



2012-01-01 08:47:00

*Private Message to Mordant Travers
and Ned Pennifold*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

T.

Need analysis from you on a pile of parchments. Copies of. Will leave at safe drop.

P.

Not able to make usual time tonight. Will advise.
Need complete personnel rosters (past 5 yrs) for Melton Co., Ips716.

2:16am


8:47am

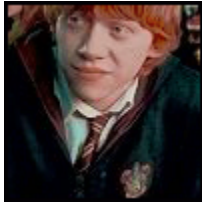
2012-01-01 08:56:00

Cheers Everyone!

And here's to this year being better than last!



 [alt_susan](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-01 14:10:48**

(no subject)

Too right!



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-02 01:00:29**

(no subject)

Cheers, Weasley!



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2012-01-01 15:09:43**

(no subject)

Not too hard, that. No Dementors!

Happy New Year, Sue.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-02 00:59:56**

(no subject)

You've got a point there! A Dementorless year should definitely be an improvement.


Same to you, Zach.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-01 20:39:29](#)**
(no subject)


Happy New Year, Sue!! Thank you for being one of my best friends ever!!



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-02 00:58:53](#)**
Private Message to Eloise

So, we're pax then, right?



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-02 02:18:13](#)**
Re: Private Message to Eloise

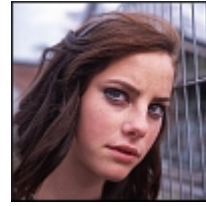
Oh of course!! Everything starts over now.

2012-01-01 11:30:00

Resolutions

Confusion, now hath made your masterpiece.

I mean to say, what a long and tumultuous night, full of both wild celebration and quiet mourning. As exciting as it is to grow up, every now and then there's a moment of sadness, a realisation that even as you gain exciting new knowledge and experience, you lose something, too. However, I'm not one to dwell on lost innocence for long - knowledge and experience are far too valuable in their own right, and only with them is innocence really seen for what it is: ignorance.



 [alt_daphne](#)

Some of us began with charades in the common room, but then it soon grew far too crowded and noisy so different groups split off. I was in the music alcove with Antigone and Elsie and a load of others, dancing to Tintagel and Starstruck. The fairy-lights were charmed to flash with the beat of the music, and some of the boys were pulling crackers so that we all had streamers and confetti in our hair. Eventually, Antigone, Elsie and I went deeper into the dungeons to cool off. We had masses of champagne chocs (Draco, you know the kind!), and we were sat in a little nook under the staircase, hugging ~~and crying for some reason~~ and talking. Then Elsie fetched some parchment and we decided to make lists of what we accomplished in 1994, and a list of what we *hoped* to accomplish in 1995.

I'll share some of it here, but it's been heavily edited. I don't want to present all my accomplishments and hopes to the whole of the school, after all.

1994 - DONE

Made the "Best Dressed" lists in various magazines.

Started regular correspondence with Athena Belby.

Kept Astoria in line.

Maintained old and dear friendships.

Turned 15.

Endured the (mis-reported) death of ~~a loved one~~ someone I admire.

Did not gain weight.

Improved physical fitness.

Provided moral support for others in times of need.

Made meaningful contributions to YPL.

Performed admirably in CCF.
Improved marks in Transfiguration and Charms.
Dated an older man.

~~BWP w/Barney~~

Assisted in the redecoration of the Slytherin common room.
Finally received a compliment on vocal resonance from Mrs Gibbons.
Made it socially acceptable for girls to ask boys to the Yule Ball.
Put in a striking and memorable performance for the school play.
Remained best dancer at Hogwarts.

1995 - TO DO

~~Break it off with Barney~~

~~Find out who my Father is~~

Solve the mystery of myself.

~~LV w/???~~

~~Bump into A.C. at summer symphony~~

Convince Mother that a Gerard Joosh original is worth the galleons.

Expand vocal range and balance vibrato.

Improve marks in Potions.

Prove a suitable candidate for prefect or YPL counselor.

Maintain weight.

Improve physical fitness - upper body strength.

Improve dueling/sparring techniques.

Write poetry.

~~Stop reading trashy romance novels.~~

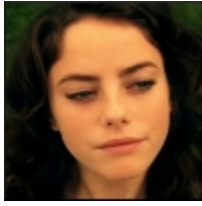
Read books of philosophical and political import.

That's as far as I got before Barney called me back for the countdown to 1995 and our midnight kiss. ~~I wish~~

Looking back, I see that some of my accomplishments might appear quite frivolous. Appearances can be deceiving, though - sometimes, something frivolous can be quite transforming. And I don't believe there's any accomplishment too small that it's not worth celebrating.

So what did you accomplish in 1994? And what do you hope to succeed in now that it's 1995?

Happy New Year, all.



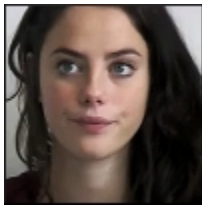
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 19:59:21](#)

Private message to Astoria Greengrass

Kathryn's got headache tonics and hangover potions.

Go fetch one for me and I won't tell Mother and Father what I caught you and Darius Yaxley doing last night.

Be quick about it.



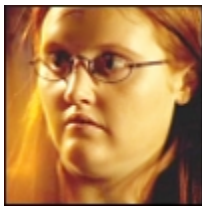
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 20:07:21](#)

Private message to Barnabas Bole

Barney,

I want you to know that the winter holidays have been all the more exciting with you at my side. However, now that they are over, I think we should have a serious talk about the future of our relationship, which should, I think, revert quite comfortably back into a friendship. Meet me in our spot after supper so that we might discuss it in person.

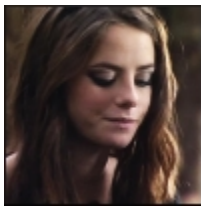
Fondly,
Daphne



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-01 20:35:23](#)

(no subject)

Um!! Excuse me, but I asked John to the Ball before you asked Bole!!



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 20:37:17](#)

(no subject)

Oh, is that so? Do forgive me, I had no idea.

I'm not really sure that our situations are comparable, but since you seem upset about it, why don't we just share the honour?



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-01 20:38:04](#)**
(no subject)

I reckon I can live with that. Cheers, Greengrass!!



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-01 21:03:39](#)**
(no subject)

Miss Greengrass -

I'm delighted of course to see your interests in the YPL so well-represented on the list.

You'll have an opportunity later this month to demonstrate skill and resourcefulness (I'll be posting details of our January 28th event early this coming week.) And of course, we'll be beginning to discuss ways in which our CCF students, in particular, can continue to take on larger roles in guiding and mentoring younger students.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-01-01 21:07:30](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Professor Sinistra. I do look forward to proving myself and providing mentor-ship in whatever way possible.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-01-01 21:49:40](#)**
(no subject)

Ignorance is more pleasant, though. In its own way. But I suppose I see what you mean.

I was considering writing down a list of accomplishments and resolutions, too, but I don't think I'll show them to anyone else. Well, maybe one person. But that's all.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 21:55:47](#)
(no subject)

Hence the aphorisms about it being bliss. But then the bard said that there is no darkness but ignorance, and he usually says it best, I find.

Even if you don't show them to anyone else, anyone who has been paying attention is aware of at least some of your accomplishments, I'm sure.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-01 21:58:33](#)
(no subject)

He makes sense, people might be apt to do foolish or hurtful things if they're ignorant.

I'm not so sure of that myself, but thank you just

the same.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-01 23:09:30](#)
(no subject)

Quite a list you've put together there, Daphs. I've have half a mind to recruit you to write up my list of accomplishments for 1994.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 23:18:41](#)
(no subject)

Why Draco, I'd be honoured! It would take a while, but certainly wouldn't be hard to do. Let's see...

- Proved self to be one of - if not THE - best male dancer at Hogwarts.
- Made truly stunning accomplishments in both YPL and dueling club.
- Stand-out leader amongst peers of all ages.
- Knows how to make a girl feel special (so I've gathered from a

certain dorm-mate of mine!)

-One of the best-dressed males in any year.

-Co-wrote a song that's being played all over the wireless!

I don't think I need to go on!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-01 23:20:43](#)

(no subject)

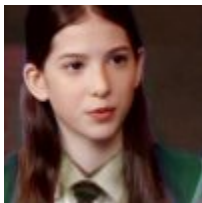
Cheers, Daphs. When you put it all out like that, it really does seem like I've done an impressive thing or two. Here's to 1995, yeah?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-01 23:21:24](#)

(no subject)

I concur!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-02 03:31:46](#)

(no subject)

When I think about things I accomplished in 1994 the thing that stands out was helping people after the bombing at the QWC. That was really the culmination of a lot of things, like getting into the CCF and specialising in mediwizardry. But that was the big one.

In 1995, I really hope not to do anything like that again, actually and that means all my goals seem pretty tiny. But let me think.

1. Make a public diary post at least once a week with notes about what I've been up to. I like looking back at my old entries and too often I just use it for private messages and writing comments on other people's posts, you know? I don't have a record of what I've been doing.
2. Improve my Potions marks.
3. Find out what things I should be doing this summer to improve my chances of getting into the Healing apprenticeship program later on, and do them.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-02 04:12:24](#)
(no subject)

You were so brave at the quidditch cup, Sally Anne, and such a credit to Slytherin House and all of Hogwarts, really.

I've been trying to make more public posts, too! I was absolutely rotten about it the first few years here, but now I've come to see just how important it is to have a public voice.

And as you can see above, I too want to improve my Potions mark. We should start working more together!

I don't know if I can advise you on your healing career, but I do, as always, wish you the very best of luck.

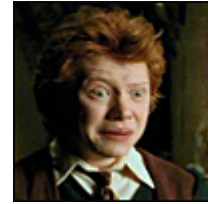
2012-01-01 15:34:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Um.


So.

Brocklehurst sent me a card for New Years, and it said she wants to get to know me better this year.



 [alt_ron](#)

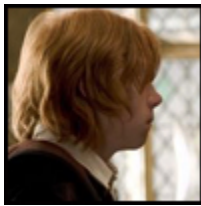



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-01 21:39:32**
(no subject)

Hullo, Ron,

Do you not fancy Miss Brocklehurst, then?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-01 21:52:55**
(no subject)

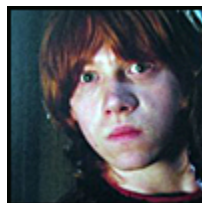
I knew that ball was going to be a nightmare. I mean, girls just go and get the wrong idea without your doing anything, don't they?




 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-01 22:40:21**
(no subject)

I say, old fellow, I can well understand that girls often imagine interest where there's none, what, but if you've done nothing to encourage her then perhaps you could just tell her that?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-01 22:50:11**
(no subject)

But that'd be bloody awkward, innit?

I mean, it'd just be easier to not talk to her ever. She'll have to figure it out eventually, right?

Only, what if she's telling all her girlfriends that she likes me and thinks I like her and it gets all over school?

Oi.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-01 22:54:51](#)
(no subject)

See here, Weasley, you simply can't leave a girl wondering like that, what? It might be uncomfortable to tell her straight out that you don't care for her but I rather think it's the only polite thing to do. Isn't it?

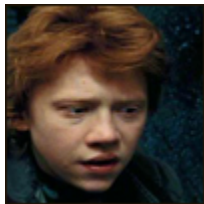
-Justin




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-01 23:14:06](#)
(no subject)

Or maybe getting to know her better might not be a bad thing. I mean, you don't have to do anything you don't want to do.

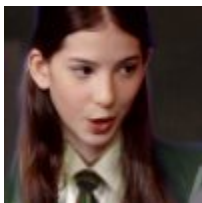
Does she like playing chess, maybe?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-02 03:05:37](#)
(no subject)

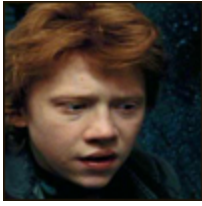
What do you mean do stuff I don't want to?


See that's just the sort of stuff I don't want anyone thinking I might be thinking. Or she might.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-02 02:38:26](#)
(no subject)

You could just treat her like a person and get to know her as a friend. She's rather clever and I think she DOES play chess, actually, though probably not as well as you.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:01:02](#)**
(no subject)

But-

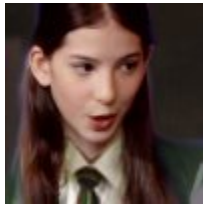
How do I do that without her thinking it's something else?

I can't just ask her to play chess because

because

we went to the ball and everyone thinks

oi



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:19:41](#)**
(no subject)

Are you afraid she'll throw you across the chess board and try to snog you against your will? She's not MIDGEN you know. (Poor Summers.)



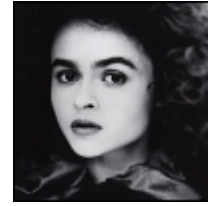
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:20:13](#)**
(no subject)

You could just tell her you only want to be friends if you're afraid she'd misunderstand.

[2012-01-01 16:24:00](#)

XXV

With each new year comes more glory to the Protectorate, all thanks to the grace, foresight, and leadership of our Lord and Protector. Let us take this day to reflect upon the gifts he bestows upon us: honour, freedom, and pride.



 [alt_bellatrix](#)

Thanks also go out to family and friends who welcomed us to parties and other gatherings this season. Your heartfelt generosity is thoroughly appreciated.

As for 1995...

The very best is yet to come.

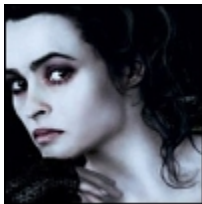


 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-01-01 23:45:49](#)

Private message to Braithewaite

This wait for Jan 9 is excruciating.

Had never before noticed how inconveniently long the period between full moons is.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-01-01 23:56:42](#)

Private message to Rodolphus

I find your decision to get drunk at Buckingham nauseating. And pathetic. Don't expect me to address the matter beyond this - which amounts to the airing of these thoughts that are no doubt shared by others.

And Him, above all.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-01-02 02:37:17](#)

Re: Private message to Rodolphus

Oh, wife. You speak as if I were the only one drunk, instead of it being that you were the only one sober. I am deeply sorry if you felt left out.

Thank you for airing your thoughts. They are duly noted.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-01-02 00:27:24](#)

Private message to Hydra

Hydra,

I have been formulating several thoughts regarding your future, and I wish to share them with you now, while they are still a while off. That way, I think we can avoid any pouts of protest, hmm?

I have a strong inclination to give you to your Aunt Narcissa for the summer, perhaps pulling you from consideration for the CCF programme in the process. As much as the CCF programme is an honour, I don't know that it is entirely necessary for someone on your particular trajectory. My sister can teach you far more about what it is you'll need to know in order to be Harry Marvolo's husband one day.

Now, on that note, how goes your oh-so-grand plan to provoke his jealousies using that squib-boy?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-02 00:37:00](#)

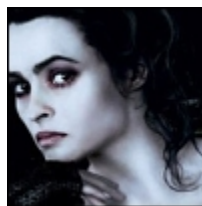
Re: Private message to Hydra

~~I've never pout~~

Mummy, what is it you think that Auntie Narcissa can teach me? I do think would enjoy spending time with her this summer. Isn't CCF awfully important for what it says about you as a person, though, no matter what the trajectory?

Harry hasn't been seeing Honoria Sandoval since the ball, not that I know of. So that's good news at least.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-01-02 00:40:30](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

Do not write to me and then scribble it out. Do you think your Mummy is an idiot? I know all too well these passive-aggressive habits of writing

something vitriolic, only to cross it out and pretend as if it never happened. All too common among the youth, in particular, and I won't have you doing it to me. If you want to mock me, small one, you can do it to my face and see how much pleasure you take from it then.

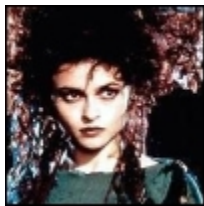


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-02 00:48:33](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

I'm sorry, Mummy. I wasn't being passive-aggressive and I wasn't mocking you, truly. I'm sorry.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-01-02 01:00:04](#)

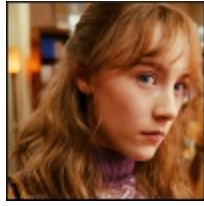
Re: Private message to Hydra

Be sure of it.

But to answer your question: you ought to have seen your Aunt Narcissa at all these parties in the week past. As much good as it might do the Protectorate, it cannot be denied that she does know how to glow. She is also an expert at wrapping various men around her little finger. First Father (now THAT was an achievement), now countless others, all tied there so as to secure the attentions of one above all the rest.

When you were younger I did not peg you for one who would be suited to follow in her footsteps. You were too plain and simple, as I saw it (and what your Father saw can be dismissed out of hand). Now, however, I've come to see that the charm you hold on your Father may in fact be an echo of what my sister held over ours. And as for your looks - you'll never model, but there's clearly something to them, as the rabble over your appearance at the Yule Ball seems to indicate.

As to Harry: I don't know that his disinterest in Honoria Sandoval counts as interest in you. Do better. And at least see that you get something useful from that squib-boy while you're at it. Practice of some kind - though do mind that you keep it from your Father.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-02 01:08:28**

Re: Private message to Hydra

I...think I know what you mean. Aunt Narcissa knows how to be kind and polite, but also how to speak her mind. And she makes people feel welcome, no matter whatever else they might be feeling. People are just happy to be with her.

Practice... Well, Justin is helping me with arithmancy, because he's good at maths. Unless you meant something else.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_bellatrix](#) at 2012-01-02 02:25:10**

Re: Private message to Hydra

That is accurate, if simple. Which rather goes back to my first point.

You do need help with arithmancy, no doubt, but that is not precisely what I meant. Use your imagination, child, or else ask your Aunt Narcissa.

And - see to it that you don't get too attached. You know how foolishly sentimental you can be. He'll go back to France at the end of the year and will be sure to forget you and move on with his life. You best be prepared to do the same.

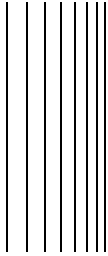


 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-02 02:27:12**

Re: Private message to Hydra

Yes, Mummy. Thank you for your advice. I will take everything you say under consideration.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_bellatrix** at **2012-01-02 02:28:03**

Re: Private message to Hydra

How much that sounds like placation.

See to it that you do, and seriously, at that.

2012-01-01 17:14:00

No Exploding Snap for me tonight

I know I said I'd be up for the game we were going to be having in the Common Room, but, well, I was out at the greenhouses this afternoon repotting stuff, and I didn't notice the mud on the path I stepped into on my way back.



 **alt_neville**

Mr Milland isn't very happy with me. So I've got detention tonight.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-01-02 00:27:19**

(no subject)

Shame about that.

What's he going to make you do?



 **alt_neville** at **2012-01-02 16:40:16**

(no subject)

I had to scrub some floors. Without magic.



 **alt_hydra** at **2012-01-02 00:33:34**

(no subject)

That's too bad. Especially as there's been a lot of mud and muck everywhere, really, ever since exams were over.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_susan** at **2012-01-03 02:26:44**

(no subject)

How was it then? Not too dire, I hope?

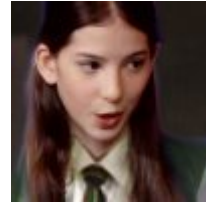


 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-03 12:53:38](#)
(no subject)

No, not really. Still, not the best way to start the New Year.

2012-01-01 21:32:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Goals for 1995



I couldn't really say this one on Daphne's public post, so:

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

1. Get better marks than Padma Patil.

Also I really do intend to make more public journal posts. My parents can read those, so it's a way of sending them post without having to sneak.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-01-03 02:53:00**
(no subject)

I should do more public posts, too. For the same reason.

Of course, the last one I did, I talked about getting detention. Probably not what anyone who wanted to learn what was going on with me needed to hear.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at **2012-01-03 02:56:23**
(no subject)

You've been careful to say all the right things when you do public posts about them. That they're traitors and all. But you've never talked much about them here, under the lock.

We've never asked, Nev. But we've wondered.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2012-01-03 02:57:20**
(no subject)

I think that's a really good policy. The not asking, I mean.

You should keep doing it.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-01-03 02:59:28](#)
(no subject)

Is he right, Nev?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-03 03:00:05](#)
(no subject)

I can't speak for Sally-Anne. But as far as me...yeah, I guess he is.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-01-03 03:00:27](#)
(no subject)

Okay, then.

We're sure you'll let us know if that changes.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-03 03:01:02](#)
(no subject)

Absolutely.

(And thanks, Terry.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-03 03:04:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, I lived with my parents until I was eleven.

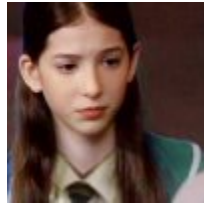
And I saw them last year, when the Strettons and I waited in line to see the body that was supposedly Sirius Black's. I mean I couldn't talk to them DIRECTLY but I did see them.

Anyway if people want to ask about them that's fine.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-03 21:13:45](#)
(no subject)

Do you wish you could still go home there, with your parents, for hols? I mean, that sounds daft, I guess, to ask. Only, you've sort of said they aren't very happy with each other, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-03 21:33:57](#)
(no subject)

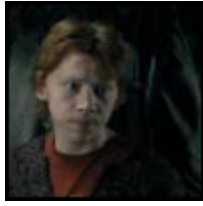
You know


Okay, here's the thing, if I WERE allowed to go home at hols I'd probably still want to go to Pansy's. Because yes, they fought all the time and my father drank and probably both those things are still true.

I'd still like to be able to SEE them, though. Especially my mum.

And I think part of why things were so bad at home -- my father would get furious when he couldn't find work, when there was no money and not enough food in the house. And the reason he couldn't find work was my mum, and if she hadn't -- you know, he's never once threatened to send her to the camps, no matter how angry he gets. So that's something.

And they knew that when I turned 11 I'd be taken away from them. I think my father didn't want to let himself ~~love~~ get too attached. Because he knew I was going away and it would be easier for ~~him~~ both of us if there was a little relief when I did. Because things got really bad when I turned ten, they weren't as bad before. Maybe if he hadn't known I was going to be taken away, things wouldn't have been as bad. I don't know.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-01-03 21:57:57](#)
(no subject)

Uh. Wow.

What they did to your family really reeks. I mean, it's just all wrong, and I don't see why anyone thinks it's the right way to run things to break up families or make it hard for people to have jobs because of who they married. I mean, your dad did the right thing, but everyone else acted like he was a traitor. I mean, that right there is what's wrong: it can't be right when the Ministry makes new laws that make half the people 'traitors' just like that. More than half, really, if you count all the Muggles. Which they didn't.

2012-01-01 21:38:00

Private Message to Dux

Dux,

Last night of hols, what? I say, it's hard to believe they're nearly done. Though I suppose I shouldn't have felt quite so cheated if I hadn't spent so much of them in the hospital wing!



 [alt_justin](#)

I couldn't help noticing that your mother wrote to you. Would you...care to get together? You don't have to tell me what she said, of course, if you'd rather be distracted. Or work on homework, if you prefer.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2012-01-02 02:50:55**

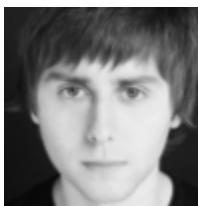
(no subject)

It is hard to believe. It seems to go by faster every year.

Oh, you noticed that. Well. I don't know if you'll want to hear what she said. I know I wish I hadn't.

Not that I'm in trouble or anything, because I'm not. I don't know how to say it, except that I suppose I just feel small.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-02 02:56:22**

(no subject)

I--

I'm sorry. I don't know what to say, except that I wish she'd see you for yourself and not what she wants you to be, whatever that is.

Anything I can do to help?

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:03:37](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not used to people asking about it. Even Daddy, if he doesn't see or know what she's saying to me, doesn't seem to wonder. And really, it wasn't that bad. It's been worse before.

But thank you for asking when no one else does.

Doing more of that is a start.

And maybe we could meet? To talk, I mean. ~~she made it sound so~~

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:08:09](#)**
(no subject)


~~But doesn't he~~

Of course, we can meet. You can talk to me about anything, Dux.

I'll be down directly. See you in five minutes?

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-01-02 03:15:18](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, that will be good. Thank you.

From,
Hydra

2012-01-02 11:56:00

Back to our normal schedule



 **alt_sinistra**

Back to classes, after some lovely holidays. We're currently in that glorious week or so where I'm entirely caught up on all my marking and correspondence, I've had plenty of time for research on the tower, and quite my share of social outings and other enjoyments. Never does last more than a week or two, but that's all to the good, really, as it means there's something new to look forward to.

CCF, YPL, and guests:

It is time to turn our attention to our next outing, on January 28th. The event will be an all-day outdoor strategy event held off Hogwarts grounds, with three teams, each lead by a group of our CCF students (for whom the event is mandatory).

For all who wish to attend there will be a required planning meeting on January 21st at 2pm. The day of, we will depart at 9am, and return around 4pm. CCF students will be expected to attend a post-event debriefing following our return, finishing by dinner time.

We welcome:

- Our guests, as team participants.
- Third year and non-CCF fourth year students as team participants.
- A limited number of first and second year students to assist with various tasks.

Due to logistics, we have a more limited number of places for this event than our usual. Everyone participating should be comfortable with extended outdoor exposure and exertion, skilled with at least one long-duration warming charm, and be willing to work together in assigned teams to reach a mutual goal. Previous active participation in YPL events and recent behaviour will be used to determine attendees if we have more interest than places.

If you wish to be considered, please sign up on the board outside my office no later by 8am on Sunday.

On another note:

I've also been thinking about my past year. I've never particularly subscribed to resolutions, as much as goals, but I am quite pleased with the ongoing growth of the YPL and CCF programmes, the

completion of the chart projection charm project (and related publication), and the usual progress in teaching and learning that happen all the time in my classroom.

This coming year, I'm looking forward to a new research project (made possible by a shiny new telescope) and continuing the work of the past few years in a variety of areas.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-02 17:08:48**

Private message to Healer Stint and Felix Green

Healer Stint -

I am writing to follow up on various unresolved threads.

First, given recent events, if you wished to resign from the committee, I would of course accept your request. Otherwise, I wish to be clear that I expect and require professional behaviour from all committee members and will take appropriate steps to ensure that if needed.

Second, I am writing to confirm that Healer Luxovius Kerr has agreed to participate in the January 28th YPL event. We are particularly fortunate to have his expertise with cold weather injuries at hand, given the plans, as well as his knowledge of the area. I will be coordinating directly with him about the day's events, but he may wish to speak with you as well.

Finally, you will be receiving by owl a copy of the schedule for our spring planning meeting. Please note that these dates and times are firm and cannot be altered further.

A. Sinistra



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-02 17:23:49**

Private message to Felix Green

Felix -

I am thinking about coming in more regularly (almost certainly mid-afternoon on Tuesdays and meeting people for dinner), if that would make it easier to coordinate some of the parchment work. Not this week or next, but likely thereafter.

Re: the above: I don't expect him to actually resign, but one does have to ask. If, as I assume, he won't, please continue your trick of making sure I'm never alone with him. (Both Helena and Campanella are glad to assist with that.)

I hope you had wonderful holidays, and that the New Year brings you abundant blessings (you deserve every one.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-02 17:34:50](#)

Private message to Poppy

Poppy -

Related to the YPL announcement, I've got confirmation now that Healer Luxovius Kerr will be the one along on the 28th. I understand he's made something of a speciality of cold-related injuries, and he also comes from the area, so it seems a good combination all round. (And anything must be better than Stint, surely, though if you've anything I should know, please share.)

I've asked Healer Kerr, along with all the other details sent by owl, to be certain to coordinate with you about any specific student needs. Do let me know if you don't hear from him within the next fortnight.

As to who'll be going, as you can see, it's a limited number (around 60) - the CCF students, plus about 45 others from among our 3rd years, other 4th years, and guests. And then about a dozen of our first or second years, who will be carefully supervised. Travel by portkey, to near Dornie.

If there's anyone you think I should be aware of in advance, do let me know, but I'll get you the full lists as soon as I have them - I hope next Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on how much juggling I have to do.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-02 23:34:01](#)

Private message to Rory

Has Stint replied to you yet, or is he (hopefully) too shamed to do so?

Still think he ought to be sacked (I know, I know). His

behaviour disgraces the YPL and, in turn, the Protectorate itself. Or that's how it could be spun to Bella, anyway- with the right approach.

But don't pay me any mind, I'm all talk this time 'round. Promise.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-01-02 23:39:20**

Re: Private message to Rory

Not yet, and I don't really expect one. Thanks for helping me with it, mind.

I know how you feel - and believe me, I'm with you on wishing we could get him out. But he hasn't done anything obvious to me - beyond what other people have tried, anyway - and certainly not to students, or it'd be a much easier spin.

Perhaps if he's given enough rope, he'll do something that does make it easy, without doing too much more damage in the process.

My mail today had two interesting notes about that, actually - apparently, now he's able to talk again, news about what exactly happened has been getting around a bit more, and I'm certainly not the only person he's done that kind of thing to.

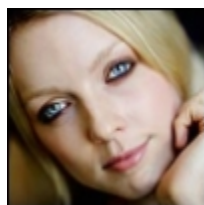


 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-01-02 23:43:03**

Re: Private message to Rory

Trouble is, giving rope to someone like that might be as much a danger to yourself as it is to him.

Can't say I'm surprised to hear you have company. Maybe they can provide you with advice, though- not to mention solidarity.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-01-02 23:46:52**

Re: Private message to Rory


There is that risk, but if we can't really get him sacked anyway, I don't know that there's a lot of other choice.

I'm not surprised I've company either - but that certainly adds weight to the idea of my spending a bit more time in New London

on my own that we'd talked about, and not just to make it easier to manage the parchmentwork in less time. Much as I love this place, it is a bit isolating at times.

How'd your first day back in classes go?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-02 23:54:10](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

I'm surprised you're not salivating at the thought of isolation, given the run of events we've been through in the last week or so.

Nightmare, as usual. No one wants to concentrate, still bubbling over about balls and gossip and gifts. I had to get out my scary quidditch hooligan voice.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-03 00:00:22](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

You don't see me running off to New London tonight, now, do you? (Though, honestly: the big events are exhausting, but the idea of a dinner with one or two people is sort of appealing.)

And all the events did remind me that that it can be rather nice to talk to people who are not immediate colleagues or students.

(You, love, are always a wonder to talk to, but you know what I mean.)

Have I heard the scary quidditch hooligan voice yet? I know exactly what you mean, though - the second years were all over awful and passing around all sorts of gossip they'd been catching up on, half of it horribly exaggerated, and the other half flat-out wrong, all trying to sound so terribly adult. I'm sure they'll be worse tonight.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-01-03 00:12:02**

Re: Private message to Rory

Agreed, all 'round. I'll just have to see about getting a Tuesday free now and again to join you up in New London. Was fun being up there this weekend, just the two of us.

We should go to a match, and then you'll hear it, probably far more than you care to. Or you can come by the classroom on a rough day. It's basically some variation of "OI YOU, WATCH IT! SPREAD OUT! BACK IN POSITION!"



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-01-03 00:18:19**

Re: Private message to Rory

New London was lovely, yes, and I quite agree about the pleasures of just being the two of us for a bit.

(And again, thanks for putting up with the family. Mum sent a nice note along this morning that you can read next time you're up here, and is threatening another big package sooner than later. They do all seem to approve of you, which is handy.)

And on going to a match: certainly. Poking my head in the classroom might, I fear, still distract students more than would be helpful, though the image will distract me tonight when I'm trying to keep them from knocking their telescopes to bits.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-01-03 00:24:00**

Re: Private message to Rory

I'm glad I've been met with approval. Very. You've got lovely folks, they seem to adore both each other and you.

Always happy to give you a distraction. Have a good lesson tonight, love.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-03 00:36:47](#)**

Re: Private message to Rory

I am too. Not that it would change my mind about you, but it does make things much easier.

And yes, I'm very lucky in them, really. You do see now what I said about Mum deflecting charming men...

Right. I am up the tower for a little research, and then figuring out how to segue from observation of Virgo into observation of Saturn, and a reminder of how planets look different than stars. Wish me luck!

[2012-01-02 13:02:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Poppy

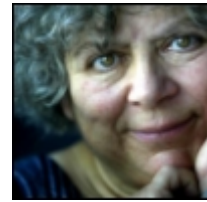
Happy New Year, m'dear.

How have you been finding it so far?

I must confess that I've been attempting to write lesson plans all day and finding myself hopelessly distracted by other matters. I'm about to give it up as a bad job and have tea. Would you care to join me?


I have some quite fine oolong that I traded for in Diagon over the holidays.

And I must admit, I have a professional question for you as well. Aurora has been inquiring about a tisane for her insomnia. I can't see any reason not to offer her one, unless she's taking something I ought to be mindful of?



 **[alt_pomona](#)**

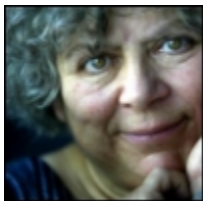


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-01-02 18:39:27](#)**
(no subject)

Absolutely, yes.

Shall I come to your office or would you like to come up here and step away from that space for a bit?

As for Aurora, I'm sorry to hear she's still being troubled with sleeplessness, but I confess I'm not surprised--either that she still suffering or that she's looking for remedies other than sleeping draughts. She dislikes taking potions, and I can't say I blame her. So no, indeed, there's no reason you oughtn't give her a tisane if you've one you think might help her.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-01-02 18:50:03](#)**
(no subject)

I'll come to you, thanks; a bit of escape from the sett would likely do me good.

I was thinking of giving her lavender with a bit of skullcap, and some honey for taste.

Have you had a chance to speak with Wilhelmina? I've been meaning to ask her how she's found her first term here at the castle.

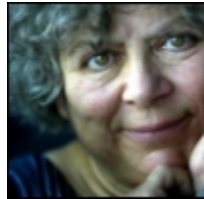


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-01-02 19:45:52](#)**
(no subject)

Ah, Wilhelmina. Yes, I know she's found herself feeling pulled in all directions at once, as one does here. But it's not set her back, I don't believe.

Whenever we've been together, she's been full of stories of this thing and that her pupils have done--or the creatures. Being handled does stress them, and not infrequently they show the strain of it.

If you'd like to bring her along at tea time, please do. Or we could invite her next time if that seems better.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-01-02 20:01:57](#)**
(no subject)

Next time better, I think, given other things we should really touch on.

I am glad to hear she's managing: the first year here is such a challenge for so many.

2012-01-02 20:12:00

Grim Truth 95/2/1



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_sirius](#)

Greetings, British Wizarding World!

It's hard to believe that the first class to enter Hogwarts after the journal project began is now beginning the second half of its education. I hope that education will still prepare them for the work to be done, particularly if we're to reverse the damage wrought by the Protectorate, but perhaps that is too much to ask on top of rudimentary skills in potions, charms, astronomy and transfiguration.

Still, I'm glad that so far, this year seems to be progressing with fewer calamities than in the past and indeed, cause for celebrations (public Cruciation aside, of course). I gather that the Tri-Wizard Tournament (and particularly the Yule Ball) has been successful so far in bringing the students together in new and exciting ways. One thing I agree with is the goal of making new friends and gaining new perspectives, which is a hallmark of the collaboration that the Tournament affords.

But the Tournament is also meant to be a competition, an opportunity to put each school's best students against one another in a fair and unbiased test of their skills. We've already seen some unanticipated results, what with two Champions being chosen from Hogwarts. That's either a sign that the Goblet is not to be fooled by the Lord Pretender's whims or it's a sign that once again, someone cleverer than the combined intelligence of Beauxbatons, Hogwarts and Durmstrang found a way to put my godson, Harry Potter, at risk despite all the protections he's given. One can only hope that he'll continue to show resourcefulness beyond his years.

Speaking of protections, however, there's another matter that we really ought to discuss. That's the recent incident at Hogwarts in which one of the French delegation nearly lost his life due to bullying.

Yes, I know that it turns out he was bullied by two of his own schoolmates and it had almost nothing to do with Hogwarts' students. Yet in this case, there are parallels to Hogwarts' students that cannot and ought not be ignored.

In the first place, the young man had endured a history of abuse, which could have been halted earlier had his teachers taken closer

note of his situation. While his own fortitude is to be applauded, he should never have had to bear up for that long without anyone taking an interest. I wish I could say that nothing like it ever happens at Hogwarts but we all know that prefects and professors alike often expect students to resolve their own problems. Even without this most recent example, Hogwarts is no stranger to crops of young tormentors, which seem to come and go in waves but are never quite addressed consistently.

In the second place, his torment is symptomatic of insensitivity toward wizards who do not come from pure wizard blood. Despite all the evidence to the contrary, the idea persists that pure blood and magical ability are inextricably linked and worse, that the old, pure families themselves are more worthy than newer bloodlines. Englishmen have always been preoccupied with matters of class; it is one of the (many) ways wizards are no different from muggles. But as the regime solidifies its power, that idea has taken root with new fervour. I'm disappointed to see it pervading French thinking as well, though I wonder if that has more to do with personal ties forged between families and less to do with any policy changes on behalf of Beauxbatons or the French government. Either way, it seems clear that had the student had wizarding parents, and not squibs, it is likely that he would not have presented such a tempting target - and more likely that his professors would have acted much more quickly to protect him.

But beyond the injustice of this incident, let's take a moment to discuss the effect of a bullying culture on its citizens. These systems rely on elevating the importance of class distinctions so that those in the middle perpetuate both ends of the spectrum. Those in the middle admire and envy those above them, and they buy in to the promise that if they make those below them feel worse about themselves, they will in turn feel better, and may even be admitted to the elite as a reward. They buy in to the idea that they can 'join in' to make themselves stronger, less helpless in a society that belittles them for an accident of birth, standing or finance. Of course, some wizards, finding themselves tempted or pressured to spurn those weaker than themselves, recognise that the social obligation to harass, bully or even torture is wrong, but they feel they must go along and pretend. Doing otherwise would mark them as targets of bullying themselves or worse, expose them to accusations of being rebels, possibly putting their loved ones in danger.

The biggest danger of all, though, is in the coercive power of bullying as an acceptable cultural structure. It manipulates people into

justifying their wrong actions by appealing to their fears for themselves and for their loved ones. It subverts their concern for those they are being coerced to harm, forcing them to either dismiss their doubts as unfounded, or to dismiss the people themselves as contemptible or inferior (and therefore not deserving of mercy). The culture of bullying also tempts moral people to invent twisted justifications for their deeds, even to the point of absurdity. Under extreme circumstances, one might come to conceive of these violent deeds as a way to protect the oppressed. Then it's the voice that says, 'If I don't take this action, someone else will, who will enjoy it more, who will be more cruel, more vicious, who will feel less remorse.'

While it may be necessary, from time to time, to perpetrate such an act, it is never all right, never justified. In such a situation it is important to remember what is really right and proper and fair - and to ask who is victimised. The ones who create that pressure are the real bullies and their actions, the creation of that culture, passes through those in the middle and makes them instruments of their brutality. Sometimes it can be impossible to see a way out. But it is vital to think carefully and closely about what can be done to break the cycle.

And that brings me back to friendships - the best friends are those who challenge each other to become better people, without judging but without necessarily accepting one's failures. So as the term starts up again, students, ask yourselves who your real friends are - are they the ones who accept you but also push you to improve yourself? Are they the ones with whom you feel comfortable speaking the Grim Truth? And if not...why not? There are risks in speaking out but if your friends are worth having, they will help provide the key to a longterm plan for escape. True friends, friends with whom no topic is taboo, no problem is unsolvable, no question too unthinkable, they are the way out.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-03 01:42:19](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, he could've said that a lot shorter, but it's about time SOMEBODY said it's not all right to go around bullying people. Or crucio'ing people just because you've got a license to do it.

But, um. Does anyone know what 'coercive' means? Cause I get what he's saying, but some of it was sort of, yeah.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-03 02:34:26](#)

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

Hello, Ron,

'Coerce' means to dominate and control by threat, intimidation or force.

I rather wish he hadn't singled me out, what? It's well embarrassing.

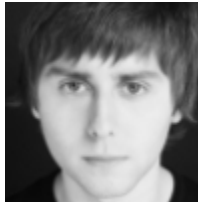
-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-03 02:36:34](#)

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

Do you think he just made it worse?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-03 02:39:01](#)

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

Hello,

No, that's not it. I meant to tell you lot that Coty actually spoke to me at the weekend and said that he never realised Toubon was going to take things so far. So I think I'm well done with all that.

But.

It rather sounds like I'm quite naff, doesn't it?

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-03 03:07:03](#)

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

I hope it doesn't get you extra official attention that you don't need.

But given that this happened...I'm REALLY glad you're on the Lock.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-03 02:35:37](#)

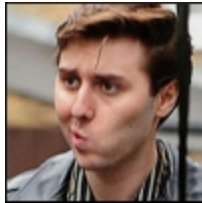
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

It means using force to get what you want, but like with Aurors and laws and things.

So sort of like another way of saying "bully," I guess.

And it just figures he'd do this.

It just does.

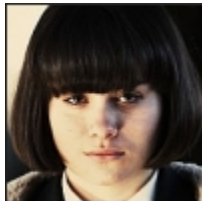


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-03 02:37:02](#)

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

Do what?

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-03 02:43:08](#)

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

He never answers *anything* head on, and what he does say is *never* what

what I ask him about.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-03 02:53:18](#)

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

What did you ask him, then? You wrote him again?



 [alt_pansy](#) at 2012-01-03 03:08:01

Private Message to Ron

Yeah.

I did.

I just

I don't know.

I'm glad Justin and Luna were asked to be added. I am. Really. They needed it.

It's just that I wasn't asked. You know?

And when Justin said that it's good to find people who think like he does

It's like everyone else that's on this just *knows* things, without having to even think about them, what's right and what's wrong, and all the while I'm hearing it for the very first time. And I've been trying since I got on this. To listen to what people have to say. And not

Not say anything that might

I know that everyone on here *says* that it's a place where we can say anything. But I guess I don't feel like it's always that way for me. And Justin's been asking things like where do I fit in, and how did I get under the lock, because it's so obvious that I don't fit in, right?

So I wrote him.

Because he grew up like I did. And ended up differently. And I thought he'd understand. ~~And I could ask him things that I couldn't ask~~

That's all.



 **alt_ron at 2012-01-03 12:59:14**

Re: Private Message to Ron

Huh. But you do fit in, really. You care about people, and you don't want people getting hurt for no reason. Or y'know, just to make them think their place is below us.

It's just that you know so many other people who don't fit here, and well, being here means you have to lie to them and

yeah, it means if you don't, you'd really hurt all of us

that's why we didn't ask you.

But see, y'know, you really could ask stuff here, and we'd all try answering. I mean, we're not as- we don't know as much as Mr Black, but we'd tell you the way we think about things and try to say why.

Or, well. If you didn't want to talk to all of us at once, y'know, maybe we could talk?

So, um. Maybe we could go for a walk this afternoon after lessons. And just talk about whatever, really. I mean, I know I don't really know any big answers, but what he says there at the end, the main thing is having friends, right?



 **alt_pansy at 2012-01-03 15:52:25**

Re: Private Message to Ron

Thank you.

For saying that.

And I'd like that. Yeah.

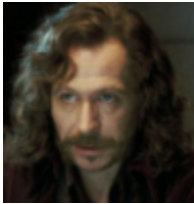
I've been silly about it, keeping it to myself, but it's like I started thinking about why I was different all over again, and I guess I was feeling a little left out.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-01-03 03:09:33](#)

Order Only

While I certainly agree with the thrust of your argument, I certainly hope this doesn't raise too many questions about where you're getting your information from inside Hogwarts. Nor do I hope that you're going to prompt some extra breathing down the boy's neck.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-03 03:14:43](#)

Re: Order Only

I've said before that there are anonymous people who keep me informed, Bill, doesn't have to be Justin or anyone else specific, for that matter. Just the fact that it's more than one ought to be enough. If MLE do start looking through every piece of post in and out of Hogwarts, well, I reckon that will do more to turn students against them than anything I might say.

