

[2012-08-01 11:34:00](#)

Freedom Day

That was quite the festive day indeed!



What a treat to see the boys and girls of the CCF in their uniforms, after having worked so diligently on their performance. Such a shining example to all the eager little ones in the crowd, I know. I'm sure the stalls and displays and street performances were quite charming, and of course the events at Buckingham were all that one might expect.

 **[alt_umbridge](#)**

It does make one reflect on how the choices we make early in our life echo forward. Each and every one of the students I've seen while observing at the CCF site has made a choice to commit to the hard work and service of Our Lord, and should be commended.

And yet, there are others who have chosen to be selfish with their time and energies, to put their own personal interests above the good of the Protectorate. Failing to develop all of one's possible skills in service to Our Lord's work is just as selfish as shirking your duties or letting others carry your responsibilities. We must all strive to work closely together, each lending hand and wand to the necessary work, finding joy in our shared unity.

I do hope that those both young and old take a moment in the wake of our shared celebration to reflect on the devotion and dedication that can be shown, and renew their commitment to Our Lord, the Protectorate, and our glorious magical world.



 **[alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-01 16:12:14](#)**

Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Professor Sinistra -

I really don't think you should be worrying, dear, but I've heard more than one comment today about the fact you're not here. Are you certain that's the impression of diligence you really want to put forward, especially to our impressionable young people?

Now, you and your young man did look quite striking last night. (I do hope Yvaine Warrington wasn't too unpleasant, by the by.) It's most

clear how fond you are of him. I do hope, though, you aren't distracted into forgetting where your greater loyalties should be.

But I also understand how you might be tempted to get some extra polishing done, given that you've been keeping company with him for some time now and he doesn't seem inclined to take the next step. Or - might I be wrong about that? I did hear one or two wonder last night whether there might be happy news in the coming days, since you've held his interest this long.

On that count, I'm sure Narcissa Malfoy can tell you far more about setting your cap for a desirable young man than I ever could. Very wise of you to get close to her, my dear, and I'm sure she can help you make the most of your charms.

But of course, if you need help of a more practical sort - if another break from Leicester might help encourage him along, say - I would be glad to assist there. You know it's my pleasure to help a young witch working to find her place in the world as you are.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-02 00:51:44](#)

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Madame Umbridge -

My apologies for not catching up with you sooner, but sorting the details of the meal schedule for the next few weeks took a little longer than expected, given the packed lunches for Saturday and next Wednesday.

So many people seem to have an interest in my life these days! It's very generous of you to offer your help and advice, since I know you've a number of other responsibilities on your mind. I did appreciate the chance for a small pause, but I was sure, of course, that everyone here would do a fine job. (And of course, my role now we've gotten started has always been planned to allow for flexibility.)

Other than the wedding on Saturday (such a nice touch for them both to invite all the Hogwarts staff), I do expect to arrange one other appointment. The timing on that is still under discussion, but I'll certainly let you and the programme instructors know once I do. Anything else should be relatively brief, or entirely at the discretion of the oversight board.

I do think the parade came off really quite well, and that the students pulled together impressively to find solutions.

I've a few things to check on, but I'll stop by the office before I leave the site, in case there's any last needs tonight. And of course, be back bright and early in the morning.



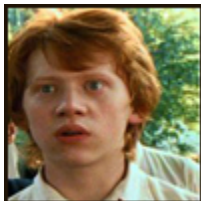
 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-08-01 16:29:58**

Private message to Marston Strangeweale and Latimer Caldwell

Gentlemen -

On the whole, I think I'd prefer to be here tomorrow, and see how our Professor Sinistra handles a few matters on her return, and I'm equally curious about how the first code class goes over. Shall we get together Friday afternoon? 1pm or so would work well for me, as I needn't be here for their work on initial analysis of the battle.

I do have some additional notes to discuss, now we're preparing to move forward beyond the summer, as well as the handling the more immediate matters.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-01 21:34:30**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well. That makes me feel sort of . . . horrible. About the whole parade thing.

Ugh.



 **alt_luna** at **2012-08-02 02:53:59**


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

You can be a part of CCF without being...I'm not quite sure what the word I want is. Co-opted, perhaps. Or assimilated.

