't overtax yourself. I'm sure I'll be happy to see to it that Hydra looks her best.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2011-12-14 21:11:52](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps I shan't, then. I know you do so enjoy these opportunities to play to your strengths, Cissy.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-14 21:19:16](#)
(no subject)

Just as I know you hate for your weaknesses to be laid bare, dear.

Each of us serves according to her talents, and knows better than to attempt otherwise, wouldn't you agree?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-14 20:49:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'm so pleased, Hydra, dear! Gerard was immediately taken with the ideas I had and designed them special for you.

(Now, mind you look over the hair pamphlet I had Gerard enclose. I think the charm will look stunning but the salesgirl did say it takes a bit of practice to get right. Perhaps Miss Greengrass could help you on the day, as well.)



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-14 21:05:35](#)
(no subject)

Gerard must be a wonderful robe-maker, I've never seen anything like these before!

I think that Daphne, Pansy, and Sally Anne have all been practising hair charms together, so maybe they will allow me to join in if I ask.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-14 22:35:12](#)
(no subject)

We'd love to have you join us, Hydra.

[2011-12-14 17:00:00](#)

Why do I always forget...

..how amazingly chaotic this time of year is? And of course, it's much more this year, both due to the Ball and various other commitments. I can see the end of the worst of it in sight, though I do need to catch up on some marking.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

I think I've finally sorted out my holiday invitations, though I've had to decline quite a few due to other commitments. (Now I'm getting the post-holiday ones, including the next Astronomer's Guild quarterly meeting. Georg: delighted, thanks, details to follow in a day or two.)

I am also very glad I got my holiday gifts arranged early, given the way the past few weeks have gone. Now to get a variety of necessary notes out.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 22:40:10](#)**

Private message to Raz

Love -


I just got an invite to be the speaker at the next meeting of the Astronomer's Guild - Monday, January 9th. Anyway, there's a note, saying I'm encouraged to bring a guest if I like. Fairly informal: social hour, dinner, presentation. Runs about six to ten in New London, so plenty of time for me to get back for the night's class.

Less shop talk than you might think, and they've asked me to talk about the projection charms, so you'd be able to enjoy more of it than you might if it were pure astronomy. And you'd get a chance to meet some of the people I used to research with. (Including, yes, a few of my past flings.)

Various notes, mostly to family, below. I'm including you on the note to Diana, but don't feel you need to reply: just want to make the point that it's us, not just me, abundantly clear. Plus, I thought you might like to see what I finally decided to say.

Also, thanks for Monday, in every possible way.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 05:47:33](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Blast. Soz to get to this so late, love, but it was one of those grueling, mid-week days spent trying to prepare very distracted teenagers for their exams. I was knackered after our last lessons, so I skipped dinner and went straight up for a lie-down. Now it's nearly midnight and I'll probably be wide-awake until dawn.

Sweet Erebus, that's a lot of notes down there. And that one to your sis- I certainly do hope she doesn't think I made you write that at wand point. Look at you, so stern! Will you try that out on me sometime?

Makes me wonder if I should write a load of notes, and if so, to whom? Everyone I'm close with probably has it all sussed out by now, I reckon, though it might not hurt to confirm things with... well, one or two people, in particular.

Anyroads, I'd love to see you speak at the Astronomer's Guild on 9 Jan. I'd even love to meet your past flings (especially the female ones). Only seems fair, seeing as you have to look at Gwen Acton almost everyday, and then see Rosie 'round Hogsmeade. Plus, pretty much every event we'll be attending together in the next few weeks will be, well, over-run with women I've been romantically linked to, either in rumour or fact. But both they and I are used to bumping into one another at such gatherings.

As for Monday- well, working things out up in the tower really seems to put things into a clearer orbit for you, doesn't it?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-15 13:22:52](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Love -

No worries. We're both busy, and I certainly don't expect you at my beck and call. Better now, I hope?

~~I do worry.~~

The notes... well, I'd never hear the end of it if I didn't tell them myself, and before there's confirmation in the press. Plus, I really hope Mum and Dad can get the extended family to lay off and

make things easier. As for your own notes - you've also the option of a quick word Saturday, don't you? Looking at my piles of work, very much the right decision for me not to go, but there's no earthly reason you shouldn't.

I will see if I can muster the appropriate sternness for you sometime, but you know it's taken me months to work up to it with Diana. (I'm less peeved with Orion, but he went all over protective at me in a note last week, when he finally noticed the gossip, and sent me a long note warning me about your reputation. Bit late for that.)

Now, I'm just nervously waiting to see what they all say. Especially Dai.

Which, speaking of, yes, is why I think the Astronomy Guild is fair play. Though the response is likely to be much more Rosmerta (who's been a dear to me, did I tell you?) than Acton. Besides, I know you've been curious. I'll give you the full chart once I know who's coming.

As to the tower - yes. Glad you went along with me, though. Feels so much better to have everything sorted out in my own head, too.



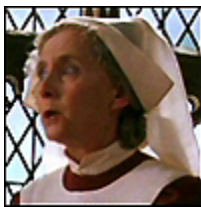
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 22:47:19](#)

Private message to Poppy

Poppy -

I'm, well, just checking in.

Both about the first session, but also about what we talked about. I'm about to do a bunch of other notes, including one to Stint, and otherwise to my family, and I admit I'm a little nervous.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-14 22:54:17](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Oh, my dear.

I suppose I can't tell you not to be nervous, but I feel certain that your family will be pleased for you and will grow to appreciate what you see in Pr Rabastan more and more as time and familiarity allow.

As for Stint, don't waste the energy on trepidation. Be plain and firm and have done with it.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 23:09:59](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy


I do think it will be fine - one of the benefits of the gossip is that it shouldn't be a shock, I suppose. And my parents really were very carefully sweet about it on Monday.

(Honestly, I think it's more 'what does he see in you', at least from Diana, rather than what I see in him, that's the issue. Or maybe the fact I care much less about the things most people assume about him than other aspects.)

And on Stint - I've been amusing myself the past few days writing a politely stiff little note. I'll show you tomorrow, as I think it might amuse you.

Thank you, though. You're reassuring, and Pomona was kind when I talked to her before lunch.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-14 22:55:17](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

And I should have said how very pleased I am for you.

I beg your pardon.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-14 22:50:53](#)

Private message to Professor Sinistra

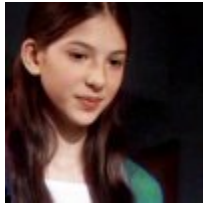
I have it down on my calendar that you want me to come this evening to clean the the medium-sized model of the solar system. I just wanted to confirm, since it sounds like you're really busy.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 22:56:38](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for checking.

I do have a long list, but it's all correspondence first, nothing that you'd need to avoid. (Though if you're short on time yourself, we can reschedule...)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-14 23:07:48](#)
(no subject)

No, I'm fine, thank you. All my work is either well in hand, or past hope, really.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 23:10:46](#)
(no subject)

I do remember that myself. I'll look forward to seeing you (and I've some nice tisane and biscuits handy, too, if you've space after dinner.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-14 23:27:34](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'll save space. I really like your biscuits.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-14 23:31:05](#)
(no subject)

I'll pass your compliments on to my mother.

She's never gotten out of the habit of sending a large care package just before exams. My youngest brother finished the year before I started teaching, so she's been in the habit for near two decades now.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-14 23:12:22](#)**

Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Rabastan Lestrangle

Minerva:

Related to our conversation last week: Raz and I have agreed to quietly be more public (no formal announcement, though I'm sure there'll be no doubt after the Ball.) I just wanted to give you advance notice and let you know he's the one handling any press questions should anyone approach you.

We have some further thoughts on our problem student and a smaller list of possible suspects but nothing decisive yet. She did try my rooms while I was gone, but there's no indication who beyond that, and she didn't leave anything else.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-14 23:29:01](#)**

Private message to Facinorous Stint

Healer Stint,

I am writing to let you know that while I have taken the offers you have made me in the spirit they were intended, my affections are otherwise engaged. Given that, I'm sure you agree that further private invitations from you would be most inappropriate. I am certain there are a number of other witches who would be glad to have the interest of such a talented and ambitious wizard.

I do thank you for your cooperation with the various YPL plans so far, and am confident that you will be able to move forward from this and bring thoughtful input and expertise to our future professional conversations.

I hope you have a happy Christmas, and that the New Year brings you all you deserve.

A. Sinistra



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-14 23:56:05**

Private message to Felix Green

Gossip true, and it's going to be obvious to everyone by the Ball, I suspect. If you get press requests, direct them to Raz. Do be very careful with the mail, and check with Campanella about anything remotely suspicious - my poison pen hasn't gone away yet, and there could be more of that kind.

I have just sent Stint a very firm but polite note: if he makes any difficulty about anything (no matter what the topic), let me know as soon as you can.

Appreciate your notes: currently expect to get to the non-urgent pile around the 26th. Package coming to you in a few days, and you've earned every knut of the bonus twice over, so please save both our time, and don't argue about the amount. I've already sent the usual glowing letter for your file.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-15 00:31:07**

Private message to Arca and Volans Sinistra

Mum, Dad -

I've started this note so many times, you can't imagine. I hated not being able to tell you, especially after Monday. Yes, Raz and I are an item, have been for a bit, and we're going to start being more public about it, quietly (but I'm sure it'll be all over the papers by the end of next week.)

Mum, he's even more than the papers say, only much more real about it than they make it seem. And Dad, he really has been careful to treat me wonderfully well. I am very nervous about some of the social expectations, but I think I'm finally coming to grips with them.

I do very much want to bring him for tea. Would the 30th work? (Just you both, please, not everyone else, at least for most of it. We're a bit much as a full crowd.) And I'm still not sure about Christmas Eve, and probably won't be till the day of.

Mum, can you be a fierce matriarch and keep the extended family off my back, just for a while? It's been a particularly bad few weeks for owls and messages for me, and I'm simply not up to more of it.

Given what I've heard from some of them already, I'd be extremely grateful if you could also get across the idea that we're taking this a step at a time, nothing like long-term plans yet. My own finances are tapped out, right now, unless I touch my savings and I certainly don't have access to his, nor can I get various and sundry relations exciting new positions with the snap of my fingers.

And Dad, Nana is being particularly obsessed about babies.

I'll take care of Diane myself, but she's been rather difficult herself too. Notes to Orion and Storm below, and I'm telling the other three by owl, since I've packages for them too.


I love you, and I think you'll love him nearly as much I as do, and I appreciate the support and trust and space you've given me more than I can put into words.

I'm very tired, and more than a little overwhelmed. But also amazingly happy.

Auri

Also: usual care package much appreciated, and by students as well, and the bottles will come in handy this week, I'm sure.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-15 01:01:08**
Private message to Diana Haley and Rabastan Lestrangle

Diane Adhara Sinistra Haley.

Stop it.

I have been very patient with your unsubtle hints, with the endless packages of pamphlets and guides and inducements, and the various comments.

But I am completely done.

Yes, Rabastan Lestrangle and I are seeing one another. For a variety of reasons, we've kept it private for several months, but we're about to change that, quietly.

I remember that when you met Chiron, you threw fits if anyone dared to make the slightest suggestion. Insisted that you knew best what would work for you. Tore ahead with a wedding and children, because you were sure it was right. And, in fact, it worked out: you have wonderful little ones, Andromeda's blossoming at school, and you seem very happy much of the time.

I am an adult. I've had the privilege of not only teaching many wonderful students, but also of designing and running the YPL programme, and working with some of the top people in a wide range of fields in our Lord's Protectorate. I assure you, I am quite capable of working out my own relationships in my own time. While this relationship has more complexity than some, I am confident that Raz and I are up to the challenge.

Mum and Dad have been very gentle. They have not pushed me to answer specific questions about children, houses, vaults, or anything else - and certainly not more private matters. Storm, Sage, Tempest and Theo all manage quite nicely too, and even Orion's settling down. I want and expect the same from you, if in fact you are the loving and caring older sister you say you are and want to be.

Now, if you can change how you've been treating me, there are certainly things I'd love your advice on and to talk about, and yes, to help you with if I can. But not if you go on as you have been.

Your call.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-15 01:21:04**

Private message to Orion Sinistra

Big brother -

Appreciate the sentiment, but I really don't need either your warning or your protection. Truly, he's not like the papers make him sound. And he's certainly grown up since his school years. (Haven't we all?) We've been friends more than a year, plenty of time for me to see beyond the surface. And we're taking it slowly.

He does like a good time - but he's also been careful and gentle with me, respects my work and my choices, and he's an amazing teacher. (That's not just me: watching students trust him is fascinating, because so much of what he teaches in Defence is so risky to learn.)

You offered help, so, can you have a word with Diane? I've just been very blunt with her, and it's her call what to do next. If you get in while she's still thinking, and can get her to ease off, it'd be a great help.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-15 01:36:30](#)

Private message to Storm Sinistra

Best brother -

Gossip true, I'm rapturously happy about it (though there's some complicated bits, too) and we're about to be more public. Thanks for being you about it. Very restful.

I think I've got everything now (poor Nashira's cranky with me, though, that many trips!) and it's all gorgeous, especially the most important one. You're a lifesaver, truly.

Dinner in January, maybe? Much love to you and Dittany and the little one.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-15 02:07:26](#)

Private message to Dai Jones

Dai -

This is the hardest thing for me to write. (I know you prefer owl, but I wanted to be absolutely sure I could tell you myself before the papers got hold of more than rumour.)

I've hinted toward it before, but Raz and I have been quietly involved since October.

I've told him about how much you matter to me, and I think he'd like to meet you, sometime, if you're up for it. Nothing gets in the way of the astro twins, swear by the fixed stars. Friends always.

Thing is, he's nothing like I'd thought he'd be, based on the press. They make him sound like it's all about the parties and the social events, and nothing deeper. That he's a pretty face, and a charming escort, and Quidditch star, and a hero, and that's all.

And yet... I'm more, when I'm around him. He admires my brains

without feeling threatened by them, or like he has to compete. (And Hypatia knows, he's got skills I could never touch...) He's so very careful to give me every respect and courtesy in public and with our colleagues - but in private, when we're relaxed, he's real, and caring, and very very good to me. He listens and he remembers. And he's more aware of the halfblood issues - and more sympathetic - than I'd ever have guessed, given his family. He's a snitch teacher, too, and the more my students get put into risky situations, the more I treasure that.

It's been a bitterly hard few weeks, though. Part of why we're being more public is that I started getting threatening letters with some nasty hexes - from a student, no less. And he made the argument that if we're private, people will continue to think that he doesn't really care about me and that it's all right to treat me badly.

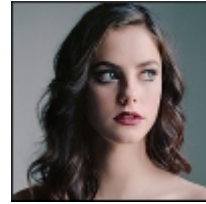
Took me a while to work round that but .. we are. And I'm not sure what happens next. I'm terrified that we will, and then it will go badly, and it'll change everything for me professionally. That it'll change the friendships that matter most to me - you above all. That we'll get tangled in everyone else's assumptions and expectations, and lose ourselves. That people I care about will think I'm doing it for his money, or access to the parties, or knowing all the right people (and honestly, I couldn't care less about any of that. You know me.)

But I have hope it won't be that. That it'll be better than it is now. And I trust him, even though it means falling into a new orbit. And I'm terribly curious about what we could do, together.

Please tell me the truth, but I ... you don't hate me for this, do you? I am so very happy with him, but worried that it. Well. You know.

2011-12-15 08:54:00

Private message to Millicent Bulstrode



 [alt_daphne](#)

I know we already coordinated before breakfast, Millie, but I really need to make sure that this all goes according to plan! So, I'll write everything out here for you to study during Potions. I'll do all the stirring, and you hold your Potions book with your journal tucked inside so that you can put this to memory. Just make sure Professor Slughorn doesn't see what we're up to. Here's the plan:

- 1) After Astronomy lecture at 3 we go to the Defense classroom. Professor Raz is holding extra practise duelling sessions on account of exams, so there will probably be a lot of students there besides us, but that's alright. It just means we have to be *extra* convincing.
- 2) We will volunteer to be partners, and when it's our turn, I'll cast one of the double-shield spells we've been working on in Defence, only really, I'll just cast a single shield spell, and I'll make it rather weak. That's when you cast your stinging hex. Now, be sure to turn your wrist to the LEFT and not the RIGHT. This is important! Because you know that your stinging hexes are really awful, normally, but if you turn your wrist to the left it's much weakened and I'll barely feel a thing.
- 3) Now, you mustn't be frightened by this next part. I'm going to act as if your stinging-hex was full strength and let loose a loud, convincing scream. I mean to say that it will be *very convincing*. Your ears will hurt and you will probably think that you've hurt me terribly. But you haven't, don't worry!
- 4) And now I'm going to act very, very angry. Expect me to stamp my feet and shout at you. I might even be mean and nasty enough to make you tear up and tremble. I don't mean it, of course, but you'll have to THINK I mean it if any of this is going to look convincing.
- 5) Then comes the unhappy part. I'm going to have to hex you with boils - horrible purple ones, I'm afraid. Oh, they really will be horrific. It's going to look like some kind of deep-sea creature is writhing under your face, trying to claw its way to true light. But you needn't worry, because it's not going to hurt a bit! It looks like a hex but it's actually that theatre glamour I've been working on. And it only lasts an hour, and after that you'll be back to how you always look.
- 6) When Professor Raz sees what I've done to you, he'll give me detention, let's hope. And let's further hope that he'll assign me to organise the books in his office, like he did with Vince back in September.

Millie, I must thank you ever so much, from the bottom of my heart, for agreeing to help me with this venture. You are a true friend, and I will make sure that you look absolutely beautiful on the night of the Ball!

[2011-12-15 09:25:00](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Hello, love. Are you busy enough to be going in circles yet?




 [alt_rabastan](#)

Since he's no longer after me to join in his most recent caper, I gather that my brother took my suggestion and invited you to be his partner, instead? If so, thanks for that. Much as I understand his aspirations, he doesn't have to share a castle with the cow, and I do.

But the real reason I'm writing is to ask if you and Lucius will be at the St. Mungo's Gala on Saturday evening? I didn't originally plan to attend, but since I'm going to be at St. Mungo's during that day, anyway, I figured I might as well show my handsome face.

Now, this isn't one of those events where they have a bachelor auction, is it? I remember that one a few years back... well, I think that was the Witch's Institute? Still, I wanted to check, because as it so happens I'm spoken for this Christmas. It would be a great favour to me if you could discretely put the word out, in that exceptionally talented way you have for passing must-know information along.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-15 17:07:42](#)
(no subject)

You've no idea how ridiculous this month is getting with parties. No plagues, no imminent croakings of doom from MLE - everyone is quite frankly *enjoying* the holiday season for a change!

We'll be pleased to see you, of course. And no, there's no bachelor auction at St Mungo's, just useless arts and crafts no one really wants. Still, it's for charity.

But even if there were, dear boy, do you think I don't already know you're spoken for? After telling me that you're bringing Professor Sinistra to our holiday party? After she confirmed that she'll be joining us? I can't imagine you undertaking to introduce her to that crowd if you weren't at least passing serious about her. You may not have recognised the significance of your actions, Rizzer, but I certainly did.


(As for your brother and his aspirations, currently they extend so far as to make sure that Rigel spends adequate time with his Auntie and, apparently, to mitigate the effect his wife has on his daughter. Otherwise, I couldn't say with certainty what you mean.)



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-15 17:08:12](#)
(no subject)


But speaking of bachelors and auctions, you might read this week's copy of *Dish!*, if you're in need of a laugh.



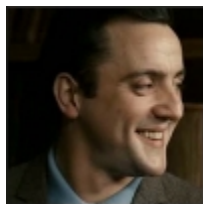
 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 17:25:01](#)
(no subject)


If you're claiming that I'll laugh, then can I safely assume that the headlining story has nothing to do with me?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-15 18:30:15](#)
(no subject)


No, it's to do with your good mate, Barty.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 18:33:26](#)
(no subject)

Has it now? Goody!




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 23:46:12](#)
(no subject)

Circling Carrig's old flame Robert Spinx again?

And Arista Peel? Well, can't say I blame him there, but I know from experience that she brings on the hurt.

Our Barty is having quite a thrill of a time, it would seem. Must be all that eggnog.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 17:20:38](#)
(no subject)


Indeed, I had an inkling that word was already out in "that crowd," as you say, but felt I should lay things out plainly, for once. We both know how I go about this in a very wrong-headed way from time to time.

Mostly, I shouldn't like for her to have to deal with invasive questions from anyone, particularly from those who might claim me as an ex-something-or-other.

Though rest assured I am not putting the burden of keeping the hordes away on you, love. Just trying to lay some preemptive defence, if you see what I mean.

(And I wouldn't expect you to say. Still, that's quite a list of aspirations, seeing as you have your own family to manage- now his, too?)




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-15 18:36:52](#)
(no subject)

Morgana's wand, I should say that congratulations are in order. Not to you, Raz, to Miss Sinistra. Whatever she's done has set you back on your heels. Going about things properly and plainly? I never thought I'd see the day.

On the other matter, I'm not saying your brother hasn't been tending to his own garden. In fact, I should think that his own family has occupied a good deal of his attention lately, and what is to become of it.

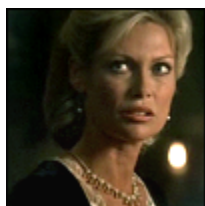


 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 18:52:44](#)
(no subject)

Now then, it's just this once; I'll do something outrageous and Razy when you next see me, I'm sure.

So what is it they're rowing over this time? Is it Hydra going to that Ball with the Beauxbaton's lad? You know that I deeply admire all your sister has done for the protectorate, but the weight of her criticism is very nearly an unbearable thing. Well, I'm sure you commiserate. I remember when she and Rod were first married- I was still at school (forth or fifth year, can't remember which), and she had something to say about every subject I took, every girl I looked at, every book I read, and so on. And I was just her brother *in law*.

But then she would go off on some great important mission and, abruptly, stop caring about whatever she had previously been eviscerating. It was well dizzying, it was.



[alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-15 21:14:46](#)

(no subject)

Oh, you know that the secret to happiness with Bella is not to take anything she says too much to heart. I've long since given up trying to change how she treats anyone (you'll note it's been ages since I even attempted to remind her that I hate being called 'Cissy'), and you're absolutely right: Her interest is as quickly lost as it is gained. All one need do is weather it until the storm passes.


It's just that Hydra's so looking forward to the Ball. And a girl's first dance like that, with a boy - whomever he is - is as much a milestone as - well, as your first school Quidditch match, I expect. It's nothing that will matter ten years from now but *right now* it's the most important thing in the world.

Well, it's foolish to expect Bella to understand that, or care. Nonetheless, I admit my palms itched when I saw her tear into Hydra over the whole thing. Especially since Rod had already given his consent and the boy was highly courteous to observe proper form like that.

More to the point, though, Bella does her grand cause no favours by berating Hydra for all to see. I've spoken to her more than once about airing her disappointment in public, particularly when there's no call for it.

Rod may have other concerns, as well, but they are his own.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 22:23:17](#)
(no subject)


What amazes me is that for a woman as fearsomely clever and intuitive as she is, she doesn't seem to grasp that it's probably not terribly wise to watch over the girl as if she were a criminal in need of rehabilitation.

Well, she goes her own way, that one.

Meanwhile, it's lucky for Hydra that you're there to soften the blows. I'll try to do my part when I can, too.

And- sounds like little brother and big brother might need to have a bit of a chat.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-15 23:38:09](#)
(no subject)

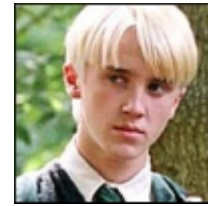
You know, speaking of doing things properly: what sort of Christmas gift get for ones "colleague/ friend-of-over-a-year/girlfriend-of-a-few-months?"

If you can't think of any specific suggestions just now, tell me on Saturday?

[2011-12-15 15:47:00](#)

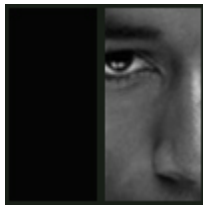
What the blazes


Was that all about? For those of you who weren't in Professor Raz's dueling session this afternoon, Millie and Daphne had some kind of row that ended with Daphs in a fury and Millie's face all purple and bulging. It looked she'd been dipped in a pot of porphyry fruit jam. Ugh, hopefully there won't be any porphyry tarts at supper tonight. I don't think I could stomach them after that.



 [alt_draco](#)

I'm dead confused, I don't mind saying. Is this some kind of pent-up Yule Ball aggression coming out? Daphs can be a pretty wicked duelist but she's typically more controlled than that, and certainly pretty forgiving of Millie - no matter what she does.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-15 23:42:17](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

No idea.

But it must have started earlier. Did you see Daphs wrote her a PM? And then all through Potions Millie looked like she was just fuming. Or worrying. It's hard to tell with her face. Harder now, though!

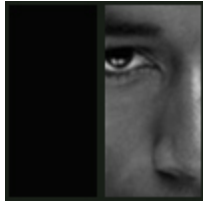


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-15 23:53:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Seriously. I guess they might have been fighting about something and it all came to a head while dueling? Who knows what, but women can be unpredictable.

You don't reckon that Bole is rubbing off on Daphs already, do you? He's got that temper about him, makes him a brilliant beater but a bit of a boiling cauldron, too. That'd be a shame, seeing as Daphs is usually so civil.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:15:11](#)**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

True enough. Millicent more than Daphne, though. Usually.

I don't see how he really could have rubbed off on her much. It's not as if they've spent much time together so far as I know. Possibly, though, she wanted to do something to get his attention. Beyond asking out of the blue if he'd escort her to the ball, that is.

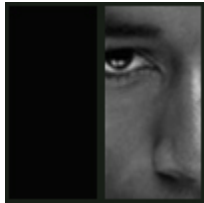
I don't think we need to worry that she's after any long-running association with Bole, though. It's simply an experiment.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:20:23](#)**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I don't follow you. Who asks someone to the ball as an experiment?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:54:00](#)**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well, he's a certain type of character, Bole. A different sort than she's experienced before in this sort of way. I must say I was a bit surprised she didn't choose one of the visiting fellows, but if you look at it from another angle, it makes good sense. The Ball is a one of a kind event. Bole needn't expect she's any interest in him beyond it, which makes it perfectly grand as a trial. And, of course, if he impresses her, she might decide to see him again. But she won't be obliged if she's not interested.

I mean to say, I've asked Margaux Durand for the same sort of reason: she's provincial, from the Dordogne, and her father's in trade. Well, he's a glass-crafter. In any case, talking with her expands my range, you see?

Daphs and I think it important to sample what the world has to offer, rather than always sticking with what's well-known and comfortable. And this year is going to be full of opportunities to stretch ourselves a bit.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-16 05:09:59](#)

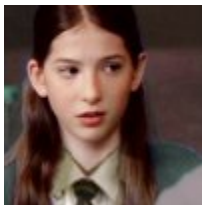
Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

He's a character, all right. An intense one. Beast on the field, and off.

Though rather makes sense, now that I think back to her odd yet profound admiration for Crouch Jr.

So she did a casting call for the part and decided Bole was the one to best fit the costume. And he'll be gone after this year, just like the visitors will.

Well, I can't say it's not amusing to watch what you two get up to, anyway.

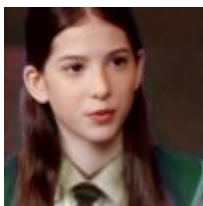


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-16 01:41:31](#)

Private message to Draco

Merlin knows we've all wanted to hex Milli a few times, but that was so completely unlike Daphne I'm a bit worried about her.

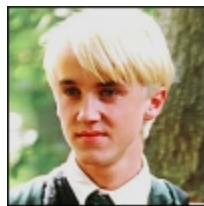
Even when she loses her temper it's normally a bit more ... controlled, I guess? You know, she'll decide to lose her temper to make a point and show she's serious.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-16 01:47:47](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

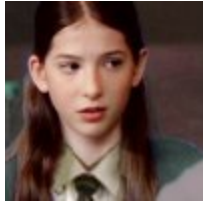
And there was nothing wrong this morning, so far as I noticed. Daphne was a little irritable but who isn't when they've just got up?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-16 01:51:18](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

I was just asking Blaise if he thinks Bole might be having an effect on her. Merlin knows his mood can flip on a knut. But then they've only just recently started spending time together, haven't they?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-16 01:56:27](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Yeah, as far as I know they'd never spent much time together before she announced they were going together to the Yule Ball.

I suppose it might be his influence. Maybe she's always seemed steadier before because she was spending time with Blaise?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-16 02:00:56](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Possibly. I mean, she's always sort of prided herself on being the only "adult" in the room, but I never thought it was something she picked up from Blaise.

Well, you and Pansy will do your best not to set her off, I'm sure.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-16 02:07:21](#)

(no subject)

Draco, it's so sweet of you to be concerned. Millie and I just got utterly caught up in the heat of the duel, I'm afraid. There was nothing personal meant by it at all!

I think it could be that we're both about to have our, well, you know... and feeling a little off-keel and tempermental as a result.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-16 02:08:56](#)

(no subject)

Both about to have your... no, I don't know. Your what?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-16 02:11:05](#)**
(no subject)

If you insist: our monthly visitors, of course. Me, Pansy, Sally Anne, and Millicent are all in sync by now.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-16 02:13:26](#)**
(no subject)

Jumping Circe. No, I did not insist. Nor did I need to know.


Anyway, so you're out of detention already?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-16 02:14:26](#)**
(no subject)


Yes. I mean, yes. Professor Raz said I should go.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-16 02:15:01](#)**
(no subject)

Well, good. So long as we didn't lose house points, what's done is done, I guess.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-16 20:55:55](#)**
(no subject)

Did you think that duelling like that would throw you off sync again? It seems like a rather drastic action to take.

2011-12-15 20:37:00

Private message to Harry

Hey, kid. That was some impressive dueling today- think you and Draco should both do well on the exam next week, if you keep up like that, with the excellent stances, good, expansive shield spells, and quick-thinking curses. Good show.



 **alt_rabastan**

You haven't popped by for tea this week, so I thought I'd let you know my door is open, any old time. Heard you might have to go to the Ball with someone other than Cho Chang. Sorry to hear that- I know you were looking forward to getting to know her. And then there's a lot of other pressing things coming up, too, that you might want to talk about.

And say, I was going to ask Draco about this because I can always count on him for a blunt assessment, but I figured you might offer a fairer one. What do you know about Daphne Greengrass? That is to say, I've never had to give her detention before, and didn't think her the type to court it. Is she usually so unpredictable?




 **alt_harry** at **2011-12-16 04:02:23**

(no subject)

Yeah. I guess it's sort of all over the school. It would've been better if she'd told me right from the start. That she was seeing Diggory already. And Diggory has had a hard enough time of it without my taking his girlfriend to the ball.

I don't know what happened with Daphne, but it's not like her. I mean, she fights with Milli sometimes, but they're usually really good friends, and she's never hexed her like that before. She broke things off with Zabini lately. Maybe that's part of it. But she seems happy enough with her date to the ball.




 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:08:32](#)**
(no subject)

There are more people than just you who are looking out for Diggory, don't you worry. But that was an honourable thing to do. And if she and Diggory don't work out in the long run, she'll remember it.

Oh? Who's she going to the ball with, then?

And, this question will sound odd, but humour me: have you ever noticed her using pink parchment before?




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:19:35](#)**
(no subject)

She's going with Bole.

And yeah, she has pink parchment. I'm pretty sure. Why?




 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:23:33](#)**
(no subject)

Bole... He's a bit older than her. One of my newts, too.

Anyway, nevermind all that. I'm just trying to help out a good friend of mine.

And what about you? Tea sometime soon? Have you thought about who you might go to the ball with now that Cho Chang is going with Cedric Diggory?




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-12-16 04:26:15](#)**
(no subject)

I think I'll ask Honoria Sandoval.

And yeah. Tea soon would be good.

Mr Malfoy is coming to the Yule Ball, isn't he?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 04:30:21](#)
(no subject)

She's a nice girl. You should do it.

I imagine that he'll probably be there for at least some portion of it, since he's on the board of governors, and has had a hand in the music and some of the other planned entertainments.

I can't say whether he plans to stay long or not.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 04:39:26](#)
(no subject)

With my luck she'll already have said yes to Krum.

Do you think he'll want to meet? About that thing he wants me to do? Or will it wait until the second task?




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 04:46:18](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what kind of timeline he has planned, but you can be certain that he will follow up on it in the near future.

Harry, you should call it what it is: Cruciation. Not saying it won't make it easier, I'm sorry to tell you.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 04:53:13](#)
(no subject)

Okay.


I don't

I don't have to practise cruciation on her, do I? To get ready?

I mean, I know I have to be able to show that I can. And then use it when it's necessary. For punishment.

But if it's only supposed to be for punishment, I don't think it's right for me to crucio her just for practise.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 05:02:36](#)
(no subject)


No, no. It's not about practising in that way, it's about mental preparation. I mean, if you want to find a couple of mice or something, it might actually help with the mental preparation bit, but-

You have to want to do it.

That's what's going to be hard. You're going to have to see the situation as something that's going to do you both good, in the long run. Because it means that people will trust that you can manage her, and then will hopefully stop trying to make you prove that you can. Do you see what I mean?

Believe me, if I could talk Lucius out of this, I would, but I fear it would only make things worse for you both. I suspect that both he -and perhaps even the Headmistress, too- have been pressured by your father to prove that you're "flying right," especially now that we have foreign guests in the castle.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 05:11:54](#)
(no subject)

Sort of.

I mean, I know I've got to do it. And why. It'll be hard to want to do it. Really want to do it.

I don't have to like it to want to do it, do I? Because I don't want it to be like that.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 05:18:42](#)
(no subject)

It'll be hard, yes.

Try to think of it as a way to keep from having to watch her be cruciated by Lucius again. Or your Father.

Bloody Erebus, no you don't have to like it. Wanting to do something out of duty, or as a means of discipline, is not the same as wanting to do something for pleasure. Or for revenge.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 05:24:23](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

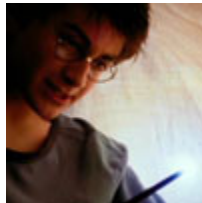
Right.


Maybe we could talk more at tea. About how to focus more on that part of it, so I can want it enough.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 05:30:05](#)
(no subject)

Sure we can. Like I said, my door's open any old time.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-16 05:43:04](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

And thanks.

2011-12-16 00:45:00

Private Message to Honoria Sandoval

Hey, Honoria.

I was wondering if you'd be free to talk after breakfast tomorrow. Could you meet me by the doors to the Great Hall at half past nine?



 [alt_harry](#)

2011-12-16 08:03:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So, okay.

I asked Brocklehurst and she said yes. And Gin gave me a parcel last night and it's robes, so I don't have to just wear my school robes. I pulled them out to look, cause, y'know, I didn't want them to be some daft 'fashion design' thingers. And they're decent.




 [alt_ron](#)

So now what?

I still don't know Brocklehurst at all. Towler said she seemed okay with going with me, though. So I guess that's that.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-16 16:24:16**
(no subject)

Good. I'm glad to hear. And good on Ginny.

Maybe you and Neville can spend some time with Sue and Mandy and Sally-Anne and me at Hogsmeade on

Saturday?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-16 18:00:36**
(no subject)

That'd be great.

Only, you're not going with Malfoy again are you?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-16 18:49:57**
(no subject)

We were planning on walking down together. But I can certainly meet up with you lot for a butterbeer, or go to Honeyduke's or something.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-16 20:42:04](#)
(no subject)

Sure, count me in.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-16 20:45:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, about time you got off the Knut, then. Well done, you.

And good on Ginny for saving you from fashion suicide. We love Mum and everything, but those robes she sent you were vile.

2011-12-16 08:54:00

Private message to Rory

Morning, love. I think you should be up and about by now, or soonish.



Something happened yesterday, and it might've led me in the direction of pink-parchment girl. Maybe. I don't want to jump to anything resembling a conclusion, so let me tell you what happened.

 [alt_rabastan](#)

I had the classroom open at three for any students who wanted to practise duelling before exams. I was supervising, of course, but it's rare that I ever have to step in. Most students are respectful about casting hexes at each other when they're under a teacher's watch-even if he's on the other side of the room.

Anyway, some shouting and screaming broke out between two girls, and when the smoke had cleared, one of them had something purple growing out the side of her face, and the other was in some kind of temper. It was Daphne Greengrass (and Miss Bullstrode her victim), who's usually a very level-headed sort, if a bit prone to dramatic flourishes. Sweet Circe, but she does have a sharp tongue on her when she's worked into a state! I ended up sending her to my office to re-arrange the books and calm down.

Just after four-thirty I cleared the classroom and headed up to my rooms to change. Now, you know that surveillance mirror in my office I've told you about? I had the receiving version propped up on the fireplace mantle in my sitting area, and as I passed it what do you suppose I saw? Not Miss Greengrass re-arranging my books, or even shuffling around with a glower on her face. No, she was instead very quietly and effectively searching through my things. She had the desk drawers open, and studied each and every bit of parchment within-nothing terribly revealing there. I usually chuck invitations and other bits of junk post inside them. After, she approached the trunk under the window and then, cleverly perceiving that it might be a good idea to leave it alone (there's a boggart in there), slowly backed off. So then she went over to the walls and the fireplace and started looking at photographs, even taking them down to study them. You've seen most of them- taken through the years at events and parties, and most of them pretty old by now. Lots from my Falcons days, some from Hogwarts.

Now, none of this by itself is terribly condemning. It just proves she's quite the little snoop. But what gave me pause was the look on her face. Remember how you described the pink-parchment notes as sounding "obsessed?" Well, there was a little of that to her expression, a sort of wistful longing, you might say?

(Needless to say, I went back down to my office and told her to leave. She had put everything back in order, mostly, but looked terribly anxious- and no longer wistful, I might add. But then I did burst in on her rather abruptly.)

And then I still thought it might be nothing, but I couldn't get the way she looked out of my head. So, I asked Harry a few questions and learned that Miss Greengrass does, in fact, have pink parchment. She also has a date to the ball - Barney Bole, one of my newts, who's also on the list for Ancient Runes and Dark Arts.

So, I thought I should ask you: what do you think of Ms Greengrass? Has she ever shown any malice or even displeasure toward you?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-16 16:40:52](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, up (and far too early, though I promise there's a long nap in my future tomorrow. Perhaps this afternoon, as well, if I can duck the latest round of dramatic lamentations about Yule Ball dates and robes

long enough.)


What an odd story.

Honestly, Miss Greengrass has generally been quite pleasant to me. Not top in my class, but not bottom, neither overly aggressive or too passive with YPL work, and she's been amiable enough at the dance sessions this week as well. Certainly nothing that's stood out.

I'd also thought her arrangement with Bole was quite recent - since the letters started, I mean - but I'm certainly not up on all the possible gossip. (And there, there's been quite a bit I've overheard about how many people were shocked she wasn't going with Mr Zabini.)

But you're right, that is odd, and there's enough there to make one wonder. What would you suggest we do about it?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-16 16:49:50](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I don't think we should accuse her of anything. But, I am interested in asking her what she was looking for, and seeing how she answers. Preferably with you there, so we can see if she seems to exhibit any unusual behaviour in your presence.

If I call her to my office after supper do you think you can be there?




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-16 16:52:46](#)**
(no subject)

Certainly.

Anything you'd like me to be ready for? Or say or not say?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-16 16:57:50](#)**
(no subject)

Hmm, not just yet. I'll give you prompts, if necessary. I don't think we want to scare her or make her think she's in trouble, even (though I suppose it's a little inevitable, when two professors call you to an office on a Friday evening). I'll just inform her that I saw what she was doing in my office, and take it from there, depending on how she responds.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-16 17:03:40](#)**
(no subject)

Right.

And in that case, I definitely had better plan on the nap, so I'm sharper than I feel at the moment. Fixed stars, I'm glad it's Friday.

I'd worry that she'd wonder something from my being there, but at this point, I think I'm finally settled over student gossip, too.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 17:06:26](#)
(no subject)

If she's writing the pink parchments, then she already knows exactly why you're there.

And if she's not, then she'll just have more reason to wonder than most.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-16 17:10:48](#)
(no subject)

Very true.

Right. I've added that to my list. And however it goes, I don't need much time to set up for the evening tonight.

While I'm looking at my list, actually: Mum and Dad would love to see us on the 30th, Felix is a dear, Orion's trying not to be quite so overprotective, and I haven't heard a peep from Diane. Which I hope means she's actually thinking this time, and not just reacting. Nothing from Dai.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-16 17:14:29](#)
(no subject)

30th works for me.

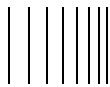
And your sternness must have Diane thoroughly chastised- either that or my looming and silent presence on the PM has her in quick retreat.

Dai will come 'round, I bet. It's a busy time of year, after all.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-16 17:19:47](#)
(no subject)

Excellent. They've promised just them for most of it, though we might get some of the rest at the tail end. (Any food you'd particularly like? Think on it and let me know, and I'll tell Mum.)



On Diane - perhaps. I'll believe it when I see it, though.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-12-17 02:08:59](#)
(no subject)


So I've just had an interesting exchange with Miss Greengrass. I'll show you the whole thing next chance we get, but she did inquire why I was there, finally.

I replied that you'd asked for my assistance with a matter that might be related, and that there are some situations where having two professors present is appropriate.

She did also hope that I didn't think less of her, or you.

I don't know. I don't think she's the Pink Parchment Girl, but there's something right odd.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2011-12-17 02:13:42](#)
(no subject)

I'm inclined to agree.

Could be she just has a crush, or, I don't know- is it too far-fetched to think a fifteen year old might be looking for information to send to reporters?

But still, crush seems more likely. Probably since hearing about me and Victoriana she's gotten all sorts of big ideas in her head, and knowing Vic, she helped to put them there.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2011-12-17 02:26:13](#)
(no subject)

I don't know.

I've seen enough crushes go by - Lockhart trailed them by the dozens, for reasons I've never understood - but this seems a bit different.

You might have an idea with the reporters, but surely there's

easier targets for her, unless she had some reason to focus on you in the first place? What with Krum and all in the common room, for a start.

I think your idea about her mother might have a bit more to it. I know I've heard others wondering about the romances of parents and aunts and uncles and all, the past few weeks.

Well. None of this is getting my marking closer to done, so I suppose we can only watch and wait.

I'd love to see you before you go tomorrow, but honestly, love, I'm hoping to sleep till at least noon, given the double sessions tonight and their exam nerves.

~~Do let me know how it goes~~ I'll be thinking of you.

2011-12-16 14:56:00

Private message to Millicent Bulstrode

I hope you are quite all right again? All of us with the Tea of the Strange are ready and willing if you need to talk.

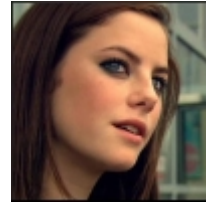
Or to practice your duelling technique. Although I might not be as much help as Pansy or Sally-Anne.



 [alt_luna](#)

2011-12-16 18:13:00

Showing gratitude



 [alt_daphne](#)

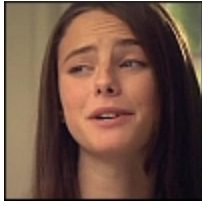
I do so appreciate the concern that has come my way today, but I think I should assure you all that everything is back to normal between Millie and myself. What took place was a simple misunderstanding, and we've both apologised to one another and made up completely (and her face is as good as new, as I'm sure you all observed!). I've even decided to make it up to Millie by sending her robes to the head dressmaker at Gladrags, who has promised that she will have them expertly re-fitted by the time we go to Hogsmeade tomorrow.

Also, I would like to publicly thank Professors Lestrangle and Sinistra for our meeting after supper; I'm terribly sorry for the misunderstanding, and for... doing such a poor job of rearranging your books, Professor Raz. I hope that if there's anything future you require from me, you won't hesitate to ask. Oh, and I promise I shant create such a disruption during dueling practise again, on my honour!

Well, with that said, let's return to more pressing subjects, I think!

I must say that there are many people who seem to have benefited from Draco Malfoy's list of individuals without dates for the Ball. Listening to talk around the castle, it now seems as if almost everyone has found someone or other to escort them. Well done, Draco! Just think, there may be future couples who will one day have you to thank for bringing them together.

Hogsmeade is sure to be a madhouse tomorrow, what with last-minute shopping for the Ball piled on top of Christmas shopping. Still, I'm thoroughly looking forward to it! Barney, do you mind if we meet in the common room instead of the Great Hall? I want to change my shoes before we walk to the village.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-17 01:42:20](#)

Private message to Astoria Greengrass

Are you serious? *Peppermint Toads, treacle fudge, indelible green ink, raven-feather quill, and 1 pair lacey red knickers?*

I'm not your personal shopping elf, you little tyrant! If you want to pick up some things from Hogsmeade then you order them through your journal like the rest of the second years, instead of shoving a list under the door to my dorm when I'm in the library.

And what would YOU need lacey red knickers for?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-17 01:43:16](#)

(no subject)

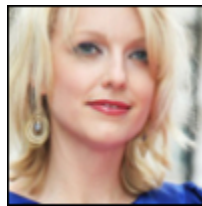
Thank you for your cooperation, Miss Greengrass. I do hope there will be no repetition of the problem.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-17 01:47:04](#)

Private message to Professor Sinistra

I really wasn't trying to cause any trouble, Professor. I know it was very rude to snoop through his private things. Um, I really hope you don't think any less of me. And that he doesn't, either.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-17 01:52:49](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

One does learn that students may do quite unexpected things, but I admit, that is something we've not seen often before.

As for me, what I think of you is based on more than one afternoon. That said, I will be watching your choices a bit more closely for some time to come.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-17 01:55:56](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

Oh, but - well, I suppose I wouldn't blame you at all, if you did.

Forgive me for asking, but I'm a little confused about something: why did Professor Raz ask to have you there when he confronted me? It's not like it's your office

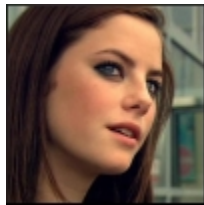


 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-17 02:02:49](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

There's another matter Professor Lestrangle and I have been discussing that might be related, so he asked for my assistance.

And in some matters, it is helpful to have two professors available, in case there are questions later.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-17 02:03:56](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

But

Oh, I see. I suppose that makes a good deal of sense.

Thank you again, Professor Sinistra.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-17 01:43:16](#)

(no subject)

Glad to hear that you and Millie have made up. But then you're hardly the type to hold a grudge, Daphs.

I don't know that future couples will be toasting to me at their weddings, exactly, but at least all that talk about Balls being naff seems to have died down.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-17 01:53:02](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I think I could hold a grudge, all right. But no, not for something like a over-enthusiastic duel with an otherwise good friend.

And you never know - some of these people might not have ever reached out and gotten to know one another, if it hadn't been for you. I think Ron Weasley and Mandy Brocklehurst would be a perfectly charming couple, for example, should they feel a passionate connection on the dance floor next week.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-17 02:02:02](#)
(no subject)

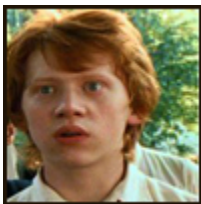
Hahaa


Yeah, I hadn't thought of it like that, exactly. But you make an excellent point.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-17 16:59:37](#)
I Solemnly That I Am Up To No Good

Eat Bundimun goo, you rotten git.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-17 17:00:32](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

What the ...?

2011-12-17 10:20:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Seamus, are you in Hogsmeade?

Silly question. I mean *where* are you in Hogsmeade?



 [alt_padma](#)

Can you come find me in ~~the Three Broomst~~ the alley left of Gladrag's?

I....

Davies just told me he's going to the Ball with Fleur.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-17 15:25:38**
(no subject)

What? WHAT?

I'm in Zonk on my way.

2011-12-17 14:28:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Need to know who has stood in for me at which events.

Want a full report from you of what has actually happened in each instance. Do not omit any detail or under-report. You don't want your head on the block along with the others.

Contact whoever's assigned for tonight and tell them to stand down. I'll be attending the St M's gala myself. Will expect your report in advance of that, and you should plan for a late night in the office afterwards.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2011-12-17 22:01:00

*Private Message to Rabastan
Lestrangle*




You all right, then?

Your reflexes are still impressive, Raz. Unless you're a lot less inebriated tonight than you appear. And if that's the case, then I want to talk you into a change of profession: that was a masterful display of drawing and then wrong-footing your opponent.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Your skills are wasted, teaching children.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-18 04:34:56**
(no subject)

Where've you been all night? Watching from the shadows, I spose. I think Miss Peel is going to be disappointed.

Trust Stints mates saw him home with no further injury. Or drama.

I would say you overestimate, but I'm sober enough to know your compliments don't come lightly.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2011-12-18 13:40:59**
(no subject)


Peel knew what she had on her hook the other night. She's been sniffing around the trainees since they started. I told her to take her custom to Pseudonymity if that's what she's about--and to stay out of Dish! if she knows what's good for her.

Sorry to have been scarce. I was there more on business than to enjoy the social glitter. Or the auction.

You did the other bidders a service, though, when you took Stint off the floor. Wonder how much he spent? Competitive git.

Well-chosen hex, too: shut his gob impressively.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-18 16:41:48**
(no subject)

I figured as much. Course, Pseudonymity costs a fat sack of galleons while she might've had the trainee at a discount.

Cheers. Reckon he'll be thinking of me when his elf feeds him through a tube this week? I confess that in the clear but hangover-tinged light of morning I'm regretting such public display. Nothing good can come of it.

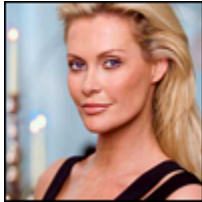
[2011-12-18 09:09:00](#)

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Breathtaking.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-18 15:31:17](#)

(no subject)

Thank you.

You look thin. And tired, dear.

I presume you came back in part to chastise whomever has been representing you of late? Given the last few events where you've been seen, I'm quite glad I had the sense to observe before engaging in conversation.

I do hope you've offered your felicitations to your clerk; at the *Merlin* performance I thought he might have been the one sitting with Spinx but that can't have been, since that's the night he bespoke Sandoval.

Will we see you Friday? Or someone who merely looks like you?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-19 03:05:36](#)

(no subject)


I regret making you think so. Sustained use of polyjuice does seem to take a toll.

I'm letting Bale use me as a test subject, did I tell you? That's almost as much a nuisance as the rest, but it's a way of keeping my foot in the DoM in hopes that I'll hear if he has any further thoughts on mother's case. He's still running tests on the samples he took, you know. Trying to find a way to confirm it's her.

Father wants a declaration granted, but we've both been met with a flat refusal in the absence of confirmation. The record still reads 'Missing, Whereabouts Unknown'.

I wish I could tell you it will be me you'll see on Friday, but I rather doubt it. Be wary.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-19 03:23:25](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure it does.

This business with the DoM, it's not something Lucius could help to move along? If you'd consent I could ask him to have a word with Bale, perhaps recommend to the Director that he be given an assistant to speed things along?

If it's not you, I'll report my observations, shall I?



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2011-12-19 04:03:59](#)**
(no subject)

Well, Mysteries is rather a fiefdom unto itself, so I'm not sure that it wouldn't backfire. In any case, I want Bale to try every means he can devise on this until he has a full analysis; it may be the only way to trace the dose to its source and I want to know who provided it to her.

In any case, if Lucius were willing to help, I think the more likely thing would be a bit of pressure applied on the other end of the problem, a bit of incentive so they'll issue a death certificate. I've no idea why they've decided every t must be crossed in this case. If I were able to take the matter in hand, I'm sure I could find a way to twist the necessary arms myself and get it done.

I would appreciate it if you would.

Blast. If I could be there, I'd be sure we revisited that same poorly lit back corridor you pressed me into last year.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-19 04:30:17](#)**
(no subject)

I'll ask him at breakfast.

Ah, how unfortunate for you that Ms Peel will not

be in attendance. As for my presence in a dim corridor, pressed or not, you must be thinking of your visit to Pseudonymity last summer.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-19 04:47:18](#)
(no subject)


Thank you.

Ms Peel is unlikely to repeat her performance from the other night. Unless she seeks out the polyjuice club. That was my advice to her, at least. And in any case, I doubt that Catchlove will be foolish enough to put me in the pages of Dish! again any time soon.

As for my own visit to Pseudonymity. Hm. No. That was not a dim corridor scenario. At all. If I'd known you knew, though, I'd have shared the details.

Or perhaps Raz already has?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-19 04:54:50](#)
(no subject)

I'm not even sure what Raz remembers, dear. But thank you for confirming what I suspected at the time.

As for the details, well. That is a conversation best had in a different forum. Meanwhile, I suppose I must decide whether to be flattered or jealous. Or cross. Perhaps a little of all three.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-19 05:07:07](#)
(no subject)

Too true about Raz. For the other: I would have done earlier if I'd known it would have such a pleasant effect.

Flattered, jealous and cross blend well for you. I'd happily allow you to work them out in hexes. Sometimes a bruise is well worth suffering.

2011-12-18 10:54:00

Private message to Raz

I woke up to a half dozen notes, but no details, except that apparently you're much better off than Stint is.



 **alt_sinistra**

Are you?

And what on earth ~~did you do~~ happened?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-18 16:43:36**

(no subject)

Better off for the time being, I think.

Let's just say I had a very youthful inclination to defend a lady's honour.



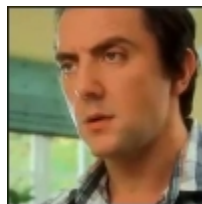
 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-18 16:51:38**

(no subject)

~~You did?~~

~~What did he~~

I think I need more detail than that, and for more than one reason.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-18 16:57:33**

(no subject)

It started off as what I thought was a perfectly friendly conversation between two blokes having a drink. He asked about my work at the castle and commented on the Gala's "splendid" display of fairy lights.

The he congratulated me for using you, and volunteered to take you off my hands when I was done- all in rather less friendly words than he was using before.

Is this why you don't like working with him? You could have told me, you know.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-18 17:03:32](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Thinking about that.

As to not telling you: that's complicated.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-18 17:11:13](#)
(no subject)

Wanted to sort out the matter on your own without bringing it to your (then) secret boyfriend? Something else?

I see that.

But he had it coming from me on his own terms, after what he said. Regret it had to play out in the middle of the auction, but truth is I flat out lost my rag.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-18 17:16:24](#)
(no subject)

Partly that, yes.

But also other things. I can't afford to look weak like that. ~~If you and I break up~~ And if I told you every time a wizard's been difficult like that, we'd have much less time for anything else.

Right.

I will admit there's a part of me that is delighted. Couldn't happen to a nastier person. Though I do wish it hadn't been so public.

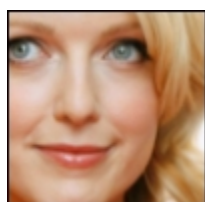
Stars and planets, though, I'm glad we've no planning meetings

for months. At least I've got time to decide what to do without rushing.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-18 17:22:18](#)
(no subject)

It's not just about defending you, love, but myself, too. He assumed that I was stringing you along until the next young witch that waltzed by- can't have him thinking that. And now no one else will, either.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-18 17:29:20](#)
(no subject)


Point. There is that. And who knows, it might make other things easier long-term?

And thank you, truly. For defending me, that is.

(You will also have pleased Poppy: he's been difficult with her for entirely different reasons.)

I hesitate to ask, but is there anything I should know about yesterday before the Gala?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-18 17:40:41](#)
(no subject)

Don't mention it, love.

Nothing new to report: keep up with rehabilitative exercises, don't smoke too many cigars, avoid brassicose if I can afford to (I can), and get plenty of sleep.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-18 17:45:13](#)
(no subject)

That all sounds manageable.


And perhaps we can keep each other honest about the sleep? Hypatia knows I'm not doing

well with that myself at the moment, though I both slept in yesterday and spent less time up the tower last night than I might have.

It's been quiet enough here, except for the stream of students through my office, though I gather there were various new bits of drama at Hogsmeade in the afternoon.

Oh. And I've heard from Dai.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-18 17:53:48](#)**
(no subject)

I fear that our very different schedules are taking their toll, yes. Though I think we could manage that if some other things were put to rest at last- like the lurking shadow of pink-parchment girl, for a start.

See, told you. Anything you can share?

And I will be back to castle soon, but the bored Spence elves have insisted on serving me a breakfast that could feed a small army.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-18 18:00:00](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, on the schedules. Though I'm mulling over a project that would let me vary when I'm up the tower (other than classes) a good bit more, which might help.

Might even get Sunday evening free regularly as well as Saturday. (I've never let anyone else get in the way of observing time like that. I must love you.)