In any case, as far as getting Justin attention - I did consider that as well. But since the main person who was bullying him has been sent to France to face expulsion, I figure he's as safe as he's going to get. Anyone who pesters him now is asking for harsh treatment.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-03 03:20:33](#)

Re: Order Only

Moreover, if it's the sort of attention that sends Justin back to France, where he's not in daily danger of being discovered 'passing' then so much the better!



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-03 05:12:37](#)

Order Only

Since you mention Hogwarts, I assume you are interested in reaching young readers through these.

Remus might be able to speak to the same, even though he wasn't a professor, but I have to tell you that the young people you are trying to reach have far less worldly knowledge than what you draw upon when you write these. Words like "cultural

structure" or even "oppressed" are not part of the common vocabulary. In other posts you've used words like "equality" and "liberty." These aren't terms they know or value. They are taught things like "loyalty," "pride," "might," and "purity," instead.

Not all children grew up in the Weasley family, but those who didn't might still take something from your writings if you were able to direct them to an audience who has never read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or The Communist Manifesto, and has never listened to The Beatles. Or lived in France.

2012-01-02 21:36:00

Private message to Effs

Hopefully, this will get to you. Because if it's not too late, I'd really like to meet tonight. There's something I'd like to talk to you about and, well, you can probably guess what I'm referring to.



 [alt_hydra](#)

So meet me in the staircase between the dungeons and the third floor in ten minutes?

From,
Hydra

2012-01-02 23:40:00

Order Only -- Young Mr. Longbottom.


- It is clear that young Mr. Longbottom has been bullied mercilessly by someone; I know not who.
- He is not utterly hopeless. He is stubborn and occasionally purposefully thick. This may be an asset. Or, it may thoroughly exasperate me. Likely both. He is clearly your son, Alice.
- He shall get detention again as soon as may be. I gave him license to think of his next infraction himself.



 [alt_severus](#)

Also, Sirius Black, an excellent Grim Truth.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-01-03 17:38:46](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Severus.

This means quite a great deal to me, and I know that my son sees the value in what you're doing for him.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-01-03 17:39:47](#)
(no subject)

thanks, man.

much appreciated.

I think the stubbornness might be partly my fault though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-03 17:59:47](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

2012-01-03 09:17:00

Private message to Effy Stevens

Effy,

I'm very sorry about that misunderstanding last night. I hope that you know I was being sincere when I said I wasn't cross with you for anything. I actually wrote that note thinking it was going to someone else, not to you.

But, you know, since you're in Arithmancy with Corey and Marjoram, maybe you would want to study with us sometime? I'll let you know when we're meeting next.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#)

[2012-01-03 09:47:00](#)

Private message to Harry and Granger



 [alt_draco](#)

Sure loves to hear himself talk, that one. All that rot about teachers not noticing and taking action when it came to Finch-Fletchley, when really, if Finch-Fletchley had been taught any sort of decent lessons in dark arts or practical dueling, he would have been able to defend himself properly. But that one can't seem to fathom that when some bastard is coming at you with a deadly hex, your first thought probably isn't going to be about the "cultural structures" or "coercive powers" that made the bastard that way, but how to get him out of your face, and quickly. Sorry, but I'll hex first, think about the rest later.

And that bit about "inventing justification for deeds to the point of absurdity?" I don't know, but it reminded me of when we were five or six, Harry. Remember, they were still restoring Buckingham and parts of it were closed off to everyone, even you. And it was the first time my Father ever Cruciated me.

Granger, you weren't there then, so I'll explain. I'm talking about those semi-state rooms in the lower levels - I'm pretty sure that they're so heavily warded now that no one but Harry's Father can get into them, but back then they still didn't have everything set up, so all we knew was that if we wandered into that area, we'd get into terrible trouble.

So of course, that's exactly what we did. Harry wanted to explore and I was perfectly happy to go along with that sort of thing, back then. We ended up playing green ghost in some kind of trophy room, and I was wearing the blanket and Harry was hiding somewhere. I was bumbling around, blind as anything, and I tripped into a display case. A glass goblet fell over inside and smashed to pieces. It must have set off some kind of alarm spell, because we were trying to put the goblet back together when Yaxley caught us. Bloody nightshade, he scared me down to my toes back then. Still does, if I'm honest.

He marched us both off to the Lord Protector's chambers and both of our Fathers were clearly annoyed at being interrupted. There was a lot of questioning and hard words like "How could you be so disobedient?" Between that and Yaxley's dark expression, it was all terrible enough. But then, when the Lord Protector said that I needed to be punished for both of us, my Father almost seemed...well, I didn't

know what to call it then, but I think "shocked" is what I'd call it now. Just that by the expression on his face I didn't expect him to do what he ended up doing. I thought he might pick me up and take me out of there - I even remember being sad, Harry, thinking I might not be able to play with you again for a long time.

But he didn't pick me up and take me out of there. Instead he sat me in the middle of the room and he Cruciated me.

I don't have to tell you how horrible it was. Well, not you at least, Granger. But the pain and the shakes and the tremors, none of it compared to how awful it felt to know that my own Father had just done that to me. And a few nights later I was crying to Mother about just that, and she said that Father had done it because he wanted to spare me what the Lord Protector would do to me if he hadn't.

I didn't believe it for a long time. But I believe it now. And my Father wasn't just *inventing justification*... there was, in fact, someone else who would have enjoyed it more, would have been more cruel, more vicious, and would have felt less remorse. No remorse, actually.

I don't know. I don't know what to say about "breaking the cycle" (and neither does that one, apparently - never gives a set of instructions, does he?). But it's pointless to sit and ponder change and the future when there are more important things bearing down now. There is no way out of anything when you're a kid.

So, what are you going to do when my Father expects you to cruciate Granger at the second task, Harry? Are you going to be able to do it?

Seems odd that so much of his post is relevant to that very question.



alt_harry at **2012-01-03 19:28:31**
(no subject)

I remember that.

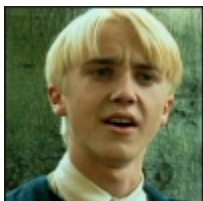
When we were six.


And you're right. It's not invented if someone has actually said that they'll do it and more.

I still feel like utter shit about having to do it, though.

And to have him say it like that doesn't make it any easier. I guess that's what I get, though. And yeah, you're right, I did write him. To see if he could see a way out. Or, you know, a way to fake it properly. And I guess this is his way of saying that I've got to do it, but there's no getting around that it's the wrong thing to do, no matter the reason.

Which sucks.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-03 19:45:57](#)
(no subject)

So you are still writing to him, then. And never thought about what it would mean for us if you got found out.

Of course he's going to say it's wrong; all he ever does is criticise everything without offering any real other options, without acknowledging the obvious downside to HIS way is that he's a bloody wanted criminal by MLE, who will kill him permanently the next time they see him.

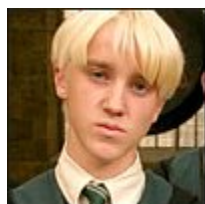



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-03 19:51:09](#)
(no subject)

I thought that if there was someone who would know how to fake it, it'd be him.

And I knew you wouldn't like it, but I was careful about it.

I know a lot of what he says isn't realistic or practical or anything, but I was hoping he'd... I dunno. Be more specific. Other than "change the world so that it won't have to happen." Because that's not going to happen before March.

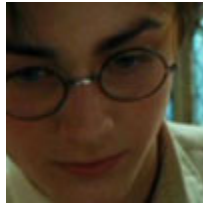


 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-03 20:05:19](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, careful.

Anyway, we should all probably talk about how to prepare. Granger knows that faking isn't an

option, right? And that you'll have to practise on animals, or something?



 **alt_harry** at [2012-01-03 20:22:13](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. She does.

We talked about it a little.

There's really no way around it. I've got to do the best I can. Rizzer says that it's mostly mental, like getting my mind to a place where I can really get behind it, not like I'm enjoying it, but like I want to do it for duty and responsibility and those sorts of reasons.

Which is sort of the opposite from the other advice that I got. Which is that I'm always supposed to know it's wrong and bad no matter what, and that I'm doing it for all the wrong reasons.

I really hate this.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-01-03 20:27:30](#)
(no subject)


You already talked about it? Without me?



 **alt_harry** at [2012-01-05 06:31:38](#)
(no subject)

Just a little. I thought she ought to know when it'd be. And that Rizzer thought I didn't have to practise on her.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-01-05 14:54:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see.

Look. I can't talk to you for a while. I need some space.

||||| If you want someone to talk to, then talk to your slave.

2012-01-03 10:01:00

Private message to Barnabas Bole

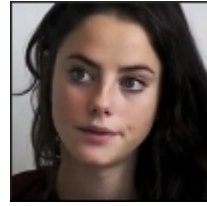
Barney,

Thank you for the roses.

I must admit I'm a little surprised, though. You seemed quite unhappy with me the other night, going by your choice of language. I was prepared for you to never speak to me again, and fully willing to accept that reality, to be honest.

Have you...had some kind of change of heart?

-Daphne

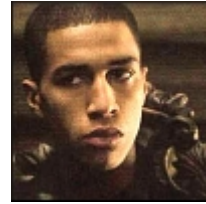


 **alt_daphne**

[2012-01-03 15:28:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I can't believe whoever that is thinks he's actually having an effect with those phony grim truth messages. Why doesn't he leave it alone?



 **[alt_blaise](#)**

If I were Harry, I'd be past furious, too--with that traitor calling him 'my godson' and not using his proper name. Does whoever it is think that's going to do anything but outrage everyone?

It's mad what he says, too. We're making real progress now, and it's down to strong leadership and good enforcement from MLE down to the citizen bands. *The Prophet* had a really excellent year-in-review on just those things over the weekend. Good bit about your father, too, along with Mr Yaxley and Mr Selwyn.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-04 02:05:56](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, I don't know, he'll probably inspire some poor fool who thinks he's nothing to lose to do something massively idiotic, which of course will get him either killed or landed in Azkaban.

I think it's safe to say Harry's definitely frustrated. But look, don't bring that "godson" rubbish up. It's better if he's not reminded.

Yeah, I read that piece - spot on, really. Everyone clever knows that the Protectorate is still a work in progress, but still a damn sight better than have to live in hiding and tip-toe around muggles and their destructive ways.



 **[alt_blaise](#) at [2012-01-04 04:05:04](#)**

(no subject)

I expect you're right and we'll read some ridiculous calamity in the papers spawned by this grim nonsense.

You won't hear me mentioning any of it.

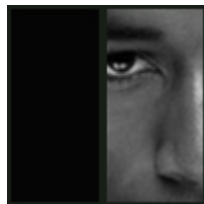
No doubt we're much better off now. No secrecy. No murderous, imbecile muggles running roughshod over everything and everyone and ruining England all ways at once. And what does Black want to see instead of the Protectorate? He wants to pull down society and leave everything a complete muddle. I mean if we're to think no one's better educated or qualified or positioned than anyone else, who would lead or keep things running properly? It would be terrible. That would be like setting the first-years up as Prefects and Head Students over the rest of us. Or putting a house elf in as Headmistress!



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-01-04 04:28:27](#)**
(no subject)

Too right.

And it's well known within my family that he couldn't stand authority of any kind - defied his parents any which way he could, and anyone else who put down rules in front of him. Thinks everyone else should fancy living in a world that's in sixes and sevens just because he does. No, thank you.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-04 15:03:48](#)**
(no subject)

That's one of the maddening things about Black, isn't it, that he was gone for so long hardly anyone actually knows anything about him. Just his cousins and maybe a few people who were at school with him.

So people out there have made him up to be a hero when he was nothing of the sort.

2012-01-03 21:21:00

Private Message to Neville

What did you make of today's Herbology lesson?

Some of those plants sounded right fiddly to keep alive.




 [alt_susan](#)

It's funny; I've always felt a bit guilty that I'm not more into Herbology, since Professor Sprout's my Head of House and all.

I've always been more of a Creatures girl, I guess.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-01-04 03:53:31**

(no subject)

I LOVED it. But I that's the kind of challenge I like: taking care of something that doesn't bite you (well, to be fair, except for venomous tentacula, I guess).

I must say that I preferred the way that Professor Brutka taught Care of Magical Creatures to the way Professor Grubbly-Plank does it...but I can hardly complain, since I REALLY prefer the way he teaches Transfiguration to the way Professor Carrow taught it. I'm so glad he's gone. Professor Carrow, I mean. I don't think I ever met anyone as him so badly suited to teaching. Or anything else to do with people, really.

One thing I learned about the Puffapods we were working with last week: they like really acid soil. I think the stuff she was handing last week didn't have quite the right pH.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-04 15:04:47**

(no subject)

See, I like the plants that keep you on your toes!

Yeah, the less said about Professor Carrow the better! I've gotten loads better at Transfig this year.

As far as Professor Grubbly-Plank, I think she just comes off a bit uptight because she's really knowledgeable but not used to having

loads of students around at once.

But then, she's...not my real great-aunt, exactly, but I think of her that way, so I know what she's like really.

Anyhow, I was going to ask if maybe you wouldn't mind giving me some pointers sometime?

We could go down to the greenhouses and work on our practical revising a bit.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-01-04 17:50:08](#)**
(no subject)

Sure. I have a lot of stuff I have to repot, anyway.
Say after classes this afternoon?

2012-01-03 21:25:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Well, now that the holidays are over it's back to the everyday. Pity it seems we are still to be treated to the rants of fools. Particularly when it leads to more idiocy, like that story in this evening's *Prophet*. And this practice of giving fieldhands privileges on Boxing Day only feeds the notion that they have rights. I'm sure that led in part to this evening's tragic report. Such a shame that two halfbloods lost their livelihoods in the ... disagreement. I've no doubt it will be quite a while before either finds paid work again.

But that is only to be expected, I suppose, when one follows bad advice.

Now, Aleta, never fear, I've no intention of missing the meeting next week. Or the ceremony itself; I'm entirely curious to know who has been selected to receive honours from the WI.

And Amanda, yes, dear, I'm sure we shall be quite comfortable tomorrow at Mellerstain. Thank you for offering it.

Oh, Rosa, before I forget: I'll be happy to come see you and Ewan, at my first opportunity. I'll have Mariposa get in touch with you. We are sorry to have missed the ceremony but the photos look most impressive.

I am also looking forward to this year's Frost Faire. This time of year shows New London in its glory and the Burdett-Couttses are sure to outdo themselves to put the landscape of the city (or should I say, 'Londinium?') to magnificent effect.

The other thing I look forward to, of course, is our next Sisters in Witchcraft meeting, which promises to be a very pleasant afternoon. Truly, these ladies have consistently shown that our realm continues to prosper and soon we shall realise the fruits of Our Lord's visionary plan for us all.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-01-04 03:33:11**

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

We missed you at Buckingham.

And I have missed you elsewhere.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2012-01-04 16:05:44**

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

I regretted having to pay my new year's homage at Buckingham separately this year; I have no complaints, however, as the reason for it--my current task--is specifically at Our Lord's direction. For that privilege I will forgo whatever I must.

I miss you, as well. The sensitive place just below your ear, for instance. I miss that.

Appreciated your gift, however. The field pack is already proving its usefulness; thank you. It was the one truly apt thing I received. You'll be amused by this: the Greengrass girl apparently sent me tickets for the summer Symphony season. Fortunately summer is a long season away.

So the Frost Faire will be Roman themed, as well? Did Burdett-Coutts consult with you on your party, or is he riding your cloak tails? I suppose the Faire will be another opportunity for my colleagues to jarvey my reputation. I'll be glad when the social season lapses back into hibernation.

I remember you in your fur cowl last February under the stars on the Thames. Vividly.

Be well, Narcissa.

2:46am

11:05am



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 18:29:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Funny, when I think of the parts I miss, your ears do not spring to mind.

Oh, but how sad to think you've only your little rucksack, the vermin and your memories to keep you warm, dear. And your fervent drive to succeed, of course. May one inquire as to whether your endeavours approach your ambitions, in that regard?

Best check the seating number on those tickets, Barty. Make sure they're nowhere near your usual box and that the young lady has not bought herself a seat adjacent. (And if so, I suggest you re-gift them to someone whose company would be more suitable. One of your ducklings, perhaps?) But really, it's almost touching how she dotes on you. Why in three years, it might even be appropriate.

Besides, you've never seemed the type to scold a witch for being too forward. And it's not as if she's unattractive. Only terribly young.

As to the Faire, indeed, Burdett-Coutts may have contributed more than one or two touches to the party. Something of a taster - and it seemed an excellent opportunity to see if the idea would be well-received. It certainly doesn't hurt to set the trend, particularly since then at no time can one be accused of missing the crest of the wave.

But surely whatever quarry you are running to ground will also wish to take in the sights and sample the wares at some point during the festival? If you were going to be - in the area, let us say - then some sort of meeting place might be arranged?

You're not cross, are you, that I refused before? You do know why, I hope?

Send me word by the usual method - it's time you posted openly, even if you'll need to borrow details from your reports. And tell me when and where.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-01-04 22:29:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

I'd worry if they did. Your ears are irresistible. Mine, not so much. (And you'll note I did not say that ears were the only bit I miss.)

The life of an Auror is full of trials. Also successes. However incremental they may be.

I've no intention of poaching underaged witches. I'm not sure she'd find any of the ducklings a sufficient replacement, though.

It's possible re. the Faire. I doubt there would be much advance warning, and I wonder if you would find my current disguise disturbing. Or do you have a hidden wish to experience the uncanny thrill of a polyjuice amour? (Raz's present was a token for Pseudonymity; we could go together, if that appeals. No need to decide now; I won't be free to indulge until this task has finished.)

Not cross. Will admit to disappointment.

Agreed. When I'm able.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 18:29:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

And what is that numbering system, may one ask?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-01-04 22:34:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

A subterfuge.

I thought you knew. It's a delaying charm. Allows me to post late when I'm at liberty, and have it appear at whatever time I specify.

It's rare that I can simply reply as messages appear now. And advantageous to be seen as replying when I am, in fact, otherwise engaged on this end.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-05 04:58:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Convenient. One can think of a number of useful applications.

You'll have to show me how to use it. When you're able.



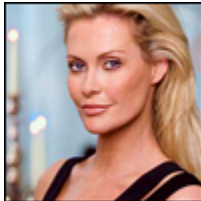
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 03:43:15](#)

(no subject)

Hello, Aunt Narcissa,

I always like looking at the photographs of the Frost Faire, it must be especially magical in person. I wish that they did something like that in Hogsmeade, only smaller in scale, of course. After the holidays are over it's hard to feel very excited about Scotland's dark days and cold weather, but having a Frost Faire would make it ever so much more jolly.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 03:49:30](#)

(no subject)

Oh, I should think you've had enough of snow monsters and snowball fights and sledding down the hill to last you until spring.

Besides, I hear your Arithmancy ought to be taking up quite a lot of your time, in which case a warm fire and an open book would more than make up for the dark and cold out of doors, wouldn't it?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 03:53:21](#)

(no subject)

But I haven't been ice-skating, and that's my favourite.

I'm going to be working with an arithmancy study group now, yes, so that will take up a lot of time. But it probably

needs to, so that's alright.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2012-01-04 03:56:45](#)**
(no subject)

I've always loved skating, as well, but you know the lake never really freezes over enough to use for skating.

You sound less than enthusiastic about studying, dear. Is Arithmancy really that difficult for you?



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-01-04 04:01:01](#)**
Private message to Aunt Narcissa


I know. We're not allowed to skate on the lake, don't worry.

I feel like I'm studying an awful lot already, and my work is only average at best. Maths give me trouble, I think. But of course I'm going to keep working hard and trying to do better.

Auntie, did Mummy talk to you recently? About me, I mean.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2012-01-04 04:08:10](#)**
Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

I know you know, it's just a pity there's no smaller pond or anything you could use to keep up a proper practice.

And I know Arithmancy is not the most enticing subject. I can understand why your parents insisted, however. Perhaps you're trying too hard? Sometimes it's best to let it wash over you and eventually it simply makes sense. And if not, it's not too late to change it for another subject, surely.

Your mother? We talked at New Year's, dear, but only about the usual things. Did you have a specific topic in mind?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 04:21:43](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Letting it just wash over me sounds risky, and I'm sure I wouldn't be allowed to change it for another subject. So I suppose I'll just keep studying.

Oh. No, I just thought she might have spoken to you about this summer, since she already mentioned it to me.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 04:26:59](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Perhaps not - but perhaps one of your other subjects? Not that your marks truly matter all that much.

This summer? You mean qualifying for the CCF? No, it didn't come up. We talked a bit about the Yule Ball but only because it made her suddenly crave a breath of fresh air.

I take it she's concerning herself with your preparations, then? Has she given you exercises to do, or asked you to work with your Uncle Raz?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 04:32:13](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

~~They matter to her~~

Well, she did mention CCF, but not preparing for it. She wants me pulled from consideration and to stay with you this summer, instead.

I suppose I thought she must have already discussed it with

you.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 04:34:50](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Pulled?

How intriguing. And what reason did she give, pray tell?

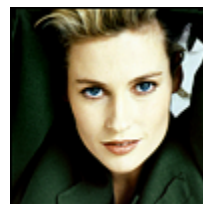


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 04:43:55](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

She said that CCF won't be necessary for someone on my trajectory, and that you can teach me far more of what I need to know. Not that I wouldn't mind being taught by you, but I always thought CCF would be important, too.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 04:46:08](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Really? Your 'trajectory'?

I wasn't aware that you were a curse to be flung from wandpoint.

Have you decided on a career path, then? And do you think CCF will be important for it?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-04 04:50:30](#)

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

In my first year I said I wanted to be an Auror, because I thought it would make people happy. But I don't really want to be an Auror, and people say I'm not cut out for it besides.

So, now I suppose I want to be a wife, and do important society things.

...and maybe something with runes, too? ~~or~~ animals

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-01-04 04:54:23

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Hydra. Dear.

I am not asking you what you think your mother wants you to do.

Are you saying you want to be a wife and socialite because you think it will make 'people' happy?

Or are you saying it because that's really what you want out of your life?

Truth, now. Tell Auntie Narcissa what you want to do this summer.



 [alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-04 04:58:52

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

I do want to be a wife, I think. I don't know about being a socialite, I don't know what it's like. If I knew more then maybe I could say.

I'd like to do CCF this summer, if I make the cut, but still spend time with you, too, if your schedule permits.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-01-04 05:04:09**

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Well.

Then I think you should go right on planning to try for the CCF.

And of course we'll be able to find some time together, if you like. I'd like that, as well.

As for the rest - let that develop as it develops. Being a wife does not mean you can have no other pursuits, either, so working with other disciplines like runes is still a strong possibility, if it holds your interest.

Now, if your mother asks you about talking to me, dear, we talked about the Frost Faire and skating and revising for Arithmancy. And nothing else. Agreed?



 **alt_hydra** at **2012-01-04 05:07:39**

Re: Private message to Aunt Narcissa

Thank you, Auntie.

Frost Faire and skating - Agreed!

Oh, and arithmancy, too.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-04 15:20:34**

(no subject)

Narcissa -

It does seem like an unusually abrupt shift this year for some reason - surely the timing, with the New Year followed so promptly by the start of classes here.

I admit, though, I do find it remarkably soothing to be back in my usual schedule, and settling down to finalise the details for the next

YPL event now that everyone needed is back at their desks. And of course, I know that the young women of the Sisters in Witchcraft are looking forward to their next meeting.

I've even found a few minutes here and there for reading - the latest in the Time-Turner series, *Time's Masque* really was quite fun, thank you, and Venice was quite the evocative setting.

One of my sisters had also passed along a magical history of the city, and it's been nice to dive into the details after getting a taste for it from the fiction. (That's *Winged Lion*, by Huthbert Copley, if you're interested: just came out.)



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-01-04 16:00:51**
(no subject)

I expect you're right: Usually there are a few more days' rest between New Year's Eve and the plunge back to the routine. It's odd when both holiday evenings fall on Saturdays, as well; it sets the schedule in disarray from the very start. But I agree that it's relaxing, in its own way, not to rush quite so quickly from one engagement to the next and have the occasional evening free again.

I should be very interested in the book, once you've finished. We met Copley and his wife at Charles's holiday party (being in publishing, his is always one of the more interesting fetes we attend of the season) and I spent a lovely twenty minutes recalling the city with him. Had you ever been, before the borders were sealed? One of the only drawbacks to our glorious realm is the necessity to protect its citizens from the outside world; we did so enjoy our diplomatic mission to France and I wished there had been more time to show Draco more of the continent. Of course, I share my husband's hope that events such as the Tri-Wizard Tournament and our continuing, strengthening relations with neighbour countries will enable us, soon, to relax some of the restrictions on travel, so that worthy individuals may take in the delights of other nations, while still resting secure in the knowledge that their home awaits in peace and tranquility.

Though I must admit that, on the whole, I should rather live in England than any other place, even if there were never any possibility of leaving it again.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-04 16:21:30](#)**
(no subject)

I quite agree that it's nice to not rush so much, though of course, all my evenings seem to be quite booked regardless. Albeit with marking and research, as well as the teaching.

How lovely to have the chance for an extended conversation with Mister Copley and his wife. (One of my younger sisters is a junior editor with that house, and did some copy-editing work on it, which is why she thought I'd find it particularly intriguing.)

As to travel: I did have the chance to visit Tuscany and Rome with my mother briefly one summer during my school years - part of a conference about food cultures she was at, and really delightful. But we didn't make it so far north as Venice, and that's the only time I've travelled away from home.

I do quite agree that it would be wonderful if the success of the Tri-Wizard Tournament and stronger relations opened up some of those options again. Certainly, I've found it fascinating to talk with various members of the delegations here about approaches to teaching and learning, and different wizarding cultures.

I've certainly wondered about travel, of course. And especially since, in my specialty, there are constellations that are only visible much further south. But at the same time, there's so much still to learn about what I can see and research here that I have no shortage of wonderful things to keep me occupied.

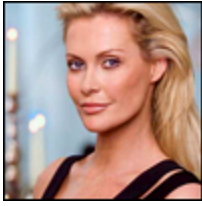
And I can't imagine actually living anywhere else for any length of time, of course.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2012-01-04 15:23:15](#)**
(no subject)

Now, then, darling, bread and circuses have their uses. Though you are quite right about the futility of indulging the throng too much.

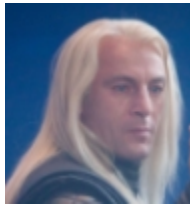
Speaking of indulgence, Ms Poddington says you've rescheduled your day of pampering? Did I have it wrong in the calendar?




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 15:26:19](#)
(no subject)

No, it would have been today but the ladies were already scheduled. Besides, I thought I'd give Razzer's gift a try, though it's a fair guess whether Bella can be convinced to join me (I think that was his idea - a sisters' day out, as it were).

Why, were you looking for me, husband?




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-01-04 16:07:38](#)
Private Message to Narcissa

I had a free hour or two and thought we might revisit our activity from last night.

But if you are busy, then shall I assume you are no longer looking to vent your frustrations with your sister? Or do you intend to make them the subject of discussion at your hen party?




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 16:14:18](#)
Re: Private Message to Narcissa

No, but if you'll be home this evening I see no reason not to resume.

But preferably without the discussion. This is exactly why I did not wish to talk about it. You do try to 'fix' what cannot be repaired, my love. I appreciate it but in this case you are fighting a lose cause, I fear.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-01-04 16:37:34](#)
Re: Private Message to Narcissa

In that case, I shall be sure to come home.

Dearest, I don't mean to vex you, but you must admit that your perspective on Bellatrix is ... biased. As is your perspective on your niece. It is up to you to proceed in the manner you see fit, of course. Merely at least consider the notion that the girl is quite masterful at manipulating you, Razzer, Rod - nearly anyone about her - into

interceding on her behalf, especially when it comes to Bella.

If what you desire is for Bellatrix to let Hydra choose her own path, then soon or late, Hydra must show her mettle to Bella, directly. You know as well as I that it shan't change Bella's manner toward her but it may at least prove that her daughter is not as meek and mild as she seems. Then and only then is Bella likely to capitulate - and certainly not while she perceives that there exists a continual dialogue among the three of you behind her back.

I should have thought you knew your sister well enough to understand that.

And whether you accept it as a deliberate action on her part or not, you have once again allowed yourself to stand between Hydra and her mother.

Now, you may choose to grow cross with me again for pointing it out, which is your prerogative, of course. However, if you wish Bella's behaviour to change, it would perhaps be prudent to examine how your own actions and those of Hydra's contribute to Bella's frustration and, dare one say it, feeling of persecution.

Kindly note that I am not endorsing her over you; only observing that she is not wholly without reason to complain.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-04 17:04:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa

Your opinions are duly noted, thank you.

Do you honestly think I don't want Hydra to stand up for herself? Of course I do. You know as well as I that Bella will react no better to that than any other intervention and possibly a good deal worse.

Yes, I can see what you are saying and it would be reasonable if we were discussing a reasonable person. My sister is anything but.

Currently, the task at hand is to grow Hydra's own confidence so that when she does show her mettle, as you say, there will be some backbone behind her protestations.

At any rate. I should be home from your sister's by four. We can presumably find a more pleasant topic of discussion over supper.

[2012-01-03 21:52:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Pansy Parkinson



Hey.


I've been thinking about what I told you about my dad.

 [alt_ron](#)

And about what Mr Black said. I read it again. And y'know, I don't know what to think now, exactly. Y'know, about my dad. Because, yeah. I think he does what Mr Black says, y'know? Justifying stuff he does. For his job. He does all that stuff to keep the camps in control because he thinks- no, really, he knows that the other people who work there, especially the people who work above him, but y'know, some of the others who want to move up higher, they'd do worse things if he weren't there. If they did his job, they'd be loads meaner than he is. But see, he can't stop what the rest of them do. And sometimes he even has to do things that make him sick. I mean, sometimes you can just tell when he comes home that he's sick about what he's had to do. Or if you can't tell from him, you can tell by the way mum acts and what she says to him.

So, yeah. Does that mean Mr Black would think my dad is horrible because he does what he does? Because, it's just like what he says about people in the middle: they do it because they're afraid their kids will get hurt or they'll get arrested and their families will get reclassified or worse.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2012-01-05 03:51:59](#)**
(no subject)

I think there's a difference, though. Because from what you've said, he wants to *help*, which is not the same at all as thinking that hurting someone a little is easier on them than someone else hurting them worse. And it's not like he could change the fact that there are camps or anything, not by himself, but he could make sure that he does all he can to keep people there as safe as he could.

I think he's there because he believes that he's helping. Because if he didn't, he'd get another job, wouldn't he? One where he didn't have to do those things? So that makes him brave. Not afraid.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-05 04:17:00](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

I mean, I'm glad it seems like that to you, because that's what I always thought. Only, I don't know some of what HE wrote got it all twisted around for me.

Thanks for saying.

And, well, thanks.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-05 06:27:50](#)**
(no subject)

Don't worry, it gets twisted around for me too.

I think he likes being hard to understand. Because it makes him more mysterious or something.

2012-01-04 15:10:00

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Rod, I'm sorry. I've had news to report. I've been away with Wright since Sunday, and I've just arrived home to find that Orion sacked two of our three domestics Monday morning. Sent them back to the service and demanded replacements.



 [alt_lana](#)

He claims one of them had got herself pregnant, which is news to me, though she was indolent. (O says 'lethargic' and claims she was sicking up this weekend for no reason and complaining of being sensitive to commonplace odours, so he might be right.) The other one was allergic to something; he'd started coming out in hives every afternoon, which was making him basically useless, and I suppose Orion had simply had enough.

Honestly, if he was going to send some of them back, I don't know why he didn't send the whole lot. The one he kept has always been a clumsy bint, but that's no excuse for the half dozen glasses and four holiday platters she's chipped, dropped, or shattered in the past fortnight. (Not to mention that, while dusting, the chit smashed Orion's Merwyn Finwick figurine beyond repair. I kept that from him for fear he'd do something rash--like sack her and ruin the experiment, but I suppose the greater mistake was not telling him anything at all about it.)

This scrubs the whole trial, doesn't it? I'm so sorry. Really and truly.

And to think it was showing results, but with only two weeks, I don't know how much you can draw from it.

I do have notes for the days I was here to observe--took down everything that might have been symptomatic. I tried to be comprehensive, but in some cases it was impossible to tell whether something was merely incidental--or simply inherent to the defects of character or constitution of the cogs. The list includes dizziness, nose bleeds, trembling, forgetfulness, and irritability. I used a temperature charm in the sleeping quarters and observed other physical signs (pupil dilation, skin blotching, tics and twitches, etc.) as they were apparent to me. I could bring you the log tonight, if you've time. I apologise if some of it is irrelevant, but I still think it made sense for you not skew my perceptions with information about which phenomena you were expecting to elicit from the subjects.

We could start again with the new cogs. If you're not simply disgusted with the way I've wasted your time already.



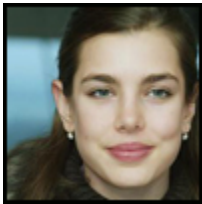
 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-01-05 03:19:07](#)**
(no subject)


Lana - you've not wasted my time. Far from it.

Symptoms are more or less in line with what I anticipated. Manifestation a bit quick, but then the sample I gave you was constructed for fast response. Time is somewhat limited, but you have indeed followed through in verifying results as expected.

I'm only sorry that it inconvenienced you and Orion to the extent that you had to replace your staff.

Please, do bring by the log. I'll be up for some time yet.




 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2012-01-05 03:53:08](#)**
(no subject)

Shall I keep the clock here and see what happens with this new bunch? Or would you like to modify it and make a fresh trial?

I'm on my way with the log. We can discuss the rest when I get there.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-01-05 03:56:11](#)**
(no subject)

~~I don't think that will~~ Actually, it might be helpful. I shouldn't like you to be further inconvenienced by an incompetent staff, however, so give it some thought before you agree.

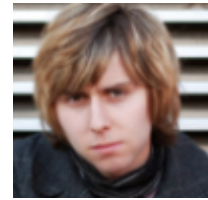
Good. Looking forward to it, as always.

2012-01-04 21:27:00

Enfin, Mes Amis...

Well.

It's no surprise that a few people have had one or two choice things to say about that tripe that appeared on the first night of term.



 [alt_justin](#)

I'm not sure who he thinks he's defending, what, or where he's getting his information, but the effort's unnecessary and moreover, well unappreciated.

Meanwhile, I should only like to say that I've had nothing but good experiences with Hogwarts' students thus far and I hope to continue this term. I've quite enjoyed getting to know so many people here and seeing what the Protectorate values in its students. The Tri-Wizard activities have been well excellent, particularly the Yule Ball, and I look forward to trying the YPL challenge coming up at the end of the month.

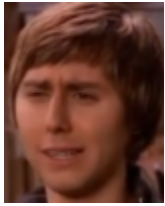
As for the rumours about my troubles with Beauxbatons' students, I mean to say, it's been nothing more than anyone might expect when lads have a few laughs together. I'm sure everyone here has exchanged a few good-natured hexes now and then; mishaps happen, of course, but generally everyone knows there's no harm done. If I had wished to take the offensive, believe me, I should have done long before the 23rd. I simply found no reason to take such a decision. I'm well sorry, in fact, that M Toubon let his wand run away with him and tried a spell before realising what effect it would have, what? And I was put right quickly enough by the excellent skills of your Madame Pomfrey - so again, no lasting harm.

I don't know whether Madame Maxime will decide in favour of his expulsion but I'm sure she'll take into account what a wizard of his age and experience ought to have known and decide for the best.

But it ought to be said that the so-called Grim Truth only got one thing right, at least as it applies to me: I have been fortunate to make some very good friends.

Humbly,

-Justin Finch-Fletchley



 **alt_justin** at [2012-01-05 02:55:16](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Possibly I ought to have let well enough alone, what? But I've already grown tired of being looked at like some pansy nancy who couldn't raise a wand in his own defence.

Besides, I think, like Sally-Anne said, I've every intention to keep writing out in the open, as much as possible.

I hope he understands that I don't mean all of it (though I did mean the part about not needing to defend me!). Why does no one in this place understand *choosing* not to bother fighting two arrogant bastards when there are more important things to do?

-Justin



 **alt_ron** at [2012-01-05 03:37:24](#)

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

Well. I understand having to choose how to stand up for yourself and when. And sometimes when I've got crossways with people who think they can do anything they please because of who they are, that's made my friends here really nervous because bad things could happen, and not just to me, but to them. I mean, not really bad things, but it could get hot for a while.

I think some of the people here on the lock definitely see that your way. More than I do, really. For myself, anywiz. But I'll let them tell you.



 **alt_justin** at [2012-01-05 03:02:21](#)

Private Message to Dux

Hello.

Sorry about the other night, what? I really had no idea you were trying to write to me. But now I shall know if you use it again. It's a good idea, though, to come up with something less obvious. Perhaps you ought to call me 'Effs' in a comment or post once or twice, just for good measure?

But it sounds like you got a new Arithmancy partner out of it, at any rate!

-Justin'Effs'



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-05 03:31:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

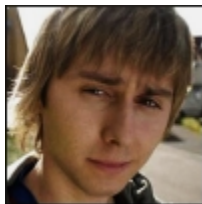
Hello, Effs. Heh.

I think I've finally convinced Effy Stevens that I'm not planning to kill her with Dark Arts, because she did agree to show up at our next study group meeting.

I'm not going to say anything about how you're making light of what Henri Toubon did, because I think I know why you're doing it. I'll only say that I still don't feel sorry for him, not one bit.

But I am a little surprised that you... you seem cross at somebody, somebody who I didn't think you were typically cross at, as a general rule. Or was I wrong about that?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-05 03:49:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

Hello, Dux.

Perhaps if she gets to know you she'll realise that you're an entirely different type of scary.

I never said he didn't go too far, Dux, but I meant it when I said that the rest of it wasn't anything I couldn't handle. Would I have preferred they left off? Of course. But it certainly wasn't more than a nuisance, compared to other things, what? I also hope most people realise that I think he does deserve expulsion. But I don't feel sorry for him being punished, I suppose, so much as I feel sorry that he couldn't stop himself.

And...I am a little bit cross. Because it was bad enough when it

happened but all yesterday and today it's seemed like people are giving me a well piteous look and--dash it all, there's more to being a wizard than killing people with Dark Arts, isn't there?

Sorry. I oughtn't to be whinging. It's fine. I'm fine.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-05 04:06:04**

Re: Private Message to Dux

What kind of scary am I, then?

Toubon...it almost sounds like you pity him.

You - You're not like anyone I've ever met, you know.

People always tell me I'm soft, and make it sound like it's the worst thing I could possibly be. I used to think they might be right, but I don't really, anymore.

So yes, there is more to being a wizard than that, but being strong, being ferocious, is something to be prized. Here, I mean.

I don't know why anyone's surprised that bullying's a bit of a problem this year.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-01-05 04:29:14**

Re: Private Message to Dux

You? You're scary-sweet, for one thing. And you're well fierce when you're casting. In Hogsmeade you had this...*look*, when you hexed Coty. Like you were going to go right through him. I think if you ever let yourself get proper cross you'd be well hard to beat.

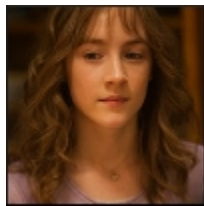
I suppose I do pity him. I pity that he couldn't think of anything other than to push further and further and he got himself into such a fix, what? If he's expelled, his career will be over before

it's begun. It's...wasteful, I guess. If magic is a gift then I think we're obligated to make the most of our talents and he's thrown it away. For what? To hurt me? That's so...small. So yes. It's a shame, even if he was a right berk.

I'm not? Well, you're not like anyone I've ever met, either. And you're not soft, you're...sensitive. Kind. Unassuming. Besides, you've got your own sort of strength--strength of endurance, what? Everything you've already been through, most people would have already gone mad. But you're not mad, you're...you're well remarkable. And well cute, have I mentioned?

If that's not something to be prized well, I don't know what is.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-05 04:49:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

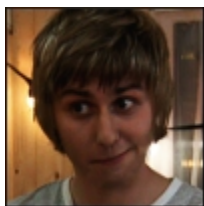
That does sound scary. I'm not cross very often, though, so it's probably not a look you'll see again anytime soon. I don't want to be like

I think I see what you mean. It's a pity that he cared so much about someone who barely could be bothered to think about him, or to even raise his wand. He really must not have thought much of himself at all.

I never thought of it like that. Strength of endurance, I mean. I've never heard it... put like that.

And yes, you have mentioned. But I don't mind!

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-05 04:53:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

Well, that's all right. It's not my favourite of your looks.

The one I like best is when you crinkle your

nose, as if someone's just told you the most ridiculous thing you've ever heard.

I bet you're wearing it now, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-05 04:58:23](#)

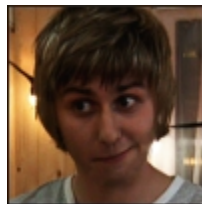
Re: Private Message to Dux

My nose doesn't do that, you're imagining things!

It sounds like something Tevis would do, though, so I will learn to accept it.

Oh, I should sleep, it's late. Good night, *Effs*. See you at breakfast!

From,
Hydra



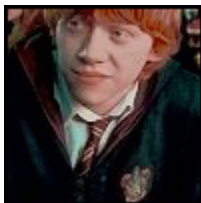
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-05 05:01:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

It does, too, and yes, you look very like a rabbit when you do it! I shall hold up a mirror sometime after I've told you a joke.

Sweet dreams, Dux.

-Effs



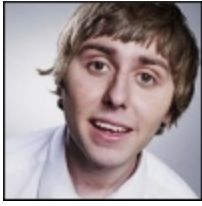
 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-05 03:21:52](#)

(no subject)

I'm glad you're back in good form. Glad you're here, too.

Maybe we could get together again for a games night soon.

Only, not in the hospital wing, yeah?



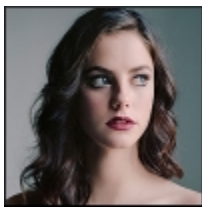
 **alt_justin** at [2012-01-05 03:37:15](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Ron,

Cheers, yes. The games were well fun.

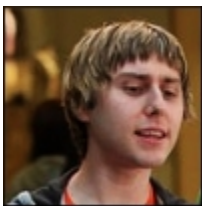
And no, as skilled as Matron is in Healing, I hope not to see her ward anytime soon, what?

-Justin



 **alt_daphne** at [2012-01-05 03:41:32](#)
(no subject)

I'm so sorry that that...imposter, person.. well, I'm so sorry that your recent encounters with your school-mates were brought up in such a public fashion, and by a stranger, at that. It must feel like a terrible violation of sorts. ~~I can't even imagine what Harry.~~ Do believe me when I say that no one I know would ever measure you based on anything THAT person says.



 **alt_justin** at [2012-01-05 04:37:15](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Daphne. I don't like to let the likes of him get to me, especially when so many others have tried and failed. But I understand that one of Black's talents was vexing people, what, so perhaps whomever is writing in his name decided to emulate that particular quality.

For the most part, though, I couldn't simply let his accusations stand, what? All that bally old rubbish about the poor English boy-- it's well laughable. This is merely by way of setting the record straight, if you follow me.

But I'm glad to hear that his comments weren't given much merit.

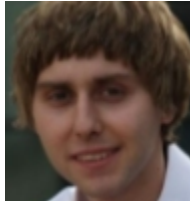
Cheers,

-Justin



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-05 04:50:40](#)
(no subject)

What Daphs said. No one who's anyone pays those posts any mind!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-05 04:54:19](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Padma. Thank you for saying it.

-Justin



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-05 05:57:10](#)
(no subject)

I didn't read it. Loads of us don't, I'm sure.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-05 16:00:15](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Miss Jones,

I say, good to know! One never can tell, can one, because loads of people say they don't read those bally old things, but then somehow they still seem to know all about what's in them.

So good on you, rather!

-Justin F-F



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-05 16:59:17](#)
(no subject)

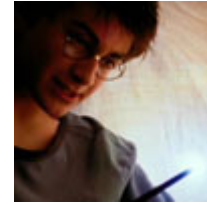
Why hello Mr Finch-Fletchley,

People will talk, you know. That's how I know what it was about.