But perhaps no one has been ever quite so open about the purpose of CCF. We have to notice those messages underneath. If we're

aware of them, maybe we'll be a little less liable to swallow them whole.




 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-02 02:55:49](#)

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

Yeah. Maybe I have a naturally touchy stomach. If I tried to swallow 'em, I'd probably spew 'em right back. No offence to those of you who are in CCF, though. But yeah, you should be paying attention to

that stuff.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-02 03:12:59](#)

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

It's interesting for me, being on the outside. I wasn't sure I wanted to do it, but there were certain things I wanted to get out of it, so I tried to get in. And when I didn't, it made it seem all the more, I dunno, attractive. Alluring. I hear about all the fun and interesting sounding stuff you do, and it's like *all the cool kids are there*. Which, of course, is what they want everyone to think: it's cool to be all gung ho about the Lord Protector.

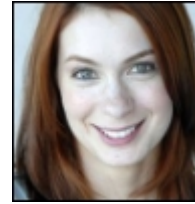
Don't get me wrong, I don't mean that any of you lot have ever done anything to make me feel that way. But there are plenty who make little digs whenever they're in ear shot of those of us who were left on the outside looking in (Seamus Finnegan and Padma Patil spring to mind). It doesn't bother me, but I know it bothers some of the others.

2012-08-01 14:32:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank

Love, I'd stay out fishing for at least another hour.
We're getting some girl-talk in.

Everything all right on your end?



 [alt_alice](#)



 [alt_frank](#) at **2012-08-01 18:36:52**

(no subject)

make sure you cover how to kick where it hurts the most.

we're doing a talk thing too. I guess. he asked me about you know what.

so we'll be a bit. I think.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2012-08-01 18:40:31**

(no subject)

You know... Oh!

Really?

Is he going with anyone?

And yes, we're talking about that some, but I expect you'll cover defence rather thoroughly as well. So we're sorting out other things that she has to deal with a little more regularly.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2012-08-01 18:42:00**

(no subject)

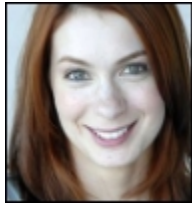
oh. right. that.


and not that he's said.

he said he might as well ask while he's got the opportunity, though.

merlin, al. how

how specific should I get?



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-01 18:45:54](#)
(no subject)

You'll be fine. I'm sure of it. Try not to be too vague, because that can lead to all sorts of potential misunderstandings.

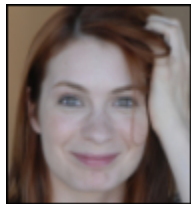
Safety, communication, and respect are always good places to start.


I'll see you in a little while, dearest.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-01 18:47:47](#)
(no subject)

safety, communication, respect, and foreplay.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-01 18:48:07](#)
(no subject)

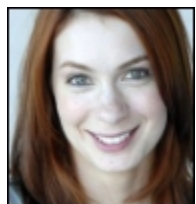
Frank!




 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-01 18:50:19](#)
(no subject)

I've no idea how arthur did this six times.

see you in a little while.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-01 19:55:09](#)
(no subject)

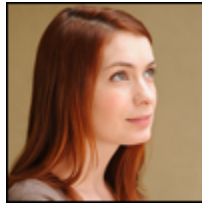
All right. We're finished on our end, so you can feel free to come on back whenever you want.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-01 19:55:35](#)**
(no subject)

right.

we're cleaning the fish. should be done soon.



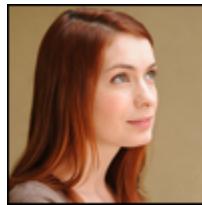
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-01 19:56:00](#)**
(no subject)


Better today?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-01 19:56:17](#)**
(no subject)

getting there.

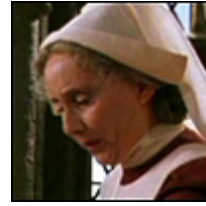


 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-01 19:56:46](#)**
(no subject)

Me too, dearest.