On Dai's letter. Well. He's open to listening at least. Started by asking me for what I hadn't been telling him about you, that I could share, so I wrote that up last night. Gives me a new perspective on things, actually.

He's got worries, and I suspect he'll produce more, but ... I'll make that chart when I have something to work with.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-18 18:09:02](#)**
(no subject)

In that case, I think I can keep Sunday evenings free as well.

News of what took place last night could make him worry afresh, I fear. Might best brace yourself for that.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-18 18:14:02](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent. And once I'm done with this afternoon's dance practice, that'll be one less thing on the calendar as well.

On the last, the thought had occurred to me, yes. Bother.

2011-12-18 12:41:00

Trust Ol' Wil To Sort It

Got this one from (some) Nob in Shireton.
(Heh. Sorry, Nob, ol' man.)

Dear Mr Wagstaff,



 [alt_wagstaff](#)

My mum says I have to decide what to do with my life. I left school after OWLs--I'm not one for exams, y'know--and I've been back at home ever since. For a while, I was sweeping up at the grocer's overnight, but mum said there wasn't any room for advancement in that. And then I was a helper for a really old witch in my village, only she died, and the family said I'd made off with a load of her things. That was a bit of a stink, so I'm having trouble finding anyone who'll hire me now. What should I do?

Sounds to me as if yer well-qualified for life as a pedlar, Nob. Yer flexible with yer hours, good wiv yer hands, and ready to shake the dust o that village off yer boots. Maybe yeh've even got some start up wares, eh? (Course if yeh have, yeh might want to keep that to yerself, an yeh see what I'm sayin.)

2011-12-18 14:59:00

*Private message to Raz and
Headmistress McGonagall*



Warning on my office just went. Heading up now.

 [alt_sinistra](#)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-18 20:27:36**

(no subject)

On my way.



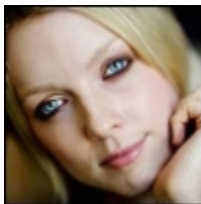
 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-18 23:48:04**

Private message to Rory

All right, Rory?

I know you said you needed a moment alone, but it's been a bit now, and you weren't down at supper.

Bit of a shock, I know.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-12-19 00:11:19**

Re: Private message to Rory

Sorry, love. Should have let you know.

Drowned my nerves in a hot bath, and then couldn't bring myself to get out and face the great hall.

And yes. That, and relief, and I hate that.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-19 00:24:51**

Re: Private message to Rory

I'd say you have a right to a little relief.

I know she was on our list, but I have to confess I had her near the bottom. Not sure where she stood on yours.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-19 00:27:52**

Re: Private message to Rory

I confess, she was a little higher on mine, because I never quite liked her as much as some of the others in that class. Or she never liked me, perhaps.

I...

You missed this, barely, I think, but the look on her face when she came down the tower stairs is going to haunt me for a bit.



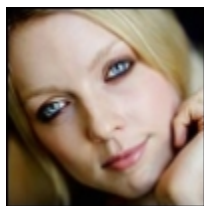
 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-12-19 00:35:35**

Re: Private message to Rory

I suppose she always struck me as a little too haughty and distant to be the one, but seeing as she was, well, anything but distant just a bit ago, I suppose it was all very internalised, on her part.

I dated her older sister, Letitia, very briefly, before deciding that she was far too young for me. Now I'm going to wonder if that's what started this.

I know it'll be hard, but try not to take it as personally as she tried to make it. Remember, she would have done the same to anyone else in your position.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-19 00:40:38**

Re: Private message to Rory

It's hard, when it feels so very personal. But, yes, you're right. I'm trying to work my way back around to logic and reason, but it's a bit hard going still.

Are you all right? I know you feel as strongly about your newts as I do.

(Though, I do owe you related thanks. I felt much more confident, such as it was, this afternoon, after all the work we've done together.)



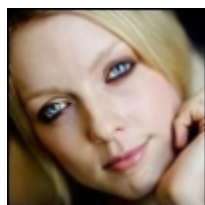
 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-12-19 00:50:08**

Re: Private message to Rory

Yeah, understandable. I admit it took a bit of restraint not to slap her silly for terrorising you these last weeks.

But otherwise doing all right, I think. Though could be it hasn't sunk in yet. She seemed like a different person just then, you know. Could be very intense during our drills, but that's the first time I've see it come out in that way.

You were brilliant- as solid a stunning spell as I could have cast.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-19 00:56:25**

Re: Private message to Rory

I'm quite impressed by your patience and restraint, actually, given the past day or so. But I suppose that's why we're the adults here. Or something.

And love, thanks. And it's... there's a bit of me, that it's nice to know I could. If that makes sense.

Also, while I'm here being honest: Dai replied, more or less as you warned he might. I'm refusing to answer it until at least tomorrow.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2011-12-19 01:12:16**

Re: Private message to Rory

I think it might be more "slightly hungover" and "overtired" than patient.

It does. Especially now that I know it's not just her you've been dealing with.

As for Dai, could be he'll just have to judge me for himself, in person. Words can only do so much.



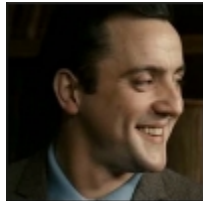
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 01:24:39](#)


Re: Private message to Rory

I hear you on that. On the overtired bit, at least. And yes, having both things at the same time has not helped. Or my nerves about the social events this week, though I have every hope they'll be a great deal more pleasant.

On Dai: should I encourage him to come to the guild meeting, do you think? Georg'd invite him if I asked. (He's not currently a member: won't let me pay his fee.)

And... if you stopped by during your rounds tonight, I think I'm fit for company again.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-19 01:27:13](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

A *great* deal more.

Yes, do that. Worth a try, at least?

Now that I am very glad to hear. You'll be seeing me soon, love.

2011-12-18 16:08:00

*Order Only -- Private message to
Minerva McGonagall*



Our little student is under lock and key.

I will be watching her most closely until
I receive word from you; however, you had best
come and tell me in person, in case questions
are asked regarding how we have been communicating. Milland does
not write, though I have found his book.

 **alt_severus**

[2011-12-18 19:59:00](#)

Private message to Justin



Hi,

I thought you might want to know that I finally found an arithmancy study group today. I didn't ask the Ravenclaws, either, I asked Corey Whitacre, and then he asked Marjoram Montague, and it's only a group of three so far but we were in the library most of the day and I think it will help a lot with exams. Or I hope so, anyway.

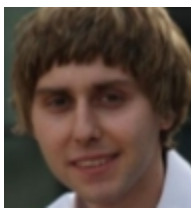
 [alt_hydra](#)

And I don't know if you spent all day studying, too, but I know that I definitely needed it. Even though yesterday was a wonderful day, I didn't think about arithmancy even once.

So, I used the French book you gave me to look up some of the things that Coty and Toubon were saying to us. I don't know what to think now. I've heard some Hogwarts students talk that way to each other, but no one's ever said things like that to me... Especially that kind of insinuating talk.

I suppose it's probably too much to hope that my spell will make them stop anytime soon, isn't it?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2011-12-19 03:32:19](#)**

(no subject)

Hallo,

Oh, I'm glad you found some others to help you revise. I don't mean to distract, you know, and I bally well shouldn't like you to get into more trouble for not having spent enough time on your assignments.

I had a fair amount of homework, as well. But I admit it was well difficult to concentrate, what?

I say, I'm sorry you had to be involved in any of that. They're.... Well, they think it's great fun, obviously, to try to make me look foolish. Most of the time they get bored and give up when they realise

they're not going to incite me to fight them back. And I never have done, really.

I do think you rather shocked them (to say nothing of giving them a richly deserved thrashing), but, no, I don't expect that one lesson will be enough to deter them for long. I shouldn't be surprised if next time they make a point of taunting me that I haven't got *la fille jolie* to fight my battles for me, what?

Oh, but I say, please don't think I'm ungrateful. You were rather brilliant, in fact.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 03:46:10](#)

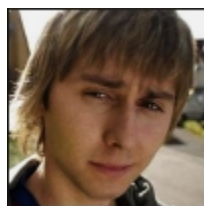
(no subject)

I like distraction, but I think I'll have to fit it into my schedule, at least until exams are over!

You shouldn't apologise, it wasn't any of your doing. I was wondering why you didn't fight back, though, because even though it makes sense with some of the things you've said like ~~about Mum~~, I'm not sure it's working?

But you're right, what I did might not be any better. I really didn't know that spell was going to hurt Coty, um *there*. Daddy taught me the spell before I started Hogwarts, and he said to use it against any boys who bothered me. It was the first thing I thought of when they wouldn't leave off and give our parcels back.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-19 04:07:14](#)

(no subject)

Well, I suppose I can wait until Wednesday evening.

As far as whether it's working or not, I suppose it might not seem that way. It's not that I'm not tempted to hex them back, do you see, only I realise that in the end, I'd be in worse trouble if I did. I'm sure you've seen similar situations among your classmates, even if you've not been on the


receiving end, what? When there's a row among students and one's a pureblood and one isn't, it's nearly always the one who isn't a pureblood who gets the blame. Professor Froissart himself advised me to learn to take it. And anyway, Laurent and Coty are done school after this year. They're really the only ones who bother much anymore and they try far less often than they used to do.

Anyway, I'd rather not give them any sort of satisfaction, thinking they've got a rise out of me, what? Don't get the wrong idea; if ever I suspected they meant any serious harm, I'd defend myself. I have done, and successfully, for the most part. All they really want to do is get under my skin and if I draw my wand, they've got their wish, haven't they?

One thing's certain, that charm your father taught you ought to make them think twice about bothering you. Perhaps I ought to give out you're my bodyguard, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 04:17:27](#)
(no subject)

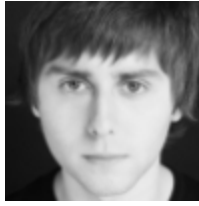
Three days sounds a lot longer than it used to.


So then you think that part of the reason they are after you all the time is because of some of your family being squibs?

I suppose what you say about halfbloods is true. They have to try very hard to get recognition, usually, but then if they don't seem properly humble about it, people will talk, or do something to put them back in their place.

Were Laurent and Coty trying to get under my skin, though? I think they were mostly trying to get under yours. Which I didn't like. So I don't know if that means they got their wish or not.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-19 04:43:13](#)
(no subject)

Agreed, it's a long time to be patient. So you'll promise to meet Wednesday, yes?


Indeed, they've made my shortcomings very clear. There's my parents, the fact that I came in a year later than usual, the fact that I'm a *rosbif*...it's quite a long list, apparently.

And no, they weren't trying to harass you, specifically, I shouldn't think. They just wanted you to see you were with someone they consider, er, naff.

Maybe they're right. I ought to have defended you sooner.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 04:53:59](#)
(no subject)

I promise, then.


Those don't seem like shortcomings to me, so I suppose they didn't get their point across.

But even if you don't believe that certain things about yourself are shortcomings, that doesn't make it enjoyable to have them pointed out, again and again. I know

I don't know that you needed to have done anything differently, or sooner, because in the end I still had a wonderful day. I hope you did, too.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-19 04:58:26](#)
(no subject)

Good.

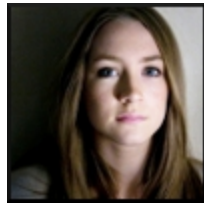
I know you know how it feels, but in my case, I

don't really give a toss what they think, or what they have to say about me.

And yes, I most definitely had a wonderful day. And now I've got Wednesday to look forward to, as well as the Ball on Thursday!

Sweet dreams,

-Justin

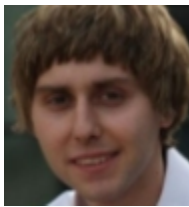



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 05:02:53](#)
(no subject)

But what if it's your

'Night then. See you Wednesday!

From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-19 16:31:06](#)
(no subject)

And you're quite right, of course: It's Coty and Toubon; Coty's name is Laurent! I just re-read what I wrote last night and I must have been more than a little distracted. It's been quite noisy in our area of the castle, actually.

What's this about someone being sent down? And a public Cruciating? Blimey. I think we must have missed something rather dodgy, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 16:39:47](#)
(no subject)


Cassandra Calderwood, she's in sixth year in my house. Melinda Pennifold made an announcement before breakfast this morning about how students must never, ever use the magic they learn to try to

hurt a Professor, so I wonder if it's something to do with that? And I haven't seen Cassandra anywhere...

I don't know what a "pink parchment affair" is, though.

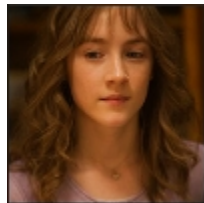
From,
Hydra




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-19 19:00:05](#)**
(no subject)

No, nor I. It sounds like the title of a penny dreadful or one of those ripping detective stories my mum reads. Sherlock Holmes, Poirot, that sort of thing. They've all got titles like that, what? *The Mysterious Diamond Affair* or *The Singing Stone Caper* and such. But perhaps you don't have private detectives here, either?

-Justin




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-19 19:09:08](#)**
(no subject)

I think I've heard of Sherlock Holmes before, but I don't know if those books are still available anywhere. There are some popular detective stories, though, like the Edward Moongallow mysteries, or the *Goblin Market* series. I haven't read any of them. Maybe I should, but I've got other reading to get to first.

The Pink Parchment Affair sounds rather more like a romance, than a detective story.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-19 19:59:09](#)**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne's just asked if I've ever seen anyone get Cruciated. I haven't. But I've heard that it's almost as terrifying to watch as it's painful to experience.

Have you ever...had it done to you?

You don't have to tell me if you don't want to talk about it. I was just wondering because your m

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-19 20:38:13**

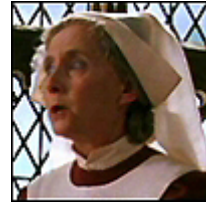
(no subject)

Well, yes, sometimes. Really only when Mummy has been very busy or impatient to think of something else. Daddy's never done it, though.

From,
Hydra

[2011-12-18 20:41:00](#)

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra



 [alt_poppy](#)

I trust you're all right?

The rest of the session went well. No worries there. Though this batch were repeatedly struck by the sillies over my instructions about the formalities of social interactions. One inspired witch transformed her sample dance card into a folded paper bird and soon we had a whole flock whirling over our heads.

I wish I could say that this lot were any quicker to pick up the niceties of partnered dancing. You'd think that keeping time involved higher maths. So many furrowed brows and most eyes glued on the floor as if watching their feet would improve things.

And then there was the young man--Rickett, I think--who was grossly overconfident and kept swirling through the densest throngs, bashing his partner into other couples with wild abandon.

But I do think they all felt a bit more at ease by the time we finished.

Have the elves brought you supper, dear? Is there anything you need?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 02:57:43](#)
(no subject)

Yes and no, but a bit better than I might be.

I am sorry for running out with no warning, but you remember that matter with student letters I mentioned briefly? It's in Minerva's hands, now, and the Board's.

I just couldn't face the great hall, or students with dance-related questions. But yes, I've had a little supper, too.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-19 04:14:30](#)
(no subject)

Oh, bless. You caught your culprit, then? Good.

I trust you are getting a good night's rest now, but in the morning I would very much like to know whether you can confirm any part of the rather incredible story I heard from my St Mungo's liaison today. It featured Rabastan Lestrangle, Facinorous Stint, and something like an *Oris Deleo* hex only ~~Dar~~ more thorough. Sounds as if it was a show-stealer at the Gala.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 04:35:09](#)
(no subject)

We did, yes, on the culprit. Most unpleasant, but there's no doubt she's the one. I am still up, though I'm about to go attempt some quiet reading and bed. ~~Again.~~

The story is quite true, yes. I do trust your discretion in not passing the details on, mind you.

From what Raz has told me, Stint insinuated quite the wrong sort of thing - that Raz must of course just be using me until something better came along, and that he, Stint, would still be interested when Raz was done. Only in far fouler language.


Raz regrets the public response, but honestly, there's a part of me that's secretly delighted, given how nasty Stint's been. Even while I'm trying very hard not to think about what it's going to mean for the committee work. (If you do hear anything else you can pass along, would you? It might help on the committee front.)

Though honestly. Why is it all right for Stint to bother me for weeks, or months, with all the stress and discomfort and limiting myself and affecting our plans for the students that brings, and with little I could do without all sorts of other complications? Living with a hex - even one that lasts a week or two - seems a far cheaper price. At least when it's over you're done.

Given that talking about that was the start of my day, and the letter-writer business was this afternoon, well. I gave up on

finishing my marking entirely, and if I make it through tomorrow, I'll count it a great achievement.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-19 04:39:20](#)
(no subject)

That's more than enough for any day.

I could bring you a bit of Sleep-Easy if it would help. It shouldn't make you feel fuzzy at all

tomorrow.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 04:40:46](#)
(no subject)

I... yes, thank you.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 18:20:18](#)
(no subject)

Poppy -

Thank you for coming up last night with the potion. It did help, though today's news. Well. Still thinking about that.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-19 18:43:07](#)
(no subject)

It's brutal.

As a healer, as an educator--and, I believe, as a human being--I cannot reconcile myself to such measures being taken against a student, whatever she might have done to merit punishment.

And yet I cannot see that there is anything to be done to stop it.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-19 18:57:37](#)
(no subject)

Neither can I, truly.

Above and beyond the issues with Cruciatus, it just seems entirely the wrong sort of punishment. It's not ... related, I guess, is the best word, to what she did.

Raz is still quietly beside himself at her making me have to look over my shoulder for weeks. (And I must say, having a night where I didn't wake up saying various protection and detection charms in my sleep made for a nice change.) Cruciatus doesn't fix that, though.

And even though I'm very glad she's been identified, what I really would like is.. help, somehow. How does someone get that unbalanced? (She really was awful, in Minerva's office, after we caught her, too. Both to me and to Raz, in entirely different ways.) Cruciatus won't make that better, just worse.

I must say, though, I'm glad that they gave up the idea of having her used for student practice. That thought just makes me entirely ill, and for more than one reason.

Regardless, I'm going to have to be there, and put some sort of appropriate face on it, and. Well.

2011-12-18 21:45:00

ORDER ONLY

Sirius, Remus, Tonks, I ought to be arriving within the hour. Sirius, love, I hope my birthday package arrived on time, and that you are expecting me!



 [alt_alice](#)

I figure I can stay and help all of tomorrow and some of Tuesday, and then Sirius and I can leave to get ready for our solstice smuggling run. Frank and Victor and Stephen have been working overtime to get the *Hopeful* in shape, and Frank just got back today from meeting with Lucinda and John about bringing some people along with us to smuggle into France. Was it six, or seven, Frank?

I know it's not many, but it's more than before, and it's good practise for next time around when we ought to have even more (at least if things go well with Laszlo).

Any road, I have to finish packing my bag and kiss Kevin and Frank good-bye, but I ought to be along shortly.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-12-19 02:57:39**

Private Message to Severus Snape

Severus;

I was wondering if you were attending the Christmas party? I need to ask you a favour, and I wanted to discuss it in person if possible.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2011-12-19 03:03:01**

(no subject)

seven.

a family of four, and three from sherwood who aren't looking forward to another winter camping on the rough.

they all check out, and I've talked to them about what to expect so we won't get a repeat of what happened with turner. the wards will


be down, mind, which'll make it easier, but I don't want anyone losing their heads.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-12-19 03:09:26](#)**
(no subject)


also, kingsley man, can you send anyone along? stephen is good in a pinch, but I'd rather have a good wand arm with combat experience.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-12-20 05:03:06](#)**
(no subject)

That'd be Emmeline. Watch for her patronus, and she can meet you at the rendezvous point.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-19 03:03:05](#)**
(no subject)

Received and already being given a nice sunny spot in the still room.

I've been in touch with Aleks as well and he's ready on the outside.

It'll be good to have you with us, Allie.

2011-12-18 22:10:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus


I'm sorry I have to go. I mean to say, now. Too bad the solstice isn't in a month, or something.



I guess there's one good thing about it: It'll give me a chance to get in some Christmas shopping without you and Dora knowing what I'm getting.

 [alt_sirius](#)




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-19 04:18:49**
(no subject)

I'll miss you, but I'll still be here when you get back.

Be careful, all right?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-19 04:31:26**
(no subject)

Always am. But for the first time in a long time, I've a good reason to be.

[2011-12-19 09:06:00](#)

The matter of Miss Calderwood

Miss Calderwood is not to be expelled for her part in the pink parchment affair.



The Cruciatus curse shall be publicly performed on her by Professor Aleecto Carrow on Thursday at breakfast. She will then be prohibited from attending the Yule Ball, and will be sent down from Hogwarts for the remainder of the year. She will be allowed to repeat this year's coursework when school resumes after the summer holidays. (This latter part of the punishment will be confirmed by the board of governors on Thursday, presuming that she shows appropriate contrition.)

 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)**

As a word of warning to students who may think of following Miss Calderwood's example. Expulsion was seriously discussed, as was the possibility of allowing all students below their fourth year to attempt the Cruciatus curse on Miss Calderwood, in their classes. Should there appear to be a spate of copy-cats, their punishments will be harsher.



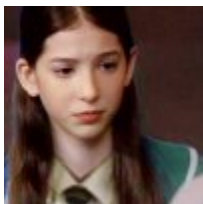
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-19 15:54:47](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Uh

That's really awful. I don't care what Calderwood did, I don't want to see her get crucio. And I really don't want to see her do it.

Guess the elves won't have to cook much on Thursday.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-19 19:01:30](#)**

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

If a half-blood had done what Cassandra did, they'd probably have cruciated her publicly and then snapped her wand and sent her to the camps.



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 19:11:11](#)**

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

Honestly, I could see snapping her wand if she did what people are saying. Attack Professor Sinistra, I mean.

But then the place to send her would be St Mungo's or some private hospital where they'd help put her right, yeah?

And I don't really understand letting her come back here.

I reckon it's because her family pulled strings that she'll be allowed back next year. So, yeah, it'd be totally different if she were a halfblood. Or even someone like me.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 19:35:22](#)**

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

Yeah.

I was thinking that if a pureblood got expelled they wouldn't be sent to the camps. But you know, if Neville attacked Professor Sinistra? I expect they'd make an exception.

I don't know what they'd do if it were you.

Of course all of us have more sense than to attack a teacher. Especially Professor Sinistra, why would anyone want to hurt her? She's one of the nicest people at the school.



 **[alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-19 22:07:52](#)**

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

I bet they would, too. (Not that I have it in for Professor Sinistra, or anything.)



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 22:41:35](#)**

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

I keep coming back to that. If Cassie was going to try to hurt a teacher WHY would she go after Professor Sinistra? At LEAST go after Acton!



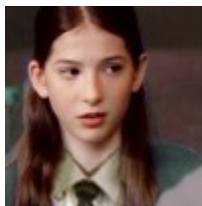
 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 19:41:39](#)**

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

Anyway what I heard is that Cassandra was slipping cursed parchments (pink ones) into piles on Professor Sinistra's desk, that would have really hurt her if she'd picked them up.

I'd noticed Professor Sinistra has tidied her office a LOT and when I was working in there she had areas she didn't want me even touching. I thought it was because there was something she didn't want me to disturb but actually I think she was worried I'd set off the curse.

Probably part of why she didn't get punished more harshly is that Professor Sinistra never actually got hurt. Also, Professor Sinistra probably didn't want anything really awful to happen to her. I wonder if it had been -- oh, Aurelia Archer or someone who could potentially get in MUCH WORSE trouble if she'd have handled it herself to protect her?



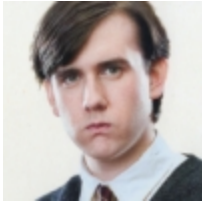
 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 20:29:44](#)**


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

I wonder why they are waiting until THURSDAY.

At least when I had it done to me I didn't have time to get worried about it. Being told 'you'll get cruciated in four days' time' and then locked up somewhere that you don't have anything to do but think about it seems like it would make it a lot worse.

Do you know where they've got her? She definitely was not allowed to come back to Slytherin.

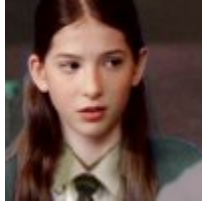


 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-19 22:06:59](#)**

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

Yeah, it is really awful.

And it would have been even more awful if they had tried to get students to do the curse. Ugh.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-19 22:42:22](#)**

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

Well for the people who aren't in Dark Arts they couldn't possibly have expected you to succeed at it. You could point your wand at people all day and say 'crucio!' and nothing's going to happen unless

you WANT it to.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-19 18:10:08](#)**

Private message to Headmistresss McGonagall

Minerva -

I'm very sorry, again, for the necessity of dropping this in your lap. I hope the conversations with the Board were not too difficult.

(And I admit, I'm curious how they came to that decision, if you can share that.)



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2011-12-20 16:57:30](#)**

Re: Private message to Headmistress McGonagall

It was perfectly all right. You had no other choice.

As for the decision, there were a number of factors. Her offense was extremely serious, yet I do not wish to normalise expulsions - for Miss Calderwood the effects of such a thing would have been far-reaching, but for another student they might be disastrous. And, of course, many of our board members do not think of the Cruciatu s curse as quite such a severe punishment as I do. So a deal had to be brokered.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-20 17:01:00**

Re: Private message to Headmistress McGonagall

I understand.

I can't say I'm happy about any of it. As I suspect you know.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#) at 2011-12-20 19:48:02**

Re: Private message to Headmistress McGonagall

As I suspect you know, neither am I.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-20 19:52:09**

Re: Private message to Headmistress McGonagall

Which is something, yes.

Thank you for that.

I can think of so many ways this could have been worse.

2011-12-19 13:36:00

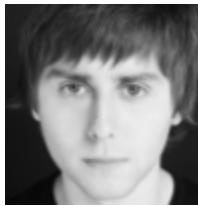
Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley



 **alt_sally_anne**

Do they use cruciatus to punish people at Beauxbatons?

I guess I'm wondering if you've ever seen it done.



 **alt_justin** at **2011-12-19 19:51:36**

(no subject)

Oh, hullo, Sally-Anne. How are you?

And no, I

They don't use *Les Sortilèges Impardonnables* there. Certainly not on students.

Hydra's told me it happens here loads, though.

You've

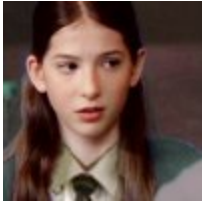
There are some who support it, ~~at home~~ back in France. I suppose they'll have something to think about after Thursday.

And what dashed terrible timing, what? Just when everyone's going to be most excited about the Ball, we'll have to witness something horrid like that.

I don't half mind saying it's awful.

But what does pink parchment have to do with it? Hydra's favourite colour is pink, so I hope they're not Cruciating this Miss Calderwood over a choice of stationery. That would be rather unthinkably harsh, what?

-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 19:57:50](#)
(no subject)

Does that mean 'unpardonable curses'? Cruciatius, Imperius, and Avada Kedavra used to be called 'The Unforgiveables' here, but now they're 'the Cardinal curses.'

I don't think it happens OFTEN but it is allowed, for professors and the Head Boy and Head Girl are also allowed to do it (you know, I don't know if they'd be allowed to do it on you lot or not, though. Probably not! I imagine the teachers would be allowed to though.)

Regarding the pink parchment -- Cassandra was leaving notes for Professor Sinistra on pink parchment, and they had a curse cast on them that could have hurt her. So the problem wasn't the colour, definitely. (A lot of girls in Slytherin have some pink parchment -- Hydra gave it out as a present one year, since she loves pink parchment and thought everyone ought to have some. So Cassie's Cassandra's might have come from Hydra, but no one blames her, certainly.)



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-19 20:10:21](#)
(no subject)

Yes, they're a major offence there. Sometimes life imprisonment and sometimes one's wand gets snapped. There have been a few cases where someone's proven a 'justifiable cause' but not bloody well often, what? Pepin told us it was perhaps twice in the last century that an exception was made for someone, and usually that was the Imperius (that's what you call the one that makes one do one's bidding, right?). I think there was one time when someone used the Cruciatius to gain intelligence about someone who'd collaborated with the Nazis and was hiding in France. But that was a truly remarkable case and not likely to be repeated, what?

That's good news about the 'pink parchment' mystery. The way your Professor McGonagall said it I thought surely everyone knew what it meant. Only Hydra didn't either, do you see, although she had heard that it was Miss Calderwood and she guessed it had to do with attacking a Professor.

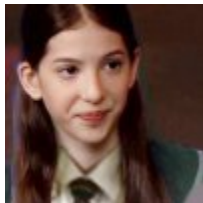
Now, Sinistra. She's your Dark Arts teacher, then? The rather heavy-set one with chin whiskers? I can well understand the temptation, if so. But plotting to harm a teacher is still rather dire, what, no matter the provocation!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-19 20:13:29](#)**
(no subject)

No!! Sinistra is our Astronomy Professor and she's one of the nicest teachers at the school.

Alecto Carrow is the Dark Arts professor and she's the one who will be performing the cruciatus curse on Cassandra.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-19 20:27:26](#)**
(no subject)

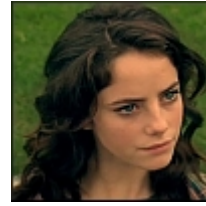
Anyway. If you have any questions about it, I've had it done to me, I've seen it done to others, and I've studied in class (I'm in Dark Arts). And you can ask me whatever you want, if you want.

It would be really strange, I think, to have grown up somewhere it was totally illegal and could get you sent to prison (unless you were doing it on a Nazi, maybe) and to go somewhere that it's used as punishment at school.

[2011-12-19 13:44:00](#)

It doesn't do to make things worse

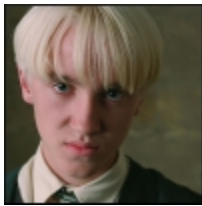
Has anyone else been finding this "School-Wide Mid-Year Quiz" laying about? Elsie and I just found a copy in our common room, and really?



 **[alt_daphne](#)**

This on top of the news about Cassie is all combining to make for a very foul day.

Which isn't to say that I don't appreciate that my sense of glamour is well-regarded, among other things, but honestly, just because one has natural talent at something doesn't make one an *irritating show-off*.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-19 20:56:26](#)**

(no subject)

Any idea who's behind this? Because I'd like to have a word, if so.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-19 21:01:05](#)**

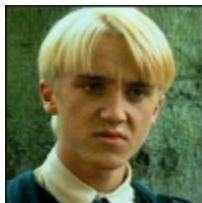
(no subject)

No, I only wish!

You're not the only one who's feeling stung, Draco, but I have to say that you could have come off a lot worse.

You were, after all, listed as Most Glamorous, Best All Around Male Specimen, and Quickest Wit.

Well, and "Epic Posh-Arse" doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing, in my opinion. And "Most Likely to Meet a Nasty End" just means that yours and Harry's lifestyles are very thrilling, I'm sure.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-19 21:02:16](#)**

(no subject)


You forgot one.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:03:12](#)
(no subject)

Don't be silly, Draco, I'm sure that just means that you'll be marrying a *woman*.




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-19 21:22:46](#)
(no subject)

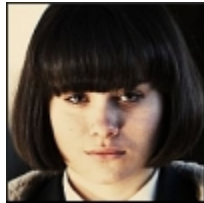
That category.


Whoever wrote this thing had better hope no one ever finds out. Honestly, how incredibly stupid to put you and Marvolo both there. I'm not sure it's treason exactly, but it's definitely not clever.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-19 22:00:38](#)
(no subject)


Not to mention that it's utterly untrue rubbish.



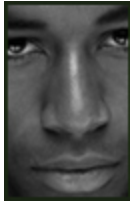
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-19 22:32:35](#)
(no subject)

Indeed.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-20 02:28:39](#)
(no subject)

Glad to hear you agree.




 **alt_blaise** at [2011-12-19 21:09:22](#)
(no subject)

Don't take it too hard. Clearly whoever wrote it envies you rather desperately. (Irritation is a side effect of envy. Sour grapes, you know.)

Still, some of the categories were inappropriately personal.

(Though I must say I don't mind being recognised in the bad boy category. With Bole, no less. I think perhaps that's another oblique compliment to you!)



 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-19 21:14:05](#)
(no subject)


Good point about irritation!

I might be more amused by it if today weren't already in sixes and sevens, what with exams, Cassie, and everything else going on.

Given the nature of some of the observations, I would surmise that it was definitely written by females.

Do you suppose a "trouser librarian" is what it sounds like it is?



 **alt_hydra** at [2011-12-19 21:18:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, I figured it out, seeing as it's a list of all-boys. So yes, I think it's what it sounds like it is.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:20:42](#)
(no subject)

You?

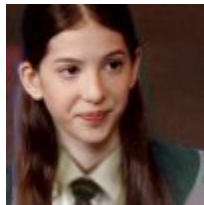
You must be pleased, Hydra, that whoever wrote the quiz sees you and Harry as a destined couple.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 21:23:26](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but they also wrote that Antigone Fletcher and Anthony Rickett were a destined couple, and everyone knows they hate one another. And I don't think Sally Anne talks to Miles Bletchley very often. It's all just meant to confuse people anyway.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:29:28](#)
Private message to Hydra

I don't.

Because he's a DISGUSTING FIG.

I don't know if he'd ever mess with you, but if he ever touches you 'by accident,' it wasn't an accident. So don't feel bad about using that same hex on him I heard you did on the boys from Beauxbatons.

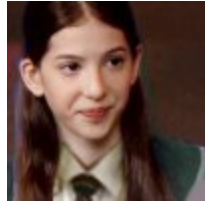


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 21:32:54](#)
Re: Private message to Hydra

Bletchley tried to touch you? I suppose you mean you didn't want him to.

Do you want me to teach you that hex?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 22:39:32](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

Do you remember when my rat bit Bletchley last year? That was because he'd grabbed my breast. Again.

And yes, I'd love to learn that hex.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 22:45:05](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

I can teach you, it's not very difficult because I learnt it back when I was just a firstie.

It's not a very nice hex, but I don't think it counts as dark arts that can kill someone.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 22:47:39](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

Well those boys from Beauxbatons survived, I heard. I don't think they even had to go to the hospital wing.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-19 22:51:03](#)

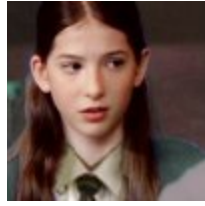
Re: Private message to Hydra

It was only Coty who got hexed, and Toubon who helped him walk off.

I think it works the same way as kicking them in the bollocks would.

I'm worried, though, that they'll keep after Justin more than ever now.

From,
Hydra



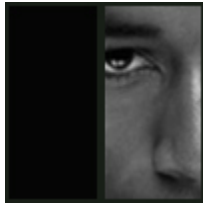
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 22:55:04](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

They might.

I don't know if there's much you can do about that, unfortunately. Unless you have friends in

Ravenclaw you could have keep an eye out.



 [alt_blaize](#) at [2011-12-19 21:20:33](#)

(no subject)

I've never heard the term, but it's a perfect description of the way Begy and Derwent go about holding their books up as if that didn't just call massive attention to what they're hiding.

I assumed that girls didn't really notice it, but it's dead obvious to a wizard when someone's trying to hide his wand like that.

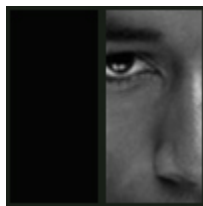



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:24:59](#)

(no subject)

It's certainly going to be obvious to me from here on out!

And when I said that girls must've written it, I was referring more specifically to the two categories dedicated to male anatomy.




 [alt_blaize](#) at [2011-12-19 21:52:35](#)

(no subject)

Well, there was rather specific and unflattering comment on girls' anatomy in the quiz, too. But you're probably right. If boys had written it, there'd be a Best Endowed category for witches, not just the Bra Stuffers one.

A coincidence that the two witches Weasley asked to the ball ended up there? I think not. 'Forever Virgins' is the most accurate part of the whole list, don't you agree?!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 21:55:29](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Shut up, you.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:57:17](#)

(no subject)

Precisely - nothing in there at all about who best fills out the robes of Nefertiti!

Time will tell, though I think in Smith's case, at least, it's a definite yes if he keeps up as is.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-20 04:00:14](#)


Private message to Blaise

So, by what criteria do you think "seriously slutty" is gauged?

You know, I have half a mind to conclude Astoria is behind this .

I'll have to hex her, just in case she is



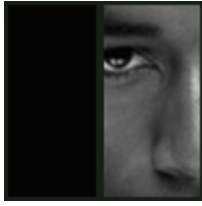
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-20 04:14:25](#)


Re: Private message to Blaise

I didn't take it seriously at all. I mean to say, you were listed just beneath Remy Jugson! And they put in and crossed out Pansy, which is just daft. I mean, really? Who do they want us to think she's done it with when they're also taking the piss about Draco being least likely to marry a girl? No one thinks that's what she gets up to with Weasley!

So, no. I don't think that list made any particular sense at all.

You should probably still hex Astoria. Just on principle.

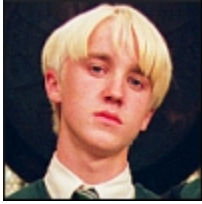


 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-19 21:57:23](#)**

Private Message to Daphne Greengrass and Draco Malfoy

Wonderful.

Now the Head Bint is telling everyone to turn over the quiz and not read it. Such effective leadership!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-19 22:01:19](#)**

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass and Draco Malfoy

Too right and then some.

She really know show to put out a fire by casting *Incendio*, doesn't she?

2011-12-19 14:25:00

Private message to Remy

I thought we agreed that we'd toss that quiz in the rubbish!

At first I thought you might've left it laying about by accident, but there are copies everywhere, and when I saw Lizzie Stevens she looked like she was either going to vomit or cry, so it mustn't have been her and Samantha...

I suppose you just couldn't resist, then

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#)

2011-12-19 14:52:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


I don't know who did this 'mid-year-quiz' but the reassuring thing is that nearly EVERYONE is cross with them.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

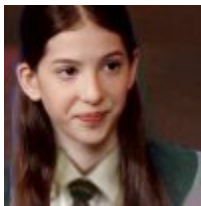
'Destined couples' had me with Miles Bletchley. UGH.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 21:00:12](#)
(no subject)

I haven't seen it, but it sounds awful.

Am I on it?

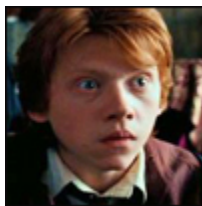



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 21:17:20](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

Let's see.

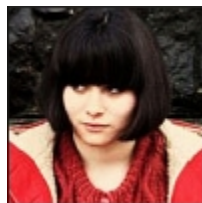
You're in the category of 'Forever Virgins.'




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 21:41:27](#)
(no subject)

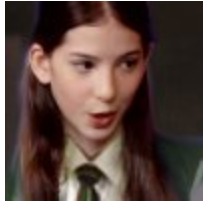
Wot?!

What's that supposed to mean?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-19 22:31:02](#)
(no subject)


They're just being idiots. I wouldn't worry too much about it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-19 22:50:19](#)
(no subject)

Please tell me you don't need us to tell you what a 'virgin' is.



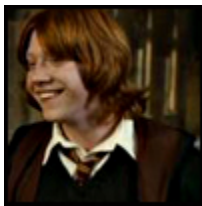
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 22:59:03](#)
(no subject)


Nice.

No. I do not need you to tell me.

Sheesh.

Only who thinks I'd never get married? That's just daft.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 22:09:43](#)
(no subject)

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!!!

We finally got some copies up here in the Tower.

Patil must be out for blood! (Can't wait to see Parvati and Laviloo. I bet they're fuming, too.)

Hilarious!

Who do you think wrote it?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-19 22:29:02](#)
(no subject)

I'd say that there's a fair bet it wasn't Padma Patil this time around. She got run right through the mud this time around, and Sally-Anne and me got off rather unscathed.

Did you see they put me down for "Seriously Slutty" and then crossed me out?

That, and pairing Sally-Anne with Letchley like they did makes me think at least one of the writers was Slytherin. Because how else would they pair them together? But it wasn't anyone from our year, because Daphne would've let us in on it (and it is a bit too catty even for her), and Milli would never think of it to begin with.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-19 23:03:50](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, some of it doesn't make any sense. I think they were just putting people in to fill up some of the categories. I mean to say, Zabini for 'Long Johnson'? Please.

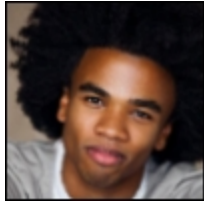
Or Hydra Lestrage for most likely to kill you with Dark Arts. I mean, Hydra's really all right. Not like that at all, really.


And some of them are really cruel. Even worse than pairing Sally Anne and Bletchley. Though if he gets rude about that, let me know.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-20 03:33:22](#)
(no subject)


Jack Sloper is really hacked off about it. About being in that category that's, uh, the opposite of being a 'Long Johnson.'



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-20 03:35:03](#)
(no subject)


Whoever wrote that quiz put Fred and George in the category 'Least Funny Ever.' Which raises serious doubts about their brain capacity.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-20 03:35:41](#)
(no subject)


Ha. True.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-20 03:36:14](#)
(no subject)

So don't you mind what they said about you either, Nev.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-20 03:36:59](#)
(no subject)

Don't worry, I don't.


I've heard lots worse, anyway.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-20 03:36:37](#)
(no subject)

Why, thank you, Lee.

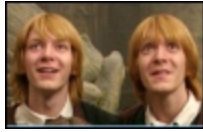


 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-20 04:01:11](#)
(no subject)

Really? Someone called Fred and George the 'Least Funny Ever?'

Wow.

Yeah, it sure sounds like the whole thing's rubbish.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-20 04:17:10](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, what he said about Bletchley, Sally-Anne.
We'd be happy to hex him for you if he steps out of
line.

And we'll exert ourselves to make it particularly funny. To you,
not to him.

[2011-12-19 15:37:00](#)

Private Message to Lavender and Parvati

I thought we agreed **no more quizzes!**


And what in Merlin's name do you mean putting Davies and Page on that list of two-timers? And 'Anyone who dates Patil?' as if the two of them weren't enough? Even if you meant it as a misdirect, Pav, *NOT FUNNY*.



 [alt_padma](#)

Honestly. What do you two think you're doing, putting that out in the middle of exams? And when we *agreed* we'd learned not to do it again?




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-12-20 03:48:11](#)
(no subject)

It wasn't us this time, honestly!

Neither of us would take the mick about you and Davies, even as a misdirect--*especially* not after this weekend.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-20 03:57:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't know if it matters, honestly. Too many people know we had a hand in last year's and this one's *so much worse* and

Ugh. I don't even think I *want* to go to the stupid Yule Ball at this point.




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-12-20 04:00:26](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Padma, I'm sorry you're down.

But you can't not go to the Ball! That would be letting them win.

What we need is a Plan!




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-20 04:15:44](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I know I can't let him think he's broken off with me and I'm up in Ravenclaw Tower crying over it! That's why I asked Seamus right off, since I knew he didn't have a date.

What I wish is that I'd found out who was writing it before, when you and Pav said it wasn't you then.

I'm sorry for snapping.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-20 04:26:05](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, good...for a moment there I was afraid you'd changed your mind!

Don't feel badly, everyone snaps a bit when they're stressed.

Although I did think you thought a *little* better of us--that quiz has 'trying too hard' written all over it!

2011-12-19 16:22:00

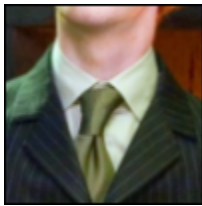
Attention Students

Please immediately turn in any and all copies of this 'School-Wide Quiz' to your nearest Prefect.

If you have any information about who created or distributed this mean-spirited and frankly disgusting document, please seek any of us out to pass your comments along in total privacy.



There is NO NEED to discuss this incident in the journals!



alt_percy at 2011-12-20 03:27:47

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh, dear.

Is it as bad as last year's?



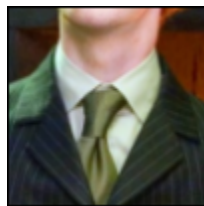
alt_penelope at 2011-12-20 04:03:00

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Worse.

The categories this time include 'Pigs and Heifers,' Sluts, Prudes, Pretty-but-Dull, Creepily Sexy, Utterly Thick, Future Home-Wreckers (and it doesn't help that Calderwood's in that list!), House Embarrassments, and then several categories that focus on physical attributes, which you can probably guess. And that's not all. I mean, it's downright vicious.

And now I've got to go *politely* ask that Finch-Fletchley to stop discussing it in his journal. This is just never going to end.



alt_percy at 2011-12-20 04:35:01

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I wonder...are all the quiz copies exactly the same? I mean, with identical wording? Did they use a *duplio* spell to create the copies?

I mean, if you could link them by a Protean spell, say within a certain specified area, and then do something to destroy the copy you have, like with an *incendio* spell, wouldn't that destroy all other copies with the exact same wording?



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-20 04:54:37](#)

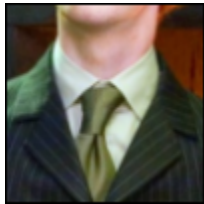
Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Well, I think we've got most of them, anyway. The good thing about this one is that it's simply so *nasty* that almost no one wanted to keep it.

I'm sure we have a few still floating out there, though. So the spell's tempting. But what if someone's got a copy folded up inside a book? Or under their bed? *Incendio* could be more dangerous than leaving it alone at this point.

Although...an ink stain across the whole page would do it and it wouldn't damage anything much else. Good thought, Perce.

Thank you. At least one person is taking this seriously.

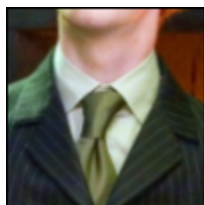


 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-20 04:56:21](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Good thought about the fire hazard.

Perhaps if you put your copy into water, the ink would simply dissolve on the copies.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-20 04:58:50](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

And certainly, anytime I can come up with an idea that might help, I'd be glad to offer it, as long as you feel free to tell me you're handling things yourself, and there's no need for me to shove my wand in. Anyway, do let me know if it works.

2011-12-19 20:57:00

(no subject)

Hullo, Friends,

Are you all right, then?

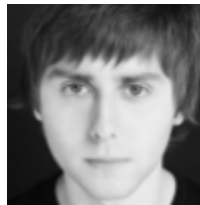
We saw a copy of that quiz, very briefly, before your Head Girl collected them all out of Ravenclaw Tower.

I say, what I did see was not on, not on at all. Even the so-called 'good' categories were bally insulting, in their way. I can jolly well see why it's unsettling, on top of everything else this week.

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-20 02:17:36**

Private Message to Hydra

Are you all right? At dinner you looked well cross.

I thought you wanted people to think you were skilled in Dark Arts? I mean to say, that quiz wasn't kind, really, to anyone. But you came out rather all right. But you looked like you were jolly perturbed, what?

-Justin



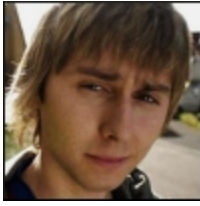
 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-20 02:27:20**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Being skilled isn't the same as "most likely to kill someone with Dark Arts."

And even though I'd heard someone was writing a quiz, I suppose I didn't really think they'd go ahead and release it, after last year's proved so unpopular.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 03:03:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Well, I think people who'd write a quiz like that wouldn't probably care if it were unpopular; how could it be anything but, what?

Is that all that's bothering you, then? Nothing went wrong in today's exam, or anything?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-20 03:15:40](#)

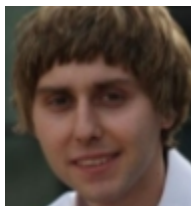
Re: Private Message to Hydra


Just so you know, I wouldn't go around killing people with Dark Arts. No matter what you've heard about things that have happened here. I wish Remy would have

Exams were fine, more or less.

I was just thinking about what you asked earlier, about Cruciatus, and hoping that you ~~don't just like me because you feel sorry~~ don't make too much of it, because it's really not looked at the same here.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 03:42:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

No, I shouldn't expect you ever *would* do. I only thought that you'd be pleased to get a reputation for being well dangerous--especially after what you've said about...about the expectations certain people have of you. And the bit about marrying Marvolo, I did glimpse that, too. So if that should get back home, at least maybe it'll go a bit easier for you that you and I are going out together.

As for the Cruciatus. I think.... I know it's different here but I

think that if people start thinking of powerful magic like that as commonplace, well, it rather makes their impact a less powerful, in a way, if you follow me.

But it's nothing to do with your having received it; that's not your fault at all, I'm sure.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-20 03:49:57](#)

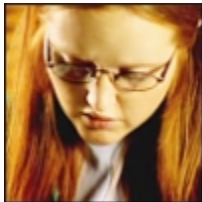
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I suppose I don't rightly know what I want my reputation to be. Or rather, I'd like it to be one way for her, and another for most everyone else.

But I'm beginning to see that might not be really be possible.

The impact of it probably already has changed, because it isn't enough to Cruciate Cassandra, it has to be done in front of the whole school, too. And Head Boy and Head Girl have been able to do it for a while now. I suppose it will be Prefects, next.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-20 02:24:08](#)

(no subject)

It doesn't matter if it was collected, because everyone remembers!!

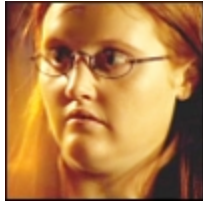
At least you don't have to worry about what category your name shows up under, then!!



 [alt_megan](#) at [2011-12-20 03:37:02](#)

(no subject)


Don't be glum, Eloise. Jealous people will do most anything to make themselves feel important again!



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-20 03:41:09](#)
(no subject)

Maybe jealous of you, miss "most pretty potential"!!




 [alt_megan](#) at [2011-12-20 03:41:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

But


Well, you needn't bite my head off.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-20 03:58:46](#)
(no subject)

It's really quite odd to even have a category like 'Fashionably Challenged,' when everyone is wearing the same uniform anyway.




 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-20 04:06:59](#)
(no subject)

Fair dos, Lovegood!!

And you know, the fact that someone fills out their uniform better than the next girl doesn't always come down to bra stuffing or enhancement charms. I take after Great Auntie Rhoda, they say she was built like a ship!!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 04:32:45](#)
(no subject)

Miss Midgen,

I hope you don't find me forward if I say that I'm heartily sorry your feelings were hurt by that quiz. I gather that was more or less the outcome that its authors had in mind, what? But I say, there's really nothing worse than showing them that it's affected you. And if I may say so, as well, you may


find they have less to criticise if you don't help them along.

In any case, I hope that you put this unfortunate incident behind you and concentrate on finishing your exams and enjoying the Ball, as those really will be occasions to celebrate.

Yours sincerely,

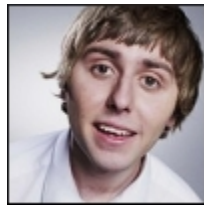
-Justin Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-20 04:40:52](#)
(no subject)

It's hard to not be unaffected when it actually affects you!!

But you're a nice, modern gentleman, Monsieur Finch-Fletchley. We could do with more of you here at Hogwarts!




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 05:02:24](#)
(no subject)

I do try, M'mselle.

-Justin




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-20 03:28:27](#)
Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

You sure you want to wade into this one, mate?

Have you got to know enough people yet to see who comes off best in that thing, then? And which House they were kissing up to while taking the piss with pretty much everyone else?

I mean, sure, Greengrass was a bit put out she was called irritating, but trust me Zabini's chuffed about where they listed him.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 03:53:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, I expect it'll come out with Slytherins mostly atop the list, a few noses bent out of joint, like Miss Midgen's and the ones who generally get the best of the others doing just that.

I just thought I might be able to show that some of us don't care for it, even the not-so-nasty parts.

You all right, then? Not taking it too much to heart?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-20 04:32:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Exactly.

That's your look out, obvs. Is Clearwater telling you to shut it? Ignore her. Everyone else does.

Yeah, well. Let's just say it'll be best if we don't all find out who wrote it. But honestly I'm more cheesed off about what they said about my sister. Well, I'll give them that she's an irritating show off, but it was totally not on to put her (or Nev) in that first category. I mean, taking the piss about what size people might get to be when they're old and then calling it 'future pigs and heifers,' wot?

That really was the meanest category in the whole thing. I mean, putting Vicky Frobisher there, too, is just, well- it could really cause problems with her. (Er. D'you know which one she is? She's in Gryffindor with us, and she's the one that looks like she never eats. Because, well, she never does.)



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 04:47:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Yes, I've told her she's got rather the wrong end of the wand, what? I'm not asking about the quiz, at all, do you see. Not at all.


And, no, I didn't know that she's the one who looks so dreadfully thin but somehow that's not terribly surprising, with everything else they wrote.

Hydra's well upset about it, though. I think she thinks people still blame her for what happened in her first year. She hasn't said, mind, but Sally-Anne told me a little about it and I'm sure no one ever bothered to tell her it wasn't her fault at all.

So I really wanted to make sure she's all right but--well, I didn't think we ought to be sending too many PMs back and forth. Her father let me take her to the Ball but I don't know as he'd be too happy with anything more than that!

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at 2011-12-20 04:55:22

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Well, I don't know what you consider too many PMs, but people are noticing that you and Hydra seem to be hitting it off and talking privately rather a lot. So if you think her father (or really, mate, it's her mother you ought to be worried about--for reals!) wouldn't like it, then I think you'd better stop that.

You like her, though?

We've played chess a few times, and I think she's an all right sort. Bit of a surprise, given who she is, but it's not as if she can help that. And I like that she wants to be her own person and have people know that's she's not just what they assume she'll be. I mean, I know about people assuming you're like everyone else in your family, and it can be plenty annoying.



 [alt_justin](#) at 2011-12-20 05:14:54

Re: Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Her mother doesn't offer any surprises, though, mate, and I'm not sure I've seen the worst of her dad yet, what?

And no, she can't help her family. I'm not saying it's not a

problem. But--well, I'm for France again at the end of term, anyway, so I suppose there's little harm in enjoying each other's company for what's left of the year.

As for fancying her. Yes. Bally more than I planned to do, what? I know I shouldn't, either, but I can't help it. Promise you won't take the piss?

-Justin

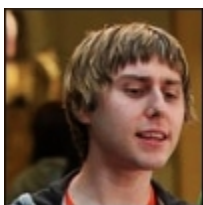


 **[alt_penelope](#) at 2011-12-20 04:07:45**

Private Message to Mr Finch-Fletcherley

Excuse me, but I did say that there was no need to discuss that unwelcome quiz in the journals.

I'm sure you don't mean to do it, but you're upsetting everyone all over again.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2011-12-20 04:25:23**

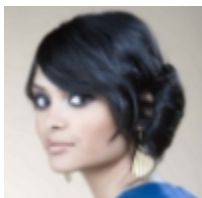
Re: Private Message to Mr Finch-Fletcherley

But I'm not asking them to discuss the quiz at all, Miss Clearwater. I'm asking if they're recovering from being singled out and if there's anything I can offer in the way of help.

I do apologise that Miss Midgen seems unduly distraught, though. I say, it's dashed unfortunate no one seems to be able to comfort her. But perhaps her escort should say a few words of encouragement.

In any case, most people seem to be laughing it off at this point, which really is perhaps the best remedy, what?

-Justin Finch-Fletcherley



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-20 04:13:03**


(no subject)

Well, I don't know who wrote it but I agree, Finch-Fletcherley; it's monstrous.

But the good thing about Hogwarts is that there's

nearly always something new to catch people's attention soon enough.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 05:16:27](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, yes, although one could call the timing either good or ill, I suppose, depending on one's point of view.

-Justin




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-20 04:28:22](#)
Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Well, I'm quite all right, although I know a few people who were quite hurt by the whole thing.

Do they do this sort of thing at Beauxbatons?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-20 04:38:06](#)
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley


Hullo, Luna,

Every school has its way of making the misfits feel uncomfortable, what? But you know that the best way to respond is not to respond at all, really.

Did you have a good day in Hogsmeade, with JP? I say, he's looking forward to Thursday. (So am I, in point of fact!)

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-20 04:45:44](#)
Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Oh, yes, it was quite a lovely afternoon, really. There was a lot of hand waving as we tried to explain things to each other. His English is certainly much better than my French. But a bag of Honeydukes chocolates, of course, needs no translation at all.

2011-12-20 07:21:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley

I'm fine, really. I promise.

I was very glad you were able to come on Sunday, though. Don't know if I could have faced it if you hadn't, what with Orion holding court with his harem and Ned being so attentive while he was able to stay.



 [alt_lana](#)

Ministry party tonight. Then the Yule Ball at Hogwarts, but at least I'm working that. Only there'll be Patil and all the rest wanting me to affirm how grown up they're looking and how well they carry their authority now they're the leaders in Ravenclaw. And I'll have to spend several minutes too many making nice with that Clearwater chit. I can't think what moved the Headmistress to make her Head Girl. I do look forward to seeing what Avery's become.