It's nice when doing what's right is so *easy*. If only there was more not doing things in our classes.

[2012-01-05 10:12:00](#)

Private Message to Hermione Granger



Okay.

Why is Draco so hacked off?

And I just know he'll see this and go, "Oh, that figures, he's talking to her again without me," but it he asked for it, and it wasn't that big of a deal, was it? I thought you'd like

 [alt_harry](#)

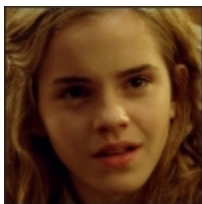
you know

a little bit of privacy because it's something we have to sort out together.

Not like asking Draco to be a part of it would be bad, but you know, I wanted you to be able to say anything you wanted. I didn't think it'd be that important to him.

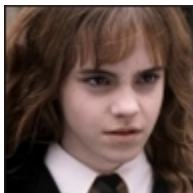
And we were all talking about it together on that thing he wrote about his dad any ways so it's not like I was cutting him out on information or something. So what got his wand stuck up his arse? I'm doing EVERYTHING he's suggested, I've been TRYING to take his advice, but that must not be good enough.

Because apparently, I can't do anything right. Ever. For anybody.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-01-05 20:05:27](#)
(no subject)

Harry, he's upset with you because he's feeling LEFT OUT. Honestly.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-01-05 20:05:56](#)
(no subject)

He's also probably worried you're going to have to cruciate him next.

I would be.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-05 20:37:29](#)
(no subject)

That's

If I did, it wouldn't be because I WANTED to.

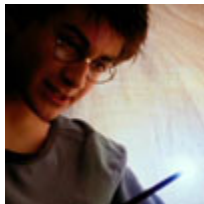
It'd be because someone else told me to.

And you'd better believe I'd talk to him about it. If it came to that. Which it won't because I'm not going to get either of you in trouble like that again, and he knows I've been trying to turn things around.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-01-05 20:40:21](#)
(no subject)

I know, but it doesn't matter if you want to or not when we're talking about the CRUCIATUS CURSE Harry, and he just wants to know that he's still your best friend no matter what, because you spend so much time with other people than him, especially me.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-05 21:11:35](#)
(no subject)

Considering all the time he's been spending with Parkinson lately, I think that's hardly

He's already done

Okay.

I can see how he'd get touchy.

I guess.

But I'm getting shite from you-know-who, and now Draco's off sulking and not talking to me and it's all because I have to do something I don't even want to do in the first place and I don't have any control over at all. Even though it's wrong.

2012-01-05 12:01:00

*Private Message to Miss Estella
Penworthy*



Ma'am,

I got your owl this morning, I ~~was expecting it weeks ago~~ and I just got out of class so this is the first chance I've had to write you.

 [alt_megan](#)

I'm so very sorry, I truly didn't try to get into that article about Sally-Anne and Victor Krum. I didn't even see them taking pictures, but I knew as soon as I saw it that you wouldn't like it. I can imagine exactly how terrible it must have been to see your own foster-child held up as a model of how some foster parents neglect their children and leave them to be dressed by the school. I would have done anything to keep it from happening, if only I'd known.

But I know that you meant to alter my old dress robes that I used to wear to your parties, and I'm sure your friends know. ~~And even in school robes it was a rather good picture, wasn't it?~~ If it's not too forward of me to say, I get tears in my eyes thinking of how you care for me. One article doesn't change anything, and you mustn't think it. Please don't worry, and don't be angry.

The boy in question is Wayne Hopkins, and he was very polite. Doesn't he look polite? Please don't worry, it was only a date for the ball. I wouldn't think of actually dating without talking to you. I'm not thinking about actually dating at all! I know how much you care, and how much you worry.

In the future, I promise I'll be more careful.

I am ever your most grateful foster-daughter,
Megan

[2012-01-06 12:51:00](#)

(no subject)

Staying at Hogwarts during Christmas hols makes it seem both like Christmas went by far too fast (because we never left!) and that next term can't come soon enough (because it's odd to be at school and not at classes). I think we were running out of things to do, honestly. I'm sure the Prefects were nearly driven spare, as we all tend to invent things to do when bored. I know I've thoroughly *devoured* the books I got for Christmas already, and am almost looking forward to writing essays for a change.



 **[alt_pansy](#)**

It has been fun getting to know our guests from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang a bit better, though, and I've learned a few key things during our holiday. First, always have at least one person from Durmstrang on your side in a snowball fight. They have excellent aim, and know all sorts of great warming charms. Second, having native French speakers to talk to is an excellent way to learn all sorts of turns-of-phrase that one would never pick up in a formal tutoring session. I'm sure I'm nowhere near as proficient as some in my House, but it's been fun to practise, and the students from Beauxbatons that I've chatted with have been ever so gracious with my fumbling attempts to properly conjugate verbs.

Oh, and Mother, the formal photograph of Ewan looks really sweet. His fingers are so small! His hair looks like yours, and his chin is definitely from Prospero. I've cut the picture from the paper and have pasted it to the wall, but I'd love a copy of the photograph if you could send it along.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-06 18:08:36](#)**

Private Message to Draco

Draco; I was going to go for a bit of a walk after dinner tonight, if you're in the mood. The sunsets have been really pretty lately, and the common room can get so crowded sometimes.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-06 22:48:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Count me in.

What do you think about the Ravenclaw/
Beauxbatons get together? Want to make a showing,
or would you rather do something else?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-06 23:26:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

It does sound like it'd be fun to poke our heads in if
you're feeling up for a bit of socialising, but we
don't have to linger.

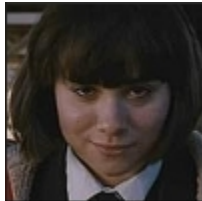


 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-06 23:32:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

We'll "make an appearance," as my parents say.

Heading down for supper now. Can I walk you
from the common room?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-06 23:54:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Please!

[2012-01-06 12:52:00](#)

I've been getting to know

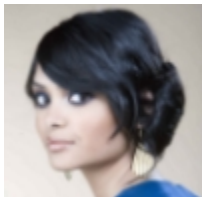
some of the girls from Beauxbatons a little - Helene and Claudine and Margaux - and we've decided that while we're glad to be back in lessons, we're not quite ready for hols to be over yet.



 **[alt_padma](#)**

So for anyone who's interested, Ravenclaw and Beauxbatons are hosting a get-together tonight up in the large classroom where we held rehearsals for the play last year. Margaux's got music she brought from home and we're cadging together nibbles from holiday and Christmas parcels - but we'd not say no to any other contributions!

And don't forget that History Club still meets on Wednesdays and there's also a new group getting together for Runes every other Thursday.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-06 19:28:16](#)**

Private Message to Lana Sandoval

I wanted to thank you again for the Turkish Delights. It's so nice of you to remember I liked them so much.

It's too bad they didn't do a 'Best' and 'Worst' dressed for the adults who attended the ball, though; I'm sure you and Mrs Malfoy would have been in the top. It must be ever so exciting to be properly out in society now and go to all the best parties. *Dish!* says you and Orion held something of your own too and that it was really elegant. Well, of course it would be, but it's amazing to think that just a few years ago you were a student just like us and now you're hosting your own salons and you're going to be married and I'm sure you're still tops in your cohort and it's just so inspiring, Lana, really.

Are you going to the Frost Faire this year again? Everyone says it's going to be amazing. It'll be nift to see the pictures even if we've got ages now before we've got any more time off lessons.

Have you and Ned set a date yet? It's got to be well nerve-wracking, trying to juggle wedding plans and Auror training and everything else. I can imagine you might want to finish up training before you even think about the wedding - but then again you might be so happy

about it that you can't wait to work out all the details!

Well, I hope you write soon about everything you're doing. It's always so good to see you doing Ravenclaw proud!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2012-01-07 20:02:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Lana Sandoval

Cheers, Patil. I'm glad you liked the sweets. I thought the tins this year were especially nice, though I tried one during the hols and wondered if Uncle Eduardo had ordered them in from a different maker this year. Did you like them as well? I thought it a bit too gooey, but I may just have outgrown my taste for the stuff.

I did like my robes for the ball. And thought our old school did itself proud, hosting that event. It was every bit as well staged as this year's St Mungo's gala. Are you fourth or fifth year now? Only, I was thinking that your time is coming up to be tapped for the St M's auxiliary! Not 'til sixth year, though.

The Frost Faire looks to be well amazing this year, if the mags can be believed. Did you read Witch Weekly's interview with Nicola Burdett-Coutts? She and Gabriel have worked all year planning how to recreate Londinium. I think it's going to be utterly amazing.

Ned and I are thinking it might be best if we waited for the end of the summer--for a number of reasons, really, but one of those is my programme's schedule. When we decide the date, Papa intends to give a proper engagement party to announce it, so you'll read about it when that happens.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-06 22:59:23](#)

(no subject)

Sounds just brilliant, Padma - Barney and I will definitely be in attendance. I'll also bring along some special treats to share.

See you soon!

2012-01-06 14:30:00

Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Hermione



Hermione,

Tell him I got his owl, will you? And I'll write back to him soon.

 [alt_sirius](#)

Tell him it's not as bleak as he thinks it is, okay?



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2012-01-06 21:12:55**
(no subject)

Okay.

2012-01-06 22:24:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus

How's the trade tonight? Doing all right alone?


If you need an extra pair of hands, Mac seems to be settled in fine and said he'd not mind if I came to help. Now that we've a live boomslang, I could take polyjuice and come as Dora for a while.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Maybe it'd be better to have someone around to, er, keep you calmer?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-07 03:34:06](#)

(no subject)

I'M FINE.

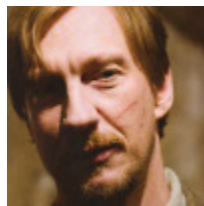


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-07 03:36:27](#)

(no subject)

And that, love, is exactly why you probably need someone else there.

Or do you plan on running off another paying customer, like yesterday?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-07 03:38:21](#)

(no subject)

I didn't run him off. I just told him he needed to watch where he was swinging his walking stick and a few minutes later he left.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-07 04:00:20](#)

(no subject)

Right.

Just like you were perfectly calm last night when you were looking for your cardigan? And how you had nothing but sweet words this afternoon when you realised

your goblet hadn't been washed from the last dose of potion.

Bloody Erebus, Moony.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-07 04:02:25](#)
(no subject)

Someone had moved my cardigan! It was possible I hadn't left it on the chair where I thought but there is NO CHANCE I had hung it up on that hook -- for one thing, it got pulled all out of

shape.

I may have overreacted a bit about the goblet.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-07 04:10:09](#)
(no subject)

Have you read what you just wrote? Since when do you care about whether your clothes get pulled out of shape!

And Bea's rattle? Was *that* an overreaction as well?

Just admit that you've been on edge, will you? And consider it as you're dealing with people tonight. We can't afford to ruin our reputation as a welcoming place.

If you need unwinding, we can work on that as well.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-07 04:13:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, the sweater has a little hole in the knit from where it hung on the hook, is what I mean.

I don't know why you and Dora both got so hacked off because I was annoyed at MYSELF for stepping on the rattle. It's not as if I was yelling at either of YOU.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-01-07 04:17:33](#)
(no subject)


Mm-hmm.

'What in Merlin's name was it doing in the middle of the floor?! Why didn't anyone pick it up? Can no one in this household put *anything* away properly?'

Yes, you were clearly annoyed at YOURSELF.

Why don't you open one of the bars of chocolate? I'll come through and you can take a break.



 **alt_lupin** at [2012-01-07 04:18:56](#)
(no subject)

All right, fine, since you're so insistent.

2012-01-07 11:21:00

Private Message to Alberto and Luisa Sandoval



 [alt_lana](#)

Surely it would be nicer to have owls from us than little notes hidden in here amongst all the tonterías of the ignorantes, no? But I will write this here, Abuelita, since you were so gracious about Honoria's silly gift to you. Does your new cover really tell you as soon as one of us has written?

You were gracious to me, as well, and so I'm writing to say gracias, Abuelita. Thank you so very much for the brooch. It will mean so much to wear it when I marry, and knowing that your Tía Ariadna and Tía Cenobia placed the charms on it for you before you married makes it all the more precious. Also, Abuelita, I don't know what to say to your offer that I should wear your wedding robes. They are so beautiful.

Thank you also--both of you--for making Ned feel welcomed. He is writing you himself, of course, but it did mean so much to him to receive the cup from you, Abueloberto. As you remind us each year, Twelfth Night's always been our family time, when we think of all the others, celebrating in Barcelona and Milan, who cannot be with us: it's a time when we feel connected to family near and far and remember what it means to be your children and children's children. I remember when Eduardo brought Catalina to Twelfth Night for the first time before they married and how important that was for them. It was like that for us this year.

Abuelita, I know that it's been very difficult for you, and it was so good to see you with roses in your cheeks again. I know you've been missing the others especially much these past months whilst you've been ill, and feeling triste that you might not see them again. Only, I do hope that maybe now with the Tri-Wizard tournament such a success, it might be possible for Octavio or Eugènio or some of the others to visit here. Perhaps even for my wedding if we were to be patient and wait for the permissions to be granted. There's no need to hurry, and I do believe that if you were to appeal through Mr Malfoy there's a chance it might be allowed. In time. I'm certain that Mr Pennifold would add his support. I would so like to see Ibbie again. Think how wonderful it would be if she could come and be in the wedding party!

We can discuss it when I come for supper on Thursday, I hope.

L.

2012-01-08 12:47:00

Just Sayin'

Sylvia in Cardiff sent me a note by the sorriest-lookin bird I've ever seen. (Time fer a new owl, luv)

Dear Wil Wagstaff,
I've been having a bit of to-do with my nerves. Thought you might know what I should ask for down the 'pothecary's.

Well, Sylvie, my lass. If yer lookin' fer somefin that'll help steel yer nerves, I recommend Lyon's Pot o' Courage, but yeh'll be wantin to look out a pedlar fer that.

It's not the sort o thing they sell front o'the shop on the high street, if yeh know what I mean.



 [alt_wagstaff](#)

2012-01-08 21:03:00

Private message to Hopkirk

Braithewaite and I standing by with the rest for V5.02-S5 execute in appx. 3 hrs.



Note in preliminary report: Will compare vitals to those of V5.01-S5, taking into account differences in time-line. Subject will be in lupine form when B.C. set to expire at appx. midnight tomorrow.

 **alt_bellatrix**

Tell someone to bring down tea.

2012-01-09 09:54:00

Private message to Narcissa


Narcissa - If you're available for tea today or tomorrow, your nephew has a perfectly remarkable toy he would love to show his Auntie.



 [alt_rodolphus](#)

Just in time, too.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2012-01-09 17:07:02**
(no subject)

Not this afternoon or tomorrow morning, unfortunately. But I'd love to see it.

What about supper? I could come directly from *Witch Weekly* and visit before Rigel's bedtime.

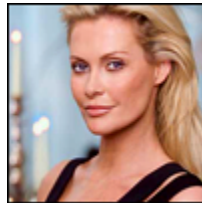


 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2012-01-09 17:09:37**
(no subject)

Agreeable to me.

whatsoever.

Bella won't be joining us. Very important things happening down below, I'm told. No interruptions



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **2012-01-09 17:17:22**
(no subject)

Tsk. Bella, Barty, Lucius - everyone has secret projects these days, it seems.

I'll see you this evening.

2012-01-09 13:54:00

Too much to do!

What ho, Ron, thanks for the games night, what? It was jolly good fun.



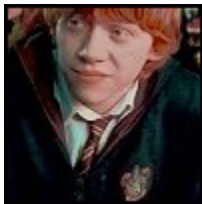
So, on for duelling practice tomorrow, then?


 [alt_justin](#)

I say, does anyone know how to request extra blankets? I was clever enough to pack jumpers but some of our lot have only got their school robes, what? It's been getting bally well cold at night up in our part of the tower.

Oh, and we've a Hogsmeade day this weekend, haven't we? I rather think I might need to catch up on the old books this week if we're to go down the village Saturday. Between duelling, History Club and all the other things, it's lucky there are a few revising groups or I think we should never get any real homework done, what?

-Justin



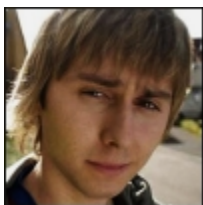
 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-09 19:14:37**
(no subject)

It was fun, yeah? Good show with Knight's Gambit, too. Solid strategy you tried.

Tomorrow for sure!

You should just ask the elves for blankets if you're needing them. Someone should have said before now! You'll be needing to see Madam Pomfrey about frostbite if you're not careful.

Shame about all the homework they've set us. It's like they think they have to make up for our having hols, which is mad, really.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-09 19:23:58**
(no subject)

Cheers. I quite liked that one, and Merlin's Cave as well - though that's more down to luck, isn't it, than any sort of battle plan.


Yes, I think there might be a bit of a language problem on that. Joubert says he asked for 'couverture' and the elves brought him one of those journal cover things. Well, one can try, what? We've been keeping the fire going but of course 'round about two or three in the a.m. one has to get up to feed it, doesn't one?

And you think it's bad for you, mate, we've got to turn in ours in English and in French! But then half of us are in fewer lessons, because our programme runs differently. I say, could you make heads or tails of that Charms chapter? I ruddy well can't seem to get the wrist right, I suppose, though I'm dashed if I can figure out why. The book clearly says to make the pattern of a zed.

Well, perhaps it's one of those things one has to see, rather than learn out of a book, what?

-Justin




 **alt_ron** at [2012-01-09 19:35:41](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, they always say that about the zed pattern as if there aren't a billion ways to vary it. I think for this one I've put in a bit of a hump as I shift direction at the bottom. Just at the start of the bottom line, y'know.

I can show you if you want.

I always find it works better if I don't pay too much attention to the book.



 **alt_hydra** at [2012-01-09 20:46:21](#)
(no subject)

Remy Some students have been theorising that the professors are worried we've had it too good this term, with a bit too much fun, and that they've made lessons and homework extra difficult to see that we don't forget our priorities.

I don't know if I agree with that theory, but it is one I've heard students bring up.

I can only say that it is clearly important as ever to keep up with homework and revision.

Now that you've written about it, you're sure to find yourself with extra blankets tonight, I think!

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-10 14:49:42](#)

(no subject)

Hello, Dux,

You were well right; they must have nicked half the blankets from every dormitory in the bally old castle. We had enough to make about fifty pillow forts!

Which is just as well, what, since it was jolly cold last night.

I suppose you're right about revising, too, what? Though I say, it's more fun in groups, though I rather think one gets less done, on the whole, than alone.

-Justin

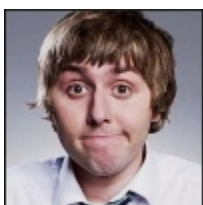


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-10 02:23:17](#)

(no subject)

I bet you have been busy, F-F. Certainly looks that way.

But you're only here for a year, after all, and it's half gone now. Best to make the most of it!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-10 14:55:48](#)

(no subject)

Hallo, Daphne,

Well, yes. I suppose it's easier to choose one's activities when one only has a few very close friends, what? Especially if they're people about one nearly all the time. I

say, when one has more acquaintances in different houses or social groups, then it becomes rather more challenging to fit in time with them all. Particularly if some of them don't get on well with one another, what?

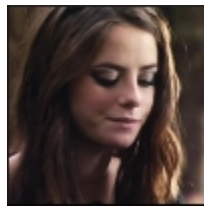
I say, though, I suppose that the way Hogwarts runs, it's more likely to be the type with a handful of jolly well besties, isn't it? But then, I can't complain at all; I did set out to get to know as many people as possible, after all!

-Justin



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-10 18:28:58](#)
(no subject)

I don't think that's quite what she means, mate.



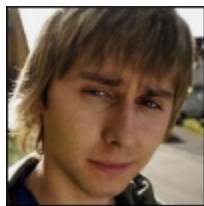
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-10 19:09:08](#)
(no subject)

You're unusually intuitive today, Smith. Good show.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-10 19:14:34](#)
(no subject)

Doesn't take a load of intuition, Greengrass. He's giving the rest of us a bad name, isn't he?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-10 19:16:19](#)
(no subject)

What ho, Smith.

Sorry, what? The rest of whom, exactly? I don't follow.

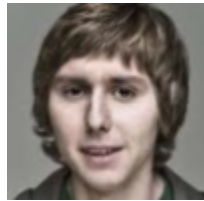
-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-10 22:39:41](#)
(no subject)

Oh, come off it, Finch-Fletchley. No one's that thick. Okay. *Longbottom's* that thick. And maybe Goyle.

But you've got to know what she's on about. Keep this up and you'll have every girl in this place expecting the full treatment. It's dead bumphy, is what it is.

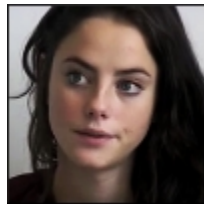


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-10 22:42:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I say, come along. Surely you don't think it's improper to conduct a young lady to her lessons like a gentleman?

Smith, I rather thought you were from better stock, frankly. Bad form, old chap.

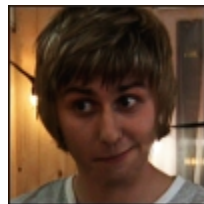
-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-10 23:27:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't think there's anything improper about it, for what it's worth. I think it's terribly quaint and sweet.

Unsurprising, though, that Smith would object!



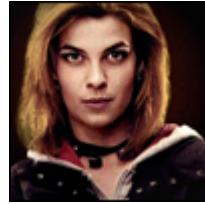
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-11 03:15:26](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Daphne.

-Justin

2012-01-09 20:28:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black and Walden Macnair

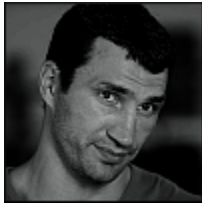


Everything all right there, then? Is it a full transformation tonight, too? Sirius?

 **alt_nymphadora**

We've got a full house here, but nothing I can't manage.

Has Bea gone down yet? She's not giving you trouble, is she, Walden? I know she's been tetchy.



 **alt_macnair** at **2012-01-10 03:08:55**
(no subject)

Your daughter is still awake.

As for tetchy, I'm not sure. I can't tell if she's restless or playing a game.

All her needs are being met, though. Food and drink, warmth, and so on. There are more difficult things to care for out there.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2012-01-10 03:21:43**
(no subject)

True. She's not a fire crab.

Do you have her in the cot, at least? Or has she convinced you to carry her about?

She does that. Last time she came along here for the evening, she bewitched Melvyn Wright--one of our regulars--and had him pacing back and forth for an hour. She still wasn't asleep.




 **alt_macnair** at **2012-01-10 03:34:16**
(no subject)

That's the thing. When I put her down she pulls quite a ferocious face. Wasn't sure if it was her idea of a game, or a bewitching, as you call it.

I was pacing anyway, so it's no trouble to do it with her along for the ride.

Wright is too common a name for my comfort. At least one of them in MLE, and a few others of that name connected to Dogstar. Never heard of a Melvyn, at least.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 03:42:48](#)
(no subject)

Well. He's a halfblood, and I get the idea he's either got a Muggle parent or maybe a grandparent. I'm not sure. We don't pry, of course, but sometimes these things seep out.

I doubt he's related to anyone at MLE. Not closely, at any rate.

You know people connected to Dogstar, then?

But look, before you answer, put Bea in her cot and tell her she can make all the faces she likes, but you're going to say goodnight.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-10 03:50:12](#)
(no subject)

Not that I'm much aware of, but all those arrests back in June included a few by the name of Wright. A father and son, as I recall. Part of the group that were going after the Malfoys.

Malfoy - a nice, showy name, just like Lestrangle. Doing us a favour with that.

She's in her cot with the lights off.

Anything else need to be done around here? Could check the third floor for more doxies.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 03:58:47](#)
(no subject)

Can you tell me what's going on with the wolf in the cellar?

Only, Sirius hasn't answered, and I would just like to know Remus is all right. These double transformation moons are hard on him.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:08:00](#)
(no subject)

I'm here.... He just changed back about half an hour ago and I've brought him upstairs.

He'll be all right. He's just completely exhausted. (Even with the shorter duration - and the wolfsbane. These nights when the full goes half one evening into the next are brutal.)

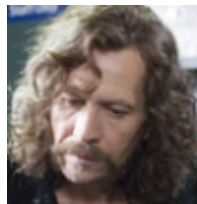
Unfortunately the noise has convinced Bea she's not quite ready to sleep yet.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 04:16:56](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

I'm glad it's over.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:20:44](#)
(no subject)

Me, too, kiddo.

Thought you'd be taking the sprog with you tonight. What changed?

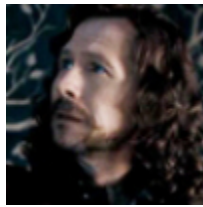


 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 04:24:31](#)
(no subject)

I thought so, too, but she was edgy, you know. Figured it would be one of those nights where she'd never go to sleep here.

Guess she didn't do much better there, but still. I really think she senses Remus's changes.

That or she's getting a tooth again.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:29:25](#)
(no subject)

She never wants to go to sleep, any road.

You should be ready to chuck them all out, shouldn't you? I could come help close.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 13:46:54](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for doing that last night, Sirius. I was knackered, but I know you were, too.

I'm just putting my cart away here and then I'll be home.

I'll stop for sweet buns or sommat on my way. I don't expect any of you have had an early start. Be there in a tick.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 14:16:11](#)
(no subject)

Ta, love. Easier with two. Just glad you caught me before I went up for the night.

The buns'll be appreciated, though someone woke up about half-six claiming he was famished and wanted sausages and egg. And his cardigan.

(Also, if we ever wanted to know how your daughter comes

by her attachment to her blanket, we've only to look to her father and his cardy. Merlin.)




 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-10 04:08:46](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but better than they used to be. The potion seems to help a great deal.

I think I just heard them come up... Both talking, so it must be over.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:15:28](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, one good thing about the Wolfsbane is he doesn't injure himself. Used to be he couldn't hardly move after a transformation. As-is, it's only a matter of convincing him he can make it upstairs.

I'm not quite trusting enough in your pal Snape's version to let him transform somewhere that isn't secure, though.

Sorry about leaving Bea with you. She's usually quite good with strangers, even if none of us are about.




 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-10 04:22:52](#)
(no subject)

Probably wise, with or without your feelings on Snape.

Not that the bairn wasn't good, but a bit restless. Could be the general atmosphere, with the moon and her Da. Was all right, though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:27:59](#)
(no subject)

Nah, but you're a guest. Like Dora says, no one's expecting you to serve as a babysitter or doxy-wrangler or anything else for that matter.

Just bad luck it's one of those months.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-10 04:38:48](#)
(no subject)

I'm not much for sitting 'round on my duff though, you'll have noticed.

And you'd have been sorry if you'd let that doxy infestation escape notice for much longer. The venom's not good for much besides making someone sick or brewing a love potion. Safe to assume those aren't something the Order would get a lot of use out of, aye?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-10 04:51:40](#)
(no subject)

Oh, trust me, I don't mind the help!

Just so long as we're not forcing you into anything you despise. We save that for Snape.

Speaking of, isn't Snivellus's birthday sometime around now? We could make him up a love potion to help him maintain that loverboy cover of his.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-10 05:03:08](#)
(no subject)

Don't think we mentioned birthdays even once when we were running from MLE together, so I couldn't say for certain.

Isn't it his turn to put one over on you lot?



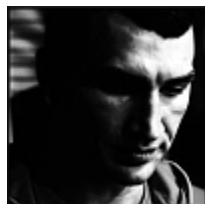
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-10 04:16:28](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Walden.

I know I shouldn't worry, but I do rather.

As for your other question, you can prowl wherever you'd like, you know. But no need to think you have to hunt doxies night and day for us!

And don't worry about Bea. She may fuss, but it's as well not to make her think that every time she makes a sound someone will come running. So you're off duty now unless she falls out of the cot and brains herself.




 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2012-01-10 04:32:07](#)**
(no subject)

Reckon I've grown used to doing this or that task whenever it's requested of me. It's not usually much of a bother, though I will say that not having to hunt or dig up supper for the group is a much welcome change.

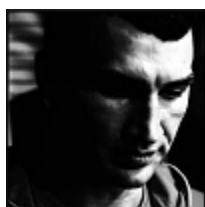
Haven't minded a wee one in many years, but it's not the sort of thing one forgets. Don't think she's mobile enough to get into too much trouble yet. Unless she's somehow figured out how to morph a few extra limbs.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-10 04:50:37](#)**
(no subject)

Where'd you get your sprog-tending experience, then? I hope it's not that you're applying mandrake cultivation to our Bea, ha.

And if Dora doesn't need help, I'm going to kip myself. It's only a few hours before that little teething, limb-growing wonder will be looking for her breakfast.



 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2012-01-10 05:05:53](#)**
(no subject)

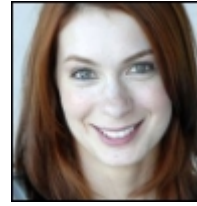
Mandrakes are more the herbologist's territory. Raised plenty of small creatures, though, some more temperamental than a small human. Had a sister, too.

||||| Aye, sleep while you can.

2012-01-09 22:00:00

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Severus
Snape*

Many Happy Returns, Severus.



 **alt_alice**

2012-01-10 00:09:00

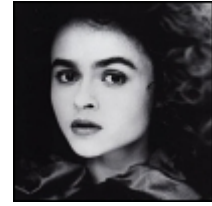
Private message to the Lord Protector

My Lord, I deeply regret contacting You at so late an hour.

I humbly beg a meeting with You this very night, if only You will allow it.

I have news from Level 13, which I prefer reach Your ears via me alone.

As always, I await Your call.



 **alt_bellatrix**

2012-01-10 07:36:00

Order Only Private Message to Severus Snape

My records tell me you had a birthday yesterday. That means you should bring yourself to my ward for an examination.



 [alt_poppy](#)

I'll expect you today. Come at a point when you're on the cusp of needing a next dose. I wish to examine you.

It's several months yet until Milland's birthday, I believe. I'll have you bring 'him' along for a checking over then.

Oh, and Severus? I trust you enjoyed yourself yesterday. Did you celebrate with anyone special?

2012-01-10 14:28:00

Astronomical updates, and other quick notes



I'm still feeling rather inspired after last night - the chance to talk to my astronomical peers about a topic near and dear my heart does give a lift. Georg: thanks again for the opportunity, it was delightful, and I appreciate your attention in all the planning. Everyone else: I'll do my best to make it in April, you're all right it'd been entirely too long.

 [alt_sinistra](#)

I'm particularly intrigued by some upcoming projects, especially one that promises substantial refinements in the astronomy involved in locational magic (such as used in the floo network) and another focusing on the mysteries of star creation. (For older students: several projects are offering summer internships and not all of them require NEWT level work in astronomy. Stop by for details.)

I also got several useful references for my own research, and I'm quite excited to dig into that, now we've gotten back into the rhythm of the school term. It seems that errors crept into previous detailed work on stars in Ursa Major. My end goal is deeper study on the origins of those stars, but clearly a corrected survey must happen first.

To my NEWT students and the YPL counsellors:

What a lovely thing just after lunch! Thank you for such a thoughtful present and I especially treasure the notes. (And thank you, for not just leaving it for me: so much more fun to see your faces.) 6th years, now I know why you all couldn't stop grinning this morning!

Office hours this week

As I was out last night, I expect to be in my office between dinner and curfew tonight (and tomorrow, and Friday) for anyone with questions about your first assignments of the new term (or your exams, if your marks are still mysterious.) Next week, I'll settle into the schedule we've discussed in class.

One last note:

Would the following please stop by my office during any of my office hours, sooner rather than later? You're not in trouble, I promise.

(Diggory and O'Flaherty, same matter I mentioned Sunday).

3rd years: Bradley, Clarriker, Inglebee, Lovegood, Sandoval, Stevens,

Zimmerman

4th years: Brocklehurst, Bones, Bundy, Hopkins, Jones, Longbottom, Macmillan, Moon, Parkinson, Perks, Weasley

5th years: Begy, Bobolis, Cadwallader, Coote, Dunstan, Gamp, Jones, Robins, Sloper



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2012-01-10 19:39:38](#)

(no subject)

I don't see how we could be in trouble, Professor. Well, maybe Weasley. Only joking!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-10 19:43:44](#)

(no subject)

You all do worry if I don't make that clear.

Though you're quite right, everyone's been remarkably well-behaved recently given the usual back-to-term silliness.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-10 19:56:14](#)

(no subject)

Perhaps we ought to have a ball before the start of every term, then!

I'll be there after dinner tonight, Professor.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-10 21:46:38](#)

(no subject)

We can go up together, yeah?


See you after dinner.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-10 21:48:29](#)
(no subject)


Works for me.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-10 21:51:48](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

What do you think she wants us for, anywiz? If we're not in trouble.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-10 23:09:04](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I've no idea, really. But she's put down quite a few people we know, yeah? Like Neville and Sally-Anne, and Mandy and Sue and Luna. And Katrina, although you know her better than I do. I guess we'll find out.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-11 03:42:15](#)
(no subject)

Or sometimes it worries other people too. I'm glad you said that about not being in trouble!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:48:26](#)
(no subject)

You're quite right, Miss Jones.

Though as a rule, I try never to use the journals to call out individuals for poor behaviour: I still think that's something that should be handled privately whenever possible.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-10 19:41:36](#)**

Private message to Dai

Nashira should find you sometime today with more, but thank you again for last night, and for making an honest attempt. I know it was hard, but I hope it helped ease a few of your worries to see me - us - in person. More pleasure than pain in the evening, anyway?

At least think about that offer from Cantus, would you? I think you'd like working with him, and he'd be fair. It's got to be better than your current place. Or if not that, one of the others. You know I'll gladly write you a rec (and properly document your quality of work), just tell me who to send it to.

I'm hoping for some proper time with the UM data this evening: we'll see how that goes. And of course, looking forward to more time to collaborate soon.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-10 20:12:17](#)**

Private message to Gilly Chadwick

Gilly -

You're right I've been quite the hermit for a few years in professional circles. Amazing how fast we fell back into the old wonderful patterns given half a chance, though, and I'm fully reminded of all the reasons I love chatting with you.

About that experience you mentioned: look, I know two other people who'd like to talk about that kind of thing, and one of them's suggested a chat over dinner sometime. Why don't you join us? The friend you mentioned, too, since you vouch for her discretion. Tuesdays are the only night I can easily manage, though. Or would that be a problem with Juniper?

And if you're serious about coming out and talking to my students, please. The new model really is lovely: I find more things to appreciate every night I have it out, and I should have time this week to really read through the journals about it properly at last. (And I'd love the notes you offered to share, of course, whatever isn't proprietary design work.)

The way classes are scheduled, there's no one day that would work

best, so we might as well make it an early evening, whenever works for you. Could be a weekend, too - just need to avoid other events. You'd be welcome to dinner, too, or I'd treat you in Hogsmeade if you prefer. If you give me a handful of possible dates, I'll go from there, but you might be a nice distraction round about March.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-10 21:49:48](#)

Private message to Rory

Any word back from Dai? Eager to hear whether the axe falls there or not. Seemed rather an inscrutable type- difficult to read, even for me.

Well, you know it's not the first time I've had people be wary of me for my name and associations. But it's been a few years since my last encounter, though.

They all seemed to love you presentation, from what I saw. Bet you'll be getting a lot of complimentary owls in the next day or two. Which you utterly deserve, by the way.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-10 22:28:13](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Not yet. I sent Nashira off after class late last night, so I'm hoping to hear back tonight - I'm eager too, obviously. And yes, he was being hard to read. I was having trouble figuring out what he thought, and I've near enough twenty years practice.

As to that ... well, he does have family reason, as I said. Not for you, but your brother and Evan. I know it's hard, though, love. And thank you again for your patience.


As to the presentation, well. Yes. I was quite pleased. And it was lovely to catch up with everyone - I can't believe I'd missed a year's worth of meetings. And seeing Gilly properly, and Gramercy, and so on was wonderful.

And then - you were off to set up after lunch, I think. But my newts and several of the YPL counsellors snagged me. They've been scheming - lead by Vesta Chambers and Maxine O'Flaherty, I'm sure - to make me a scrapbook. With some truly lovely notes in the back, as well as the more usual bits (though they only chose the good

photos and press, and comments about articles I've done, and so on.)

Anyway. Nice thing to pull out on the bad days, when I'm worried nothing I touch will ever go well again.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-10 23:56:29](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Could have very well have been me, and he knows that. Just a stroke of luck that it wasn't.

Now tell the truth- a few of them are wondering how you're managing with a philistine like myself, aren't they? No research credentials on me and they know it. But I'm not too worried. It only means they'll be forced to conclude that I have positively mind-blowing moves in bed. Even better than solving the riddle of the stars' origins in Ursa Major.

But I did follow along easily enough with your lecture. I can see how your students would appreciate your approach.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 00:12:52](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Well, yes, on that. When I think that a fortnight later, and .. well. Not sure I could have talked him round that at all. Pretty sure not, in fact.

I did hear a few things in that line. Though really, that's as much my doing as you: for a long time I had quite the reputation for going for the smartest one in the area. (You heard Gilly at the head table: the others are less flashy, but all much like that, really.)

Thing is, love, you challenge me like that.

Not the exact same way. But I get more out of it, I think. Instead of keeping up with brains, you stretch me to learn new things. And get my head out of the stars, which I appreciate now and then.

(I also like your very real skills in private, mind, if that weren't entirely obvious. But I'd prefer to be quietly smug and satisfied

about that. Aren't you the one who likes leaving people guessing?)

As to the lecture, told you. Besides, I wouldn't be much of a teacher if I didn't adapt to my audience. A good third the people there live in theory - rarely touch a telescope. A third rarely touch the theory. Splitting it down the middle and talking about applications solved a lot of problems, and let me show off some lovely examples.

I wish I knew where Nashira was.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-11 01:24:44](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

And might I add that it looks like you're getting quite a bit of use out of that telescope, too. It makes me dead chuffed to know I've given something you'll get so much use out of.

Well, perhaps he couldn't write back straight away. I'm sure Nashira will be around sooner or later.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 02:16:28](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

You should be chuffed. And smug, and pleased. (And I am certainly delighted.)

Nashira came, just now. Let me quote you the most relevant bit. He says:

“Seeing you.... you look right happy with him. Never seen you like that, aware and matching and falling into ease with someone else’s gravity. And yet, not planet and moon, uneven, but star and star.

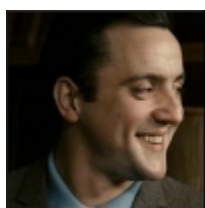
Still wish you hadn’t, not with him. But I’m more willing than I was to admit you might be seeing the good of him true, and what might be, not was. (You’re right persuasive, bach: can’t get what you said about being fair out of my head now.) Still not sure anyone’s worthy of you, but.. I’ll bide, and listen and all. Give you space to convince me.”

Translated, something convinced him last night, more than my letters could. He can get quite stubborn, if pushed, but this is an open door, and time to prove I'm right, and ... quite the compliment to you, given where he started.

(Could I be under Imperius, indeed. I'm still near as offended about that one as you were, though I also understand why he felt he had to ask.)

Best I - we - could hope for, really. And thank you again, love. Navigating around a possessive prickly stubborn two-decade friendship of mine can't be the easiest thing. I'm rather glad the first meeting is out of the way, now, and nothing went up in a burst of flame.

And see, now you've met all the important people in my life except the younger siblings, and the only thing tricky about them is finding a time we're actually all free.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-11 03:13:02](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Aren't some stars bigger than others? Blue giants versus brown dwarfs, for example?

Not that I'm saying that one of us is a dwarf and the other a giant, just that, you know, astronomical figurative language probably resonates more with some people than others. But I get what he's going for and appreciate the sentiment, even if I do think that of the two of us, you're a bit shinier and more glowy.

Ah, yes, but what if I've imperiused him to write this semi-complimentary letter? Have you considered that yet? No? Well, neither has he, and for that I shall be relieved.

And believe me, if you can handle having to see Bellatrix at family functions, I think I can handle prickly Dai at the occasional astronomy rabble.

And speaking of free time, you up for seeing the Falcons play the Arrows on the 5th? Cal's sent me two tickets, and I don't think he intends for me to bring along Roddy this time.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-11 03:19:29**

Re: Private message to Rory

They are - but he was thinking binary stars, that more or less orbit each other. Much more equal, really. I'll show you some, sometime.

They're rather fascinating. (There's some in the new project, which is part of why I picked it.)

And yes, relieved he hasn't thought of that. Hypatia, don't put ideas into his head! Besides, I watched you that whole conversation, I'll have you know. Just in case one of you needed diverting.

You do have a point on the next - in which case, you are probably getting off lightly, really.

As to Quidditch: nothing on my calendar but you and office hours, and I can rearrange those. I've had a couple of inquiries about whether we'll be seen at the Frost Faire, as well, which I suppose means we should figure that out sooner than later.

How'd duelling club go?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-01-11 03:26:35**

Re: Private message to Rory

Yes- I felt you watching, too. I think THAT might've had more to do with his politeness (and mine) than anything else, to tell the truth. You have a heavy glance, love.

Oh yes, be "seen" at the Frost Faire. Well, it doesn't sound like a bit of good entertainment, at least, even if it's not quite up there with quidditch.

Went well- no major calamities. Harry and Draco were being a bit strained, though. Avoided partnering up with each other. Odd, that. Might have to enquire, eventually.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:30:12](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

What, you mean seven years of keeping teenagers in line with a glance has had an effect on me? You don't say.

(Truthfully, I knew you'd be as cordial as you could. I was a bit more worried about his stubborn temper going wrong at the worst moment.)

Nothing is quite up there with quidditch for you, love. But I'm sure it'll still have its amusements.

And on that - you're right that's odd. I have their class tonight, and their lecture tomorrow. Not that we're doing anything so delicate this week, but it's always good to know.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 22:16:57](#)

Private message to Campanella Wright and Gilly Chadwick

Campanella, meet Gilly. Gilly, meet Campanella.

We've a table at the Archetype Cafe at half-six next Tuesday - my sister Tempest swears it's the right place. Light meals, good desserts, designed for a fair bit of privacy in conversation.

I have one more person I'd like to invite: I don't know her well, but she's also had similar difficulties. So, Gilly, would you check with your friend, and invite her as well if she's free?

Thanks, both of you. I appreciate, greatly, and look forward to some interesting conversation.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-11 22:43:50](#)

Private message to Delilah Mytens

Delilah,

Thanks for your note of a week ago, though I regret the need for it. I wondered from the December YPL event if you and I might have some experiences in common.

I'm getting together with some friends with related interests for dinner at half-six on Tuesday at the Archetype Cafe, and we'd love to have you join us for some conversation and mutual support.

(Thanks again for your time in December: our YPL students greatly appreciated it and still talk about it.)

A.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-12 00:14:31](#)**
(no subject)

I've got to say I'm very curious about what you want all of us for, Professor!

I'll wait to ask until I come up to the Tower, though.



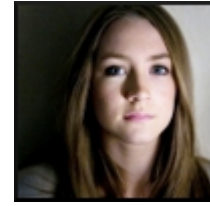
 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-12 00:24:36](#)**
(no subject)

A little mystery can be a bit of fun, hmm?

If you don't catch me tonight, you can also ask me tomorrow before dinner - I've a few magazines for your Common Room again I keep meaning to drop off.

[2012-01-10 14:59:00](#)

Under cover



 [alt_hydra](#)

I'm still working my way through all of the books I received at Christmas. I've finished two of them, which were both very good, and have now finally started *Pure Hunger*. I've gotten into a new habit of reading a bit before bed each night, but *Pure Hunger* has been keeping me up late because it's so very difficult to put down after a half-hour. I've been sneaking in a few extra pages, reading by wand light under the covers so that I don't disturb Norma and Cressida.