2012-08-01 18:07:00


Order Only Private Message to Frank and Alice Longbottom



I don't wish to make matters worse by pressing you to talk, so please, don't feel you need say anything at all in reply. I only want to say that I am sorry. I know you must be hurting, and I wish there were anything at all that I could do to help.

 [alt_poppy](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **2012-08-02 02:51:31**
(no subject)

I'm glad you've written.

Frank and I decided it would be best for everyone if we answered questions but avoided engaging in debate, because we couldn't help but to take all of it very personally, and showing defensiveness or anger wouldn't have been useful for anyone. Frank put off reading what everyone said until yesterday afternoon, and even then, it was quite a lot to sort through. It is a hard thing to sit back and watch other people make decisions about your family, and then be expected to accept it.

It still stings. I didn't mean to sound quite that bitter.

But I've been wanting to tell you how very much I appreciated what you said about our Neville. You and Pomona and Severus know Neville better than we do in some respects, and you were each so supportive of him as a person that it made a difficult situation much easier to bear. I wish he could've heard it too. So thank you for that.

2012-08-01 21:46:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin



 **alt_nymphadora**

I know that at least one of you won't see this until morning, but just in case you're checking your book, Sirius, I wanted to say that tonight is much quieter in the garden. Nothing like yesterday's mad house.

Not that a full house is bad, but I'm not sorry to have it a bit slow this evening.

Ellie's holding up well, by the way. And Bea went off to bed with almost no fuss. Almost.

So we're fine. No worries.

2012-08-02 07:18:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley and Shivani Johns



 [alt_lana](#)

Come along to the spa as soon as you can this afternoon, I'll be there from noon onwards, and they'll know to show you in whenever you arrive. I'm sorry we can't do this tomorrow, but Mama and Abuelita have me to themselves then.

But, Vani, you're on hols now, anyway, aren't you? The Freedom Day parade was the last of your school obligations, I hope. They were precious, by the way, your wee marchers with their bright sashes and all those great heaps of flowers! Some of them were completely invisible behind their bouquets! Good show. I heard they were rewarding villages whose schools showed most loyal. Have you heard yet whether you won honours?

I'm just ever so grateful there were no security breaches. It makes us look so inept when something slips by our precautions, so you can guess we've been working round the clock and more in my department between those of us in surveillance positions and those in counterinsurgency ops.

Sarah, I hope your father was well and truly pleased that we managed a major festival with no crises for the Aurors to handle. All that was needed on the day of the event was good, solid MLE monitoring of vendors and buskers and close attention to the crowds on all our parts.

As far as I've heard, the only arrests were two mountebanks rounded up for fraudulent claims, a couple of street entertainers questioned for unsavory content in their performances, and a handful of people taken in either for selling or attempting to buy contraband of various sorts--including wands, if you can imagine anyone being so foolish as to vend those out the back of a booth, and poisoned sweets, which shouldn't surprise me, I suppose, except for the sheer stupidity of anyone's being lured in by some bloke who openly advertises such things in the journals.

I was able to properly enjoy the gala, even, which I don't think I've managed since I started training, really. Didn't you just think it was the most beautiful ball? You both looked beyond lovely. And, Sarah, everyone was saying what a well-matched pair you and Montague

make. Really, Gladwell was never quite the thing.

The faerie theme was spectacularly done. And the aura of Our Lord's magic is so profound--I'm nearly overwhelmed by it whenever I go to Buckingham--I think my heart was in my mouth the whole evening. It made everyone look so much lovelier or more handsome than usual, too, didn't you think? Or was that just me? It could have been, I suppose: I'd just received a very special present, and I think wearing it makes everything appear much more- I don't know, more *lively*, maybe, or more *vehement*, or something. Odd and oddly *bright*. I'll show you this evening: it's the most lovely and powerful thing I've ever owned--so very special.

Don't plan on going home tonight, by the way. You weren't! were you? I've got us fully booked for our last night out as single witches on the town, and Mama's planning a gorgeous breakfast just for us, so you have to stay.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2012-08-02 12:41:22](#)

Private Message to Vani

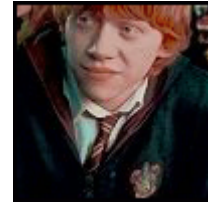
Really, I don't understand what you see in Higgs. I can't believe you let him escort you. I don't buy his whole gentleman farmer transformation for a moment.