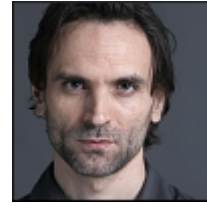
Anywiz. Can we do lunch this week sometime? I've told Papa I want to talk to him, but we haven't set a time, and I still don't know what I'm really able to say to him. At least I'm not crying every other minute anymore; that was truly hideous. But I need you to help me think it through. Maybe Vani was right and I should do something that would cause a really public row with Ned. That's just so extreme, though. And who knows how many ways it might go pear-shaped!

Ugh.

2011-12-20 09:39:00

Entry

- Of late I've had a number of owls, and so I am compelled to remind those reading that I am currently unavailable for private appraisals and customisations. My regrets, but work for MLE and other priority projects must come first. Look for me to write here when I have a lull.



 **alt_rodolphus**

- Malfoys: have heard much buzz about the theme of upcoming Christmas bash. Looking forward to, as always. Do let us know if you need help with preparations.

- Ministry party tonight. I and the Missus shall be in attendance, though being near mid-week, it is likely she will be called away before evening draws to a close.



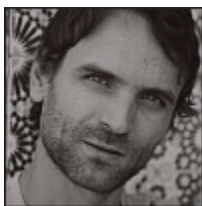
 **alt_rodolphus** at **2011-12-20 16:45:43**

Private message to Bellatrix

Did you enjoy your birthday gifts and wishes this weekend?

if you did.

I imagine your family members might like to know it,



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2011-12-20 16:47:01**

Private message to Raz

True, then, that you're bringing the Astronomer to Malfoy Manor?

banquet?

How then, brother, will you properly partake of the



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 16:54:08](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

True as your Mum's face.

And I'll have to partake of it same way as you lot - look but don't touch. Or taste.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 16:57:06](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Leave Mother's face out of it for once.

A man could starve that way, you know. Might take a few years, but the gnawing eventually overwhelms.

Anyway, I know I'm not the only one looking to see how long this version of Raz lasts.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 16:59:13](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Starving, are you? I'd ask, but unlike some I'm quite content to mind my own business.

What's that about, "this version?" Not my fault you've been married since 20 and doing the same thing since.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 17:07:20](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Twenty-two, not twenty.

And you make my point for me: you see tedium where others might see stability. Thus my supposition that you tend to move from one thing to the next on fleeting whim: Falcons, MLE, stall in Borough market, playboy extraordinaire, professor, &ct



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 17:15:21](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I didn't "move on" from the Falcons and you know it, pillock.

Could be that stability without tedium is possible, who knows? But then I'm not the one overwhelmed by "gnawing."



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 17:19:30](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

You assume that my description of the starving man was me, and not you?

Mm, interesting.

I see that I've raised your hackles, so consider this a retreat. But I look forward to getting to know your Astronomer better, brother.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 17:23:27](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Provoke and run, is it? One thing's for certain- If I'm prone to change, then you can be counted on to be the same old knob, always.

Speaking of knobs, you might want to know that Hydra used that bollock-blast hex, or whatever it's called, on one of the French lads down in Hogsmeade.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 17:24:59](#)


Re: Private message to Raz

She did what?

Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Is she alright? What were the circumstances?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 17:30:49](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Take a draught, Roddy. Wasn't anything too serious, or I'd have let you know straight off.

She and her friend were cornered by two lads, Coty and Toubon, and were made to endure some name-calling, parcel-tossing, that sort of thing. From what I gather she simply got fed up.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 17:34:02](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

A bit more fight in her than usual. I'm glad to hear it. Very.

And also glad it wasn't that Finch-Fletchley boy who was doing the cornering, seeing as my initial read was milquetoast.

Hydra and Pansy Anne are recovered, then?

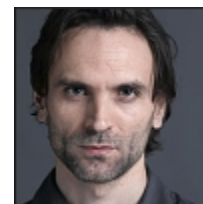


 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 17:36:31](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Pansy A- ah, yes, both are doing brilliantly.

And no, the Finch-Fletchley boy is utterly proper and polite. No worries there.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 18:07:20](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Just spoken with her, and she confirms that she is well in hand.

Perhaps you ought to teach her that curse that shuts someone's mouth for a week, just for good measure.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 18:08:55](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Can I demonstrate on you?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 18:10:29](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I'll let you have that one. Spirit of the season, &ct.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 16:50:17](#)


Private message to Lana Sandoval

Miss Sandoval,

I want to see Might I have a bit of your time, after tonight's party? If you are unavailable, then I would like to request a meeting with you in the nearest possible future.

I have almost completed a new artefact, and I think you are perfectly suited for its testing.



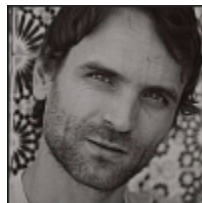
 [alt_lana](#) at [2011-12-20 21:30:34](#)

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Of course.

I expect I'll make a polite appearance and then leave. I could meet you at any time you prefer. (My other obligation has other obligations, if you see what I mean.)

The usual place?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 21:48:06](#)

Re: Private message to Lana Sandoval

Absolutely I see what you mean.

The usual place would be best. I don't expect that I will linger at the party beyond ten o'clock, at latest.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-20 17:41:05](#)**

Private message to Hydra

Duckie, Raz has told me that you hexed one of the French boys when you were down in the village. Something about them harassing and teasing you and your friend, Pansy Anne?

Coty and Toubon are their names, correct?

Are you alright?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-20 17:45:09](#)**

Re: Private message to Hydra

My friend Pansy Anne?

Oh, well, yes, they were teasing us a bit, and it got annoying after a while, so I hexed the one named Coty. I didn't know it would hurt him there, though.

I'm fine, yes, and now some of the others girls want to learn that hex, too, in case they're ever bothered by boys.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-20 17:50:37](#)**

Re: Private message to Hydra

Good. Good, then.

Froissart should be at the Malfoy party. Might have a word with him about this Coty and Toubon.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2011-12-20 17:55:03**

Re: Private message to Hydra

But I wish you wouldn't, Daddy. Sometimes these things get worse if other people get involved, especially adults.

How was Mummy's birthday?

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2011-12-20 18:13:09**

Re: Private message to Hydra

Getting rather wise about adults, it seems. It will take me some time to get used to that, Ducks.

She hasn't yet said.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2011-12-20 17:59:03**

(no subject)

Kind of you to ask. Preparations are well in hand but a second opinion would not go amiss. It will be something of a departure from years past - though in the end, a welcome one, I trust. I was growing so

bored with our usual fare.

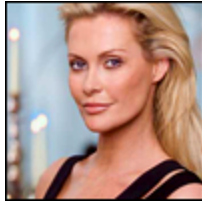
Still, one likes to be assured the effect will not be a gross miscalculation.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2011-12-20 18:06:03**

(no subject)

You've piqued my interest. Any hints? Or should I come and see for myself?



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-20 18:27:15](#)**
(no subject)

If you're free Thursday, do come and see. We're converting the public areas as a test run, to see if anything needs an adjustment before the party.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-20 18:46:48](#)**
(no subject)

I'll be there.




 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-20 19:44:48](#)**
Private message to Raz

Any news from St. Mungo's?

Apologies for not asking sooner.




 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-20 19:50:24](#)**
Re: Private message to Raz

A bit.

No consistent pattern of either improvement or degradation, so whatever curse damage is left is probably stabilised due to the stasis treatment.

Possible triggers include bright lights, lack of sleep, stress, and weather fluctuation. I'm to do what I can to avoid all four, though how does one actually go about avoiding weather fluctuation, I'd like to know.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2011-12-20 19:57:04](#)**
Re: Private message to Raz

That news... could be better. Or worse.

And on the last, I'll see if I can think of something.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 20:15:46](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Even if you do, what then? A blizzard's coming and I stay in my rooms? Not happening. Only option is to endure 'til point of collapse.

Anyway, least they were familiar enough with my history to know not to offer up an unlimited supply of high-grade pain potions. Small favours.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 20:56:21](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

It's been long enough that you could manage a limited supply, though perhaps best under supervision of the school Matron.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-20 20:57:35](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Yeah, rather not drag her into this just yet if I can help it.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2011-12-20 20:58:57](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Your choice.

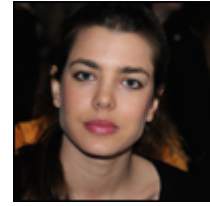
But I think she'll be dragged into it regardless, if you 'endure 'til collapse.'

2011-12-20 15:52:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Ned.

Do stop worrying. I understand that you have to meet Mr Crouch when he's able to meet with you. That goes without saying.



 [alt_lana](#)

I intend to go to the Ministry party for whatever feels like a decent interval and then go on from there. I'm not certain how long that will be. Reethi mentioned possibly having a drink. Or I might go along to Sarah's.

But you shouldn't fuss in any case.

2011-12-20 17:00:00

*Private Message to Madam June
Calderwood*



Dearest June,

First, please allow me to convey my heartfelt sympathies regarding the incident at Hogwarts over the weekend. As one mother to another, I know you must be in agony over young Cassandra's behaviour and its consequences. It is no easy thing for a mother to stand idly by whilst her child is made to endure such a punishment. But I'm sure you and she will brave the ordeal and I trust she has gained a powerful, if painful, lesson.

 [alt_narcissa](#)

Now, I'll not waste either of our time by dancing 'round the topic: I was reviewing the guest list with my assistant and saw that you and Archemachus had replied before the events of the last few days. Under the circumstances, June, I think you'll agree that it might be more comfortable for all of us were you and Archie to forego the party on Friday. Letitia and Troy as well, if you don't mind. After all, not only will Rizzer be there but Professor Sinistra is to be his particular guest, which is a development we are all happy to encourage. And ordinarily I would say come and be welcome and simply try not to mix but with my theme this year I'm afraid that might be rather more difficult than expected. Besides, you've often mentioned Archie's back troubles and I'm afraid he will find the seating this year entirely inadequate. I do so hate to see anyone in discomfort at one of my parties.

Please don't think this indicates any sort of cooling between the Malfoys and the Calderwoods; you know I hold you and your mother before you in high regard. I do so look forward to the WI programme in January and your input as to 'Witch of the Year' is simply invaluable. I hope you can find time to lunch with me and Mother after the New Year, as well. She'll want to hear all about your new cottage in the Cotswolds. Sheep, you're raising there? How very practical.

Well, you'll have to tell us how you're managing the muggles on the farm when next we meet. Which will be soon, I do hope.

Please accept our apologies and I'm sure next time we've a gathering, there will be no question of awkwardness.

Yours Affectionately,

Narcissa C.B. Malfoy

2011-12-20 19:02:00

Private message to Nymphadora Tonks-Ponds



 [alt_hydra](#)

Dear cousin Dora,

I've just come down from studying in the library and I'm trying to finish my Christmas gifts so that I can send out parcels tomorrow or Thursday.

I wanted to say that I'm sorry, but, I wasn't keeping close watch and I ran out of pocket money before I could buy gifts for just everyone. I really wanted to get something for you and your husband and especially Bea, but besides not having much money I didn't know what would be the right sort of gift to send.

But I think I found something, so I hope you don't mind second-hand. Or that Bea doesn't mind, rather. And I know gifts are meant to be a surprise but in this case I thought I should explain.

I wanted Bea to have my rabbit sing-ami that Auntie Narcissa and Uncle Lucius gave me last year. I still like it but, I don't know, I feel like I don't need toys anymore, and that was the year Auntie Narcissa gave me Lady Primrose, besides, so I don't think she'll mind if I give away my sing-ami.

And then the other two things are Tex, the origami rabbit my friend Sally Anne made for me in first year, and then Tina, my old rabbit robe pet. Tex disappeared and I forgot all about him, but then when I was looking for my spare quill in the desk last night I found him, smashed up in the corner of the drawer. I've straightened him out and he looks good as new. The spell on Tina stopped working a long time ago, and since both Tina and Tex are small, Bea might just want to chew on them. Maybe you could tie them to her mobile, if she has one? Or just save them for when she's older.

So you see why I had to explain, because what else would you make of a parcel filled with used toys and things?

I hope you have a Happy Christmas this year.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-21 04:40:54](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, cousin. That's a very sweet thought to give things that have meant something special to you.

Bea will be very pleased to have your sing-ami bunny, and one day she'll be old enough for the robe pet and the folded paper bunny. When she is, I'll be sure to tell her that they came from you, and she'll like them all the more that they came from her grown-up cousin Hydra.

Have you finished with exams, then? And is everything ready for the Ball? I hope you'll have a wonderful time.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-21 04:46:30](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad that you feel she'll like them, then.

Tomorrow is the last day of exams. I only hope I can concentrate, but at least I know I'm not the only one. And then Thursday we'll all have to watch Cassandra Calderwood be cruciated by Missus Professor Carrow, which won't be very pleasant, and after that we'll all be expected to go have fun and dancing at the ball.

Still, I can't help but be excited for it.

From,
Hydra

2011-12-21 12:30:00

Notice

We were thinking of having a bit of a lad's night tonight, just to celebrate the end of exams and get in some good male bonding before taking to the dance floor tomorrow. Seems most of the girls will be together making adjustments to their dress robes and experimenting with hair charms, so why not?



 [alt_draco](#)

Gamp and Vaisey are in, which means ~~refreshmen~~ butterbeer. I have the latest issue of *Quidditch Weekly Deluxe*, which has full-colour photographs from Sunday's Appleby v. Wimbourne match (what a cob-up that was - epic use of porskoff ploy for Wimbourne, though). Might bring along some other reading material, too. Cards a must.

Meet up at the usual place, 'round eight or so. Anyone interested can show - even you, Smith.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2011-12-21 19:50:12**

(no subject)

Cheers for that heartfelt invitation, Malfoy. Actually, Fleet and Bobolis were just saying something along the same lines, a lad's night in.

Combine and conquer, eh?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-21 19:58:47**

(no subject)

Sounds about right.

Never did ask someone to the ball, did you? Have plans to make an appearance anyway? Or going to get up to no good elsewhere?




 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-21 20:01:27](#)**
(no subject)

Well, there's a few of us who might drop in at some point. We were planning to get supper in our common room and then come round once it's not all formal and all.

Fleet heard there's to be a huge selection for pudding.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-21 20:09:55](#)**
(no subject)

I heard the same, that there's going to be a giant table groaning with it.

Also, when the orchestra heads off and the band starts playing everyone will be dancing and watching in a big group, I reckon. And the band itself is supposed to be something of a surprise - might not want to miss that.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-21 20:16:19](#)**
(no subject)

You should drop in, Smith.

I'll even save you a dance.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-21 20:18:10](#)**
(no subject)

Listen, Malfoy can say what he likes. We'll come round to see the Hall all decked out but dancing? No, thanks.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-21 20:32:25](#)**
(no subject)

If you say so.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-12-21 23:06:40**

Private message to Daphne Greengrass

Stop confusing Smith, Daphs. He's clearly committed himself to the corner where he'll be stood all night, gobbing up pastry and tarts with crumbs dripping down his front.

Besides, I'm not sure Bole would let you save a dance for anyone, given the way he was holding onto you like a prize broomstick down at Hogsmeade.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-21 23:08:04**

Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass

But it amuses me to spook him.

Oh, that. I'd not read much into that, were I you. He got quite cuddly, true, but I noticed it was mostly when Josephina was nearby.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-12-21 23:08:44**

Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass

And you're all right with that, are you?



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-21 23:13:48**

Re: Private message to Daphne Greengrass

Let's just say that I accept it. After all, I was the one who asked him to the Ball, not the other way 'round, so it seems unreasonable to demand that he fancy me when he and Jo only broke things off just after Hallowe'en.

It's also not a little bit flattering that he thinks I'm worthy of making another girl jealous, especially an older one.

And I have a laugh with him, really, and I like how absolutely massive he is. That's good enough for me.

2011-12-21 22:20:00

Order Only: Well, I'm here

I made contact with John and he brought me to the safehouse where our refugees were waiting. As soon as it got dark we headed out. Taking a bit of a breather just now.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Frank, you didn't say the Dickersons are leaving because they're pregnant.

As for the other four, there's an older woman, Annette Lapay, who has family in France and thinks she can get them all to a safe place to stay. There's a married couple - actually they were married before the muggles lost their supremacy and they were separated in the camps, then found each other in service again, if you can believe that. There's a boy with them, about 9 years old or so. Arthur, he must be one of your missing muggleborns. Says his name's Ben Wickett. Sticks fairly close to Mr and Mrs Cauldwell.

Anyway, we've been on the move now it's dark but I just wanted to let everyone know we're safe so far.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-22 04:32:17**

Private Message to Moony

Paul was very understanding. No worries.

Everything all right there?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-22 05:17:22**

Re: Private Message to Moony

Everything's fine. Hurry back.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-22 05:22:43**

Re: Private Message to Moony

Yes, straight home. After delivering the goods back to Sherwood.

It's dead amazing how fast one gets used to not sleeping alone.
And how hard it is to go back after that.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:23:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

I thought I'd just wait up for you. Probably foolish.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:27:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Well, maybe someone *else* could pass the supplies along. Frank can Apparate, after all. Wouldn't take him but two ticks.

Still, even with the ginger tea the last few days...sea's very choppy. Don't expect that if I were to Apparate home myself, I'd be in much shape for a proper reunion.

Times like this I really want to get the bike back from Hagrid.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:34:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

I'd be perfectly happy to have you sleeping like a log in bed next to me, and having a proper reunion another day. Don't make yourself ill on my account, though.

Is Hagrid using the bike? You could ask for it back. We could keep it in the drawing room, it would add immensely to the decor.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:43:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

All right, we'll finish up in another five minutes and head home. If I can convince Frank, I can come back as soon as we've hidden the *Hopeful*.

Course, it's getting light soon. And we've got a couple hours' before we hit the shoreline. So it might be a bit longer (and I'm not saying that so you'll fret, worrier, but so you shan't if it is).

Hagrid's keeping the bike in good kit, I dunno as he's using it all that often. Don't suppose we could get Snivelly to trade him Buckbeak for it, could we?

Ah, but I'm not supposed to make contact again, am I? Poppy would have my paws on a platter.

And don't be silly, the bike belongs in the formal dining room, of course! The rugs in the drawing room are authentic Persians!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:46:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

He can't possibly be using Buckbeak much given that he's hiding out at Hogwarts, pretending to be their current caretaker.

Come to think of it, where is Buckbeak? Certainly not here. Hagrid was always mad for animals, he'd probably consider it an excellent trade.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:48:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Maybe you'd better go 'round Minerva's house and make sure she hasn't had a hippogriff for a houseguest all this time?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:49:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Even better if she has: that'll be ONE MORE PERSON who'll owe us afterwards.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:51:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

What in Morgana's name has you in such a giddy mood?

Is Bea chewing on your nose again?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:53:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Giddy? Me?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:58:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Yes, you, you rotter. Seeing the bright side to every situation. That's

Wait a minute. You've not gone and been replaced by Death Eaters using Polyjuice?

What's your mother's middle name? Whose cauldron did you blow up in third-year Potions and whose toothbrush did you use when Slughorn made you scrub the desks with one as a detention?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 06:03:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Rose; yours; Severus Snape's.

And I'm giddy because you're coming back.
To me.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 06:08:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Yes I am. Soon as I can, love.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:47:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

The formal dining room is EVEN BETTER.

We could have Kreacher turn part of it into a little garage for you. Plenty of space in there.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:50:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Used to park it just next to the shed in the back garden and then put a disillusionment on it so my parents couldn't see it.

Kreacher'd probably break it down by every last bolt and washer.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 05:53:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

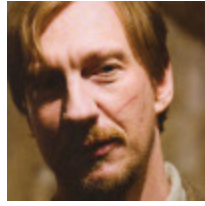
Not if you tell him he's not allowed to! He has to leave it alone, then. Of course that won't stop him complaining endlessly...



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 06:01:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

You think so now but just wait. He'll find a way to twist what you tell him or to 'misunderstand' you. You'll see.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-22 06:04:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

Well, you know him better than I do.

Was he as difficult with your mother, when she was alive? Surely his head would be hanging on the wall right now if he had been.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 06:07:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Moony

No, and Reg could always get him to do whatever he wanted, somehow. Nearly always. But he'd bend over backward to find a way not to obey me.

And I still think that might be the safest place for his head, if we really want to be sure.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-12-22 05:17:06](#)

(no subject)

I offered to bring the kid to moddey, but they've as good as adopted him and he seemed happy to be with them. and yeah, she didn't seem too far along. not so far that she couldn't make the trip.

we'll be waiting for you. we're fueled up and ready to go on our end.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-22 05:43:28](#)

(no subject)

Frank? Sirius? How's everything?

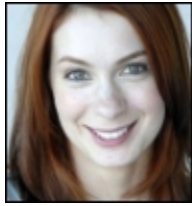
I hate this waiting.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-22 05:46:02](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, sorry!

We're all transferred and we're turning about to head back. May have to heel it, though; it's already starting to look pink out there and we're not exactly a local fishing boat, are we?




 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-22 05:48:32](#)
(no subject)

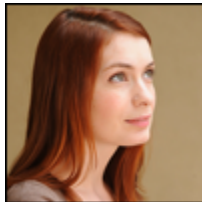
Oh, good.


I'm glad to hear it.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-12-22 05:50:34](#)
(no subject)

be back before you know it general.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2011-12-22 05:53:24](#)
(no subject)

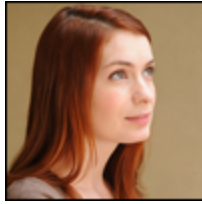
There's a nice hot breakfast waiting for you, and then right to bed.


Well done, love.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-12-22 06:01:53](#)
(no subject)

I'm going to take the sherwood their supplies up tomorrow. we'll be able to pass around wands to our big kids and still have enough left over to make davidson happy. wand supplies too, so Melly gets a nice christmas present.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-22 06:12:39](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, well, all that can be sorted out after you have had a proper rest.

And Merlin help us, giving all eight wands in one go. I'm still debating whether we ought to hold off for another few months with this lot. Richard is level-headed enough, as is Tim and Tricia, but Finbar? Lisa and Portia need a bit more time to catch up on their studies, and I'm completely unsure how Nicky and Zach will react. But if we give one to Richard, we can't not give one to Finbar. And then the rest will be wanting one too.

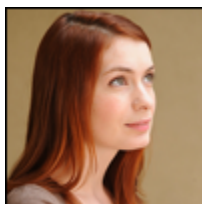
Do you think it'll be safe?




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-12-22 06:15:24](#)**
(no subject)

that's up to arabella to decide, after we've had a chance to say our piece.

I think we won't know for sure until we try. so waiting just puts off trying a little longer, is all.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-22 06:24:36](#)**
(no subject)


That's another thing I'm worried about. I want them to take their time. To learn how to be safe, and how to protect themselves, and I don't want them to think they're in any way ready to be on their own just because they've got wands in hand, because they're not. Nowhere near.

I mean Finbar, mostly. And Tim and Tricia too. They can put on a mature face, but they're both still so very young. I'm worried they'll overestimate their chances on their own, or with a group like Sherwood. I don't think Richard would leave any time soon, he gets on so well with everyone, especially Danny, and doesn't seem like the type to want to go off and fight. But I

worry. About them all, really.

As you no doubt can tell, seeing as how I'm blabbering on and on about it while we could just as easily talk in person once you get back safely.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2011-12-22 06:27:54](#)**
(no subject)

we'll talk it over properly with arabella at tea tomorrow.

we'll be back soon enough.

2011-12-21 23:07:00

*Private Message to Praetorius
Brundage and Delia Forney*

Stand to.

Wait for my signal. Do not move without it.

It may be nothing, but be ready.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

[2011-12-22 09:51:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good -- Cruciatius.



 **[alt_hermione](#)**

I just wanted to say, that I feel sorry for Cassandra, but I hate seeing people talk about it like it's something special. It isn't something special. It isn't special to her to be made to wait and know she's to be punished and it isn't special for her to be punished either.

I don't even mean that us Mudbloods get punished like that all the time; what I mean is even people like Hydra -- of course I bet Daphne Greengrass has never felt Cruciatius in her whole life but there are other purebloods in the world, and I think it's worse the higher up you get, except Harry because everyone's so protective of him.

But I just mean, this morning everyone was muttering at breakfast about how unfair it was, and maybe it is in comparison to how it could be, but it isn't unfair according to the way things are, because the way things are it's *normal* and I don't know why people won't *admit* that. It happens *all the time*, just not normally to Cassandra Calderwood or in front of the whole school!!



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-22 16:26:20](#)**

(no subject)

Exactly. What she said.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:25:08](#)**

(no subject)

It was bloody awful.

I don't know about the rest, but I reckon you're right.

What I wish is we'd figure out some way to get Professor Carrow sacked, because she was what was so-

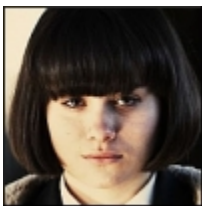
yeah-


did you see the way she grinned? and the way she kept twisting her

wand like she was screwing that curse right into Calderwood.

Anywiz. I was thinking, well, some of the stuff we've been studying in Runes about undermining enemies, we could maybe find something that would work on Professor Carrow so she'd go so barking they'd sack her or just make her so uncomfortable she'd want to leave. I mean, we're getting into some really more useful stuff in there and-only, I reckon we don't know enough yet, maybe, to make it really strong.

Or not get caught.

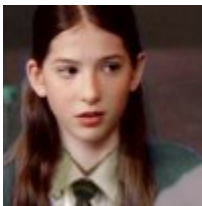


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:31:06](#)**
(no subject)

Anything that gets Carrow sacked is fine by me.

Seeing her every day after knowing what she did to my father turns my stomach.

If I got the chance to scramble her brains again so hard that they couldn't be unscrambled, I'd do it.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:34:27](#)**
(no subject)

Well.

I knitted her a pair of socks with a rune in them to make them itchier. But after what happened to Cassie I decided it would be too risky to give them to her.

So I made her a pair of yellow socks instead and just didn't put in any runes at all.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-22 18:48:20](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I'm not saying I want her to stick around there, cruciating people. But remember that she's the secret keeper for Lincoln Castle. I don't know how we'll ever be able to trick the secret out of her, but if she IS sacked, then I'm afraid my chances of ever getting out of here will probably drop to zero.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 20:00:32](#)
(no subject)

OH

I wonder

I'll have to think about this.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-22 21:08:47](#)
(no subject)

Hey, if you have any ideas, I'd love to hear 'em.

You're great at coming up with really sneaky ideas.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-22 21:09:46](#)
(no subject)

Yes, she is.

Best of all, of course, would be coming up with something brilliant that tricks the secret out of her AND gets her sacked at the same time.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 21:28:49](#)
(no subject)

I made Christmas gifts for all the teachers this year. I'd been planning to just have the elves deliver them, but I could deliver Miss Professor Carrow's in person and tell her I'm making a pair for Mr Professor Carrow and I'd like to owl them to him for Christmas Day.


She MIGHT tell me.

I'll need to re-do her socks, though. I think I mentioned I did them in yellow. If I'm going to try this I'll need to make her a really nice pair. AND I'd have to make a really nice pair for Amycus, or it would be awfully suspicious.

So then I'd know the secret. But telling anyone else wouldn't


help. Would that be of any use? It might be useful if she DIES. I can't remember how the spell works exactly.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:10:38](#)**
(no subject)

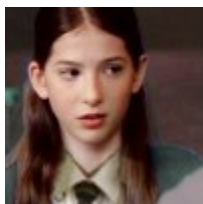
It's worth a try, I guess. Best of luck, and let us know what she says.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-22 18:52:04](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I know what you mean, about the look on her face. It was really sick.

Evelyn told me afterward that she almost fainted just from watching it, but she managed to hide it. I'm glad she didn't. I'm afraid that would have drawn some attention that would have been really bad.

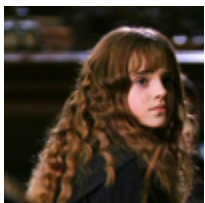


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:32:43](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

I was trying to guess at breakfast who'd been cruciated before, from the way they looked when they were talking about Cassie.

It was a LOT of people.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:44:33](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think people like to talk about it, because it's something that supposedly only happens to people like me.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 17:46:48](#)
(no subject)

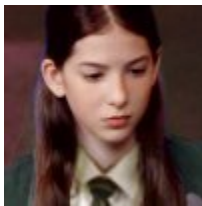
Some of the students in Cassie's year were saying that, actually. That it shouldn't be used on pureblood students because it's treating them like mudblømmuggleborns.

It's such a weird thing to say though because you're absolutely right, it's a complete lie.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-22 21:57:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, it doesn't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 17:45:04](#)
(no subject)

I think you're right about Daphne.

But I think me, Pansy, and Milli have all been cruciated at some point (Milli just had the LOOK when people were talking about it.) and over on the boy's side, Draco and Teddy have for sure. Greg, I think his father cruciated him as punishment for losing his diary. Vince had the look too, although I don't know when he'd have got it. Blaise, I couldn't decide, he had his Utterly Stone Faced look on -- maybe, maybe not.

Honestly it would probably be a more effective horrifying threat if they used it less. It's utterly awful when they do it to you but you also know after, it doesn't go on forever (unless they want to drive you mad, I suppose). I think I was more frightened of it before it happened to me. Not that it's not frightening, it makes me sick thinking about it. It made me sick watching Carrow do it to Cassie.

I think watching them do it to someone I cared about would be the worst.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-22 21:56:39](#)
(no subject)

I remember Sandoval doing it to you.

I would rather be back with Mrs Black for Christmas than see it happen to you again.

[2011-12-22 10:27:00](#)

This morning's demonstration

I'm sure we all thank Miss Professor Carrow for her adept demonstration of the Cruciatus Curse. Miss Calderwood has been escorted to Hogsmeade Station along with the younger students who are not staying for the Yule Ball and the rest of holidays.



Those students remaining, I'd like to remind anyone who might be in need that Madam Pomfrey is available in the hospital wing throughout the day today. Just in case.

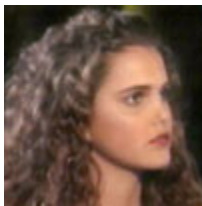
And as always, the Prefects and YPL Counsellors who are staying are also here to help answer any questions or concerns students may have.

Now, I hope everyone will be able to put this unfortunate incident behind us in order to present ourselves as gracious hosts for the Yule Ball this evening.

Champions, please be in the Entrance Hall with your escorts by five minutes to seven. Dinner begins promptly as soon as you are presented and seated.

CCF participants, remember that we have a final meeting this afternoon at 3:00 in the Great Hall.

Avery, we're meeting at 2:00, according to my book.



 **[alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-22 15:45:46](#)**

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Merlin, it was horrible.

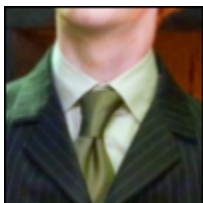
Cassie screamed non-stop. And Carrow kept it on her a long time. Afterward, she was shaking so hard that Warrington and Vaisey had to practically carry her out of the Great Hall.


And now we're supposed to pretend nothing happened, and go on to the Ball. At least the first- and second-years have gone home. If they have nightmares tonight it'll be up to their parents to comfort them.

Bloody Ygraine, I hope no one actually comes to me with any fears about it--I mean, it's easy in this case to tell them that what Cassie did was beyond the pale, but--Morgana. What an awful thing.

And on top of it all, Avery and I have to make speeches tonight in front of *everyone*--there's going to be reporters and photographers and--

Perce, are you sure you can't just come up for a while?

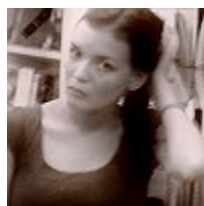



 **alt_percy at 2011-12-22 16:04:38**
Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

Merlin, Penny, I'm so sorry. I'm sure Alecto Carrow was gloating the whole time as she was doing it, too, which I'm sure made it worse. Dad said there are wizards who like inflicting pain, in a truly sick way, I mean. They're better at doing the curse--which is why they used her, I suppose. On the other hand, since if they like it so much, they can go overboard and apply it too long.

No, I'm truly sorry, but I can't be there. I'm covering for Mr Malfoy at three other events tonight...it's due to the fact that he's going to be there that I have to be elsewhere. I truly regret it, but next year I am sure we can be together.

You should be getting an owl this morning with your Christmas gift. It's all right to open it a little early, so you can wear it tonight.



 **alt_penelope at 2011-12-22 16:26:13**
Re: Private Message to Percy Weasley

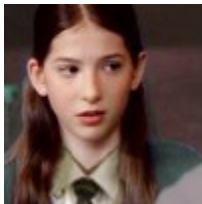
Well. Thanks for the Christmas present. I'll open it in when I'm alone.

I'm just not sure how I feel about treating students like mudbloods, you know? This sort of punishment--that's how it felt. Like we were all in one of the camps watching as one of our own was made an example and 'You'll be next!' Like anyone else would dream of harassing a teacher or laying traps for one, especially Professor Raz or Professor Siz. Even if they are an item, which is certainly no one else's business, either way.

And I...I understand, if you're working. I just know Avery's going to

go out of his way to make me look foolish somehow tonight and anyway he's got a date and even though people know why I haven't I'll just be by myself up there with all those people and

Maybe I'd better go see Madam Pomfrey myself, to keep my nerves from jittering me right off the stage.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-12-22 17:56:12**

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I just realised -- I can come at three but I won't be able to help with the hosting duties during the feast and the dance. Because I'm going with one of the Champions so I guess I'm supposed to sit at the table in front? I didn't think about it until Viktor came to find me after breakfast today to remind me.

Anyway there are enough people in the CCF it shouldn't be a big deal. I'm sorry I didn't tell you earlier. Viktor wanted us to keep it quiet that we were going together, so the gossip magazines wouldn't find out before the Ball, and so I haven't told ANYONE ~~except Pan~~ who my date is. It wasn't until just now it occurred to me I really should at least tell you. And Professor Sinistra, I guess.



 **[alt_penelope](#) at 2011-12-22 18:16:08**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh, well, that's just brilliant, Perks. After we've divided everything up evenly for the number of people helping and now at the last minute it'll have to be re-assigned? I thought you were supposed to be the clever one.

Well, you'll have to come along at 3:00 anyway so that we can figure out who can take over parts you were going to do.

Congratulations, I suppose, on getting Krum to ask you to the Ball. Maybe you are the clever one, at that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 18:24:00](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Well, I can talk to Pansy and Daphne, I'm sure they'll take over for me ~~if it's going to be that~~ difficult



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-22 18:25:46](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

No, no, it's better if it's based on where you were standing and we've pretty much got you all boy/girl/boy/girl.

Just... just send me a list of the decorations you were responsible for and I'll figure it out.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-22 22:08:02](#)

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Miss Clearwater -

Now that I'm a little more caught up this afternoon, I just wanted to check in and see if there's anything else I should be aware of.

And of course, to let you know how very much I appreciate all of your help. Obviously, the past few days have been particularly difficult for a number of people, and it can be so hard to keep going with any sense of grace or dignity. I'm sure, though, everything will go smoothly tonight: your work and effort have made that possible, and I know I couldn't have managed without your assistance.

On that note: I've a few tokens of thanks (a little treat) for everyone who's helped. Perhaps you'd be willing to share them out over the evening, as you catch people? I've found that it helps smooth over rough edges to do that kind of thing, once the event gets rolling, and it does give one something to do. I've also got something extra especially for you, of course. The package is down in the corner of the cloak room, labelled and charmed for you, when you're ready.

[2011-12-22 11:21:00](#)

ORDER ONLY

Everyone's safe as houses -- the wards lifted early this morning, and the exchange went off without a hitch. Because the *Hopeful* had to come back in broad daylight, they had to think creatively -- apparently, they dug out Victor's dress uniform and put a sign on the side of the boat advertising sport fishing, and then had Frank and Emmaline play at sport fishing, just in case they ran into anyone. They did encounter some fishermen coming in as they got closer to shore, and they called out to see if Frank had caught anything, but other than that, everything went very smoothly.



 **[alt_alice](#)**

Frank, Sirius, Victor, and Emmaline are all absolutely knackered, and I've put them right to bed. I've set Sirius up in a tent outside of Moddey Dhoo. He didn't want to, but he would've spliced himself something terrible if he'd tried to Apparate right away, so with a little arm twisting, I managed to get him to stay for a few hours and rest. So Remus and Tonks, don't fret, he'll be back soon enough, and in one piece if I've got anything to say about it.

And next step is to sort through all the supplies we've got -- and it's quite a lot this time around! Just in time for Christmas.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-22 16:35:01](#)**

(no subject)

That's quite a relief!

How many wands did they manage to bring in this time?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-22 21:26:18](#)**

(no subject)

Molly, we've got 18 wands this time - the lot from summer, the shipment we missed, and another 8 Aleks managed to get hold of since then.


Good thing, too, if we're going to get moving on the underground trail. And after this trip, I think that's about to start in earnest.



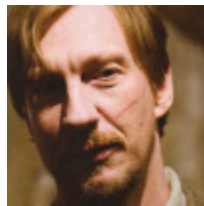
 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:16:52](#)**
(no subject)


Brilliant!



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:46:57](#)**
Private Message to Moony

Sorry. Did you get any sleep?




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:50:58](#)**
Re: Private Message to Moony

Despite my best (or worst?) intentions yes, I dropped off and barely made it up in time to fix breakfast.

I'll see you soon.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:45:22](#)**
(no subject)

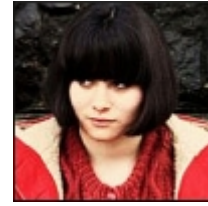
Thanks again, Allie.

Didn't mean to kip that long, though.

2011-12-22 11:53:00

(no subject)

I know I could certainly do with something nice and cheery, and I can't think of anything better than getting ready for a ball.




 [alt_pansy](#)

TTOTS girls, are you all ready to meet at the usual place at 2:00? Don't worry, Daphne and Hydra, we'll be back in plenty of time to do hair and make-up, and we'll have plenty of getting ready left to do!

And Draco, I've got something for you before the ball. Is there a time you'll be free to meet?



 [alt_luna](#) at **2011-12-22 17:41:09**
(no subject)


I'll be there! It'll be so nice to see everyone. I've learned some lovely glitter charms for fingernails for everyone try.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-22 17:47:33**
(no subject)

Can't wait!



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-22 17:54:38**
(no subject)

Alright. Have a nice time, then.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:56:52](#)**
(no subject)

Funny that, I've something for you, too.

Any time between now and the feast is fine by me.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:09:21](#)**
(no subject)

Lovely!




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 17:57:58](#)**
Private message to Pansy

Do you think we could invite Hydra along to the Tea and Getting Ready party? She's strange enough to count and I think she'd really like it.


Or do you think it would make Mandy too nervous?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:07:30](#)**
Re: Private message to Pansy

I think we ought to formally invite her after talking to everyone and seeing how they think about it. We can bring it up at this meeting.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:14:59](#)**
Re: Private message to Pansy

And we could go out of our way to introduce Sue and Mandy to her at the Ball tonight. I don't think they know her as well at all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 18:27:58](#)

Private message to Pansy

I realised today that being Viktor's date means I won't be able to do all the hosting stuff CCF students were supposed to do.

Penny Clearwater is making an utter meal of it. Also, I think she thinks I slipped him a love potion or something.

Anyway I'm going to need to find Viktor after lunch and let him know, because everyone in CCF may have to find out at 3 as apparently we need to REASSIGN EVERYTHING. I think he was hoping we could just surprise everyone when we walked in.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-22 21:33:11](#)

(no subject)

Thanks for the hair assistance, Pansy and Sally-Anne!

It turned out pretty wizard, if I do say so myself.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-22 22:08:34](#)

(no subject)

You really do have wonderful colouring. And I hope the ringlets stay in place properly!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-22 22:10:47](#)

(no subject)

Right now, the charm feels strong enough to stand up to pretty vigorous dancing--and I think Neville and I are planning to do some!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-22 22:08:38](#)

(no subject)

I think we all look simply smashing! I'm quite looking forward to tonight!



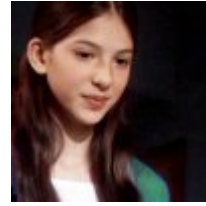
 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:10:09](#)**
(no subject)

I am too. I'm actually a little surprised about that.

[2011-12-22 11:58:00](#)

Private message to Professor Sinistra

I told Penelope Clearwater but I thought maybe I should tell you too, I won't be able to help with the hosting things we talked about at the Ball, even though I'm in the CCF. I don't know why I didn't think about this earlier, I should have and I'm sorry. I'm going with Viktor Krum and the Champions and their dates have to sit up at a special table and ... look decorative, is what Viktor said, when he was talking to me about it today.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

Anyway I hope this doesn't horribly inconvenience you.

We kept it quiet (Viktor and I did) because we didn't want the gossip magazines knowing in advance. He said if I'm a surprise on the night of the Ball the articles will only be able to talk about my clothes and my hair -- if they had advance warning it would be easier for them to write about my family. So. He's right. Anyway, that's why. But I could have told you, and I didn't think of it, so I'm sorry about that.

~~Are you okay~~

Everyone in my dorm is recovered from breakfast and thinking ahead to the Yule Ball tonight. I think it will be a lot of fun.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-22 19:47:47](#)**
(no subject)

Circe. Sorry I'm just getting to this.

I do wish I'd known sooner, but no matter. Let me think through this for a moment.

The welcoming duties should be fluid enough that one person fewer will not be the end of the world.

When you clear the tables - well, Mr Marvolo will be at the same table, naturally, and we've already worked around that, though we may need to rearrange sections slightly. Weren't you already doing one of the ones near the front of the hall?

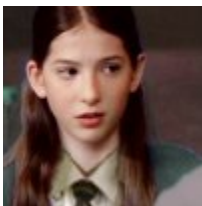
The later evening tasks were already more flexible, so I don't think

they'll be a problem.

And I do agree with Mr Krum's analysis, quite. (Having had some conversations of my own about that kind of thing recently: do let me know if you'd like to talk further on the matter.)

I'm glad to hear that you and your dorm are looking forward. (I had a long nap, and that certainly helped me.) And of course, I'm sure tonight is going to be quite splendid.

We'll need to go through it all, but I do think we can manage.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 19:59:13](#)**
(no subject)

Penny said I should still come at three and we'd rearrange duties.

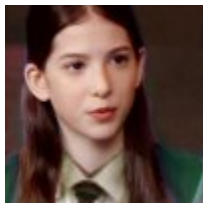
Viktor says it doesn't have to still be a secret at this point, so I don't mind people knowing although it will be sort of fun to surprise ~~Teddy Miles~~ Blet the people who think I'm lying about having a date.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:04:17](#)**
(no subject)

Miss Clearwater's exactly right, yes. I'll certainly leave it to you to decide how you wish to tell people: doing so is certainly part of the fun, I think.

I've had a few last minute queries from other houses: does your own seem to have things in good hand?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:16:29](#)**
(no subject)

With dress robes, you mean?

As far as I know.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-22 20:20:47](#)
(no subject)

Excellent - and yes, mostly robes, though I understand there's been a rash of panic in some quarters about other things: spots, flowers, and all the other things one can worry about.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 20:23:22](#)
(no subject)

Oh, right. FLOWERS.

I want to make sure a boy I know buys a corsage for the girl he's taking. Is it true someone's coming to sell corsages in the front entryway this afternoon?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-22 20:27:50](#)
(no subject)

Yes, someone is.

There was supposed to be a reminder, but I wasn't at lunch ~~and don't remember one this morning~~. I do know there's a range of choices planned.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-22 20:31:25](#)
(no subject)

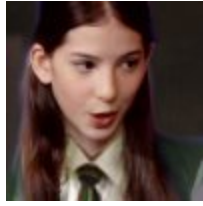
Good, because he doesn't have much money!

I don't think they said anything at lunch, but maybe it was while I was trying to find Viktor? Anyway I think most of the Slytherins are set. Pansy and I helped Milli get ready and she looks really nice now.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-22 20:34:33](#)
(no subject)

That's excellent to hear. I have heard so many stories of friends helping each other to have a good time at this dance - quite heartening, really.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-22 21:49:25](#)**
(no subject)

I just want you to know, for the record: Milli dyed her own hair. It was NOT OUR FAULT.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-22 21:56:37](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, dear. I gather there's a story there?

I appreciate knowing, and I'm sure no one would think you'd do anything to make Miss

Bulstrode unhappy.

2011-12-22 13:56:00

Private Message to Parvati

You haven't seen my gold lion pendant, have you know? Why, oh why am I always such a *mess*!



 **alt_lavender**

Mother's right, it's really quite disgraceful of me!

And do tell me when you're ready for hair charms, so I can do yours and you can do mine!

I can't wait to show you and Padma the dress--it's absolutely *daring*.

And I'm *dying* to see what Henri brings for a corsage.

Oh, it's going to be brilliant!

Don't worry about Cormac; he *is* a bit of a procrastinator, it's true, but I can't *imagine* that he'd be foolish enough to buy a corsage from the Weasley twins.

2011-12-22 14:13:00

MILLICENT BULSTRODE!


Was that YOU I just caught sight of on the turning staircase to the 2nd floor? I surely hope not, only those robes, it must -



 **alt_daphne**


WHAT DID YOU DO, MILLI?!? WE HAD YOU LOOKING PERFECT AS YOU CAN BE AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE???



 **alt_millicent** at **2011-12-22 21:26:46**
(no subject)

I like it



 **alt_millicent** at **2011-12-22 21:27:11**
(no subject)

I died my hair. honestly Daffs are you daft




 **alt_daphne** at **2011-12-22 21:30:24**
(no subject)

Yes, you've *died* it alright. It's just a temporary charm though, surely?

Milli, I don't know if you're aware of this, but really only people who are born with fair hair can pull it off successfully. I discovered this when I was twelve and got into the potion that Miss Jessup uses to lighten that hair on her upper-lip.



 **alt_millicent** at **2011-12-22 21:34:04**
(no subject)

no permanent.

i think it looks wizard. you and pansy and sallyanne made me look stupid not this.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-22 21:39:03](#)
(no subject)

Stupid? You ungrate

Well, I suppose there's no accounting for taste, and if you want to develop your own style, as it were, then as your good friend I should encourage you to do so.

You look very striking, Milli.



 [alt_millicent](#) at [2011-12-22 21:40:31](#)
(no subject)


thank you



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-22 21:46:18](#)
(no subject)


I'm sure Greg will just love it.



 [alt_millicent](#) at [2011-12-22 21:47:25](#)
(no subject)

I hope he will I did it just for that caus I think he likes blonds.

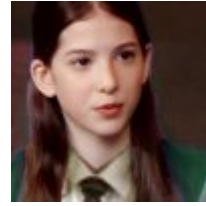


 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-22 22:07:01](#)
(no subject)

I think it looks quite lovely.

2011-12-22 14:31:00

I Solemnly Swear I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Neville Longbottom



 **alt_sally_anne**

Neville, can you try to make sure Ron buys Mandy a corsage? Only I don't think he'll think of it on his own. I was thinking I'd tell him this afternoon to get her one but it occurred to me he might take it better from you than from me!

I can lend you the money to lend to Ron and pretend it came from you, if he doesn't have any money. I think some of them are inexpensive but not cheap looking if that makes sense.


I want Mandy to have a nice time and if Ron gives her a corsage it'll make her feel like he wants to be there.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-22 20:47:52**
(no subject)

Never mind, it looks like Gred and Forge took care of it already!



 **alt_neville** at **2011-12-22 20:58:48**
(no subject)

Yeah. Good thing, because I'm not sure either one of us would have thought of it. But girls like that sort of thing, don't they?


Evelyn asked me to find out what colours the girls' dress robes are, and she could give me and Ron some ribbons to tie into the corsages. Do you know what colours Mandy is wearing?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-22 21:59:00**
(no subject)

Blue.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:01:37](#)**
(no subject)

Brilliant. I'm sure Evelyn will have a ribbon that colour. Thanks!

2011-12-22 14:38:00

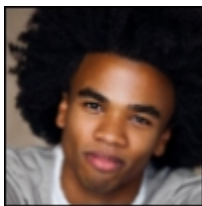
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good




 [alt_gredforge](#)

Hey, Gryffindor men (Ronniekins, this includes you, even though you're still just an ickle little thing),

Come and see us. We made a little arrangement with Professor Sprout and we'll have wrist corsages for the dates to hand out. Nothing too frou frou, honest, but nice enough to keep the ladies happy.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-22 20:45:34](#)

(no subject)

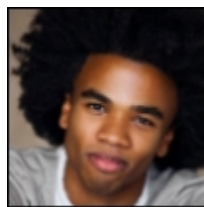
Whoa. Good thing. I completely forgot to do something about that.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-22 20:45:54](#)

(no subject)

That's our job. Making you look good, even if you absolutely don't deserve it.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-22 20:48:08](#)

(no subject)

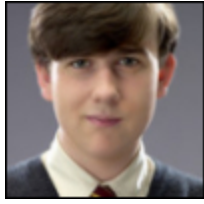
Will I need to check it for boobytrap charms?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-22 20:48:56](#)

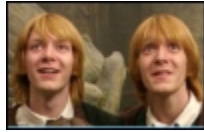
(no subject)

Nah, that's only for the corsages we hand out to guys in the other Houses. We're given you lot a free pass this time.



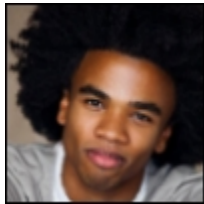
 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:49:17](#)**
(no subject)


Big of you!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:49:38](#)**
(no subject)

We certainly think so.



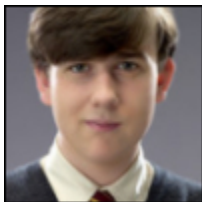
 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:54:40](#)**
(no subject)


I'm surprised Angelina and Katie haven't lost their nerve yet about going to the Ball with you.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:55:09](#)**
(no subject)


Nonsense. We intend for everyone to have a ripping good time.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:46:53](#)**
(no subject)


Hey, thanks!



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-22 20:51:54](#)**
(no subject)

Hope you all have a good time. I want to hear about it afterward.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-22 21:08:13](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

That's actually nice of you. What's the catch?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-22 21:14:22](#)**
(no subject)

For once, this is on the up and up, little bro.

That's not to say that we haven't layered in a prank or two on corsages that we've provided for blokes in other Houses.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:25:40](#)**
(no subject)

How sweet of both of you!

Save a fast dance for Sally-Anne and me?



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-23 00:36:31](#)**
(no subject)

Of course!

[2011-12-22 15:37:00](#)

Private message to Rory

Almost ready there?

Cos after this there's no going back. Though if we're lucky it might be that Krum and his date will garner more attention than we will.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)**

I should warn you that I look very dashing. You might well swoon.

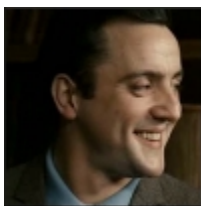



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:47:31](#)**
(no subject)

Getting there, thanks. Long nap, lots of flurry late this afternoon, a long bath and finally a chance to settle down and see what I can do with myself.

I'm nervous, mind you, but I'm as ready as I'll ever be, and I like how we decided to handle it. (And yes, I've been having a chat with Krum's date about that. Do help me keep an eye out for her, would you?)

On the dashing - well, there's more than one reason I'm glad you're meeting me up here. Time to swoon in private, for one thing.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:50:11](#)**
(no subject)

Glad to hear you had time to get in a rest. Rough morning for everyone, seems.

Now, is "time to swoon in private" code for something?



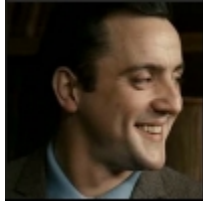
 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-22 22:53:42](#)**
(no subject)


Rather, yes. And the fuss about the last minute CCF practice didn't quite help.

Swoon in private is not code, dear. We've a

schedule to keep to, and I don't want to have to redo all my careful preparation, thank you.

But afterwards, later tonight, that's another matter.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-22 22:57:09](#)
(no subject)

Ah, it was but a thin and fleeting hope, then.

Alright, let me straighten this ascot and then I'll be put to rights.

See you soon, love.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-22 23:01:00](#)
(no subject)

You and your hopes. (I tease, you know.)

I quite look forward to seeing you, and I'm nearly ready too. Just checking the effect of the earrings

now.

2011-12-22 19:05:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Um. Fred? George?

Someone?

There's something-

I need help undoing a hex

er

yeah, I know the Feast must've started, but could someone come up here and lend a wand? I'm just making it worse. Really worse.




 [alt_ron](#)



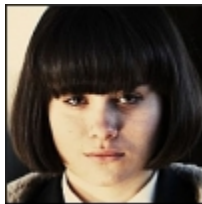
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:08:30](#)
(no subject)


What sort of hex? What's wrong?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:16:44](#)
(no subject)

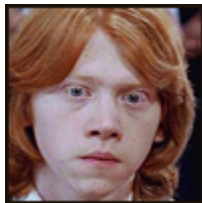
Finnigan.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 01:18:06](#)
(no subject)

That's not on.

What'd he do?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:20:40](#)
(no subject)

Hexed my robes.

They're tiny. I mean, seriously. I couldn't've fit

them when I was eight.

And they're splotted all over yellow. Sort of sick up yellow, y'know.


And they say



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:22:52](#)
(no subject)

You could go look in Sinistra's office. Wait, no, she's probably locked it because of that business with Cassie. Ugh. She still had robes, you know.

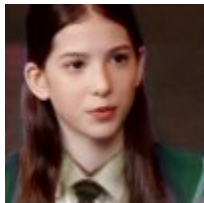


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 01:33:25](#)
(no subject)

You could ask her.

Could you?

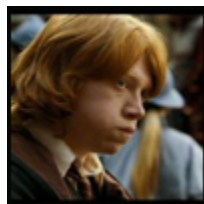
Just to run up to her office for a moment to get some plain robes?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:00:29](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry I didn't see this in time. This was right when they made me come out of the loo because we were going to have to go in.

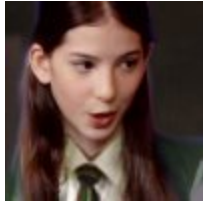
Ron, I hope you're having a good time despite your robes!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:14:45](#)
(no subject)

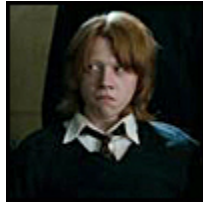
No worries. You were busy consorting with the enemy.


I totally understand that you didn't have time to help me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:17:53](#)
(no subject)

Consorting with the enemy? ARE YOU
UTTERLY MAD, RON?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:24:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, he's just trying to cozy up to one of
Marvolo's housemates, innit? Learn his
secrets for the second task.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:36:01](#)
(no subject)

LEARN HIS SECRETS?


If he wanted to learn Harry's secrets he'd
have AT LEAST asked Hydra! I'm the last
person Harry's going to tell anything to!



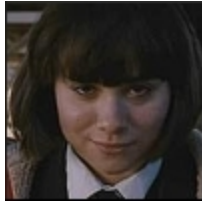
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 03:38:28](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Ron, stop being a tit and dance.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:41:11](#)
(no subject)

What. Are you asking me?



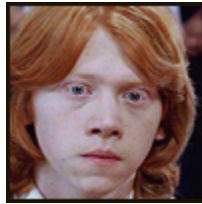
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 03:47:06](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. I told you you'd get a dance, didn't I?



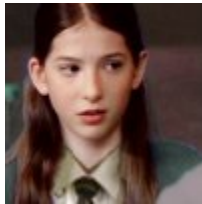
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:18:54](#)
(no subject)

And if you'd so much as looked at your robes more than five minutes before you were supposed to be meeting Mandy, you'd have had a lot more options!



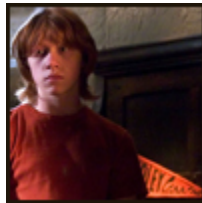
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:23:12](#)
(no subject)


Nice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:23:54](#)
(no subject)


Do you still have the robes your mum sent?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:25:18](#)
(no subject)

...




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 01:23:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Merlin. That sounds awful.

I'm so sorry, Ron.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:25:41](#)**
(no subject)

I'm going to kill him.

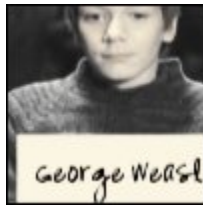


 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:24:18](#)**
(no subject)

Yellow's not a sick colour.