The whole premise is just so interesting. I'm sure everyone's heard about it by now, so I'm not giving anything away when I say that it takes place in an unknown future, where mudbloods are in charge of everything. They can use magic, of course, and even though they use muggles as their slaves they try to treat them well, giving them lots of entertainment and things to buy so that they don't even seem to notice the slavery part, or at least they're not much bothered by it. The purebloods, though, are treated horribly. They're all very poor, with barely enough to eat, and they have to do magic in secret. Like the heroine, Amaranth Teasdale - she has her Father's old wand, which he got from *his* Father, and she uses it to help her family survive and live a better life, but if she's ever caught with it she could be put to death.

All of that would be scary enough, but what's even more disturbing is that the mudbloods who rule the Empire have decided that every year, each pureblooded family has to offer up one of their children for a tournament that takes place in a giant arena, with all of the muggles and mudbloods watching. It reminds me a bit of the Tri-Wizard Tournament, only that all of the battles end with people dead. So of course Amaranth Teasdale is chosen for the tournament, and then she has to struggle not only with the tasks, but also the very idea of having to fight the other pureblooded teenagers.

One of the most interesting things about Amaranth is that she knows she's related to one of the Founders, but she doesn't know which one. It seems like she wants it to be Godric Gryffindor, but then when you see the way her mind works, it seems like she could easily be a Ravenclaw or maybe even a Slytherin. And then her loyalty to her family is very Hufflepuff. Remy, who's also reading the books, reckons she might be related to all of them, but how would that even be

possible, unless... well, I just don't think that's very likely.

It's a difficult book to read at points, because sometimes Amaranth has to make a choice between two things that seem almost equally horrible. One of her very oldest friends is in the tournament with her, and he wants to pair up together to take on the others, only Amaranth also has a new friend, a boy who claims that he's not really pureblooded, and that the Empire is only saying he's a pureblood because his family are dissenters of some kind. So Amaranth is torn between her old friend and her new friend, and right now one of them is... oh - I'd better not say, I'll be giving too much away.

Something really, really peculiar about the book that I noticed straight away is that there is no mention of halfbloods whatsoever - just purebloods, muggles, and mudbloods. I'm sure there must be a reason for it that will be revealed in the next book.

I can't believe it won't be released until next Autumn. I've only a third of the first book left to read and having to wait that long to read book two might just drive me mental.

Sally Anne, you just have to borrow this when I'm done.



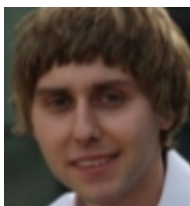
 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-10 22:10:19**

Private message to Effs

I hope this is going to the right person this time.

I'm not going to write more until I know for sure.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-01-10 23:14:55**

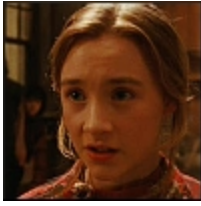
Re: Private message to Effs

Hullo, you.

It seems to have worked.

Effluvia hasn't also answered, has she?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-10 23:20:36](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

No, she hasn't.

I hadn't even thought about the possibility of it going to two people at once! Do you think that could happen?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-11 00:34:50](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Oh, no, I shouldn't think so.

Well, I mean to say, obviously it *can*, because one can address a message to two parties. But you only addressed this to one person, what, and thus I think it knows not to send it to two people at once (at least I hope so!). So since it came to me and not her, I think we're safe.

Are you not coming to duelling? You seemed to be saying you need more time to revise. I say, I do understand, though it's dashed hard not to want to see you.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 01:21:05](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Oh, bother! I was reading and I forgot. I'll be on my way now.

I want to talk to you about something, anyway. It might be better here, I'm not sure. We'll see how much time we have after duelling.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 04:02:21](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Are you back to your rooms?

Draco's just been telling me that France is a land of perverts, so I thought you should know.

And also that I have more thoughts about all the books I've read than I felt I was able to write here. In the open, I mean.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-11 04:06:49](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Yes, I've just been getting ready for a little reading of my own.

A land of perverts? Really? Perhaps an aversion to deodorant but...perverted? Not particularly. Probably best not to tell him I said that, what?

What sorts of thoughts, Dux? I mean to say, if you're going to give yourself nightmares or something, then we can jolly well wait until morning, what? Or if it's the sort of thing best discussed...in person?

Oh, but you're determined to spend more evenings revising, what? Quite right, too.

Well. What's on your mind, then?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 04:19:10](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

What are you going to read, then?

No, I won't tell him what you said! Even though I'm telling you what he said, which I suppose

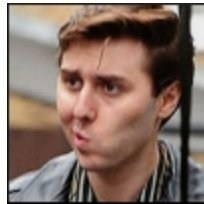
really isn't fair.

Oh, no, I just wanted to say that I really, really enjoyed the books you gave me too, even though I didn't write about them much here. I wish I could have, but, you know... nightmares!

And about *Pure Hunger*, it's just interesting to me that there are no halfbloods in it at all, and yet the books you gave me seemed to be all about halfbloods, in a way. If you see what I mean.

I used to just read books for fun, and to forget about things, but it's so much more than that now. I'm not sure why.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-11 04:26:29](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Oh, well, I've still got half a chapter for Transfiguration and there's a book a girl gave me that's meant to help me play all sorts of mental tricks with people, what? I've been reading a page or two of that each night. It's well helpful that it's in such short little sections.

Halfbloods? Ah, yes. I suppose that would be rather a strange contrast. But I am very glad you enjoyed the books. Even if they were a bit frightening, what. Sorry about that.

Do you suppose it's the books you're reading, rather than how you read, or is it a combination?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 04:32:52](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

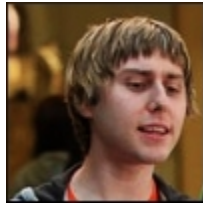
It's kind of you to try to read that book. Is it teaching you any brilliant mental tricks about winning duels without your wand?

Oh, don't apologise. I learned a lot, I think, about people and worlds I've really never known anything about before. Even if it was terribly frightening.

I think part of it might be the books, but a bigger part is the way that I'm reading. Remember one of our first talks, just the two of us, about trying to understand all sides of something? I think that's the difference.

Last year I would have read *Pure Hunger* and not noticed nearly so much as I did this time.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-01-11 04:41:08**

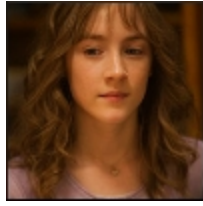
Re: Private message to Effs

I say, occasionally it's really rather droll. Like the whole section on suggesting that the argument could be negotiated with the help of a qualified Diviner. I rather think the unspoken strategy there is either to make one's opponent double over laughing or so unbelievably cross that he'll make a mistake, what?

Yes, I see your point. Sometimes one returns to a book one hasn't read in a long time, and sees new things in the story. Or in what the author had to say, what? And they were there the whole time only one wasn't old enough or experienced enough to see it before.

Oh, I say, why *did* Draco say that France is full of perverts? Has someone from Beauxbatons said something to him he found objectionable?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 04:48:25](#)

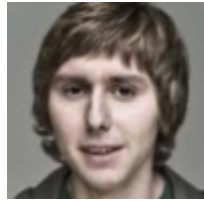
Re: Private message to Effs

At least it will be entertaining then, even if not really very useful!

Yes, that's it exactly. I don't think I'll go back and read my old Melinda March books, though. They just...are what they are.

Oh, Draco wanted me to know that a boy from France might try to kiss me, I think. I suppose he's noticed the same things that Daphne and Smith have noticed.

From,
Hydra



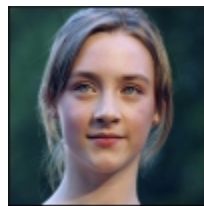
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-11 04:53:45](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

I'm afraid I haven't read Melinda March. I don't suppose it's a book young lads would much read, though, is it?

And as for Draco...ah. What...did you tell him? Am I going to have to...to 'warn him that there's a Dementor behind him and then hex him when his back is turned?'

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 04:58:30](#)

Re: Private message to Effs

Melinda March... I don't know that you would like it, exactly. But you might find the series an interesting example of popular fiction from the Protectorate?

I told him that you were always polite and raised to be a gentleman. And then I made him feel defensive (though I didn't mention Dementors), which helped to end the conversation without much fuss.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin at 2012-01-11 05:04:31**

Re: Private message to Effs

Well, perhaps this summer when I've not quite so much reading for school. Though I suspect they read rather fast, what?

I say, he is your older cousin. I shouldn't blame him for wanting to know if he needs to give me a proper thrashing-- though I guess I ought to bally well thank you again for defending my honour. I say, which of us is the maiden here and which is the knight in armour, what?

Well. If I'm dashed well going to finish this bally old Transfiguration reading, I really had better put this book away for now, Dux.

See you tomorrow?

Sweet dreams,

-Justin



 **alt_hydra at 2012-01-11 05:11:03**

Re: Private message to Effs

I don't think you're in any danger of being thrashed just yet, Effs.

But goodnight, and enjoy your transfig.

See you!

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:16:24](#)
(no subject)

Amaranth is definitely a Slytherin. How else would she be so good at hiding the fact that she knows so much magic?

Anyway, now you see why I had to read the whole book before I could give it to you as a gift.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:18:42](#)
(no subject)

I do see why now, yes.

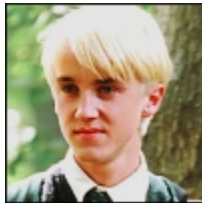
I think that Astra Morgansen probably wanted to keep everyone guessing as to which founder Amaranth is related to, so she made sure that all four were possibilities. Not even you can be 100% Slytherin all the time, Draco!


From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:19:17](#)
(no subject)

Of course I can. Just watch me.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:33:30](#)
Private message to Hydra

On the subject of people being Slytherin...

Just what are you up to with Finch-Fletchley these days? Letting him escort you to classes, carry your books around, and grab hold of your hand - I mean, you know he's going to get ideas, right?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:34:25](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

What sort of ideas?

From,
Hydra



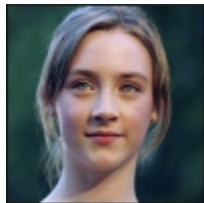
 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:48:18](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

Well for one, the idea that you really fancy him.

And for two, that if you don't mind his holding your hand, you might not mind him doing other things... like trying a kiss or even a snog.

I mean, he grew up in France. They've got good wine, food, and style, but it's still basically a land full of perverts.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:49:07](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

He's not a pervert, he's very polite. He was raised to be a gentleman.

I don't know why you're being so big-brotherly. You're not usually. And since you've been to France and your parents like it so much I thought you would be a little less of a prude.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:50:18](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

A *prude*? I'm not a prude, or anything of the sort.

Bloody nightshade, what even gave you THAT idea?



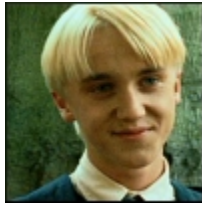
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:51:09](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

I suppose it's the fact that you're worried about a little bit of hand-holding and book-carrying.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-11 03:53:11](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

I'm not worried, don't be ridiculous.

Anyway, at least you know how to hex him in the ball-bag if he tries anything beyond that.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-11 03:54:04](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra

Eugh. Goodnight, Draco!

From,
Hydra

2012-01-10 17:01:00

Order Only: Birthday greetings.

I had hoped that I had made it clear that I neither invited, nor expected, birthday greetings.



 **alt_severus**

That said, I acknowledge that most who sent gifts understood that potions ingredients are always appropriate.

As to how I spent my day - far away from the prying curiosity of my colleagues. A present to myself.



 **alt_severus** at **2012-01-10 22:07:00**

Order Only -- Private message to Minerva McGonagall

I am at a loss to understand how you chose your gift to me.

It was far from appropriate.



 **alt_alice** at **2012-01-10 23:28:04**

(no subject)

I'm glad you were able to take some time for yourself, Severus.



 **alt_severus** at **2012-01-10 23:35:24**

(no subject)

It was pleasant.

[2012-01-10 22:02:00](#)

Private Message to Susan Bones and Eloise Midgen



 **[alt_megan](#)**

Do you know where my special embroidery thread is? The big spool that my guardian gave me last Christmas, that's so easy to charm? I know I had it here this year, but now I can't find it.

Also, did you see Hydra Lestrangle talking about the book she's reading? It sounds so strange! It just makes me wonder how anyone could come up with something like that...and I wonder what it means that there are no halfbloods.

I almost replied on her journal just to say how strange it was.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-11 17:49:33](#)**
(no subject)

I've seen a lot of people reading that book, especially some of the older students. It seems it was a very popular gift for Christmas!!

Ooh, I don't know if it's a good idea to talk to Hydra Lestrangle, because she was on the quiz as the most likely to kill people with Dark Arts.

Sue's written in Lestrangle's journal about books before, though, and she's still alive!!

I haven't seen your thread, but I'll help you look for it tonight if it's still missing.



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2012-01-11 18:20:39](#)**
(no subject)

I saw it too, but I didn't know what it was about. I'm surprised someone was allowed to write *that*.

I know. And her family too, they might read her journal. Susan can get away with loads of things that I wouldn't want to do!

Oh thanks. I thought you or Sue might have borrowed it, and I was all set to be cross, but maybe it just fell somewhere.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-11 18:46:51](#)
(no subject)

Why's it surprising? Because it talks about purebloods being treated badly?? Maybe I need to go read what Lestrangle wrote more closely.

Her family is SCARY!! I've heard her little brother has *pink eyes*. Pink eyes might be sort of pretty if you were a girl, but a little boy? Ick!!

I wouldn't borrow it, I still can't sew a stitch!! That's what Auntie Cora say, anyway.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:06:09](#)
(no subject)

I'm just as bad!

I think Megs is the only one of us who's going to be getting any needlecraft honours from the Sisters in Witchcraft.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:14:13](#)
(no subject)

Not for lack of trying to get you lot interested!



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:13:37](#)
(no subject)

Because it talks about mudbloods being in charge. *Mudbloods*.

Like a rat? But her little brother is just a baby, and babies aren't really scary until they grow up.

Ellie, you're going to have to learn someday! Then if you want I'll loan you all my best threads, even my special thread. (But don't use it to practice difficult charms! I tried that when we were learning that charm for knots and it made it loads easier, but it didn't help me learn to do it on string or rope.)



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:17:45](#)
(no subject)

But see, it sounds like it puts purebloods in a good light and all.

I haven't read it myself, but I'd like to.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:24:36](#)
(no subject)

But mudbloods are stupid, and there aren't even that many of them. How did they get in charge? It sounds really awful for the purebloods, though, even if maybe purebloods are better at killing people anyway.

You want to read everything!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 01:03:38](#)
(no subject)

Dead right I do!



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-12 00:18:35](#)
(no subject)

Yes, in charge and being AWFUL. It's supposed to give us a fright and remember the proper order of things, I expect!!

Well the rest of her family doesn't have pink eyes so I guess that really has nothing to do with them being scary. All I know is that

I try not to meet Lestrangle's gaze because I don't want her peeking into my thoughts.

Auntie Cora says I had better learn, or else I won't have any skills to show for. But she's forgetting what an excellent cook I am!!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:22:43](#)
(no subject)

El, I think you're probably dead right. About the book, I mean.

Not so much about Lestrangle, though.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:28:05](#)
(no subject)

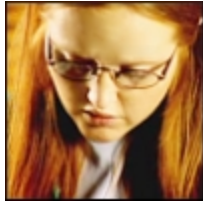
What do you think about Lestrangle, Sue?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 01:03:12](#)
(no subject)

I think she's a bit like Marvolo, everybody thinking different things about her because of her family and not so much herself.

I bet she does know loads of Dark Arts for someone her age, but I don't *think* she'd want to kill anyone with them.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-12 01:05:07](#)
(no subject)

I might have thought that once, but then she was there when Han was murdered, and her Uncle was ALMOST murdered and yet she didn't have so much as a scratch on her!!

In my book that makes her definitely scary.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:37:06](#)
(no subject)

Oh, that makes sense!

You're right, people can look just like anyone else and still be scary.

I wish I was so good at cooking as you.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:08:17](#)
(no subject)

I haven't seen it, but I, er, might have knocked it behind the wardrobe earlier?

Some of my Charms revising went a bit wrong.




 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:15:00](#)
(no subject)

Somehow, that's always a good place to look.

I need to do some of that revising too. Is it very hard?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-12 00:19:08](#)
(no subject)

That Engorgement Charm's a bit fiddly, yeah.

I didn't really mean to make that pincushion the size of a Bludger!



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2012-01-12 00:27:24](#)**
(no subject)

They're all fiddly this year.

[2012-01-12 13:03:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_pansy](#)

Have the rest of you lot all had a chance to talk to Professor Sinistra yet? It sounds like it'll be fun. Justin, have you heard yet about Saturday? I'm assuming you'll be there too.

It's sort of funny who she asked and who she didn't. Especially who she didn't.

And it's funny how teachers pay attention to things, like who knows who.



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2012-01-13 02:24:06](#)**

(no subject)

Hello, Pansy.

By Saturday, do you mean to say a week and Saturday? Or are you referring to Hogsmeade this weekend?

I should think you mean next weekend. Yes, Professor Froissart told us about it on Monday. I say, it's dashed inconvenient we can't invite whom we'd like, though, what? I mean to say, not that I've any objection to your Professor Sinistra deciding who deserves it but one can't help feeling well awkward that Hydra can't come along.

Still, one doesn't wish to seem ungrateful when P Froissart is obviously trying to do something kind for us all. And I'm sure it will be jolly fun, particularly as it sounds as if a number of you lot were invited, what?

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-13 16:02:08](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I meant next Saturday.

And I can see how you'd want Hydra to be there. I hope she isn't too put out. But I can also see how Professor Sinistra would want to give Hufflepuffs and Gryffindors a bit more of a chance to socialise. There really weren't many Slytherins on the list at all. And just Sally-Anne and me from our class.

I think if we all make an effort to spend some time with Hydra at Hogsmeade this weekend, it might make up a little for it, yeah?

2012-01-13 22:05:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So, um. What time are you lot heading to Hogsmeade tomorrow?



Only, I was thinking some of us might go in together, yeah? That way if Mandy turns up, it'd be all right because it'd be just a group of us and all.

 [alt_ron](#)


Er. I mean, it'd be all right if Krum wanted to go along at the same time, too, again. Wouldn't mind hearing what he thinks of that last Falcons match.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-14 04:29:21](#)
(no subject)

I can walk down with you lot. We could swing by the Three Broomsticks first thing, before it gets too crowded, if you'd like.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-14 04:39:59](#)
(no subject)

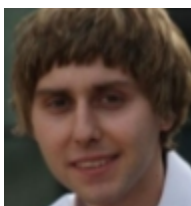
All right, then.


Meet you in the entrance hall, Fisheye.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-14 05:30:34](#)
(no subject)

Viktor's up for it. We'll see you in the entrance hall.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-14 13:09:07](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Ron--and Pansy, as well, for not replying sooner. Hydra and I can walk down with you but I hope no one minds if we spend most of the day on our own.

I expect she wants to talk about the books I gave her at Christmas. And other things, what? And she'll not feel well comfortable as yet with too many others about.

Pansy, I did consider your comment about paying her attention this weekend, what, and don't worry, I shall make sure she doesn't feel left out at all.

-Justin

[2012-01-13 22:27:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan and Lavender Brown



 **[alt_padma](#)**

I don't blame Midgen one bit for being upset about next week, do you? I mean, what do you suppose that lot have done to *deserve* going to the Beauxbatons social thing, anyway? I mean, Perks I can understand, she's Siz's fave, isn't she. Did you hear the rumour that Siz is actually *paying* Perks to do chores for her? And if Perks gets invited, then of *course* Parkinson comes along as well. It's utterly infuriating, really.

Anyway, what have Bundy and Weasley told you about it? Anything? Brocklehurst is well chuffed that he's been invited--Weasley, I mean. Seamus, you ought to have some fun with that! You could tell him how *much* Brocklehurst is looking forward to seeing him there. And you've a whole week to torture him about it, too.

Tamblyn asked if I'd go along with him to Hogsmeade tomorrow (Lares, not Hermes. I think Hermes is still feeling well squibbish because of what Davies pulled). Lav, I'll see you and Pav at the Three Broomsticks? Seamus, are you going with the Durmstrang lot?



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2012-01-14 05:32:39](#)**
(no subject)

Are Brocklehurst and Weasley a COUPLE? Did he actually dance with her at all at the Yule Ball?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-01-14 13:02:23](#)**
(no subject)

No, that's just it. She wants to be a couple, quite desperately, though Krishna only knows why. Probably because she's too dim to realise that even though Weasley's a pureblood, he's poor as a Squib and utterly disgusting besides. Honestly, it's pathetic.

But that's no reason not to make his life miserable because of it!

And besides, from what Pav's seen, he's utterly *terrified* of

Brocklehurst! I reckon it's because he's worried Parkinson will hex her in a jealous rage, don't you?



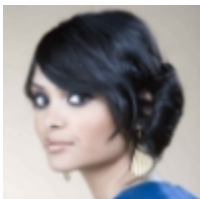
 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2012-01-14 15:41:57](#)**
(no subject)


It is pathetic. Weasley's rather a late bloomer, I'd say. One of these days he'll discover girls, though, and then he'll be even more obnoxious than he is already.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2012-01-14 05:34:18](#)**
(no subject)


And I'd reckoned on walking with the Durmstrang lads if nothing else presented itself. They're not as much fun in a big group because they talk in Bulgarian the whole time.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-01-14 13:04:44](#)**
Private Message to Seamus


Why don't you and Evgeni come along with me and Tamblyn, then? It'll be good to have someone else along, and it won't hurt me at all to have it look like three boys all want me to walk with them. If Lares is all right then I'll give you the signal and you two can split off.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2012-01-14 15:42:29](#)**
Re: Private Message to Seamus

Right then, that sounds excellent.



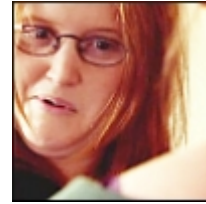
 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2012-01-14 19:32:05](#)**
(no subject)

Then again, it's *Midgen*.

Would you actually *want* to go to anything she was invited to?

2012-01-15 13:43:00

Word has it!!



 [alt_eloise](#)

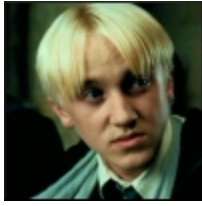
Dish! magazine might be good for keeping up on happenings that go on in the whole of wizarding England, but I think we all might benefit if there was a magazine dedicated to happenings at Hogwarts, especially on Hogsmeade weekends!! I heard so many things in both the Common Room and the Great Hall this morning, and I don't know what to believe about any of it!! I suppose the clever thing would be to not believe a word of it until it was confirmed from the persons in question themselves. Like for example:

Someone (I can't name names!!) said that Daphne Greengrass and Barnabas Bole had a fight behind Spintwatches due to the fact that Greengrass was flirting with the shop boy right in front of Bole's friends. But then he had his arm around her through most of lunch today so I just don't know.

And *someone else* (more than just one *someone else*, actually!!) says that Pansy Parkinson is leading on BOTH Ron Weasley and Draco Malfoy, dating them at the same time, because she walked TO Hogsmeade with Weasley, and FROM Hogsmeade with Malfoy. And things were reportedly very frosty between Malfoy and Weasley at the Three Broomsticks--they barely spoke to each other!! But it seems they're both willing to wait for Pansy to make up her mind on who she fancies most??

And *another someone* said that Cedric Diggory and Cho Chang were married in a secret ceremony by the man who owns the Hogs Head, on account of Diggory not knowing if he'll survive the triwizard tournament and not wanting to die a.... you know!!

Well, probably none of it's true, but it's still fun to think about and if you say otherwise you're just not being honest with yourself!! ~~I wish people would gossip about me~~



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-01-15 21:43:45](#)**
(no subject)

The problem with entertaining rumours, *Midgen*, especially when they seem entirely unfounded and untrue, is that you look even more the fool for repeating them.

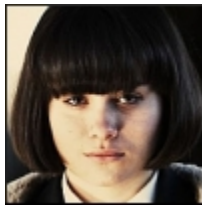
Pansy doesn't fancy both Weasley and myself I don't th. Don't be an imbecile.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-15 21:45:08](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I'm always doing foolish things!! Auntie Cora says I'm a very featherbrained girl. Oh, well, it can't be helped!!

So which one of you does she fancy, then??

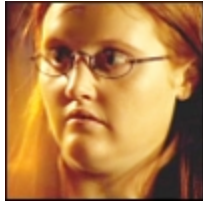


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-15 23:44:15](#)**
(no subject)

For your enlightenment, and everyone else at Hogwarts who is too thick to sort things out, I happen to consider Ron Weasley a close and dear friend. I have for years, and Draco is fully aware of this friendship, as well as who I was walking down to Hogsmeade with.

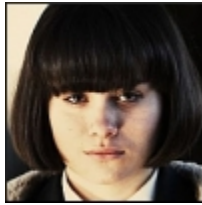
Draco is secure enough as a person to know that the friends I have who happen to be boys are no threat to him, which is one of the reasons why I like him so much.


It does no-one any favours to jump to conclusions. And if your goal is to become the most insufferable gossip at school, you're more than halfway there. Congratulations.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-15 23:53:55](#)**
(no subject)

I think I did you a pretty big favour, actually!! Now that I've said it out in the open, you've had a chance to tell your side of the story, see??



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:08:44](#)**
(no subject)

And just think, you've managed to make *so* many new *friends* in the process. In case that's completely gone over your head, it's an example of what we like to call *sarcasm*.

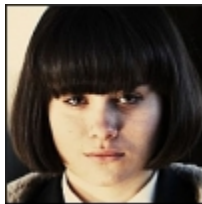
Look. If you wish to do me any favours, keep your nose out of my business.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:14:38](#)**
(no subject)

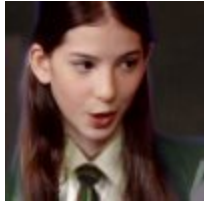
My Aunt always says that people can't have mixed messages if you take care not to send them.

Just something to think about!!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:31:32](#)**
(no subject)

And my Aunt would no doubt say that taking a walk with a friend is only a mixed message to those who have rocks in their heads instead of brains.



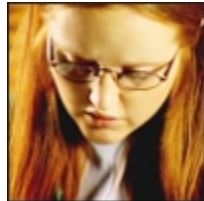
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-16 02:29:28](#)
(no subject)


She walked TO Hogsmeade WITH A GROUP,
you silly cow.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-01-16 16:59:22](#)
(no subject)


You don't have to be so mean.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-16 17:28:41](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-15 22:15:56](#)
(no subject)

OI.

Shut it, Midgen! Pansy's not like that, at all, and it's
totally not on to go around spreading rubbish like

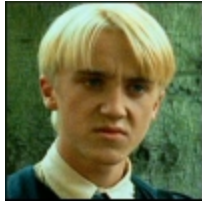
that.

Really not on.



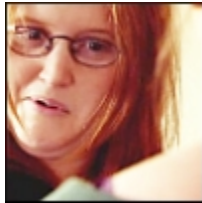
 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-15 23:12:11](#)
(no subject)

It's terribly gallant of you to defend her. I guess that
solves the mystery!!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-15 23:16:05](#)
(no subject)


Pansy doesn't fancy Weasley, you silly cow. Or did you not notice who she danced with all night at the Yule Ball?



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-15 23:33:30](#)
(no subject)

I'm quite certain that I saw her dancing with Weasley a few times, too!!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-16 00:14:34](#)
(no subject)

MERLIN'S EAR!!!! WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK EVERYONE'S BLOODY SNOGGING????


THAT'S JUST SO WRONG!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-16 00:26:56](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Next thing you know, they'll think I'm up to something with Sally-Anne. After all, I walk with her *all* the time.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-16 00:51:04](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

HA.

Wait.

You're not, are you?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:52:10](#)**

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

kidding

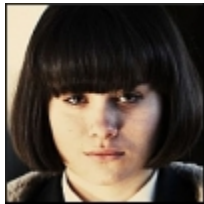


 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:54:20](#)**

(no subject)

I never said you and Parkinson were snogging!

Only wow, that's really big news!!

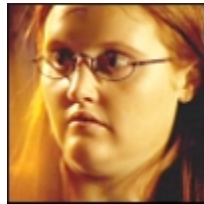


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-16 00:57:51](#)**

(no subject)

You THICK HEADED TW TIT.

Ron and I are NOT snogging. He's simply baffled that you are so filthy minded as to think everyone IS.



 **[alt_eloise](#)** at **[2012-01-16 01:03:20](#)**

(no subject)

I never said you A WORD about snogging until Weasley brought it up!! Go back and re-read what I wrote if you don't believe me.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-01-16 01:06:14](#)**

(no subject)

Look, Midgen, no one thinks Weasley is snogging anyone. He just took what you said and blew it way out of proportion, that's all.

You really should just stop writing.

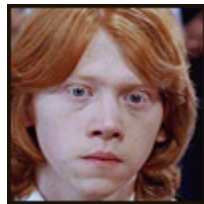



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-01-16 01:06:25](#)
(no subject)

Midgen, Midgen, Midgen.

You're missing the point altogether. Weasley isn't snogging anyone. Isn't likely to have the chance even if he wanted to. Certainly Parkinson wouldn't stoop to it.

We all see how you could be confused on the point, though, given that you've no hope of learning what snogging is, any more than Weasley does.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-16 01:10:10](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Nice.


Git.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-17 01:49:42](#)
(no subject)

I suppose you think you're quite clever.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-16 01:07:14](#)
Private Message to Eloise Midgen

You WILL keep your gob shut about this starting NOW.

When you first started going on and on about my personal life and relationships, I was annoyed. Now, I am furious, and you are asking for a hexing the next time I see you, and if you do not publicly apologise to me, Draco, and Ron -- which will be the ONLY intelligent thing you've done so far today -- I will glue your mouth shut for a week the next time I see you.

And just so it's clear, I FANCY DRACO. RON IS MY FRIEND.

RON DOESN'T WANT TO SNOG ME, I DO NOT WANT TO SNOG HIM.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-16 01:52:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Eloise Midgen

That's better.

And I'm sorry I lost my temper, Midgen, but honestly.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-15 23:18:32](#)

(no subject)

Barney and I had a misunderstanding, Midgen. It does tend to happen in the course of a new dating venture. But then you can hardly be expected to know that.

Obviously, we've patched things up and are right as rain now.

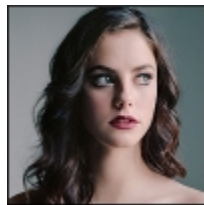


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-16 02:34:20](#)

Private message to Daphne

Oh, she understands some 'misunderstandings' -- like when her Yule Ball date spends the whole night hiding from her in the loo!

Seriously though -- about Bole -- what I heard was that you weren't flirting with anyone, he blew up because the shop boy flirted with YOU. Is everything sorted? I mean it's not exactly fair to blame YOU because someone looked at you the wrong way.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-16 17:40:24](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

What happened was that I was utterly bored in Spintwitches because Barney was taking so long to look at the new beater's bat models. So I wandered around looking at other bits of gear, and the shop boy asked me if I needed anything. I said no thank you, I don't even follow quidditch, let alone play it. Then HE said "Well, I'd love to take you to a match sometime."

Barney walked up just as he was saying that part and thought the shop-boy was responding to my *request* to go to a match with him.

So it really was just a misunderstanding. And once I'd explained Barney was quite sorry - he bought me more sweets from Honeydukes than I could even carry back to the castle!




 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-01-15 23:23:53](#)
(no subject)

Heard that Diggory and Chang are secretly engaged, but obviously they're not married. They're too young and that'd be well daft.

Definitely true that Parkinson can't seem to decide where she belongs, one way or the other.

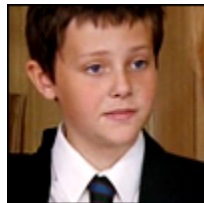


 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-15 23:28:11](#)
(no subject)

You'd know a thing or two about not being able to decide where you belong, isn't that right Corner?

Well here's one place that you don't belong for sure: anywhere near Pansy's business.

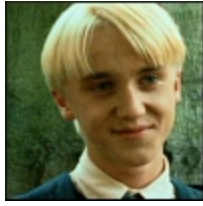
How's that step-father of yours, anyway?



 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-01-15 23:31:57](#)
(no subject)

Look now, Malfoy, you've no call to get all personal and hacked off with me just because Parkinson's got you dangling in the breeze.

Why don't you just take someone else out? Loads of girls out there who'd probably say yes, now that you're a rock star or whatever.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-01-15 23:59:43](#)**
(no subject)

I'm aware of that, actually, and if I wanted to ask another girl out, I wouldn't hesitate to do so.
Obviously.

I ~~think~~ know where I stand with Pansy. How about you run off and worry about your own interactions with the opposite sex, or lack thereof.

2012-01-15 18:16:00

Retraction!!

Well, it seems as if the word on Weasley, Parkinson, and Malfoy was all wrong.

I'm very sorry that some people got to feeling so defensive and unhappy about it.



 **alt_eloise**

Well that's all, have a nice evening all!!



 **alt_luna** at **2012-01-18 02:58:39**

(no subject)

I've found that people become quite cross if you report speculations about their intentions and motivations, especially if you haven't asked them first.

If you're curious, it's probably best just to ask them, but privately. It's a kind of courtesy, I think. But if you think you don't know them well enough to ask them privately, then it's probably best not to say anything at all.

I'm not saying this because it's meant as a criticism, mind. I'm just saying because I found it out rather the hard way. Anyway, I think that's what I've sorted out that I'm going to do from now on.

2012-01-15 18:52:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Ugh. Honestly. Midgen is a fright.

I nearly didn't want to give her the satisfaction of answering, but people will take any chance to have their bit of fun at others' expense and she was getting too cheeky for her own good.



 [alt_pansy](#)

I certainly wouldn't lower myself to talk about my feelings for you on her journal for everyone to see, but I do want you to know that I care for you very much. In a way I'm not sure someone like her could ever understand.

And my answer to her question, by the way, is you.

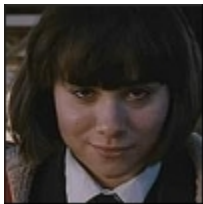



 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-01-16 01:01:21**
(no subject)

If I ever meet that Aunt of hers, I'll hex her, no questions asked. Thanks to her it's like Midgen thinks she has an excuse for being a daft cow whenever the urge strikes.

And well, thanks. For clearing that up. Not that I had any doubts whatsoever.

The feeling's mutual, by the way.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-16 01:27:15**
(no subject)

She's ridiculous. Truly.

It was lovely walking back from Hogsmeade, just you and me. I'd like to walk a bit more tomorrow after dinner, if the weather holds up.

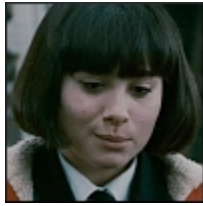
Just you and me.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-16 01:39:08](#)
(no subject)

Even if it does end up cold, that's what cloaks and gloves and things are for, right?

What, you don't want to invite Midgen along so she can get her story straight this time?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-16 01:47:47](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'm sure she'd just love to know what proper snogging looks like, but she'll have to wait to find out for herself.

Unfortunately, given it's Midgen, I have a feeling she's going to have to wait for quite a long time.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-16 01:53:06](#)
(no subject)

~~So you want~~

Well if she wants to see *scary* snogging she can always accidentally run into Daphs and Bole when they're lurking in the common room after curfew.

So yeah, weather tomorrow? I can manage with a little snow, just so you know.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-16 01:57:35](#)
(no subject)

Duly noted.

[2012-01-16 20:40:00](#)

Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

Argh! Sorry about Eloise; she's a good friend and housemate but sometimes I just want to *sit* on her.



 **[alt_susan](#)**

And now I think I have an idea of how Greengrass feels sometimes. Not that she'd thank me for saying so, I'm sure.

And we all had such a good time in Hogsmeade, too. I didn't realise you and Sally-Anne knew Neville so well. I mean, it makes *sense* because you two are both mates with Ron Weasley and Neville is too, but it's also, I dunno, sort of surprising in a way.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-17 02:28:17](#)**
(no subject)

Don't worry about it. She's apologised, and the important thing is that both Draco and Ron know it's a silly bit of nonsense, so no harm done and I'm not angry with her. Besides, I know how that goes -- I want to sit on Milli *all* the time.

And yeah, Hogsmeade was fun. And I'm glad you and Nev have been getting on so well. He's a decent sort, but because of his parents, people don't tend to notice, which is a shame. Sally-Anne tutored him in first year, you know, and yeah, he's housemates with Ron, so we all just sort of fell in together. And now, you've fallen in too, and I hope you keep on falling, because you're good company.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-17 17:47:00](#)**
(no subject)

I forgot to ask.

Have you given any more thought to Hydra?

I know that our tea is has a really nice sort of feel to it right now. It's a bit of a safe place. And I know Hydra can seem a bit intimidating and everything, just because of *her* parents, you know? But I do think that she'd be genuine and she'd want to keep it a place where people can be themselves.

But I'd understand if you thought it wouldn't be a good idea. At least not right away.




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-17 21:26:16](#)**
(no subject)

Well, maybe you could sort of, I dunno feel her out to see what *she* thinks about the Tea.

And...look, I'm aware this is really personal and sort of horrid to ask, but something made me think of it and now I can't un-think it:

has she ever said anything to you or Sally-Anne about what happened the night Han died?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-18 03:00:31](#)**
(no subject)

It's not horrid.

Not at all.

If I had a way to find out about

You know

I would.

She never talked about it to us. I don't think she really talked about it to anyone, except maybe Professor Raz. But she was awfully upset after. Pale and shaking and everything.

I honestly don't know what all she saw, but if you want me to find out, I can.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-18 03:36:39](#)**
(no subject)

I've never been one to believe most of what people say about Hydra, but

...all this trusting people, it's hard.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-18 04:26:16](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

It is.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-18 03:05:39](#)
(no subject)

And yeah, I could ask her, but I wanted to make sure it was okay with you first. And Mandy and Luna too. Because I know the rest of us know her just fine, but I didn't want it to be all the Slytherins just sort of making up everyone's mind about it, you know?

I mean, not that House matters, right? This is a different sort of thing. It's more about people than Houses. Which I like.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-18 03:35:14](#)
(no subject)

No, I appreciate that you see it that way...I just meant that I want to be sure she's interested.

And I can PM Mandy and Luna if you like, to sound them out.

Right--I love my House, but it's good to have something apart from it. Although I'm not sure everyone feels the same, in either of our houses.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-18 04:38:11](#)
(no subject)

Okay, that works. You ask Mandy and Luna, and I'll see what Hydra thinks.

And like I said, if you end up deciding you'd rather keep it just us, I'd completely understand.

[2012-01-16 20:49:00](#)

Private message to Roddy and Narcissa

Miss Professor Carrow had quite the pleased and predatory look over supper tonight. She must have caught me staring in disgust as she wolfed down her chicken- couldn't resist letting me know that while *my little lady friend* might be good at "dressing the part at parties" and "teaching brats how to dance the waltz," there are some witches at Hogwarts who still achieve *tangible respect and recognition* for their achievements.



[alt_rabastan](#)

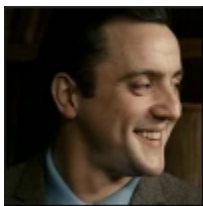
Could it be that I have you two to thank for her putting me off my meal? I can do without boasting in the first place, but boasting with one's mouth open is particularly not up my pitch.



[alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-17 04:12:05](#)
(no subject)

Well, it was not *my* decision, dear, but I expect this morning's post owls brought her the news that she's been selected as the Witches' Institute's 'Outstanding Career Witch Rôle Model' for the year just ended.

The presentation luncheon is next Sunday. I imagine you've at least the rest of the week to endure her smug self-assurances. Nor do I envy you the gloating sure to ensue once she actually has the plaque in her possession.



[alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-17 04:16:54](#)
(no subject)

How terribly charming. I wonder what she'll wear to commemorate such a special occasion? If only we were closer I'd recommend a giant serviette- the woman does tend to make a mess when she eats.

Fortunately, manners are optional for role models (certainly true in my own case).

Probably this question's better for Rod, but just what form might this gloating take in the coming weeks? Nothing that will upset the students, I hope.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-17 04:25:12](#)
(no subject)

Noted. I shall have to warn Aleta not to seat anyone too close to her at the head table.

Now, dear, whatever gives you the thought that your brother has had occasion to watch Alecto gloat over a recognition such as this? I'm sure I don't know why you think he could tell you what to expect.

Unless you know something even more nefarious than I care to imagine?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-17 04:28:58](#)
(no subject)


I know my brother, and that's nefarious enough. But never you mind that, love. I'm sure that the only pleasure he'll take in seeing Alecto recognised as a "role model" is the sheer, disgusting irony of it all.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-01-17 04:31:44](#)
(no subject)

I promise that I have absolutely nothing to do with Alecto Carrow's deplorable table manners. I'm sure she comes by it naturally.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-17 04:34:30](#)
(no subject)

Speaking of delightful table manners, we should sup together here soon. You can let me know how you and your work have been fairing.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-01-17 04:41:21](#)
(no subject)

Friday evening at Le'Strange. I'll fill you in.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-17 04:33:11](#)
(no subject)

As I said, it was certainly not *my* decision.

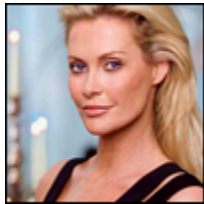
I'm sure the lustre of the award shall tarnish in good time, dear. Don't *you* mind about *that*.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-01-17 04:41:57](#)
(no subject)

Did you know that tarnish is primarily caused by humidity and oxidation? Or, in Alecto's case, by a good deal of hot air.

Appropriate.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-17 04:49:26](#)
(no subject)

Careful, Roddy, or you'll absolutely *convince* poor Razzer that we're scheming to ruin the peace and quiet of the castle.

When really, nothing could be further from the truth - why, I should like nothing better than to see Hogwarts free from strife. Wouldn't you?



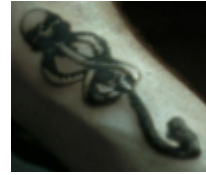
 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-01-17 04:50:56](#)
(no subject)

I'm right there with you, Mrs Malfoy.

[2012-01-17 21:08:00](#)

(no subject)

Never doubted that honour would come that's due to us.




See? Purity WILL tell.

 [alt_amycus](#)

Wish I could grace you all with my presence at the presentation. Would do you lot all a bit of good. Min's especially missed me, I'm sure. But the press of work, etcetera.

And someone needs to keep an eye on tidbit.



 [alt_ron](#) at **[2012-01-18 03:40:25](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ugh.

Terry. You all right there?



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2012-01-18 03:45:01](#)**

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

Indeed, good form Ron.

And what sort of bally old 'presentation' does he mean, do you think, what? Or...does one really *want* to know?

I say, Terry, do let us know if we can help in any way.

-Justin

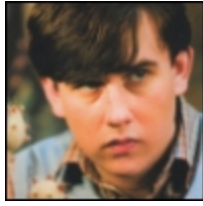



 [alt_terry](#) at **[2012-01-18 04:07:07](#)**

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

He heard from his sister this morning. She's getting some kind of award. Something about being a career role model.

Yeah, I know.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-18 04:12:10](#)

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

Some role model.



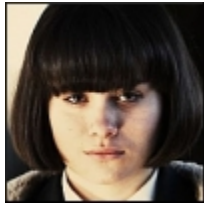
 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-18 04:30:10](#)

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

Oh, right.

Is that supposed to be some sort of joke they're pulling? I mean, honestly.

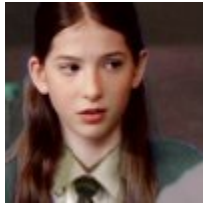
Say. Maybe we should all do something to 'congratulate' her.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-18 04:40:32](#)

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

Yes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-18 16:00:06](#)

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

The Witches' Institute thing. 'Career Witch of the Year' or some such. It's odd they'd pick Alecto Carrow. Normally they choose someone a bit more well-liked AND well-rounded -- if Professor

Sinistra got the award it would make perfect sense as she's teaching, she runs YPL, and she's been in the gossip pages for her relationship with the Razzar.