But, please, please. Don't let it spoil this weekend. I'm sorry if you're coming alone, but I suppose it means you can just be there fully for me, and that's a lovely gift, so thank you.

[2012-08-02 10:46:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Phew. Just got in from my trek. The Orienteering lessons are loads more challenging this session. Which is great, but I really wanted a chance to write you lot before lunch.



 [alt_ron](#)

Listen, y'know those faerie favours everyone was collecting at Freedom Day? I know people were trying to get the whole set cause they were pretty nift. Anywiz, Bundy told me this morning that she caught hers snooping in her stuff yesterday, and she'd been thinking all along it was listening to her whenever she said anything. Creepy, yeah? So she watched it, and in the night it flew off somewhere, but it was back in the morning, just where she'd set it by her bunk last night. Bundy reckons they're spies. So she got rid of hers. And I'm getting rid of my Peaseblossom and Mote as soon as I finish writing. You've got to smash them, I guess. Otherwise, they'll just fly back to you.

So Code lessons after lunch, yeah? Sounds nift, Fisheye!

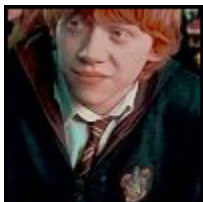
And what's after that, anyone know?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-02 17:57:36](#)
(no subject)

Oh BLOODY HELL.

Lucky we have no privacy here anyway so it's not as if I've said anything any more incriminating than 'ugh, I'm so tired' and 'thank goodness the parade turned out fine.'



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-02 18:37:21](#)
(no subject)

I know, right?

Say. How's Pansy? I tried to get a seat over there just now, but whatisname got there first. She looked pretty miserable yesterday when we were having the battlefield tour. I guess that wasn't much fun for her.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-02 18:40:54](#)
(no subject)

She's okay-ish. Pansy, would you say okay-ish is close? I wish they'd come up with somewhere else to have us learn about, it's not as if there weren't plenty of other battles we could have studied in

depth.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-02 19:59:44](#)
(no subject)

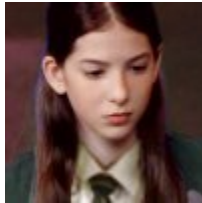
Merlin.

I thought he was going to kill them. Really.

What do you think they're going to do with them now? Now we're not there to see, I mean.

I'm not even close to okay-ish.

You?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-02 20:04:01](#)
(no subject)

Probably not kill them because

I think they're going to use them again later.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-02 22:22:28](#)
(no subject)

I assume you're talking about muggles. Or muggleborns?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-02 20:21:41](#)
(no subject)

That one though, that stopped moving. Who fell to the ground and curled up and just wouldn't get up.

He might kill her. Or

Ugh



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-02 21:07:14](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

That was- I've never seen anyone look like that. The way she did when she just stopped and lay

down. Just-

like she knew they could do anything they wanted to her, but she just wasn't going go along at all. She was making them force her.

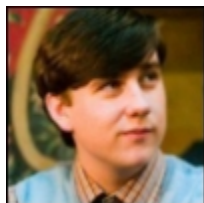
And that trainer bloke

Did you see the way he looked?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-02 22:21:36](#)
(no subject)

What happened? Are you talking about some sort of training exercise?

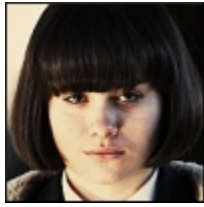


 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-02 22:24:07](#)
(no subject)

Reading this again, yeah, obviously.

It sounds like it was really awful.


What did they tell you they were trying to accomplish?



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-08-02 22:56:32](#)
(no subject)

It was a lesson on muggle crowd control.

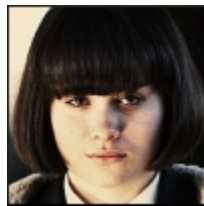


 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-03 01:06:18](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, mate. Not ignoring you, but they've got us in another bloody lecture.