Well, we hate to suggest it but what about the robes Mum sent?

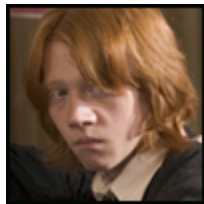
You really don't want to miss this feast. Not you.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:25:31](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, Yellow's a fine colour. Don't knock the virtues of yellow, Ron.


And we'll just fix Finnigan later, right?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:26:45](#)**
(no subject)

Somebody tell Brocklehurst I can't come down, all right?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:28:29](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure Mandy wouldn't mind. She'd think it was quirky, and she's all about that.

If Finnegan's goal was to ruin your evening, the best way you can show him up is to come down and have fun anyways. I say wear the old pair, and have a grand time anyways. At least you don't have Padma Patil as your date.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:30:19](#)**
(no subject)

Parkinson's right, Ron. Don't be such a helpless ickle thing.


Take the lace off the cuffs and come down. It's better than missing it all.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:31:44](#)**
(no subject)

And I could slip away from dinner for a minute and meet you out in the hall to see what I could do to make them look better.

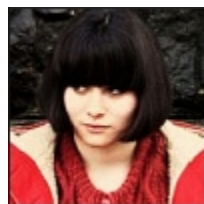



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:34:16](#)**
(no subject)

Uh

whoa-

someone just kill me now, yeah?




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 01:47:43](#)**
(no subject)

Well.

I figure you've got a choice. Come down, see what we can do about your robes, and then have a good time in spite of it all, or stay up there. Honestly, your friends won't care what you're wearing, and the people who will make fun aren't worth your time anyways.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 02:04:11](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Fisheye.

They do look better. I guess.

Um. So, does Mandy always look like she's about to cry or is she really hacked off at me? Can you tell her I couldn't help it? I mean, I don't know if she'd believe me if I said it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 02:11:16](#)
(no subject)

I've got it.

Just tell her this:

"Hey. Someone messed with my good robes, but I've decided to come anyways, because I really wanted to have fun with you, and didn't want to leave you without a date."

I mean, that sounds okay, and it's true, and I think she's just nervous and wasn't expecting you to be late and all.

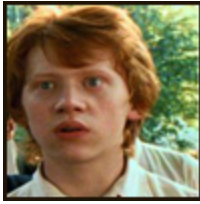



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:09:42](#)
(no subject)

And I can't come up, I mean even if it wouldn't require someone letting me into Gryffindor Tower, I'm in the loo and in a minute I have to go into the Great Hall.

I'm really nervous.

At least no one's hexed me, though, and for that matter how could anyone have hexed you given that everyone else except you and Zach Smith are down here?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:18:11](#)
(no subject)

Why are you-?

I mean, I thought you weren't going? Today, when Sinistra and Clearwater said-

you looked so down-


I mean, I figured all along you didn't have a date but didn't want to say, and I totally understand not wanting to go, but-



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:20:42](#)
(no subject)

OH MY GOD RON I HAVE A DATE.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:23:58](#)
(no subject)

Who is it, then?

I don't see why you won't just say. If you really do have a date, that is.

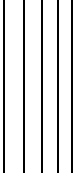



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:25:47](#)
(no subject)

I AM GOING WITH VIKTOR KRUM.

THE REASON I CAN'T HELP WITH THE CCF
THING IS BECAUSE I WILL BE SITTING AT THE
HEAD TABLE with everyone looking at me and cameras and I
think they're calling me, actually, it's almost time to go in.


Just don't stand up Mandy. You are NOT ALLOWED TO STAND
UP MANDY, I don't care if you have to go in your school robes in
the end.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:27:40](#)
(no subject)

YOU'RE WHAT?!!!!!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 01:19:00](#)
(no subject)


You'll do just fine. And no-one will hex you. You look absolutely beautiful!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-23 01:23:01](#)
(no subject)

We're in the middle of supper, Ron. Are they not salvageable, then?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 01:24:38](#)
(no subject)

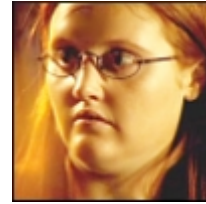
I can't make them do anything but get smaller and more hideous.

2011-12-22 19:24:00

EXCUSE ME!!

HAS ANYONE SEEN JOHN SUMMERS??

We're supposed to be dancing!!



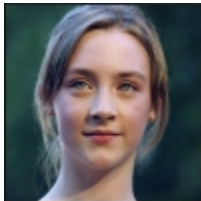
 [alt_eloise](#)



 [alt_eloise](#) at **2011-12-23 02:33:15**

(no subject)

IS THAT PERKS WITH VIKTOR KRUM??



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-23 02:52:29**

(no subject)

I know!!

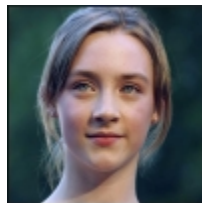
From,
Hydra



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-23 02:56:42**

(no subject)

Hydra, you look absolutely stunning!



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-23 02:58:44**

(no subject)

Thank you but ~~everyone's~~ staring

You look beautiful too. Everyone looks so grown up. It's like a fairy story.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-23 03:18:20](#)
(no subject)

Let them stare.

You look perfect.

-Justin



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-23 02:38:28](#)
(no subject)

Whose dress robes are your favourite??

Mine are:

Daphne Greengrass
Hydra Lestrangle
Pansy Parkinson
Samantha Montgomery
Chastity Derwent

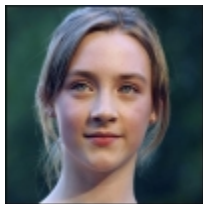



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 02:41:47](#)
(no subject)

Padma's.

After her, Lavender Brown's.

Hydra looks smashing in hers, though.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 02:51:45](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Seamus. I like your dress robes, too.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 03:03:14](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Seamus.


But Midgen's right: Hydra and Daphne look beautiful too.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 02:56:39](#)
(no subject)


Pansy's.



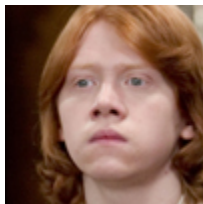
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 03:03:59](#)
(no subject)


Well, I happen to have a very dashing partner, and that tends to help make one look one's best.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 03:05:13](#)
(no subject)

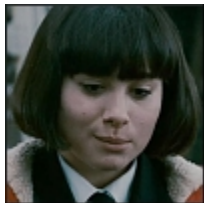
You don't need me to look gorgeous, but I'm happy to do what I can.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:12:46](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oi! Stop that. I may sick up all over here.

Just, ugh.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 03:19:34](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Tunabrain.

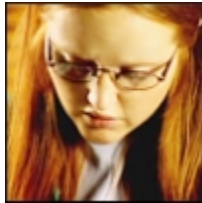
I happen to be having a good time.

And as a future hint, it never hurts to call your date gorgeous.
Ever.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:59:00](#)**
(no subject)

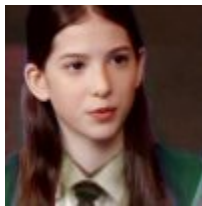
That's very sweet of you, Eloise. I like the colour of your robes very much, and I hope you're having a good time!



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:01:24](#)**
(no subject)

I am!!


I still can't find John.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:02:13](#)**
(no subject)

I think I saw him going into the boys' loo as I was going into the girls'.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:05:54](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers I'll go get him!!

[2011-12-22 19:32:00](#)

(no subject)

Everything's been brilliant so far.

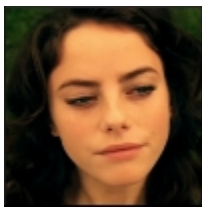
I never realized how much I liked dancing--and sorry anyone if Neville or I stepped on your feet!



 **[alt_susan](#)**

I'm a little out of breath now.

Oh, Weasley's brought us punch--thanks ever so!



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:42:56](#)**

(no subject)

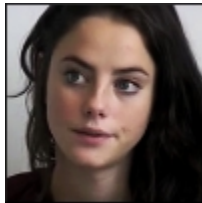
Well yes, Longbottom did step on my foot. Fortunately, it wasn't Barney's foot, or who knows what might've happened.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:45:25](#)**

(no subject)

Sorry! I'm afraid we got a bit carried away there!




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:50:49](#)**

(no subject)

Don't feel as if you need to apologise.

You look very nice, by the by.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:55:10](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks! Pansy and Sally-Anne did my hair, and I think they did a wonderful job with the charms.


You look lovely too! I hope you're having a good time?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:58:50](#)
(no subject)

I am at that, especially now that my foot's stopped throbbing.



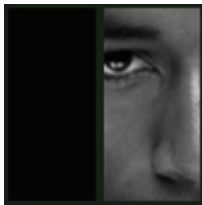
 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 04:12:21](#)
(no subject)


Neville's leaning over my shoulder now; he says he'd be happy to get you a drink or some ice, if you'd like, but he didn't want to impose.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-23 04:17:43](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, but that won't be necessary.




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-23 03:49:27](#)
(no subject)

You kept clear of us. Or we of you.

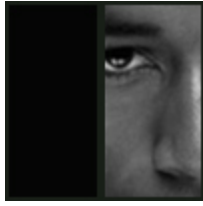
It's a matter of experience is all, navigating a dance floor. In any case, it's not a witch's fault if her partner steers her amiss.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 03:53:03](#)
(no subject)

Well, neither Neville or I have had much practise, so we thought we'd just go on and have a bit of fun with it, you know?

Standing around talking is nice enough sometimes, but it's a ball and we don't have that sort of thing every day!



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:55:50](#)**
(no subject)

True enough.

I expect you'll find the next band easier to dance to.
More your sort of style.




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:01:10](#)**
(no subject)

Do you know who it is?


I've been hoping for someone really wizard, but
they've been ever so close-mouthed about it.



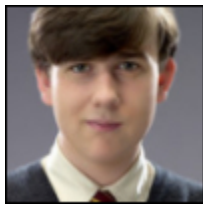
 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:25:26](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


It's a wonder that anyone can steer around the berk,
his head is so big.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:26:04](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


Never mind him, Neville. You and Bones having a
good time?



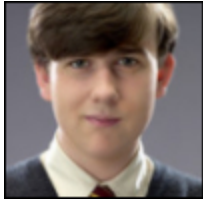
 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:26:37](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good


Yes! It's turned out to be even more fun than I
hoped it would be! I never knew I'd enjoy dancing
so much!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:27:08](#)**
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

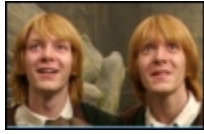
You certainly have your own personal style out
there.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-23 04:27:21](#)

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

And what's wrong with that?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-23 04:28:22](#)

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

Not a bloody thing, of course.

Knock 'em dead.

2011-12-22 19:39:00

This feast is brilliant

BEST FOOD EVER.

Can't wait for the dancing later, either!



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 01:44:47**

Private message to Padma Patil

I don't want some nosey parker to overhear, but look over there at Mandy Brocklehurst. Weasley's date looks awfully lonesome, doesn't she? It'll be interesting to see if Weasley turns up and if so...what he's wearing.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 01:46:19**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

And is it just me, but does it look like Professor Raz and Professor Sinistra came in arm in arm?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 01:47:21**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Of course they did! Haven't you been reading *Dish!*?

Lav gets it, I'll tell her to loan it to you. They're utterly in love. I knew it over a year ago!

Poor Daphne, though.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 01:51:58**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

What? Why poor Daphne? I thought her crush was on Mr Crouch?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 01:53:45](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Oh, it is.

But I think she'd have liked to get to know Professor Raz better, as well, is all.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 01:46:26](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

What did you *do*?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 01:49:43](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

He's so thick, he just left them lying on his trunk, so I added a few improvements. They're sort of stained with yellow now, they're too small for him, and they say WANKER on the back. In sparkly letters.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 01:51:17](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Oh, Lakshmi!

Only you shouldn't have made them too small. I'd have paid anything to see him come down here with a sparkly 'WANKER' on his back.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 01:52:31](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Yeah, I thought he'd be able to reverse that one. Silly me.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 01:51:11](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

So if he can remember how to do an enlarging charm he might be able to make them big enough to put on.

The question is, will he come in those robes? Or wear the hideous thing his mum sent? or will he notice Professor Sinistra left some spare school robes in our common room (I reckon he didn't, or he'd be here by now). Or will he sulk in the dorms and stand up his date?

Time will tell, I suppose!



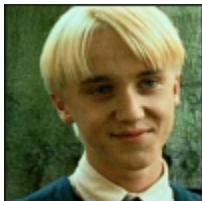
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-23 01:46:58](#)

(no subject)

Too right!

I couldn't eat as much of it as I'd have liked, for fear of splitting my robes. That and there's still pudding to

come!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 01:52:50](#)

(no subject)

Good to hear dancing's not too poncy for you, Finnigan. Best prepare yourself, though - all the unenlightened and uncultured sorts will be down later to gobble up pudding and take in the fairy lights.

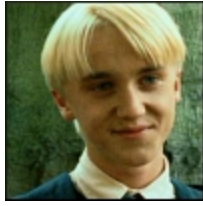


 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 01:56:11](#)

(no subject)

I agree with you -- dancing with girls is the OPPOSITE of poncy.

And just so long as they're not on the dance floor they won't be in the way of the rest of us, will they?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 01:58:26](#)
(no subject)

Most girls would agree with you there.

Hah, no, I'm fairly certain they'll stay well clear of so much as a foot tap, lest they attract the interest of a girl looking to dance.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 02:03:55](#)
Private message to Seamus Finnigan

Wonder what's taking Pansy so long? Said she had to go adjust something -

Anyway, what's the story with you and Padma? Stepping in as last minute replacement for Davies, or have you two finally taken things to the next level?




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 02:08:42](#)
Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan

Is she in the loo? Girls seem to spend half their lives in the loo, I don't understand why it takes them so much longer than it takes boys. I mean a little longer I could understand but some of them spend HOURS in there.

Padma and I are just here as mates. I think it'll be fun, though.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 02:10:08](#)
Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan

Could be - oh, look, think I see her coming back.

Well, do have fun. See what you can do to cheer her up, yeah?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 02:11:08](#)

Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan

I will. We're both saving some dances for other people, so if you want to ask her to dance later I'm sure she'd like that.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 02:14:47](#)

Re: Private message to Seamus Finnigan

I'd planned on it.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2011-12-23 01:57:04](#)

Private message to Padma

Is that PERKS with Krum?!

How on earth do you suppose THAT happened?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 02:05:11](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

No, that's not Perks, it's



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 02:05:30](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

BLOODY HELL, THAT'S PERKS!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-23 04:12:05](#)

(no subject)

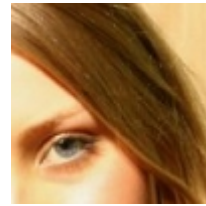
We can't wait for the retribution. Later yet.

2011-12-22 19:39:00

(no subject)

So many lovely dress robes tonight!

Everyone has certainly put a lot of effort into looking their best.



 **alt_lavender**

We really *should* have foreign visitors more often if this sort of stylish event is a result.

And I must say, the boys of Beauxbatons are excellent dancers.



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-12-23 03:52:58**

(no subject)

Your hair looks smashing, Lav!

Wherever did Cormac get off to? Was he not being a gentleman with Pav?

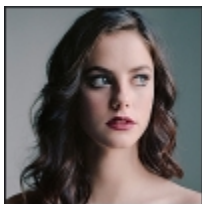


 **alt_lavender** at **2011-12-23 04:09:24**

(no subject)

I don't especially care where he's got off to, at the moment.

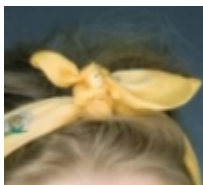
Let's just say that I think she was really enjoying her dances with Evgeni.



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-12-23 03:55:38**

(no subject)

Oh Holda, did you see! Professors Raz and Sinistra just snogged!



 **alt_lavender** at **2011-12-23 03:58:08**

(no subject)

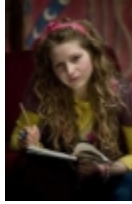
I saw!! Isn't it *romantic*?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:00:44](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, of course it is.

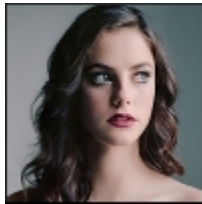
I suppose they've been an item all the while, haven't they? Certainly looks that way.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:04:40](#)**
(no subject)

Well, Pav and Padma and I have thought so for awhile now!


They keep *looking* at each other across the table at breakfast.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:12:05](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I see. Then I hope he's found what he's been looking for, at long last.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:16:40](#)**
(no subject)

Professor Sinistra is certainly much prettier than, shall we say, certain other professors one might mention.


2011-12-22 20:19:00

Private Message to Neville


Can we get out of here for a minute?

It's just--The Weird Sisters were her favourite band.



 **alt_susan**



 **alt_neville** at **2011-12-23 04:29:35**

(no subject)

Yeah. Yeah, I know.

I've got some ices from the refreshment table. Let's take them out and walk on the lawn a bit.

I've had a really great time tonight. Just so you know.



 **alt_susan** at **2011-12-23 04:36:11**

(no subject)

Thanks. Let's do that.

I've had a good time tonight too. We should talk more; I mean, during the regular term and all.

[2011-12-22 20:31:00](#)

Private Message to Padma and Seamus

I thought you two were going to come back and join Parvati and I, but you disappeared!



Hurry up and come back--The Weird Sisters are almost done setting up and you don't want to miss them!


 **[alt_lavender](#)**

Seamus, thanks so much for sending Evgeni over--Parvati is so much happier now.

I've got to say I can't wait to find out how Henri is at *this* sort of dance, as opposed to the formal sort.

Padma, you and Malfoy looked wizard dancing together!



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:40:34](#)**
(no subject)

Attack of the Weasleys. Again.

Really, we ought to send them the bill to replace Seamus's robes but it's a fair cop they'd never be able to pay.

Maybe we should confiscate the money they've earned selling those trick corsages.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:42:49](#)**
(no subject)

I'm back.

And yeah, it would be nice to make them pay for the robes but HA. As if.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:44:54](#)**
(no subject)

The bit with the corsages was funny, but this simply isn't on!

Who in year 5 do you think would let us into their dorm while they're out?

[2011-12-22 20:34:00](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy and Rabastan Lestrangle



 [alt_selwyn](#)


Well, this is a thoroughly lovely party. All those children, earnestly trying so hard to dance.

Draco looks most grown-up, Lucius. And his date - that must be Pansy Parkinson? -- is absolutely lovely.

Who's that child with Harry? She's not in Harry's year, is she?

Rabastan, I should congratulate you; your Astronomy professor has grace, poise, and a lovely smile.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 02:40:55](#)
(no subject)

Cheers then, Dominic. Appreciated.


It's Honoria Sandoval with Harry- she's a third year.



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-12-23 02:43:26](#)
(no subject)

Oh, SANDOVAL. No wonder she looks oddly familiar. She must be Lana Sandoval's younger sister. A Ravenclaw, then?




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 02:44:42](#)
(no subject)

Gryffindor, actually.

Harry wanted to go with the Chang girl, but she's with Diggory, as it turns out.




 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-12-23 02:46:52](#)
(no subject)

Oh, one of THOSE families.

The Chang girl's also quite eye-catching, I can see why Harry would have liked to go with her. Who are the lad with the Veela girl and the lass with Krum? Anyone in particular?

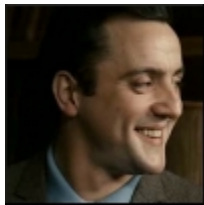



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-23 02:48:47](#)
(no subject)

The Veela's with the Ravenclaw captain.

Krum's with

Raz, isn't that Pansy's little pet?




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 02:50:29](#)
(no subject)

That's Roger Davis with Miss Delacour. He's a quidditcher; Ravenclaw.

Sally Anne Parks with Mr Krum. Slytherin.
Fostered by the Strettons.

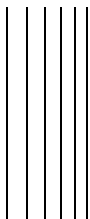
Didn't you take her to brunch in Hogsmeade with the others?




 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2011-12-23 02:52:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh! I rather thought she looked familiar but they're all rather out of their element, done up all smart.


Ravenclaw quidditcher, eh? Well. He looks thoroughly dazzled. Do you suppose he remembered to take even one bite during the meal?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:54:54](#)**
(no subject)

I doubt it, out of fear he'd bite the tongue that's been lolling out his mouth.



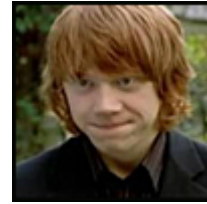
 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:52:40](#)**
(no subject)

And thank you, Dom, re: Draco. His mother's proud of him.

Pansy's certainly growing up as well. I hardly recognised her in all that.

2011-12-22 20:46:00

*Private Message to Mandy Brocklehurst--
and Neville Longbottom (if you're done
dancing)*




 **alt_ron**

They're out of the yellow fairy cakes. I'm bringing purple ones, but we can check later and see if they've brought out more of the yellow kind.

Only, I can't remember which punch you wanted. Um. And ask Bones and Nev if they want some. If they've come back from dancing, I mean.



 **alt_neville** at **2011-12-23 04:21:54**
(no subject)

Just taking a quick break to grab a drink, check my journal.

Why aren't you dancing, too? It's fun!

2011-12-22 20:54:00

Private Message to Lucius and Raz

Well played, Razzer.

Please give Professor Sinistra our compliments. She can be very proud of her young charges. I know she's been engrossed in the preparations and the result of her hard work is most evident tonight.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

The young people look so splendid. And you two make quite a handsome couple as well.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-23 02:01:15**

(no subject)

Cheers then, and I will do. Nearly worked herself ragged to get this together, and with the Calderwood girl on top of it, it's been a bit of a muddle, I don't mind saying.

But looking forward to an enjoyable evening from here on out.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-23 02:03:14**

(no subject)

Yes.

And while I've got both of you, please remember to dance with your niece, if she'll consent to tear herself away from her continental beau.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-23 02:05:38**

(no subject)

What if I step on her? She's so...wee.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-23 02:07:31](#)
(no subject)

Not in that outfit, she's not.

Rio, what are you playing at?




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 02:10:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm not playing at anything. The girl needed robes and I wanted them to be as far from whatever Bella had in mind as possible.

Can I help it if they make her look stunning? Would you expect any less?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-23 02:22:18](#)
(no subject)

No, I expect a great deal more.

No matter.


Does Harry call that dancing? I thought Seekers had coordination.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-23 02:23:38](#)
(no subject)

Razzer, instead of tutoring the boy in duelling this year we ought to give him additional dance lessons. It would have the same effect to make him lighter on his feet, I daresay. And sharpen his reflexes!



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 02:27:00](#)
(no subject)

Grace in the air doesn't always translate to grace on the ground, seems.

Ooh, was that meant to be a dip, or did he just nearly drop her?

2011-12-22 20:59:00

WHEW!

The Weird Sisters are quite something! Looks like they're taking a breather between sets--can't say as I'd blame them.



 [alt_ernie](#)

Hang on, who're this new lot?




 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2011-12-23 05:02:24**

(no subject)

I was just asking that, Ern.

HEY. Isn't that Malfoy's song?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 05:04:26**

(no subject)

YES, it IS!!!!



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-23 05:04:34**

(no subject)

Pansy's, too.



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2011-12-23 05:06:14**


(no subject)

Heh! Great minds think alike and all that.

Huh-it *is* their song; I didn't recognise it at first with all the drums.

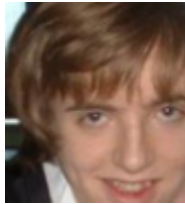
Good show, Malfoy! And Parkinson too of course.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 05:07:56](#)
(no subject)

They've changed something in the middle, too. In the chorus?


When Draco sings it he goes down but they're going up. Or something.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-12-23 05:12:09](#)
(no subject)

They've made it wizard fast, that's for sure! For dancing to, I guess.

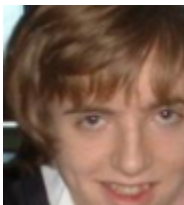



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-23 05:14:19](#)
(no subject)

I love it!!

I want to dance!!

JOHN??



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-12-23 05:16:05](#)
(no subject)

Check over by the punch bowl, El.

2011-12-22 21:16:00

Splendid


CCF students, beautifully done clearing the way for the dancing to begin, and thank you again for all your gracious assistance welcoming all our honoured guests tonight.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Everyone else, what a glorious evening. Do enjoy yourselves!




 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-12-23 02:29:24**
(no subject)

Yes, well done, indeed!

Am confident that the remainder of the evening will see our friendships deepening and our connexions growing more fond.

Perhaps we ought to commence the general dance at this point, Professor? You might choose Professor Froissart to signal the others. Minerva, you and Igor might start us off as well.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-12-23 02:32:57**
(no subject)

Thank you, indeed, for the compliment.

And yes, on the dancing, of course. And then we'll be thankfully beyond most of the formalities, and let things flow from there.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-12-23 02:34:06**
(no subject)

You're doing fine. Just breathe, Professor.

And smile.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:35:04](#)**
(no subject)

Tease Razzler, if it helps.


He'll be happy to oblige.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:30:42](#)**
Private Message to Professor Sinistra


Before Harry drops his escort, if you please.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:33:20](#)**
Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Quite.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:52:29](#)**
Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

You looked lovely during the Champion's dance, truly, and it looks like Mister Krum is treating you royally. And your robes are such a good color on you, that dark red.

Do remember to breathe, as I've just been reminded. It does help.

And let me know if anyone gives you trouble you don't wish to handle yourself.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 02:57:13](#)**
Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Thank you! I'm having a lovely evening so far! I was really nervous but



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-23 02:58:21**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I know exactly what you mean.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-23 04:31:17**

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Cheers on getting through that: I thought you did a perfectly fine job.

I do things have gone remarkably smoothly, all things considered. Thank you again for all your hard work and patience, and I hope you're getting some chance to enjoy yourself.

2011-12-22 21:25:00

Private message to Evgeni

Padma's sister Parvati has had it up to here with her date. I'm going to cut in and when the dance ends, you be waiting for her, OK? And don't let McLaggen have her back. He'll probably try for her -- pretend you don't understand what he's saying and keep her with you for a bit.



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 03:29:53**
(no subject)

And I'll meet you for a bit when the band takes a break.

2011-12-22 21:42:00

Private Message to Padma and Parvati


Could you meet me in the girl's loo, when you get a minute??



 [alt_lavender](#)

And if anyone sees that piece of *merde* Henri Toubon, please feel free to slap him again.




 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 05:49:21**
(no subject)

We're coming.

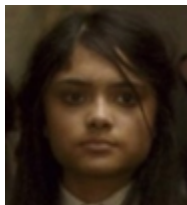
Should we get a Prefect? Or I think Prof Froissart's still over with the Malfoys and Mr Tenebridge.




 [alt_lavender](#) at **2011-12-23 05:51:24**
(no subject)

No, don't. I'm a bit of a mess and I'd rather not have anyone see me just now.

Anyone but you two, I mean. And Seamus would be alright.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 05:52:24**
(no subject)

WHAT DID HE DO?



 [alt_lavender](#) at **2011-12-23 05:56:02**
(no subject)

Well, after Tintagel started up again just a bit ago, we were dancing in a rather darkish corner, and he...he started to kiss me.

And at first it was nice, really nice, only I was a bit nervous Professor Milland might come by and see us. But then he sort of *pushed* and started to *feel*...things, you know. And I said I didn't think I wanted to do that yet and he wouldn't STOP..

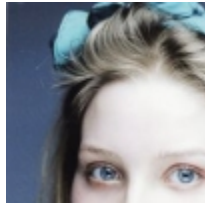



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:58:26](#)**
(no subject)

Rami and Lakshmi, they're *all the same*, aren't they?

That was just Page's problem. Only at least he'd stop. But then he'd pout about it.

Seamus is coming with us. And Evgeni. Don't worry. It's just that the way this night is going I think we shouldn't be without extra help.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-23 06:01:12](#)**
(no subject)

I think I'm almost fit to be seen now--the backup is a relief, all the same.

It's just--it had been such a *wonderful* night, and he was older and so clever and I thought he was *nice*...

And I *wanted* him to kiss me. But not like that.

2011-12-22 21:47:00

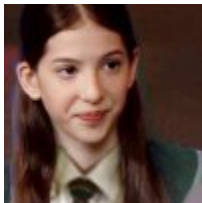
Private message to Pansy

DID YOU SEE THAT? Professor Sinistra and Professor Raz KISSED AT THE END OF THAT LAST DANCE!!!!



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I don't think anyone's listening to the speeches now, everyone's whispering about the kiss.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-23 03:50:03**
(no subject)

Just as well we have something interesting to think about. If there's anything duller than listening to a Head Boy talk about the joys of living in the Protectorate, it's listening to a Head Girl yammer on


about it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-23 03:55:33**
(no subject)


And ugh, you're right about that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-23 04:01:51**
(no subject)

Ugh to Bole too. Honestly, Daphs must be well sick of him by now. He's hanging all over her. It's disgusting.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-23 03:54:27**
(no subject)

Isn't it wonderfully romantic!



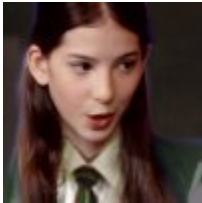
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:55:40](#)
(no subject)

It IS.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:58:57](#)
(no subject)

Ooooh, the Weird Sisters are setting up!!!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 04:02:14](#)
(no subject)

Thank GOODNESS she's shutting up.

I was beginning to think we'd be listening to Clearwater for the rest of the NIGHT.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 04:04:25](#)
(no subject)

At least it gave me a little time to catch up with Draco. He's being so sweet. Honestly, I can't stop smiling.

2011-12-22 21:53:00

Private Message to Lucius and Dominic


Chloe wants to dance, Dom.

Really. You are hardly better than those teenage boys in the corner.



 [alt_narcissa](#)



 [alt_selwyn](#) at **2011-12-23 02:55:04**

(no subject)

I'll be right there.

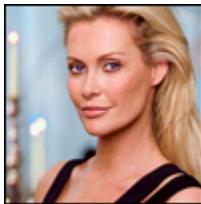


 [alt_lucius](#) at **2011-12-23 02:56:18**

(no subject)

We were those teenage boys at some point.

Do Draco and Pansy seem ... more intimate than usual?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-23 02:58:23**

(no subject)

Yes, dear. It's called dancing.

Husband, may I remind you that a dance at 14 does not mean they're forever locked in each other's

hearts.

Come dance.

2011-12-22 22:00:00

Good Show!

Bravo, Avery. Very well said. Your speech was a strong witness to the ideals of this realm and a testament to your heritage, good breeding, and superior education.



 [alt_lana](#)


I'm so pleased to be back at Hogwarts for this auspicious occasion. Doesn't the castle look beautiful? Congratulations to the Head Mistress and the Board of Governors for committing the resources to this event; everything is simply magnificent.

And how wonderful to have the Philharmonic's chamber group to support the festivities! I'm looking forward to the Weird Sisters, too, though, and, of course, it will be thrilling to see the Champions dance to music of our own era, as well.

I'm very proud of my old schoolmates, too, for offering such a warm welcome to the visiting delegations and to other guests, who, like myself, are here as outsiders for this singular event. Everyone looks so handsome. You do clean up well, most of you, when you put some special effort into it. (Of course, many of you carry yourselves proudly all the time, but we all know what I mean when I say that on most days, the wider student body take a rather casual approach to comportment and sartorial detail.)

Oh, yes. Nearly forgot. Clearwater, I'm sure whatever it was you said was well-intentioned.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 04:24:09**
(no subject)

Oh, Lana, it's so wonderful you're here!

And you and Ned Pennifold? Wow. Of course I always suspected you two were a bit sappy for each other but it's so encouraging to see two people starting out together and managing to have successful careers as well!

Isn't this marvellous? I wish the castle could be decorated like this all

the time.

Are you having fun? And the Weird Sisters! It's amazing.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:39:56](#)**

Private message to Lana Sandoval

It's lovely to see you back here - and what stunning robes!

I'm sorry we've not had a chance to catch up, even briefly, but Campanella did have a word as we were getting started, and she seems really quite pleased with your work for her.

I'm sure it's got to be good fun to be back and see everyone, as well, and I quite agree that everyone seems to have cleaned up well, and looks splendid.

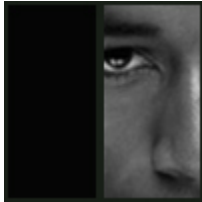
2011-12-22 22:01:00

PAV!

CORMAC'S NOSE!



 [alt_padma](#)

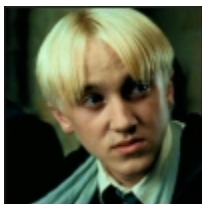


 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-23 03:06:28](#)

(no subject)

What was that?

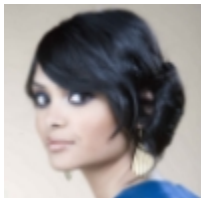
Hang on, look at Bletchley!




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 03:07:53](#)

(no subject)

Disgusting.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 03:12:08](#)

(no subject)

Hey, Malfoy, do you always let your father dance with your date?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 03:13:38](#)

(no subject)

Only when he's known her as long as I have.

Care to dance, Padma?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 03:15:42](#)

(no subject)


Love to, thanks.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:08:15](#)
(no subject)

It's not just McLaggen, did you see? Miles Bletchley's nose turned into a pig's snout for a minute.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 03:09:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's gone now, anyway.

At least.

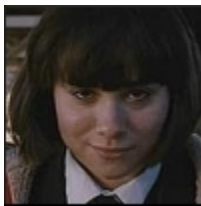
Weasley twins, honestly.


So. Krum, huh?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:09:50](#)
(no subject)

Yes. I'm having a wonderful time. I hope you and Finnigan are having as much fun as I am!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 03:11:13](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

That has you-know-who and you-know-who's twin brother written all over it, doesn't it?

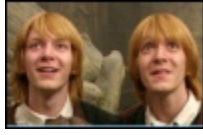
You look like you're having a good time with Krum.
And you look absolutely beautiful.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:13:11](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

If it wasn't the twins, I'm sure they're kicking themselves for being out-pranked by someone else at the schools. But it must have been them.

I have been having a wonderful time, and thank you, you look lovely, too!



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2011-12-23 04:20:45**

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

Yeah, that was us!

You did look smashing, Perks. Krum looked dead proud to have you on his arm. As well he should.




 **[alt_seamus](#) at 2011-12-23 03:15:48**

Private message to Padma Patil and Lavender Brown

I reckon you're right it had something to do with the Weasley twins. Did McLaggen buy one of those corsages they were selling earlier?



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-23 03:27:13**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil and Lavender Brown

Probably. He's such a pig.

Tell Evgeni to come rescue Pav, okay?

Draco's such a good dancer it's too bad he's gooey for Parkinson. I never thought he liked fatties.

Reckon Mr Malfoy's practising for the wedding?



 **[alt_lavender](#) at 2011-12-23 03:29:56**

Private Message to Padma

I know!!! Serves him right for waiting until the last minute. I thought he *might* have more sense that but apparently not!

At least Pav thinks it's funny, too.

2011-12-22 22:04:00


Private message to Padma Patil

Bloody hell I don't want you to think I'm ditching you, but it's going to be a couple of minutes before I can get back to the dance. I went out for some air and Ron Weasley ambushed me -- him or one of his friends, I didn't see. He hexed my robes, split them right in half, and the edges are burned so badly I'm not sure I'm going to be able to get them to go back together. I'm the loo at the moment.



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 04:16:16**

(no subject)

WHAT?

What do you need? Should I get Professor Siz?



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 04:27:08**

(no subject)

No.

She left the extra school robes up in our common rooms. I'm on my way up to Gryffindor to get one, this robe's beyond repair.

2011-12-22 22:13:00

(no subject)

I say, does anyone care to dance while Hydra's turning the floor with her uncles, what?



 [alt_justin](#)

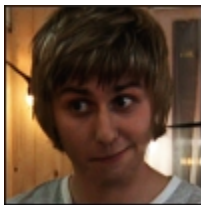



 [alt_eloise](#) at **2011-12-23 03:17:53**

(no subject)

Not me!!

I found John!! He was trying to hide in the loo but I found him, sure enough!!




 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-23 03:19:21**

(no subject)

Well...good on you, then.

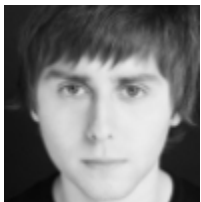
-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-23 03:19:18**

(no subject)

Not me, mate. Thanks and all.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-23 03:20:08**

(no subject)

Are you sure? It's quite fun, really and not very difficult.

I could let you lead, what?

-Justin



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-23 03:33:57](#)
(no subject)

Heh!

Like your style, F-F.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 03:28:45](#)
(no subject)

I think that Professor Raz wants to dance with Professor Siz now, and Uncle Lucius with Auntie Narcissa, so, do you want to maybe dance with me?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 03:31:16](#)
(no subject)

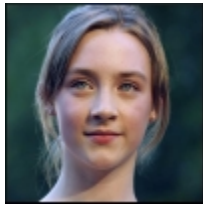
Oh.


All right, then.

Yeah, I guess.

Only, maybe someone should ask Brocklehurst. ~~What about you, Fi~~

Um. Maybe I should dance with her first and then you, yeah?
Would that be all right?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 03:32:32](#)
(no subject)

Whatever you'd prefer is fine.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-23 03:34:23](#)
(no subject)

Would you care for some punch, Dux?

-Justin




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 03:36:07](#)
(no subject)

Um, I don't know, maybe not, I'm worried I'm going to spill.

From,

Hydra




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-23 03:38:28](#)
(no subject)

Gillywater? You look a bit flushed.

-Justin




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 03:39:40](#)
(no subject)

Yes, all right.

I might need a little fresh air?

From,
Hydra

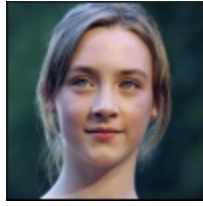


 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-23 03:47:19](#)
Private Message to Hydra

I'll be right there.

No, can you have Draco walk you to the door?
and we can go out. I think there's a rose
garden. All right?

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:48:37](#)**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Yes, I'll get him.

Thanks. I'm having such a wonderful time, but it's all a bit much. And then we can have a

minute alone.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:20:09](#)**

(no subject)

I'll come dance with you! Viktor's dancing with Pansy.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-23 03:21:38](#)**

(no subject)

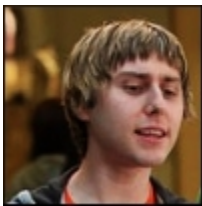
Excellent! Jolly good, and well done you, your dance with Viktor was smashing.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:23:28](#)**

(no subject)

I'll grab one if you and Hydra want to change partners for a set!



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:35:38](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, Luna!

Yes, of course. We were just taking a breather while they changed the bands.

I'll be there directly, what? And JP can dance with Hydra, as well.

| -Justin

2011-12-22 22:35:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




So.

Seamus Finnigan disappeared right as the speeches started. And was gone for long enough to miss the start of the Weird Sisters. And now he's wearing the school robes you could get free from Professor Sinistra and he looks more than a little disgruntled.

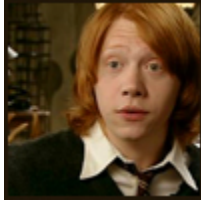
 [alt_sally_anne](#)


My compliments to whichever of you is responsible for this.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 04:39:10](#)
(no subject)

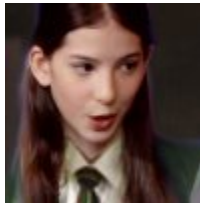
Ronald Weasley, you sneaky monkey!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 04:40:34](#)
(no subject)

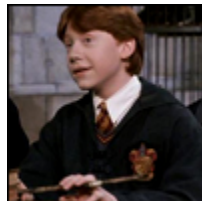
What?


You always suspect me!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 04:41:25](#)
(no subject)

We are offering you proper credit, Ronald. Not blame.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 04:44:35](#)
(no subject)

Oh, well then.


So. Did you want to have a dance, now that there's a proper band and all?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 04:45:17](#)
(no subject)

Okay.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 04:46:22](#)
(no subject)

Snitch.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-23 04:53:06](#)
(no subject)

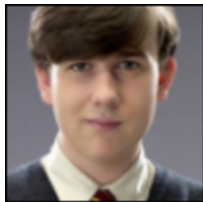
Yeah, we'd love to claim credit for that thunderous expression on Finnegan's face, but for once that wasn't us.


(And by the way, Perks, we hope you noticed and treasured that special moment when Bletchley was sporting a pig's snout.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 04:53:35](#)
(no subject)

I did! Luckily enough. I missed seeing some of the others, but I definitely saw Letchley.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-23 05:00:20](#)
(no subject)

It'll probably be all out war in our dorm room from now on.

But just for tonight I'd say it was probably worth it. What he did to your robes just wasn't on, mate.

2011-12-22 22:50:00

Private Message to Raz and Professor Sinistra

Boldly done.


And nicely timed, as well, children. Now everyone will be in such a tizzy about you two that no one will pay much attention to Miss Clearwater.

Which seems, on the whole, to be a blessing.




 [alt_narcissa](#)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 03:56:53](#)
(no subject)

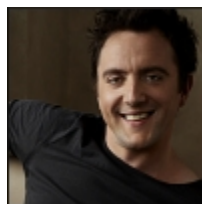
Wasn't planned, actually. But ought to put an end to the ongoing speculation, leastways.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 04:00:31](#)
(no subject)

Well, prepare for the cover of at least three gossip rags.

And now you ought to bring us some punch, dear, so that your Astronomer and I can talk.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 04:01:47](#)
(no subject)

As madam wishes...



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-23 04:00:34](#)
(no subject)


Thank you.

It's rather a relief to confirm, in some ways.

Also, under the circumstances - please do call me Aurora if you'd like.

(Goodness: I knew Miss Clearwater was nervous, but this is rather long.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:22:02](#)**
(no subject)

Are our dancing duties over, I wonder, now that the Weird Sisters are starting up?

I could do with pudding.

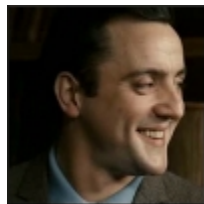



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:26:56](#)**
(no subject)

All the formalities, yes. I do think we can relax a little more.

(Though I understand we do need to keep an eye out for students taking more liberties than perhaps they might with one another.)

Your dancing was everything you promised, and then some, you know. I had a wonderful time.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-23 04:31:36](#)**
(no subject)

That's these boots, then- charmed to help disguise the gimpy leg a bit. No good for day to day use, or else the actual limp itself gets worse.

But yes, Mother always did love seeing her boys off to dancing lessons, much to Father's displeasure.

Glad you're enjoying yourself, love. You deserve it.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-23 04:35:35](#)
(no subject)

Glad of that, on the whole, having seen what happens with boys who don't get lessons. (My toes appreciate, as well, I'm sure...)

And I am enjoying myself, now I'm relieved that everything's gone smoothly.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 04:27:01](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I think we may safely leave the children to the vigorous dancing. While we may enjoy it, they will surely not appreciate our participation.


Come to think of it, where's Hydra gone off to?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 04:32:23](#)
(no subject)


Don't know. Loo? Girls keep running to and from to make sure their hair charms haven't fizzled.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 04:30:19](#)
Private Message to Raz

And speaking of finishing the dancing, you're taking care of yourself, I trust?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 04:32:39](#)
Re: Private Message to Raz

Why? Do I look un-taken care of?

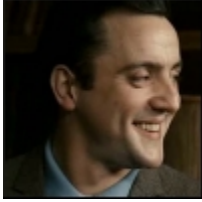


 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-23 04:45:21**

Re: Private Message to Raz

No, sweetheart. You look like a man so well-kept that he is apt to forget himself entirely.

She's delightful. I've always thought so.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2011-12-23 04:46:58**

Re: Private Message to Raz

I'll just assume that's a good thing, then.

I'm glad to hear you say as much- your opinion does matter to me, and I know it does to her, too.

2011-12-22 23:02:00

(no subject)

PANSY AND DRACO THEY'RE PLAYING
YOUR SONG!!!!!!



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 05:07:07](#)

(no subject)

WIZARD!!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:15:35](#)

(no subject)

They sounded really good, didn't they?

They changed up the song more than I thought they would, but everyone seemed to like it.

I think I was too nervous to hear it all properly.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 05:16:47](#)

(no subject)

They should play it again at the end of their set. So you can listen better and not just be all over excited.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:18:35](#)

(no subject)

Maybe they'll do an encore!




 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 05:19:07](#)
(no subject)

There was nothing to be nervous about--it was COMPLETELY BRILL!

Although I like your and Malfoy's tune lots as well; it's more relaxed and mellow.

Did you know about this before they did it?!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:21:13](#)
(no subject)

I got a bit of a heads up, good thing, otherwise I would've totally freaked out in front of everyone, but I didn't know which band was doing it, or what they'd done with it.

I'm so glad you liked it!!

!!!!!!




 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 05:25:52](#)
(no subject)

!!!

It must have been hard keeping *that* up your sleeve for so long! Were you ever *bursting* to tell?

Anyhow I'm really happy for both of you!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:27:08](#)
(no subject)


Cheers, Bones.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 05:29:47](#)
(no subject)


I think it's you and Pansy who are getting the cheers!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:47:27](#)
(no subject)


Ta, Sue!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-23 05:09:02](#)
(no subject)

I think this calls for a big TToTS huzzah!! And of course DANCING!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 05:10:43](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, Fisheye.

It sounds really good. I mean, like a real band wrote it and everything.

I mean, that's really niftcrackers!




 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-23 05:11:47](#)
(no subject)

They do sound really nift, don't they?


I mean, it's really weird to hear it coming from a proper band and everything, but really good too.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:14:15](#)
(no subject)


Thanks, tunabreath.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-23 05:16:03](#)
(no subject)

Is that your song? It IS!!!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:16:24](#)
(no subject)

Was it good?

Did you like it?

I thought it sounded pretty good.


I can't believe a band just played OUR SONG THAT WE WROTE.



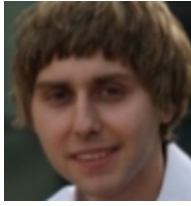
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 05:17:48](#)
(no subject)


It was FANTASTIC and I LOVED it and your song being played by a band is THE SINGLE MOST WIZARD THING EVER.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-23 05:18:43](#)
(no subject)

Wicked!




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-23 05:18:00](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I say, did they write that Merlin song?

Jolly good! Well done, you two!

-Justin




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:20:01](#)
(no subject)

That's right, we wrote it.

Cheers, Finch-Fletchley.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 05:22:01](#)
(no subject)

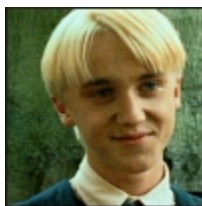
They changed the music a lot, though, didn't they?


But all the words were still Pansy's, I think. Isn't that right?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:23:55](#)
(no subject)


They changed up the last verse, so it wasn't about chocolate any more. And they sped it up a good deal, and added drums and all, but yeah, that's part of what a song goes through when it gets bought by someone else.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:25:53](#)
(no subject)

Can you really judge? I mean, you don't play an instrument or anything, do you Weasley.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 05:29:04](#)
(no subject)

Well, anyone with ears can tell that's a totally different sound than the tune you wrote for it.

I didn't say whether it's better or worse, though I reckon they think this way'll make more money. Or make a bigger hit, yeah?


And the words are still dead clever. You've got to admit that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:31:45](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Enough, Ron. Please. I'm having a wonderful evening, and the thing that would make it even more wonderful would be if you would stop poking at Draco.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 05:35:12](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Sure.

Anywiz, the song's great. And I'm really happy it got bought by a band that'll make it famous

and all.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:44:37](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, I hope so!

And thanks.

Did you have a good time at the ball?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:52:00](#)**

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

Yeah, it was all right. Brocklehurst's sort of clever in an odd way.

And, yeah, It hasn't been half fun, has it? Both bands have been great. I mean the regular ones, the Weird Sisters and this Tintagel one. So, yeah. I'm glad you made me come.

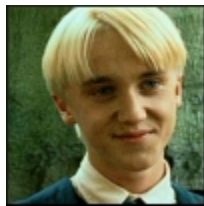
And I'm really glad you fixed these robes so they're not just completely hideous. I mean, you should see the other set! What a git.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 06:03:55](#)**

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

I'm glad I made you come too. Mandy did so want to come, and it doesn't look like hardly anyone even noticed that your robes were a bit off. The most important thing is that you didn't let it spoil your evening and you had fun, which was sort of the whole idea, wasn't it?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:34:57](#)**

(no subject)

No it isn't... it's an E-B-A chord progression with G-D-C at the bridge, which is what I wrote.

Glad you're enjoying it, though.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:20:37](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, Pansy wrote the words and Draco wrote the music. It was all over school last year.

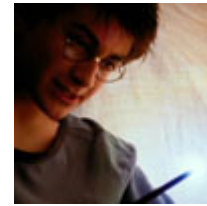
2011-12-22 23:50:00

(no subject)

The Weird Sisters are wicked!

I hope everyone's having a good time.

The food was really good, and everyone looks really nice.



 **alt_harry**



 **alt_harry** at **2011-12-23 04:55:16**

Private Message to Honoria Sandoval

Do you want punch or something?

Sorry I'm not a good dancer. You did just fine though. Good show and all.




 **alt_draco** at **2011-12-23 04:56:39**

Private message to Harry

All right, mate?

So what's Honoria like, then? You *really* having a good time with her?



 **alt_harry** at **2011-12-23 04:59:50**

Re: Private message to Harry

It's okay. I mean, she's sort of young, and I really don't know anything about her. But she's nice?

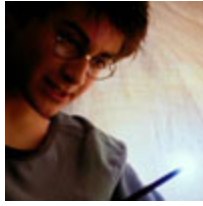



 **alt_draco** at **2011-12-23 05:03:04**

Re: Private message to Harry

Resounding assessment, that.

I really wish things would have worked out for you and Chang.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-23 05:05:33](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Hey!

You didn't tell me they were going to be playing your song tonight.

They sound really good.

Really, really good.

Good on you. Pansy too.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:10:10](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Father made me and Pansy swear to keep it a surprise.

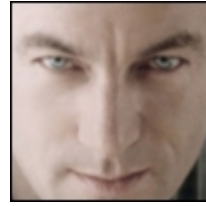
I didn't know when it was going to be played
but..

Brilliant, isn't it?

2011-12-22 23:55:00


Private Message to Narcissa and Raz

You'll not want to miss this.



 **alt_lucius**



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-23 04:58:04**
(no subject)

On my way, then.

2011-12-22 23:59:00

(no subject)

So, Yule Ball, heh?

The raspberry ices are wicked.

I thought the Weird Sisters were playing.
Who's that on stage, then?



 **alt_zacharias**



 **alt_daphne** at **2011-12-23 05:06:59**

(no subject)

Welcome to the ball, Smith.

I've just been told they're called Tintagel.

[2011-12-23 00:11:00](#)

Well done, Draco!

Really, really excellent job getting 'Hey, Hey Merlin' sold to a real band. And they're so GOOD!



(Do you know any of them? The guitarist is quite fit, isn't he?)

 **[alt_padma](#)**

My goodness, this probably means you're going to be on the wireless all the time, now, doesn't it? Are you writing anything else for them?

It's so exciting!




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:18:12](#)**

(no subject)

No, I've not met any of them - Father wouldn't even tell us who was playing. Why, want me to ask him if you can get an introduction after?

Nothing planned yet like that, but who knows, yeah?



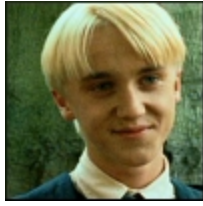
 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:21:45](#)**


(no subject)

Really? How did it happen, then? Did you know, beforehand? I mean, that they were going to be here? And play that?

Do you really think we could meet them? Everyone, I mean, do you think they'll stay afterward? That would be utterly wiznift.

It's so odd to think of any of us becoming famous because of something we do. I mean, you and Harry were already famous because of who you are but that's different. I feel completely unremarkable in comparison to that kind of talent, drawing and playing and all. It's amazing, Draco, really. Congratulations!




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:24:46](#)
(no subject)

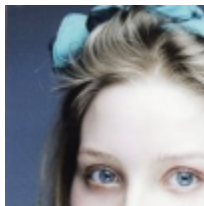
Sure, Father told both me and Pansy it was going to be performed, he just didn't say who. Was meant to be a surprise, that.

And cheers, but I think having the right connections has something to do with it, too. Though without talent connections mean nothing, right?



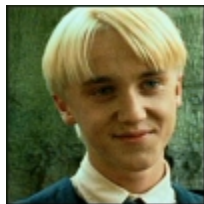
 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-23 05:26:42](#)
(no subject)

Too right.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2011-12-23 05:31:40](#)
(no subject)


I can't believe you kept it a secret all this time, you sly thing!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 05:39:30](#)
(no subject)

And ruin the surprise? Course I kept it a secret.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 05:40:56](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Patil, I'm so glad you liked our song.

And we're hoping to write more, yes. I've got an eye on music producing, and this sort of thing is an excellent opportunity for me to learn about the business of writing songs. And Draco is a wonderful musician. He's an excellent partner.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:43:52](#)**
(no subject)

Well, good show, Pansy. It's really important to know how you'll support yourself, isn't it?

And it's a wizard song, really.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 05:57:13](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I suppose in my case, it'd be much less a matter of needing *support* and more a matter of doing what I love in order to be a productive and contributing member of the Protectorate.

And thank you, Padma, it means a lot to hear that you enjoyed it so much.

2011-12-23 00:25:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

That went fairly well, I think!

I hope I didn't hurt your arm from holding it too tight. I was so nervous! It sounded so good! And different, but good!



 [alt_pansy](#)

I can't believe they actually played a song we wrote.

I'm having such a wonderful night, Draco. I think my face is hurting from smiling so much, and my feet hurt from dancing so much, but it all feels so wonderful that I don't want it to end.




 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-23 05:32:27**
(no subject)

That was brilliant. Utterly epic.

I don't know about you, though, but I'm getting mobbed here. We've better go say hello to Mr Tenebridge and my parents, then meet the band.


Then, if you want, maybe we could try to get away for a bit?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-23 05:34:13**
(no subject)

Yes. Please. I'd like that very much.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-23 05:37:52**
(no subject)

All right, meet me at the punch and we'll head to the stage together.

2011-12-23 00:40:00

Private Message to Dux

Testing.

Does this get to you and no one else, then?

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#)



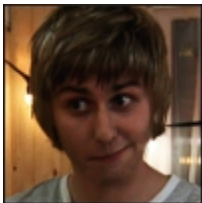
 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-23 05:43:37**

(no subject)

I can read it.

If it got to someone else, too, hopefully...they'll speak up?

From,
Hydra



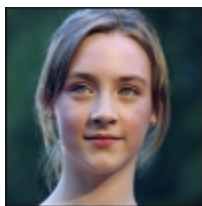
 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-23 05:46:00**

(no subject)

I...think the way it works is that it's supposed to know who I mean. So I guess it's working, then, what?

I'm about ready for another breath of fresh air. You? Or do you need to talk to your aunts and uncles some more?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-23 05:48:25**

(no subject)

I can't think there's many others it would refer to, anyway!

I already said goodnight to Uncle Lucius and Auntie Narcissa, so they probably think I'm for bed soon. And they might still be talking to Draco and Pansy, as well.

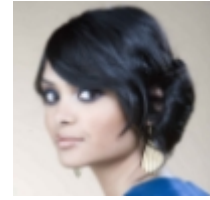
So fresh air would be good.

From,
Hydra

2011-12-23 00:52:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Could you and Evgeni come out to the entrance hall? Something's happened to Lav. We might need backup.



 [alt_padma](#)

The way this night's going I don't think anyone should go anywhere without extra firepower.




 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 05:54:33**
(no subject)

I'm on my way.

Was it the Weasleys AGAIN?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2011-12-23 05:55:57**
(no subject)

No, it was Toubon, her date.

Apparently he really IS a pig, not just has the nose of one.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2011-12-23 05:57:08**
(no subject)

Oh.

Evgeni and I are on our way.

2011-12-23 07:38:00

Private message to Sally Anne

I hope you had a wonderful time last night. You looked like you were floating on air. And Pansy looked beautiful, too.



 [alt_hydra](#)

I didn't really understand your friend Weasley's robes. His sister sent them, didn't she? Is that a new style that hasn't really come out yet?

But, other things... I don't know if you noticed, but Justin had a black eye at breakfast, and his lip was cut, too. When I asked him after he just said it was a good thing he was fast, and that not to worry because the other chap took a few blows, too. And then he asked me if I liked the roses he sent.