They picked a Witch who works in the Department of Mysteries one year, but even she was sort of glamorous. Not like Miss Professor Carrow.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-01-18 04:01:07](#)

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

He broke my arm last week, the bastard. Again.

But I've already fixed it, thanks to that book Neville sent on field first aid. I've got a sling on it, and a glamour, so he doesn't know it's fixed. It's actually sort of nice, because he thinks I can't do as much as I usually do.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-01-18 04:03:13](#)

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

What?! He broke your arm?

Bloody hell, Professor, you should have told us!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-01-18 04:04:09](#)

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

Well, I didn't want to worry you. And anyway, what could you have done?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-01-18 04:04:31](#)

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

He is SO dead. If we ever get our hands on him.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-01-18 04:05:46](#)

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

Actually, you did do something, all of you. By sending me that book. My arm's fine now, honest. Almost as good as if Madam Pomfrey were here.

And he doesn't know. Believe me, that gives me a LOT of satisfaction.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-18 04:09:03](#)

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

Well, I hoped the book'd be useful for you. But I had no idea you'd really need it that bad.

Blimey, Terry. That stinks.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-01-18 04:10:47](#)

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

I'm glad you have the book, then. And the glamour, too...that's really clever.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-18 04:27:37](#)

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

Wow.

I'm glad you were able to set it all right. D'you think it'll be straight? When you take it out of the sling again, I mean.

Couldn't you do something so he'd trip down a long set of stairs next time he's really pissed?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-01-18 15:36:58](#)

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

I was lucky, because it was just a simple break, so it was easier to set. The book gives you a way that you use magic to pull it into place properly, and then there's a diagnostic spell that tells you if you got it right.

Madam Pomfrey set one once that was much worse. I don't think I could have set one like that myself.

Believe me, there are times I lie on my pallet at night and spend hours dreaming about what I'd like to do to him.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-18 03:46:28](#)

Order Only

Wonder what this "honour" is that he's going on about.

Even most of the old consorts found him and and his

sister off-putting, to say the least.

Well, Bellatrix LeStrange tolerated him. But she would.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-18 03:55:54](#)**

Re: Order Only

What do you know about him, then?

Beyond the obvious, that he's a sadist and a sick wanker.

I've only encountered him a handful of times. Back in the day, I mean, not times like when Frank and I brought him to heel.

And yeah, what do you reckon it was someone's attempt to flush him out, and it's not working from the sound of it?



 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2012-01-18 04:02:58](#)**

Re: Order Only

We never sat around and played cards together, so not much beyond the obvious.

Far as I saw, the Lord Protector saw him almost as a human Dementor, useful for evoking dread and disgust when it suited him to do so.

Wonder what the consorts would think if it seemed their Lord was consulting with him on a more serious level.

Could have been an attempt to draw him out. Or else her.

2012-01-17 21:17:00

Order Only: Moony and Dora

I just want to state for the record that I really, really don't care for that Mrs Spindleton or her little yappy dog.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Perhaps in future we can encourage her to at least leave that little ragmop at home? I could have snapped its neck tonight, I swear.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2012-01-18 03:24:19**
(no subject)

I should have thought if you were a proper dog, you'd have made your feelings clear directly. In a way Marmalade couldn't have mistaken even if her owner did.

Imagine naming a dog Marmalade.

For that matter, imagine owning a ridiculous little thing like that. What do you call those, anywiz? Was it a silkie? A westie? ridiculous, whatever it was.

Did you see how she brought her in? Tucked up in her satchel!



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-18 03:40:08**
(no subject)

You didn't hear me growling at the stupid featherduster? I'd've liked to have bitten its tail off right at that ridiculous bow she had tied on round it. Figured the last thing we needed was Mrs Spindleton calling MLE down on us.

And she's a Yorkshire, I think. Hard to tell under that atrocious jumper she put on the thing.

I suppose to be fair, I'd be in a temper too if you or Moony tried putting bows on my tail. Not to mention expecting me to wear a well revolting jumper.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-18 03:45:04](#)
(no subject)

Shame both your birthday AND Christmas have gone past.

I wonder if Remus would let you have that cardi of his? We could put it on back to front and button it up along your back!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-18 03:52:04](#)
(no subject)

Blimey, woman, you really do have a deathwish on. He'd kill you for defiling it, if I didn't get to you first for forcing me into the old thing!

What I really do wish is we could get him to give it up for a new one. I've a feeling he'll be wearing that tatty cardi until it unravels right off him and let the new one moulder in the wardrobe all the while.

Speaking of things he's not wearing, does he have that good cloak tonight? I didn't see it and there's quite the wind kicking up outside. Hope you're keeping warm - and just about done with the washing up.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-18 03:55:24](#)
(no subject)

Ha.

He's wearing it tonight. And, no, he's just his shop robes on over it. Says he runs at a higher temperature than most of us do, but, really, I think he's just got fluff where his brains ought to be.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-18 04:17:28](#)
(no subject)

Well. Not that it's not true, that bit about his body temperature. Still, this deep into winter he ought to be more careful.

It's probably down on the cloak settle; I'll have a look.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-18 04:12:37](#)
(no subject)

Yorkshire-Poodle mix. Also known as Yorkiedoodle or Yorkiepoo, so, even more ridiculous than you thought.

Could always ban dogs of all kinds. It'd keep away both the small and ridiculous, and the large and easily irritated.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-18 04:13:27](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, and the Animagi.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2012-01-18 04:14:37](#)
(no subject)

Right. "Large and easily irritated."



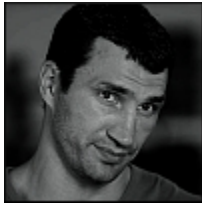
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-18 04:15:33](#)
(no subject)

Oi!



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-18 04:24:03](#)**
(no subject)

And anyway, what were you doing spying on small dogs in the shop? Thought you were staying out of sight?



 **[alt_macnair](#)** at **[2012-01-18 04:29:18](#)**
(no subject)

I recognised it by the bark. Our closest neighbours had one when I was growing up. My Da got sick of the noise and poisoned it.

[2012-01-18 11:05:00](#)

A few reminders about our upcoming event.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Planning meeting: this Saturday, 21st January:

CCF members should plan on meeting from 2-4 pm. All other participants (final lists were posted in your common rooms on Monday) should plan on meeting from 3-4 pm. Again, we regret that the size of the group is limited for this event.

2pm: CCF students will receive their team assignments (as part of the goal is to challenge you to work together, you will not be able to pick your own teams.) You will be told the basics of the event, and have the opportunity to ask questions, clarify instructions, etc.

3pm: The planners of the day's challenges will share some important practical and safety information with all participants. Following that, each group of team leaders will choose the rest of its members from among the other participating students and have time to talk and make some initial plans.

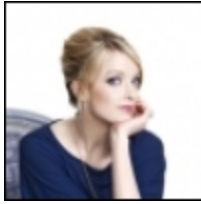
Overall:

The winners of the event will be determined based on points awarded for completing specific goals. You are reminded that one of the goals of this event is to see how you use resources - you've been given a week's planning time for a reason, in other words.

January 28th:

All participants should meet in the entry hall at quarter to 9. We will be leaving promptly at 9am and anyone who is not present and ready will be left behind. We expect to return by 4pm, and CCF students will have an additional post-event debriefing until dinner time.

Again, you are expected to dress appropriately for the weather and to follow all instructions about well-being and safety given to you by any of the adult staff, including the attending Aurors and Auror trainees. Further rules and limits will be clearly discussed this coming Saturday.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-18 16:30:23](#)

Private message to Raz

Glad I did do the New London bit yesterday: made the last minute arrangements for the 28th much easier. I think everything's finally settled, but there were some late adjustments to the Aurors in attendance.

Apparently very few of them want to be out in the snow all day given the choice.

Dinner afterwards was also interesting: you're right about the benefits of solidarity and sharing stories. We had quite the interesting chat about dealing with Stint and others like him, and I have a few ideas to try out at our April meetings. (So glad I don't need to deal with him in person until then, mind.)

Also got an hour at the guild to make arrangements for loans of the charts I want. Much easier than finding time to spend there, I must say.

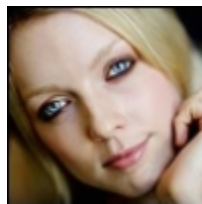


 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-18 18:38:14](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Who knew that big, strong Aurors were afraid of a few snowflakes? Or less resilient and apparently more whingey than a group of teenagers? If Bella had their names she'd see to it that each one was buried up to his ears in a snow-drift for a week.

Glad to hear your forged some connections over Stint. Less glad to hear that it sounds like others have stories about him, too. Types like that are difficult to dissuade- even after their mouth goes missing.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-18 18:56:09](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Campanella's kinder than that, thankfully. Honestly, I'd rather have people who wanted to be there, as it's going to be challenging enough to coordinate without people being half-hearted. Does mean it's mostly people I don't know, which has its own challenges.

On the stories - yes. Delilah passed on a few more she'd heard at St. Mungo's. Gilly had stories of her own from work, about other people. (And a couple of quite clever suggestions on handling things - most of them won't suit dealing with Stint at this point, but might be handy elsewhere.)

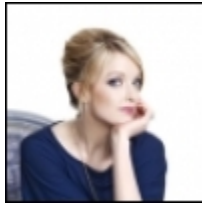
Made me think a good bit more about some of the conversations you and I've had about Defence work: that whole question of passive or concealed response versus aggressive response, and the assumptions other people make about those choices.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-19 03:06:02](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

You know, if you're concerned about getting more Defence practice then we can always try to fit in more time for it (and less for other things). Or, you could talk to Narcissa about who she trains with.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-19 03:13:16](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I admit, I would feel better with a bit more practice time. (But I also hate to give up other time with you. It's not as if we get that much that's just the two of us.)

You'd suggested talking to Narcissa, though, hadn't you, last year? And if I am going to New London anyway, regularly, it might be easier to manage now.

The piece that's still so hard for me is reacting quickly enough to the unexpected, and that's as true for a verbal response as a hex. I can't help thinking that improving my reflexes with one might help the other.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-19 03:33:51](#)

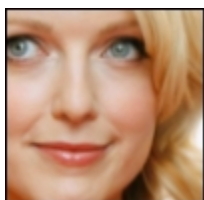
Re: Private message to Raz

We'll manage, love. At least we're not scuttling off to so many parties and events now.

Don't remember if I did or not, but sounds like

something I'd do. I'm sure she'd commiserate, if you brought the subject up with her.

You need muscle memory, is what you need, which is basically a way of saying that you need more practice. So yeah, we'd best make time for it.



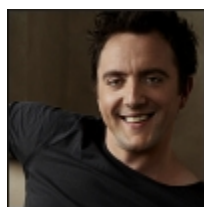
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-19 03:41:33](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Ah, but I am greedy for every moment I get with you.

That said: no point in having expert consultants if you don't listen to the advice, so I will, and we will make time. (And it is, after all, still time together.)

Saturday evening, perhaps, before we turn to other things? And I will figure out a way to bring up the subject with Narcissa.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-19 03:44:47](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I find myself both amenable and free on Saturday evening, as it so happens.

I'll just have to mind that you're not so exhausted by the end that you find yourself *unable* to turn to other things.



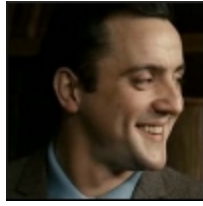
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-19 03:50:55](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Handy, that. (And see, now you have a few days to plot what you want to do to me.)

I'm sure we'll find some appropriate methods of restoration, too. You have yet to let me down there.

May be a hair later than 7 - there's that Beauxbatons gathering, and I'll need to change after to something more suitable for both parts of our evening plans.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-01-19 04:17:32](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I'll be waiting when you are.

Only too bad it's still two days away.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-19 04:32:45](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Rather, yes. (My point about time remains true.)

Right. Onwards to finish prepping for the night's teaching for me. Sleep well, love.

2012-01-18 12:52:00

Dishin Out Some Anneka Rice

From Barney in Nearcastle:
Wags,



 [alt_wagstaff](#)

Been wanting to know what you'd recommend to someone who's having trouble at work. Been working at the same rubbish job for twenty years and now they've gone and hired some little chit right outta Hogwarts and put her over all of us. And she's not half taking advantage, is she? Telling us to stay late if we're not finished or come early so it's all done before start of business next day. But no extra pay for that, is there? I know you wouldn't just roll over and let her walk on you, would you, Wil?

That's a foul pill, an no mistake, Barney.

Know what I'd do? I'd walk straight up to 'er, in front o' all o' them, an hit 'er with the bat bogey hex she's been arskin fer.

I promise yeh, yer mates'll buy rounds in yer honour all night if yeh do it!

[2012-01-18 15:56:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Have you given any more thought to what we found out in Hogsmeade?



I think it could be interesting, but only if we were sure it looked like it came from someone else.

 **[alt_padma](#)**

And I've got a good idea who the someone else should be.

What do you think? Did you ask Mr Rosier for any advice? Or were you thinking this is one of those times when he'd just tell you it's better to ask for forgiveness instead of permission?

Oh, and did you think Lares Tamblyn is really all that fit? I mean, he's well nice enough, but, I'm not sure I really fancy him much. Did you think he was acting like he really fancied me, or just as if he felt he ought to make up for Davies being such a prat?



 **[alt_seamus](#) at [2012-01-18 21:13:01](#)**
(no subject)

I think I've had the same thought about the 'someone else.' I don't think I'll ask Mr Rosier -- he'd probably think it was childish.

As far as Tamblyn, he's not bad. I definitely think he fancies you. He was trying awfully hard to impress you, and I don't think he'd do that just to make up for Davies. If you don't fancy him, though, I reckon he'll get over it.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-18 21:21:23](#)**
(no subject)

If it really is the same someone, then the best part will be when certain people start to think they've trusted the wrong person.

You think he was trying to impress me? Hm. I wonder if maybe everything he was doing last term was because of that--you know, telling me about Davies in the first place, and inviting me to sit with the Prefects and Quidditchers and all. I dunno, it seems a funny way

to show interest in a girl, telling her someone *else* likes her.

And. Well, he did come off rather well in that quiz thing (which wasn't us this time, I hope you know!). To be honest I rather like his brother loads more but he's never given me any signals at all.

Is it this complicated for boys, too, or do you just have a way to tell about each other? Like you and Evgeni--how did you figure out he fancied you?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-01-19 03:15:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, with Evgeni... he spotted ME, actually. And he was very direct. I mean, once he'd got me alone, he was very direct. His English isn't so good, though.

I don't know what he was thinking last term but Tamblyn definitely seems NOW like he's trying to impress you!

[2012-01-18 20:23:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Sally-Anne



 [alt_justin](#)

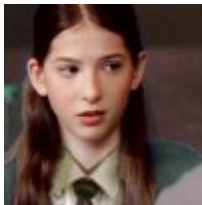
I say, Sally-Anne,


Might you be free for a short chat? I wanted to share some of Hydra's observations about *Jane Eyre*, what--and--

Well, to be perfectly honest, I don't mind saying I wasn't half disturbed by that revelation of Terry's. I mean to say, reading about things that Carrow bloke has done in the past, that was one thing, what, but it's quite different to be confronted with the reality, isn't it?

If you've no plans, that is.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2012-01-19 03:18:34](#)**
(no subject)

Hydra offered to lend me *Jane Eyre* but she hasn't passed it on yet, so I haven't read it. What's it about? (I've been reading *Pure Hunger*, which is -- really gripping, actually. It's why I didn't see your message earlier, I was reading.)

And Terry -- yeah, I guess it would shock you, wouldn't it? You know Carrow turned him into a dog once, and the Weasley twins found him and adopted him, not knowing it was Terry. That's how they got so attached to him.



 [alt_justin](#) at **[2012-01-19 03:28:35](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, that's all right. I was revising myself, what?

I'm sure she'll lend it if you remind her. It's about a girl who grows up in an orphanage and goes to be a governess in a rich man's home. That's frightfully oversimplified, what, but I think I should not say any more and let you just read it for yourself. And of course, as you know, it's really entirely muggle

in origin, though people try to say otherwise. But I think any young lady would probably like it, even without any magic at all. It's one of my mother's favourite books, do you see.

It's not that I'm shocked--well, I am outraged for him, though that's not the same thing--it's--

I suppose it's simply that one is occasionally struck by how lucky one is. If you follow me.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-19 03:29:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Yes, I suppose one is.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-19 03:31:24](#)
(no subject)

My boggart is my father saying I'm not actually his daughter.

So it's something I try not to think about, but yes.

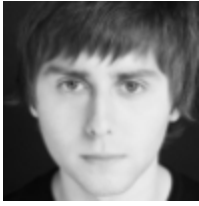


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-19 03:20:35](#)
(no subject)

Although honestly I'm not sure Terry minded being turned into a dog, considering.

Carrow's broken his bones a crazy number of times. And knocked out his teeth. And made Terry lick up his vomit, when he was sick from drinking.

I mostly try not to think about it because there's nothing I can do about it, other than talk to Terry when he's in the mood for talking, and has time and privacy to use his journal. And send him things, sometimes.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-19 03:33:27](#)
(no subject)

He...

Good lord.

Yes, quite. I can see why you all take it as a personal affront that Terry's stuck in the grip of such a man. Death is too good for him, what?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-19 03:35:29](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it really is.

2012-01-19 08:48:00

Special project in Herbology

I stayed after Herbology class this week to talk with Professor Sprout because I was curious about the Alihotsy plants she'd been telling us about. I'd been reading about Alihotsy in my Goshaw's and so I stayed after to ask about it's related to some of the other plants in the *Hysteriosa* family. Is glumbumble treacle good for treating the effects of those, too, like it is for Alihotsy? And she said I was welcome to try setting up a workbench to test the idea. So I've got some pots set up, and she's going to order some cultivars for me to experiment with a bit.



 **alt_neville**

I suppose this is what potions development and research is all about. It's weird: I like the Herbology side so much better than the Potions side.

2012-01-19 19:16:00

exhale and away

The sense of festivity that was in the castle a month ago seem far, far away now.



Sometimes I catch myself gazing out the window of the library. The snow blows off the turrets like puffs of breath, if you watch long enough. I would like to go outside and find tiny, tiny tracks to follow into the forest. I would like to find a pond for ice skating. It would be lovely to skate on a pond in the forest, with the sunlight trickling through the overhead branches.

 [alt_hydra](#)

Well, that's just a daydream, and it's all there's time for. There's ever so much to do.

The Arithmancy study group would go better if it didn't always end with a row over vibrational algorithms.

Marjoram, Corey... I'm sorry, but I really don't know which of you is right. Corey, your method is faster, but Marjoram's is more like what Professor Vector had in her lesson. Effluvia, it isn't really fair to automatically take Marjoram's side just because she's in your house. Corey's in my house and I don't automatically take his side. I think it's best to explore all sides of an issue before making one's mind up. So, tomorrow I'm going to Professor Vector's office to ask her myself.

I was already in her office yesterday. She worked up a study schedule for me, so that I can keep up with the lessons a little better. ~~But I was already studying MORE than what she put on the schedule~~ I'm sure that I'll do better than an A by the end-of-term exams.


Other than that, there's not really much happening, is there? Well, not for most of the third-years. Some of them will be going to an event on Saturday, as it turns out. I thought it was for CCF but I suppose not. Beauxbatons will be there, and some different Hogwarts students, including third-years who of course aren't in CCF yet. Nobody really knows why some people were chosen and others weren't. ~~I wish someone would say~~ But I should use that time to study, anyway.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-20 02:49:34](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure that you could attend the Saturday party if you wanted to. Just talk to some people and they're sure to allow it!!

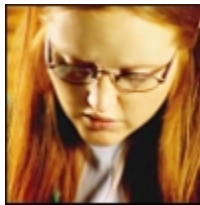


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 02:50:47](#)
(no subject)

What do you mean? Who would I talk to? I haven't heard of anyone else being able to do that.

From,

Hydra




 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-20 02:52:59](#)
(no subject)

Well of course no one else has been able to do it.

Isn't your Uncle dating Professor Sinistra? She's in charge of everything. So you might talk to him, or to her. ~~Or your Mum.~~

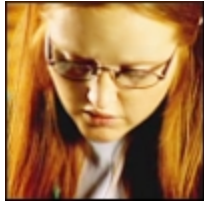


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 02:55:24](#)
(no subject)

If Professor Sinistra was going to include me because of my Uncle then she would have done already, I'm sure.

Both of your dorm-mates are going, aren't they? It must be a little disappointing. Well, I know how you feel.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-20 02:57:19](#)
(no subject)

No you don't!!

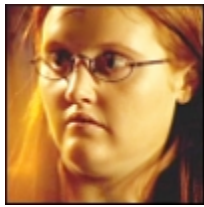
Maybe so, but if you asked her then she'd probably HAVE to include you, wouldn't she??



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 02:58:07](#)
(no subject)

I don't want anyone to HAVE to include me.


From,
Hydra



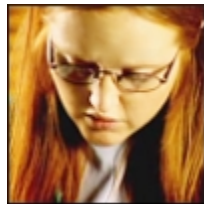
 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-20 03:03:19](#)
(no subject)


Oh, yes, all right!! I'm ever so sorry, really. I'll be going now and I'll leave you alone, yes??
Bye!!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-21 19:27:30](#)
Private Message to Eloise Midgen

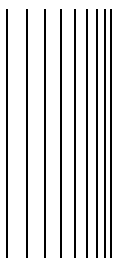
Hey, even though maybe it didn't go so well, I think it was pretty brave of you to come and comment on Lestrangle's journal.



 [alt_eloise](#) at [2012-01-21 19:34:25](#)
Re: Private Message to Eloise Midgen

I don't know what I was thinking, really.

Only that it burned me that she acts like she can't get whatever she wants at any time. She must think we're all daft!!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-21 20:01:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Eloise Midgen

But see, nothing bad's happened, so all in all I'd call it a win!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-20 03:12:25](#)

Private message to Hydra

Thanks ever so much for lending me PURE HUNGER. I can hardly put it down. I stayed up much too late last night reading (under the covers so I wouldn't disturb my dorm mates).

Can I borrow Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights next? (I knew that's what Justin got you for Christmas because the owl arrived when I was checking on him in the hospital wing.)



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:18:46](#)


Re: Private message to Hydra

I had to do the same thing. And then I got behind in my studies, too. Just a little.

Oh, of course. I didn't realise you knew.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-20 03:13:27](#)

(no subject)

I think it's particularly hard when we get so buried in snow and you know there's about three months before it'll all really go away, and before another long holiday. It just seems like that's when people start to grumble at one another more, as well.

But Valentine's is coming up! Which is a good thing if you've got a valentine (and not-so-good if you haven't, of course).

Oh, by the way, if you want help with vibrational algorithms you could come by the Corner and we'll help you settle it.




 **alt_hydra** at **2012-01-20 03:20:51**
(no subject)

That's true about Valentine's. I've never really done much for it before, so I wasn't even thinking about it.

Oh? That's very kind of your to offer. I know most of you are way ahead of us by now.

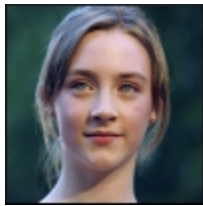
From,
Hydra




 **alt_padma** at **2012-01-20 03:25:23**
Private message to Hydra

Well, you've certainly got a valentine now, from what we can see!

And that's all right. If I can't help, I'm sure Tamblyn or one of the Prefects can. And being so far ahead means it won't even take them that much time.




 **alt_hydra** at **2012-01-20 03:34:39**
Re: Private message to Hydra

Yes, I suppose I do at that.

I'll see about stopping by, then. Thank you again for the offer.

From,
Hydra

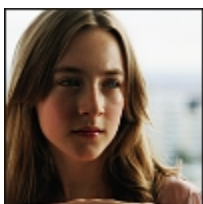


 **alt_michael** at **2012-01-20 03:17:30**
Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Professor Sinistra said she had to limit how many people to invite, but she hopes to even things out later. That's the good thing about Professor Siz, isn't it? She

likes to be fair to everyone and give people chances when they might not get them otherwise.

Still, that doesn't make it easier to not get invited to things when other people are. Or when you used to get invitations and don't anymore.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:24:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrange

I suppose she is fair, yes.

No, it isn't easy. Maybe the not-invited people should have their own party.

From,
Hydra

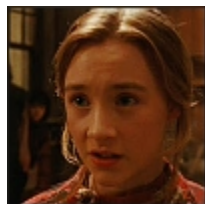


 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-01-20 03:29:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrange

Well, you could have a party. It's not that easy for some of us. The elves will make food, I guess, but it's different, you know, when parents send up hampers or whatever.

Not that I'm saying you should. I saw what you said to El. She's a fright, isn't she? You know Summers has been trying to break up with her since before the Yule Ball and she just won't take no for an answer? Maybe you should teach him how to scare her off!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:33:39](#)

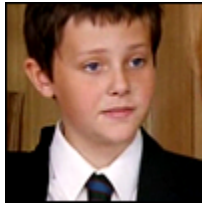
Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrange

Teach him to scare her off? What do you mean? Couldn't he just say he isn't interested in her like that?

I've really never had a party before. It's usually Draco or Pansy or Daphne who organise that sort of thing.

But maybe I could do.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-01-20 03:54:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

If you think that then you don't know Summers.
OR Midgen.



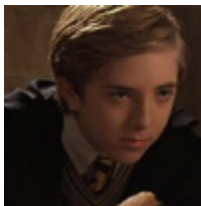
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:59:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

I really don't know them much, no. They don't seem like they want to be friends, in particular.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2012-01-20 03:20:37](#)

(no subject)

It's not meant to be exclusive, exactly, but Professor Siz chose people she thinks would get on well with the Beauxbatons lot and with each other. Or something. But you shouldn't be offended or anything, Lestrangle. I don't think she meant anyone's feelings to get hurt about it.

~~And she probs didn't realise you and F-F~~

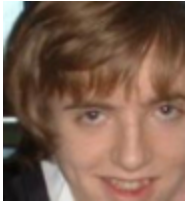


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:26:37](#)

(no subject)

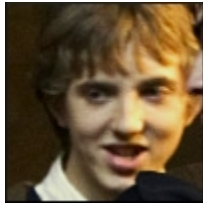
But if it excludes some people and not others then it's exclusive, isn't it? Not that it means to be, or means to hurt anyone's feelings, but it still is exclusive, by definition.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_ernie** at [2012-01-20 03:44:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, technically, I suppose. But I think the word I'd use to describe it is 'intimate' or maybe, I dunno, uh, 'selective.' Not 'exclusive' like the way people mean it when they mean something ultra-posh or really really secret, that sort of thing.



 **alt_ernie** at [2012-01-20 14:08:12](#)
(no subject)

Besides, it's just *tea*, innit, and it's not like you and Marvolo and Malfoy don't have loads of special teatimes and they're really truly exclusive, no one else even gets invited.

I'm not sure it'll be all that fun, anyways. Loads of French people. Still, got to try, I suppose.



 **alt_hydra** at [2012-01-20 16:31:05](#)
(no subject)

Special teatimes? This is the first I've heard of them.

If you meant that sometimes there are students who have parties and they only invite their friends or house-mates - yes, I know. But it's different when the Professors invite some students and not others and they really don't say why some people were chosen and some weren't. It makes it seem as if the students invited did something to earn their invitation.

Professor Sinistra said they picked students who haven't interacted with the Beauxbaton's kids as much as others. I don't know how the Professors would even know who is interacting with who, though. I suppose they just guessed.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-20 03:38:45](#)

Private Message to Dux

I say, are you all right? I thought the revising group was helping, what?

You're not really very disappointed about Saturday, are you? I'm sure your Professor Sinistra just thought other people might benefit from the introductions more.

And you see what I mean, what, about being scary.

-Justin



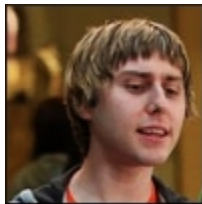
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 03:41:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

I don't know. All of the homework's gotten so much more difficult since exams. Padma Patil said I should go by Ravenclaw Corner. So the swots can sort me out, I suppose.

Just a little bit disappointed. It'll be all right. Only everyone else who waited with me in the hospital wing will be going. When you were hurt, I mean.

What's that about being scary?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-20 03:49:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

Yes, I saw Patil's invitation. Perhaps you ought to consider it, what? Most of the Ravenclaw lot are all right and if they're offering to help, why not let them? They might be able to explain it in a way that's well understandable to you. And then at least you'd not get caught in the middle with the others when there's a bally old debate.

I thought about asking Professor Froissart if we could invite particular guests. But then I thought perhaps that might call too much attention to certain things, what? It seems to me that it must mean your uncle hasn't noticed or else at least Professor Sinistra

hasn't done, yes?

You frightened Midgen away well easily, seems to me. Didn't even have to threaten her!

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-20 03:53:55**

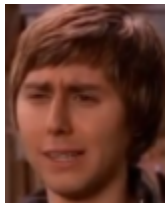
Re: Private Message to Dux

After hearing different explanations on algorithms from both Corey and Marjoram, I'm worried they'll just make me more confused. But I suppose that it's worth a go.

You're right, it would call attention to the way things are. And like I told Midgen, I don't want to be treated special. I reckon she thinks I'm spoiled, see. Maybe I am compared to her and others, but it's not exactly like she thinks it is.

And oh, was she frightened? I couldn't tell. She's so... boisterous.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-01-20 04:01:35**

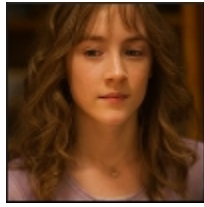
Re: Private Message to Dux

Well, they might tell you something different from your group but my thought is that if they're ahead, they're more likely to be right, Dux, and you may simply tell the others that to end any disagreements.

I know you don't want special treatment--at least, I know what you mean when you say so--the same way that Marvolo prefers to be treated just as anyone else. That doesn't mean I shouldn't like to treat you specially, if you follow me. I do prefer spending time *with* you than socialising *without* you, what?

Speaking of which...I also saw what Patil wrote about Valentine's. Have you...any thoughts about that? There's a Hogsmeade day the Saturday before, isn't there?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 04:07:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

That's true, they probably know better than my group. I will go see them, then.

I prefer things that way, too, but I think it's good that you've made other friends while you're here, too. Like with Ron and Sally Anne and all.

This is the first time I've ever thought about Valentine's in my life, really. Is there something special to do in Hogsmeade?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-20 04:14:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

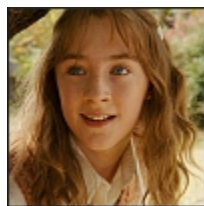
Yes, it's been good making all sorts of friends, what?

I've heard someone say there's a tea shop called Madam Puddifoot's but I don't know about anything else particularly special. I'll be sure to find out, though.

Goodness, look at the time. We should be shutting out the lights! It's no good staying up late reading and revising if one falls asleep in the bally old lesson, what!

Sweet dreams, Dux.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 16:44:10](#)

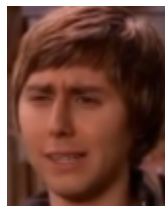
Re: Private Message to Dux

I'd already fallen asleep by the time you wrote this. I suppose that's what I get for taking my journal with me to bed!

I don't know how much you'll like Madam Puddifoot's. I've never been inside, but the older students say that it's very pink and frilly!

By the way, I did notice that you seemed in better spirits yesterday. So I suppose that means that whatever was bothering you a few days ago has passed? I'm glad, then.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-20 18:22:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

Well, I'm glad you got your rest, then.

Pink and frilly? Sounds like just your sort of thing, what?

Oh, had I seemed depressed? Sorry about that, what, I wasn't cross or anything. And no, I shouldn't say that it's passed, precisely, only that I suppose one can only spend so long on a problem one can't fix. It sounds bally well heartless to put it that way, doesn't it? No, the problem's not gone away, but then it's not going to do, I shouldn't think. Not soon. Still, it's nothing for you to fret about, what? I'm all right. I shall try not to mope about in future.

-Justin



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-20 04:00:41](#)

Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

Miss Lestrangle -

First, I had a fearsomely hard time with Arithmancy third year and much of fourth myself. Sometime in fifth year, it got much better, and I did quite well on both my OWL and NEWT exams. (As, of course, it's quite crucial to some applied Astronomy work.)

If it would be of help, I have a few tutorial books that I found helpful in making sense those first two years. There are certainly copies in

the library, or Professor Vector's office, but you'd be welcome to borrow mine and not need to worry about coordinating copies with others.

As to Saturday: I am sorry that we couldn't include everyone we'd have liked, but the hope is that it will largely give students who've not had as much chance to meet the Beauxbatons students a chance to do so. My understanding from M. Froissart is that there will be some other opportunities later in the term for those who couldn't be included this weekend.



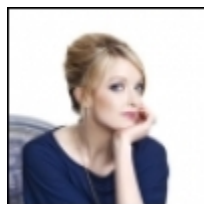
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-20 16:38:40](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

I suppose I could borrow your books, thank you.

Well, maybe you didn't know this, but Luna Lovegood went to the Yule Ball with a Beauxbatons' student. And Ron Weasley plays chess with one of them all of the time. And Sally Anne's become good friends with one of them. And Pansy wrote in her journal about how much she's enjoyed getting to know Beauxbatons' students better. So maybe they should have been left off the list, too.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-20 16:50:58](#)

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

If you'd like to stop by this afternoon, I've got them in my office, or I can bring them down to dinner. I glanced through: there's some old margin notes from my student days, but I think they might actually be a help. In particular, there's a different way to do the vibrational calculations that worked better for me, at least to double check my work.

On the party: I had known some of that, but not all of it. I am sorry for hurting you or making you feel left out, as that certainly wasn't my intention, and I know how horrid it feels.

Balancing a social gathering is quite tricky. (And I am certainly not a quarter as good at it as your Aunt Narcissa is!) In this case, it

was trying to find a combination of people who'd benefit from more opportunity, but also including people - like Miss Parkinson and Miss Perks - who would be able to encourage everyone to mingle and put them at ease, precisely because they do know lots of people. I do hope that the future events will help even things out a little bit.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-01-20 17:10:53**

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

I'm not hurt. I didn't understand the logic of how people were selected, but now that you've explained it it does make more sense. However I think there might be some people who are hurt, like Eloise Midgen, because both of her dorm-mates were invited and she wasn't. And she's already been through a lot with them.

The books do sound useful. I can come by and get them when I'm on my way to see Professor Vector.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-01-20 17:15:06**

Re: Private message to Hydra Lestrangle

I've already spoken to Miss Midgen, too - though you're right, she's not very happy with me about it still. (And as you say, she has reason, and I can't blame her a bit.)

As to the books, I'll look forward to seeing you this afternoon, and I do hope they help you. I hated that feeling of not being able to sort any of it out in my head, and being so horribly confused about how to get the right results.

2012-01-20 10:11:00

Private message to Astoria Greengrass

Do me a favour.

Write to Mother (by book or by Owl, I don't care), and include this in your message:



 [alt_daphne](#)

Daphne says thank you for the necklace, the stockings, the sachet, and the chocolates. She also says that she has no intention of speaking to you until you sort the matter out.

And no, I will not tell you what the "matter" is, and you're not to ask Mother, either, you nosy little snipe. I'd rather go through Queenie but you know how sensitive she is.

If you deviate one iota from this exact, specific request, I will do something so monstrous that it will haunt your dreams until the END OF TIME!

And you know I can do it, too.

[2012-01-20 22:45:00](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Your birthday present should be arriving sometime within the next six hours, depending on how far from New London you are hiding, dear.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

And don't worry, I've used the most ordinary, common post owl I could find.

Now, it comes with a condition. You absolutely *must* write and tell me what deliciously intimate thing Miss Greengrass has sent you. If she has not bothered to discover and remember your birthday, I shall be highly dubious as to the abiding nature of her obsession.

The other condition you'll see when you get the letter.

I hope you're well.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **[2012-01-21 15:54:41](#)**
(no subject)

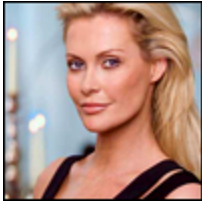
To say I enjoyed that would be an understatement. Shall we say that the chase has been long and hard and that your letter was a balm that brought a measure of relief. Release.

Of course, it also makes me want to see you all the more. But you knew that would be the result.

Even if I have to wear a toga in order to make good on your promise.

Tell me about your robes for the event? I want to imagine you in Roman garb. So I can properly anticipate the pleasure. (I scanned the glossies for pictures from your holiday party, you know, and was wholly disappointed. Shame you banned the press. Have you no pity on your admirers?)

Speaking of admirers. There's been nothing so far from Hogwarts today.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-22 03:49:07](#)
(no subject)

Nothing at all from Hogwarts? Dear, oh dear, Barty, your lustre must be wearing thin. How fickle of her. Or perhaps she's at last realised she does not meet your requirements.

As for reporters, you must be having fun at my expense. When have we ever allowed them to photograph our private holiday party? But this one was decidedly more debauched than some others, in keeping with the evening's theme. Converting the conservatory into a Roman bath was apparently quite tricky, but well worth the effort.

Which ought to give you more than enough to visualise with no need of photographs. For the Frost Faire, I had considered Minoan but decided it would be both too daring and too cold for February along the Thames, warming charms or no. No, they'll be reasonably classic, I expect. I'm not sure; Burdett-Coutts has insisted that Gerard Joosh should design mine, Lucius' and the Lord Protector's robes for at least one of the evenings; I have another set on commission from Kosette, of all people; and there shall be at least one night when one of Revati's pieces will do admirably.

Do you know, the WI and St Mungo's wondered if I'd be interested in auctioning some of my old robes and gowns for charity? I'm not sure how I feel about that sort of thing: On the one hand, it would give the outfits new life, in a way, and raise funds for some good cause; on the other, it's a particularly ghoulish custom, which is somewhat incongruous when the wearer is no longer alive but positively disconcerting when she is still thriving, thank you.

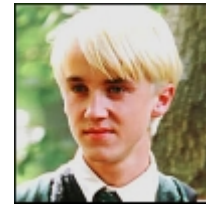
But. It could clear out at least half my wardrobe cupboards. Lucius is no help in the matter - he simply says to do whatever I like about it. What do you think?

And am I to infer, then, that you'll be able to pay the Faire a visit?

2012-01-21 09:51:00

Keeping busy

Went for a fly this morning for the first time in some weeks. I must say that while this year has been packed with new and interesting activities, I really do miss quidditch. I especially feel for the 7th years who were looking forward to playing out their final season, only to discover that they'd already played it back in 6th year. Bit rubbish, that. But I suppose it can't be helped.



 **alt_draco**

Seems a few folks are still feeling a bit low that they've not been invited to that Beauxbatons *soiree*. All I can say to that is: really? It's just a bit of faculty-supervised tea and mingling, not the second coming of the Yule Ball. I can't speak for other Houses, but there's usually more interesting things than *that* going on in the Slytherin common room on Saturday nights. Dancing in the music alcove, or even just listening to the wireless, along with snap and portkey at the game tables. So if you're feeling left out, just grab a mate and make something happen.

Off to the YPL/CCF Planning meeting in a bit. See the rest of you lot there.

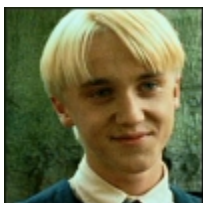


 **alt_hydra** at **2012-01-21 17:59:27**

Private message to Draco

If you're talking about me, I'm not low and my feelings aren't hurt. I just didn't understand the thinking behind who was invited and who wasn't. That's all.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_draco** at **2012-01-21 18:03:27**

Re: Private message to Draco

The guest list makes perfect sense if you think about it the right way. It includes a number of hopelessly inept wallflower types and a very small handful of semi-popular types who happen to be good at

reaching out to hopelessly inept wallflower types. Sounds like a nightmare if you ask me, and you should be happy you're not expected to show up.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 18:05:41](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

That's more or less how Professor Sinistra explained it, though she didn't call them inept wallflowers, exactly.

From,
Hydra

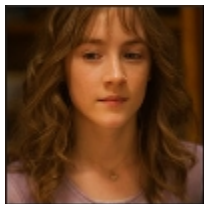


 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-21 18:08:19](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Well no, she wouldn't then, would she?

But it does explain why people like Midgen and Smith and Millicent weren't invited. They might be pretty inept at socialising, but you can't really call them wallflowers. They ought to have left Weasley out of it, though. He's more irritating than Smith and Midgen combined.



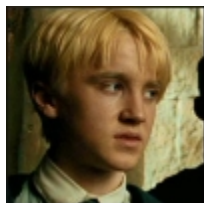
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 18:26:07](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

I suppose I can see why some people might think that.

Who did you go flying with this morning? Harry?

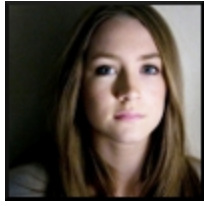
From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-21 18:27:23](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

I went alone. Why do you ask?



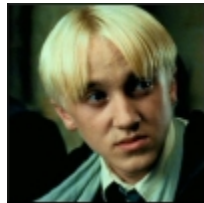
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 18:28:14](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

I thought you might have done.

Lately it seems as if you and Harry don't do as much together as you used to.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-21 18:32:38](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Doesn't need me to do things, does he? He has Granger as a built-in best mate who has to stick by his side no matter what, and can't really ever disagree with him in any way that really matters - no matter how much he likes to think otherwise.

When we were little, I was given to Harry as his best mate.

And then when we came to Hogwarts they gave him Granger.

I don't know whose idea it was. His Father's, I suppose. Maybe it was after Harry was sorted into Gryffindor. He must've realised Harry would care more about keeping a mudblood girl out of trouble than he would a boy who was almost his equal.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 18:36:43](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

... I didn't know he felt that way about Granger. ~~I wondered~~

Do you think you and Harry would have been mates, if you hadn't been given to him? If you'd just met him like one meets any other person?

Draco, Harry doesn't want anyone to get into trouble, not you and not Granger. But you aren't as vulnerable as she is, you

must know that.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco at 2012-01-21 18:44:17](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

He might feel more than that, even. Though he's an idiot if he does.

I used to tell myself that we would have been friends no matter what. But I'm not as sure of that as I used to be. I like him, of course, but we're so different from one another in some ways. The differences are starting to show up more than they used to.

Of course I know it. It was brilliant, really, giving him Granger. He'd do almost anything to keep her safe.



 [alt_hydra at 2012-01-21 18:46:50](#)

Re: Private message to Draco

Differences can be good. If you were only friends with people who were just like you, you'd never learn anything, or change and grow.

I suppose you must resent her a little. I wouldn't blame you if you did.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_draco at 2012-01-21 18:51:02](#)


Re: Private message to Draco

I see you point, but just the same... I don't *feel* like changing and growing. Not just now, at least. I want to play portkey and have a laugh, just because I can.

I don't resent her at all, actually. She's got no say in any of it.

I resent HIM. I can acknowledge that it's not exactly fair, but I can't make the feeling go away, either. No matter how many early mornings I spend flying.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 18:54:54](#)
Re: Private message to Draco

Really? I feel like I can't wait to change. I wish I could wake up and have it be a year from now and I'll be a whole new person.

I think maybe you're too angry to change yet, Draco.

From,
Hydra




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-21 18:58:34](#)
Re: Private message to Draco

Yeah? You might be right, but then again, I don't think you're nearly angry enough.

And if anyone has a right to it, it'd be you.



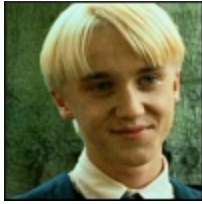
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-01-21 19:00:14](#)
Re: Private message to Draco

Me? But what for? I don't see how that'd do any good at all.

Anyway, I'd better go, I need to stop by to see Professor Sinistra before her meeting, and then go to Professor Vector's office.

Have a good day and I hope you feel better about things soon.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-21 18:16:33](#)**

Private message to Pansy

Which isn't to say that I don't want you to have a good time. I hope that you do.

But I think you know me well enough to know that I have zero interest in it, myself. To say nothing of how Odd Begy smells more strongly of cabbage than actual cabbage does, and I'd rather spare my nose the reminder.

See you after?

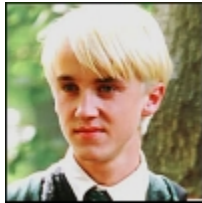


 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 00:44:35](#)**

Re: Private message to Pansy

Of course!

And we did have a good time. I rather had to take on the role of hostess, because I knew the most people there, and some were so awfully shy with one another, or didn't know how to say anything in French, but it did feel rather nice to be a help to Professor Sinistra, and it was worth it to have the chance to talk to some of the Beauxbatons girls that I haven't really had the chance to otherwise.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-22 00:57:21](#)**

Re: Private message to Pansy

I figured you were probably invited for the hostessing bit. You're good at it, after all.

I was actually trying to avoid the common room, but now that I know you're out I'll meet you there in 20 minutes or so? You can tell me what I missed.

2012-01-21 21:24:00

A Full Day

That's what it's been for sure!

The YPL meeting was long and pretty detailed.



 [alt_susan](#)

I'm excited about it, but maybe a tad nervous too. Professor Sinistra talked about wanting to stretch us, and yeah, I think it's going to be well challenging for everybody. And I don't know about anyone else, but I'm definitely going to be checking my warming charms and making sure they're ace. Dornie in the winter is going to be *cold*.

All this is part of what makes it exciting of course--if it were too easy for us, it'd be dull!

Then there was the mixer after--it was really quite fun, although sometimes social things that are organised by adults, even super-nice ones like Professor Sinistra, can be a bit awkward at first.

I really enjoyed getting to know some of the Beauxbatons and Durmstrang students a little more; some of the Durmstrang boys especially have been very quiet in lessons and it was nice to see them open up a bit more.

I do wish more of my friends from Hufflepuff could have attended as well, but I understand that it would have defeated the purpose to have too many people from any one House. Maybe we'll have more things like this later in the term.

I know that some of them have been coming to YPL, but it would be nice to have some other kinds of events that our guests could attend. I talked a bit to Cedric, who was there helping to host, and he said something about organising pick-up Quidditch for anyone who wants to play, which would be pretty wizard!

I'd be well intimidated, playing with Krum, but I expect he'd probably enjoy the sort of match where everyone's just out to have a good time, as much as anyone else would.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-22 21:43:00](#)**
(no subject)

I think the idea of a pick-up game is well brilliant, Sue. And we don't need the official Quidditch pitch to still make it fun -- I know that when a bunch of us were at the Burrow this summer, we made do with an open field and some hoops the twins made.

And it was a nice get-together, wasn't it? I think if they have others like it, we'll all be well on our way to becoming friends with our visitors, and get to know people in other Houses better in the bargain.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-23 01:56:43](#)**
(no subject)

That's true--the great thing about pickup Quidditch is just scrambling around having a good time.

Maybe the twins and Jordan and some other people in 5th year might want to join in too? I think I'll ask Cedric about it since he seemed pretty keen.

I do wish that Beauxbatons and Durmstrang might have brought more girls, though. It'd be well interesting to get more of a witches' view of things.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-23 02:41:44](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe we ought to have a bit of a girls only get-together? I'd bet they know all sorts of snitch charms and things that we don't. We could keep it small, but there's no reason we can't do something on our own too. I think Professor Sinistra would approve. And that way, more of your housemates could come.

And I'm sure the twins and Jordan would be happy to join in, and would bring their friends along too.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-24 02:07:29](#)**
(no subject)

Girls' evening it is!

And I'll PM Cedric about getting the Quidditch thing going.

2012-01-21 22:09:00

(no subject)

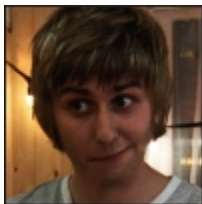
Whoa



 [alt_ron](#)

she

uh



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-22 04:30:25**

(no subject)

I say, Ron, are you all right?

-Justin

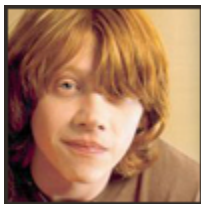



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-22 22:40:12**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

What happened?

Spill, tuna breath.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-22 22:42:57**

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

Well.

She asked if I could get her punch, didn't she?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 22:44:08](#)

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

Who?

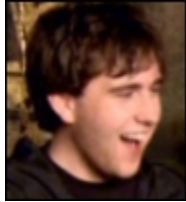



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-22 23:30:28](#)

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

Fleur.

I was just stood there and she asked me for punch.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-23 00:08:17](#)

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

Yeah, and then you looked like you had been punched!

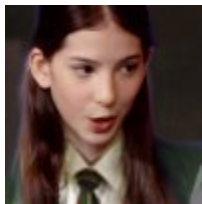


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-23 00:43:56](#)

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

I couldn't even say anything.

yeah-

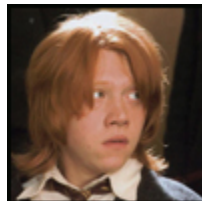


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-23 01:42:24](#)

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

Oh for Merlin's sake.

BOYS.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-23 02:41:39](#)

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

Wot?



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2012-01-23 02:45:10**

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

Oh, nothing. It's just funny to watch you go a bit wobbly.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-01-23 03:28:44**

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

Oh, was that the problem? I say, I'm sorry; I was well across the room, what.

I've seen her do that sort of thing before, though. Mostly to

It'll pass, old man.

-Justin

2012-01-22 14:22:00

Private Message to Draco



 [alt_pansy](#)

It'll be fun having to get along with Patil, since we're together for the CCF team. She'll throw her weight around, no doubt, and get her pants all twisted if we don't fall in line, so I'm of half a mind to just do whatever she says to keep everything from falling to pieces. I can just see the expression on Blaise's face already when she starts barking orders.

I've been thinking about what you said yesterday, about how you wouldn't mind being against Harry this time round.

It's been rather nice, just you and me, don't get me wrong. But I know that one of the reasons why I've had you to myself so often lately is because of Harry. And I just wanted to let you know that if you *did* want to talk about what's been going on between you two, that we could.

Or we could come up with something to do to take your mind off things.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-01-22 20:08:41**

(no subject)

Funny, that - I was just thinking about Weasley pulling faces at all of my instructions. Or else he and Finnigan each trying to ruin each others robes. At least Daphs will be there. And Bones, too, she's not

bad.

Harry - well, we've not had a row or anything. Not quite. I guess we've not really been in the mood to spend time with each other. It's too tense, and there's nothing fun in it. I've already told you how he doesn't listen to me, and he still doesn't, but he thinks that he does. Which probably doesn't make sense...

It might be better to say that he's finally taking some of my advice, but it's all just a little late in coming. He wants to tow the line, or at least *seem* to tow the line, but it's only because it affects him personally now.

And then there's some things from ages ago that I'm still cross about.

Like his need to save that stupid Hippogriff, even though it ended up with both Granger and I being punished. Imagine what would have been done to us if they knew what *really* went on that night. I'd probably be dead or something. Well, maybe not me, but Granger for sure.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 20:16:54](#)
(no subject)

I almost *did* die. At least it seemed for a bit that I might. What with all the people fighting and the Dementors and the werewolves and everything. Did Granger tell you she found me up a tree?

And I have a feeling I'd be in worse trouble than you.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 20:21:20](#)
(no subject)

And yes, it does make sense. I can see how it'd seem selfish of him to only want to do what's right now that he's the one who has to do it. So even though he's doing what you're asking him to, it's not for the reasons you'd like to think.

Does he know how you feel about it all?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-22 20:44:14](#)
(no subject)

She didn't tell me that, no. It was a bad night for a walk, though - I'm sorry you had to go through that.

I've told him how I feel but that doesn't mean that he *knows* how I feel. Sometimes when I'm prattling on at him and warning him to not do this or to not do that... it's almost like I can feel him not really listening. Probably because I've been doing it since we were about six. Ever since the first time we got into serious trouble at Buckingham.

The last time we really talked, I wanted the three of us to discuss what was going to happen after the second task, and I wanted Harry to think - *really* think - about what would happen if he wasn't able to go through with it. He said to me that he and Granger had already discussed it.

And he'd also been discussing it with Raz, and that one guy - um, Sinbad.

But he didn't discuss it with me. I know he wasn't trying to leave me out, but I just can't believe he didn't consider that I would probably be there, which could mean anything. It could mean that I'll be expected to use Imperius on her again, or even Cruciate her myself. Or maybe he'll have to Cruciate me, too. Or maybe none of those things would happen. Even so, I wanted to be part of the discussion.

So yeah, we've not been saying much to each other ever since that.



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-01-22 20:53:17](#)

(no subject)

I think that's the thing with Harry, though. From what I know of him, and from what you've told me. He just doesn't think about other people.

I mean, it seems like he's starting to, at least, a bit, but if he's spent such a long time not having to really face any consequences and having *you* and Granger around to be punished instead of him, well, I think it'd make anyone a touch inconsiderate.

And not as likely to listen.

Sinbad, hmm? That explains his latest screed. I was wondering about it.

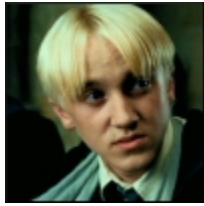


 **alt_pansy** at [2012-01-22 20:55:15](#)
(no subject)

And it wasn't all bad.

Dangerous? Definitely.

But not an entire waste of time. As it were.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-01-22 21:10:48](#)
(no subject)

He does think of other people - *sort of*. What I really wish is that he would think of himself more, of what he could do and accomplish, just because he's Harry Marvolo.

He wanted to free that Hippogriff because he felt bad that he wasn't able to do anything to save Hannah Abbott. But he **COULD** have saved Hannah Abbott, if he'd thought about it the right way. He could have offered to rescue that kitten for her. What could Carrow have done, seeing the Lord Protector's son taking a kitten? Nothing, that's what. He's Harry Bloody Marvolo - he takes and does what he wants!

That's how I'd be, anyway, if I were him.

I even think that's why Hydra offered to go along with Abbott, because she thought her being there would have helped, if they'd been caught. Well, obviously it didn't help, but I still think that was part of why she did it. That and her frankly unnatural love of animals.

I guess he just doesn't think about what he could accomplish by being Harry Marvolo because he's really, really not a Slytherin. Bloody nightshade, it must be awful to be so deficient. Can you imagine?

Getting stuck up a tree while Dementors were on the rampage wasn't a waste of time? Afraid you'll have to explain that one to me a bit more...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 21:21:01](#)
(no subject)

I wasn't stuck up a tree the whole time, you know.

I'll tell you about it. But I'd rather not tell here.

Tonight?

And he really isn't, is he? I mean, I think he *thinks* he doesn't want to be treated differently, but on the other hand, he takes advantage when it suits. And when opportunities like that come up when he could really do something, it doesn't even occur to him.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-22 21:27:31](#)
(no subject)

Sure. So long as we don't have to talk the *whole* time.

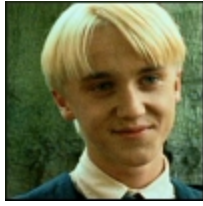
He's never going to NOT be treated differently. I mean, neither am I, and I accept it. I think as long as you're aware of the fact that people might be nicer to you, or even wary of you, because of your last name - well, at least you can control how *you* respond to it, right?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-22 21:38:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, I *did* mention taking your mind off things, didn't I?

And maybe that's something he'll be more likely to listen to? I'm sure it's something you would be able to speak to more than Sinbad ever could. And it might make him be a little more likely to be considerate of other people in the bargain, if he starts to think of how he can use his influence to help other people.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-01-22 21:40:52](#)**
(no subject)

You did, and yes, I noticed.

Well, sooner or later one of us will have to break the ice. So yeah... maybe after that.

See you at supper in a bit?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-22 21:45:10](#)**
(no subject)

You most certainly shall.

2012-01-22 19:45:00

Order Only: Private message to Dora and Sirius




 [alt_lupin](#)

Either of you seen the letter opener? The one that looks like a miniature sword?

I'm a bit worried it's fallen somewhere Bea could grab it. It's not exactly an ideal baby toy.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2012-01-23 01:49:01**
(no subject)

Ask Walden if he's seen it, too, if you spot him. I just felt silly posting this to the entire Order. ATTENTION, GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM: BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A MISSING BABY TOY.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-23 01:58:53**
(no subject)

Last I saw it was on the blotter - nowhere near Bea's reach.

Why is it things don't seem to want to stay in their proper places? Your cloak, that set of spoons for Bea, Dora's book, my slippers last week - they all keep disappearing! I mean to say, we've got an *elf*, for Merlin's sake. May as well make him do his *job* if we've got to have him about for safekeeping.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2012-01-23 02:18:26**
(no subject)

You want to set him to looking, have at. He mostly pretends he can't hear me, when I try to get him to do anything.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-23 02:47:29](#)
(no subject)

I tried Accio for my book, but nothing happened.
Still don't know where that got to.

I don't expect a summoning charm's a good idea for the letter opener. If it worked, it could be deadly.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-23 03:00:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, with your luck, certainly.

I suppose it's too much to think Kreacher shelved the book back in the library? I just asked him about the other things and he just said, 'Kreacher put them away, Master.'

Wherever *he* thinks they're meant to be put away, is the problem.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-23 03:28:17](#)
(no subject)

Bloody brilliant.

Why do people WANT house-elves? I really don't understand the appeal.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-23 03:30:40](#)
(no subject)

It's really just this one, I think.

Actually, if you and Dora are free, come in to the sitting room. I want to get a few things straightened out with the little beggar and it'll go easier, I think, if you're both present for it.

2012-01-23 12:32:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black



Ugh.

I can't sleep. And I can't find anything I want to read.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-23 18:41:17**
(no subject)

That announcement you told us about at breakfast still have you rattled? It'll be all right. Might even help us in the long run.

Want that lavender sachet whats-her-name gave you for Bea?

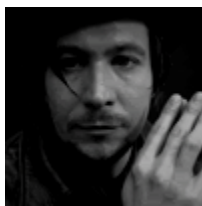



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2012-01-23 18:51:21**
(no subject)

You're not the one has to turn over anything suspicious she finds in people's rubbish. While also not getting caught snooping in people's rubbish. It's fine for this new lot to say it's loyal to do that.

They're not the ones who'll get hexed for doing it.

If you know where it is, I'd love it. Ta.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-23 19:00:04**
(no subject)

No, but you're dead clever, kiddo. We'll give you extra lessons on sneaking. Might be you'll find things we can use for Mac's master plan, and all.


I know just where it is; have it to you in a tick.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-01-23 21:45:42](#)**
(no subject)

Padfoot's right; the good news is that if you can duck the hexes, you can snoop with a bit more impunity, can't you? If you're caught, you'll look loyal rather than suspicious.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-23 22:51:50](#)**
(no subject)

'Well, yes, Director Selwyn, it's true, I was poking about in your credenza. But before you Crucio me, I think you should know I have authorisation from that secret new department. Or didn't they tell you about it?'

I'm sure that will go well.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-23 23:03:36](#)**
(no subject)

Which isn't to say you're not both right.

Only, I'll still want to be certain I'm not caught at any of it.

Not sure what they think we'll find, anywiz. It's not as if people chuck out parchments listing their agendas for overthrowing the Protector. Really, the most memorable thing I've found was a pair of lacy knickers in one of the meeting rooms down in Magical Sport. Under a chair.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-01-23 21:43:48](#)**
(no subject)

Someone left a copy of 'Pure Hunger' behind at the beer garden a week back. All the kids at Hogwarts seem to think it's brilliant. Or at least highly diverting.

Not soothing, mind you.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-23 22:45:43](#)**
(no subject)

Hm. That's the one where they're all fighting to the death in some arena?

Lovely plot, that.

Still. I'll have a go at it next time I can't sleep. Honestly, I'm calling today a loss and getting up.

I'll see if I can't do something about supper.

[2012-01-23 13:32:00](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy



Narcissa,

I do hope you're well, and that the Witches' Institute event yesterday went enjoyably for you. I'm writing because I've two questions where I'd greatly appreciate your guidance.

 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

First, Raz and I have had several inquiries about whether we'll be at this or that Frost Faire event, and we're trying to figure out which should get priority. Would you be willing to advise? Our teaching schedules (particularly mine) do complicate things, but I'm sure we can arrange some time outside of that.

The second is a bit more delicate. Raz and I have been working together since last spring to get my Defence skills in somewhat better form. But various matters - Healer Stint, among others - lead him to suggest if I might ask who you work with, or if you might have another suggestion. Raz is a wonderful teacher, of course, but we're both well aware that it's an area where outside perspective might be all to the good.

Thank you, as always, for your time and any insight you might have.

Aurora



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-01-24 22:52:58](#)**
(no subject)

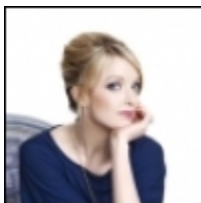
I'm doing very well, Aurora, thank you for asking. I hope you are quite recovered from what appeared to be rather a minor revolt over your choices for Emile's little tea party next weekend. One of the disadvantages, I think, of having made a reputation for scrupulous fair play, is that others around one come to expect inclusion when often it's neither necessary nor appropriate.

However, I am glad you thought to ask about the Faire. The Burdett-Couttses have been simply teeming with brilliance over all their arrangements. I should say that the Opening Ceremonies are not to be missed, particularly if one enjoys skating exhibitions: my understanding (and do realise that this is gleaned from Gabriel and

Nicola's hints, as they *will* insist on playing close to the vest!) is that there's to be an exhibition depicting the coming of the Romans to the British Isles, complete with a duel choreographed on skates. Then there shall be the erection of a bridge which is intended to provide a pedestrian walk across the river for the whole of the festival). Beyond that, I do know that they've arranged for a reproduction arena about a third the size of the original Coliseum, which shall be used for various entertainments each evening. I gather that Gabriel drew inspiration from that book that's so popular now, oh, you know the one the children have all been reading. Something about hunger? Well, between that and the concept of *Londinium Novum*, I fully expect to see chariot races, something by Plautus and lions among the bill of fare on any given night. All perfectly safe, of course! Just for the flavour of the original Roman appetites.

Speaking of which, I do know that *Portico, Il Bargello* and several other restaurants have planned special menus, as well. You and Raz might wish to book a private seating. I've been told that some packages even include serving maids in chitons and feature music whilst dining. There will be baths, of course, in the Romanesque style, which I'm sure Raz will find refreshing for his leg. Mind you both go to one of the better establishments; I'm sure that Elysian or Ouroboros will have outposts with their own staff of masseurs.

Now, as for your other question. I fully agree that it is imperative for a witch to keep up her defence skills. Sadly, my personal trainer is ... unavailable, at present (leave of absence). But I know that Mr Blackmun comes highly recommended, as does that young woman at the Landsdowne. What is her name? Hornby, I think. And if neither of them will do, I think Maebh has a man, I could inquire if you like.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-24 23:20:50](#)**
(no subject)

Narcissa -

Thank you, indeed. I knew you'd be able to lay out the possibilities far more clearly than Raz or I had been able to manage thus far based on the hints in the papers and passing conversations.

I'll certainly discuss all of that with him, and I'm sure we'll find quite a few events to interest us. I must say the hints of the

Opening Ceremonies sound particularly lovely to watch, and of course, Raz does have a particular interest in the arena, if they run to duels as well as chariots and plays.

The book you're thinking of is *Pure Hunger*, and yes, it's quite the rage here. I've seen more than a few sleepy faces in class the last few weeks where I'm sure that's the cause. Enough that I stopped in to pick up a copy for myself this afternoon, as a treat once I'm past Saturday's YPL event, in fact.

On your other recommendations: I'd hate to put you to any trouble, so do let me run those names past Raz, and see what he says.

As to the gathering - well, yes. And it is quite hard when one is looking to balance numbers fairly. Of course, I'm glad to help out in that way, but I know there were a few hurt feelings. I must say Miss Parkinson, in particular, did a lovely job of making everyone feel welcome: she's becoming a credit to your influence.

[2012-01-23 20:31:00](#)

Private message to Hydra

Thanks a lot for lending me 'Pure Hunger.'



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

You said halfbloods aren't mentioned, but they're there, it's just they're classified as 'purebloods' because they can trace ancestry back to a pureblood wizard. I kept wondering while reading if the idea is that at some point all the half-bloods had married purebloods and then the quarter-bloods married purebloods and after enough generations no one cared anymore so everyone was just 'pure,' or if the idea is that ANYONE who has pureblood ancestry is automatically a pureblood in this world and even Amaranth could actually be a halfblood (they never say anything about her maternal grandparents, unless I missed something, I was reading sort of fast because I wanted to find out what happened next.)

I think whether or not Amaranth is related to Godric Gryffindor she'd surely have been Sorted into Gryffindor. She'd be, like, the token clever Gryffindor who's good at putting together a decent plan, but the Hat looks partly at what you want, you know? And she clearly values courage more than she values her cleverness, even though it's usually her cleverness that saves her in the end.

The author did some good research on living off the land but you know, given that she DOES have a wand she could have used it to hunt, instead of just setting snares. Unless her aim is just TERRIBLE! Although I suppose it might be noticed. The stuff about how food tastes when you're really hungry was dead on, though.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-01-25 00:39:17](#)**

(no subject)

Hello, Sally Anne. I'm happy that you're enjoying the book. I enjoyed it a good deal.

When I said halfbloods weren't mentioned, I meant they never actually use that word, or even seem to have a concept of it. Everyone's just pureblood, muggle, or mudblood. It's interesting, don't you think? I wonder what gave the author the idea to keep it to only pureblooded and non-pureblooded (plus muggles).

I happen to think Efrain would have been sorted into Slytherin, don't

you?

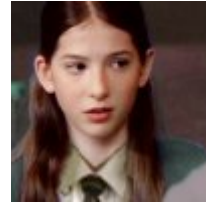
I have a theory that Amaranth doesn't use her wand to hunt because she knows that if the Enforcers catch her carrying around a dead animal, they'll be able to tell whether it died by a wand or by a snare, and a snare would get her into a lot less trouble.

I didn't really like the bits about eating squirrels and rabbits and such, but I suppose that'd what one would do if they were starving. It's sort of a privilege to be able to not eat them, just because you think they're helpless and sweet.

From,
Hydra

2012-01-23 20:49:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good: Private message to Justin*



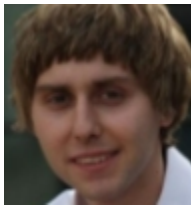
Alright, I finished Pure Hunger last night and I started tonight on Jane Eyre.


 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Does it get better?

I mean if this is 500 pages of people being cruel to Jane I'm not sure I can take it. It's like hearing Katrina someone talk about her horrible foster family. I really thought things would get better when she went to school but it's just as bad. It's like if instead of Hogwarts all the half-bloods had to go somewhere else where they could starve us and treat us horribly.

I do really like that she found a friend, though. Helen. Meeting Pansy was the best thing, the absolute best thing about my first her at Hogwarts (though Helen's not much like Pansy. Pansy would NEVER say 'oh, I deserved it!' after someone beat her for no reason).



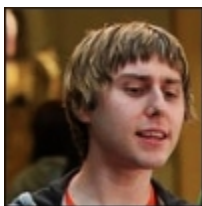
 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-24 03:47:02**
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

Yes, it does get better. I do appreciate that Jane's early life is painful, what, but if she doesn't go through hardship, it shan't be all the more uplifting when things get better.

Word of warning, though: It also gets worse, if you follow me. But it comes out all right in the end.

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-24 04:36:01**
(no subject)

Also, it's important to remember that things were different then. Well, perhaps not so different if one's an orphan then and one's a muggleborn now.

That's one of the reasons I wanted Hydra to read it, do you see.

But outside the Protectorate, there are places where it's still well horrible but not as many as there were a hundred years ago. Most anywhere nowadays would have that school's headmaster up on charges of bally old child abuse--the muggle schools, at any rate, what?

And no one like Carrow would be allowed to teach or have charge of a foster-child--or at least, if he were caught, he'd be thrown in gaol.

-Justin

2012-01-23 22:14:00

Order Only: Arthur and Bill

I should have written you earlier in the day, but I was just too discombobulated to think. Better now. Seeing people here enjoying the beer garden always reminds me what we're really working for and why it's worth it.




 **alt_nymphadora**

But listen. There's something you need to know about. I got called into my supervisor's supervisor's office and then sent down somewhere I've never been over in MLE's wing. Closed-door meeting with someone who called himself Vladick or Valdez or something--he was definitely not handing out his card. Short story: we're being asked to pay a bit of attention to what's in rubbish bins and under blotters and in cupboards and the like. He didn't say we're to look in anyone's files, but he made it sound as if we might pay attention to that, too. They're rooting out disloyalty and think the cleaners are likely to stumble across things now and then that might be of use. And there'll be a bit of a boost in the pay if we do. Or something. He was a bit vague, but they're offering incentives.

So be extra careful, will you?

And, Bill, tell your network to keep their noses clean (and their desks tidy).



 **alt_bill** at **2012-01-24 15:01:22**
(no subject)

Oh, bloody hell.

All right. Thanks for the warning. And yes, I do keep my desk scrupulously tidy of anything incriminating, but all the same, yes, I'm glad to know about this.

I will see if I can find out anything further about this initiative. Last name begins with a 'V'? He was with MLE?



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-25 03:32:35](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry, Bill.

I was done in when I got home from my shift this morning. And they let me sleep right through.

Yes, the bloke's name started with V. Vlatizc? Probably not that exactly. But something like. Don't know if he's MLE. The room was over there, though.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-01-24 15:02:04](#)**
(no subject)

So noted, Tonks. Thanks.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2012-01-24 20:14:47](#)**
(no subject)

I wonder...does this offer us an opportunity?

Could we (and by 'we,' I mean any of Bill's people, or Dora) plant suspicious stuff in the workspaces of people we want to be rid of?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-25 01:35:00](#)**
(no subject)

That's exactly what Mac and I have been planning for about two weeks, now, long before we found out Dora's news. I've already told her it plays right into our hands.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-25 03:44:06](#)**
(no subject)

Yes. Definitely.

Saliers--he's one of the full-timers--found something and was all over smug about it. Everyone I ran into

wanted to talk about it, too, and guess what THEY'll make of it and whether there'll be a big bonus for Saliers in it.

Anything we'd plant would be pounced on, and no mistake.

2012-01-25 09:33:00

Order Only: Tonks' information


is good. I managed to get a warning out to my network right after I heard about this new program, and it's a good thing I did. I heard from one of my sources, who's an administrative assistant in the Department of Magical Transportation, (with the Floo Network Authority), who's been a great help in giving me information about personnel transport. He got called in for an interview that made him sweat quite a bit, but thanks to my warning, his office was entirely clean. And--this was brilliant--he had even managed to plant a hinky-looking scribbled 'note' into the waste bin of one of his coworkers who has been a pain in the arse to him, and that bloke was also called in for an interview and hasn't been back since.



 [alt_bill](#)


I am still trying to get a handle on who is directing this. Whoever's running this is being very tight-lipped, but I hope I'll have something to report in a couple days.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-01-25 16:30:53](#)
(no subject)

You should put a protective charm on your own rubbish bin. And tell your sources to do so, too.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-01-25 16:31:18](#)
(no subject)

Too right. Any suggestions?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-01-25 16:32:39](#)
(no subject)


Hmm. 'Si ignitum non mea,' maybe. But put a delay on it, say five minutes or so.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-01-25 16:34:21](#)
(no subject)

Wait a minute! If he sets his bin to set on fire if someone else puts something in it, other parchments in there could go up, and it could start a larger fire. THAT would certainly draw scrutiny.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-01-25 16:35:49](#)
(no subject)

Good point, Mum.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-01-25 16:36:41](#)
(no subject)

Try 'si solvere non meum.' That would dissolve anything anyone else but you puts in.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-01-25 16:37:12](#)
(no subject)

Good thinking, Molly.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-01-25 16:37:36](#)
(no subject)

I'll do it, too.

[2012-01-25 15:25:00](#)

*Private Message to Mandy Brocklehurst
and Luna Lovegood*



Hey, Mandy and Luna,

I've been meaning to ask you both about something for awhile, but I keep getting caught up in revising and such and forgetting!


 **[alt_susan](#)**

Anyhow, what it is, is--what do you two thinking of inviting Hydra Lestranger to join Teatime?

Pansy and Sally-Anne are all for it (and I assume Millie is too, though Pansy didn't say), but we agreed that it would be good to ask the rest of the Teatimers who *aren't* in Slytherin, and especially you, Luna, since you're in lessons with her and might see a different side of her than the rest of us.

So...thoughts?



 **[alt_luna](#) at [2012-01-26 03:00:08](#)**
(no subject)

I quite like the idea, I think. I think if there's anyone who would need this group, she would, and everything I've seen of her makes me think she's quite kind, really. Reserved, but that makes getting to know her all the more interesting and worth while. So I say yes.

2012-01-25 21:54:00

Private Message to Parkinson and Zabini

I thought it might be useful to do a little strategising ahead of Saturday.



I'm looking forward to working with you both. I'm not worried about Su Li, she's actually really clever and pretty well-rounded. Bundy will be fine, too, don't you think? Depends on what we've got to do. MacMillan's strength is in keeping people together, at least from what I've seen, so maybe he'll do best at the sorts of challenges that require loads of coordination.

 [alt_padma](#)

What about the third-years? Is there anyone we should definitely try to get early in the draft? Oh, and Zabini, do you want Mlle Durand on our team, or not on our team? Because I figure Draco will put his cousins on his team, and then Hydra will likely want Finch-Fletchley. And we have to have at least one each of Beauxbatons and Durmstrang, right?

So let me know what you two think and maybe we can all meet as a team, the six of us, before Saturday?



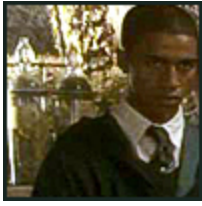
 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-26 03:50:50**
(no subject)

I don't know too many thirdies. Sandoval might be good to nab, if Harry doesn't pick her. In our House, if we can't get Hydra, Warrington is sharp enough, and Bode carries herself rather well. I'd recommend them.

What about the third-year Ravenclaws?

Bundy's quiet, but I think she'll try her best and won't rock the boat or be disagreeable.

I'd be free on Thursday night -- perhaps that'd be best, because it'd give us a day to look up any useful spells we might need after we settle on a strategy.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-26 04:09:36](#)**
(no subject)

Teds says he's in, so we should try to take him. And of the thirties, Whitacre's got skills. I think we should prioritise him. Agree about Sandoval.

You're sure about Bundy? I think we should work out what happens if she lets down the side.

Thursday's fine.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-01-26 04:43:27](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I was thinking Sandoval, too. Our third-years are a thin lot, but Thompson, Rhys-Myers and Preece are all right. Rubens has an attitude on her but she'll do as she's told. Though I'd prefer not to have her unless we're completely stuck. duMaurier we might want to consider - do you know he's been spending nearly all his time with the Beauxbatons lot? Can't seem to get over the fact that he's British now and not French anymore. On the other hand, he's not a total waste when it comes to charms, so. Maybe.

Bundy won't be a problem. Pav and Lav can help us there.

But anyway, got to get to sleep now. Tomorrow - after dinner, in the library? There's a cozy table and fireplace right near Questions, Quests and Quiescence that hardly anyone ever uses. Meet there.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-26 03:53:27](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, and while we're talking, Bones and I had a bit of an idea to throw a girls-only party for the girls in our class and our visitors from Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. I thought if you and your sister and Brown helped out, we'd have people from each of the Houses to host and plan. What do you think?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-01-26 04:30:52](#)**
(no subject)

Sure, sounds brill. If only because perhaps then Midgen will stop going on and on about not getting invited to that get-together Saturday. (Honestly, was it really all that amazing?)

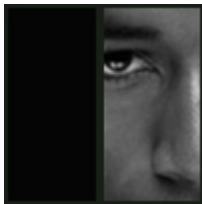
Let's talk about it more tomorrow? You're always a great one for the music and such. Makes a difference, don't you think? And maybe Greengrass could get her mum to send up some food, since it's ever so much better than what the elves can come up with for us.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-01-26 05:30:29](#)**
(no subject)

It was well-intended, and there was good food, but I think we can do better.

We can talk more about it tomorrow, certainly. And yes, I was planning on asking Daphne to co-host from our house, because she really is fantastic at it.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-26 04:17:04](#)**
(no subject)

Good show, Patil. Organising things.

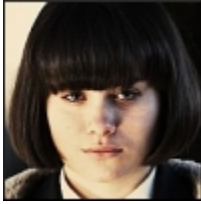
Yes, Durand would be an asset, for certain. And thanks for asking. I shouldn't worry about losing Finch-Fletchley to Draco's lot: I don't think he's all that, if you know what I mean. They can have him. Especially if they have Hydra, as well. Of course, that team will have as much distraction as it can manage already. Can you imagine three less compatible people than Weasley, Finnigan and Draco? Glad not to be in the middle of that mess.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-26 04:33:48](#)
(no subject)

I know, right? Poor Seamus. And Draco.

Sorry, Parkinson. But you've got to admit, it's true.
Weasley's a menace and he's anything but organised.
Draco must be going mad, trying to figure out how to keep him out
of trouble and still win.

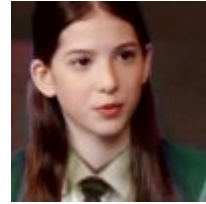


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-26 05:29:05](#)
(no subject)

That's not quite the way I'd put it, but you're right
that they aren't the best of friends.

2012-01-25 22:26:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo



 **alt_sally_anne**

Do you want to do any planning ahead for Saturday? The CCF members on our team are you, me, Dean Thomas, Linus Moon, and Zach Smith. If you have time, maybe we could talk about who else to pick? Thomas will want to picky Ginny Weasley, if she's participating -- I don't know if this is exactly her thing. She's not bad a Charms, at least. I'm not sure if there's anyone Smith or Moon will want -- does Smith get along with anyone at all? there might be someone from his House, though.

Smith is hard to work with. So is Thomas. They're both prickly and difficult, though clever in their own way. I think this will go well if you act from the outset like you expect them to follow your lead. If you get all shy, Smith's going to try to take over and NO ONE wants that!

I'm trying to think about people I'd pick, and I think what we should try to do is think about covering as many areas of magic as we can -- and in particular we should look at where the five of us are weak, and try to come up with people who fill in the gaps. For what it's worth, Adelheid Zimmerman is quite good at Charms -- I think we should try to get her, she'll be overlooked because she's a fostered half-blood but she's quite clever. I wouldn't tell Megan Jones my secrets but she's also not bad at Charms, and Smith might be more civil if there are a few extra girls from his own House on the team. (Maybe.) Neville Longbottom is extremely good at Herbology, and I could see them throwing a Herbology task at us just because it's one of those areas so many students don't care about -- like Astronomy, but I pay attention in Astronomy because I like Professor Sinistra, so we're covered there.

I think we should grab Luna -- we're going to have to solve problems and Luna's mad about three-quarters of the time and brilliant the other quarter. She likes to look at things the other way round, if that makes sense.

If we want someone who can just barrel through every obstacle like a bull under Imperius, that's be Greg.

Are any of us good at Potions? But I think Herbology's more likely to

matter than Potions, we simply won't be set up to brew anything at all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-26 04:53:03](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and from Durmstrang I think we should take Krum, if we can get him!

And from Beauxbatons, J.P. Because he speaks better English than most of them, since he's mates with Finch-Fletchley. Not that I'd mind picking Finch-Fletchley but I don't think he should be one of our TOP choices and someone else will pick him early. Early on, I think there'll be better picks, you know? (Like Krum.)

Hydra's another one like that -- I'd love to have her on our team but I think she'll get picked early, and I don't think it's worth fighting Draco or Pansy for her. If she's still available after the first couple rounds then yes, because she's clever, easy to work with, and a Slytherin (and I'm not saying that out of House loyalty, I'm saying that because I think Slytherin cleverness is the way to win this!) But I doubt she will be.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-26 16:21:21](#)
(no subject)

I agree with getting Krum, yeah. If we can. I think we'd have a pretty good chance of getting him too.

I don't know J.P., but Draco'll want Hydra and Hydra'll want Finch-Fletchley, and I'm not going to pick someone I know either of them want. So we'll go with that, sure.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-26 16:23:37](#)
(no subject)

You're right about Smith.

I don't know if he likes girls, though.

You really think Lovegood would be a good choice? I mean, it'd be unexpected and all, and maybe that's a good thing. But not if she goes barmy on us.

And Herbology, huh? I guess Longbottom is one of the better ones at that, and people won't be falling all over themselves to get him on their team.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-27 05:30:41](#)
(no subject)

Well, I wouldn't waste one of our first picks on Lovegood, because no one else is going to pick her right off, anyway. But even when she's barmy, she's hard working and cooperative, so there's that. (As is Longbottom. He'll follow your lead and won't waste time arguing, and I would bet there'll be a Herbology task, or at least a Herbology angle to something we're supposed to do. So at the very least we need SOMEONE who's good at Herbology -- and my marks in it are fine but if we had to hunt for some particular plant, I doubt I'd recognise it. I'm better with animals.)

[2012-01-26 14:11:00](#)

Private Message to Smith and Thomas

So. We ought to get together before Saturday, yeah? I've had a chance to talk to Perks already, and she's excited about the whole thing.



 [alt_harry](#)

And I'd like a list from both of you of people from your houses you think would be good to get on our team. Along with what they're good at. Because it wouldn't do if everyone on our team was ace at Charms, but no-one could manage Transfig, right?

I'm more interested in getting people who'll get the job done than anything. They don't have to be popular, just good at what they do and good at working in a group.

I think we've got the best shot at nabbing Krum for our side, but do either of you know any Beauxbatons students that would be good? They'd have to speak decent English. Just to make it easier.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-27 03:41:34](#)
(no subject)

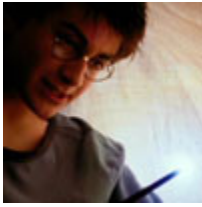
What's there to plan, then? I thought we'd find out more about the challenges as we go.

But all right, if it's Hufflepuffs you want, then Zimmerman's all right. We ought to see if we could get Goshal, he's good at survival-type things. And fast. Don't know the Beauxbatons lot very much but if you want another Durmstrang bloke, Sven Larsen speaks English perfectly. Well, near enough. And he's our age, too, so he won't get shirty about being told what to do.

Which...I mean, Merlin's breath, Marvolo, I know Perks crushes on Krum but--well. You're a champion. And he's one as well, and all. Do you really think he'll just let you tell him where to go and what to do?

Or are you looking to pump him for information about the second task? Haven't you worked it out? Mind, if you haven't, you'd best get a move on after Saturday. Diggory's got it and you won't get me to say what it is.

Oh, but anyways. Yeah, Zimmerman and Goshal. Clarriker's not bad, either. Let someone else have Wynn-Davis, he's a frightful whinger.



 **alt_harry** at [2012-01-27 14:36:36](#)

(no subject)

Good to know, thanks for the names Smith.

And yeah, I figured most people will stay away from even asking Krum, but it's because we're both champions that I'd have the best shot at being able to tell him what to do out of all the other leaders, and have him actually listen, yeah?

So I figure lots of people won't even try for him. But he's got skills, and I think it's with the risk.

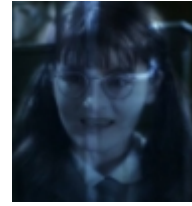
~~How did he~~

I'd rather focus on what we've got going on this weekend.

2012-01-27 09:14:00

Sometimes I like a little change in scenery

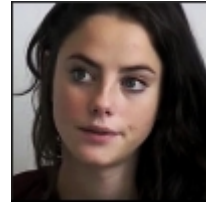
And the scenery in the prefect's bathroom last night was YUMMY!!!



 **alt_myrtle**

2012-01-27 11:31:00

Private message to Ron Weasley and Susan Bones



Greetings to you both,

First things first: Weasley, I'm not worried at all that you and Finnigan will cross wands during this activity. I know that I, for one, am *sure* that you have no intention of being an instigator, and I think Draco is counting on family connections between the Malfoys and the Rosiers to keep Finnigan on his best behaviour. In fact, I think we shall all have a terribly grand time - especially when we WIN!

 [alt_daphne](#)

As for recruitment plans, I suspect that Harry's team is planning to go for Krum, Lovegood, Zimmerman, and Goshal, and possibly Longbottom and Lovegood's Yule Ball date, JP.

Padma's team will, I think, have Teddy, and most likely Corey, Sandoval, and Durand. Possibly Thompson or that other thirdie, Rhys-Meyers, too.

I've also been hearing that everyone wants Hydra, but they're all more or less letting us have her. That's kind of them! It also means we could try to get F-F, and an English-speaking Beauxbaton's person would be a huge bonus. You've become mates with him, too, haven't you Weasley? Finnigan's friend Evgeni is a good Durmstrang possibility.


My own personal suggestion is that we do whatever we can to go for Goyle. Believe me, I know what you're probably thinking, but we won't regret it!

What suggestions do you two have?

Remember that just because the other teams are planning to go for the people above doesn't mean WE can't try to get them, too.

I'm ever so excited for this, aren't you?



 **alt_ron** at [2012-01-27 23:20:18](#)
(no subject)

Well. I think we should try to get Krum. First pick. That way we'd get him, unless we're not first, y'know? Are we drawing lots for order of picks? You're right, though, if we're not first, we won't get him, so we'll have to have second and third choices, right?

I heard Delacour's not coming. Is that what you've heard? How do you know all that about the other teams' plans, anyway? Is Diggory coming along? Or is it even open for upper years? Just the visitors? I didn't really get what Professor Siz said about that.

Anywiz, yeah. Okay. Goyle. He'll do anything Malfoy says, right? And who wouldn't want someone that strong with that kind of blasting hex?

Oh. And you don't have to worry about me with Finnick. I want to win, so I won't be doing anything daft. But I'm not turning my back on him, either, y'know.



 **alt_daphne** at [2012-01-28 01:00:04](#)
(no subject)


I think that if students in the upper years show up, then they're fair game. But it's all down to whether they're interested or not. I tried my very best to convince Barney and he wouldn't budge, not even when my eyes started welling with tears. So, I'm afraid that Delacour's probably not interested either, Weasley. But it's probably for the best, considering. Now Diggory, I'm not so sure...

As for how I know about the other teams' plans... I don't know anything for a *fact*, but I haven't studied acting so seriously and not picked up a thing or two about character traits.

Also, people have a tendency to talk freely in front of Milli, not realising that she is actually capable of listening and remembering.

That's precisely my point about Goyle - he'll listen to Draco without question, and he's very resilient, besides.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-28 05:03:00](#)**
(no subject)

I heard we can maybe bring brooms if we've got them. Malfoy's bringing his, right? I've got my Silver Arrow, and it's in good trim. Anywiz, they didn't say we couldn't have them, so I'm bringing mine unless they tell us we can't.

Do you have a broom? Bones, how about you?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-01-28 05:50:35](#)**
(no subject)

You can be certain that Draco will have his Nimbus 2001, and I will have my Cleansweep 7. Oh, I'd better look it over before I go to bed tonight..



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-28 14:22:40](#)**
(no subject)

I have a Comet 260 that I'll bring.

It's not the fastest, but it's pretty reliable.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-28 05:05:12](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know if Cedric's coming, but we should definitely go for him if he does.

Speaking of Milli, is she coming along? If we can't get Goyle, she's quite strong and would work well with you, certainly, and she and I get on all right most of the time too.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-01-28 05:51:49](#)**
(no subject)

Milli? No, definitely not. Milli and I are dear friends, but just when I think she's listening to me

||| and taking me seriously, she turns around and does as she
||| pleases. I'm afraid she really can't be counted on.

2012-01-28 08:43:00

Today's CCF & YPL outing

Good luck to our three teams for today's event: I'm looking forward to seeing how you approach and solve the challenges laid out for you. Within the rules we've set, remember you're encouraged to be creative!