It had to have been Henri Toubon, and maybe Coty, too. Probably after he left me at Slytherin last night. I don't know if my hexing Coty made Toubon worse than usual, but either way I suppose that Justin had enough and fought back this time.

I don't know, I'm not sure what to do. Maybe now they've had a proper two-sided fight it'll all simmer down, but I'm worried it won't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-23 16:00:52**


(no subject)

I had a marvelous time.

Ron's robes: ah. Well, his sister had robes made for him because the robes from his mum was very old and out of style. One of his dorm mates, probably Seamus Finnigan, hexed the robes from his sister and Ron didn't find out until it was nearly time to go to the Ball. So he wore the old robes. He and Mandy seemed to have a good time anyway, though.

I didn't see Justin at breakfast ~~I was reading the~~ but that's concerning. Maybe you can suggest he not go anywhere by himself for a few days? Maybe he could take JP with him most places? Toubon and Coty are pretty big, but maybe you and I and a few other people could get together and teach them a lesson if that's what's needed?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 16:27:14](#)
(no subject)

Why would Seamus do that? Well, I suppose it must be a Gryffindor thing.

Not going anywhere alone is a good idea. I'm not sure about a gang of us teaching them a lesson, though, not yet anyway. Because maybe now that Justin's fought back they'll leave him alone?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 16:44:06](#)
(no subject)

Why are the other Beauxbatons boys so horrible to Justin?

Also, do the professors at Beauxbatons just ignore this sort of thing instead of giving detentions or taking House points? I keep thinking about Hogwarts in comparison because there are plenty of people who don't get on but mostly they play mean tricks (like sabotaging robes) or do little things that don't leave a lot of evidence (like pinching hexes). And it's not on, for two NEWT students to go after a fourth year.

Finnigan hexed Ron's robes because Ron hexed him at the YPL meeting where we were learning mediwizardry. And Ron did that because when the robes came from Ron's mum, Finnigan teased him and made the robes rise up and dance around the Gryffindor table. They've never liked each other but things seem to be particularly bad right now.



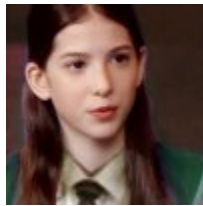
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 16:59:21](#)
(no subject)

I don't know for certain. Could it have something to do with his parents being squibs? Or not being French?

I think the Beauxbatons professors think some students just need to learn to endure, or cope, or solve their own problems. Which doesn't really make sense when the situation's so mis-matched, but I suppose it might be a cultural thing.

And if you ask me robes are a daft thing to row over.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-23 17:08:59**
(no subject)

It could be that they were squibs, and not French. But Dean Thomas came to Hogwarts from the muddblood camps because someone realised he had a proper wizard father, and the seventh years didn't try to make HIS life horrid (Professor Carrow did, and maybe that helped him, in a way, because EVERYONE hated Professor Carrow. Even the other professors hated him.)


To a certain extent the professors here let everyone get on with it, you know, we're not really expected to run to them for every little thing but when it's so mismatched they would put a stop to it, surely, if it were Hogwarts students.

And yes, robes are a daft thing to row over, but they weren't really rowing over robes, you know, they were rowing over the fact that Ron's family has almost no money, and Finnigan's foster-father has loads, but Finnigan doesn't get to live with his parents on holidays (or even have contact with them) and Ron sees his parents all the time. Finnigan wants to believe that being rich makes up for not being a pureblood and so he's cruel to Ron about Ron not having any money.

Do you think you can persuade Justin to stay near JP? Do you think it would help? Unfortunately I don't know how much of a match Justin and JP together are if Toubon and Coty came after them together.

Those roses Justin sent you were really lovely, by the way, I noticed them when they came at breakfast.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-23 17:29:48](#)
(no subject)

I will suggest that he stick with JP and others, yes, but I don't think him being with JP has stopped them in the past. But at least now I know that he will fight back, and in that case it might draw one of his professors attention, finally. Because before it was mostly him just going along with Coty and Toubon's antics and waiting for them to move along, so the professors might not have really seen it for what it was.

Did you see the roses were silver? I knew they could grow them that way, but I've never seen any up-close before. They're just perfect.

Sally Anne, would you rather be pureblooded and poor, or half-blooded and rich? If those were the only choices.

You don't have to answer if you don't want to.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 17:56:59](#)
(no subject)

The other thing Justin could try is to talk to one of the Hogwarts professors, like Professor Sinistra. I think our professors have mostly been letting Professor Froissart handle the discipline for the French students but if Justin went to someone they'd step in.

I did see the roses were silver. Do they have a scent? I couldn't tell from where I was sitting.

I'd rather be pureblood and poor, because I'd get to go home to my parents on holidays. Instead of the Strettons. Although if I could be a half-blood like Susan Bones that would be different. She's technically a half-blood but really she's only a quarter, and she's not in fostering.



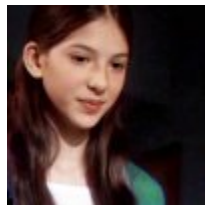
 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 18:04:37](#)**
(no subject)

I'll mention that to him too, then.

They smell like other kinds of roses, from what I can tell. What's surprising is that they're soft, like other roses, too.

Oh, I see then. ~~You must love your parents a~~ I'm sorry to ask something so personal, only I'm trying to see all sides of things lately, on important issues and such.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 18:18:58](#)**
(no subject)

It's alright, Hydra, you can ask me personal questions if you want. I trust you to keep them private.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 18:23:57](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, of course I would!

And thank you again for the advice.

From,
Hydra

2011-12-23 07:51:00

The ball!!


Which couple was caught snogging in the rose bushes by caretaker Milland?



 [alt_eloise](#)


- Roger Davies and Fleur Delacour
 - Seamus Finnigan and Padma Patil
 - Daphne Greengrass and Barnabas Bole
 - Sarah Fawcett and Bobby Stebbins
 - Chastity Derwent and Odysseus Bobolis
 - Eloise Midgen and John Summers hehehehe
-



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-23 15:04:42](#)
(no subject)


Midgen, really.



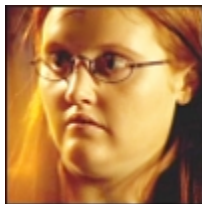
 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-23 15:08:28](#)
(no subject)


Okay!! I'll put you down for "Eloise Midgen and John Summers."

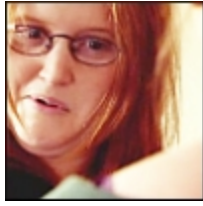


 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-23 15:11:12](#)
(no subject)

And I'll just put you down for five points from Hufflepuff.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-23 15:17:43](#)
(no subject)




 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2011-12-23 15:31:16](#)**
(no subject)

Avery pulled me aside and said its 50 points to whichever house has the highest number of correct guesses!!

(HINT - IT MIGHT BE MORE THAN ONE COUPLE ON THE LIST WHO WERE CAUGHT!!)



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 16:30:32](#)**
(no subject)


Don't be ridiculous, Midgen, Finnigan's just a mate.

It was Fawcett and Stebbins.

Derwent and Bobolis went up to the Divination Tower.


Daphne probably *did* snog Bole but she's too clever to get caught by Mr Milland.



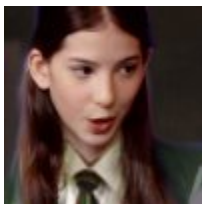
 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2011-12-23 16:32:35](#)**
Private Message to Lavender and Parvati

And if Davies did snog Delacour I'll hex his tongue out!



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2011-12-23 23:32:40](#)**
Re: Private Message to Lavender and Parvati

Trust me, we'll be happy to help!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-23 16:53:32](#)**
(no subject)


I heard one of the prefects caught Davies and Delacour snogging, but Delacour smiled at him and he went all wobbly and let them go.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 18:05:22](#)
(no subject)


Professor Razzer and Professor Sinistra.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 18:08:35](#)
(no subject)


Hey. Mind your Ps and Qs.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 18:09:06](#)
(no subject)

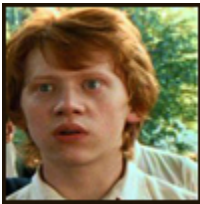
Consider it my creative way of congratulating you.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 18:09:27](#)
(no subject)

Cheers.

Stop being so creative.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-23 21:35:46](#)
(no subject)

Who'd want to hide in rose bushes?

That's the stupidest thing ever.

Whoever it was, I don't think it was Finnigan and Patil. If she's looking to get snogged, maybe she shouldn't've scared Davies off cause F.

[2011-12-23 08:02:00](#)

Order Only

Severus, Pomona and I have just been discussing over breakfast how *entertaining* it was to see Mr Milland surrounded by interested witches.



 **[alt_poppy](#)**

We each enjoyed our dances with you, though one does wish to comment that generally it is socially appropriate to acknowledge pleasant conversation with at least a smile if not with a reciprocating word.

To your credit, you seemed to do a bit better in your impersonation of the amiable Mr Milland when you were speaking with his other admirers.

Shame you fled so early from the scene. 'Duties', indeed.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-23 14:38:43](#)**

Private Message to Poppy

Dancing?

DANCING?

I'm surprised he didn't blow the whole place to bits just on the principle.

Does he even know how to dance?

I feel sorry for any witch who actually thinks he's a catch, though. Is this Milland bloke a looker or something?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 21:26:14](#)**

Re: Private Message to Poppy

I believe our friend, Mr Snape, has allowed a bit of rust to accumulate on his dancing slippers. (But, then, who among us in the Order has not? Perhaps you attend a tea dance or two each month in New

London?)

As for Milland, he's not handsome so much as *engaging*, which

apparently some members of staff found attractive. Milland has a lively personality, but I believe that's proving a bit of a stretch for our rather reserved colleague who is, at present, forced to keep up a credible impersonation.

2011-12-23 08:18:00

Private message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy



 [alt_draco](#)

Father - I want to thank you (and the other governors) for making last night such a brilliant and memorable event. Tintagel was epic and Pansy was thrilled. Everyone's still talking about it and not liable to stop anytime soon. I said my thanks to Mr Tenebridge last night but I've got a little something to send him for Christmas, as well.

Mother - You looked beautiful as always, and were as gracious as ever.

I'm going to miss the Manor this Christmas. It sounds like the party will really be something else, and of course spending time with you both is what I really look forward to. I've not stayed behind for hols since year two, when I threw that tantrum because you made me stay at the castle to keep from catching the plague. Ha, what a brat. Don't worry, I know now that you were only doing it out of concern.

Firechat on Christmas?

Hope the party goes spectacularly.

Love,
Draco



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-23 16:00:22**
(no subject)


Your father and I are so proud of you, Draco. You're growing into a splendid young man in all the right sorts of ways. Nights like last evening make us both so very pleased, both for you and for ourselves, for raising such a clever, talented, handsome, well-liked and well-bred young man.

Mother is outdoing herself this year, no mistake. But I do believe the results will be worth it. Though I admit that I took full advantage of the knowledge that there would be fewer young people this year than in others.

As for that second year, yes, it was so unfortunate. I can't recall having to spend so long apart before or since and we missed you terribly, as well.

Tell me, dear. Hydra and her beau: Does that strike you as anything inappropriate? He seemed properly attentive, to be sure but there were a few dances where--well. You are all young and I'm sure that youthful vigour can overcome even the most polite of boys. Your Uncle Raz seemed to think it was nothing but then I know he doesn't see Hydra as much as you.

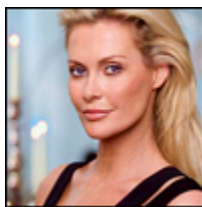


 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 16:18:25](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Mother. I'm pleased to know that I'm representing you and Father well.

And now that you've told me that about the party, I'm more sorry than ever that I'll miss it.

Finch-Fletchley has seriously old world manners, and, well, is a bit on the soft side, so I can't really imagine him doing anything inappropriate. It's not as if he doesn't know who Hydra's Mother is, after all. I can make an effort to be more observant if it's something you're worried about, though.

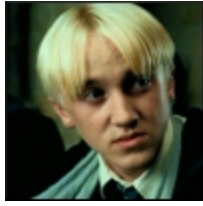


 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 16:24:33](#)
(no subject)

There will be plenty of time for bacchanals when you're older, my son. (Though from what I hear, you've already begun familiarising yourself with the, ah, *finer* points of culture. And why not, indeed? Just mind you be careful not to do yourself any mischief.)

As for mischief as it pertains to Mr Finch-Fletchley, I believe you're correct. Merlin knows your Uncle Rod certainly would not have given his consent without a similar assessment. I'm sure they were just having a good time in the dancing. Don't trouble.

But, now, you and Miss Parkinson? Is there anything you'd like to tell Mother about *that*? Or are you merely showing her your own old world manners, then?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 16:33:16](#)
(no subject)


I can't say I know what you mean, Mother. If you check my school records I've been perfectly behaved - no detention yet this year. ~~Father doesn't cou~~

Alright, I won't trouble then.

No...what would I want to tell you?

I mean, no, there's nothing to say. You're my *Mother*, I can't talk about those things with you! It would be... no.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 16:36:40](#)
(no subject)

No, I don't mean detentions. Though certainly that's a possibility whenever one indulges in ... contraband?

And I don't want you to think you oughtn't keep an eye on Hydra. You know she's a delicate creature, much to your Auntie Bella's dismay. She might well be glad of her cousin's fraternal protection, eventually.

Oh, dear. Am I embarrassing you, son? Mother's work is complete, then.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 16:53:34](#)
(no subject)

I think "indulging" is a bit of an exaggeration.

I'll do what I can, then, but I'm not going to trail her around the castle or anything. That'd just be too weird.

And no, I'm not embarrassed. I'm just not up to discussing it at the moment.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2011-12-23 21:13:00](#)
(no subject)

We've a brief respite in the lull between afternoon and evening guests.

As your mother said, we're both quite struck by the man you are becoming, and quickly at that. It has been our great privilege to encourage you in a number of directions as you determine how you'll contribute as a fully-fledged wizard in your own right. I look forward to growing to know you as one man to another, as well as father to son.

(Don't mind your mother overmuch, either! You'll recall she enjoys teasing you about anything masculine. Trying to gauge just *how much* you've grown, no doubt!)



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-24 00:49:40](#)
(no subject)

~~Oh I don't know~~ I look forward to that too, Father.

Yes, I can tell that she's enjoying herself. Since it's Christmas I *suppose* I'll indulge it.

2011-12-23 09:14:00

Well done, everyone!

I hope everyone had a marvellous time last night.

CCF, Prefects and others: If I didn't catch you last night (and I know I missed some of you, though I tried to find everyone), I've a small something for all of you. I have some of the tokens to Melinda so she could keep passing them along, there were so many to give and some of you left, I think, before I could catch up with you all. Token or not, thank you, each of you, for making Hogwarts shine.



 [alernity](#)
 [alt_penelope](#)

Professor Sinistra, I'm sorry I wasn't able to stay for the whole time. I wasn't feeling very well toward the end. I think probably because I was so nervous before that I didn't have much to eat and then I got *too* hungry. Well, anyway. Thank you so much for everything. You really looked like a star yourself, last night. I'm so proud that Hogwarts is represented by someone like you.

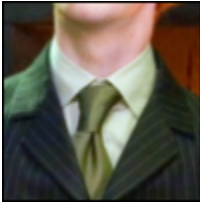
Bravo to the Champions and their Escorts! Again, it must be said that you all looked marvellous. Miss Sandoval, congratulations in particular on gracing Mr Marvolo's arm with poise, especially for one so young.

And finally: Congratulations to Slytherin's own Draco Malfoy and Pansy Parkinson! Tintagel's performance of 'Hey, Hey Merlin' was the highlight of the night, no matter what other memories we may take away from the festivities. I'm sure we're all very excited and proud that a song celebrating our glorious Protectorate has gained such popularity on a much broader plane than the castle's walls. It's a significant accomplishment for you both, and well done.

Now, I know everyone is probably still quite excited by yesterday's delights and I hope that you all continue to enjoy the rose garden; Mr Milland tells us that it shall remain through the end of the school holidays. Or was that just through the Christmas holiday? Well, the weekend, at any rate.

Just please, please remember No Magic in the Corridors and even

though it's holidays, please remember that school rules regarding curfews and other activities are still in effect.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-23 14:38:25](#)

Private message to Penelope Clearwater

By all reports the evening was a triumph. Congratulations. Did you have a good time? ~~Even~~ though I



 [alt_penelope](#) at [2011-12-23 14:43:47](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

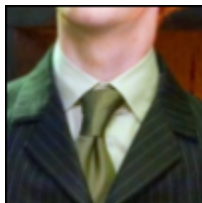
No. It was awful.

I mean everyone else had fun, I guess.

I just... everyone *hated* my speech and Lana bloody Sandoval was so horrid about it and I had to stand there and not spit in her eye and-- oh, PLEASE tell me Ned's not having you at the wedding, is he? I don't think I could stand her smug little comments when she's the centre of attention like that.

Anyway. As soon as I could reasonably escape I did. Luckily there wasn't anyone else in the Tower when I got back. I had what Mum would call "a good cry" and oh, blast, I'm still a bit weepy.

Better stop. I'll blotch the ink.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2011-12-23 15:10:40](#)

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

If you're feeling not quite the thing perhaps you are misreading how the speech was received? Because the report in the *Prophet* was quite approving, I assure you!

Penny, I'm so very sorry I couldn't be there to be with you. Of course it's reasonable to feel blue when you're at an event when most people are paired up, aside from yourself.

I haven't heard any word from Ned, so I don't know, but it's certainly possible to attend a wedding and stay as far away as

possible from the bride and groom, citing the crush of people as an excuse.

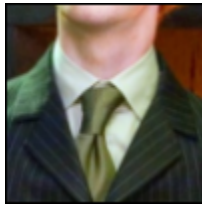


 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2011-12-23 14:52:37](#)**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh, but thank you. For the pendant. It's lovely.

Even if Avery laughed at the diamond chip. It's beautiful.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 15:14:19](#)**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

...

Well, bollocks to Avery anyway, who asked him? It's your opinion that counts, and if you're happy with it I'm satisfied. I'm glad you like it.



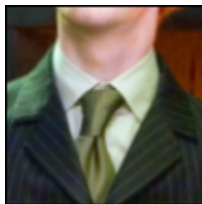
 **[alt_penelope](#)** at **[2011-12-23 15:16:59](#)**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I love it.

Love you, too.

Miss you.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-12-23 18:40:19](#)**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Love you, too.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-23 14:44:10](#)**

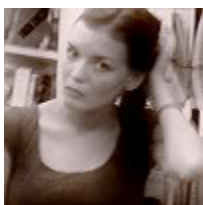
Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I do hope you're feeling better this morning - but I quite understand about the nerves. I noticed you'd gone as we got later into the evening, but kept having other people I needed to talk to. You did Hogwarts

proud, and I know it was hard for you, not to have Mr Weasley able to come.

(And of course, thank you for the compliment: I was most nervous about the whole thing myself.)

There's a nice little piece about your speech in the Prophet, if you've not seen it yet. Really quite complimentary. I expect to be up in my office this afternoon, if you don't have another copy handy.



 **alt_penelope** at **2011-12-23 14:59:27**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

Oh. I didn't see the article. Thanks.

I guess it's hard to have a wonderful time when all around people are paired off. Do you know I read in a magazine, I don't remember which one but something Melinda had left round the common room--and they're all alike, aren't they, those girls' periodicals--well, anyway, I read that loads of people get really depressed round the holidays. I reckon loneliness is as good a reason to be depressed as any.

But the CCF did very well, and you and Professor Raz look so happy together, and that's a good reason to celebrate.

Thanks again, for those little treats to hand out. I know I'm no Lana Sandoval but

Oh, bother.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-23 15:06:02**

Re: Private message to Penelope Clearwater

I've had quite my share of lonely events myself, and yes, it is hard. You bore up really quite well, everything considered.

(And yes, goodness, on the magazines. I read them to keep up with what's going on with who, and half the time, I can't remember which ones I've already read, they're so similar.)

But they do make a point: it is hard when everyone around you is with someone else, and you're not. Do try to find something you

enjoy doing today, that's just for you. (For me, that's always been stargazing, but I think everyone's got something of the kind, don't they?)

On the treats: you're most welcome, and it does smooth over the edges when you do something like that. It's a trick one of the YPL committee members taught me, and it serves remarkably well. (And oddly, works best if it's something consumable, like those truffles, rather than something to keep forever.) People like getting things, so they warm to you a bit more ~~than they might otherwise~~.

Cheers, too, on the rest. It's something of a relief to have it a bit more public.




 **[alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-23 14:59:54](#)**

(no subject)

Kind words, Clearwater. I thank you for them.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 17:53:46](#)**

(no subject)

Cheers, Clearwater!

2011-12-23 09:39:00

Quite a night!

I do want to second Miss Clearwater's compliments and congratulations: excellently done, all of you, for representing Hogwarts in the best possible tradition.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

My very deep thanks to the Prefects, YPL counsellors, and to the CCF for all doing their part to coordinate all manner of tasks, and I'm delighted everything went so smoothly. And the surprise of hearing "Hey, Hey Merlin" by two of our own was amazing. Excellent work, both of you!

For those who need to return borrowed robes, or perhaps want an ear for any reason, I'll be up in my office for much of the later morning and afternoon, until about four, outside of lunch. (I've also got a fair selection of the press coverage, if anyone wants to have a look.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-12-23 14:52:18**

Private message to Poppy

Oh, goodness, I'm glad that's over.

(Mind, I had a truly wonderful time, once we got going.)

Though really, everything went far more smoothly than I thought it might. There were the usual minor catastrophes, but thank Circe, nothing that showed too badly before any of our guests.

Now: I didn't get any chance to talk to either you or Pomona last night, but what on earth was the matter with Milland?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2011-12-23 14:54:55**

Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I do hope the rest of your night was as wonderful as the beginning - you did seem to be having quite a good time every time I spotted you.

I mentioned it above, but I do have the various press that's come out. If you'd like to see, come by - or I'd be glad to arrange a time you can

look more privately, if you or Miss Parkinson would like that.

There's some nice bits about both of you, though also some cattier ones, but nothing too horrible, of course. You didn't give them the slightest cause.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-23 15:55:19](#)

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I've seen a few already. There was one that called me Sarah Jane Parks. Being 'innocent and lovely' was nice to see but 'depressingly dowdy'?!? My robes were BEAUTIFUL even if they weren't from some famous designer like Pansy's Hydra's ~~most everyone else's in Slytherin~~ some.

Pansy told me not to read the nasty ones but I couldn't help myself.

Well. At least Viktor was right, they didn't have any time to look into my family. Though there was one article where they have this whole little side bar explaining that half-bloods in fostering have very little money of their own and outlining the entire BUDGET that our foster families get from the Ministry! And then they talked about the school robes and noted I wasn't in them and speculated that Pansy had bought them for me and wrote about HER family fortune. I hate to think what sorts of things they'd have written about my mum and dad -- my original mum and dad, I mean, not Mr and Mrs Stretton -- if they'd had time. (They'd probably have written all sorts of dreadful things about the Strettons too ~~but I mind~~ less come to think about it.)

Anyway I'll come up later to see the rest of it. There are probably a few no one in Slytherin had.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-23 16:06:02](#)

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I thought you looked entirely lovely, and your dress suited you perfectly. (But yes, I had seen that one as well.)

On reading the nasty ones: I've mostly decided I'd rather know what they say than wonder. But I only read them when I'm in the right mood, and can be more amused than anything. (A couple of

the pieces this morning, my goodness, the assumptions.)

And I'm glad they seem not to have had much luck digging into my background, though they've certainly had more time to have a suspicion they might want to. (Not that I've particular ghosts in the closet, but one never knows what innocent thing the press will grab, I gather.)

The sidebar really was a bit much, I thought. And it's not like you yourself have a great deal of control over that sort of thing.

I'll look forward to seeing you, then, later.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-23 16:50:05**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Trying to find them funny is a good idea. Maybe I'll bring Pansy with me and we can take turns reading them out loud? When I looked at them this morning everyone was watching for my reaction and so I tried just to roll my eyes and say you can't expect much from a group of reporters who couldn't even get my name right (SARAH JANE PARKS, really? Although at least if they think my last name is 'Parks' they'll have a job of it to find my parents.)

I didn't look that much at what they said about you but you were on the front page of nearly everything. Did anyone say anything bad? I don't know how they could, you were so elegant and you and ~~the Razer~~ Professor Lestrangle looked absolutely lovely together. And you've both been completely proper.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-23 16:57:39**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Reading them out loud can be quite amusing, yes. And I quite agree - when they can't even get your name right, there's no reason you should take them at all seriously. It just proves how much of these sort of things are speculation.

On the ones about me - I'm quite glad the photos came out as well as they did, I must say. Nothing I've seen yet has been entirely terrible, but there have been some digs at my family (we're pureblood quite a way back, of course, but certainly not

moving in those sorts of social circles at all). And I've seen several speculating on how long it might last.

No matter. I'm quite content, and it'll take more than a few articles to shake that. Feeling gorgeous in new robes certainly didn't hurt either. I'd never quite understood the power of clothing to do that, before this.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2011-12-23 16:15:16**

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Congratulations to you, as well, Aurora.

Now, do remember there's nothing to worry about. Just hold your head high and when you've nothing to say, simply smile. Believe me, sometimes the best comment is no comment.

Regarding today's festivities, as I said last night, family and particular friends are welcome anytime after luncheon. If you can convince Razzer to budge prior to the evening cocktail hour, I do hope you'll come along early. It's more intimate and you'll get a chance to feel more comfortable with the smaller group. That way the throng in the evening will seem less overwhelming and you'll be able to seek out more allies along the way. Diana, Ursula and Pandora are particularly helpful in that regard; they've years of experience smoothing the fabric of social interaction.

Amanda and Emile are coming early as well. I think Emile mentioned racing the Abraxans against our own, so you and Razzer could even come along in the carriage with them, if you preferred!

And of course, should you two decide not to return to Hogwarts the same night, we've a number of guest rooms set aside each year for just such an event. And every year there are a few who take advantage of the offer.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-23 16:29:12**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Thank you, Mrs Narcissa.

I certainly have a great deal of admiration for the amount of effort involved in your gatherings, now.

I'm just so relieved that last night went as smoothly as it did.

Both Raz and I do have some tasks to tend to here, especially as we were rather wrapped up in other things last night. But I do hope we'll be able to arrive on the early side, as you're quite right it would ease things. And I certainly appreciate your guidance. Pandora and I were in the same year at school, of course, but it's always good to know who might be willing to help.

Thank you again - and I should say, once more, Draco is growing into quite a fine young man, a credit to both you and his father.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-23 17:20:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

We're rather inordinately proud of him, yes.

I had no idea you and Pandora were acquainted. How very auspicious.

I'm glad to hear you say you've found a new appreciation of the difficulty of party-planning. It's not nearly as frivolous as people think. In fact, it can be exhausting to ensure that everything is just right, service and activities at the right time, everyone always content, and the trickiest part is to make it all seem effortless!

But shall I tell you a secret? I had a little help this year.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-23 17:28:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

As you should be, about Draco. And he certainly did look quite handsome last night.

And yes - Pandora and I weren't close at school, but we certainly did know one another to speak to. (I admit, I was far too often up the Astronomy tower, so far more my doing than hers, I'm sure.)

I quite agree about the difficulty of making it seem effortless. As to having help - well, someone told me, relating to planning some of the YPL activities - that the trick of a good organiser is knowing when someone's talents and time can be used to save your own for other things.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-23 17:12:30](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

After a little negotiation, Raz and I think we'll be able to join you around three.

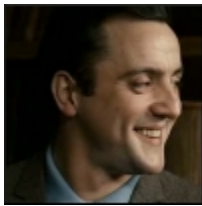
I'm very much looking forward to it, and to seeing how the hints of the theme I've heard come together.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 16:44:54](#)

(no subject)

Thank you professor!



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-23 17:07:56](#)

Private message to Rory

What's everyone saying in the private messages?

No, wait, don't answer- let me get out from the bath and I'll come read over your shoulder.

[2011-12-23 11:45:00](#)

(no subject)

I don't know about the rest of you, but I had an absolutely marvellous time last night, and most everyone I've talked to has had a fine time as well.



 **[alt_pansy](#)**

The band was a wonderful surprise -- apparently, Tintagel is launching their first album in the next few weeks, and our song will be the second single they'll be releasing for radio, so it'll be the first song on the "A" side of the record, and we may hear it being played on the wireless by New Years. How exciting! I think they did a really smashing job, and I'm looking forward to the rest of their album. Mr Tenebridge was so gracious to arrange for them to play last night. I really thoroughly enjoyed it.

I hope everyone is recovering from a night of dancing, and it's hard to believe that tomorrow is Christmas Eve! I've got all my shopping done, thank goodness, so I can enjoy the next few days. Mother, I've had your and Prospero's presents sent to you so they ought to arrive on time. I hope you're doing well, and next time I come to Gloss House, I look forward to meeting my new brother. He ought to be making an appearance any day now, from what you've written me, and I think that's the best Christmas gift you both could have. I'll keep my eyes open for the announcement.

And Lucius and Aunt Narcissa, it was so good to catch up with you at the Ball. Although I'm sorry to be missing out on your Christmas party, I'm so glad I got to see you both during the holiday season.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-23 17:13:28](#)**

Private Message to Sally-Anne

If you and Victor want to go for a walk later, perhaps we can get Ron to come along so he'll get over his "enemy" nonsense. Honestly, I think he just is a bit overwhelmed by how famous he is, but if he gets a chance to talk to him, he'll get over himself.

You are absolutely glowing in all of your pictures. Even though some of the stories are a bit catty, anyone with eyes can see just how happy both of you are, and honestly, if you'd had a dress that was the most expensive in the room, they'd make a fuss over that too. You looked absolutely beautiful, and perfectly appropriate for a ball, and I'm so

glad you had a good time.

When you came in the room, Patil looked like she'd eaten one of those manky mangoes. It was brilliant.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-12-23 17:20:36**


Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I WISH I had a picture of Patil's face.

And I agree, all the pictures are good except for the one that was taken while I was eating, I don't think anyone really looks good when they're chewing.

That's a good idea about a walk later. Do you think we should warn Ron or just ambush him with Viktor and hope his mum's training overcomes his Gryffindor contrarian-ness and he behaves?



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-23 17:51:43**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Oooh. Let's see.

If we give him time to get ready, he may get worked up in his head and come up with all sorts of comments that he thinks will be clever but will come off as rude.

I say ambush. And we can do something, like throw snowballs at a tree, or try skating on the pond, because it's always much easier to get on with someone when you're doing something fun than if you just have to walk and come up with conversation. Boys can be so bad at that sort of thing.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2011-12-23 18:21:31**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

OK, that sounds like a plan.



 **alt_pansy** at **2011-12-23 17:48:00**

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Draco;

I've been thinking over and over again about what you told me last night, and it just makes my heart so happy. I really do treasure the connection that we have, and how far we've come these past few years.

I'd very much like to keep spending time together, as we have been these past two weeks. I also particularly enjoyed how we ended the evening. Champagne and a kiss! You really know how to sweep a girl clean off her feet. I'm still floating a little, honestly.

Any last minute Christmas cards or wrapping to do? I've got some letters to send, and one or two things to wrap yet, but nothing too time consuming. It's been hard wrapping presents for my dorm-mates without them coming in to see.



 **alt_draco** at **2011-12-24 00:23:10**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

It was definitely a special night, so I'm glad you enjoyed yourself. I did, too. And really, I'm just glad we're as close as we are again.

Yes, I've still got about half to wrap and parcel up. With exams and the ball right on top of each other I've not had time to keep on top of things as usual.

You could always go wrap presents in the bath? Heh.



 **alt_pansy** at **2011-12-24 00:34:36**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Well, what are you doing tonight? Let's find an empty classroom and settle down with wrapping paper and Christmas music, and we'll get a house elf to bring up some hot cocoa. We'll have it done in less than an hour.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-24 00:39:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I'm wrapping gifts with you, apparently.

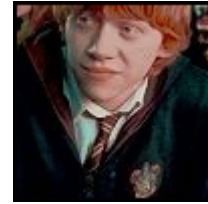
And music and cocoa sounds bril, so long as we don't have to listen to that song about the Twelve Days of Christmas. It goes on for bloody ages, that one. And what would one do, exactly, with eleven lords a-leapin'?

[2011-12-23 15:37:00](#)

Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

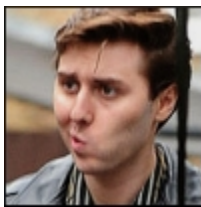
Say, are you all right?


I heard you'd maybe got the rough end of a duel last night. Is that so? What happened?



 [alt_ron](#)

Or maybe it's just talk. It's hard to know sometimes. By the time stuff gets around to us Gryffindors, it's not always quite right.



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2011-12-24 00:52:46](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Hullo, Ron,

I say, where did you hear that? Rough end of a duel. That's rather a generous way of putting it, what?

Well, that's not entirely fair. I daresay I've had worse, actually, and it seems jolly bad form to complain about a little altercation after we all had to watch that poor witch be tortured yesterday, what?

Am I correct that Sally-Anne spoke to you? I know Hydra said she'd been talking to her and you and she are close, aren't you? Really, I'm rather embarrassed anyone's taking this sort of trouble. It's nothing I haven't had happen before. Well, not exactly.

Henri Toubon came across me last night after I'd seen Hydra back to her Common Room. I heard today that he'd been told off by his escort, though I didn't know that then. I suppose that made him cross already, or perhaps he was cross because he'd seen me with Hydra and Luna and the others all evening and felt it unfair that we were having so much fun. Well, he doesn't half hate me already so it was a small bet he'd simply say 'Good Evening' and have done, what?

Only I don't know quite what happened. I wasn't cross in return, do you see. I didn't lose my temper and I'm deuced glad of that. I shouldn't like him or Coty to ever think they've made me do that. On the contrary, I went all over cold, if you follow me. It was as if I didn't care whether he hexed me or walked away and he seemed to move in slow motion. I knew what he was going to do before he did it, somehow. He raised his wand and I closed in immediately and


pummelled him full in the stomach.

Well. He's clearly used to fighting hand-to-hand as well as duelling so I knew I wasn't going to get away unscathed, do you see, but for the first time I got in the first blow. Once I got a little distance back I cast the conjunctivitis jinx and walked away.

So, I hope I've made the point that I'm not having it anymore. I hope it shan't be a problem anymore, as a result. And if it is, I suppose I shall make my point again, what?

-Justin



 **alt_ron** at **2011-12-24 02:35:28**

(no subject)

Wow. Well, good on you, and I hope you're right on this settling it.

If not, let me know if you ever need a second.

Because that's just not on, what those two blokes think they can do to you.

2011-12-23 18:29:00

Order Only: Our Haul

I'm back safe and sound and Emmeline let us know that her handoff to the Sherwood group went off without a hitch.



 [alt_sirius](#)

As you know, I've been working with Aleks and Fatima to bring in not just the contraband we need, but items for the shop here that could, theoretically, have been imported legally but for which we at Laszlo simply didn't wish to pay the tariffs. All part of our revolutionary strategy to keep our prices low and our stock distinctive.

However. I know that a good deal of these items are also very valuable for other uses - bribes, for example, when we go out rescuing Muggleborns - and a variety of barter and trade arrangements. So I thought I'd just give you all a taster and please do give a shout if you'd like us to hold any of it back rather than put it on the market.

You can pick up anything you want to claim on Monday. (Allie, I assume you've taken care of inviting everyone, love?)

Right:

- 20 bolts of silk, various colours and weights but mainly bleached, suitable for dyeing. (Each bolt is about 4 yards wide I think? and I don't know how many yards long.)
- 36 spools of silk thread, 3 each in 12 colours (white, black, blue, red, green, yellow, purple, orange, sort of a lime, peach, beige and brown)
- Peacock feathers, one gross, suitable for quills or hats
- Eagle feathers, same
- Lamp oil, three cases of 12oz bottles
- 10 crates of clementine oranges (about 6dz oranges per crate)
- 10 crates of bananas (I've no idea how many bunches that is!)
- 10 crates of lemons (about 6dz lemons per crate)

- kitchen-grade mace, ground, 3 cases at 24 jars per case
- kitchen-grade sugar, 1lb bags, 100lbs total
- curry powder, 1oz packets, 1 gross
- coriander, same
- cinnamon, same
- saffron, 1/2oz packets, 1 gross
- chocolate (don't worry, we've already put most of it in your parcels)
- 3 crates Algerian pomegranates
- 12 cases loose tobacco
- Cigarettes, one gross of cartons (these might be dicey to sell in-shop, so if you've a use for them, so much the better)
- one gross of salamanders
- 3 cases of HotWot
- 1 case of Tooth-ache tonic (Poppy, you're getting some, don't worry!)
- 2 cases of Indian Ocean Blood-Replenisher
- 2 cases of Hercules All-Heal
- 2 cases of French perfume (6oz bottles)
- 2 cases of Absinthe (minus two bottles)
- 3 cases of small batch Kentucky Bourbon
- 10 cases each of pinot noir, pinot grigio, cabernet, syrah, tokay, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc & bordeaux (all French, of course)
- cases and kegs of beer

(Most of the alcohol will go to the beer garden but we've been all day reversing the size-reducing spells, getting the cellar organised and taking inventory.)

Well? Step right up, don't be shy - Laszlo's back room is open for business!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-12-24 01:43:06](#)

(no subject)

2 cases of Absinthe, minus two bottles...

Hmm. I wonder where those two bottles ended up?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-12-24 01:44:34](#)

(no subject)

Inquiring minds want to know.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-12-24 01:45:51](#)

(no subject)

Of course, if they inquire too closely, they won't be capable of inquiry any more. Or much of anything else....



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-12-24 01:47:03](#)

(no subject)

Absinthe will do that to you. It's been ages since I had any. Not really to my taste. Benjy likes it, but we don't let him have it because he gets dead ridiculous when he tries any.




 **alt_sirius** at **2011-12-24 01:49:28**

(no subject)

Well, it's been ages since I had any and this is a respectable quality.

He brought a few other things I'm also not planning to share, ta very much. And I intend to savour both.



 **alt_alice** at **2011-12-24 03:35:55**

(no subject)

Yes, love, I have.

We're still sorting through our portion of the haul here, but it is all quite generous. A huge box full of nothing but books, and all of them so useful. And Merlin knows we were in desperate need of wands and wand supplies -- Aleks really came through on that count. And the staples were much-needed too. All those oats and flour, not to mention sugar and fruit -- it was looking to be a rather tight winter with the eight growing teenagers that fell in our laps unexpectedly. They have bottomless stomachs, the whole lot of them. Now, we're a good deal more comfortable for the next few months until the growing season starts again.

2011-12-23 22:35:00

Oh bother

Ron?

What you said earlier?

I....

need a bit of help, I think. Well, definitely. I can't walk but I need to get to the hospital wing as quickly as possible.

Or if Ron's not about, anyone else near where Gryffindor Tower meets the 3rd-floor main corridor?

Dash it, I hate having to ask.

Thanks.


-Justin

P.S. Don't come up, Dux, it's past your curfew.



 [alt_justin](#)



 [alt_luna](#) at **2011-12-24 03:41:16**

(no subject)

My goodness.

I can get there quite quickly by a pass through corridor nearby. On my way.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-24 03:42:37**


(no subject)

Luna,

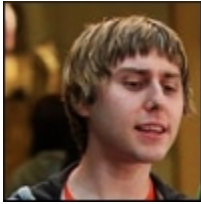
It's past your curfew too, isn't it?


-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 03:44:28](#)
(no subject)

If you need to get to the Hospital Wing, I expect that's more important than curfew. Almost there.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-24 03:45:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Well




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-24 03:46:04](#)
(no subject)

Whoops.


Dropped my qu



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 03:49:19](#)
(no subject)


Oh, my. We're going to need a stretcher.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 03:49:31](#)
(no subject)


Never mind. I've transformed my scarf.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 03:50:04](#)
(no subject)

It's all right. Mobilicorpus will do it.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 03:51:50](#)
(no subject)

How clever of you.

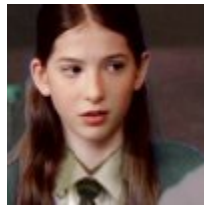
I hope Madam Pomfrey's there. A lot of the professors are out of the castle, aren't they?

Madam Pomfrey, if you're reading this, we're on our way. I think he's going to need to see you immediately.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 03:53:15](#)
(no subject)


I don't think she goes usually. Do you need a professor to come find you? I could try to track one down and send them to you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 03:53:50](#)
(no subject)

I mean, everyone else is at the Malfoy Party and I don't think Madam Pomfrey goes to that so she'll probably be in the infirmary when you get there.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 03:55:19](#)
(no subject)

I never knew that bones could get that way. So wiggly. Almost like gelatin!

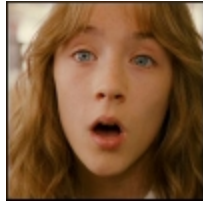


 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 03:58:50](#)
(no subject)

Really?!

Uh, that's a nasty hex. If it's the one we think it is.

(It sure wasn't us.)



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 04:02:37](#)
(no subject)

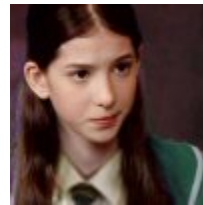
What? How nasty? What will it do to him?


From,
Hydra



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 04:14:31](#)
(no subject)

Uh, better not inquire too closely until Madam Pomfrey sorts him out. But she will!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:16:26](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Speaking of sorting people out.


I think there are two French boys who need a lesson that goes, 'maybe you caught him alone this time, but that doesn't mean he has no allies.'



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 04:18:01](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

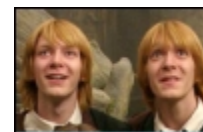
Indeed.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-24 04:34:23](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

I saw the git kill a man with that spell once. I think it was probably that spell.

It was awful.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 04:35:21](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Yeah, we believe you. It would be awful.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 03:47:34](#)
(no subject)

Hospital wing?
What's happened?

From,

Hydra




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 03:51:08](#)
(no subject)

He'll be all right, Hydra.

We're on it.

Taking him to Madam Pomfrey. We'll let you know when we get there, yeah?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 03:52:52](#)
(no subject)

Um.

And he says to tell you he's okay and it's nothing
Matron can't fix.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 03:59:20](#)
(no subject)

That requires mobilicorpus?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:07:17](#)
Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

Okay, so we're here and Madam Pomfrey was able to see him right away.

Actually, she was with someone, but she came right away as soon as she saw we told her what'd happened.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-24 04:09:12**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

How is Justin doing?



 **alt_ron** at **2011-12-24 04:10:40**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

I expect he'll be all right. I dunno. We're sat out in the waiting room now and she pulled the drape around the bed, y'know, like she

does.

But, um, yeah. It was those Beauxbatons blokes and they cast some really bad hex on him.



 **alt_hydra** at **2011-12-24 04:10:43**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

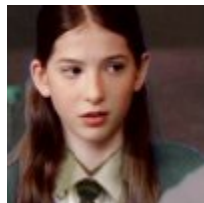
Will she be able to fix it?

Are his bones really turning to mush?

I don't see why I should have to mind curfew

when Luna doesn't.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2011-12-24 04:12:48**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

You could pretend YOU felt ill and needed to go to Madam Pomfrey.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 04:15:03](#)


Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

I don't really have to pretend.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:15:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

Hydra can come if she wants. Get Slughorn, maybe, and come with him. Or is he off at that party?

But the thing is, we're not going to be able to see him, I don't think. Madam P will come out and tell us what's what, though, before she makes us go.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:19:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

Slughorn's at the Malfoy party.

Hydra, if you want, Pansy and I will walk you there. And back, once you've had a chance to have a look.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 04:23:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle and Sally Anne Perks

Yes, Please.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:20:59](#)

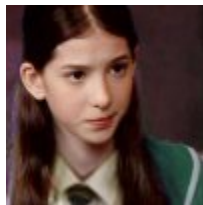
Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

Okay. Hang on. Is Hydra still there?

I mean, you might want to try to keep her there.

Madam Pomfrey just went to get some kind of potion or something and we got to look in. Um, it looks bad. She's doing something with long needles and some big mechanism with weights on that attaches to his arms and legs, like it's keeping them straightened out.

I don't think Hydra maybe wants to see it, is all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:22:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

oh bloody hell, Ron.

I don't think I'm going to be able to talk her into just staying here.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:26:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

Well, then come.

She's just given him something and come out again. She looked like it's dead serious.

But the curtains are pulled shut again. And he's not shouting or anything, so I guess you could come and hear what Madam Pomfrey says about it. She hasn't come out yet.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:26:29](#)


Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

You know.

She's BELLATRIX LESTRANGE'S DAUGHTER.

She's seen plenty of nasty stuff. And Pansy and I would come if it were you, and you'd come if it were us. Even if all Madam Pomfrey would let us do is sit in the waiting area.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 03:42:51](#)

(no subject)

What?

Wait.

On my way. Hang on!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-24 03:48:47](#)

(no subject)

Cheers, Ron.

-J

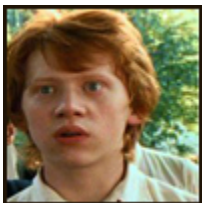



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 03:52:30](#)

Private message to Ron Weasley and Justin Finch-Fletchley

You're not likely to run into any professors -- they're nearly all at the Malfoy Christmas party.

Which is both good and bad. How badly is Justin hurt? Hydra's really worried.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 03:54:21](#)

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Justin Finch-Fletchley

Um. Let you know when we get there, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 03:55:35](#)

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Justin Finch-Fletchley

Bloody hell, Ron, what did they do to him?

again?

Was it those horrid 7th years from Beauxbatons




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 03:55:59](#)

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley and Justin Finch-Fletchley

They did something to his BONES?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-24 04:07:40](#)

(no subject)

We're there now, and he's in with Madam Pomfrey.

Professor Slughorn, if you are out there and reading this, Justin is worried about Jeremy Jugson. Um, Remy. Justin's worried that he might have run into the hex and...well, to be honest, it got a little garbled. Especially when his teeth started getting mushy and it was hard to understand him. Maybe you could find Remy and make sure he's all right?

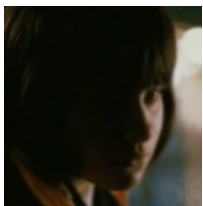


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:10:32](#)

(no subject)

Remy is fine. He's in the Slytherin common room right now.

I hadn't even realised he'd been out, actually.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 04:11:38](#)

(no subject)

Oh, Ugh. Mushy teeth?

How awful.

2011-12-23 22:37:00

Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley



Cher Justin,

I don't know when you'll see this, as you're in the Hospital Wing, but...

 [alt_lavender](#)

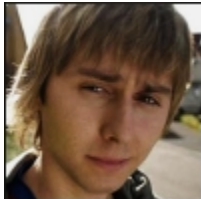
I'm sorry to hear that you've been hurt; of course no-one seems to know anything for certain, but the rumour going 'round is that Coty and Henri Toubon put you there with a really dreadful hex.


If it was Toubon, well, I'm dreadfully sorry and feel a bit responsible. We, er, *quarrelled* the night of the Ball and he went off in a positively foul mood. It sounds as though he may have taken it out on you.

You've been nothing but friendly and gentleman-like to all of us here and I certainly wish you the best for a quick recovery.

Sincerely,

Lavender



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-24 19:54:53**
(no subject)

Lavender,

Thank you. Matron says I can only write brief notes until I'm a bit stronger. Sally-Anne's being kind enough to hold my book.


Please don't ascribe Toubon's actions to anything you may have done. I'm only sorry that you were for any amount of time fooled by him into thinking him worthy of a young lady such as yourself.

I say, Matron's right; holding the quill is surprisingly straining. At any rate, again, thank you most kindly for your concern but I'm very much on the mend.

Yours sincerely,

Justin F-F



 **alt_lavender** at **2011-12-26 16:13:45**
(no subject)

I'm so glad to hear you're doing better!

That curse sounded as though it might be quite dangerous.

You've probably already heard, but in case you haven't, Toubon's being sent home. I can't say I'm a bit sorry, only surprised he wasn't punished more severely.

2011-12-23 22:40:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




The hex they cast on Justin dissolves people's bones.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Terry says Carrow killed someone with it once, and I can tell from the look on Madam Pomfrey's face it could have killed Justin. He's going to be alright or she'd be sending for M. Froissart, though, so I think he'll be alright.

I never thought I'd want to USE Dark Arts on another student, but if I had a nice clear shot at those French boys I think I could cast cruciatus right about now.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2011-12-24 05:10:36**
(no subject)

No. You don't. That's how it starts, Sally-Anne. Thinking that you're justified. And the next time it gets a little easier to justify. And a little easier and a little easier.

I'm glad you don't have a clear shot at them right now.

I'm not saying that they shouldn't be punished. But not with Dark Arts. Promise you won't do it!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-24 05:12:18**
(no subject)

OK.

I promise.

You're right.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2011-12-24 05:14:42**
(no subject)

Thanks. Because, well, you know I'd have to cut you out of my life, if you ever did something like that. And I'd hate to have any reason I'd have to think hard about breaking off from using the lock.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 05:27:16](#)
(no subject)

Mm.

If I ever get a chance to use Avada Kedavra on Carrow, I may take the risk that you'll shun me.

These blokes aren't worth it, though.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 05:13:07](#)
(no subject)

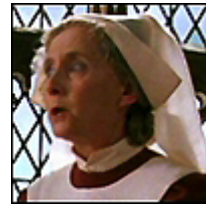
He has a point, we think. Dad has warned us about that sort of thing, too. The slippery slope you can get on, when you dabble in that stuff.

I suppose it's hard, since you're taking the class in it, to want to use it. But yeah. Not a good idea.

2011-12-23 23:19:00

Order Only

Sirius, I thought you would wish to know that your young acquaintance, Mr Finch-Fletchley, has been brought to my ward tonight. I'm afraid he was subjected to a very nasty hex that attacked his bones, turning them to sponge. They were well on their way to complete dissolution when he was delivered to me, but I've stabilised him and have initiated treatment.




 [alt_poppy](#)

It shall not be pleasant, but he will be fine in the end.

I fear this may be an awkward incident for Minerva. It's not the first attack the boy's suffered here. The students who brought him to me made sure I knew that some of the bruising and a split lip he's also sporting were bestowed in a previous altercation. Miss Perks dropped the hint that his assailants in both cases were older Beauxbatons students. Of course, it's a delicate matter to accuse foreign students of mayhem.

Froissart--the Head teacher in the French delegation--is away from the castle tonight--at the Malfoy soiree, no less--and is not available for consultation, but I assure you that I'll insist on making my report to him immediately upon his return.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-24 05:50:53**
(no subject)

What?

Sorry, I've just sat down to check the journal quickly before bed.

Are you sure they're not just covering for Hydra Lestrangle? Perks is her housemate, she might believe her if she said it was French boys.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2011-12-24 05:54:42**
(no subject)

Covering for-?

I'm afraid I don't follow you, Sirius. Are you

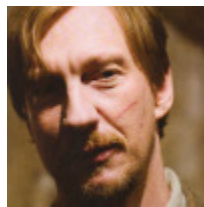
suggesting that Miss Lestrange communicated some malady to the boy? It's not that sort of ailment at all.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 05:55:59](#)
(no subject)

I'm suggesting she lured him somewhere without anyone else around and cursed him herself.


Is he in pain? Is he conscious? Can he tell you who did it to him?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-24 05:57:48](#)
(no subject)

She probably didn't ask Justin who did it. Don't you remember being a student? Matron Asks No Questions.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 06:01:04](#)
(no subject)

Why is everyone always defending her?

She's BELLA's daughter, Remus. I've got some idea of what she's probably been taught at home.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-24 06:07:35](#)
(no subject)

Yes, and look how you turned out.


Seriously, however, I would suggest we not go farther down twisty paths of speculation tonight when tomorrow we will have considerably more facts available.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 06:11:08](#)
(no subject)


....



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-24 06:08:06](#)
(no subject)


I'm not defending Hydra, though all reports from last night's soiree suggested she'd had quite a nice time with the boy. Bella doesn't go round cursing Rodolphus, does she?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 06:10:04](#)
(no subject)

You'd be surprised.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-24 06:10:34](#)
(no subject)

Hem.

Speaking of twisty paths of speculation. I don't really wish to imagine the answer to that

question.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 06:12:18](#)
(no subject)

You'd be surprised, as well!




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 06:16:11](#)**
(no subject)

Not least to find that you have a reliable source of information on that subject.

Truly. If you do, I do not want to know.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-24 06:03:24](#)**
(no subject)

Not exactly how it went. Matron Asks No Uncomfortable or Compromising Questions.

And I'm not saying this Perks girl necessarily knows anything either way. Hydra Lestrangle could have done it and then turned on the doe-eyed innocence and asked her mate for help to create her own alibi.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-24 05:59:28](#)**
(no subject)

Though Matron's not a complete berk, either, and if a student was volunteering information she's probably got a good eye for 'probably true' vs 'probably a deflection to point me in the wrong


direction.'



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 06:04:23](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Remus.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 06:02:06](#)**
(no subject)

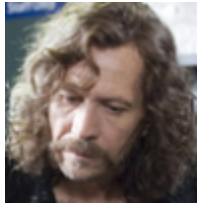
No. I really do think you have the wrong idea there.


The young lady--Miss Lestrangle--was here waiting anxiously for word of his wellbeing along with Miss Perks, Miss

Parkinson and Mr Weasley. Oh, and Miss Lovegood, as well.

Arthur's son has quite an eclectic group of friends. They seem to collect all sorts.

The boy is sleeping. It will have to wait for morning before he'll be able to tell the Headmistress and his Head of Delegation what occurred. Even if I were to wake him, I'm afraid the state of his jaw and teeth would prevent him from communicating coherently.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 06:04:59](#)
(no subject)


Oh.

Well. All right, then.

Thank you, Poppy, for telling me.

Let me know what you find out. And how he recovers, please.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-24 06:08:51](#)
(no subject)

Of course, I will. As soon as there is anything to share.

I promise.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-24 15:36:34](#)
(no subject)

Well?

And did you see Rizzer's writing to Hydra? Any idea what that's about or do you want to take bets he's passing on further instruction from Mummy?

2011-12-23 23:25:00

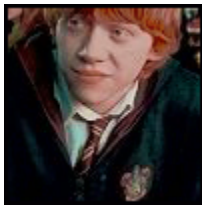
Weasley and Lovegood


I've just seen your response to Mr Finch-Fletchley's predicament. Good show. Lovegood, I do realise that you've violated curfew but with so many Professors out and owing to the dire circumstances, I'm very pleased you judged it necessary to act immediately.



 [alt_penelope](#)

And Mr Weasley, it seems you're putting your mediwizardry course to good use. Well done and thank you for jumping in where needed.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-24 04:36:50**

(no subject)

Thanks, Clearwater.

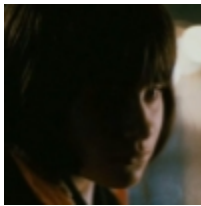
He's going to be all right, y'know. I think we got him here in time.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-24 04:38:17**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, that's a surprise. I figured when I saw she was writing that we'd be getting detention and losing house points and having to sit a long lecture on how we're not living up to Our Lord's Ideals.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-24 04:41:09**

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

How awful.

He's not going to die, is he? Justin? Like that man Terry was talking about?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-24 04:44:42](#)


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

Not if they got him there that fast after he stopped being able to write, I think.

The man the git killed took about an hour and a half to die.

And he was conscious the whole time. Until the very end. Urgh.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-24 04:45:28](#)

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

Well. That's good then.

(For Justin.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:45:10](#)

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

What man?

No, don't tell me. I don't think I want to know.

Er, about Justin. It looks pretty bad, but remember she can do just about anything. I mean, she grew back all the bones in Harry's arm that time. And it just took overnight.

It doesn't seem like this has stumped her or anything. She's just bustling around, writing stuff down and then finding potions and rubbing stuff on him. We peeked in and saw that.

And she's talking to him all the time like he can understand her. That's got to be good, right?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-24 04:47:33](#)

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

Yeah, that all sounds good.

She probably would have sent for the Headmistress if it looked like he was about to die, too. And if she hasn't, she probably knows he's going to be all right.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:45:17](#)

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

If Justin were going to die, Madam Pomfrey would have sent for M. Froissart. Especially with us here, she has people to send, and she's not.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 04:47:32](#)

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

You're right.

Still.

It's just *awful*.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:49:33](#)

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

Well, and Justin's going to have a bad night.

I think she gave him Skele-Gro -- I recognize the vial. According to what I've read, it tastes absolutely terrible and it hurts a lot, having it regrow your bones.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:48:05](#)

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

Right.

That's totally what she'd do, and she hasn't done.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 04:49:54](#)


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

I'm glad you were there.

You and Luna.

That was a very good thing.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-24 04:42:04](#)

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

Whoa, I just opened my journal now to see where you'd gone. I'm glad you got there in time. He'll be all right?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 04:46:02](#)

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

I think so, Nev.

Yeah, I'm sure of it. No worries, right?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-24 04:49:05](#)

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

Good.

Still. We should talk to him. After he's better, I mean. If he's getting hexed that badly. He needs people to look out for him.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-24 05:04:51](#)

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

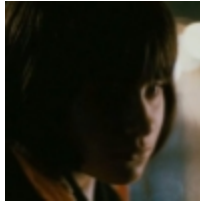
Who did it to him, anyway?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 05:06:29](#)

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

Toubon and Coty. Seventh years from Beauxbatons.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 04:46:06](#)

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

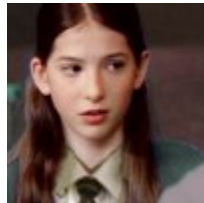
I don't know how Hydra is staying so calm.

I really don't.

Madame Pomphrey brought out this enormous tube thing and it just looked *awful*, and we don't even know what she's going to *do* with it, but she looked so grim about it, and Justin is being so quiet, and he had *mushy teeth*.

I didn't mean to say grim.

Ugh.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 04:50:54](#)

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

Hydra and Luna are both being really calm.

Luna -- well, almost nothing rattles Luna.

2011-12-24 00:00:00

Private Message to Hydra


I'm so sorry, Hydra.

Sally-Anne and me can come down with you to the hospital wing tomorrow to visit. Or if you'd rather be alone with him, in private, that's okay too, but we're there for you even if you just want someone to walk down with. Whatever you need. Just let us know.



 [alt_pansy](#)




 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-24 05:11:21**
(no subject)

He ~~looked horri~~ didn't look very good, even if Matron said that he'll be on the mend now.

Thank you for being there tonight.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-24 05:18:44**
(no subject)


I know.

I'm sure he'll be better tomorrow. Maybe not all the way better, but better than he was tonight.

And that's what friends are for. Really, truly, Hydra, whatever would help you best, we're both here for you.

I'm so angry about what happened to Justin. It's so wrong. But he'll get better. And I think that he'll end up having made far more friends than enemies out of the whole thing, and friends don't let this sort of thing happen to other friends.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 05:22:43](#)
(no subject)

I was just talking to Sally Anne this morning, on the journals, about how I hoped this had stopped once and for all, and now it's worse than ever.

I really wish I hadn't hexed Coty in Hogsmeade. I can't help but feel that's what made everything escalate.

I hope you're right, though, about having more friends than enemies when all's said and done.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 05:30:10](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't blame you for what happened. No-one responds to an encounter like that with "Oh, let's get them back by trying to kill them!"

At least no-one sane.

If it went too far, it is entirely their fault. You were just protecting yourself and Justin, and there's nothing wrong with what you did. At all.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 05:31:31](#)
(no subject)

Well then I won't feel bad about wanting to hex them again, except worse this time.

From,

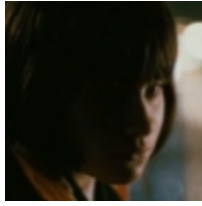
Hydra



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 05:34:28](#)
(no subject)

Quite right.

If we're lucky, you can catch them before they're both kicked out of the country to give them a little something to savour on their trip back home.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 05:31:46](#)
(no subject)

He really was wonderfully brave about the whole thing.

Justin, I mean.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 05:33:47](#)
(no subject)

Yes, he was. It had to have been excruciating. And the way he was writing for help it was as if he'd had no more than a parchment cut or had a minor run-in with Peeves. I'm glad Ron Weasley seemed to sense it was worse than he was saying.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 05:40:05](#)
(no subject)

Justin's got a very pleasant way about him. I know he's been quite friendly with Ron, and I've seen him talk to Luna quite a few times. And it's because he's the sort of person that he is that both of them came running just as soon as he needed help.

I'm only sorry we all couldn't have been there to stop it from happening in the first place.

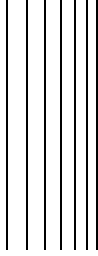


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 05:45:45](#)
(no subject)

I am, too. But at least he'll be alright I hope.

Thank you again, Pansy. I'm going to take this draught and try for sleep now.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 05:47:42](#)**
(no subject)

That's probably best. I'll see you tomorrow.

Night, Hydra.

2011-12-24 00:20:00

*Private Message to Narcissa and
Lucius Malfoy*

I trust I've behaved myself tonight in keeping
with basic rules of decorum.

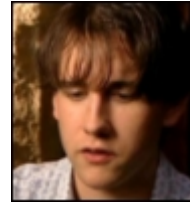
For a Roman celebration.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2011-12-24 08:18:00

*Private message to Augusta Longbottom
and Evelyn Longbottom*



 [alt_neville](#)

The Yule Ball was a lot of fun. I had a really good time with Susan Bones. Didn't expect us to hit it off quite as well as we did. It was nice, actually, because we ended up talking about Hannah. One of the bands was playing some of her favourite songs, and it got us both sort of sentimental, and we ended up going outside and talking down by the lake a little bit. Then we got cold and came inside and started dancing again. We danced until the Ball shut down! Oh, and thanks for the ribbon for her corsage, Evelyn. It looked wonderful with her robes, and she was really happy with it.

I'll miss you both and everyone else today, but I wanted you to know I've got my copy of *A Christmas Carol* open on my bed, and I'll pick it up and read it tonight, so I'll be thinking of you doing the same. And I'll light the candle in the window like always.

Ron and me are planning on going sledding after lunch. The Weasley twins nicked some big serving trays from the kitchens that we're gonna use to slide down the hill behind the Owlry. I think Lee Jordan will join us, and Susan and Luna Lovegood. Should be fun.

Have a happy Christmas, and give my love to Uncle Algie and Aunt Enid. And if you write...you know. The same to them.

2011-12-24 09:04:00

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey

I've been thinking about something you said last night, about who was waiting for word of Finch-Fletchley's wellbeing.




 [alt_lupin](#)

Are you saying that Ron Weasley has now added Hydra Lestrangle to his group of friends?

That's rather...concerning. Not that I'm quite as suspicious of Hydra as Sirius is, but she is, as he so regularly points out, Bellatrix Lestrangle's daughter. She could present a far more harmless facade than the reality beneath, and I'm not sure a 14-year-old Gryffindor boy would necessarily unravel the potential levels of duplicity. Even if we assume the best of Hydra, Bellatrix is an accomplished legilimens and I very much doubt she has any respect whatsoever for her daughter's privacy.

Just how close do you think Hydra is to Ron?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-24 15:53:36](#)
(no subject)

Hm.

I cannot honestly claim to be very knowledgeable about the social alliances of our students--even the ones I've most reason to watch out for.

I did not have any sense that there was any romantic link between Miss Lestrangle and Ronald Weasley. On the contrary, she was clearly there because she's involved with the Finch-Fletchley boy. They went together to the ball, you know.

As for friendship, I'm not certain. Last evening, it was Miss Lovegood who was assisting Mr Weasley in bringing the injured boy to me. I gather this was because those two reached him first when he wrote in his journal for assistance. As you will have seen, he directed that appeal to Mr Weasley, so I think we may infer that those two wizards are developing a trusting friendship. I'm not certain how close or coincidental Miss Lovegood's connection is with either of them.

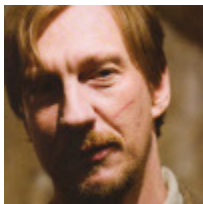
Miss Lestrangle arrived later in the company of Miss Perks and Miss


Parkinson, her Housemates. As you must know, there is a close, if puzzling, connection amongst Mr Weasley and the latter two. I did not have the sense that Miss Lestrange is on the same footing as the others.

In fact, now I think of it, I would say that there was distinctly more *reserve* amongst the group last night than between Mr Longbottom and Miss Parkinson on the occasion when they turned up here together needing me to reverse that young lady's case of Junior Auror Blue Scale.

That's a long and tentative answer to your question, Remus, but my observations (admittedly scattered and occasional) lead me to believe that there's a strong and well-established connection between the Weasley and Longbottom lads and the two young witches from Slytherin House, Miss Perks and Miss Parkinson. Miss Lestrange, I believe, is connected to the other girls, but not substantially connected to the two young men.

Mr Finch-Fletchley, however, appears to be cultivating connections with each and all, so you may have increasing reason for concern in future. Or not. Children's affections being what they are.



 **alt_lupin** at **2011-12-24 16:13:32**
(no subject)

Well, that's reasonably reassuring.

Hydra Lestrange becoming close to Miss Perks and Miss Parkinson is both heartening and a little troublesome. I suppose there's not much we can do about it in any case. Children choose their own friends, sometimes despite the prejudices of their elders, sometimes deliberately to spite the prejudices of their elders. Sirius turned out all right, despite his family.

2011-12-24 09:49:00

Private message to Sally Anne

Sally Anne, do you think you could look in on Justin this afternoon? I wanted to do it myself, but Uncle Razzler invited me to tea, and there's something important I want to talk to him about anyway.



 [alt_hydra](#)

And then let me know how he's doing?

And tell him I hope he's feeling better?

If it isn't too much trouble, that is.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-24 20:43:10**
(no subject)

I'm back from visiting him Hydra and he's looking much MUCH better. Madam Pomfrey wants him to stay lying down for a bit, and she had him drinking broth and other things he didn't have to chew, but he's talking again. He's in some pain still because of the Skele-Gro but he says it's not bad. I don't know how long he'll be stuck in the hospital wing but he's definitely on the mend.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-24 22:14:59**
(no subject)

Oh, good. I've just finished tea. Uncle Raz is going to talk with Professor Slughorn about what happened, it seems. I'll probably try to go up and see him after supper, if I can. I really need to talk to Remy first, though.

So what did you two talk about, then?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-25 02:10:19](#)
(no subject)

We talked about your Christmas present, mostly!
He wanted to know what I thought.

2011-12-24 09:55:00

Order Only

Sirius, Mr Finch-Fletchley is resting more comfortably this morning after what was an undeniably difficult night. (He bore up stoically.)



 [**alt_poppy**](#)

He is not yet able to write, so you oughtn't expect to read any confirmation of his recovery direct from his quill just yet. However, his jaw is firming nicely and he is able to speak, though I'm afraid I had to impose a liquid breakfast to avoid the warping or compression that mastication might cause.

His bones are still quite soft. I'm not able to allow him to sit up yet even, but this shouldn't alarm you. It's quite normal for this process. We simply don't wish his chest to collapse in on his heart and lungs. Precautions prevent setbacks.

He's in good spirits, and I anticipate that he will mend steadily as the day progresses.

[2011-12-24 10:06:00](#)

Private message to Hydra Lestrange

Duckie,

Why don't you come round my rooms for tea this afternoon? I've brought back some sweets and other delights from last night's party at Malfoy Manor that you're sure to enjoy.




 **[alt_rabastan](#)**

Want to check in with you too, about what occurred in Hogsmeade last weekend. There was some kind of talk this morning about those French lads who got at the wrong end of your wand- I didn't catch the details, but the Matron's looking to speak to Froissart about them, so I can only guess that they've been up to no good once more. Also heard that one of them took a girl to the ball who ended up extremely put off by his, ah, ungentlemanly behaviour.

Thought maybe we could talk about what happened to you and see that it doesn't happen again. ~~They didn't...~~?

Anyway, come see your old uncle and we'll sort it out.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2011-12-24 15:36:29](#)**
(no subject)

Yes they've been up to no good, they sent another student to the hospital wing. He might've even died if he'd not had help to get there in time.

So yes, I would like to talk about how to see that it doesn't happen again, to me or to anyone else.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-24 15:38:54](#)**
(no subject)

If it's as serious as you're saying, then more certainly steps will be taken to make sure it doesn't happen again. I'll speak to Froissart myself if it's required.

This...wait

I've just looked back in my book. Was it the Finch-Fletchley lad who ended up hurt?




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 15:42:14](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it was him.


From,
Hydra



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-24 15:43:11](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry to hear that, then. I know you've become good friends with him.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 15:45:10](#)
(no subject)

Maybe there's something else we could talk about, if there's time?

It's a Defence question, really. Do you teach occlumency to your older students? The one who are NEWTs, I mean?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-24 15:53:38](#)
(no subject)

On a limited basis I do. 'Course, full training in Occlumency requires one to work with a Legilimens, because that's the only way to know that you're truly occluding. There are other tools that can help to gauge it, but none so useful as being tested by a legilimens.

I really probably ought to ask why you're interested, but... well, one doesn't have to be a legilimens to guess.

Something happen recently? With your Mum, I mean.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 15:59:13](#)
(no subject)

Not happen, but.. well, really my question was whether it's a skill you can be born with, if your parents can do it. Or if something can happen to you to make you good at it.

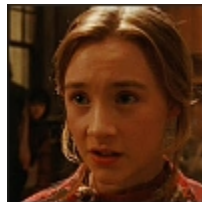
From,
Hydra



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-24 16:07:25](#)
(no subject)

There's different thoughts on that. I once heard someone call it "intuitive magic" and that's how I've thought of it ever since. Types of magic that one seems to be born with a knack for, even without a lick of proper training. Harry's ability to fly, for example. Or your Mum's legilimens ability- which is very nearly impossible to teach. Occlumency can be taught (as it was to me) though one with an intuitive feel for it would pick it up much easier, and be able to use it better. The fact that your Mum has access to that kind of magic intuitively does make it possible that you do, as well- but not necessarily probable.

As for something happening "to make you good at it"- not sure I follow what you mean there, Duckie.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-24 16:44:25](#)
(no subject)


The last time Mummy tried to use it on me was after what happened in first year, and it didn't work at all. Even though she tried different ways of making it work, like not letting me

sleep, and other

It always worked when she tried before, so I thought maybe Tom what happened to me changed something.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-24 16:45:35**
(no subject)


She wouldn't let you sleep?

Ah, well...

What happened to you is certainly something beyond almost everyone's understanding, because how did he, so who knows what results it might've had?

Why don't we talk about it more when you come to tea.



 **alt_hydra** at **2011-12-24 16:48:52**
(no subject)

Alright then. I'll be round after lunch.

From,
Hydra

2011-12-24 10:07:00

Last Minute at Laszlo's

Business is brisk at Laszlo's as you might expect, but we're keeping our shelves stocked with all the things you might need for last minute baking and gift-giving. We're quite proud of our reputation as a source for the very best spices in New London, and we've got fresh and candied fruits in abundance!



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

We've also a whole section of imaginative items that would make thoughtful hostess gifts. And we've another range of useful and reasonable items to make your boxing day giving easy.

Let us help you with all your holiday needs!



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2011-12-24 16:41:18**

(no subject)

Working straight up to Christmas, then, Dora?

How very industrious of you. Opportunistic, as well. Perhaps marrying Ponds was a wise move for both of you, since you seem to complement each other's business acumen so well.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-12-24 16:53:45**

(no subject)

Thank you, Aunt.

We're very happy, yes. And it's Bea's first Christmas. So many shiny bits of paper for her to play with!

I hope your holidays are festive, too.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-24 16:49:33](#)
Order Only

The cafe and beer garden are keeping us busy, too. I'm so pleased at how many people have become regulars and how much they seem to enjoy one another's company. We've had lots of groups choose us as a gathering place for their holiday celebrations--mixed groups of halfbloods and muggleborns and purebloods, who have realised we're a safe haven. That's what I wanted for Christmas, and it's come true!

We'll be open until half-six tonight with nog, wassail, and a really special (by which I mean, strong-flavoured and walloping) mead brewed at the Pen-y-ghent hermitage out in the Yorkshire dales.

We're hosting our first annual holiday biscuit and fruit cake exchange. (Bring your old aunt Gert's pudding that you loathe and trade it to someone who loves that sort!)

And Marte, one of our brilliant regulars, suggested a mystery gift exchange, which really means we're collecting wrapped gifts to give out to people who won't otherwise have anything for Christmas!

So, we're keeping very merry here! (And looking forward to seeing all of you soon for our own gathering!)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-24 17:24:40](#)
Re: Order Only

It sounds truly wonderful! Quite festive!

I hope you all enjoy Bea's very first Christmas. A baby's first Christmas is a really special occasion!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-24 18:57:37](#)
Re: Order Only

Thanks, Molly.

Bea's up and scooting, and growing so fast it makes our heads spin! And, oh! EVERYTHING goes in her mouth. And if it's impossible to lift, she's likely to just lick it where

it lies. I blame Padfoot for giving her that idea. Though I must say that he can get her to eat at meal times when she's being stubborn for us.

He's really awfully good at this parenting business.

[2011-12-24 10:49:00](#)

Settling back in

I must say, it's been a most amazing few days. I've barely had time to catch my breath or sit down for a minute without having something else come along since Thursday afternoon. Not that a great deal of it hasn't been most enjoyable, mind you.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

I'm quite looking forward to a few quiet days to settle down, catch up on various pieces of neglected work, and get some quality research time in, just for the change of pace. (And I've certainly got enough to keep me occupied for a bit.)



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-24 15:59:38](#)**

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Narcissa -

Thank you again for your kindness and welcome last night: I had a truly wonderful time, and so appreciate everything you did to help me feel included and at home.

I hope everything continued to go well after we left, but I must admit, the night in my own bed was quite restorative.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2011-12-24 16:10:27](#)**

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

I'm glad you enjoyed yourself.

And no doubt Razzer has already told you never to pay too much mind to our dear Bella. At times I do believe she was born with lemons in her mouth!

You were probably quite right to leave when you did, in fact: 'round about half-past midnight Ari and Froissart got up to another chariot race, which set off another round for the baths as they returned somewhat dishevelled and all-in-all we didn't properly get to bed until about four!

But we've some time to recover, at least, before the next family gathering. We'll see you on Boxing Day?



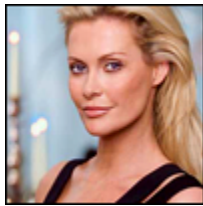
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-24 16:16:25](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Raz has been very good about helping me understand all his various friends and relations, yes, and what not to take too personally.

As to Boxing Day - are you sure it wouldn't be seen as an intrusion by others? I'd hate to overstep on private family time, or seem to be assuming too much.

I also gather, from something I overheard last night, that I should thank you for arranging to avoid any awkwardness with the Calderwoods. I do regret that, on any number of levels, and really do appreciate your smoothing the way there.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-24 16:35:11](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

As well he should.

No, of course it's not an intrusion. That's why the families have a tradition of combining on Boxing Day. We have our private gatherings on Christmas Day itself. I'm sure, coming from a large extended family yourself, you'll be familiar with the ways in which large clans adjust to each other's schedules.

Yes, I wrote to June. Her mother and mine were very close at one point but I confess, I'm disappointed in June's management of the family since dear Mae's passing. You may or may not know that the eldest girl, Letitia, also set her cap for Razzer at one point. She also considered herself Morgana's gift to the modelling business, I don't mind saying, and not entirely deservedly so. But really it's more down to June's spoiling her girls and letting them fly away with the idea that they can have the moon, sun and stars simply by crooking their fingers.

Nonetheless, one must maintain pleasantries. June's very highly-placed, you know. And she's a clever head for business, as well, so the family have gold to spare.

I'm not entirely sure she would have found last night's revelry to her taste, in any event, so it may be just as well.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-24 16:50:29](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

I quite agree on large clans - our tradition is Christmas Eve. Though this year, I've sent my presents ahead, and may not make it myself: it really has been quite a week. And as much as I'll miss them, I'm not sure I'm up for the whole extended family and lots of questions right now. Raz and I do have plans for tea with my parents this coming week, and such, though.

I did know about Letitia, of course. (Raz has been quite careful about letting me know that kind of thing as well.) And you're quite right about the family connections mattering.

The whole business was quite unsettling, honestly. It's one thing to be disliked for myself, but quite another to have something of this kind happen, I must say. And worrying about whether it might affect other students (well, it has, but if it had been worse, I'd have been beside myself, if you follow.) I do hope she gets help, though I'm sure I don't know what that might look like.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2011-12-24 16:56:47](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Yes, it *is* unsettling, to say the least, to realise that one's popularity with one segment may make one a target to another.

And I don't know whether this will help or harm, Aurora, but it gets no easier, no matter how many times it happens.

You can be confident that Razzer has every available protection and from what I have seen (and heard) from him, every intention of extending them to you if need be, for however long it takes.

But you ought to see this sort of thing subside, truly, over time. He's such a raffish reputation, you know, and I don't doubt he's broken quite a few hearts. Barty's the same in his way, though

in his case it's more to do with his misanthropic way than his gregariousness. Once people get used to seeing you together, and accept that yours is not one of Rizzer's fleeting, whimsical attachments, believe me, life will have its way of distracting them from their jealousy.

There will always be some who wish to impose on what you have, though, so mind if you wish to keep it safe.

But I, for one, could not be more pleased he has finally seemed to settle on a single someone.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2011-12-24 17:09:13**

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

You're quite right that as people get used to the idea, some other thing will come along and take their attention. Just a matter of getting through the next few weeks or months, I suppose.

And really, I wouldn't give up Raz for the world, difficulties and all.

You're quite right, too, that he's most willing to offer whatever he can to help. It's really a matter of figuring out what that is, and reminding myself that I don't need to be quite so ~~difficult~~ independent about managing everything on my own.

I am so very glad you're pleased. I know he thinks so highly of your good opinion, and I only hope to live up to his expectations, and those of the people who care for him.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2011-12-24 19:15:49**

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I know it's been a wild broom ride of a week. I do hope that the good bits have not only brought real happiness in their moments but also that they are a foundation from which more lasting satisfactions will

grow.

I can only imagine how nerve-wracking last night's party must have been. I trust you were able to enjoy some of it at least.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2011-12-24 19:28:46**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra


It truly has, and that's part of what's so exhausting about it. And yes, I do believe a good foundation. I'm more and more glad we took time before being more public, really: I think it's been a great help.

The party - well, I actually quite enjoyed myself, once we settled, though Raz and I avoided some of the more riotous entertainments, mostly. He was quite careful to make sure I was comfortable, too. And Narcissa (and it is odd, calling her that, mind) was very welcoming as well.

I had quite a nice chat about some of my research with his brother, though Auror Lestrangle ... well. I'm firmly invited to their extended family Boxing Day celebration, which makes me rather more glad I'd decided to duck my own family tonight. I really do need to catch up on any number of things, and have some time on my own and up the tower, if I'm to manage that with anything like good grace and patience.

I gather you had quite some excitement last night yourself: I hope that your patient will recover well?



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-12-24 19:51:48**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Yes, the boy should recover completely. He's had an awful time of it, though, I'm afraid. It was a perfectly terrible hex. And most unfortunate for the school, too. It's going to be dashedly complicating.

I've spoken only briefly with Minerva, but I feel certain she's spent considerable time on the matter. And it's going to be difficult on my end, as well. Three fire calls with St Mungo's so far and one with the Minster for Magic's office.

Enough about that! You are having a much more interesting time of it, and I should like to hear more.

I do think it was wise of you to take time to get to know Rabastan before allowing the public to confirm your attachment. Surely there are still many things left to learn about one another, but, one hopes, not too many drastic surprises.

I suppose you know that I worry a bit about this for you. That's not a criticism. Only an honest admission.

As for the Malfoy festivities, I'm rather afraid to guess what the more riotous entertainments might have been. It was a Roman theme, did I hear?

And the Lestranges, well. I've met them, of course, but only under quite trying circumstances. I'm sure he, at least, might be very interesting to converse with. Still and all, I wouldn't choose to trade my quiet Boxing Day for yours.



 **alt_sinistra** at 2011-12-24 20:07:49

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I do hope all of the diplomatic pieces work out smoothly - my goodness, that many people involved. If I can be any help, do let me know, though I'm sure you and Minerva have things well in hand.

Honestly, Raz really has been very careful to make sure I have information that will help me feel as much at ease as possible - and about everything, really. Quite a good thing, too, as I don't think I could even count the number of his previous attachments we ran into last night. (And one of my own, too, though not one the papers are likely to find out about.)

It was a Roman theme indeed - lots of pillars and hanging curtains and dark nooks, for one thing, and some of the entertainments were quite a bit more adult than I gather they sometimes are. There were a few times I was quite sure I'd not stop blushing. But there was also some wonderful music, and the food was entirely delightful, and of course, we spent rather a lot of time talking to all sorts of people.

On the Lestranges - yes, quite. Rodolphus and I've talked briefly at other events, but this is the first time we'd really talked about my interests, or a bit of his work, which is really rather fascinating. I've nothing like his background of course, but enough Ancient Runes and Arithmancy to appreciate some of the finer points, which I think pleased him.

As for Auror Lestrage, Storm did manage to help with some really excellent toys that I'm hoping will soften her a little toward me on Boxing Day. Or at least distract her, which is, I gather, what one generally hopes for.

At least after that, the social events get a little less fraught - he and I are planning a little time in New London, between tea with my family on the 30th and the Quidditch gala, and I'm very much looking forward to just being with him without other obligations for a bit. (Not that we haven't stolen some time the past few days, as well, but that's not quite the same thing.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-24 20:23:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I also... goodness, how the mind skips over the hard things, sometimes.

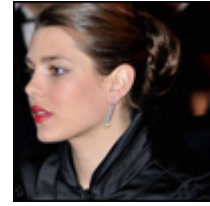
On the worry - thank you for that.

I worry too, honestly, but I have every hope it will work out somehow. And truly, Raz, in and of himself, couldn't be more careful or considerate or loving with me, whatever his reputation.

2011-12-24 12:43:00

Private Message to Auror Crouch

Sir, I know that Pennifold has made his report to you of last night's proceedings at the Malfoys', and I'm sure you'll receive a full report from Singh, as well, but there are perhaps some details I can add that may have escaped Nethem.



 [alt_lana](#)

First, I think you should know that Singh made an excellent job of impersonating you. Neither too aloof, nor too *attentive* in any quarter. And she was tested in that respect on a number of fronts, which is why I thought you might appreciate a supplemental report.

Sophia Novello, who was disappointed you were not able to attend her own gathering earlier in the month, cornered you in your first tour of the grounds and pressed you to step into the bath house with her. You declined--politely, I think, judging from body language--and stepped away to greet Ryan Mackrell. I noted, however, that Novello looked particularly sour at the disappointment. I suspect your notices in *Whirl* will not be strongly positive, in other words.

Beatrice Mackrell gained your ear for several minutes of friendly conversation while you were still out in the grounds. Be sure Singh reports the details in case you need to 'remember' the conversation later.

Dolores Umbridge they'll both have told you about as she was seated by you for the Celtic dancing exhibition, but I happened to be behind her just afterwards and heard her mention having been pleased that you seemed so affirming of her ideas re. educational reform. Oh, and I heard it circulating later that she had also shared with you her recipe for plum pudding. (No. I've no idea, except that it was **Nigella Flummock** passing that bit along.)

Mrs Lindorm conversed with you in the Mosaic hall. Presumably confirmed your attendance at her party next week (occasion: her engagement to Fergus Cooper). What Singh won't have seen is that you gained a quite significantly appraising look from her as you walked away.

Maire Drumgoole and M. Truncheon. In the 'odd and piercing looks' category: you spoke with them during the second gladiators match; she left you and Truncheon to talk business, but when I looked again, she was half way around the pitch from you, watching you intently. So much so, that when Mrs Selwyn joined her and spoke, she was visibly startled.

The Crofts sisters got more than a little merry and you were among those they latched onto for a turn of the grounds. Believe you avoided their invitation to join them in the baths.

These are only those things I happened to catch concerning you, but I admit I was rather curious how Singh would carry it off, so I was keeping an eye out. Did also note you having conversations with a number of department types who will have known what was what.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2011-12-25 05:47:56](#)

(no subject)

Appreciate your taking the trouble, Sandoval.

Not sure I understand why 'I' rated so much of your attention at a party you should have been enjoying with your fiancé, but if you don't make the grade as an Auror, I'm sure Ms Novello would find you useful in her line of work. Possibly she'd agree to apprentice you.

[2011-12-24 14:38:00](#)

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



 [alt_terry](#)

I was worried I wouldn't be able to get any of you your presents this year, but Pig showed up last night! So that's all right. Well, what I'm sending you isn't much, but I did them myself. And he delivered the things you all sent to me, but I'm saving 'em until tomorrow to open them. So I have something to look forward to, tomorrow.

It is hard to not be at Hogwarts at Christmas. But I have your presents, and I can talk with you on the journals, thanks to the lock. And the git's sister sent him a lot of bottles of the sort of liquor he likes, so he'll be real drunk tomorrow, which means it'll be quiet. So I'm grateful.

Happy Christmas, everyone.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:00:39](#)
(no subject)

I wish I could tell you that your Christmas present was me finding out from Alecto where you are, but no such luck. She said she'd send the socks on if I gave them to her, and wouldn't budge.

I hope he hates the socks and gives them to you. They're good socks.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-25 05:25:57](#)
(no subject)

At least you tried.


It was a good idea, yeah?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-25 15:32:18](#)
(no subject)

It was a really smart idea, yeah! And if Sally-Anne keeps coming up with great ideas like that, surely one will work eventually! I haven't given up hope, honest. You guys are the thing that keeps me going.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-25 05:26:40](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Terry.

And Happy Christmas, mate.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-25 15:38:26](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas. Tell everyone I love the gifts. The books and everything look like just fascinating. I'll study them really closely. (And thanks for the chocs, too! I haven't had anything sweet since leaving Hogwarts.) And tell the twins that my bracelet hides everything away just as slick as ever. I was worried that the beads wouldn't be able to hide more stuff, but they just seem to have a bottomless capacity. And the git still doesn't seem to be able to see it. Anyway, he's never seen a word about it.

Except that the bracelet is getting sorta heavy, what will all the books and things I'm hiding in the charmed beads. Can you ask them if Fred and George if they know a charm that might lighten it a bit?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-25 15:40:07](#)**
(no subject)

Glad to hear it's still working good, Professor.
Hmm, we'll give your problem some thought and get back to you.

Happy Christmas, mate.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-25 15:40:39](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas.

2011-12-24 14:44:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



I think we should tell Justin about the lock.

Hydra asked me to visit him today in the Hospital Wing, and -- the thing is, I can't tell you why, because I ~~guessed~~ he told me in confidence and I promised I wouldn't tell anyone. And it's not as if I can say, 'can I please have your permission to tell your secret to this secret society of people who can be trusted' because that's just as bad as telling him about the lock, really, it's not something I can say unless people agree to it. I didn't even feel like I could say 'you can trust Ron with this, for sure,' even if I'd know that even if the lock had never existed.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

But we can trust him. And he needs us.

I think last night shows just how badly he needs some allies here. The boys who attacked him don't know his secret. I'm the only one. But I think this may be part of why he kept his head down for so long, instead of finding people to help him fight back.

While I'm making suggestions, I think we should tell Luna Lovegood about the lock, too. And really, all of you know Luna. She'd never tell. Ever.



 [alt_tery](#) at **2011-12-24 20:56:33**

(no subject)


I wrote my post and then I saw this.

So you think that his secret is the sort that he needs the lock to protect? That must be a pretty big one.

I haven't met him, so I'll have to trust the judgment of the rest of you. Well, you were right about Pansy, Sally-Anne. And you know what's at stake if we guess wrong.

What do the rest of you think?

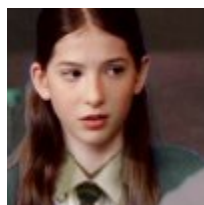


 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-24 20:59:36](#)
(no subject)

He's pretty close to Hydra Lestrage, right? And we all know who her mother is. Do you really think that'd be safe, Sally-Anne? Could he keep it from her?

I think it's a good idea to let Luna in, but Ron and Fred and George know her better than me. And I have to have some sympathy for a bloke who's done his best to hold his own without squealing when he's being bullied.

And whoa, yeah, what they did to him last night was real serious. And scary. The lock would have helped him in that case.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:01:44](#)
(no subject)

He's keeping HIS secret from her.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 21:06:40](#)
(no subject)

Well. That's a pretty strong argument.

The professor's right, too: you led us right on adding Parkinson.

You really think it would help him? He seems like a decent enough bloke.

We should hear from Ron. He maybe knows him the best, because they're the same age.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:10:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I really think it would help him.

And he could tell us about what things are like outside the Protectorate, because he grew up there.


And yes, of course we should hear from Ron. And Hermione and Pansy too. I think everyone needs to agree (or else say 'it's up to the rest of you.')



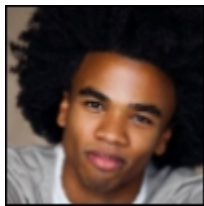
 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-24 21:37:53](#)
(no subject)


I really like the idea about hearing what's going on outside the Protectorate. Besides the stupid Ministry propaganda, of course.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 21:41:16](#)
(no subject)

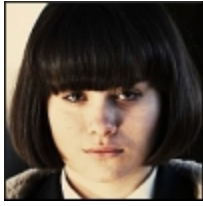
Yes. There's that too.




 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-24 21:14:20](#)
(no subject)

I've talked to Luna a time or two when we've had pick up quidditch pick up games at the Burrow. I like her. She's...entertainingly screwball. Anyone who drives Padma Patil that badly around the twist just by existing can't be at all bad. She strikes me as someone who's close as an oyster, too. Keeps her own counsel.

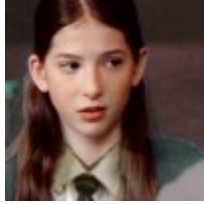
About Justin...if he let slip his secret to you, Perks, is it possible he'll slip our secrets to other people? is he careless?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 21:34:54](#)
(no subject)

That's a good point. If you sorted it out, how secure is this secret?

And how good is he at keeping it?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:49:37](#)
(no subject)

This is a fair point.

However, first of all, I guessed it but it was a stab in the dark I was throwing out as an example of something, and that's when he told me. But also, he's been sounding me out for a while, really carefully, so I think he'd pretty much decided he could trust me.

And he's kept it from everyone at Beauxbatons.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-25 05:37:25](#)
(no subject)

But- so, you think it's a big enough secret that he'd keep ours if we were keeping his, right?

And I really do think he cares about the right stuff. I've been thinking about the way he's been trying so hard to say the right things to everyone and how that means Patil and Malfoy and Zabini and their lot are polite but don't really think he's one of them. He's not like a Slytherin. He doesn't make it all smooth enough that they don't notice the trick, but he covers himself so they can't find anything to hold against him. And, see, that makes me think he's- well, that we can trust him, y'know, because he's got to try so hard. He's like us, but with a different way of going at it, I guess.

I dunno. Only, I think we should add him. And if we're wrong about him, we'll feed him to the squid or something.

Kidding.

So, yeah. I'm for Justin and Luna, both.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 22:12:51](#)
(no subject)


Thanks for that, Fred and George.
and Terry too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:02:43](#)
(no subject)

And he could not possibly tell anyone about the lock without his secret getting out.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-24 21:04:11](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and my gut tells me Luna Lovegood can be trusted. I've sort of watched the kids in Ravenclaw more than other Houses, because it's my House, you know. And she seems like one of the most decent people in it.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 21:27:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, she is.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-24 21:01:22](#)
(no subject)

We think Luna should be on it, yeah. We've known her for years. She's in a right bad place...Mum about had kittens when we weren't allowed to adopt her, and this would help her a lot.

Can you tell us anything more about Justin's situation, Perks? Without breaking a confidence? What would happen to him if his secret was found out, we mean?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:03:24](#)
(no subject)

It would be REALLY REALLY REALLY bad if his secret was found out.

None of us would ever see him again. And things would go badly for his mum, too.



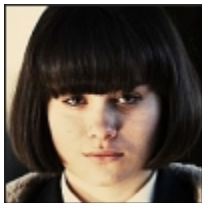
 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-24 21:20:14](#)
(no subject)


Whoa.

Okay, look. I think Justin's all right. And he definitely needed something like the lock last night. And before last night, too.

I can't say I do really know him well enough to be sure, but if I was going to take that risk for anyone, it'd be him right now. And Luna, too.

Definitely Loons. Don't know why we didn't think of it sooner, actually.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 21:38:21](#)
(no subject)

You've said that he was capable of being careful when talking to you about Sirius.

I'm just not sure that letting him in is absolutely *necessary*, but I can see how it would *help*.

And he doesn't have many friends at Beauxbatons, does he? Other than that one boy. JP? Would he insist that JP be in on it too?

Or Hydra?

Would he be able to keep it from them?

Especially if he and Hydra are as close as they look.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-24 21:52:38](#)
(no subject)

Neither JP nor Hydra knows Justin's secret. So they couldn't be on the lock. Justin doesn't think Hydra can be trusted with it -- if for no other reason than because he doesn't know if he could keep it from her

mum.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-24 21:39:23](#)
(no subject)

And I vote aye for Luna.

She's all right.

And good at keeping things quiet.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-25 01:24:20](#)
(no subject)

I don't know about Luna.

But tell Justin.

I can't say why, but just tell him.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-25 02:32:14](#)
(no subject)

Not to ask any questions, but I guess you mean...you know something about Justin from...from the other side? From the wand smugglers? And what you know from that side makes you think it'll be all

right?

Whoa.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:32:59](#)**
(no subject)

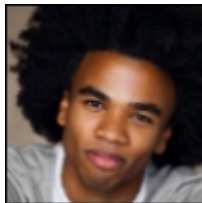
Well, then. It sounds like we all pretty much agree?
That we should tell them?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:36:48](#)**
(no subject)

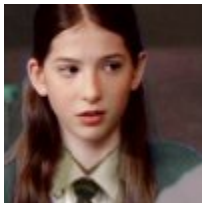
Maybe it'd be smart to just sit on the decision for a day and think about it. Say maybe through Christmas, so we can all sleep on it. Give anyone a last chance to speak up and say it's not a good idea if they really object, or in case we have more questions that come up. It's the sort of thing we all really need to be in agreement.

Then, if no one says 'no' here in the journals before the morning of Boxing Day, we'll go ahead and tell them.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:38:15](#)**
(no subject)

And if nobody says no, then how do we do this? Sally-Anne talks to Justin, I assume? And maybe Ron should talk to Luna, maybe with the twins, too, because they know her best?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:43:11](#)**
(no subject)

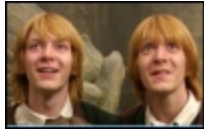
I think that makes sense.

Hermione hasn't said yes to Luna, though. I'm not sure she's AGAINST Luna but she wasn't sure.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:44:21](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, that sounds smart.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:46:15](#)**
(no subject)


(Let us know, though, Perks, if there's some reason it's urgent, like time/critical, to get Justin on the lock right away.)



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:50:21](#)**
(no subject)

No. It should be fine to wait.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:33:30](#)**
(no subject)

I think this is one of those times where we ought to just take Hermione for her word.

So if you say aye, Hermione, that's enough for me.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-25 02:48:52](#)**
(no subject)

Luna will be okay, Hermione. I've got a real strong hunch about her. And if you're okay with Justin, then yeah, it sounds good for going ahead.

[2011-12-24 14:57:00](#)

*Private Message to Professor Lestrangle
and Madam Pomfrey*



 [alt_horace](#)

Bless me, I've just been reviewing the journals and saw there was a commotion last night. Involving Mr Jugson and Miss Lestrangle?

Razzer, am I correct in deducing that you've got your niece's side of the story already? If you'd be so good as to let me know what you've learned?


I've been speaking with Mr Jugson. It seems two of the young men from Beauxbatons led him to believe that Miss Lestrangle would be in some spot of trouble if he did not follow their instructions. They used him to lure Mr Finch-Fletchley from the safety of the Beauxbatons quarters and ambushed him there.

At this point, I believe, Mr Jugson was told his services were no longer required and he escaped. However, I do not think he had any idea that the other two would cast a spell of such severity.

Poppy, how is the lad? I'll have a word with Froissart once he's back. He was spending Christmas with the Malfoys, I thought, but if it's grave as all that we can summon him to return to deal with his students. At any rate I think Minerva would find that preferable to embroiling us in an international incident. So far, the only involvement of Hogwarts' students I can discern is in the other boys' use of Mr Jugson as their bait.

Raz, is that the story you've had from Miss Lestrangle as well? I understand that Miss Perks and Miss Parkinson accompanied her to the Hospital Wing last night. Let me know if you think any of them require additional reassurances.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2011-12-24 20:53:33](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for your report, Horace. Hydra's up here for tea, and she's fine. I don't think she was fully aware of how either she or Remy were used in the plan to attack Mr Finch-Fletchley, but I shall soon explain to her in full. She did tell me that the two lads, Toubon and Coty, have a

history of terrorising Mr Finch-Fletchley, though of course not to this extent.

If you think it helpful, I can come with you to speak with Froissart- if not, shall otherwise leave it in your hands, as Hydra and Remy are of your house.




 **[alt_horace](#)** at **[2011-12-24 21:30:59](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I think that would be most helpful, Razzer, if you don't mind. You've a marginally closer connection to him, after all, through Lucius and Narcissa.

(Speaking of which, that was quite the bash last night, wasn't it? I can't recall your sister-in-law using themes before but it was entirely successful, I thought. And I hadn't had the chance to tell you and Aurora that I wish you both very happy.)




 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-24 22:04:20](#)**
(no subject)

Very well, I'll drop by your quarters in a bit, then, and we shall be on our way.

The Malfoy party was more spectacular than ever, I agree- though it could be that having special company on my arm made it so. Cheers much for your well-wishes.




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 21:01:46](#)**
(no subject)

Ah, Horace. The boy is much improved, but it was quite a grave situation last night.

And I'm afraid it has already got beyond Hogwarts in scope, though I believe there's hope it will not, indeed, become an international incident. St Mungo's have been scrupulous, however, in documenting all details of his injury and treatment. And I've had a fire chat with the Minister's staff about which of those details could be released by whom, to whom, under what circumstances, etc. I can only guess what negotiations preceded that call. Not my brief, in any case.

So, yes. It is quite a concerning matter.




 **[alt_horace](#)** at **[2011-12-24 21:33:56](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it is certainly good to hear he is feeling better, Poppy. I'm sorry I wasn't about last night but it seems those who were did all that could be done for the time being.

I've already sent an owl to M Froissart asking if he could come this evening for a few hours so that we can discuss what's to be done. Shall you be able to leave the Hospital Wing if we need to interview you or would it be all right, do you think, to bring the inquiry to Mr Finch-Fletchley's infirmary bed?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2011-12-24 21:39:59](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I suppose if there are questions that must be asked the boy, then you'd best come here. If you think that could be helped, though, I'd gladly come to you and spare him the ordeal.

If it's to be here, understand that you'll need to keep it brief and respect his physical limits. He's not yet up and about, and he tires quite quickly.

[2011-12-24 17:10:00](#)

Happy Christmas, Everyone!

Especially everyone who celebrates Christmas and who's staying at Hogwarts this year!



I just wanted to say I think we're all very lucky to be here at a time when such important events are happening and I hope the fact that loads of us are here makes it easier for people who would normally be home with their families.

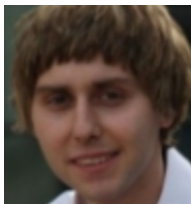
 [alt_padma](#)


And Justin, everyone in Ravenclaw is very happy to hear that you'll be all right. I guess something's happened, too, because the Beauxbatons 7th-years are all well upset about what happened to you. Well, the whole delegation, really, but especially the 7th-years. But I think your friend JP was going to come see you anyway and maybe he'll tell you all about it.

But we've a little something for you when Madam Pomfrey lets you come back, which I hope will be tomorrow because it would be really really awful to have to spend all of Christmas in the Hospital Wing, even if Matron's the very best Healer there is (which she pretty much is, so you're in really good hands!).

And by the way, to everyone who was photographed or mentioned in the *Prophet* and in *Teen Witch* (they have a special edition on the Yule Ball), congratulations!

Happy Christmas!



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2011-12-25 03:40:34](#)**

(no subject)

Hello, Padma,

Thank you very much for the well-wishes. I hope you'll have a brilliant day tomorrow.

-Justin



 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2011-12-25 18:49:04](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Padma!



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2011-12-25 18:51:22](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Patil. Happy Christmas.

Sorry Davies was a git, by the way. Did you have fun in any case?

2011-12-25 08:24:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne and Hydra

I say, thank you both for coming up and visiting yesterday. It should have been extraordinarily dull otherwise, what?



 [alt_justin](#)

Professor Slughorn also dropped in and told me he talked to Jugson and got his side. I rather suspected he'd been duped into helping them, and thank you again, Hydra, for explaining how that happened. Professor Slughorn told me he'd asked Professor Froissart to come back from his holiday with the Malfoys. At first I was worried he might be cross at having to return here on Christmas but he wasn't at all.

He came in just after you left, Hydra, and said Toubon's being sent home and if Headmistress Maxime concurs, he'll be expelled. Wand snapped and everything. And that's the least of it. The Headmistress might even decide he ought to go to trial before the *Conseil des Sorciers*. I'd have written about it last night but Matron decided I'd had enough excitement for one day and threatened to give me a potion if I didn't go to sleep directly. I say, she's well fierce, isn't she, what?

He wanted to know if it had been things like this all along and I said no, nothing this severe. I mean to say, obviously nothing this severe but he asked something like you did, Hydra, because I guess he thought like you did, that it was only things like spilling my books or tearing up homework or that time when my inkwell broke. I admitted that no, it was often just that but that it was frequently leg-lockers or body-binds or belly-blows, tripping hexes, and so on. And he hadn't realised it was two of the senior students, either, from what he said.


Anyway, he said that I'd now confirmed what he'd heard from the source, which I can only assume means he interviewed Henri himself. I wish it hadn't happened like this, though. And on Christmas.

Well, I suppose there's nothing to be done about it. Except to wish you both a very happy Christmas. Hydra, Madam Pomfrey wants to keep me until afternoon, to do a few tests to make sure everything's well strong again. But I've part of your present here, so if you come up this morning I can give you that and there's another small one back in my dormitory.

And Sally-Anne, thanks for the chat. It was grand to have visitors.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-25 18:16:37](#)
(no subject)

I'm still not very happy that Remy just ran off and left you there (besides being cross with him for other things), but he's apologised to me for that and if he remembers his manners for once he'll do the same for

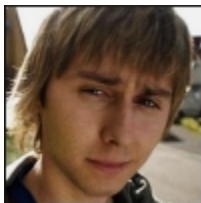
you, too.


I can't say I'm sorry Toubon's being sent home, but I'm more sorry that the whole situation happened at all.

At least we can try to enjoy the Christmas feast tonight, yes? Provided your teeth will be sturdy enough. There's never much I want to eat, but most other people enjoy it. And there's always loads of pudding!

Anyway, I'm on my way up to see you in a bit, and I'll bring you part of your present, since you've got part of mine.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-25 18:26:41](#)
(no subject)

I can't really blame him, honestly, if Coty and Toubon told him to shift himself. I rather wish he'd gone and told you or Malfoy, though, it could have saved a bally old load of bother.

Have you thought any more about what we talked about Friday? And yesterday, as well? Our mutual reading interest, I mean to say. Well, we can talk about it when you arrive, I expect, what?

As for the feast, yes, I'll be able to eat all right. In fact, Matron even fixed them up better than they had been before. There's bound to be loads of decent food, but I shouldn't like you to get sick on too many sweets. Tell you what: if they're not transfigured, we'll try all the veg together, all right? And compare notes. And for every veg

you choke down, Dux, we'll have one pudding. Personally I'm looking forward to the roasts, I've heard it's always marvellous for Christmas, but I know better than to get you to try that!

-Justin

2011-12-25 13:52:00

SNOWBALL FIGHT


Down by the Greenhouses, in half an hour.

Everyone's welcome to join. No putting ice in the centres, either, Gamp!



 [alt_zacharias](#)



 [alt_susan](#) at **2011-12-26 16:16:03**

(no subject)

Wizard! I'll be there, and I'll see if I can rouse the others out of the dorm.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2011-12-26 16:48:53**

(no subject)

You mean you to have another go today?

Yeah, all right.




 [alt_susan](#) at **2011-12-26 16:54:44**

(no subject)

See you there!



 [alt_megan](#) at **2011-12-27 21:11:49**

Private message to Zacharias

Thanks, that was fun!

[2011-12-26 11:04:00](#)

Order Only: Here at 12 Grimmauld Place

I arrived at about ten this morning to work on the food for tonight's party. I wanted to grab a quick note before everyone else arrives.




 **[alt_molly](#)**

The house is better than it was, Sirius assures me, but it had been shut up for quite awhile, and it still needs a bit of attention (Kingsley, I know you have an allergy to their bites, so be warned: there are doxies lurking in the sitting room curtains).

There is a house elf here, by the name of Kreacher. Being alone for so long means his social skills have perhaps deteriorated a bit. He is particularly unhappy that I've invaded his kitchen. I'm taking pains to be as polite as possible, but he has already whisked away the potato peeler and hidden the bag of carrots I'd brought, and tried to claim that I must have forgotten them. I've had to stop to clean out the oven (the state of it was quite shocking) so dinner will be a little later than we had previously planned. Say about six instead of five.

I look forward to seeing everyone tonight. I hope you all had a fine Christmas!



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-26 17:15:58](#)**
(no subject)

Oh...and whatever you do, don't open the curtains on the portrait in the front entrance hallway.

You'll regret it.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-26 17:34:18](#)**
(no subject)

Molly, really you should let me help.


I'll just put Bea in the sling, and I'll be down in a minute!



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-26 18:43:03](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, phoo! You are always so busy all the time! Take advantage of me taking the day to do for you. It's my pleasure.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-26 17:44:35](#)**
(no subject)

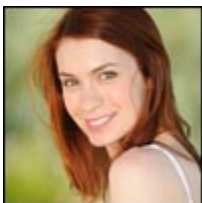
Thanks, Molly. Dora tried to explain to Kreacher about today but I'm afraid all he got from it was that there's a load of interlopers coming in and ruining the purity of my mother's house.


Of course, we've already done that, with Remus and Dora living here now, too. But he's particularly sensitive about his kitchen. We managed to make a peace of sorts, for breakfast each day. No doubt he sees your presence there throughout the day as an affront to his capacity.

In any case, I thought I'd mention that we've been focusing on the main level, the drawing room in particular, and a few guest rooms in case anyone would prefer to stay over.

Oh, and in addition to the other warnings Molly had, there's an umbrella stand in the front entrance hall that tends to tip over and set off the portrait. So, careful of that, as well.

But we've a tree and some trimmings, though most of the decorations are too high for Bea to reach, and she'll be only too happy to play with any packaging or boxes left over from your own gift exchanges (she's chewed on the corners of at least half a dozen boxes already, can't seem to stop her!). And there's plenty of food, Molly's seeing to that!



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-26 18:39:07](#)**
(no subject)

And won't it be fun to see our Kevin and Bea together!

We'll be along shortly, love.

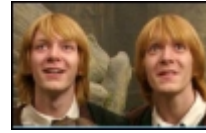


 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2011-12-26 18:44:03](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks for the warning on the doxies, Molly. I'll take my potion just before I arrive, in case of accident.

2011-12-26 11:20:00

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




Since there have been no further objections, Ron and us are about take Luna on a nice long walk to look for animal tracks out by the lake.

 [alt_gredforge](#)

Sally-Anne, we reckon you can go ahead with Justin, too.

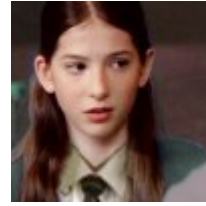


 [alt_terry](#) at **2011-12-26 17:56:16**
(no subject)

I'm looking forward to having another person from my House on the lock.

2011-12-26 12:44:00

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



Justin wants to meet the people on the lock who he doesn't know, before he actually joins. He knows me and Ron and Pansy (and Luna), but he wants to meet the twins, Lee, and Neville. Obviously he can't meet Terry and he understands that he won't get much chance to talk to Hermione and we can't do anything about that.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

It's very sensible of him though I have to admit I'm a little bit irritated frustrated. ~~Does he really think his secrets are bigger than ours~~ Anyway I said I thought I could round up the Gryffindors this afternoon.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2011-12-26 19:09:30**

(no subject)

Sure, bring him by. I think the twins and Ron are still out with Luna. But they'll be back probably in an hour or two.

2011-12-26 16:14:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

Hello. This seems like a rather peculiar thing to write at the top of my journal entry, since I don't actually have anything nefarious planned, but that's how this is supposed to work.



 [alt_luna](#)

I'm Luna Lovegood, and I promise that I will keep what is written here under this Lock a secret. I understand that I'm also supposed to tell you all something that will convince you all of this. I've been thinking about it all afternoon since Fred and George and Ron talked to me, and here is what I have:

My father, as maybe most of you know, published *The Quibbler*. He disappeared one night, and I was told he had become ill and died of the plague.

This is my secret: my father had two sets of printing plates for his press. The set he used every day was taken by the Ministry when they took charge of my father's things, when they told me I was an orphan and I went to live with the Browns. But he had another set, too, that he hid before the Quibbler was taken over and shut down, and I know where he had buried them.


The Ministry is supposed to have oversight over all printed material, and so it is very illegal to have the paraphernalia to run an unregistered printing press. In fact, I looked up the fines that would be charged to anyone who even knows about those plates, and it would be more than I could earn in several lifetimes. I suppose they don't want people printing things like the Grim Truth, or other things that aren't what the Ministry wants people to think.

So that's why you can trust that I will keep the secrets written under this Lock. And you can see that I know more than most people about the power of the written word.

As for what I can bring to this group, I'm not quite sure, really. Care of Magical Creatures is my best subject. I'm quite good at noticing things. The sorts of things that other people overlook.

And I am quite good at glitter charms, if that's the sort of thing you think might ever be helpful.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-27 00:03:14](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Luna. They explained to you about how to do locked comments, too, right? You can write a comment on a public post if you use the 'I solemnly Swear' language, using the special ink, and only those of us in the know can read it, not even the person who wrote the original post, if that person doesn't know the secret.

Now that you know, you can go back and look at the older locked entries, too.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-27 00:04:06](#)
(no subject)

And...that's quite a secret, about the plates.

And welcome.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-27 00:31:30](#)
(no subject)

Yes, they explained it all to me, thank you.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-27 00:05:49](#)
(no subject)

Doubtless we will come up with a corking use for the glitter charms, once we put our minds to it.


Good to have you on the Lock, Lovegood.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 00:07:10](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Lovegood. They told you about everyone who is also on the lock, didn't they? Once you decided to join in?




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-27 00:10:32](#)
(no subject)

Yes, and I was quite surprised when they told me about you and Hermione Granger. And then I wasn't surprised, because I remembered that you seemed to be quite fond of Fred and George Weasley. Now I understand a little more about why.


They said that you know that you are a Ravenclaw?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 00:11:04](#)
(no subject)


Yes, so we're House mates.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-27 00:14:46](#)
(no subject)

I remember thinking once that if you had ever been sorted you would have had to have been a Gryffindor, simply because you had to be, to deal with Professor Amycus Carrow all the time.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 00:18:05](#)
(no subject)

Not really. I'm a terrible coward, actually. Which is why I'm sort of a sneak. Never letting on what I'm really like to the git.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-27 00:18:50](#)
(no subject)

That's not being a coward. That's being smart.

Which is why you're in Ravenclaw, probably.




 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-27 00:21:51](#)**
(no subject)

I wish I had known sooner. I mean, I could have tried to help you learn things, on the sly, you know. Since we're in the same House.

Not that I mean I'd only have helped you because you're a Ravenclaw. Or that's why I've never really done anything to help Hermione Granger, since Ron says she's a Gryffindor.

Oh bother. I'm making a muddle of this.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-27 00:23:38](#)**
(no subject)

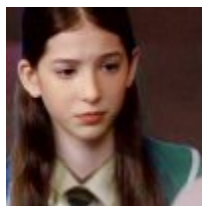
No, no, I understand. The thing is, you always treated me decent enough. Like a person, I mean, not like a mudblood.