 **alt_sinistra**

Do remember that we have a number of people available to assist: you can ask any of them for help if it's a matter of safety or well-being, or if you have a question about whether something is permitted. Or you can always comment here, and one of us will be right over. (And my thanks again to our attending staff for their time on a Saturday.)



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-28 20:42:52**

Private message to Raz

Love -

Problems. Small favours: it's nothing to do with Harry or our guests.

They need to talk to me about what happened. If you don't see me at dinner, mind waiting in my rooms? I'll don't expect to be able to reply until they're done with me, but will try and send word if it'll be much later.

-R

2012-01-28 09:23:00


YPL

Good luck to all the teams out there today!



 **alt_lavender**




 **alt_padma** at **2012-01-28 23:34:58**

(no subject)

Ooh, we came *so close* to winning! But Marvolo's team was practically guaranteed. They had Krum and all.

It was cold but fun! You and Pav should have come, really.



 **alt_lavender** at **2012-01-29 00:19:55**

(no subject)

Yeah, if they got Krum on the first pick, that would do it.

But good on you lot for doing so well; it can't have been easy with all those people to manage, and Mr. Ego himself as one of your teammates.

If they do something like this when it's warm, I'll definitely come!

2012-01-28 12:39:00

What Was That?

Ron, you all right? That landing looked pretty rough!



 [alt_susan](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-28 17:47:12**

(no subject)

Yeah, really. I'm all right, but I'm going to kill Finnigan.

I just have to Accio the pack up from down there, only it's caught on something.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-28 17:54:49**

(no subject)

Would a Reductor Curse on the branch or rock or whatever it's caught on work, or would it be too risky?



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-28 18:01:08**

Private Message to Ron

And what's this about Finnegan? Did he do something?

I was trying to organise some of the 3rd years and didn't see anything.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-28 18:06:04**

Re: Private Message to Ron

Got at my broom.

Trying not to think about that just now, thanks.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-28 18:12:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron

I won't ask then.

You'd think he'd have the sense not to sabotage his own team--come to think, are you *positive* that's what it was?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-28 18:16:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron

As many hours I put into that broom?

I'm sure, Bones.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-28 18:19:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron

All right.

I believe you--I just had to ask.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-28 18:03:34](#)

(no subject)

Good one. That worked, right off.

Just got to get back up now.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-28 18:05:46](#)

(no subject)

I'm guessing your broom's proper busted, after all that!

I'd fly over and give you a hand up but I'm pretty sure that's against the rules.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-28 18:10:11](#)
(no subject)

I'll make do.

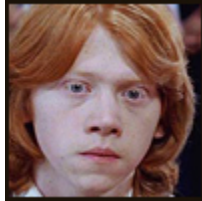
Just keep Finnigan away from me, right?




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-28 18:13:56](#)
(no subject)

Will do!

Are you sure you're not injured--we don't need to call Professor Siz or anything?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-28 18:18:34](#)
(no subject)

No, don't. Had to go round the back to find a better way up, but I'm almost there.

Don't need to lose any more points, do we?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-28 18:21:52](#)
(no subject)

Since you're back on your feet, I'd better get going before these 3rd years mutiny!

Actually, I think I'll solve two problems by siccing them on Finnegan

Who knows, Astoria Greengrass might listen better to a boy--she's certainly not listening to either me or her sister.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-28 22:02:37](#)
(no subject)

For the next month or two, I guess.

I'm really sorry, Ron. I hope your broom can be salvaged.

2012-01-28 15:09:00

Professor Sinistra and Healer Kerr

We've found Haley. She's in a bad way. We're on the west side of the lake near a small stand of pines, er, with a big wych hazel. I'll send up sparks.



 [alt_zacharias](#)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-01-28 20:18:36**

(no subject)

Thank Merlin. We're on our way, both of us.

Miss Bones, Mr Macmillan - you can return to your groups if you see this, and thanks for your help.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-28 20:22:08**

(no subject)

All right, Professor, I will.

I'm so glad she's been found, but Zach's message sounds a little...worrying.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-01-28 20:34:55**

(no subject)

Rather, yes.

Healer Kerr is going back with her to Madame Pomfrey. Since we're so close to the end of the day, everything else will continue as planned.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-28 20:52:48**

(no subject)

I'm so sorry this happened, Professor.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-28 20:22:23](#)
(no subject)

Yes, Professor.

I'm refreshing the warming charms on her cloak, meanwhile.

Marvolo, if you see this, I guess me and Zimmerman will be here a while.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-01-28 22:25:22](#)
(no subject)

No worries. Good on you both for finding her.

2012-01-28 15:40:00

Private message to Campanella Wright

Something's gone badly wrong here, and a student's been injured. Andromeda Haley, a first year. It's being treated as an emergency, so it must be severe, though I can't say for certain. I didn't see the student before they evacuated her.



 [alt_lana](#)

In any case, they're sending me to Hogwarts with a message for the Headmistress from Fulton. It's sealed, but I'm to set up a secure room--for private questioning, presumably--and hot drinks. Not certain what will happen from there, but I expect I'll be delayed in returning.

[2012-01-28 15:57:00](#)

Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Minerva McGonagall

Miss Haley has arrived and will be fine. I'm treating her for hypothermia and a nasty ankle sprain, but all will be well by morning, so you needn't worry overly on your niece's account, Aurora.



 [alt_poppy](#)

Feel free to stop up when you're able to reassure yourself on that score.

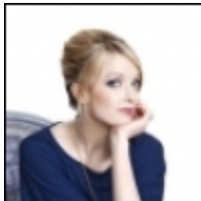


 [alt_poppy](#) at **[2012-01-28 22:25:14](#)**

Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Aurora. I'm sorry to think that so much to do is being made of what occurred today. It's a shame there was an injury, but under the circumstances, I think you're to be congratulated for bringing such a large group through a challenging outing with only the one quite minor casualty.

Have they gone? Honestly, looming like vultures while you made your visit here! I could see that they'd put you through the thresher. Is there anything I could bring you?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **[2012-01-29 16:11:42](#)**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Poppy -

Haven't been able to check my journal since mid-afternoon yesterday, but it is a relief that Andie's taken no lasting harm from the experience. And thank you for letting me know so quickly, even if I couldn't respond.

You're quite right about the escort: I had nearly another three hours with them after I saw you. They had me going over every detail again and again, clearly trying to find something I wasn't telling them.

And all the time, superficially civil in that way that you know could turn much less pleasant in a moment. Hot drinks and seats by the

fire for them, neither for me, that sort of thing. It's clear there'll be further investigation: a meeting Tuesday, and possibly beyond that.

After that - I certainly wasn't good for anything by the time I got back to my rooms. Warm clothes and food helped, and I'm planning to take today very gently. I admit I still feel more than a little shaky.

(Though, I suppose having said that much, now you're going to want to see me to make sure I'm telling you the truth. Truly, it's as much about what might have happened, as what did.)

2012-01-28 16:04:00

Private message to Seamus Finnigan

Is it true? Did you really jinx Ron's broom?

Look, I know there's been some pretty bad feeling between the two of you, but blimey, Seamus. Were you trying to get him killed or what? Or did you just not think it through?



 **[alt_neville](#)**

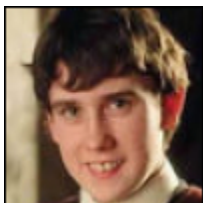


 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **2012-01-28 23:21:58**
(no subject)

I jinxed his broom ages ago. It was just a prank, I wasn't trying to get him hurt. The sort of flying we normally get to do during the school year, it wouldn't have been dangerous.

When I realised where he was going to fly, I offered to let him use mine, but he wouldn't take it, and I tried to offer to go instead, but Draco thought Weasley ought to do it. And I thought maybe the jinx had worn off, anyway, but instead it had got stronger.

Everyone's furious at me, if that makes you feel any better.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **2012-01-29 00:54:52**
(no subject)

You weren't trying to get him hurt? Brooms go up in the air, Seamus. What could it do BUT get him hurt?

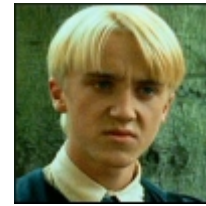
Well, you wouldn't be the first bloke our age who did something stupid without thinking in through first. It helps, I guess, to know that you offered to let him use yours. That's something.

I'll talk to him. It's just--I'm just dead tired of trying to be the peacekeeper between you two all the time. This isn't helping.

2012-01-28 16:29:00

Finnigan

Since you don't keep your pranks or grudges private, I won't make this private, either:




 [alt_draco](#)

The next time you decide you want to make Weasley look like a fool or enact some kind of revenge, you'd better not do it in any way that makes me look bad, too - or the team you're working with, for that matter.

Although I think we all know who came out of this one looking the fool.

Good show, Weasley. Especially given the circumstances.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2012-01-28 23:45:01**

Private Message to Draco

Problem, son?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-01-28 23:48:48**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Nothing I can't handle.

But thanks to Finnigan's antics today, the team I was leading came in last for the CCF event. We recovered pretty admirably, considering how much we were waylaid, but it still wasn't enough to surpass either Padma's team or Harry's.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2012-01-29 00:01:58**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Ah.

Well, so long as it was something important.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:31:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

It was important to me.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-01-29 00:38:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Yes, you've made that quite obvious.

Not that I disapprove of competitiveness, son, but I don't recall you quite so eager to win any contest when your chief rival has been Harry.

I take it you and he have also still not resolved your differences of late?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:40:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

What if we haven't?

That's between me and him.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-01-29 00:51:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Tone, Draco.

Unless you are determined to make an enemy of me, as well. You may not wish to acknowledge it at your age but your parents still deserve your respect.

And we occasionally still have advice that may be worth hearing, should you care to ask for it.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-01-29 00:57:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Look, I appreciate that you want to help, but the problems between Harry and I have nothing to do with the two of us, in a way. It's all to do with things that are entirely out of our own control.

In which case... I suppose we ought not really row about it.




 **alt_lucius** at [2012-01-29 01:23:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

It would seem you've resolved at least something on your own, then.

One hopes that the revelation was worth a potential breach in your relationship with Stephen's ward.



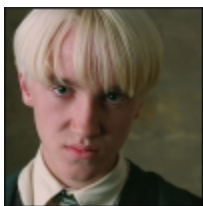
 **alt_padma** at [2012-01-28 23:52:29](#)

Private Message to Draco

Well, there's something I never thought I'd see you say.

Seamus says he tried to get Weasley not to use his broom. Teddy heard about it, you know, and he said that we ought to have *asked* Seamus to do it just to make your team lose its concentration. But I know Seamus wouldn't have done it to his own teammate on purpose, even Weasley.

Still, I know winning's important to you and I'm sorry you had such a hard time. I hope you had a little fun, anyway. It's really down to your leadership that things didn't fall apart even sooner.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-01-28 23:59:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco


What, did he send you here to explain things for him?

He did not try to get Weasley to not use his broom.

Trying would have involved saying "Look Weasley, I've gone and jinxed your broom like an arse, so if you use it you're going to crash into the ravine and we're going to come in last place."

All he did was say something like, "Oh, maybe you had better not, yeah? Want to use mine instead?" Which of course Weasley, being Weasley, took as a slight against his own Silver Arrow. As did everyone else.



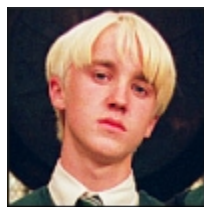
 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-29 00:12:43](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

He didn't send me to do anything! I could tell he was upset and I asked what was happening. And then you posted.

Look, I know you're cross but honestly, would you have said something like that in similar circumstances? And you can't blame him for not realising it would cost you the whole challenge. No one knew who was going to win, really. It could have gone to any of us.

You said yourself Weasley's *Weasley*. And Seamus really *is* well annoyed at himself. Just don't hold it against him too long, okay? It's not like you're going to have problems late in life because you didn't win--and against Marvolo and Krum, at that.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:19:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Yes, I bloody well would have said something. I take CCF and my role as a leader seriously, and if he doesn't, maybe he should just stay out of my way.

Weasley's not at fault this time. If someone would have tried to pass me over some strange broom over the one I was used to, I would have turned them down, too, even if it was some manky old Silver Arrow.

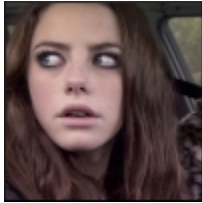
Unless, of course, they had done the *proper* thing and told me that the broom was jinxed.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-29 00:32:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Fine.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-01-29 00:22:41](#)

(no subject)

Oh, Draco. I'm so so sorry that on top of everything else, Astoria had to be such a little beast! Your hand's not too terribly injured, is it?

And you should see her now, swanning about as if she should get some award for being the "most difficult" to rescue. Apparently she was instructed to make it "not easy" for us to guide her back to the base.

I want you to know that you did a really superb job, even with all that went wrong. Outstanding!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:25:18](#)

(no subject)

My hand's fine. I yelled out when she bit me because I was startled, not because it actually hurt. Good thing the gloves I was wearing were made of dragon-hide, though.

Well, if they do pass out that award, she deserves it. I'm pretty sure we were the only team who had to put a full body-bind on the person we were rescuing - oh and good suggestion, that.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 00:41:50](#)

(no subject)

Younger sisters, yeah?

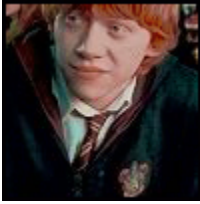
She's lucky you didn't drop her more than the once.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-29 02:09:42](#)
(no subject)

Truly.

This is *exactly* why I didn't want to be on a team with Ed.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 00:40:08](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, Malfoy.

You know, I think we'd have had a good chance if it hadn't been for that happening.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:47:50](#)
(no subject)

I agree with you there.

Too bad about your broom, too. Think it can be repaired?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 00:59:48](#)
(no subject)

That was a nift sluicing charm you and Finch-Fletchley came up with. It would be wicked to use it sometime for sliding on the big slope here.

Eh. No, I don't think there's any hope. You know how it was sparking magic through the splintered part? Well, now that just looks all burnt and dead. And all the twigs went brittle and most of them shattered on the way back. I mean, I think I'll ask Madam Hooch tomorrow, but I can guess what she's going to say.

I had some wicked clever charms on it, too, that Wood and Stretton showed me one time and I'd worked them over until they were dead on. Yeah. Anywiz.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-29 00:40:35](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I don't blame you at all for being cross. I'm sorry things didn't go as planned, but I'm glad you were able to get things back on track, and I've no doubt you ended as well as you did because of your leadership.

It's a shame, really, because I know how much you and Bones and Ron wanted to do well, and how hard all of you worked. I think you really would have given Harry's team a real fight for first if Ron's broom hadn't crashed like that.

And it's a real shame about his broom, too. He worked for ages to fix it up last summer.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-01-29 00:51:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I'm just hacked because it could have all been avoided if Finnigan had just said SOMETHING. And no matter what Patil tries to argue, suggesting that Weasley use Finnigan's broom instead of his own does not count as saying something.

So that's his only broom then? I mean, I believe you when you say he worked on it for ages, but it really wasn't much to look at.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-29 02:18:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yes. You didn't get to see it at its best -- and it wasn't much to look at, to be sure, but it really could fly quite beautifully once he had it fixed up properly. And I know he was proud of the work he'd done on it.

I just think the whole thing was a shame, because this whole time, I thought the big challenge would be getting on with people from different houses, but that wasn't the case at all.

2012-01-28 19:00:00

I'm sorry for the injuries

Both to persons and brooms. But it was quite a bit of fun. Thanks to Professor Sinistra and the rest of the YPL programme for dreaming up the challenges. And our team won! But congratulations to everyone. I understand that there was good teamwork done on every team.



 [alt_luna](#)

My ears are finally warm now.

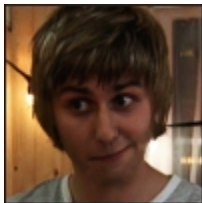


 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-29 01:16:50**

(no subject)

Cheers, Luna.

Good show, winning!



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-29 01:33:51**

(no subject)

Hullo, Luna,

I say, yes, it was well worth the effort. And I do hope that the young lady who went missing is quite on the mend, has anyone heard?

And Ron, again, old man, rotten luck about your broom, what? I say, that was shockingly unsportsmanlike.

Congratulations, Luna and all your mates. Well done!

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at **2012-01-29 02:43:21**

(no subject)

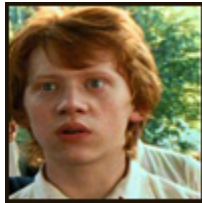
I haven't heard, no, but she's not in my House.




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-29 02:47:34](#)
(no subject)

She'll be all right. She did something to her ankle and slid down a culvert. I found her down by the lake. She'd been there a while because the warming charms on her cloak and all had worn off.

But that St Mungo's Healer put her right.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 02:57:00](#)
(no subject)


Is that what happened? How'd she get off by herself?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-01-29 03:09:43](#)
(no subject)

I dunno, do I? She must have fallen, tripped or something. She was basically whimpering when I found her, shivering and all. Not very coherent, y'know?




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-29 02:12:25](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad you had a good time, Luna.

And yes, all of you lot ought to be well proud of yourselves!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-01-29 02:44:37](#)
(no subject)

Will Haley be all right? I was wondering whether she had come back to your Common Room from the Hospital Wing yet.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-29 04:20:48](#)
(no subject)

I think Madame Pomfrey wanted to keep her overnight, so she could check her body temperature and such.


But it sounds like she'll be all right soon. Still, that had to have been pretty scary.



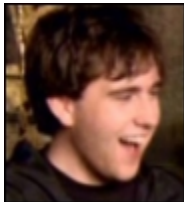
 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 04:28:40](#)
(no subject)

Say, I just heard someone say that Haley's Professor Siz's niece. Is that true?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-29 04:44:37](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, it's true; a lot of her family has been in Hufflepuff.



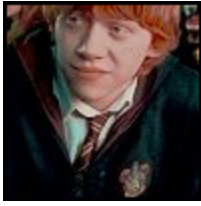
 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-01-29 02:40:52](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, it was fun. Nice to be on the winning team, wasn't it?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-01-29 02:41:40](#)
(no subject)

Well, part of it was thanks you to you! It was a good thing we had someone along who really knows Herbology.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-29 02:56:15](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, Bones was brill on the one where we had to tell those plants apart and use the right one, but I bet Nev was great at that, too.

Good show.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-01-29 04:22:29](#)**
(no subject)

I still can't believe I had that one right; I'm not that brilliant at Herbology usually, so some of the credit probably goes to Neville and his tutoring.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-01-29 16:11:10](#)**
(no subject)

Good show, Lovegood. Longbottom too.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-01-29 16:49:55](#)**
(no subject)

It was brilliant fun, wasn't it? I'm glad Haley's recovered this morning.

[2012-01-28 21:52:00](#)

Good show, everyone

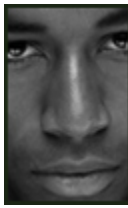
who was on my team. It's too bad we were just a little too slow on that last challenge but no harm done.




 **[alt_padma](#)**

Zabini, Parkinson, Li, Macmillan, Bundy: excellent job taking each of your groups in hand. And Sandoval, Goshal, Nott, Bones and Whitacre: really, really well done. I've already passed on my thanks to Durand, Stoyanov and Larsen for their contributions.

Wynn-Davis, Archer: better luck next time, but good efforts. To everyone else on our team, again--very well done, indeed!



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-29 03:08:31](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Patil.

And you did your part. Excellent execution on some well difficult manoeuvres.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-01-29 03:14:56](#)**
(no subject)

Well, thank you, Zabini.

It was good to be on a team that pretty much cooperated, on the whole. Not that a little healthy debate can't help on occasion to produce a better solution--and I think we did have some good brainstorming moments--but at least we didn't combust like some.



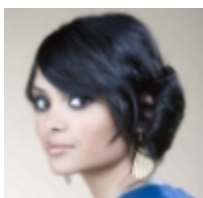
 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-01-29 03:13:15](#)**
Private Message to Padma Patil

Stoyanov and Larsen were worth ten of those Hufflepuffs.

I'm sure there were at least ten. Weren't there?

You're right about Archer, though. And Bundy. At least they were competent and didn't go weak in the knees every time we had to take a risk.

And Sandoval, too. Did you see Ted's noticing her? I hope she takes it well if he gets interested. He can be a bit, well, *intense*.



 **alt_padma** at [2012-01-29 03:26:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma Patil

Yeah, it was perfect having someone from Durmstrang who could tell the other one what we wanted. Real time-saver, that.

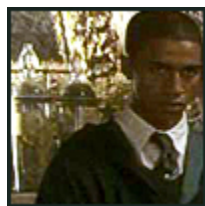
I lost count of the Hufflepuffs. Marvolo was taking them all on, anyway. Though if I'd known Perks was going to get him Krum right off, we might have snapped him up instead.

I thought Bundy did all right, actually. She does tend to surprise, it's almost annoying.

As for Sandoval, Teddy's not half up for a challenge, is he? She's Lana's sister; she's not going to let him get anywhere near her, if she's got any sense. No offence to Nott but it's a Spanish thing, you know, traditions and all.

Malfoy's really really cross with Finnigan, though. I can see his point, of course, but it's not like Seamus meant for Weasley to get himself seriously hurt. He wanted their team to win as much as anyone.

Still, their trouble was to our advantage, wasn't it?



 **alt_blaize** at [2012-01-29 03:40:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma Patil


True. It was a shame we couldn't have got Krum.

But what I meant about the Hufflepuffs was all the third year ones we got stuck picking up. Not just Wynn-Davis, who was well useless, but Montague and that Carmichael. I suppose Bones and Goshal were fine, but in the same way paste is fine. A good charm would do better.

Is that true about Sandoval? Hm. It can be dangerous, throwing a block up in front of something Teddy wants. That could be interesting. Do you really think she'd say no? I suppose I could hint around that Marvolo's really more keen on her than it seems. That might get Teds to let it go.

Finnigan cocked it up today, and no lie. I'd thank him, except that would annoy Draco.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-01-29 04:02:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma Patil

I thought you wanted to let Draco have most of the Slytherin lot, though! You said Thursday, anyway. If you wanted to change tactics you should have said so.

I would have thought Marvolo'd signed his own warrant with all the Gryffindors he was snapping up. I reckon sometimes it's just helpful to have people you can send rushing off into danger.

If she doesn't say no, she's risking an awful load of trouble with her family, that's for sure. Still, she's also Lana's little sister, so he might be more at risk than he expects if he pushes.

Oh, I have to go--Lares Tamblyn wants to talk to me.

Anyway. Good show today, Zabini.

2012-01-29 08:11:00

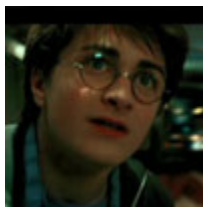
(no subject)


Good job, team. I know I said so yesterday, but nicely done.



It's a good thing Smith was able to find Haley, and even though we missed out on his help, we managed just fine. And it's a good thing we were working on rescuing people too, and had those mediwizard lessons and stuff, because that probably helped too.

 [alt_harry](#)



 [alt_harry](#) at **2012-01-29 18:13:54**

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Too bad about Finnegan and everything. Your group was doing really well.

You want to go flying later?

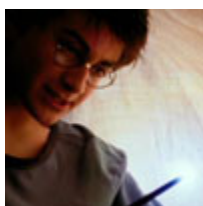


 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-01-29 18:58:11**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yeah, too bad. But good show for your team. Smith's really up his own arse about finding Haley though, isn't he?

Sounds good, so long as the wind keeps down.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2012-01-29 18:14:58**

Private Message to Sally Anne

Thanks for the good advice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-01-29 23:08:40**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Thank you for listening to me.

That was brilliant fun, wasn't it?

[2012-01-29 10:15:00](#)

Yesterday's event

Congratulations to all the hard work of all three teams yesterday. I understand from the planning staff that there will be some additional individual feedback forthcoming for our CCF students, but overall, they were quite pleased with your creative problem-solving and approach to the various challenges. And to our guests, I hope you enjoyed the outing.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

An event of this complexity takes many people's time and effort: we could not have conducted these exercises without the efforts of the attending CCF planning staff, Aurors, Auror trainees, MLE staff, and Healer Kerr. They gave up a Saturday to join us, and I'm sure we all appreciate their time and careful attention.

My particular thanks to Mr Smith, Miss Bones, and Mr Macmillan for their help (and to their respective team leaders for the loan), and especially to Mr Smith for his quick thinking. As you may have heard by now, Miss Haley is quite recovered and back in her dorm.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-29 15:45:54](#)**

Private message to Diane and Chiron Haley

Diane, Chiron -

Andie may already have written, but I wanted to write as well with more details. First, she's fine now. During the YPL event yesterday, she was along as one of the volunteers in the tasks the older students had to complete. Something happened - and I'm still not sure how - and she and two other first years were directed away from where they should have been.

She slipped - it was all over snow and ice and rough ground - and wrenched her ankle, and lost her wand up slope. I spotted they were gone fairly quickly, and found the other two quite fast, but it took us longer to find Andie, as she'd slipped out of sight down a bit of a drop. By the time we found her - well, Healer Kerr says it was good we found her when we did, or it might have been quite a bit worse, given the cold.

I swear she's all right now: she spent the night in the infirmary with

Poppy taking excellent care of her. As I said, I don't know what happened, but intend to find out. I had a very difficult round of questioning from the Aurors and MLE along yesterday (most of whom I don't know well), but intend to make inquiries of my own going forward. And I certainly plan to be extra careful with her, and her safety, after this.

I'm sorry for not writing immediately last night but once they finally let me go for the evening, I was in no fit state to put quill to journal. I did check on her last night, and will see if she wishes to speak with me further today, as well. And, well. I expect this week to be quite busy, but if you'd like to speak directly, I'll certainly make time.

Auri



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-29 16:03:34**

Private message to Raz

Love, I truly don't know how I'd have managed last night without you. Thank you is far too pale a pair of words. Though I'm still dreadfully embarrassed, really, to fall to pieces like that.

Still don't feel quite myself (though much better, and I'll even admit I'm glad you talked me into the potion.) I plan to stay put and rest until dinner, once I've got the necessary letters done.

Are

Was it too much

Do you need time on your own tonight, instead of our usual plans? I'd understand.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-01-29 18:49:39**

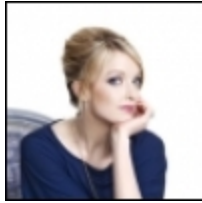
Re: Private message to Raz

I'm not usually one to insist on anything, but you needed that potion - you don't sleep enough on regular nights as it is.

You know, we don't have to talk about this now, but... you might give some thought to passing along your YPL duties to another Professor next year. After all, you've been doing this what, three years now?

And it was rather foisted upon you, at that. I'm sure it was never intended to be a permanent position and that there are other staff members who would like to have a go at it.

Just give it some thought, yeah?



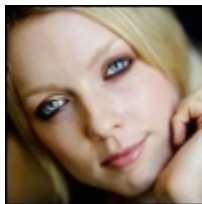
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-29 19:18:59](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Mmm. Rearranging things this month helped a little, but... yes, going into yesterday on four hours of sleep was not good, even if I did nap Friday afternoon.

On your other. I'll think about it. But I've been thinking about it a while on and off, without much result.

Everyone I can think of, either wouldn't make it through the approval process, I'm sure isn't interested, or I don't trust to have the best interests of the students at heart long-term - or manage the arguments about how we should have more challenge, more risks, more difficulty.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-01-29 20:36:29](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Hypatia. Once I started thinking... (This is a weekend for poking at my fears with a far-too-short stick, isn't it?)

I don't know that I ever told you about the interview process, really. But the point at which I knew I'd say yes, if they offered, was when I walked into the room with the other candidates, and listened to how they talked.

So many people look at our students as dolls. Pawns. Pieces to be moved around, or ignored, or whatever's convenient. Not just the halfbloods, though they come in for a lot of it, but everyone. Or everyone but their own personal special connections.

Hypatia knows I mess up - and will again, I'm sure, and certainly stretch myself thin.

But I hope there's something in seeing them as individuals, of

looking not at what's easiest for me, but best for them. I'm not the only person who could do that, mind. And I find I'm unwilling to hand things over to anyone who'd do less.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **2012-01-29 16:41:22**

Private message to Campanella Wright

Got your owl. I want to sort out what happened as much as you do, as I'm certainly no closer to understanding how the three of them ended up where they did than I was yesterday.

I'll make myself available on Tuesday with the initial parchment work you've asked for, and I definitely appreciate that you'll be there. And, as you've asked, will let you make all the requests for correspondance from Felix directly, to avoid any appearance I might interfere.

On the rest: I'm not sure talking with you about it in detail at the moment is the right thing, but absolutely don't blame you or anyone else at MLE for doing your jobs. Perhaps when everything's settled, we might talk a little more.

2012-01-29 10:27:00

Private message to Viktor Krum



 **alt_sally_anne**

First of all, thanks so much for agreeing to participate, and it WAS fun, wasn't it? And did you see why I said it HAD to be Harry as the leader? Because he was the one person everyone on the team would follow instructions from, but also he'll listen to good ideas. Like the charm you taught everyone that worked better than the warming charm we usually use -- you're right, it's not quite as COMFORTABLE as a regular warming charm but it doesn't cause the problems a warming charm sometimes causes. Although I swear I didn't feel completely warm again until this morning.

I'm just happy Luna didn't do anything utterly daft, like insist everyone had to wear a flower behind their ear to ward off Gribbly pigeons or whatever. Well, also I'm happy we won! This sort of thing is always more fun when you win at the end.

Anyway, I promised I'd explain about Seamus Finnigan and Ron Weasley. You're right that they're house mates (as well as team members) but they don't get on at ALL. Back last term Ron's mum sent him a set of really old dress robes and Finnigan made them dance around the table for a laugh. So then Ron hexed Finnigan at the last CCF event, the one with the mediwizards. Then Finnigan sabotaged Ron's dress robes, right before the Yule Ball. So then Ron hexed Finnigan's robes, which is why Finnigan was in nice robes for the first half of the evening, and school robes for the second half.

I guess then Finnigan hexed Ron's broom. I heard he SAYS he didn't mean to put Ron in any danger, that he did it weeks ago and he'd assumed he'd go out flying from the school so he'd take off from the courtyard and realise something was wrong before he got too high -- but you're absolutely right, messing with a broom IS a big deal. I think he hasn't got in horrible trouble because his foster father is quite influential (Stephen Rosier is on the Council, you see, and a good friend of Draco's father, Lucius Malfoy) and because Ron hasn't complained. If Ron went to their Head of House and said, 'Seamus Finnigan hexed my broom and almost got me killed AND my broom got wrecked' Madam Hooch would be utterly furious, but then people would be cross at Ron for being a tale-bearer, and it's just not worth it. If Ron had actually got hurt, too, Finnigan would be in dreadful trouble. But since it was just his broom, no one's going to demand

answers, even though it was Ron's only broom and his family can't afford another one. I know, it's really not fair, but fair doesn't have much to do with anything.

Anyway did you see Finnigan's face after mail came this morning? I think his foster father's furious at him. And even Patil's not talking to him much, and usually she's one of his best friends. I think the only person at the Gryffindor table willing to pass him the plate was Neville Longbottom, which is a bit ironic since Finnigan hasn't always been very polite to him, either. Probably the worst he'd have got from Madam Hooch is detention, and he'd rather serve detention every night for a year than be the person everyone's furious at. (I know I would.)

2012-01-29 10:49:00

Private message to Pansy

I hope you had as much fun with your team as I had with mine.




It was funny, you know, I was thinking about what a good job they did coming up with tasks that different people were really good at (or really bad at) -- like the Herbology task! which Neville was BRILLIANT at, actually, I really think his speed there was part of why we won. And then those firsties went missing.

 **alt_sally_anne**

I really mostly can't STAND Smith and partly it's because he's got all the tenacity of Ron with none of the sense of humour. He'll grab onto something and never let it go EVER. But that trait is exactly why he found Professor Sinistra's niece, you know? He was bound and determined to search every inch of ground.

Anyway not that it was fun to be worried about the missing firsties but the rest was brilliant, wasn't it?



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-01-29 18:22:15**
(no subject)

Between Zabini's ego and Patil's bossiness, I had my hands full keeping everyone else on the team from getting too frustrated. But it was a good deal of fun. It really is awful about Ron's broom, but I've got to admit that I'm happy Draco and Ron came out of it not wanting to strangle each other.

I'm glad you had a good time, though, and were able to be on Victor's team. He's on the quiet side, but he does really seem to like spending time with you.



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-01-29 18:26:52**
(no subject)

Draco told me something the other day, you know.

About the first time he was punished for something Harry did.

He made Lucius do it. To Draco. Crucio. He was only six. I can't stop thinking about it. Because I know that Draco is everything to Lucius. I mean, he loves him more than anyone, I think, even more than Aunt Narcissa.

It just sort of reminded me a little of

You know.

What happened to Regulus. What he did.

ugh.

2012-01-29 14:52:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

That was wizard fun yesterday! (Except for the part that wasn't, but that didn't change that the whole thing was brilliant.)

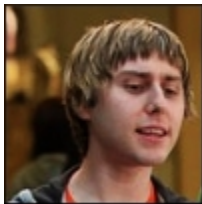


 [alt_ron](#)

The part I liked best was finding our bearings in the snow, because, yeah, that changes everything, but I knew the direction-finding charm to use and worked just like it was supposed to, and that was awesome.

So. What did you do best? Or what was most fun in your group? Aside from WINNING the whole game, before you say that, Perks!!!

I was thinking of going out this afternoon and trying that melting spell to make a long sluice down the sledging hill, but I'm stuck here waiting to talk to Madam Hooch. The twins and Towler said she might know something that could be done about my broom, but she's off to Hogsmeade or something today. I dunno. I want to talk to her, though, while there's still a chance because I think it's just getting worse and worse. I don't really think she'll be able to do anything, but I've got to try, y'know?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-01-29 22:44:30**

(no subject)


Hullo, Ron.

I say, it was well educational, wasn't it? I'm glad that charm worked so well.

And my condolences, again, on your broom. I say, that's the same chap who hexed your robes at the Ball, wasn't it? I thought that apart from that, our lot worked rather well together, what? I quite liked the transfigurative challenge though I suppose we could have done better had that chap Warrington not insisted on trying it first.

-Justin



 **alt_ron** at [2012-01-29 23:11:16](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Justin.

That's what's so great about YPL, see? I mean, yeah, it does come along with a load of rubbish about how The Protectorate's so Great, but we've actually learned tonnes and done really wizard things. Mostly lessons are dead boring, but YPL's education and exciting, too. And mostly that's because we figure stuff out ourselves and show each other what we've worked out. Instead of sitting and pretending it's interesting when Binns or Acton or any of them, really, go on and on, telling us what other people before us have worked out and written down in textbooks, yeah?

Anywiz, we had some good ideas, I thought, though you're right about Warrington. I mean, really? He thought he knew better than all the rest of us who've had a whole year more Transfig? That sort of attitude's well annoying, but the Slytherins will cut him down a notch or two, wait and see. They take care of that sort of thing themselves, mostly. It's different in my House. Most of us have to look out not to step on the wrong side of people who've got connections.

Like with Finnigan. I'm going to get back at him for what he did, somehow, but I can't just challenge him. Or, anywiz, that would probably get me in loads of trouble if I did. But, honestly? It's pretty amusing watching him take it from all the rest of them for being an idiot. That's almost better than hexing him myself.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2012-01-29 23:17:36](#)
(no subject)

It's brilliant because Professor Sinistra runs it. Imagine if Acton did. That wouldn't be nearly so fun.

And I know what you mean about Finnigan. Even Patil's barely talking to him.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-29 23:39:55](#)
(no subject)


You see, that's what so odd about the Protectorate. There are times one almost might think one's back in a free country with activities like this one, what? But then one recalls those who can't participate.

And then there's the thought that strikes, which is whether Professor Sinistra would be able to do so much if she didn't enjoy the protection of your Professor Lestrangle. (And yes, I'm aware that she began with the YPL before she took up with Professor Lestrangle but one wonders at any rate.) And then there's the question of patronage for students, as well.

It's well confusing. I suppose there are some who think my interest in Hydra is a way of seeking protection. I know there's bally well nothing I can do about that but it's well frustrating.

-Justin

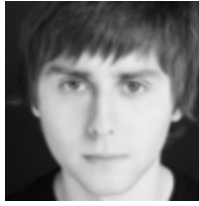


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-29 23:47:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't know about Professor Raz, but everyone knows it's been really good for Professor Siz to run YPL. I mean good for her. Her family's not much, y'know? And this gets her noticed. I'm not saying that's the only reason she does it. Or maybe it's not the reason at all, but it certainly works out for her that she does do it. If you see what I mean.

Or. Well, it's just the sort of thing my brother Percy would want to do.

About Hydra. I know you actually do fancy her, but when you first asked her to the ball, that wasn't part of the reason? Who she is, I mean.

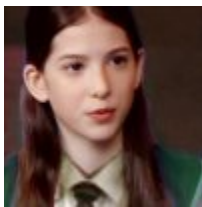


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-30 15:04:02](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but it also puts her at the centre of attention in other ways, ways that might make it harder for her to maintain fairness. As you said, what, her family is not well-placed. There must be pressure on her from somewhere to make sure that the 'right' sorts of people excel in the programme, do you see. And if she has no status of her own, what, then one wonders how easy it shall be for her to resist that pressure, over time. With Professor Lestrage behind her, she's got more of a chance, if you follow me--but even that's well confusing. From everything I've heard, he's highly placed precisely *because* he's one of the Lord Protector's own Council and he served close to the man for years. So...does he support being fair and equal? Or does he support the sorts of things that ensure Marvolo will win the Tournament or that the purebloods always come out top in marks, that sort of thing? And if so, then...how long shall it be before Professor Sinistra's views change to match his, what? Or if his views align with hers...then how long before he comes under scrutiny and disfavour?

Which brother is that? Do forgive me, old man, but you've so many of them, what!

As for Hydra--no. No, it was just the opposite. Well, I suppose *some* of it had to do with who she is, but not because of social climbing, what. It was.... I noticed her because she's related to Sirius, of course. And because her mother's who she is. But no, Ron, I should have to say that I spent a great deal of time trying not to fancy her, before I decided that it was bally well useless. I'd be a good job safer and she also if I *didn't* fancy her at all, if you follow me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-29 23:14:56](#)
(no subject)

I think if your broom isn't fixable then Finnigan should have to give you his. What a miserable ARSE he is, destroying your things -- first your robes, now your broom.

Anyway yesterday was BRILLIANT and I'd say so even if my team

hadn't won. I think the thing that made me MOST happy was Neville ACING that Herbology task! Since I'd told Harry to pick him -- I don't know if he would have, otherwise. But also, when we 'rescued' the firsties they'd been told not to come with us unless we could win their trust, but one of them had gotten a knock on the knee and I used one of the mediwizardry charms to fix her up. They decided that showed we weren't trying to do them harm and they came along. (Did Astoria Greengrass really have to be put in a full-body-bind?!?)



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-29 23:22:57](#)**


(no subject)

Ha. Greengrass was hilarious. Well, would've been if we hadn't been trying to make up time.

She totally did! Said she wouldn't trust her sister or anyone working with her if we promised her the moon. And she meant it, too!

Glad it wasn't Gin, acting like that--if it had been, you can bet they'd all have blamed me. I was just glad no one acted like it was my fault what Finnigan did.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-01-30 14:31:15](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks! (I found out I solved it the quickest of any of the teams, which made me pretty happy, too.)

2012-01-29 15:16:00

Private Message to Margaux Durand

You needn't act as if Smith did something amazing yesterday. He's insufferable enough as it is. And, honestly, any of us would have done what he did if we'd been asked.



 [alt_blaise](#)

I mean, it's fine with me if you want to see what the view is like from the Hufflepuff table, but if you're trying to send some message by lunching over there, you'd do better to just say it directly.

Are you put out I didn't write something in the journals to tell everyone that you were *absolument magnifique* ou *tout à fait étonnante* yesterday? Really.

2012-01-29 15:45:00

Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Say. Did you hurt yourself when you slipped yesterday? You're holding your shoulders as if you're a bit sore.



 [alt_blaise](#)

Or are you just that annoyed with Bole? If it's that, then you should know it's showing.

Unless that's what you wanted.



 [alt_daphne](#) at **2012-01-29 22:35:04**
(no subject)

I must have. Or else it's just the exertion. Either way I feel sore all over today. I haven't been exercising as much now that there's snow on the ground, and now I regret it!

I was annoyed with him, as it so happens. He was so rude dismissive about it when I asked him to help out with the event yesterday. Anyway, he's made up for it today by giving me chocolates.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2012-01-29 22:44:03**
(no subject)

I hope they're very nice chocolates, then.

Listen, Daphs. Are you sure you want to be going on with him? I'm not saying you shouldn't, only it doesn't seem as if you always think he's worth the aggravation. And to be honest, I don't think he's good enough for you--but that only makes me sound like your grandmother, doesn't it?

If you tell me to let it alone, I will.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-01-30 05:22:38](#)**
(no subject)

Very nice - my favourites from that shop in Knightsbridge, in a lavish keepsake box, no less.

Surely you haven't started thinking of me as your granddaughter! Ha, only teasing, but you know, Grandmother really doesn't look after me quite so well as you do. Too busy looking after herself, I think!

I shall always welcome your advice and words of wisdom, Blaise. Thank you.

As for Barney, he'll be leaving school in a few months and then ~~he'll have to~~ we'll have to end things for good. Meanwhile, he's certainly a distraction from other things I'd prefer not to dwell on.

2012-01-29 17:16:00

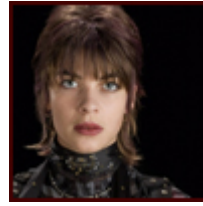
Order Only

Remus?

If you're not busy, could you come upstairs?

I've-

oh, blast it, could you just come up?



 [alt_nymphadora](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2012-01-29 23:18:55**

(no subject)

I'm on my way.



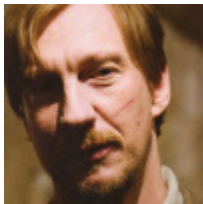
 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-29 23:43:25**


(no subject)

Are you all right?

(Remus, is she all right?)

What was that banging?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2012-01-29 23:55:31**

(no subject)

She's all right.

Something new has gone missing, and she's fretting.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-29 23:58:35**

(no subject)

Must be something important? Else why look at this hour?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 00:02:25](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Sirius. I'm an absolute, complete, utterly daft idiot.

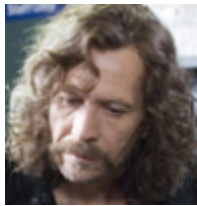
I've gone and lost it.

I'm so sorry, I can't even-

I thought I'd just taken it into Bea's room, maybe, that first afternoon when you gave it to me, but

and it's not anywhere in mine or any of the other places I can even think of having been that I could possibly have taken it

I just don't even know what to say



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 00:06:20](#)
(no subject)

Hang on. Lost what?

And whatever it is, it's bound to be about somewhere.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 00:08:06](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's what I thought, but I've been searching

well, for days, actually.

I just couldn't believe I could have lost it. It's not as if I'd take it anywhere. And I haven't worn it once.

The pearls.

Oh, Sirius. I'm so sorry. Truly, I feel just awful.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 00:14:41](#)
(no subject)

The p - you mean my grandmother's pearls?

Oh.

No need to feel awful about it, Dora. I think we can all guess who's responsible.

I'll come up.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 00:16:44](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you don't think-

What on earth would he have done with them?
I certainly didn't ask him to store them
anywhere. But that's just it. I really can't think where I did put
them, and it's just like me to be an idiot.

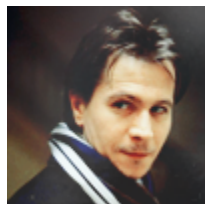
Only, it was so very sweet of you to give them to me, and I was
so happy about that, and




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 00:19:44](#)
(no subject)

Don't get sappy, kiddo. I wanted you to have
them and anyway, they ought to have been
yours.