That's more than a lot of the students at Hogwarts could ever say.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-27 00:30:49](#)**
(no subject)

I'm also glad to know what happened to you after you were forced to leave Hogwarts. I'd wondered.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-27 01:06:47](#)**
(no subject)


I wonder how many people have wondered, but don't have anyone to ask?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2011-12-27 00:24:57](#)**
(no subject)


Welcome, Luna.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-27 00:26:07](#)**
(no subject)


Thank you. It's quite a bit to take in. But I'm glad you've decided to include me. And I will do my best to make it so that you won't regret it.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-27 01:01:57](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, glad you're with us, Loons.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-27 02:48:52](#)**
(no subject)


Sure thing.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-27 02:49:12](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-27 02:31:10](#)**
(no subject)

Hi, Luna.

You don't have to worry about proving yourself, or being useful.

We aren't that sort. Promise.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-27 02:48:36](#)
(no subject)

Well, then that will be a rather nice change from the way many people think, won't it?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-27 02:55:49](#)
(no subject)

I'd like to think that not everyone really thinks that way, but they certainly have to say it out loud.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 15:21:20](#)
(no subject)

Hi Luna.

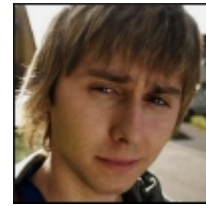
I hope you aren't offended when you read back and see that I said I didn't know about you, I really didn't know you well enough, I mean, you are always nice to me but so is Hydra Lestrage and so nobody really can know, can they? But I am glad you're here and we all decided you could be.

[2011-12-26 17:37:00](#)

Private Message to Luna Lovegood

Luna,

Sally-Anne told me that Fred and George Weasley went walking with you this afternoon, looking for animal tracks. Did you enjoy yourself?




 [alt_justin](#)

She also said that we might have some other things in common with them, soon. Did they tell you what she told me?

What's your opinion? Are you planning to accept their offer?

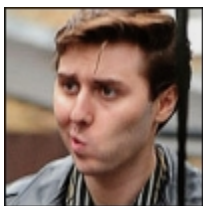
-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at **[2011-12-26 22:45:48](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, it was an exceedingly interesting conversation. It also explained a few things that had quite puzzled me up until now.

I do think I am going to accept. But then I've known Fred and George Weasley for years, and the rest of the Weasley family, too. Perhaps you are hesitating because you don't know them quite as well?



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2011-12-26 22:49:49](#)**
(no subject)


This afternoon is the first time we've met, really.

They've a reputation as troublemakers, though, and I admit I'm well uncertain that making their acquaintance more closely would draw no notice from--certain quarters, if you follow me.

Aren't you worried about the Browns or some of your roommates seeing you in their society?

-Justin




 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-26 23:04:55](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's not quite that they're seen as troublemakers, exactly. They're pranksters, yes, but they don't do it to make trouble for people. They do it to make people laugh, but the pranks aren't malicious or mean-spirited.

But Fred and George are quite, quite clever. Not book clever, exactly, I mean, or the sort of cleverness that Ravenclaws worry about. I'm sure their marks are the despair of their mother. But they are extremely clever about people, I mean. They have a real knack for sizing people up and knowing their true character, and knowing how to defuse a situation so that people laugh instead of get angry. There is nobody better for getting you out of a tight spot if you need their help. The teachers know they're pranksters, but most of them like the twins very well. Their senses of humour are quite admired by most people here at Hogwarts. And they don't associate with people who are cruel in any way. In fact, they can be as fiercely loyal as any Hufflepuff if they count you as their friend.

I think that no one would look askance if you show yourself to be in their company, because they're quite well-liked. Does that help?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-26 23:08:17](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I think I see what you mean.

Thank you.

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2011-12-26 23:11:24](#)
(no subject)

You are quite welcome.

2011-12-26 19:53:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Hello,

Fred, George, Lee, Neville: It was nice to meet you this afternoon. I look forward to getting better acquainted.

 [alt_justin](#)

I've just read Luna's introduction to this group. Luna, I'm so sorry for what happened to your father.

I gather that I've a bally good deal of back-reading to do, to learn about the rest of your secrets, since that's what supposed to keep us all safe here, isn't it? The idea that if one of us tells someone's secret, we can turn right 'round and tell that person's secret, what?

Well, I assume since Luna hasn't posted to tell us she's been arrested, this is truly secure. And don't worry, I've told Hydra that I was well tired tonight (which, as it happens, I am!) and I wanted to go back to my room after supper. So I'm quite alone at present and unlikely to be interrupted.

Right, here goes.

So, the official story everyone has been told about me is that my parents are Squibs. I was born in France, and they went there partly because they knew they'd be treated unkindly if they'd stayed in England. I had private tutors for all the time before I went to Beauxbatons and I was seriously ill for a long time, so I had to have extra tutoring to be able to start in my second year.

But that's not really the way it happened. Sally-Anne guessed part of the truth, but not all of it.

The part that she guessed is that my parents aren't Squibs at all. My mother's a Muggle and she had no idea what was happening when my magic manifested. That's why I was kept at home for so long, and that's why I became ill.

But that's not the whole of my secret. That's not why I wanted to come to England, even though it's particularly dangerous for me because, of course, my mother's being watched back in France.

The other part of my secret is that it was a tutor who came and told us that I was a wizard. He told us he could teach me enough magic and help us make up a story so that I could be admitted to Beauxbatons. My tutor gave his name as Nigel Cullenden.

Sally-Anne, that's why I wanted to know for sure if people believed he was really alive, as he claimed. And yesterday, when you told me that Miss Granger knew he was, I'd already had some confirmation of that, myself. You see, after you and I spoke a few weeks ago, I wrote to him. And he sent me a Christmas present, a book. So I knew that you weren't lying, do you see.

Well, that's my secret. I thought if I came here, perhaps I could find him and--maybe help him, I'm not sure. I don't know what I want to do at this point. I'd like him to get his friends in France to help my mother go into hiding, or at least get away from the Protectorate's French allies, what?

Sally-Anne, I couldn't help seeing what you wrote earlier. Thank you for thinking I needed friends. And I do apologise for frustrating you (and you, Ron) with my caution. I hope you can see why I felt it necessary to be quite sure before entrusting you with this information, what? I realise I probably could have left it at 'secret mudblood' and saved the rest but I thought it only proper to tell you the whole, so you'd understand the delicacy of my situation.

And, Mr Boot and Miss Granger: I can't imagine that it's not difficult for you, to talk to someone here who can take lessons openly when you have to sneak about. I'd just like to say I shan't take it amiss if you resent me for the accidents of fortune that separate our lots. I'm quite aware of how lucky I have been, so far, what? I only hope that you'll one day be able to claim the same rights.

And now, I really am still feeling a bit done in from all the bother at the weekend. I shall probably read a few of your old messages and then turn in.

-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-27 01:03:16](#)
(no subject)

Nigel ...

wait, are you saying your tutor in France, the one who explained to your mum that you were a wizard, was

Sirius Black?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 01:10:12](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

He never said it right out, but I worked it out.


'Nigel' is an old Latin form of black. 'Cullenden' took a while, but finally I worked out that it was a variation on Cú Chulainn, otherwise known as the Hound of Ulster. A dog. Sirius is the dogstar, what?

And then I wrote to him and he sent this book, do you see.

And I don't know if they said so here, but in France they did mention that he'd been living under the name for years. Funny no one noticed, though I suppose it's not exactly obvious, what?

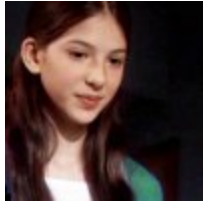
-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-27 01:12:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

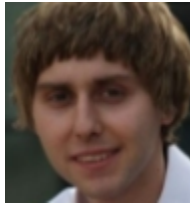
I didn't know all that about his name. Cullendon's. That's well interesting.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-27 01:23:52](#)
(no subject)

Well, there are enough wizards with odd names I guess no one noticed?

That's brilliant that he sent you a book. What book did he send you?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 01:31:10](#)
(no subject)

The Young Wizard's Guide - it's sort of an etiquette book and a discussion on various topics from a well pureblood perspective. It's also very old, mid-nineteenth century. Funny, really, because those books I gave Hydra, you know, they were written about the same time, only obviously not by a pureblood.

I think his father may have given it to him. There's a very faded inscription, I'm not sure if he even remembered it was there, what? But he added his own, as well. Sort of an answer to the letter I sent him, I think.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-27 01:11:32](#)
(no subject)

Um. You know Sirius Black? And he was your TUTOR!?!!

Uh. Pans, you know who Nigel Cullendon is was turned out to be? Er. He was really important in Quidditch stuff in Europe. I mean, enough that people here knew all about him. Well, if they followed Quidditch news. International sport, yeah.

But, Justin.

Um.


What about your dad? Is he dead now? Or-

You only talked about your mum.

Or

sorry if that's rude to ask.



 **alt_justin** at [2011-12-27 01:18:51](#)
(no subject)


No, it's all right. My father lives in Australia. I don't remember him at all but my mother doesn't think there's any chance he was really a Squib and didn't know it.

As best we could figure, there really were Finches who were wizards, somewhere, so the genealogy that Sirius created for us has real roots. We're just not at all certain that we're related to those Finches, you see.

Luckily, none of them have come along to give us an argument, what?

-Justin



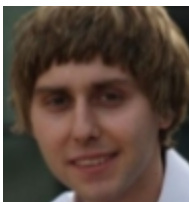
 **alt_terry** at [2011-12-27 02:37:34](#)
(no subject)


You're a--

You're a muggleborn.

And your tutor was Sirius Black.

Merlin, when Sally-Anne Perks said your secret was big, I never thought it could be something like that.




 **alt_justin** at [2011-12-27 02:40:04](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Terry.

Well, in Sally-Anne's defence, she didn't know about Sirius. But yes. It's not just my secret, do you see.

-Justin



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 02:42:12](#)
(no subject)

Blimey. Now I understand why Hermione--


Blimey. I'm going to have to think about this.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-27 02:43:32](#)
(no subject)

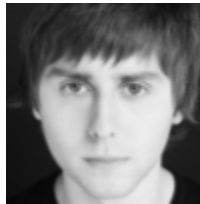
Okay there, Professor?




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 02:45:31](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I will be. I mean, Hermione vouched for him and everything, so I'll be all right with him.

It's just...just a bit of a shock, is all. Sorry Justin, but I guess you already understand.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 02:49:11](#)
(no subject)

Yes, of course, old chap. Quite.

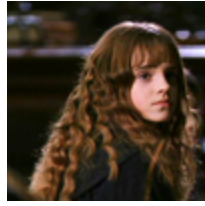
-Justin




 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-27 03:09:29](#)
(no subject)

And thanks. For what you said about hoping Hermione and me will someday be able to claim the same rights.


We hope that, too.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 15:24:08](#)
(no subject)

Well, and do you see that I didn't want to tell you about him, because for one thing I couldn't, but also because I didn't know how you'd react? I didn't think you'd be angry or upset or frustrated that he had such wonderful luck but I didn't know and sometimes people react in terrible ways, and anyway you've had the worst end of the stick all round, so I didn't just want to come up and say 'oh, Terry, by the way, there's a boy out there who made it out and he's living like a real wizard in France and I know who he is and all.'



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-27 02:46:09](#)
(no subject)

Hi, Justin.

I can see why you couldn't tell your secrets to Hydra.

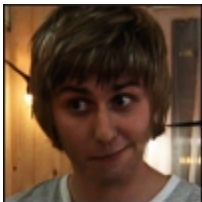
My secret was about Sirius Black too, actually.


And I understand why you would be a bit nervous. It takes a bit of getting used to. I was the last person to join up before you and Luna.

I know it's a bit

well...

you wouldn't put us all together on paper. But we're all here, aren't we?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 02:53:16](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Pansy.


Yes, it's jolly inconvenient, fancying her of all people. Considering who her mother is, I mean to say, what? I think she'll come to understand it, in time. You know she already well hates her mother; she's just still afraid of her as well.

Can't half blame her, either, what?

And yes, Sally-Anne did explain, a bit, how you've come to be in this group, coming from a background closer to Hydra's. I hope you'll help her put things together, when she's ready?

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-27 03:00:33](#)
(no subject)


Can you live with it if it never happens? Because it might, you know, if the group doesn't think it's safe. We have to keep all of us safe. Which means that sometimes you have to keep secrets from people you care about a lot.

What am I saying? Of course you know all about that already. Never mind.

It's hard. I get that. My little sister doesn't know about the lock. Neither does Ron's. None of us have really started fancying other people yet very seriously, so we haven't faced that problem head on, really.

(At least, I don't think so.)



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 03:07:03](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Neville,

No, it's a fair question. Yes, I could do. But I don't think it'll never happen; I think it may be some time before she's ready, but Hydra's really genuinely sweet and kind and I can't see her going along with everything the Protectorate stands for forever. Actually, she's begun reading through all of Sirius's Grim Truth posts because she's become curious about them. That doesn't mean she'll agree with him, of course. But it does mean she's thinking about the world in new ways, ways her mother hasn't dictated, if you follow me.


And it's anyone's guess whether she and I will fancy each other a year from now, or even two months from now, what! I'm not

saying she ought to be brought on, in fact, Sally-Anne will tell you one of the first things I said to her was that we can't tell Hydra about this, not yet.

I think that's the hardest thing about secrets, though, what? Keeping them secret.

-Justin




 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-27 03:11:55](#)

(no subject)

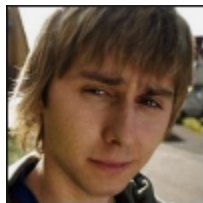
Yeah. Exactly.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2011-12-27 03:12:31](#)

(no subject)

But I've found it also helps a bit if you have other people to keep secrets with.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 03:20:47](#)


(no subject)

I dunno. Sometimes I think that can make it difficult, too. I mean to say, if I know I'm the only person I can trust, then I know I just can't tell anyone anything. But if I start feeling can tell you lot certain things, it opens one up, doesn't it, and that can lead to confessions that aren't intentional, what?

I suppose it's jolly difficult either way. And here I've just told Pansy that we ought to feel coalition - hah! Demmed if you do and demmed if you don't, what!

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-27 03:10:41](#)
(no subject)

No, I can't blame her. Not one bit.


And Nev's right. It is hard. I'm not very brave when it comes to that sort of thing, really, and it's still

sort of new

and different.

But I guess that'd make it easier to, you know, talk to other people like me.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 03:16:14](#)
(no subject)

Actually her father worries me more than her mother, because she loves him rather a lot and on the surface he's more reasonable. But I've a feeling he's just as dangerous, in point of fact.

Either way, it'll be very difficult for her to break with him, if she comes to that point.

And yes, I think that's sort of one of the things Sirius is always saying in his GTs, isn't it, how the first step is realising you're not the only one who thinks things are wrong. And that connecting to others, who feel the same way, that's the next step. Learning whom you can trust, what? Recognising that it's all right to disagree, as well, and that if you do, you shan't be the only one.

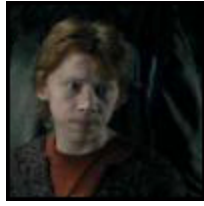
-Justin




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-27 03:24:06](#)
(no subject)

I think there's a big difference between loving someone and agreeing with them.

And sometimes just knowing that there are different ways of thinking about things helps.



 **alt_ron** at [2011-12-27 14:23:35](#)
(no subject)

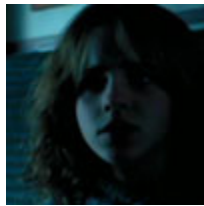
Um.

~~Y'know, we never talk about this, but now we are, I think~~

~~I mean, I gotta say~~

~~Look. I know you love Mr Malfoy and all, but you do know he's~~

~~Sorry. Nevermind.~~




 **alt_hermione** at [2011-12-27 15:28:28](#)
(no subject)

Well maybe that's the case only of course you can't always do both, because someday not agreeing with them may mean hurting them rather a lot.

For instance Harry, I mean, I don't mean I love him like that mushy stuff, but I do love him, like he's my brother, because he's basically a really good person I think; only I am beginning to realise that he maybe won't ever change his mind, or maybe he'll go back to his Father in the end, or maybe he'll just be too scared, and I really couldn't blame him, but that also means I can't really keep putting all of my heart into him, right? Because if something horrible happened I don't want to feel like my best friend got taken away from me because someone who disagrees with you on something so big can't be your best friend.

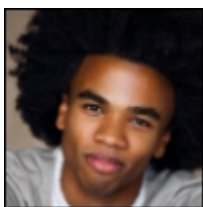
I guess it's different for me and Harry though.




 **alt_luna** at [2011-12-27 02:51:00](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Justin. It'll be quite nice not having to feel like we're quite so alone anymore, won't it?

I think you were quite brave coming to the Protectorate with a secret like that.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2011-12-27 02:52:26](#)**
(no subject)

You said it. Criminy, you've got nerve.

Anyway, we'll help look out for you. Welcome to the gang.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-27 02:57:40](#)**
(no subject)

Hello, Lee.


Wish I could agree with you both but courage had bally well nothing to do with it, what? It's not as if I could say, 'No, thanks,' when offered the chance to come to England, not without giving an explanation. And I couldn't very well explain, 'I'm not at all confident in my ability to hide my muggle upbringing or how much the Protectorate horrifies me, cheers!' by way of refusing, could I have done?

Coming was really the only choice I had to protect everyone, what?

Anyway. Cheers, thanks.

-Justin




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:05:40](#)**
(no subject)

I know what you mean. About doing things you're scared of because it's the only choice you have.

The only choice you can live with.



 **alt_justin** at **2011-12-27 20:12:34**
(no subject)

I hope it will be, Luna, yes.

And like I said to Lee, I feel odd being called brave.
I've never been more scared, coming here, but it was really the only thing I could do, once they decided to make use of me. I think you know the sort of thing I mean, what?

-Justin

2011-12-26 21:10:00


Order Only: Thanks to All

Thank you all for coming to our holiday party. We all greatly enjoyed your company. Best wishes to all of you in the New Year.




 [alt_lupin](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-12-27 03:14:01**
(no subject)


Well, it was certainly memorable. In fact, I'm sure we will all remember it for years to come.



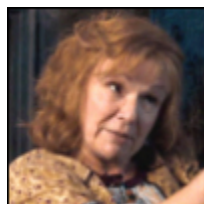
 [alt_molly](#) at **2011-12-27 03:14:36**
(no subject)


Bill! Really!



 [alt_bill](#) at **2011-12-27 03:15:14**
(no subject)

And the food was good! Wonderful job as always, Mum.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2011-12-27 03:18:16**
(no subject)

Oh dear, that's scarcely the point!


Remus, dear, thank you so much for inviting all of us. Do let me know if I can be of more help to you
~~and Dora and Siri~~

oh

well, to *any* of you, if you want to tackle more of that cleaning.

(Whatever that malevolent elf will let you do.)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 03:20:47](#)
(no subject)


We VERY much appreciate your help, Molly. Far more than we appreciate Kreacher, I can tell you that much.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-27 03:43:08](#)
(no subject)

Understatement, that.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:49:12](#)
Private Message to Dora and Remus

All right, there, luv?




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-27 04:27:42](#)
Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Mostly, I think.

My ears are a bit pink still, but otherwise not terrible.

What about you, then?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:32:19](#)
Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Contemplating how Kreacher's head would look on the wall.

I'm so sorry you were embarrassed like that. We should have just told them somehow. I just wanted Remus to feel comfortable and it really isn't anyone's business but ours. Yours and his and mine, that is.

And the little blighter *would* wait until I'd left the room for a

second, so I couldn't shut him up right away.

I hope it doesn't mean we've scandalised half the Order into never coming back, though.

Bea all settled down, finally?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-27 04:35:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Sleeping soundly with her cousin Hydra's SingAmi clutched tight.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:37:30](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Hope you defused it of any bombs first, then.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:40:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

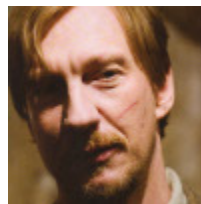
Or mind-altering hexes, natch.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:41:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Are we sure it's not implanted with a listening spell?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 04:44:44](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

~~Bugger~~ Bother, I'd meant to ask Kingsley to have a look at that thing while he was over. Naturally after the excitement I forgot.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:47:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Well, if it's too late, Bella certainly got an earful tonight!

I'll see if I can pry it from her long enough to give it a once-over in the morning.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:49:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

And are you all right, old man?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 04:56:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

Who are you calling an old man?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 05:02:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus

They say the memory's the first thing to go.

You're RJ Lupin, or have your eyes gone now, too?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:28:30](#)

(no subject)

Yes, indeed, Molly. Truth be told it was possibly the best meal ever prepared in that kitchen.

And there's certainly enough work to be done but please don't feel we're pressing you into service. You've your own projects, as well.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-27 03:43:48](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Molly.

For all of it.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:30:29](#)
Private Message to Bill

Shut it, you.

I could murder that wretched elf. Of all the ways for you all to hear about our ... *shift*, I suppose I'd call it.

Is your Mum all right? She just looked utterly flummoxed when I came back in.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-12-27 03:53:51](#)
Re: Private Message to Bill

I've been private messaging her a bit since we all left and I went back to my flat.

She's been rocked a bit by your revelation, but don't let that spook you. She's raised seven kids which means she's used to shocks by now. She'll come around.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:57:51](#)
Re: Private Message to Bill

You might think, but you know your mum's quite traditional about some things.

Marriage and kids, for example.


I wish Remus'd figured things out before he up and married Dora but then we wouldn't have Bea, either. And that would have been a great misfortune.

Still, I know it puts Dora in a bad position, unless she can find someone who doesn't mind the arrangement, or we can come up with a good reason for the Ponds to split amicably. But that day's

a ways off, so, meanwhile ... we're finding a way to make things work.

Dunno why I thought I had to tell you that. Maybe you're standing in for your mum.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2011-12-27 04:08:46**

Re: Private Message to Bill

So...Dora is on board with the arrangement? That is a relief then. I mean--well, bloody hell, I don't know what I mean. Except that I like all three of you. Well, all four of you, if you include Bea. And I hope that you keep the hurt for everybody to a bare minimum.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2011-12-27 04:13:41**

Re: Private Message to Bill

Dora is the one who put it all together, Bill. Without her we'd still be - I dunno, I'd still be living with the belief that Remus only liked women and he'd still be trying his best to make her happy and failing miserably at it. And poor Dora would still be trying to figure out why they were both so ill-at-ease.

It's not been easy. But yes, we're trying to keep things as equal as possible.

I mean to say, Bill. I'm capable of some berkish things but I'd never have come between them. Not like that.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2011-12-27 04:17:16**

Re: Private Message to Bill

No, I imagine it hasn't been easy, Sirius. But if Dora's working it through, that'll help Mum come around in the end, I think.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2011-12-27 03:45:32](#)
(no subject)

Don't go out of your way to hold onto the details, will you?




 [alt_frank](#) at [2011-12-27 03:17:32](#)
(no subject)

cheers, mate.


and happy christmas.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-12-27 03:22:54](#)
(no subject)


Thanks for hosting, Remus. And cheers to everyone in your family. Bea's going to turn out to be a beauty, I can tell.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:26:11](#)
(no subject)

Players are welcome, anytime, Kingsley.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2011-12-27 03:30:24](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, my friend.

And anytime any of you want to slip away for a bit to share a friendly pint and talk, just send a

patronus.

2011-12-26 21:33:00

Order Only: Private message to Arthur and Molly Weasley




 [alt_bill](#)

I'm back at my flat now. Did Percy give you any trouble about being gone most of the day, Mum?


Um. About Sirius and Remus. Did either of you have any clue?



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-12-27 03:36:47](#)
(no subject)

None. My goodness. I mean, I can see it, now that I think about it. But I confess I had no idea.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-27 03:38:29](#)
(no subject)

I just couldn't believe it! I was ready to sink through the floor when that nasty elf blurted it out like that in front of everybody! I have never been more mortified.


And after that Christmas gift I gave Dora, too!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2011-12-27 03:39:58](#)
(no subject)

Remind me, what you gave her again?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-27 03:42:36](#)
(no subject)

I gave her a...well, a rather *frivolous* thing to wear in bed. Along with a note about marital harmony is so important during stressful times.

It's so humiliating!



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:43:23](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, my.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:44:15](#)**
(no subject)

I meant it to be funny!




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:45:13](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it is funny, just not in the way you intended.


(Maybe she'll pass it along to Padfoot to wear.)



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:45:59](#)**
(no subject)

Bill! How can you even joke about such a thing!




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-12-27 03:51:20](#)**
(no subject)

Joking about it's better than just sitting around trying to pretend it hadn't happened.

My word, that was awkward.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-12-27 03:55:07](#)
(no subject)


I am worried about Dora, I must confess. I hope that wasn't entirely a surprise to her, too.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-27 03:56:15](#)
(no subject)

Arthur! Do you mean it's possible it couldn't have been? But how can that be?




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-12-27 03:57:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, think about it, Molly. She was embarrassed, obviously. Her face turned red as fire, and her hair curled up as if she was trying to hide behind her fringe.


But somehow, I don't quite think she was surprised.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2011-12-27 03:58:44](#)
(no subject)


Well, not that Kreacher said it. Surprised by the revelation, I mean.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-27 03:59:00](#)
(no subject)


Oh, my.



 **alt_bill** at [2011-12-27 03:59:30](#)
(no subject)


Hadn't thought of that.



 **alt_molly** at [2011-12-27 04:00:17](#)
(no subject)

Are you saying that she knows? And that, my goodness, she's all right with it?




 **alt_arthur** at [2011-12-27 04:02:32](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't know if she's all right with it, truly. But the three of them still seem to be on very good terms, and it's obvious that they all adore Bea. Maybe they're still figuring out what it means themselves.

Think about it. Who could Dora have talked to about it, really?

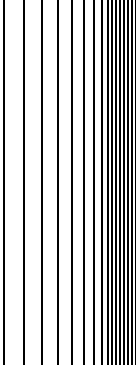



 **alt_molly** at [2011-12-27 04:04:40](#)
(no subject)

Oh, my goodness. And if she needs to have a heart to heart, I suppose my Christmas gift would have squelched that impulse. She must have felt quite alone, poor thing.

I wonder though.

Do you suppose that Frank or Alice knew? Sirius is quite close to Alice, isn't he?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2011-12-27 04:06:33](#)**
(no subject)

Huh. You know, I didn't think of it until now, but when Kreecher was dropping his little bombshell, I saw Alice and Frank give each other a look.

Yeah, like they weren't quite surprised, either.

2011-12-26 21:41:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony and Alice



Well.

That could have gone better, I thought.

 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **2011-12-27 02:51:08**

(no subject)

It was a bit... unexpected, yes.

And I know you wanted to tell on your own terms.

I'm sorry, love.

If it makes you feel better, Frank already knew, and he's the one that had the idea to give you and Remus the matching pocket squares for Christmas.

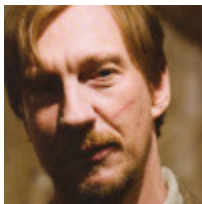


 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-27 03:33:36**

(no subject)

Yeah, I figured you couldn't keep it from him, you minx.

And thanks for those. And for helping soothe the way tonight.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-27 03:15:03**

(no subject)

Bloody elf.

And to think I thought your attitude might be a bit unfair to the little bastard.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:21:58](#)
(no subject)

Well, I hate to say I told you so but -

No, I don't hate it at all. I TOLD YOU SO.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 03:23:44](#)
(no subject)

So you did.

Maybe next time we hold a party you should tell him in advance he's not to say one word until everyone's gone?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 03:43:26](#)
(no subject)

Not sure it'd help. Besides, damage done, isn't it?

Merlin.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 04:20:23](#)
(no subject)

Still and all

It's just as well in some ways. People KNOW now.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 04:01:37](#)
(no subject)

Oh, bugger all.


Do you think they think we hadn't told *anyone*, including Dora?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-27 04:19:50](#)**
(no subject)

...mmm. Yes, given all they know is what they heard from Kreacher, it's quite possible some of the Order think we'd been keeping Dora in the dark. You'd think they'd have been able to tell from the lack of complete shock on her face, but ... I think some of them were too busy staring at their plates to actually see anyone's reaction.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2011-12-27 18:46:02](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, for Circe's sake.

They're all outraged we've betrayed Dora, but really they're not. It's that we kept it private.

Allie, are all witches such busy-bodies once they get pruny?


Sorry.

That wasn't

It's none of their business! I can't

Surely there's some part of cleaning that involves blasting spells. Right?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2011-12-27 20:15:53](#)**
(no subject)

First off, fearing for Tonks' safety and happiness is only natural. She's young, she's just recently had a baby, and women tend to feel very fiercely for our own when we see someone so potentially vulnerable.

So I think they're all concerned about Tonks, and they're making it so that if they're concerned for her, then naturally that means they must be angry at you both. It is complete nonsense, of course, but in situations like this, people may feel the need to make it so that they must choose a side.

| I'm sorry, love. I'll do what I can.

[2011-12-26 22:10:00](#)

Private Message to Penelope Clearwater


Did you have a good Christmas? Mine was pleasant enough, although the Burrow seemed oddly quiet with all the Hogwarts contingent gone. Thank you for the briefcase, it's quite perfect.



 [alt_percy](#)

It's been even quieter today. Mum disappeared this morning, saying she was going to spend Boxing Day servicing people in the camps. Can you imagine? And Dad went to join her shortly before dinner. I don't know why they think they have to cater to mudbloods that way. Even if it is Boxing Day. They didn't bother to ask me to come along, of course. They know better.



 [alt_penelope](#) at **[2011-12-27 04:22:08](#)**
(no subject)

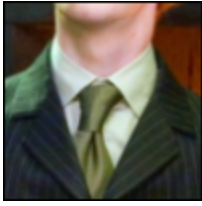
Oh, yes, it was all right. Well. Ours was.

You heard about Finch-Fletchley, I assume? Monsieur Froissart had to come back because of it. Poor Professor McGonagall had to spend most of Christmas Eve with him and Professor Slughorn and the two Beauxbatons students responsible. Well, the one student, anyway. His mate turned him in, saying he'd never expected Toubon to use a liquefaction curse on Finch-Fletchley!

Your brother was one of the ones who rescued him, even! Which was more than a little surprising, not because he's not the type to go charging in (it's really his most Gryffindorish trait) but because he was so quick about it, especially when Finch-Fletchley didn't make much of his injuries.

So, apart from that it was quiet. Half the school went out and had a massive snowball fight yesterday and a quarter of them went out again today. I expect Madam Pomfrey will be up to her neck in sniffles tonight.

I'm glad you liked your briefcase. I wish we'd known that your parents were going out, you could have come to visit for a bit. How bizarre though, for them to go serve in the camps! Have they ever done that before?



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-12-27 15:00:23](#)**
(no subject)

Just glanced through the journals again to read the story. Ron can be reckless occasionally, but in this instance I'm pleased that he did the right thing. Good on him.

I wish I'd visited you, too. I didn't know they were going to be gone out for so long. Well, Dad's job brings him in contact with the camps, of course (very regrettably, so he's often there. And Mum has gone to volunteer there before. I wish she'd do something else, more the thing, like a hospital committee or something.

Mudbloods indeed.

2011-12-27 04:40:00

*Private message to Susan Bones and
Eloise Midgen*




 **alt_megan**

If she'd seen it, and if she was upset about it, she'd have written by now. Wouldn't she?

Also, where are you? If you left because you didn't want to talk about the ball any more, you can come back now. I won't say a thing about how lovely it was, or anything that happened or could have happened but didn't, or even how I wish we could have one every year. Promise. Not one little tiny word, not one little tiny hint, I'm done.

But everyone having Christmas here is fun, isn't it?




 **alt_eloise** at **2011-12-28 01:03:31**
(no subject)

I left because I was looking for John!!

He's cross with me for letting everyone think Milland caught us snogging in the rosebushes at the Ball, hehe. But yes I think Susan might be tired of hearing about it!!

Meggy I wish you wouldn't talk about Han writing in her journal someday, though. It makes me scared to read mine sometimes.




 **alt_megan** at **2011-12-28 02:07:42**
(no subject)

He's *still* cross? Don't worry, he'll quit being cross soon.

I didn't! I wouldn't!

That's creepy.



 **[alt_susan](#) at 2011-12-28 02:35:35**


Private Message to Susan and Megan

It was pretty brilliant, overall!

But yeah, I think I might be ready to move on.

Sometimes I wish Han *would* write



 **[alt_megan](#) at 2011-12-28 05:30:25**

Re: Private Message to Susan and Megan

~~I hope you and Neville~~ I'm not saying anything.
Not even about you and Neville.

Sometimes I wish I knew what she'd say. About loads of things. But I

I mean

Even more, I want to think she's...you know...moved on.

2011-12-27 09:18:00

Order Only

Happy Christmas, all.

I haven't seen Pomona yet this morning, so I trust that means you had a most festive gathering yesterday. I regret having to miss it, but it was as well I did. No deaths or near-decapitations to report. (Save Sir Nicholas's, of course, but there's not a thing I can do for him!) I did, however, have a steady stream of frost bitten ears and fingers, one eye injury due to snowball, several ankle and wrist sprains, one nasty cut had in a skating mishap, and several creatures incidents. I do not understand why parents will insist on sending new familiars in parcels at Christmas. It's not the animal's fault when it emerges in a foul temper.



 [alt_poppy](#)

In any case, I had a lovely tea with Professor Brutka as a result, so all was not lost. It was lucky he was about, as Wilhelmina Grubbly-Plank was off for the afternoon with her family.

And, Cousin Caradoc: thank you for your letter and for the house shoes--they arrived Sunday and fit perfectly--but, really, bells on the toes? *'I'm sure your young patients would appreciate a bit of warning as you approach with their next foul-tasting draught.'* See if I waste my plum brandy on you another year!



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-27 17:02:42**

Private Message to Poppy

You missed quite the event, then.

We had a lovely time exchanging presents (thanks, by the way, always a treat, your brandy) and watching Kevin and Bea scamper about. And then when it was time to sit, Bea started in fussing and we realised we'd left her blanket across the way in the drawing room. I took her with me to go and get it and in the thirty seconds I was gone, Kreacher gleefully revealed to everyone that Remus and I are -

Well. That we're lovers.

Only he wasn't quite as charitable about it.

Now, before you hear it from Pomona or get some wrong ideas: We're not going behind Dora's back. In fact, she's the one realised that the problems she and Remus have been having were down to the fact that he's really not as interested in women as he tried to behave. Well, if you think about it you'll probably know better than anyone that it's always been him for me, and I guess it's always been me for him. Only he never said and I only ever saw or heard about girls from him so I thought he was normal - normal that way, at any rate - and then there was the whole sordid business with Peter and thinking Remus was the spy and him thinking it was me and - fast forward ten years, and I thought surely I'd get over how I felt, especially once he started getting closer to Dora.

But then she would insist that I stay with them. And I tried to give them room, honestly, why d'you think I left so often, so I wouldn't get in their way, but I suppose my being away only made Remus more anxious and depressed and she couldn't understand it. And then, well, the way she tells it, there was this one couple, a mixed-blood couple who came through the beer garden and eventually made their escape. Two young women, in that case. And she saw them looking at each other and - oh, she'll tell you, maybe, she's close to you. But she says she recognised that look in Remus. Only it wasn't for her. It was for me, I guess.

So she sat us both down and told us to figure it out between us.

~~Merlin, I'd've gone away and never come back rather than~~

But our first priority has remained making sure that he and she are both protected by the illusion of the Ponds family. Mum, Dad, baby, family dog - all quite wholesome and perfect, innit? And *none* of us wants to break up Bea's home, even if we wish that Remus' and my happiness didn't come at the price of Dora's, at least in some part. I mean, if she'd meet someone we could all trust then, maybe, we could consider 'Junius' giving her a divorce so she could be with that other bloke, or even, depending, maybe he'd come and live with us all. Merlin knows there's enough room at Grimmauld Place.

That's why we shifted there, as well, do you see. So we'd be able to give ourselves a little breathing room, yet still all be able to work things out together. It's an odd family but it's better than things were, in its way.

Only now Minerva says Pomona's all morally outraged and I dunno, I guess I can understand being angry that everyone was blind-sided

but, honestly, Poppy. Tell me you're not offended, as well. I mean to say, in your line surely you've had students confess their - predilections - before, and counselled them through it?

Or maybe not. I know I never said anything in school because it was just one more thing that was wrong with me. Safer not to date anyone at all, not to show interest whatsoever, than have someone find out and word reach my parents. Maybe there are more situations like that than the other way. Or like Remus, forcing himself to feign interest in women just to try to fit in.

Anyway. It was probably the bombshell of the year, sorry you had to miss it.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2011-12-27 18:01:08**

Re: Private Message to Poppy

Oh, my.

I'll drop in on Pomona this afternoon, shall I? See if I can get her perspective on things. Possible it will help if she finds someone's willing to hear her out.

Only, Sirius. I think perhaps you ought to know this: Pomona was married once, but not as I was--she's not widowed. It ended very badly. She's from a very solid family, too, you know, and she's always been made to feel a failure on that score. I suspect she can't help but see that you've all put Dora in a nearly impossible place. One where her choices are to be a sport about it all or make a terrible fuss. And where being a sport might keep her and her child from being cut out of Remus's life, but where being stropky or fragile or angry or anyway difficult would risk being cut off. And not only from you, but all of us.

Do you see?

She may have taken the first step for you, but she may not have had much choice. Or, in any case, her choices now it's done have diminished, regardless of how you may want to think you're doing the right thing and all doing it willingly.

I'll see to Pomona. I can't promise anything, but I will do what I can. And on your side, well. Be sure that you keep working at it even when there are difficult patches.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 18:34:30](#)


Re: Private Message to Poppy

Oh, Dora's no coward when it comes to letting me know if I've stepped on her feelings and I'm only too happy to concede if I'm being a git. It helps that I do genuinely care about her - she's a good girl and dead clever - and yes, I see what you're saying about diminishing her options but on the other hand - well. I think it's better, in the long run, to know what's what. If they'd kept on it'd only have been a matter of time before they began to resent one another. And then Bea *would* be in that 'loveless home' Minerva chuntered about, or Remus might have done something much more regrettable and less forgivable.

Anyway, I really *don't* want her to feel pushed out. I don't want her to take Bea and go off someplace. I'm trying my best not to make her feel marginal or mocked or any of that. And believe me, we want her to be happy, as well. We're all committed to making this work, the best way it can do. Whether or not it's hard, it's also right. I can't explain it well.

I appreciate your trying to talk to Pomona. Yeah, I can imagine that she'd put herself in Dora's place and feel ill-used, no matter what we say the situation is.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2011-12-27 23:48:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Poppy

Oh, and Sirius.

I don't believe this is what you're saying, but just in case it is.


If you and Remus and Dora are now all three of you partners, ah, maritally, then that might well be a fact that would make the matter irremediable with Pomona.

If that's the case, we really must think how and when to explain the matter to her--so there are no further surprise revelations, mind you, not because I think your private business should be made general to all of us.

It's simply that I fear Pomona may mistake it for something very

ugly in her own past, and I really don't know if she's able to see beyond that.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 01:11:45](#)

Re: Private Message to Poppy

WHAT?!

No. That's - where did -

Severus Bleeding SNAPE had better get his huge nose out of the gutter.

She's my *cousin*, for Merlin's sake!

(I know, I know. So were my parents. I try not to think about that, all right?)

[2011-12-27 10:32:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good - Private message to Justin F-F and Harry M.

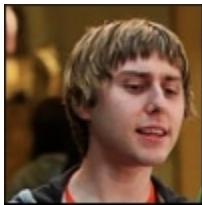


 **[alt_hermione](#)**

I just wanted to make sure you knew about this, that we can send private messages this way, and also I wanted to tell you that I don't resent you at all, and also that Sirius asked me about you and what I'd want if I were you and I know it's hard but I think I'd want to be on Fred and George's lock if I were you so there you are, that's why I told people we should ask you, just like that's why I told Sirius to help you.

And also I wanted to say, if you ever need someone to listen to outside the lock, I'm here, because I think we have some problems that are similar, I mean, more similar than Terry's, because he's surrounded by the most awful people which is the most awful, but it's another thing to have people who are nice around you but secretly awful, isn't it? And I know that's what everyone else has too especially the Slytherins but it is different if you're a Mudblood.

Hermione



 **[alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 17:35:55](#)**

(no subject)

Hello, Hermione.

Yes, I see that it's possible to combine the private message function and the lock, thank you. And I saw some posts earlier where you lot were talking about having to include Marvolo on your messages and Carrow on Terry's. I say, that's well inconvenient, but I'm sure that's the general idea, what?

And thank you, for saying that you don't mind my situation. I say, it's jolly sporting of you. I hope Terry can come to terms with it, what, because I rather think he's quite a nice chap and it seems like he's part of the reason this lock exists, everyone wanting to look out for him.

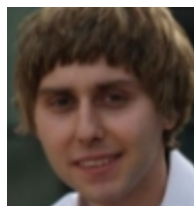
Do you mind if I ask you a question? What are the terms of your Unbreakable Vow? Do none of the others know about the Order, then? Apart from knowing that you've some connection to it? (And dash it, I really want to ask you how that came about but it's probably just the sort of thing you can't tell, what?)




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:48:50](#)**
(no subject)

I can't talk about anything.

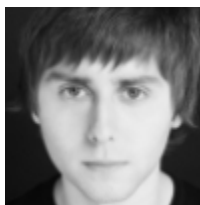
They can guess things, I mean you can also guess things, but I can't say, I really can't, I don't know how far it extends and it isn't something you want to risk and I'm worried I'm saying too much already.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:53:45](#)**
(no subject)

No, of course. Quite. I'm sorry to have pried.

-Justin



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-27 19:20:25](#)**
(no subject)

But, yes, I do think it's different when you're in a situation like yours, or mine, and people are kind to you, either because they think you're something you're not really, or perhaps because they want to believe that they're more fair than they really are.

Does Harry...I mean to say, I saw something you said about thinking of Harry like a brother. But a brother doesn't make one run about fetching quills or shining shoes and certainly a brother doesn't go about punishing one's sister for calling him impertinent names or anything. Well, I suppose he might do, but not in any way that counts, what?

So it's hard, when you get to like someone but have to stay wary because they might turn against you at any moment.

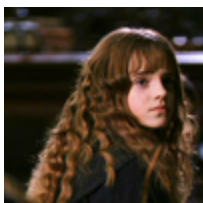
And I think it's also hard, like I said to Neville, because while we

have to start trusting one another, one also has to be careful not to trust people unduly. Or not to open oneself so much that one gives things away without meaning to do. Like with Sally-Anne. She just guessed that I was muggleborn, she didn't have any clue really, she just blurted it out and I slipped. I must have reacted visibly. I couldn't afford to do that with a teacher, what, or someone in Patil's circle.

And now, it's entirely possible that I'll be in a group with Hydra, Pansy, Sally-Anne and Malfoy, say, and someone might say something and what if I slip again? Because I'm with two people who know my secret and two people who don't, who can't know it, what?

I say, it makes one's head well achy, just thinking about it.


-Justin



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:22:32](#)
(no subject)

Well that's exactly what I mean about Harry, and listen, I'm not sorry about you asking me about the other things, but you see what I mean about slipping, and I really can't, so it's best if you don't, and at least we can both understand in a way that people like Neville never can even though he's got secrets of his own, you know?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-27 20:30:41](#)
(no subject)

No, of course, I do see and you've no reason to apologise; I'm the one who should be sorry for asking. I just thought you might be able to say what the terms of your vow were, so I'd know not to come near them, what? But I've been reading back through all the posts under the lock (I say, there are rather a lot of them!) and I suppose that tells me more or less what I need to know.

Only. You've got a way to get messages to him, haven't you? To Sirius? Do you think you could tell him that I'd like it very much if he could have his contacts on the continent help my mother? Because...because I think I want to stay. I mean, one possibility is that the Ministry will want me to announce at year's end that I prefer the Protectorate to France and don't wish to go back. And

I'll not be able to say no, that I want to go home, shall I, what?

And in some ways, I think I do want to stay, if you follow me. Because out there I'll not be of any use, except to be able to tell you lot what's going on in the rest of the world. But in here, perhaps, I could do--some things. I mean to say, I could help, what?

But I don't dare help unless I'm bally well sure she'll be all right, do you see. And at present I know she's sort of a hostage for my good behaviour.

I don't want to entrust that to an owl, rather, but if you've a way to tell him that's safer, well. I mean to say, would you pass it along, please?



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-12-27 20:34:27](#)**
(no subject)

Well yes, I can get messages to him, and I'll ask, but Justin are you sure?? Because you can't take it back if you do it, you know, and you'd be risking ever so much, and I don't think he'll want to let you do it if I tell him, in fact he might try to stop you. Sirius I mean, because I do think he really cares about you, honestly, I think that it matters to him that you're alright and I think he sees you as the one person who got out and -- well maybe not. I don't know.

All I mean is, I don't want you to throw away something like that, I think Terry would be angry and if I am going to be honest I would be really angry with you too. You get to go and learn magic and things and here you'll probably get caught and put in the camps just like everyone else.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2011-12-27 21:07:03](#)**
(no subject)

Well. It's not something I have to decide right away, anyway. I don't think I'd be wasting my chance to learn, either. Or. I don't know. Dash it.

If I get caught and she's not safe, then she's in terrible danger. If I go back, then ... that's it, isn't it? And *perhaps* we're safe but

more likely *not*. We'd always have to look over our shoulders, do you see. Because they could come back at any time and tell me they've something else they want me to do.

But if she's beyond their reach, well, then it doesn't matter if they threaten *me*, what? And if she disappears *and* they think I'm still doing what they want, then they might not realise why she's gone, perhaps.

I don't know. I just know I might not have a choice, again. And as long as they've got her, they've got power over me, as well.

Besides, Sirius has a way in and out, he said so. If I needed to leave, I could do, what?

But it's not something that has to happen right away, of course. Or at all. But if it's to happen, then it must be carefully planned, as well, what? So...I'd rather he know that's what might have to happen, so he can think about how to get the thing done properly.

Please don't be cross. I don't have any intention of getting caught, mind. I'd just rather remove their leverage if possible, before it comes to that.

-Justin



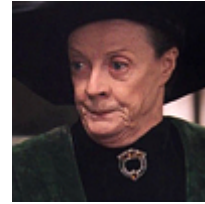
 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-12-27 21:23:04](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it isn't all as easy as hopping in and out.

But I'll ask him soon.

2011-12-27 10:40:00

Order Only -- Private message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin



I believe I am calm enough to write this message now.

 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

Explain yourselves. I am utterly shocked.


1. How could you do such a thing to Dora?
2. How could you do such a thing to the baby?
3. How could you do such a thing to us all?

Remus Lupin, I am particularly surprised and angry with you. You are a family man now. You have absolutely no right to put your own childish wants first. What is more, you have had many years to determine your sexuality and indeed which person you like best. You committed to Nymphadora and then, as soon as times became difficult, you abandoned her. Have you even considered her humiliation? That her husband prefers the company of another man to hers? I do not think I need to say anything more on the subject.

Sirius Black, I had believed that you were only a harmless troublemaker. This goes far beyond harmless trouble.

I do not have anything to say to either of you further. If I did I should have to send a Howler and damn the consequences.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-27 16:07:53**
(no subject)

Minerva,

Remus is in the shop at the moment but that's all right, I don't want to wait to set the record, er, straight. (Sorry!)

1. Dora did it to us, in a way. She's the one who realised why things weren't working for her and Remus the way they ought.
2. No one's doing anything to the baby. She's got her mother and father and a devoted uncle who all love her unconditionally and will have equal share in raising her. She's fine.

3. I'm not sure I follow. I'm sorry if you were caught flat-footed by that contemptible elf's revelation but quite honestly, Minerva, it wasn't any of your business. It's for me, Remus and Dora to work out and we're working it out.
4. You haven't asked but no one's going to make any changes that will expose the Order or cause unwanted attention 'round the Ponds' household. And no one's *abandoning* Nymphadora, for Circe's sake! As far as anyone else is concerned, they're still married and they're going to stay married, unless we can think of a way to dissolve the union without drawing scrutiny. That's not something we need to worry about right away, though, and until we do have to address it, we're just a rather unconventional but nonetheless functional family.

While we're at it, I resent the implication that I somehow caused their relationship to fail, as well.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-27 16:14:33](#)

(no subject)

A masquerade of a marriage? I'm sorry, Sirius, but I believe that I know quite a bit about masquerading, and it won't be that easy. You have always had the luxury of simply moving on when the water got too hot. Nymphadora and Bea do not.

As for the Order, I think you should know that while I am in no way concerned with the basic morality of your situation -- rather, concerned with the well-being of those who seem to have the least to gain -- Pomona is, and is threatening to leave posthaste rather than associate with reprobates such as yourself.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 16:32:46](#)

(no subject)

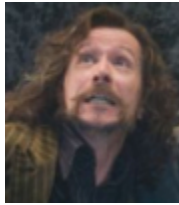
Would it help to talk to Pomona directly?




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-27 16:40:35](#)
(no subject)

I am not sure that she wishes to speak to you.

She does not wish to speak to me, in any case.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 16:43:32](#)
(no subject)

Well ... perhaps Allie? She's always able to smooth her feathers. Plus she's known longest, we were all using her as rather a sounding board. Maybe she can convince Pomona there's nothing

reprehensible going on.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 23:33:09](#)
(no subject)

Pomona is threatening to leave the Order over the bed arrangements at 12 GP?

Yes, perhaps Allie can talk some sense into her.

This REALLY ISN'T ANY OF HER BUSINESS.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-27 16:15:40](#)
(no subject)

As for causing their relationship to fail -- if it has failed, then it will be impossible for Bea to have a loving home.

And I have a hard time understanding how you could not have caused it -- driving Dora to realise that things were not working, indeed.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 16:28:10](#)
(no subject)

Listen, Dora and I both know rather a lot about growing up in a home that isn't loving and trust me, Bea is bloody well cherished by all of us. And we all do care about each other, of course we do!

We're trying to manage with the least amount of hurt. I'm not saying it's perfect, parts of it are well difficult. But while it may be non-traditional to the point of being radical, it's not adversarial, either.


As for the root causes Yes, all right, I suppose at one level I caused it - indirectly. But it's not as if Remus and I have been having an affair behind Dora's back. Merlin's beard, Minerva. I should have hoped you all thought better of me than that!



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-27 16:29:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, when nobody is told of these things one naturally assumes the worst. No matter who the principals may be.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-27 16:41:18](#)
(no subject)

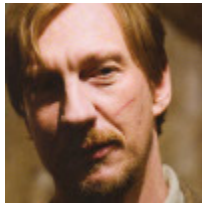
Yeah, ta. Story of my life, innit?


You know Remus is an extremely private person and with all he's been through it's no wonder.

I wasn't about to make some announcement from the rooftops before we were ready.

If Kreacher hadn't opened his gob no one would be any the wiser and the three of us would have had more time to settle into a new routine.

And then the news wouldn't have had to come as such a shock, either.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 23:31:06](#)
(no subject)

Things were never going to work between Dora and me. No matter how hard either of us tried.

Because I'm gay. We were drawn together by our loneliness, and by the fact that we both desperately wanted a

family, and it was enough for a while. But not for a lifetime.

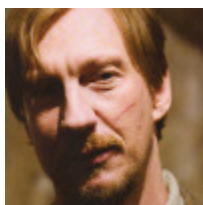
Marrying her was a mistake, but I can't bring myself to regret having Bea.




 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2011-12-28 00:11:26](#)
(no subject)

I am feeling rather more in charity with you now, for whatever that is worth. Sirius has talked me out of a good bit of my frustration -- although I still do have Pomona to think about, and convince

to stay.



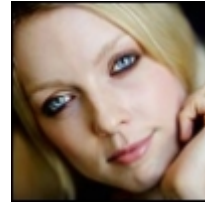
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-27 23:28:51](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Minerva, for assuming the best after Kreacher decided to share the happy news with the entire assembled Order. It's good to know that my friends, given incomplete information from a disgruntled half-mad house-elf, are ready to give me the benefit of the doubt.

2011-12-27 11:58:00

Private message to Raz

Raz, love. Thank you again for being so careful caring with me the last week, in every possible way. I can't begin to tell you how much that's mattered.



 **alt_sinistra**

But in that spirit, well.

I adore the new telescope: truly, it's exactly the thing I'd been wanting since I knew that the new line was coming out, it's everything I hoped and more, and I'm so looking forward to digging into new research with it. But at the same time, I know perfectly well just how much what it cost.

And you know I can't ever reciprocate a gift like that, don't you? No matter how much I want to, and I do, I can't come close to doing something like that, or that casually. And while I know things are different for you, it's hard to receive something like that, and I should have turned it down, and I just couldn't

Am I making any sense?

The pendant is lovely too, and I can't stop reaching up to touch it, and think of you. And such a perfect design, making me think of all the orbits and circles and patterns.

Thank you, love, for a Christmas far beyond my wildest dreams. The time together and your love would have been more than enough, truly. (And still New Year's weekend to look forward to!)



 **alt_rabastan** at **2011-12-27 17:06:25**

(no subject)

I had a feeling this was coming.

I understand why you have some mixed feelings about accepting it, but let me ask you this...when's the last time you were able to put some galleons away for that telescope when you were saving up to buy it yourself?




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:11:51](#)**
(no subject)

How *do* you do that? Say just the thing I really can't argue with, that is.

You do have a point, of course. Not that I don't have savings, but not that I don't also hate drawing on them.

Should I just stop arguing now, and save us both the effort?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:18:28](#)**
(no subject)

Call it a talent.

That and, for the last month or two I've seen you add to your wardrobe with robes and jewelry and accessories that you wouldn't otherwise probably bother with, if you weren't to be seen about in public with me.

I want you to have what you want, not just what you need, see? And your gift to me took months of preparation, even if it didn't cost as many galleons, so I think we can call ourselves even, yes.



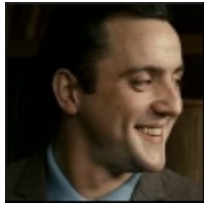
 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:27:53](#)**
(no subject)


Well, most of the jewelry was family pieces, but yes, point. (Though, honestly, I am beginning to see the point of fussing with such things. Never had the reason to, before.)

You really are happy with it then? Storm might eventually forgive me for sending the lid back three times to get it precisely right.

And of course, you do realise that it's going to be even harder for me to decide whether to spend time up the tower or with you now. Though at the moment, comfortably buried in some old

research notes: finally got the last of the YPL pile tended to for now.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:35:01](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I love it, and am hoping to have time to dig into it today, now that boxing day's behind us. In fact, now that I know you're doing research, I might just do.

Ah, yes, but that telescope will remind you of me, see? So I think it'll work out to my favour in the end.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:41:33](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, excellent. And you do that: I look forward to seeing the results. I'm rather spread out all over up here at the moment, but when I get to a more portable stage, I could come down to you, later.

And you're quite right that it'll remind me of you. Not that I really need that much help - you are quite memorable, after all.

Oh. One odd thing, just because you hear different gossip than I do. Do you have any idea why Pomona's in such a mood this morning? She sent me a tight little note earlier asking me to check on the house today for sure, as she wasn't sure she'd be able. I don't think it's anything to do with me, or with the house, but I can't think why else.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2011-12-27 17:47:29](#)**
(no subject)

Please *do* come down (nice not have to worry about sneaking, innit?)

I might hear different gossip, but I must say it's rarely anything to do with Pomona Sprout. So no, can't help you there love.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2011-12-27 17:52:12](#)
(no subject)

Rather nice to be open, yes. (And I can stop making you climb all the way up here quite so often, too.) Probably be an hour or two before I've gotten worked out which charts I need

first, mind.

As to Pomona, just thought I'd ask, as there's always a chance you overheard something I missed. Call it practice in talking to you about things on my mind, anyway.

2011-12-27 15:25:00

Private Message to Hermione Granger



Hey Hermione.

So I know we haven't had a lot of time to talk what with the ball, but ~~we need to~~ would it be okay to?

 [alt_harry](#)

I met with Mr Malfoy before the dance.

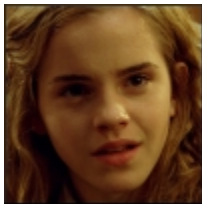
And he said he'd be back in March and wanted me to show him then.

The Rizzer says I can practise on animals. That I don't have to practise on you.

So there's that.

But I'm pretty sure we're not going to be able to properly fake it.

So there's that too.




 [alt_hermione](#) at **2011-12-27 20:32:00**
(no subject)

Well I'm glad you don't have to practise on me.

I don't think that we can fake it, though; I think we should just get it over with, and anyway, I have to say, I am glad that you thought to ask me but it's a little silly isn't it because we both know that it doesn't matter what I say, or what you want either.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2011-12-27 20:35:03**
(no subject)

I thought you wanted

I mean

I guess neither of us really have a choice in it.

Yeah.

I just

Well, if we could fake it, or I could get out of it, you know I would, right?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:36:57](#)
(no subject)

Of course I know you would, Harry, it isn't your fault at all, I just sometimes get so frustrated I want to crawl out of my skin, do you know

Anyhow, I'm really grateful to be in this position is all, and I don't want us to do anything to mess it up, so we'd better just do as we're supposed to, even though we don't want to. I mean that's how it is for most people most of the time isn't it, but I do appreciate, I mean, I know that it's something different for you, with your whole life watched. I do know that.



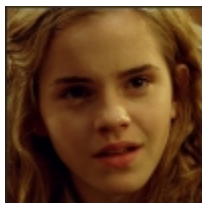
 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-27 20:46:12](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. And it's because everyone's looking that we have to be careful. And that you're with me in the first place.

I guess I just wanted to make sure you knew that I didn't want to. Because I don't want to be that sort of person.

And you don't have to be grateful, you know.

I mean that if you aren't, you don't feel like you have to say it to me.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:47:00](#)
(no subject)

I know, Harry.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-27 20:48:03](#)
(no subject)

...Okay?

I'm sorry?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:49:04](#)
(no subject)


It's all right.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:49:25](#)
(no subject)

I mean, I didn't mean to be sharp, but I'm in a bad mood I suppose.

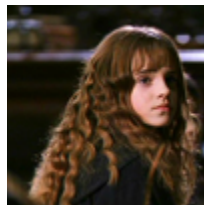


 [alt_harry](#) at [2011-12-27 20:52:49](#)
(no subject)

That's okay.

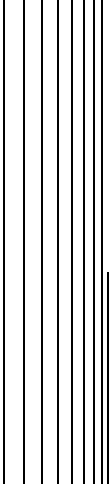
Uh.

Is there anything I can do?



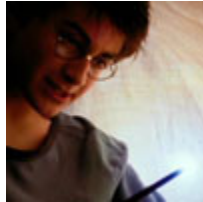
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-27 20:55:49](#)
(no subject)

I don't think so.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2011-12-27 20:56:19](#)**
(no subject)

But, thank you for asking.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2011-12-27 21:01:18](#)**
(no subject)

Okay. Yeah.

2011-12-27 17:15:00

Order Only

Was anyone truly surprised at the revelation that Sirius Black is a dog? It is hardly news that he uses Lupin as a tool to harm others when he can. Lupin, of course, being a man of strong passions, cannot be held to blame.



 [alt_severus](#)

Dora, you have my sympathies, though I doubt you were as surprised as Minerva initially seemed to think.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-27 23:34:31**

Private message to Padfoot

It's probably better if I don't reply to this, isn't it? I'm only going to say something I'll later regret.

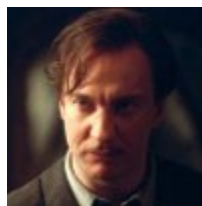


 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-28 01:07:02**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Sorry, I've been making rounds.

I'd like to make him break out in scrofula, what do you think?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-28 01:13:08**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Dora prefers bilious boils but I really don't think this has to be an either/or sort of thing. Scrofula AND boils it is, then.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-28 01:14:20**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

As m'lady wishes.

Leave tonight? Or are we sending it via post?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-28 01:17:10](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Is there a way to manage it by post?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 01:19:19](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Well, we'd have to trust the slippery little scumball wouldn't catch it before he caught it, if you get me.

Besides, some things really do call for the personal touch.

Not that I plan on touching

Okay, I'm stopping right there.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-28 01:23:13](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

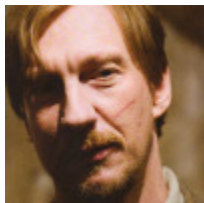
Do you think Minerva would actually kill us, or just be extremely cross?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 01:30:13](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Does it matter? I'll risk it.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-28 01:18:10](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Never mind; just saw his latest reply to you. I don't think I want to loiter about for an owl.



 **alt_alice** at **2011-12-28 00:27:19**

Private Message to Severus Snape

Severus!

I never pegged you for the gossipy type.

Milland must be rubbing off on you.

I'd trust that Tonks, Remus, and Sirius, adults all, will manage somehow to sort out their personal lives. Perhaps not in the way any of us would have, but, then again, it's not up to us, is it?

On another note, I truly appreciated our conversation at the party. I can't tell you how much it means to Frank and me that you're willing to tutor Neville, and I believe that it will make a great deal of difference to him. How best to proceed? Should I make him aware that you'll be approaching him? If you're worried about his connecting you with me, we could go about it in whatever way you'd think best.

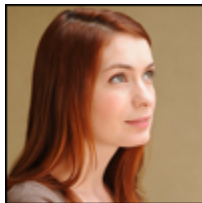


 **alt_severus** at **2011-12-28 00:29:43**

Re: Private Message to Severus Snape

I suppose it is not. Nevertheless, you do realise this is a pattern.

If you would make him aware, I shall come up with a justification for assigning him detention some night soon. In for a penny, in for a pound, as they say.



 **alt_alice** at **2011-12-28 01:21:01**

Re: Private Message to Severus Snape

I'll send him a brief note, then.

And thank you, again.

Severus, I know you and Remus and Sirius have had your history. But is what you wrote below entirely necessary as a public statement, where everyone can see? Tonks is certainly going through her share of struggles, and you have no immediate issue with her. If you are attempting to support her, this is not helping.

That, and our Hermione is privy to what we say. If you're going to be that sort of vicious, I'd rather you keep your opinions between yourself and your intended recipient only.

You know by now I'm not the sort to keep quiet, but there. I've said my piece.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-12-28 01:00:13](#)

(no subject)

You went?

Surprising, that.

Can't make beak or scales of what everyone's on about with the "surprising revelation," though.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-28 01:02:43](#)

(no subject)

Allow me to put it in the most politic way I can: Sirius and Remus have decided that their dog-like form-factors render them irresistible to each other. Apparently they are living in some sort of ménage-à-trois with Dora. The theory is that this will create a more stable home-life for Bea.

Of course, it took a house-elf to reveal this to the rest of the Order. At the table. Dinner and a show, as it were.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-12-28 01:09:11](#)

(no subject)

I thought we were supposed to be planning ways to get the Lord Protector out of power. Guess there's plenty of time for that later, for some.

What was for pudding?




 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-28 01:13:12](#)
(no subject)

Traditional: plum and brandy set alight. Probably Transfigured, but plenty of hard sauce covered that up rather well. Molly outdid herself.

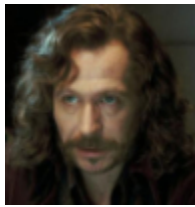
Thank you, Molly.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2011-12-28 04:39:39](#)
(no subject)

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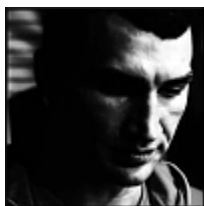
You're welcome. I think.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 01:40:58](#)
(no subject)

Just the perfect topic for Christmas dinner? Perhaps if you'd joined us we would have done something more productive than engaged in lurid speculations about each other's private lives.


Besides, the garden's going along, I think we've got several good connections to the underground in the north and from what I'm hearing, we only need a light touch to turn some of your old friends against each other.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-12-28 04:52:29](#)
(no subject)

Wasn't entirely sure I was welcome. Not the sort of thing Snape worries about, you see.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 01:09:32](#)
(no subject)

WE ARE NOT. A ménage-à-trois. She's my *cousin*, you sick bastard.

Piss off.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2011-12-28 01:13:55](#)**
(no subject)

Testy, testy! It's hardly scandalous for cousins to be more than cousins. Practically a pureblooded tradition.

2011-12-27 17:28:00

*Private Message to Rosa and Prospero
Campbell*



 [alt_pansy](#)

Congratulations, mum and Prospero. I can't wait to see Ewan in person. I hope he'll like the rattle I sent, And mum, if you don't like the song it plays, there's a switch to turn it to plain old rattling.

It was different not being with you for Christmas, and I missed not seeing you make your glass star and decorating the tree together. I had a brilliant time at the ball, though, and I hope you caught the pictures of it. I saved a few for you to look at if you haven't got a chance to look at the magazines.

Anyways, congratulations and all my best.

Pansy

2011-12-27 17:34:00

Order Only: Private message to Dora

I'm sorry.

This must be incredibly difficult for you. Would you like me to floo to Hogwarts and hex Severus for you? Because I could do that, if it would help at all.



 [alt_lupin](#)

I wish I could offer




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-12-27 23:41:44**
(no subject)

Would you?

I don't really mean that, only it would mean something to me if you meant it.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-27 23:47:11**
(no subject)

I mean it.

Which hex? You can pick anything short of an Unforgiveable -- us Order members ought to have our limits, after all.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-12-27 23:55:57**
(no subject)

Oh, then please give him bileous boils in all the most uncomfortable places.

You know, I truly didn't realise this would be as difficult as it's turning out. Mind you, I'm not sure I'd have done anything differently if I had known.

I'm sorry, though, that I pushed you into it when you'd not got there yourself yet. I thought I was being the reasonable, practical one. But instead I was just being daft and not thinking at all about the hard bits.

[2011-12-27 20:36:00](#)

Pages

If I'm not careful I'll have spent all of hols having done nothing but read books. Many people gave me books as gifts this year, which is fine by me because I gave many people books in return, as well. I've got *Pure Hunger*, *Charmless*, the first book in the *Incantation* series, and some others besides. Now that I've finished all my thank you notes and sent them off, it's entirely too pleasant to stay in the dungeons and read before the fire while ~~munching on choes~~ relaxing all day.



 [alt_hydra](#)

So I think that tomorrow I may need a bit of a walk, or maybe a fly. Something with fresh air and sunshine (if there is any!). Oh, and then I should probably try to study my arithmancy so that I can keep on top of things until lessons start up again. And study all my other subjects, too.

Pansy, I've heard people saying that your Mother had her baby, and it was a boy. Congratulations on becoming a big sister. I bet you can't wait to meet him in person.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **[2011-12-28 04:06:19](#)**

Private message to Justin

I've been reading your books first, though.

I'm sorry I didn't show up at supper! I was so absorbed that I only just now looked up and realised how much time had passed, and now Tully's resting on my feet and I don't have the heart to move. Curfew's pretty soon, anyway.

But maybe you want to join me for that bit of fresh air tomorrow?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-28 04:32:28](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

Hello,

That's all right, I've been doing a fair amount of reading myself. And anyway, Matron told me to take things easy for the first few days, which she needn't have done, I've been well content to stay in, what?

But I'd like to see you, yes. And don't worry if you'd like to take breaks with other books; those were two of my mother's favourites, but I know they take some effort to read. Well, perhaps one more than the other.

Have they dismantled the rose garden yet, do you know? Perhaps we could look and see if it's still there. And if not, then maybe a short walk.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 04:50:04](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I bet you haven't been reading what I gave you, though. But at least it made you laugh a little.

I don't know if I'll take breaks because I think I do better if I read something from beginning to end. Plus, the one I'm reading now is just so fascinating. There's ~~no~~ ~~magic~~ such different things in it, much different than I'm used to. And the main character reminds me a little of Sally Anne. Not in personality so much as situation, but even so.

I don't know about the rose garden, but I think we should check, yes.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-28 05:08:09](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

Ha, no--though it would have come in handy about, oh, two weeks ago, what? But I'm using my bookmark already.

I hadn't thought about Sally-Anne, but yes, you're quite right, I can see why she reminds you of her. She has quite an indomitable spirit, after all. I'm glad you're finding it interesting, at any rate.

With or without the roses, then. We've only a few days of hols left and I shouldn't like to waste them.

Did you get any other good presents, Dux?

Oh, and congratulations on 'best dressed' from the ball! It's well amazing. Lucky for you they ignored the duffer standing next to you, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 05:23:13](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

Oh yes, it's terribly interesting. I can see why they were your Mother's favourites. And then that story about Currer Bell just makes it ever so much more interesting.

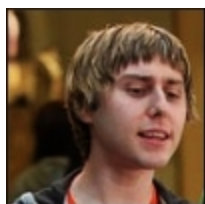
Hols are going by too fast, aren't they?

A great many good presents, yes. Even after sending me those dress robes Aunt Narcissa and Uncle Lucius gave me new boots and some jewelery, and Daddy sent a dressing gown and a bracelet, along with the usual food hamper. Sally Anne gave me the most clever book cover, too, for my journal. I'll have to show it to you - I'm just sure it'll make you laugh, but it's better seen than described.

Anyhow, I got far too many things, more than I deserve, and yet I can't help but feel peculiar about the fact that Mummy didn't send me anything at all.

And thanks, but I really think it's Gerard Joosh who's being singled out more than I am!

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-28 05:33:33](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I rather thought the controversy over Bell might make them all the more intriguing to you.

I can't imagine Sally-Anne giving you anything you wouldn't like. I should be well interested to see. Oh, did Tevis fancy his collar? (Can one even tell with a rabbit?)

I think, when it comes to your mother, you may already have the right of things, and the best course is to try not to let her contrariness bother you, what? I know that's difficult, Dux, when you want her to behave more kindly.

My mother says that a frock is only just a frock until the right person wears it, so I don't think it's down to the designer, entirely, either. You really looked lovely Thursday. It was an honour to escort you.

But I suppose I'd better put out the light now, what, if we're going to have a proper outing tomorrow!

Sweet dreams,

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 05:43:26](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

He looks very handsome in his collar, and he wears it without fussing, so I think that's as close as one can get to telling how a rabbit feels about something.

Oh, it was really only when I was little that I wished she would be more kind, and now I mostly hope that she'll ~~leave me alone~~ at least not find too many reasons or opportunities to be not

kind.

But it's hard to know what it means that she didn't send any gifts. She could be terribly busy, or she might be letting me know that I'm spoiled and get enough from everyone else already.

I'll never forget Thursday, and I think it's down to more than just the frock for that.

See you tomorrow, and goodnight!


From,
Hydra



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-28 04:08:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I've heard Pure Hunger is really good. ~~Can I borrow~~ You'll have to tell me what you think, when you're done reading it!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 04:18:19](#)
(no subject)

I've heard the same. It was a gift from Draco, and you know, given that there were already some cracks in the binding, I'm fairly sure he read the thing cover to cover before he wrapped it up in bows and paper.

You can borrow it from me when I'm done, if you like. Only I'm not sure when I'll be starting it.

From,
Hydra



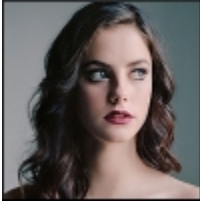
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-28 04:22:41](#)
(no subject)

I'd love to borrow it. No rush, though. Thanks!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-28 04:19:52](#)
(no subject)

I actually told her that I ended up reading it by accident and ended up having to repair the cracked binding before wrapping it. So yes, it really is that good. Definitely caught me by surprise.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-28 04:14:05](#)
(no subject)

Since you've been busy with other things, you might not have noticed that the magazines and papers have listed you as one of the "best dressed" at the Yule Ball, along with Samantha, Cho Chang, Kathryn Pyle, and myself - what a tremendous honour, given your age! But then not at all surprising, seeing as your robes were designed by Gerard Joosh. Your Aunt continues, as ever, to have impeccable taste.

And really, now that I've just written that, it makes sense that someone's given you the first book in the *Incantation* series. I think you'll enjoy them quite a lot.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 04:23:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh, well, I hadn't noticed exactly, but people have been telling me what they've read. It was certainly an honour to wear the robes, but then really it's more of an honour to Mr Joosh and Aunt Narcissa that I was listed as "best dressed." It's them I have to thank for that.

I hope that I will, they were a gift from my Nanella's boyfriend Pascoal. Only she usually calls him her paramour.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_susan](#) at [2011-12-28 05:08:06](#)
(no subject)

I'd no idea you were such a book-lover, Lestranger! I really like to give (and get!) books as gifts too. My youngest brother and sister usually pool their pocket money to get me a new one or a comic at Christmastime.

I don't know what sort of things you like best, but if you'd like to borrow anything of mine you'd be welcome. We've got a few people around who like to share their favorites; ask Sally-Anne about it if you like.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2011-12-28 05:12:16](#)
(no subject)

Well last year I was reading *The Bramblewick Orphans* and the *Melinda March* series, but this year I'm trying to move beyond those into some more challenging material.

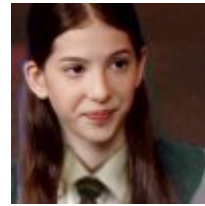
Oh, is that right? I will ask Sally Anne, then. Thank you.

From,
Hydra

2011-12-27 20:55:00

Private message to Pansy

Congratulations about your baby brother and I'm sorry the stupid newspaper went on and on about your stepfather and never found a place to mention the baby has an OLDER SISTER.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Will they let you go home to see him before spring hols?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-28 03:16:57**

(no subject)

Half sister, which no-one will say out loud, but everyone is thinking.

And let's just say that there wouldn't be nearly this big of a fuss if it'd been a girl.

I don't know if I'll be able to see them before Spring hols. We'll see if that's what they even want.

I'm going to spoil him silly, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2011-12-28 03:29:17**

(no subject)

Well, babies are awfully nice. And he'll adore you, you know. The older sister (he won't care that you're 'half') who comes home on holidays and spoils him.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-28 03:50:11**

(no subject)

Exactly.

And I can give him sleep overs in my London flat, and make sure he has excellent taste in music.

2011-12-27 22:26:00

Various Notes

Mrs Malfoy and I extend our deepest gratitude to all who have either made donations this season or sent us their personal tokens of esteem. Know that we appreciate every gesture made to express the feelings of loyalty, dedication and industry that permeate Our Lord's citizenry.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Our congratulations, of course, go to Mr and Mrs Campbell on their new arrival. Unfortunately with the New Year's celebrations at Buckingham, it is unlikely we shall be able to accept your kind invitation to his naming ceremony. Rest assured our gift is on its way, however.

Have had a day or two to catch our breath among all the whirl of social obligations and for once, am fairly relieved that the week betwixt Christmas and New Year's is generally quiet. Have needed it after the surprises this holiday brought! (Had not planned, for example, to spend part of Christmas Day in firechat with the Minister of Magic for France. Nor to be comforting my sister on the sudden - but necessary - departure of her husband on Christmas Eve.)


Mr Finch-Fletchley, trust you are recovering well. On behalf of the Governors, allow me to extend our sincere regrets that you met with calamity on Hogwarts' grounds, even if, as it now appears, no Hogwarts students were implicated in your misfortune.

Was pulled into a meeting to-day regarding a feared reduction in the interest rates offered by Gringott's on certain types of vaults. Reminded how long it has been since I have negotiated with goblins. Necessitated another international correspondence, this time with Egypt, scheduled later this week.

Draco, good to talk to you as always. We missed you and your cousins at Blackmoor Park this year. And to you and Pansy, again: Congratulations. Nolan tells me Tintagel is doing very well with the song and it is already much-requested on the wireless.

Weasley, have a few notes for you for to-morrow's business at Court. Kindly attend to it first thing, if you please.



 **[alt_lucius](#) at 2011-12-28 04:08:45**


Private Message to Little Bit

Did she contact you directly or did you read of the event in the papers, again?

Feeling all right? Have a good Christmas otherwise?

Have not finished my thank-you notes but thank you for the portfolio; it will do splendidly when the briefcase is not necessary.



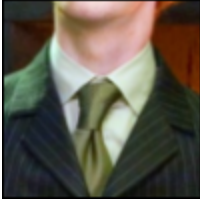
 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2011-12-28 23:06:04**


Re: Private Message to Little Bit

I got an owl at dinner, along with my own owl carrying the evening paper's announcement. But they did send one, at least, so there's that. And I really am looking forward to seeing Ewan. I've decided that I am going to be the sort of older sister who will thoroughly spoil him and whisk him away to London for adventures as soon as he's old enough to properly enjoy it.

I'm doing just fine -- I suppose the Yule Ball was so brilliant that everything after that has felt like a bit of a lull, if that makes any sense. But I'm looking forward to the start of next term, and I've been getting plenty of good exercise and spending a lot of time with friends. It's so much nicer going for walks and things this term than last.

I'm so glad you liked your present. Yours was absolutely lovely, and I've already hung it over my bed. And the hair clips are beautiful! I wish I could've worn them for the ball, but I'll be sure to wear them next year at your Christmas party. I'm ever so glad I got the chance to see you and Aunt Narcissa at the ball. It wouldn't have felt like Christmas at all without it.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2011-12-28 04:43:52](#)**
(no subject)

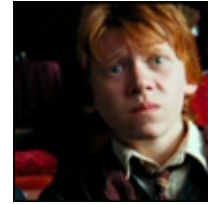
Yes, sir.

2011-12-28 08:36:00

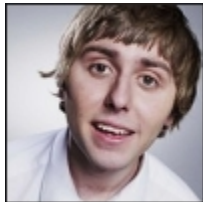
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Whoa! Howlers!!!

I mean to say, Milland and Miss Professor Carrow?
Don't even want to think about that, really.



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-28 15:09:05**

(no subject)

Agreed. It was well shocking, that.

D'you suppose he and your Professor Acton are really...er...

Well, perhaps better not to think about *that* either, what?

Do people frequently send Howlers here? I don't think I've seen one delivered before. They're quite commonplace at Beauxbatons.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-28 15:30:45**

(no subject)

Well, Acton tries it on with pretty much anyone who'll let her.

Depends about Howlers. I'm glad not to hear that racket very often! Have you ever got one? Nightmare, that!



 [alt_justin](#) at **2011-12-28 15:51:55**

(no subject)

Ah.

Well, there was a fashion for them last year when people were sending each other Howlers that sang loudly or made rude noises.

I've never got a real one, though, not a well cross one like that.
But it seems like many of my schoolmates' parents aren't as fussed

about mortifying their children in front of everyone, what?

Then again, the consequences are far less, I expect, than here.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-28 15:43:47](#)
(no subject)


REALLY, I can't imagine Milland and Miss Professor Carrow. ~~Terry's said she~~ I've heard people saying 'madwoman!' and maybe? She sounded a bit drunk.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2011-12-28 16:09:24](#)
(no subject)

I'm pretty sure that can't be true... if it is, ick.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-29 00:04:23](#)
(no subject)

What did the Howler say?


Because if it said anything about her being with anybody else, no, it's a lie. She'd never.



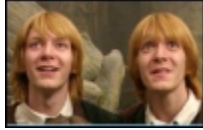
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-29 00:24:29](#)
(no subject)

Two Howlers. The first came to the caretaker. It was a woman's voice, and she was accusing him of, er, giving her one of those diseases that isn't supposed to be mentioned in polite company. Which seemed a tad bit difficult considering that he could barely get it up and had a willy like a peanut. (The transition there seemed a little muddled.) Oh, and he was a two-timing scum. With Professor Miss Alecto Carrow.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-29 00:25:38](#)
(no subject)


What?! You're joking.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-29 00:29:33](#)
(no subject)

It's the truth. The NEXT Howler was for her. It said she'd better get checked for said disease, and, well, it went downhill from there.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2011-12-29 00:31:02](#)
(no subject)

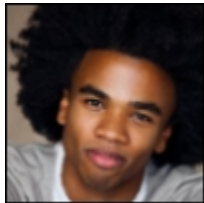
Wow.


Well, it's not true, about her, at least. Who sent it?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-29 00:32:31](#)
(no subject)

No idea. We've asked around, but no one seems to know who it was.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2011-12-29 00:34:06](#)
(no subject)


I thought whoever it was might have been pissed. Slurring her words, you know?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-29 00:34:53](#)
(no subject)


Huh. Maybe.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2011-12-29 00:47:23](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't quite follow what it was about peanuts that made her so angry.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2011-12-29 00:49:11](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure Fred and George would be happy to explain it to you.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-29 00:50:22](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, thanks a LOT, professor.

[2011-12-28 09:25:00](#)

What in Lakshmi's name

was *that* about?

Whoever she was, she was well upset, anyway.



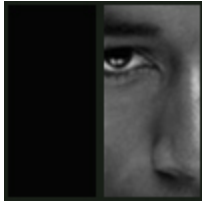
 [alt_padma](#)

Seamus, thanks for the subscriptions! It's so much better to have one's own copy of things like *Dish!* than to have to wait until other people have read theirs and left it in the common room.

Daphs, Hydra, have you seen this week's? It's got an amazing spread on the Yule Ball and the other holiday parties (including some taken from outside the Malfoys' because I guess they wouldn't let the press in this year. But there were chariot races and you could see the Abraxans over the gate, I guess). Anyway, there're pictures of you both in your robes and some of the others and quite a few of Professors Raz and Siz!

(Professors, I don't know if you're reading this but I think it's perfectly horrifying, all that stuff they're printing that isn't complimentary toward you. I hope that's not too impertinent. I mean, most of us are absolutely happy for you both and hope that things go well for you. It's just like the magazines to make it sound like it's never going to last, or like there are too many obstacles in your way. I don't think that at all! I don't know why Cassie got so jealous, kinda like that madwoman's Howler this morning to Mr Milland, but it's well not on, what she did. And I don't know anyone else who'd even *think* of such a thing, especially not when it's two professors like yourselves. I think it's inspiring, personally, to see two people your age find romance! And you look so well together--I mean, the pictures are utterly gorge! **MUCH** better than the ones in the *Prophet!*)

Anyway, there's loads in this week's issue. I can only imagine what they'll do about the 2nd Task--oh, by the way, Harry, have you figured it out yet? Delacour's said she thinks she knows what to do and I'd hope that Hogwarts' Champions are at least as clever as she thinks she is.




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-28 15:35:52](#)
(no subject)

Honestly.

I understand that those magazines have their uses, particularly if one needs to bolster a career by cultivating popular attention, but really, it doesn't do to pay too much attention.

Mother refuses to pay it any mind, and that's one of her soundest notions, I think.

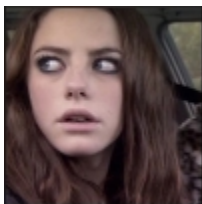


 [alt_padma](#) at [2011-12-28 21:09:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, one thing I'll say about the magazines is that there's loads and loads of traffic on the journals and even though usually by the time something makes it into *Whirl* or *Night Owl* or one of those, it's old news, at least they usually do a fairly good job of figuring out what's a real story and what's just unfounded rumours. *Dish!* is usually full of rubbishy rumours but that's part of what's fun about it, because it's so ridiculous--most of the time.

Anyway, my mum says that it's easy to pay attention to what they're saying if it's nice, and hard *not* to pay attention when it's nasty. But it's better to take it all with a healthy dose of skepticism, either way.

(Although...it was perfectly fair of them to put Ron Weasley in the 'Worst Dressed' category, don't you think? Even if it was perfectly horrid to put Seamus in there after what Weasley did to his robes halfway through the ball.)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-28 16:24:36](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Holda's Horde! Did you see page 48? Where they talk about Professor Raz's past loves? They've interviewed MY MOTHER!

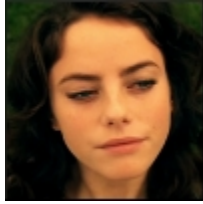


 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-28 21:04:58**

Private Message to Daphne

Yeah, I thought you'd find that interesting! And disturbing, too, probably.

I'm sorry, if it does trouble you, Daphs. Really.



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2011-12-28 22:29:45**

Re: Private Message to Daphne

He never did want to settle down back then, no matter what the circumstances," Mrs Greengrass emphasises, then looks out the parlour window of her gorgeous Belgravia townhome, watching her youngest daughter, Queena, as she affixes a woolen hat to her the snow-wizard she's been working on all afternoon.

Oh, honestly! I can't believe she's speaking about it in public now.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2011-12-28 16:38:06**

(no subject)

Harry hasn't figured out a thing.

Or, no. He's had it all figured out since first of December.

Or perhaps it just came to him last night.

Best to keep the other champions wondering, don't you think?



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2011-12-28 21:05:58**

(no subject)

Well, tell him to get a move on, then! Bring it by Ravenclaw Corner.

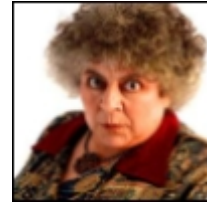
Or come by and tell us what he's figured out, if it's the other way.

2011-12-28 09:48:00

Order Only

Hmph.


I gather I have ignored this book entirely too long.



 **alt_pomona**


I'm still not speaking to *any* of you.



 **alt_molly** at **2011-12-28 14:59:41**
(no subject)

Oh, come now, Pomona, my dinner wasn't that bad, surely?



 **alt_sirius** at **2011-12-28 15:02:04**
(no subject)

What happened to refusing to touch it on principle?


And ... you've just talked to us, to tell us you're not talking to us.

Just thought I'd point that out.

Look. I'm sorry you were shocked. But don't blame the whole Order just because you're angry with me. Or me and Remus? Or me and Remus and Dora - I'm not sure exactly.

And just so you know, if you need anything from us, we'll still be there with it. Whether you're talking to us or not.



 **alt_poppy** at **2011-12-28 15:23:46**
(no subject)

Good morning, Pomona. Shame you missed breakfast. Our friend, Mr Milland, has apparently collected rather too many lady friends and has been entirely too friendly with some of them. We were treated to not one but two jealous Howlers this morning.

I shall leave it to someone else to tell you who received the second!



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-28 16:15:14](#)
(no subject)

Ha.

Ha.

Ha.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2011-12-28 16:22:19](#)
(no subject)

Huh. And here we thought getting on with people would have been his biggest deficiency.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2011-12-28 16:14:55](#)
(no subject)

A sensible attitude to take.

2011-12-28 11:09:00

Order Only -- Private message to Severus Snape and Harry Marvolo



Are you alright?

Was that real as in real to Milland? Or was it something Sirius did? Or was it real as in real to you?

 **alt_hermione**



 **alt_severus** at **2011-12-28 16:14:33**
(no subject)

Of course I am 'alright,' Miss Granger.

I hope you take this as a lesson about the relative maturities of certain members of the Order.

Apparently Nymphadora still sides with the louts, when given the opportunity.

2011-12-28 15:24:00

Order Only -- Private message to Sirius and Nymphadora



alt_mcgonagall

I hope you know that I am more than aware that it was you. What did you possibly hope to accomplish? What in the world were you thinking? Do you realise that you could have blown Milland's cover?

I am thoroughly sick of all your antics. I have spoken to Severus as well, for whatever that is worth, not that I think it makes any difference to you. Dora, I had thought that you at least would be able to take the high road.

I trust that you shall share this message, and my extreme disappointment, with Remus.



alt_nymphadora at **2011-12-28 23:42:52**
(no subject)

I suppose I don't feel terribly sorry at the thought that it might have blown Snape's cover, though I really don't see how.

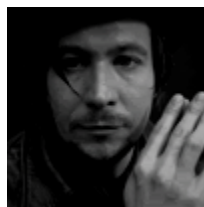
Did Carrow hex him?



alt_mcgonagall at **2011-12-29 01:26:58**
(no subject)

No, but she did want to.

I am very put out.



alt_sirius at **2011-12-29 03:46:16**
(no subject)

You needn't be. The way we see it, we did him a favour. We cemented his reputation as a ladies' man while simultaneously assuring that the witches 'round about Hogwarts will leave him alone for at least a while to come. Surely Mr Big-Nosed Berk is happy about that (if he's capable of feeling happiness, that is)?

And if Carrow'd hexed him, no loss. And if he'd had to hex her, no loss. And if Amycus came away from Lincoln Castle where he's hidden, and duelled Snivelly - again, no loss.

What's bad about this?

Oh and: He started it. Furthermore, he *deserved* it.

[2011-12-28 22:51:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson



Pansy,

I've been reading back through the locked posts. I think Sally-Anne also mentioned that you'd stayed with Mrs Black a few times. And I saw that you'd written to him and got a response. Sirius, I mean to say.

 [alt_justin](#)

I've also seen how you came onto the lock. Well, as nearly as I can piece together, what?


And I thought....

See here, I told Sally-Anne that I wasn't quite sure how you fit in with the others behind this bally old lock but I think I'm beginning to understand it. Still, I rather thought you might--that it might help us both to talk to one another. Because you've corresponded with him and seen where he grew up and I'm interested in that, what? And I had him for a tutor and if I'm not mistaken, that would interest you, what?

Well, at any rate, I'd be well pleased to talk about it here, if you like, or if you'd like to take a walk together to talk, I believe 'round the lake is your traditional route? I say, I'm willing, if you are.

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-29 15:35:29](#)
(no subject)

I am the odd one out, aren't I.

They didn't know they could trust me. And I found out about it before they'd made up their minds, so they had to either let me in on it, or Oblivate me. Which is not the sort of thing you'd generally like to hear from people who are supposed to be your friends.

But I couldn't tell. Even though I was well angry about it at the time.

And yes, I spent some time with Mrs Black. And I knew Regulus Black. Sirius's brother. Did Sally-Anne tell you about him?

I suppose we ought to go for a walk. Because I would like to hear about your experiences with him, and maybe my telling you about his family will help you understand a bit more. About him, and about me too.

2011-12-29 12:09:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Rereading old journal entries*



 [alt_luna](#)

I've been going back and rereading old entries, trying to catch up on everything. It's quite fascinating to have this new view of history of the past few years, realising for the first time that there are all these other stories going on there in the background and I didn't even know that they were there at all until now. (I'm very glad, if I didn't say it before, that Hermione Granger and Terry Boot have wands, even if they're hidden. I believe everyone who has the ability to do magic should have the right to have a wand.)

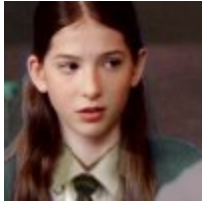
I'm extremely curious about the wand smugglers. I understand why Hermione Granger can't answer any questions about them, but still...it's quite a nice thing to know there ARE people out there doing what Sirius Black said we should do: paying attention to what's really going on. And helping others. Even the people who are the most powerless and despised.

So, who are they? How, exactly, are they operating? Where are they getting the wands? How are they smuggling them in? How do they move them around to get them to new owners? Sally-Anne Perks thought that Mrs Weasley might be involved. Could the barter network be a part of it? She's so involved with it, and that might be a good way to move suspect goods from one part of the Protectorate to another, if you have enough people in the network. Especially if not everyone in it knows exactly who everyone else is.

There are always bits in the papers telling everybody how people shouldn't use the black market, that no true patriot would ever do such a thing. But everybody barter, really. Well, I suppose except for the most important people in the government who can afford to buy rare goods for money at the very expensive shops.

Oh, and also: THAT'S why there were all those bugs in Ravenclaw tower. I really didn't think that people had left out enough food to cause such a big infestation.

Do you promise not to do it again? Or at least a warning first would be nice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-30 05:11:43](#)
(no subject)

We are NEVER setting lice on Ravenclaw Tower again.

I still can't believe we more or less got away with that.

You do realise, we didn't MEAN to set swarms of vermin on the lot of you? We only wanted to give lice to Padma Patil. But it shows how that sort of thing can go wrong, the whole tower was crawling with everything under the sun. And really there were plenty of Ravenclaws who hadn't done anything to deserve it!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2011-12-30 05:26:02](#)
(no subject)


As for the wand smugglers -- well. I thought Mrs Weasley was one and I STILL think she is, but not the rest of the barter network. It's too big and too open.

However, there might be people in the barter network who are, and they might be using it for cover, because really covering up a really serious illegal activity with the sort of minor shenanigans that everyone turns a blind eye to would be clever, wouldn't it? For one thing if she gets nervous around MLE they'll assume that's why, because it's really not much of a secret. (I don't think the barter network is even illegal but it IS sort of a grey market.)

There's someone at Hogwarts and I think it's Madam Pomfrey. We talked about the Headmistress but I still can't believe it. I wouldn't be surprised if Professor Sinistra was, except that she's dating Professor Lestrage and you'd have to want to play with fire -- although Justin's dating Hydra, come to think of it. So who knows.

Anyway I try not to think about it too much because I'm afraid I'll slip and give something away. But when there was the attack from Dogstar at the QWC and I realised the muggleborns were trapped right under where the bomb went off, I sent a message to Madam Pomfrey because I knew she'd take it seriously, as seriously as she would if it were purebloods maybe trapped and dying. And, she did.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2011-12-30 14:25:09](#)
(no subject)

Hello,

I don't know much about the smuggling on this side but I know Sirius has people on the continent to help him gather up supplies and hire boats to run for the borders. I overheard him talking to my mother about it once or twice when they thought I was elsewhere.

And I didn't intend to fancy Hydra, what? Nor did I think she'd fancy me back (or that her ~~parents~~ father would let her date me) but I'm ruddy well glad. Even if it's dangerous. Well, she's not the danger, if you follow me. But Professor Lestrage is one of the Lord Protector's Councilmembers, what?

I suppose Professor Sinistra could be like Mata Hari. She was a muggle spy who slept with men to learn their secrets. Though somehow I rather think someone like that would do better at Court than here in a castle well brimming with students, what?

As for Madam Pomfrey...do Healers take an Oath here? Outside they do, and muggle doctors and nurses, they all take something called the Hippocratic Oath. They have to swear that they'll do no harm--meaning nothing that would make a patient worse off, what--and that they'll help anyone who needs helping, regardless of who the person is. So magical or not, whether the person is Muslim or Christian or nothing at all, gay or straight, or even black or white or Asian--she'd have to help, no matter what. So if Healers have to swear that sort of thing here, which I suppose they might not do--well, I mean to say, the fact that she helped at the QWC doesn't necessarily mean she's one of them.

On the other hand, she treated me well enough this week. But that doesn't mean anything, either, does it, since she's no reason to know I'm muggleborn?

Did someone really think it was your headmistress? Blimey. I suppose I haven't read as far back as that yet. Or perhaps I missed it, there's a ruddy lot to go through, isn't there?

Oh, but do you know, I think the Durmstrang Headmaster's supposed to have been one of the Lord Protector's followers, from

before, what? And of course Professor Froissart, he's not as far as I know but then he's jolly well married to Mr Malfoy's sister, so I've always gone well careful about him, do you see.

-Justin

2011-12-29 22:14:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I think I like the marzipan cigar the best.

Thanks for cheering me up today.



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_draco](#) at **2011-12-30 03:26:25**

(no subject)

For eating or for smoking? I presume the former.

I could have probably found you a real one to smoke around here somewhere - Blaise has them sometimes - but I figured you'd rather not.

If you're not entirely cheered up yet I'd understand. I reckon I was an unusual child in that the idea of having a younger sibling always made me want to throw an epic tantrum. Fortunately, Mother always wished she'd been an only child, so she made sure that I stayed one, instead.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2011-12-30 03:38:29**


(no subject)

I like the smell of pipe tobacco. My grandfather used to smoke it, and it's one of the only things I really remember about him. Sort of like smokey vanilla. But cigar smoke is definitely ugh. If it tastes like it smells, then I'd take the marzipan any day.

I think it's more that I'm looking forward to what it could be, if everything works out the way I hope it will, and worried that it might not. So it's just a bit up and down, that's all.

And I'm trying to imagine you doing anything so undignified as throwing a tantrum!




 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-30 04:00:49](#)
(no subject)

Pipes are cool when you're old, and cigars are for when you're young. Supposedly. Some cigars can be well naff, but if they're actually from Cuba it's not so bad.

It's a long way off before you can know for sure. He's just been born, after all. You'll be in your twenties when he starts at Hogwarts, though, so I don't know how he could see you as anything but utterly snitch. His parents will be absolutely ancient by comparison.

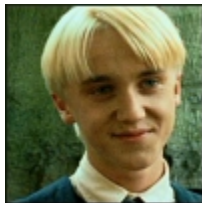
My Father can regale you with plenty of tantrum stories (mind, he has a tendency to see an even slightly pouty lip as a tantrum), but mostly, I'm surprised you can't think of any you witnessed yourself. Seven year olds don't have much of a sense of dignity, you know.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-30 04:20:42](#)
(no subject)

True, but I was equally undignified (if not even more so)! I'm sure I thought you much more restrained by comparison.

I can't *wait* til I'm that age. I think it'll be just utterly brilliant being done with school and out in the world. And being the cool older sister with a house in New London? That is something I can definitely handle.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2011-12-30 04:30:23](#)
(no subject)

And let's not forget you'll either be in a band, or managing a few of them, or writing songs for the next Tintagel.

No reason why things can't work out the way you hope they will, see?

2011-12-29 23:03:00

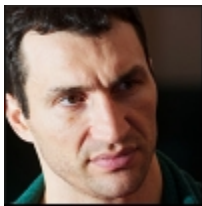
Order Only: Private message to Walden Macnair



 [alt_lupin](#)

Walden, all joking aside, I'm sorry you weren't sure you'd be welcome at the Christmas party. We -- that is, Sirius, Dora, and I -- were wondering if you might like to come for a visit. There's plenty of room at 12 Grimmauld and Kreacher's cooking is tolerable. And we could discuss ideas -- as you noted, that's what we're supposed to be about, after all.

And it would be good to see you again.




 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-12-30 16:30:12](#)
(no subject)

Not trying to offend anyone's sense of hospitality, but being foisted into a group doesn't bring about a sense of belonging. Too many context shifts at once, too. You and Minerva, once colleagues. Your wife and Bill Weasley, once students. The Longbottoms, once enemies of the Protectorate. See what I mean.

A smaller group might be more manageable.

Plus, have something for you, if you'll have it.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2011-12-30 16:36:25](#)
(no subject)

No one's offended, and I certainly understand about being a bit overwhelmed by the whole group.

It'll be just the three of us, you, and the most obnoxious house-elf you've probably ever met. Hopefully that doesn't put you off. I'm rather curious what it is you have for me.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2011-12-30 16:53:28](#)
(no subject)

Sounds like Snape was just that.

No suspense, then. It's a young boomslang. About a month ago, a train was stopped at a village in the Cotswalds for the night. Davidson had me and another bloke pull supply. Good-sized tents, mostly, and other necessities. Found this girl in a near-empty livestock car, near to freezing and starvation. Been nursing her back to health since.

2011-12-30 09:27:00

*Private message to Victoriana
Greengrass*



Mother,

I've had an owl from Queenie this morning. She was terribly distressed. She said that you and Father had a row last night that woke her up from sleep. You and Father *never* row; she had no idea what to think and is worried that it means she's done something to cause it.

 [alt_daphne](#)

I can only presume that your argument was about this week's *Dish!* Really, Mother, Father may not follow that kind of press, but you had to know that it would get back to him, one way or another. I can't imagine that any man would enjoy seeing his wife discuss her past love life in a magazine, but you know how private Father is. It's just as Grandmother always said: "*he shies away from the limelight so that it will better reach the rest of us.*"

Now, Mother, prepare yourself for hard words: it really doesn't do to entertain a fantasy based on the mere possibility of something.

And it isn't fair to me, or to Father. Or to HIM, for that matter. You have to tell him that the possibility exists, and then the matter can be solved in short order, I'm sure. And I really need to kn

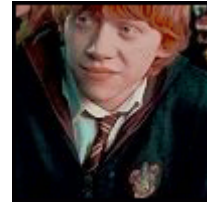
If you won't say something to him, I suppose it will be up to me.

Love,
Daphne

2011-12-30 10:54:00


Let's Make Snow Monsters!

And we could have prizes for biggest, realest, most totally hideous, best magical stuff it can do, um, other stuff if anybody thinks of it. Professor Hooch says she'll judge, but she says maybe we should ask all the Heads of Houses or some of the Prefects so it'd be more fair, yeah? I don't see that it matters, but if you want to ask some of the others, that'd be all right.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-30 17:27:52**
(no subject)

Professors Rizzer and Sinistra are out of the castle today, so we can't ask them. They're not heads of houses anyway. It sounds like something Professor Slughorn might enjoy, though.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_ron](#) at **2011-12-30 17:38:11**
(no subject)

So you'll come? That'd be wizard.

And, yeah, ask Professor Slughorn if he'd come out to judge!



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2011-12-30 17:41:49**
(no subject)

Yes, I've been staying indoors too much.

I'll ask him!


From,
Hydra



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-12-30 17:42:40](#)
(no subject)

Definitely sounds wizard!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-30 18:19:19](#)
(no subject)

Snitch.

See you out there!




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2011-12-30 18:07:52](#)
(no subject)

Good idea, tuna brain.

I'll be there.

I bet we could get one to breathe something that looks like fire but won't melt it.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2011-12-30 18:16:31](#)
(no subject)

Awesome idea!

See you.




 [alt_ernie](#) at [2011-12-30 18:14:19](#)
(no subject)

I'm in. What about you and Megs, Sue? Elo?

Need to see if we can find someone to judge who'll have our backs, though. I'll stop out to the greenhouses, but Professor Sprout's seemed really busy. I guess she's got loads of things that need repotting just now, but maybe if we offer to help this evening, she'd come out for a bit this afternoon.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2011-12-30 18:18:13](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it's not like we're going to cheat anyone. And you don't have to stick with just your House.

Come out and partner up with Corner or Li or someone.




 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2011-12-30 18:47:06](#)**
(no subject)

I'm in!!


Let me see if I can make JOHN come along, too.



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2011-12-31 01:19:13](#)**
Private message to Eloise

Oh good, is John done being cross?



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2011-12-31 01:18:30](#)**
(no subject)

I'm coming!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:42:38](#)**
(no subject)

We have some products we've been developing that we can offer up as prizes. Canary creams and we'll throw in a few joke wands while we're at it.

[2011-12-30 11:11:00](#)

Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

I saw you were writing to your mother.

I know there's been a lot of talk since that article came out. Is it bothering you?



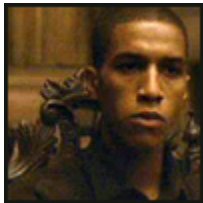
 [alt_blaise](#)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-30 17:22:14](#)

(no subject)

It probably would be bothering me, but Mother's bothering me more. She's being very childish for a thirty-six year old woman, and now she and Father are fighting. And then, of course, there's the fact that she just had to give Astoria that white ermine capelet for Christmas - as if she doesn't already parade around the castle as if she owns it!



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-30 17:35:11](#)

(no subject)

Do you think it will get serious between your parents?

I always thought your mother could charm your father out of any mood. Perhaps it will fade quickly?



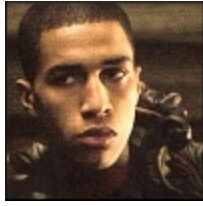
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-30 17:48:16](#)

(no subject)

It's hard to say, and depends greatly on how much Father knows about her well, *notions*. I don't think he knows much, given how overcome Mother was when she finally started revealing bits about it to me.

I'd really rather Father not find out much, too.

What of your Mother? Her engagement party was Wednesday, wasn't it? Has she written to tell you how it went?



 **alt_blaise** at [2011-12-30 18:04:55](#)
(no subject)

Well. I hope your mother is able to keep her own counsel, then.

My mother, on the other hand, seems to have decided she doesn't care what anyone thinks. Marrying an artist.

I don't really know what to make of it: he's so young it's going to be awkward, meeting him. I think he's twenty-five or twenty-six. And handsome, of course, so it's like she's dangling raw meat in front of the press tigers. At least she had the sense to schedule the party on Wednesday, so it will be the oldest news in next week's scandal sheets.

Of course, she may have got rid of him by the time we leave school for summer.




 **alt_daphne** at [2011-12-30 18:20:20](#)
(no subject)

My note to her more or less said just that.

You know, his art is quite spectacular, at least; it utterly transformed Kensington Gardens. (Though the fact that his first name is the same as Milli's cat is not very auspicious!) But his age and looks are sure to create a sensation in *Dish!* and everywhere else. Brace yourself for Padma's report.

But take heart, Blaise: He's no Mulciber, at least.



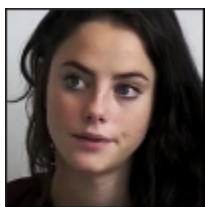
 **alt_blaise** at [2011-12-30 18:37:12](#)
(no subject)

Ha. I hadn't thought about that. If he sicks up in her shoes, it will shorten Mother's interest for certain.

And I'm sure Patil will make a meal of it.

No, you're right. Mother's avoided the really dangerous ones

since. Actually, she still accepts their invitations, but she won't let it go so far.



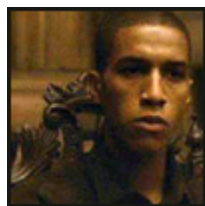
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2011-12-30 18:45:57](#)
(no subject)


There's potions that can induce that, you know. A wedding gift, perhaps?

Yes, Padma's been trying to get me to tell her what's been going on with Mother, under the guise of deep sympathy, of course. Well, I do think that the sympathy is genuine, but it still doesn't hide the ravenous hunger for titillating gossip.

Your Mother does display wisdom about certain things, you know. I do hope that she's had the foresight to apply it to this venture with Fergus Cooper.

And speaking of ventures, I really do need to break things off with Barney once the hols are over.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2011-12-30 19:21:36](#)
(no subject)

That's a tremendously good thought.

Well, I trust you'll keep Patil in check. She's not able to play you the way she does so many of the others.

What I don't understand about Mother is, well, if she wanted to play at patronage, she could do that without marrying him. All the more, if what she's after is something good-looking to escort her from one soirée to the next.

Was Bole satisfactory, as ventures go?

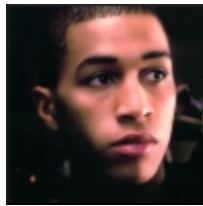



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-30 19:44:58](#)**
(no subject)

No worries on that score. Padma and I know how to play this game with each other by now.

Do you suppose your Mother might actually have feelings for him, then?

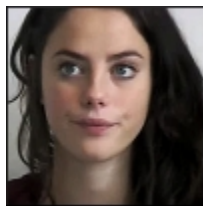
Barney was fun up until the Ball was over, at least. I wouldn't have objected to continuing our association, had his interest been in me and me alone, but his continual attempts to pique Jo's jealousy have become tiresome. That silver hairband he gave me for a Christmas gift - really, did he think I wouldn't recognise it as the very same kind that Jo favours? How insulting. And the fact that he ~~didn't care~~ couldn't tell I was insulted was more insulting, still.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:01:13](#)**
(no subject)

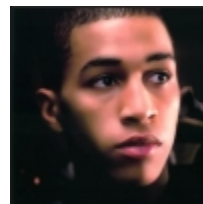
Well, it would be a surprise.

I mean to say, they're hardly what you'd call well matched, and it would just be a bit pathetic, wouldn't it? I doubt he's likely to be in love with her, after all.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:08:02](#)**
(no subject)

I can see why you think it unlikely, given their disparity in age and station, but stranger things have happened.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:19:09](#)**
(no subject)

Do you really think he might be more than just a bauble she's collecting?

That would be awkward.

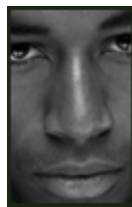
I owe him a letter in any case, but that makes it more difficult to think what to say.




 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:23:35](#)**
(no subject)

I wouldn't deign to guess, but I don't think it's a possibility that can be dismissed outright.

Just say what you normally would, Blaise. His reply may tell you a great deal.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2011-12-30 20:58:54](#)**
(no subject)

You're right, of course. I've just written and will send it straight off. Fancy a walk to the owlery?

By the way, I'm going to ask Professor Raz about getting up a proper duelling tourney. We'd have to see how that would fit in with the Tri-Wizard calendar, but I hope he'll think it's the right sort of thing to host while we've a school full of visitors. It would give the rest of us, who can't be Champions, a chance to show what we can do.

And now that I have such a well-fitting sparring cloak, I'd like the right chance to show it off. Thanks for that.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2011-12-31 00:51:07](#)**
(no subject)

A walk sounds lovely.

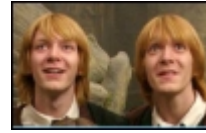
And a dueling tourney sounds brilliant. Particularly if it means I'll get to see you in that sparring cloak!

Thank you again for the earrings. My smile has never looked better.

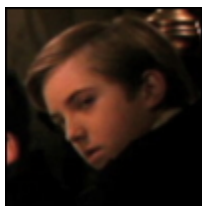
[2011-12-30 13:11:00](#)

Right: Here's our entry

We still need to add the charm to make steam come out of the smokestacks. But it's pretty close.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)**



 **[alt_ernie](#)** at **[2011-12-30 19:25:55](#)**

(no subject)

Hang on!

I thought we were making monsters. Ours is a manticore, and it's going to be wiznift when we get it finished.

I want a judges' ruling about what category that belongs in.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2011-12-30 19:47:08](#)**

(no subject)

Never fear, Macmillan. We're in a category of our own.



 **alt_lee** at [2011-12-30 19:57:55](#)
(no subject)

Here's mine:

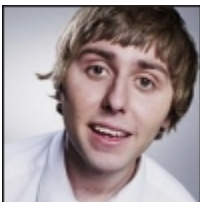



But I like yours a lot, too.



 **alt_gredforge** at [2011-12-30 19:58:22](#)
(no subject)

That fellow has a certain insouciant charm. Well done, Lee.




 **alt_justin** at [2011-12-30 21:31:32](#)
(no subject)

I say, it's too bad the fire-breathing spell melted our dragon. I thought it was well fierce.

-Justin



 **alt_ron** at [2011-12-30 22:28:32](#)
(no subject)

It was!

Shame it melted Corner's hybrid whatever it was, too, though. Or, actually, it may have looked more like whatever it was after yours toasted it!

So. Did you want to meet up somewhere after supper for cards or chess or something? Anyone could come.

2011-12-30 14:22:00

Private Message to Dora and Moony

Either of you seen that little pair of nail clippers?

Bea's claws need a trimming.

I thought I saw the things in the bathroom next to the nursery but now they're gone.



 [alt_sirius](#)


Moony, is he going to come or still hold himself aloof?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2011-12-30 19:34:06**
(no subject)


Last I used them, we were in the rocker. Try the table by the window. I might have tucked them in the drawer.



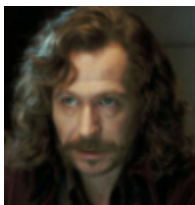
 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-30 21:06:47**
(no subject)

Ta, luv, found them.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2011-12-30 22:05:54**
(no subject)

Walden's coming, and he wants to give us a pet -- a young boomslang he found somewhere.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2011-12-30 22:19:41**
(no subject)

Okay, good that he's coming.

He does know we've got an infant in the house, yeah?

I'll see what we can do about a terrarium. Maybe there's something in the still room.

And let's think carefully about how to instruct Kreacher so it doesn't get out 'accidentally.'



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-31 03:24:22](#)**
(no subject)

I hadn't even thought about bloody Kreacher.

I'm sure Walden's had a hell of a time just keeping it warm, where he's been living, and that's why he's trying to give it to us, but perhaps Alice could take charge of it. Or someone at Moddey.

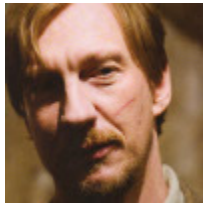



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2011-12-30 22:23:14](#)**
(no subject)

A boomslang.

Brilliant pet for a just-crawling sprog.

Remind me why we're asking him here?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2011-12-31 03:22:37](#)**
(no subject)

They shed, you know. I imagine that's why he thinks we'd be interested. I'll try to find out once he arrives if he expects us to keep it or if we could find it a home with another Order member -- someone at Moddey, perhaps. I imagine he thinks it'll be easier for us to keep it warm and happy than for him to manage it in Sherwood.

2011-12-31 12:09:00

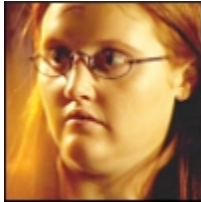
I Suppose You All Think That Was Funny

There are yellow feathers in my soup.

Stop laughing, Smith.



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2011-12-31 18:51:15](#)

(no subject)

Why is Zacharias putting feathers in your soup?
Yellow ones!!



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2011-12-31 23:32:04](#)

(no subject)

I didn't put anything in his soup, El!

And I wasn't laughing at you, Ern.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2011-12-31 21:31:38](#)

(no subject)

Think of them as rays of sunshine.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2012-01-01 04:41:39](#)

(no subject)

Ha. Ha.

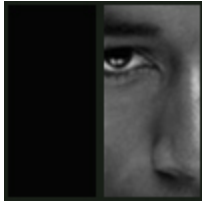


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-01 04:49:43](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I think you should give some of your canary creams
to Midgen.

And to Summers. That would be a laugh to see him
flapping around, trying to fly away from her!



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-01 04:54:28](#)**
(no subject)

That was better entertainment than we usually have at lunch.

Not sure that yellow feathers suit you, though, Macmillan. Not very dignified, really.