But about your questions, there's a simple way to find out,
isn't there?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 00:23:10](#)
(no subject)

Right, so instead of banging about up there
tipping over the furniture, why don't you and
Remus come down to the kitchen?



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-30 00:24:38](#)**
(no subject)

You're right.

I'm being daft.

It can't hurt to ask the elf. Only, you'll have to believe him if he didn't do it. Because, really, I am that much an idiot. I suppose you might as well learn it now if you didn't know already.

2012-01-30 09:05:00

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I hope that another night's rest has done the trick.

Is the stiffness any better this morning? If not, stop back by and I'll whip up a bit of peppermint balm for you. I promise it's a gentle, entirely natural treatment.



 **alt_poppy**

I've been thinking, too, about your questions about stress. Of course, it's quite true that stress can produce all sorts of unhappy symptoms, and truer still that over long stretches, tension can wear down one's health and can even deplete a person's magical capacities.

However. I heard what you said about some duties being worth the strain. That's a calculation we must all make for ourselves with a view to our own particular burdens and abilities. And I think it's important that you take those decisions yourself--listen, certainly, to what others tell you, but weigh all of the factors on your own and be deliberate about being the one to determine your own course.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-01-30 15:44:00**
(no subject)

Much better this morning, thank you. (Rest, and another long bath helped quite a bit, I'm glad to say. And I did get to see Andie briefly after supper, and she seems quite recovered herself.)

On the rest, well. Yes. Which is part of what I'm trying to figure out. Complicated, of course, by the fact that the decision may very well be taken away from me entirely. The degree to which they're taking this matter so seriously is, I admit, more disturbing the more I look at it, given what has and hasn't gotten attention with injuries at past events.

And there's the other part, where well, it seems like a lot might-be in my life, and not a lot of certainty. I do badly with that, on the whole. But there's a part of me that admits that some of the decisions would be easier to consider if I had any idea where my relationship with Raz might end up.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-01-30 16:03:01](#)
(no subject)

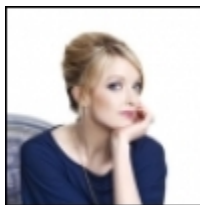
I'm very glad you had a chance to visit with your niece. She will be perfectly fine, you know. Already is, in fact.

If it makes you feel any better, I've treated four wrenched ankles since start of term, none of them appreciably different from the one Miss Haley suffered. And as for hypothermia, I sometimes see pupils who have fallen prey to it without even going out of doors: the castle does have some terrible cold spots, including, on occasion, its sleeping quarters over night.

I find it astonishing that MLE are treating this incident as anything worthy of investigation. Haven't they anything else to do this month? As for the YPL and CCF, it's not as if this is the first injury to occur. To mention only one example, the fall Mr Longbottom suffered last summer during the testing for CCF was considerably more severe in its consequences than what occurred on this most recent outing.

In any case, I've not been under the impression that designing activities with zero risk was at all the objective of the YPL programme. Quite the opposite. So why all the fuss now?

If it would help at all, I could attest that this episode resulted in far less harm than many ordinary school activities. (Creatures lessons, for instance! Or sleeping in chilly dormitories. Or eating transfigured food day in and day out, though that would be impolitic to remark.)



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-01-30 16:12:00](#)
(no subject)

On Andie, yes. Quite resilient. I gather her note home to my sister and brother-in-law said "I fell while out with the YPL, but I'm fine now." (Though of course, I gave Diane much more in the way of details.) I'm just relieved Andie doesn't hold it against me.

On the MLE response, quite. Mr Longbottom's fall, the injury during our first camping session, any number of bumps and minor things between the two got barely a glance. And you're quite right

that I've come in for quite a bit more grief over not making things more challenging, including more risks.

There's something quite odd about the whole matter. Both how it happened - you know I've a quite clear process for instructions, and something certainly went wrong there. But also that the response is entirely disproportionate to the problem. Almost as if someone were waiting for an excuse.

I am not looking forward to tomorrow afternoon at all - more questioning, though at least Campanella will be there, and she's promised to keep things as focused and productive as she can. I would appreciate, if you've time to write something before I go tomorrow at lunch, something I could share about the comparative risk and treatment, to put it in perspective.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-01-30 16:39:22](#)
(no subject)

Of course. I'll write something this evening.

I'm very glad to hear that Ms Wright has managed to insert herself into the investigation. Her knowledge of the YPL planning process should be very useful in support of you. And it helps tremendously to have an ally in the room, even if she's not able to be openly partial.

I know you'll feel much better when tomorrow is over. The wait is dreadful.




 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-01-30 16:45:48](#)
(no subject)

Thank you. I'll stop by tomorrow, before I go to New London. Around 11?

And yes, on Campanella. She's honestly quite puzzled, I think, though we're carefully not talking about that in the few exchanges we've had. (And of course, she no longer does field work - a lingering injury, apparently - so wasn't there herself, though she made all the arrangements for the MLE staffing.)

I trust her to see that whatever she's got charge of is handled fairly, though, which is a bit more than I felt on Saturday.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-01-30 16:49:34](#)**
(no subject)


Yes, do stop up before you leave. I'll be glad for the chance to see you well on your way.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-30 16:53:59](#)**
(no subject)

It'll be good to see a friendly face before I go. Thanks.

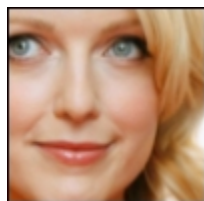


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-01-30 16:18:16](#)**
(no subject)

As for 'the other part', I think you should allow yourself to consider that not every decision needs to be made once and for all. You might decide to carry on with certain tasks or projects only to reverse your decision in six months or a year if other, greater matters necessitate a reconsideration.

Uncertainty and hopeful anticipation may make it impractical to make long range commitments, but there's something to be said for not making wholesale changes based on things which have not yet come to pass.

I suppose I'm saying that if you can wait to take decisions you think you might regret, you should do. Things might look very different in six months' or six years' time, and you'll still be at liberty to make those changes if and when it's really necessary.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-01-30 16:21:28](#)**
(no subject)

You are, of course, quite right there. And whatever the decision, I can't imagine they'd want a rapid change in the middle of the year. And we've quite a while yet before the summer planning, or the

events themselves.

Our last two events for this school year are thankfully a great deal less fraught (well, on the planning side) and largely arranged except for a few scheduling details.

Which is to say, yes, patience, and not borrowing trouble.

2012-01-30 10:50:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You'll never believe. An owl came last night and brought me a new broom.

Well, not a new broom, but a good one.

It's a Cleansweep 7.

Finnicky looked dead sick when he saw it, too. We were all sat about in the common room when it came.

I wonder if Mr Rosier's the one that sent it.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-30 17:25:58**
(no subject)

Really?

That's brilliant! You can fly it in our pick-up game of Quidditch this weekend to get a good feel for it.

And you didn't have a note or anything?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-01-30 17:30:41**
(no subject)

Yeah, that'll be brilliant!


No. It's really odd, that. No note and nothing on the package to hint where it came from. And the owl wasn't anything special, either.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-30 17:33:36**
(no subject)

Well, good on whoever sent it then.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-30 17:54:19](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I'd like to know who it is, though.

D'you think it could be Rosier?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-01-30 18:18:54](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe?

He was furious with Finnigan and he's certainly got the dosh for it.



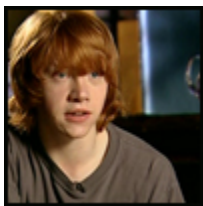
 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-01-30 18:05:49](#)**
(no subject)


Hullo, Ron.

I say, odd, that. Have you tried one of those spells to tell you who last rode it? *Priori equitavus*, have I got that right? Or is it *-vum*?

I mean to say, it's quite likely someone wants you to have a replacement but I don't know as I'd trust it, under the circumstances. Unless you're prone to receiving mystery presents, what!

-Justin



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-01-30 18:14:32](#)**
(no subject)

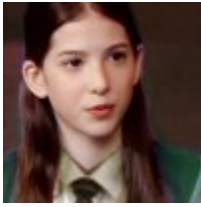
You're having me on about that spell, aren't you?

Well, I don't think it's Finnigan sending me a cursed broom to replace the one he hexed. That would be really daft. I mean, I don't know who'd bother-

hang on-

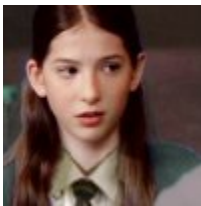
Fisheye.

Was it you that sent it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-30 18:18:04](#)
(no subject)

If you're worried about a hex, maybe ask Professor Lestrangle? He ought to be able to take a look and let you know.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-01-30 18:20:10](#)
(no subject)

And that's a really good broom.

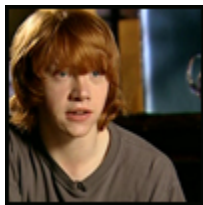
Honestly if someone wanted to trick you into flying on a cursed broom they could spend a lot less and give you a broom that would still be good enough to ride.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-01-30 18:30:50](#)
(no subject)

No, I don't *think* I am, old man. I mean, I say, *priori incantatem* shows one what's been cast out of a wand, what, so doesn't it stand to reason that one can use a similar incantation to determine a broom's last rider? I don't know; I'm not much for riding brooms, sad to say.

I don't mean to suggest that your Finnigan is the one who sent it, either, or even that it's further hexed, what, only that things 'round here that come from unnamed sources tend to be rather nefarious, don't they?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-30 19:18:38](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, but *priori incantatem* sort of streams magic out the end of a wand that shows magic it's already done. How would that work with a broom? Would it come out the tail twigs? And what would it show? A big glowy picture of that part of the last person that sat on it?

I've never heard of a spell like that being used over here. Maybe one of the French clubs developed it? Have they had problems with flyers stealing brooms or switching them for fakes to get one up on the other side's best broomsmen?

Anywiz, Sally Anne's right. It'd be daft to waste a good broom like that. I'm sure it's fine. And don't give any of the teachers the idea it might not be, yeah? I don't want it taken away.



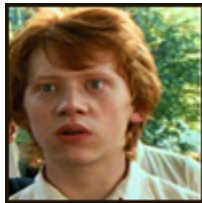
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-30 18:58:47](#)
(no subject)


No. It wasn't me. But I think I may have an idea about who it is.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-30 18:59:18](#)
(no subject)

And I don't think he'd have hexed it.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-01-30 19:21:08](#)
(no subject)


You don't think-

Why would he do that?

I mean, I know he can afford anything, but it's not like we're even friends anymore.

And besides, I don't think he even knows it happened. What with his team winning and all.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-30 19:36:03](#)
Private Message to Ron Weasley

Oh! No, I didn't mean Harry.

And I just *think* this is who, but if I saw it I'd know for sure, but I wouldn't want to assume

too much by telling and then having it not turn out to be who I think it is. And since he didn't send a card with it, I'm fairly sure he didn't want to make a big deal of it either.

But I think it might be Draco.

Because we were talking earlier about your broom and all the work you'd put into it, and I know that he likes flying too, but anyways. I think it's him. Only he wouldn't want you to think it's charity or that he was doing it so other people would pat him on the back, not like Smith strutting around and all after rescuing that firstie which is why he wouldn't just walk up and give it to you or sign his name to it or anything.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-01-30 19:50:36**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Oh.

You really think he'd do that?



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-01-30 20:15:13**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Yes.

I do.

I know you two don't always get along, or agree on everything, but he's got some good bits to him, you know.

And I'm not saying he *did*, only that he might have done. But he did used to ride a Cleansweep before he got his new broom.

2012-01-30 11:48:00

*Private Message to Mafalda Hopkirk
and Praetorius Brundage*



Abandon current safe drop.

Cover has changed. Unfortunate. Original
pseud. deceased. Will possibly make
tomorrow's obits.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Have new pseud. locked tight, but less than ideal situation re.
impersonation. This one has a family. No choice, however. Cover
would have been compromised, and this was the option that
presented.

Better placed in cell, however. A promotion of sorts.

Still on timeline.

Will need to change pattern for meeting. More as I'm able.

2:17am

11:48am

2012-01-30 15:54:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora


Occurs to me, Dora, there weren't any books in that mess we found last night.

Nor the letter opener.



 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2012-01-30 21:00:40**
(no subject)

I didn't want to mention it, but that cloak you gave me for Christmas -- it went missing again a few days ago, and it wasn't there, either.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2012-01-30 21:03:13**
(no subject)

No.

Funny, though, that the slippers I gave you were there, and I didn't even know they'd gone missing.

Bea's house elf wasn't there, either. The one Cousin Narcissa gave her.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-01-30 21:07:57**
(no subject)

Knowing Remus, he probably put your pair away to be used once the ones I gave him wore out and never noticed them missing, either.

As for the toy, that can stay missing, far as I'm concerned. Dead disturbing, that elf. The eyes followed you, I swear.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:08:37](#)
(no subject)

Unless you think we could use it as a voodoo doll for Kreacher?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 21:10:21](#)
(no subject)

Er. The squeak's grating enough as it is. Imagine what sound it might make if we let you start sticking it with pins.

Though. There was a perfectly evil looking hat pin in the lot last night.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 21:16:32](#)
(no subject)

I'm all for letting that doll stay lost. Maybe we could tell Kreacher that if he shows us where the rest of it is, we'll let him dispose of the doll?

I really thought I'D misplaced those slippers, it's why I didn't say anything. I felt terrible, losing my present less than a month after I got it.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 21:20:28](#)
(no subject)

Agreed.

Ta, love. I felt awfully silly to have given you slippers when it turned out Mangy'd given you some, too. I wasn't surprised when you wore his. Maybe we could let the elf keep those, too, if he likes them. Except. Would that amount to giving him clothes?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 21:23:16](#)
(no subject)

Oooh, it might at that. I've never seen a house-elf with shoes.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:28:28](#)
(no subject)

He'd take it that way, doubtless. And we certainly can't set him loose.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 23:20:50](#)
(no subject)

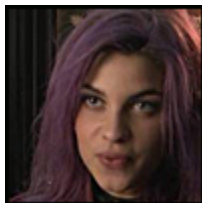
Well, perhaps we can find something he could keep. Something that's not clothes at all, but that he'd value. Maybe then he wouldn't be so anxious for the other things that were your parents' belongings.

He seems to live very much in the past. And I'm sure it's hard for him to accept that we've barged in and taken over everything here.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:03:21](#)
(no subject)

Bloody Erebus. Must mean he's got another nest somewhere. Maybe in the attics.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 21:04:35](#)
(no subject)

We've been all over them. And Mac, too. He didn't say anything about finding anything the elf had stashed up there.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 21:01:26](#)
(no subject)

Also, my cardigan's missing, though I've been sort of assuming one of you might have been the culprit there...



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 21:03:38](#)
(no subject)

Don't look at me!

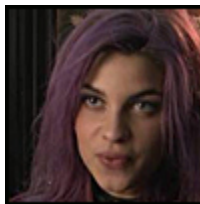


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:05:25](#)
(no subject)

Oi, I may mock the cardigan, fur-face, but I'd never take it away without giving you another one to replace it.

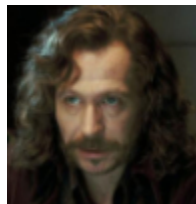
Even then I suspect you'd just wear the old one until it's in complete tatters.


Thing is. That cloak was my father's. But I can't imagine Kreacher would want it and your cardi in the same place. *Two* more nests?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-01-30 21:13:00](#)
(no subject)

I hesitate to ask, but whose trousers were those? They didn't look the sort of thing your brother would've worn.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:44:59](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Possibly the most disturbing thing in the whole bundle, eh? Not the trousers themselves, mind, but the way he snivelled over us touching them.

They were my father's, as well. Probably ought to send a load of


clothes out to Moddey, or the Players, where it's unlikely anyone will notice where they came from. Expect they could all use some decent replacements - and if not, then at least the cloth could be used for something else, perhaps.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 22:09:28](#)
(no subject)

That's a good idea.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 21:51:19](#)
(no subject)

There's years of wear left in that jumper. YEARS.

At any rate, we've got two categories of things missing still, clearly. There's things Kreacher doesn't want us to have because he thinks they're too good for the likes of us -- the cloak, the letter opener, and I think there was some other heirloom that wandered off that hasn't turned up yet. A comb, maybe? I wasn't sure if that got lost, or if it turned out to be cursed and that's why it vanished.

And then there are things Kreacher's taking just to irritate us -- the cardigan, Dora's book, the doll. Well, maybe he took the house-elf doll because it irritated HIM. I can't say as I blame him, if that's the case.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-01-30 21:52:20](#)
(no subject)

Good points, Moony.

Not about the cardigan, though.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-01-30 21:22:26](#)
Private message to Padfoot

Love, you know there's one room left we haven't checked.

Would you mind if Dora or I looked in there? You don't have to, not if it's too hard.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-30 21:35:09](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

I know.

And no. If anyone's got to go up there, I should do it.

Probably has his hand preserved in a jar or something equally ghastly. Might need a drink first.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-01-30 22:12:36](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

There's firewhiskey, if you want it.

Not the GOOD firewhiskey, mind you; I think we drank that up already.

2012-01-30 21:33:00

Girls' Day In

Lav, Pav and I, along with Parkinson, Greengrass and Bones, want to invite all the girls to a party this Sunday. Music, manicures, makeovers and no men!



 [alt_padma](#)

About half-eleven, isn't that what we said, Pansy?
Up in the 4th floor classroom.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-31 03:03:44**
(no subject)

That sounds like it'll work, yes. It ought to be a good deal of fun! I hope the girls from Beauxbatons bring some of their records to play.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2012-01-31 04:15:33**
(no subject)

All the girls? I mean to say, third years, too?

From,
Hydra



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-31 04:23:31**
(no subject)

I think third years should definitely come if they'd like to!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-31 15:36:30**
(no subject)

Yes, you definitely ought to come, Hydra!




 **alt_padma** at [2012-01-31 17:36:00](#)
(no subject)

Yes, of course. Third-years, second, first, Beauxbatons and Durmstrang. Any of the girls in school.


No professors, no boys, no ghosts.



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-01-31 17:49:19](#)
Private Message to Padma

Oh, I bet Myrtle was *extra* excited until that last part.




 **alt_padma** at [2012-01-31 19:04:49](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

Well, be honest: do you want her ruining the fun? Watering up the place? It's not as if she can eat or we can do her hair for her. She'd just moan the whole time.


Besides, we certainly don't want Peeves!



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-01-31 19:08:27](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

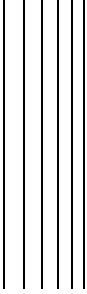
True. But still, I wouldn't put it past her to sulk about it. More than usual.




 **alt_padma** at [2012-01-31 19:26:32](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

Oh, she needs to just get a life.

Get it? Ha!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-01-31 20:15:29](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

Heh.

Good one.

2012-01-30 22:18:00

Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

Makeovers????

I'm a little bit terrified by the whole idea.



 [alt_susan](#)



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-31 03:27:57**

(no subject)

Hah! Yes, she is a bit overwhelming sometimes. And you'd hardly know it was our idea to begin with, right? But now we've got her on our side, it'll go much more smoothly even if she does get to pretend like she's in charge.

And if we have a corner of the room for make overs, and the main part for just eating snacks and dancing, not everyone will have to do it, so it won't be too terribly bad.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2012-01-31 04:14:28**

(no subject)

I'd never have thought to mention it to her because she drives me right up a wall!

But you're probably right about getting her on our side. And I can grit my teeth and be nice if I have to be.

Just promise you won't let her make me over into anything drastic?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-01-31 15:29:53**

(no subject)

She really does run Ravenclaw, at least in her year and lower, so if we'd have any hope of involving her house (and Beaxbatons), we really had to.

Unfortunately. But I'll be gritting away too, as will

Sally-Anne.

We could come up with a code word for when she's particularly annoying at the party -- like "lovely"

"Everything looks just *lovely*."

"Patil's dress is especially *lovely* today, as are her manners!"

"What a *lovely* job with the eye make up! I'd never have guessed that orange was her colour."

And you can be perfectly busy hosting, and simply not have enough time. Or! We could put a little make-up on you before, just a little, but then she couldn't suggest a makeover for you because it'd be insulting since you'd already be done up, and it'd be like she was saying it wasn't good enough.

Well. At least normal people would think it was insulting. She may just plow on ahead. But you can say, "Oh, I'm so busy helping, I couldn't possibly, which is why I've already put a little on myself before I came. Isn't it *lovely*?"



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-01-31 16:48:36](#)

(no subject)

There are times I really appreciate having friends who are Slytherins.

I really like the way your mind works!

2012-01-31 07:42:00

*Order Only Private Message to
Remus Lupin*



 **alt_nymphadora**

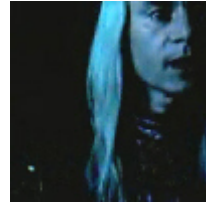
Is all well there this morning? Should I bring a hangover cure or pick up anything on my way? I'm not expecting much in the way of breakfast, you know. I mean, don't feel you should have done your usual.

But let's just say I'll pick up some buns. Bea likes the ones with jam in.

2012-01-31 13:24:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Heard from Mafalda you have had a change in fortunes. Was it some mishap in extraction or a deliberate calculation? Or ought you to take better care of your toys?



 [alt_lucius](#)

Nonetheless, this replacement may play to your advantage even if, as I understand, your circumstances are a bit harder to bear in the short-term. Particularly if it offers you greater excuse to travel? Have heard rumblings from Level 13 and ... elsewhere. Runcorn, Maule, Fulton - it would seem we have new domestic disturbances to provide us with intrigue.

If you can see your way to the Frost Faire on any evening, let me know. Or if other occasions afford you the opportunity to meet: You will wish to keep abreast of the developments. Have a meeting with Avery and Rookwood later; should know more after that. Have instructed Weasley to make time for you, Dominic, Gaude, Mulciber or Rowle should any of you contact him with a request. Understand, however, should your present guise require a less conspicuous form of contact.

Might amuse you to know that Ned's vigilance on your behalf has grown, if possible, more ferocious in the last week or two, in the face of all the activities within the Ministry. Do yourself a favour and warn him if you intend to pop into your own office; suspect the lad will take to sleeping on your camp bed any day now. Perhaps it's a more acceptable alternative to him than attempting to wrest attention from his fiancée. (She continues to emulate Bellatrix in her dedication to the craft - a fine Auror she'll be, too, if she can manage to refrain from treating her betters with a supercilious look. And Bella, of course, has been smiling like a cat with a particularly fat pigeon in its grasp. No one wants to ask what she's about - though it is not hard to guess.)

Go careful.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-01-31 19:44:31](#)
(no subject)

Pneumonia. Known side-effect of extended body bind, but definitely a nuisance.

That said, if I'd thought of it, I might have staged his death sooner. It's a useful device and may be necessary with this one eventually.

The first had advantages: lived alone, worked mostly by himself on tasks that were never closely supervised, was low in the hierarchy of the cell, but involved in ways that allowed for useful observation of others.

This one's more highly placed, which, as you say, has its advantages both in terms of what I can now effect within the organisation and in terms of my freedom to range.

Frost Faire: v. likely.

Meeting before then: possible. Would be v. useful.

Fulton's new to that list. Stretching himself, is he? Interesting he thinks it safe under Y's nose. Something to watch. Understand Y is tightening and winnowing at the Ministry. High time. And, yes, Pennifold is playing his role well.

Excellent, re. Bellatrix.

Trying out a new tool tonight. Courtesy of Bode: pre-dating.

2:44pm

2:39am

2012-01-31 13:43:00

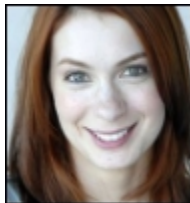
Order Only: Happy Birthday, Allie


Hope everything arrived all right.

Have Moddey any interest in cast-off robes and the like? We were just saying a couple of nights ago that we really ought to give them where they'll be useful, but not so close to London that they might be recognised.



 [alt_sirius](#)




 [alt_alice](#) at **2012-01-31 19:00:31**
(no subject)

Yes, they have! I woke up to breakfast in bed, and a nice pile of parcels. The furs are marvellous. I hardly feel proper tramping about the countryside wearing them, but they are incredibly warm and beautiful, and

I love them. Thank you!

In terms of the robes... depending on the pieces, we certainly could make use. I'd say jumpers and coats are a bit more in demand, but all-weather robes would be lovely, and the girls are always bemoaning their lack of pretty things, so we could make up some nicer dresses for them out of some of the fabric too.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-02-01 00:25:13**
(no subject)

Well, we're not going to find much in the way of jumpers or jackets here, but at least I can faithfully report that my mother's robes nearly all had skirts which could yield enough for plenty of frocks for

your girls.

We'll send things along as we come across them, then.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-02-01 00:49:34](#)**
(no subject)


Lovely. Thank you.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-02-01 04:20:32](#)**
(no subject)

If I were there, I would say it is time for another checking over, but that will have to wait until I see you again. I do hope you've had a lovely day and that the year ahead will be full of happiness.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-02-01 04:33:15](#)**
(no subject)

It'll have to wait til this summer, Poppy, and I so look forward to your visit!




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-01-31 20:19:59](#)**
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Alice.

I hope the year ahead is full of lots and lots of happy times. And visits from us, too, some of us.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-01-31 21:37:26](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, and yes, please! I'd absolutely love a visit from you and Remus and Bea.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-01-31 22:38:58**

Private Message to Tonks

I've been meaning to ask you, Tonks love, how things have been going with you four. Everything a bit more along the lines of what you were hoping for? I hope you've been able to sort out the things you were concerned over.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#) at 2012-02-02 04:16:08**

Re: Private Message to Tonks

I'm not sure, really, what to say. It's going well, but it's harder than I thought. Not seeing them together, exactly, but being here with them. Especially now we're here at the Blacks' house. Because there are all sorts of things that make it clear how much longer the two of them have known one another and more than that. And all the stories, all the memories-

I know you know this already, but Sirius was so much closer to his friends--to James Potter and Remus, especially--than he was to his parents or even his brother, and stories keep coming out about how it was his friends Sirius learned from and relied on when he was having such struggles with his parents. Or. That isn't quite right. It's not that he says that exactly, only that's what he really means, I think.

And this is awful to say, but it makes me feel sometimes that I don't belong here, because I'm not part of any of that. And I'm not part of them, either, obviously.

Did they tell you Sirius finally opened his brother's room--he hadn't all this time, you know?

I haven't asked him about it more than what he's wanted to say (that there were books, mostly), but he did show me us one of the photographs he found. It's of Sirius and his best mates at school. Remus (so pale and young!), James and the other one, Pettigrew, and it's just so clear they're everything to each other. The three of them, anywiz. It's a funny sort of picture. I think Potter had just finished telling a joke when it was taken, and the three of them are all falling about laughing. Peter must have dropped something just as it was taken, so he sort of looks surprised and then he reaches

down and disappears out of sight, so it's just Sirius and Remus leaning in on James while they all laugh and laugh.

And that's how it is. They've just always been, you know? And I never really was, even though it took a long time for me to realise.

Don't think it's all awful or that they're hurting me. It's not like that at all.

Sirius is trying so hard, Alice, really. I know he wants to be sure I don't feel odd or left out, either one. And Remus is the same dear as ever, but that's actually- it's hard not to be the way I have all along with him, you know? But that's not right anymore.

So I suppose the answer is that we're still working it out. How we can all be a family together. And I do think they want that, too. I hope. Because otherwise, I'm-

I'm not ready to think about that.



 **alt_alice** at **2012-02-02 04:41:51**

Re: Private Message to Tonks

Sirius told me about going in his brother's room, yes. And I'm glad he had the both of you there to help him through with it, because I know how much strength it took him to open that door.

They have been wrapped up in one another for most of their lives, haven't they? One way or another. Even when they were supposed to not be talking to one another, hate one another even, they just couldn't resist circling back around. I can see how that might leave you feeling more than a little out in the cold, despite their best efforts. Especially seeing as how that's something you don't have control over, and can't change.

I think there's another part to it too, which is that although they both obviously love you dearly, it's a different sort of love than the kind they have for one another. And different than what you felt it used to be with Remus.

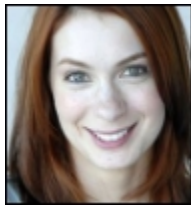
So feeling a little off-balance is perfectly understandable. And I'm not sure there are any easy fix-all solutions to it. I'm sorry, though.

I know you're thinking about Bea right now, and trying as hard as you can to make everything work, but have you given thought to what you want for yourself? Besides the immediate, I mean. Sirius and Remus have found one another, but you shouldn't feel like that means you have to deny yourself, and leave off finding someone who can love you the way they love each other. Their happiness doesn't negate your own, you know.

Well. That's probably something that hasn't gotten a lot of attention lately, as you've got no end of things to juggle and sort out and navigate, but you do deserve it, dearest.

And in the mean time, I truly believe that they do want you, not just Bea, but you, for as long as you'll have them, and they do want to make this work as best as it can. It's a new thing. There's all sorts of sorting out left to be done. But they are still trying, and so are you, and that's important.

Do you want to come up and visit for a bit? You could clear your head, be thoroughly pampered, and drink lots of tea.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-02 04:43:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Tonks

And of course, no matter how it gets sorted out, you'll still be a family. You'll still have a shared child with one, and shared blood with the other. That will never change. It's just a matter of sorting out what that family looks like and how it works. That's all.

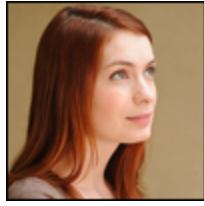


 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-02-02 05:11:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Tonks

I meant it that I'd like us to come. I'd bring Bea, I mean. But I can't see leaving here just now.

If you see what I'm saying.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-02-02 05:23:47](#)**

Re: Private Message to Tonks

Of course, love. I understand. We'll still be here when you can get away for a visit.

And keep in mind that I can always pop down there too if you ever need a shoulder or an ear in person.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-01-31 20:32:18](#)**

(no subject)

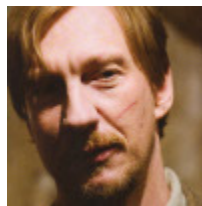
Many happy returns. I'm glad you're having a good birthday so far.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-01-31 20:44:02](#)**

Private Message to Remus

Sorry for waking you up last night. Tried to be quiet about it.

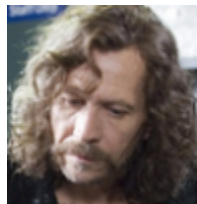


 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-01-31 20:45:53](#)**

Re: Private Message to Remus

No worries.

How are you doing today?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-02-01 00:26:38](#)**


Re: Private Message to Remus

Tired, mostly.

When you get back, I want to show you some of the things up there.


Still no cardigan, sorry.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-01-31 21:38:07](#)**
(no subject)

I am, darling, and thank you very much for the kind note.




 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-01-31 21:45:12](#)**
Private Message to Remus Lupin

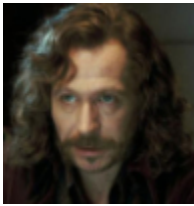
And while we're well-wishing, I'm so glad things are going well for you, dearest. Because while I was helping to clean up Grimmauld, well, I've never seen you so incredibly happy, and it did my heart good.


You deserve every inch of that happiness, Remus.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-01-31 21:40:20](#)**
Private Message to Sirius Black

And how have things been going at Grimmauld with you and yours? Smoothly, I hope, now you've had a chance to settle down some.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2012-02-01 00:33:48](#)**
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Smooth enough, I suppose. Now and then there's an unexpected - something. But on the whole it's rather better than I could have hoped.

We've just been having problems with that blasted elf. And

Well, they put up with me, so that's a start. Bea's ridiculously clever and she certainly keeps us all on our toes.

Truth be told, I'm a bit worried about our Dora, though. Between the Ministry job, the shop and the beer garden, she's going to go spare soon.



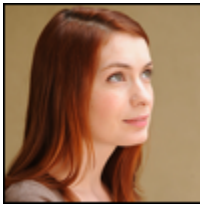
 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-01 00:48:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

I'm glad to hear it.

I can see that Tonks would be unwilling to give up her responsibilities at the beer garden. After all, it sort of was her idea, and I know she's gained a good deal of personal satisfaction in providing a safe place for people to gather. Perhaps that's where it comes from? That, and I'd imagine she feels incredibly obligated to "do her bit for the Order" by keeping up at the Ministry -- and I'd bet she doesn't even think of doing less. That it's all right to not do everything all at once, and we wouldn't judge her for it. Both the Ministry work and the garden are important to what we're trying to do, but I wonder if she'd be able to do one more effectively if she wasn't spreading herself thin with the other.

She is a fellow Hufflepuff, and from personal experience, trying to please everyone all the time can be exhausting.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-01 00:48:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

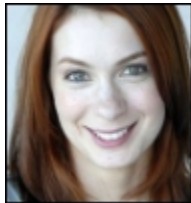
And?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-02-01 01:02:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Oh, nothing much.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-01 01:04:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

I know you, love. And the more important something tends to be, the more you tend to make noises about it being nothing much. Or leave off talking about it altogether.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-02-01 01:08:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Oh. Well. It's only the elf keeps squirrelling things away, hiding them all over, you know.

We made him show us one nest - it was Dora going mad looking for a string of pearls prompted that.

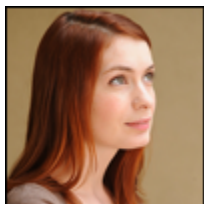
But not everything was there, I mean to say, not everything that was missing. There's only one room I hadn't been inside since coming back.

Well.

Moony quite correctly pointed out I was being a right nancy about the whole thing. So. I went up there last night. After supper.

I did find another nest but it turns out, Kreacher wasn't the only inhabitant of this house who liked to hoard other people's things. Not a surprise, that.

Anyway. I suppose I'd been putting it off long enough.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-01 01:27:50](#)

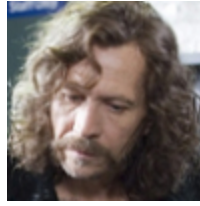
Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Ah.

I wondered why you seemed a bit down. I'm sorry, love. I'd imagine it's reopened a wound or two to revisit his room. And he'd been staying there, hadn't he? Right before.

I can see why you'd want to leave off going into his room until you were ready to.

Did he leave anything about what he was up to? Where he went?



 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2012-02-01 01:51:05](#)**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

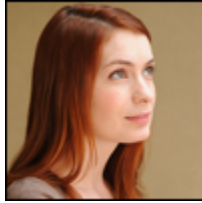
No, not a clue.

So many books, though. Letters from Miss Parkinson. Including a few books that - well, that he meant to send to her, looks like.

It's ... odd. There are things he clearly left midstream. And there are things he ... things I think he was leaving to be done by someone else.

Whatever happened, he knew he wasn't coming back.

I should have



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-02-01 02:10:29](#)**

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

It happened so very quickly, love. And you were in Spain, or France, or one of those far-off places, with wards and guards and a price on your head.

And from what we know of it all, he was under such scrutiny, it's hard to imagine him even being able to go off the way he did.

I can't imagine how hopeless it must've felt for you to have been so far away from him. But you mustn't think you're to blame for what happened.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2012-02-01 02:22:48](#)**


Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

You and Moony.

I'm not talking about this time. Not entirely. Circe, I could have - I dunno. He told me, that last time we talked - well, through the journals but you know what I mean - he said that I abandoned him. When I left home.

He's right.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-02-01 02:34:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

Oh, love.

It's only natural to look back with the wisdom of years, seeing the consequences of actions you took ages ago, knowing the outcome, and figuring out how things might have been different. But it's another thing entirely to be that young person, in the middle of that situation, and act. Would you have done differently if you'd have known what you know now? Undoubtedly.

Could you have known what you know now at the time? No.



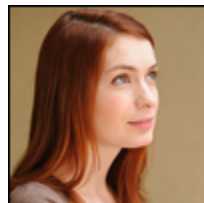
 **alt_sirius** at [2012-02-01 02:46:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

So you say. Doesn't matter, anyway - too late to change it.

Well.

On a practical note ... these books he wanted to have sent to Miss Parkinson. I don't see how I can arrange it, without leading her to realise where I am.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-02-01 02:53:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius Black

You are so hard on your younger self, when all I want to do is give him a giant hug. And hex his mum into next week.

You don't want Lucius's ward camping out on your doorstep the next chance she gets?

I don't blame you for that.

And I wouldn't put it past her.

Perhaps if you tell her that he sent them to you while you were in France, but you've only now had a chance to send them?




 **alt_pomona** at [2012-02-01 03:57:27](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Alice dear!

I do hope you enjoy the cider, though you might want to go slowly as it's got quite a kick to it.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-02-01 04:34:05](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Pomona dear. I've already had some and it's quite gone to my head! In a rather nice sort of way, mind.



 **alt_pomona** at [2012-02-01 04:40:46](#)
(no subject)

I'm glad to hear you're putting it to good use!

Many happy returns of the day.

2012-01-31 17:38:00

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Have been thinking of you all day, dear.

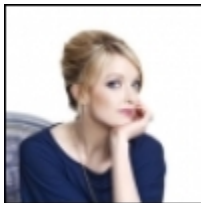
I hope that today's proceedings were a step towards clearing whatever confusion seized Fulton et al on Saturday.



 [alt_poppy](#)

I've taken the liberty of asking an elf to deliver a small pot of peppermint balm to your rooms. Don't be alarmed when you see it there: I promise that it has not been hexed or snared.

Do let me know if there is anything else I could provide. An ear, for instance.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-02-01 00:30:06**
(no subject)

I appreciate the gift. And thank you for the warning - after December (good grief, was that only six weeks ago?) I admit I get suspicious of unexpected objects, still.

On today: I finished with them about an hour ago, and am having a quiet dinner with a friend before I trust apparating back. Better, this time round - Campanella set some very clear but fair expectations of how things would go - but four hours of detailed questioning is four hours, no matter how you look at it.

As to the results - nothing like a clear answer has emerged, and I gather the oversight board will be investigating further. (Apparently, I'll hear more on that in a day or two.) Fulton swears I sent him different instructions, I swear I didn't. But honestly, I don't even know any more. Nothing about the whole situation makes much sense.

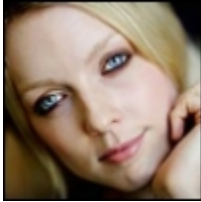


 [alt_poppy](#) at **2012-02-01 15:52:55**
(no subject)

I feel certain that time will bring answers, but I'd hoped--and I'm sure you did, as well--that it would all have been resolved upon an examination of the

evidence.

I confess I'm baffled that the misunderstanding could lie in a set of written instructions Fulton says were sent by you if you know you didn't send them. Could the handwriting really leave that in doubt? Are they at least looking into whether someone deliberately sabotaged you by forging the message he received? Or is it really still at the impasse of his word against yours?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-02-01 16:06:07](#)

(no subject)

I'm baffled too. They are looking more deeply, but apparently that will take a little time - the person they'd like to do the analysis had some family matters this week and perhaps next.

Campanella says that that's one of the complications they've seen with the journals. It's very easy, of course, to get a wide-ranging sample of someone's writing, if they write in public, which of course makes it easier to duplicate.

She said that she'd have thought it was my writing on first glance, and even second or third, but there were small things that made her look more closely. But of course, she's known me far longer, and she's also not an expert in that field, so it must wait for one.

And I... well. Clearly this is an excuse for something else. Just before I came up to teach, I got the notice there's a more detailed investigation scheduled, meeting with the oversight board on March 13th. More details on what they want to cover to come, apparently.

(As to your apology below: you know I'll tell you if I don't wish to answer. In this case, I keep switching between wanting to sort it out, and wanting to ignore it entirely, and I'm rather firmly in the former mood this hour.)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-02-01 16:15:12](#)**
(no subject)

A more detailed investigation? Gracious sakes. And more than a month away? Someone is playing a very ugly game here.

What does Rabastan say? His perspective might be especially valuable, I should think.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-02-01 16:25:06](#)**
(no subject)

Rather, yes.

As to Raz - he was in the midst of duelling practice when I got back last night, so we've not had time to talk about yesterday in any detail yet.

Honestly, I've been half-expecting a complete review since the oversight board turned over new membership last spring. And they made a reasonable enough point in the letter this morning that the YPL leadership must not only be above reproach, but also appear so to the public. I suppose I'll only find out more when I get the actual list of points they want me to address.

(As to the timing: I gather some of that is to give them time to review in detail, and also due to some schedule conflicts.)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-02-01 16:46:34](#)**
(no subject)

You are being entirely sensible about this. And you don't need me stirring the pot.

I rather think that someone has not counted on your being quite so capable or well-organised as you most certainly are. I have every confidence that you will come through this process with an absolutely unassailable dossier: the more they poke into the details of your work, the better documented your competence will be in the end.

That doesn't make it any less odious, of course.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-02-01 16:59:31](#)
(no subject)

I am very much trying to be sensible. I know I gave Raz rather a scare Saturday, and I'd like to avoid more of that for all sorts of reasons. And besides, panic would waste energy I'd prefer to use for other things. (Or so I keep telling myself when I'm tempted that direction.)

On the rest: thank you for the compliment, and I do rather hope that's the case. I'd only relatively basic notes with me yesterday, but they were clearly startled that we had such a clear process for official communication and so on.

I think my goal - until I get the specific lists - is to make sure all my files and notes are in crystal clear order, and comment on our usual practices, and why they're that way. And then respond to whatever specifics they come up with when I get them.

I've had a few letters with Diane and Chiron, in fact. And Chiron offered, up front, to help me prepare, as he's quite used to that sort of thing from the other side. (He's in Internal Affairs, as I think I mentioned.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-02-01 17:09:27](#)
(no subject)

I quite agree with all that. And your last paragraph raises another point in your favour: you've got good connections with people who can help you avoid being crushed in the machinery of bureaucracy, which sometimes turns for the sake of turning without regard to sense or principle.

I'm very glad your brother in law is offering to help; I imagine his insight into such processes will be invaluable.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-02-01 17:18:11](#)**
(no subject)

I am very glad too.

And particularly glad that Diane and I worked out some of our difficulties. It's still a little hard to trust, after so many years of just rubbing each other the wrong way, but she's clearly trying hard to make amends.

And I've always rather liked Chiron: he can be stiff and unbending sometimes and we've never had much in common beyond a general fascination with patterns. But he loves her and adores his children, and there's a lot of good in that.

On the rest, quite. I wish I knew if it were personal or just the wheels turning, but I suppose that may become more clear in time.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-02-01 14:46:01](#)**
(no subject)

A quick note, before I head up to teach.

Thank you for the balm - most soothing, and my shoulders appreciate. I slept better than I was afraid I might, but I was near out on my feet by the time we finished class last night, which certainly helps.

As to the ear: I would like, sometime, though I'm trying to figure out when would work. Friday afternoon, around 3? By that point, I'll feel less at odds with my pile of marking, I hope. (At least it's all star charts right now, which are easy to do with only half my brain.)



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2012-02-01 15:55:41](#)**
(no subject)

Aurora, I owe you an apology. As soon as I'd written what I did above, I realised that I'd crossed a line. Really, dear, there's no need to answer my questions. They were impertinent and ill-considered.

I would be most pleased to see you Friday afternoon if you've time

then. And I promise that I will not pepper you with questions.
You've had far too many of those this week.

2012-01-31 19:04:00

Private message to Susan Bones

Will you be offended if I don't come to the party on Sunday? Please say you won't.



 [alt_megan](#)



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-02-01 03:53:14](#)

(no subject)

'Course not. Honestly, if it had been just me I'd never have got Patil involved, much less Brown.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-02-01 06:11:10](#)

(no subject)

Oh, good, because I'd go if you wanted, but I'd rather not. You don't have to explain, I know loads of people like them.

I do hope it's a good party, but only because it's partly your party.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-02-01 23:41:57](#)

(no subject)

Are you *sure* you don't want to, though?

There are probably going to be enough people there that you could come and hardly have to speak to them at all.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-02-02 06:41:16](#)

(no subject)

Yes but ~~It doesn't matter what I do, either way it's just~~ I'm quite sure. Really. I just don't want to be around while they're doing makeovers and that sort of thing.

||| But maybe I should come to the very beginning, they can't start right away, can they?