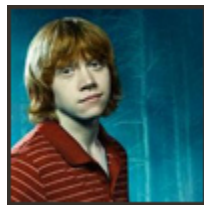
I don't know what to tell you about this afternoon's lesson. I didn't know what that bloke was thinking. That we'd like to see people treated like animals and then hurt. On purpose.


It was bloody well horrible.



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-08-03 01:54:43](#)
(no subject)

Do you think they'll make us show them what we learned?



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-03 11:44:30](#)
(no subject)

Uh.

If I demonstrate what I learned, they'll toss me out of CCF.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-03 00:09:35](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Today was more ugh than yesterday.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-03 11:44:57](#)
(no subject)

Sorry.

2012-08-03 12:50:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am up to No Good

All right. I've something to say, and it may get some of you hacked off at me. I'm sorry, but I have to say it anyway.



 [alt_terry](#)

Couldn't sleep last night. Woke up from a nightmare about the time the git took Dudley never mind. Since I couldn't sleep anyway, I stayed up until dawn, rereading journal entries, including Sirius Black's Grim Truths. And what Sally-Anne wrote about what she learned about the cardinal curses. And what you said about the training yesterday, and what Neville said about being on the outside looking in, and the CCF kids being the cool kids. And I'm remembering some the talks the git had late at night with his sister, when they thought I was asleep.

You're my friends, so I feel like I need to warn you as clearly as I can. You are on a really dangerous road. Along with the physical conditioning, and the orienteering, and all the other fun stuff, they're trying to corrupt you. They're trying to get you more comfortable with hurting people. And the further on you go, the more they're going to pressure you. Right now, they're talking 'muggle crowd control,' like you'd just use the stuff they're teaching you if muggles get out of line. I can see it clear as can be. In a couple years, it'll be just because they're muggles. Right now you're participating because it's fun and you're with your friends. Five years from now, it'll be because you need to keep your job. Ten years from now, it'll be because your whole family is counting on you. And you'd better believe that since the stakes are so much higher, the stuff you'll be expected to do is even worse.

I know that some people try to quietly resist. They may decide they have to do some terrible things because it allows them to do some things that can help. From some of what Fred and George have told me, I think their Dad's in that position. If you do that, participate in terrible things because you still hope you can do good, you'd better be bloody sure the trade off is worth it. You have to know that's what you're doing. Because I have to think that's the only justification.

Like I said, you all may get hacked off at me and ask me what right I have to say this. That's fair enough, so I'll tell you. I can tell you this because I'm much further down the road than you. The git wanted to corrupt me. And he did. I've done terrible things, so terrible that I'd never dare to tell you, so don't ask me. I have to find my way back

somehow, but it's not easy.

Just...see what's going on. You have to decide what you're willing to do, and for what stakes. Because I have to think a lot of people start down this road without even realising that's what they're doing.

I'm not going to let you off that easy.

Your friend (and I really hope you believe it)
TERRY BOOT




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-03 20:41:51](#)
(no subject)

I don't

I wouldn't

...



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 12:42:12](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry. I hated saying it.

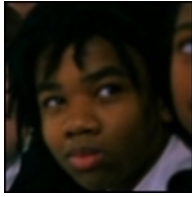
You want to be a healer, right? Madam Pomfrey told me that there's an oath the healers take, and part of it goes *first, do no harm*. So maybe if you are allowed to do the healers course of study and to take that oath, you wouldn't face that pressure, because people would know you're not allowed to hurt people, because of your oath.


Except--

I just realised...the regime doesn't consider muggles or muggleborns to be people, does it?

There were healers involved with some of the experiments the git was doing. He used to correspond with them.


I'm sorry. I guess that's not much comfort after all.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-03 22:32:20](#)
(no subject)


I'm not in CCF. But I've been thinking about this a bit, ever since we did career counseling. I'm going to try for a career in radio, as on-air talent, since people say I do a pretty good job with the quidditch matches. I wonder if I'd have to take a job where I'd have to, I dunno, read on the air announcements or press releases puffing up what the regime does. Can I stomach being all *hurrah for the Lord Protector!* and everything?



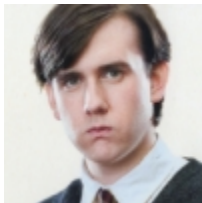
 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-03 22:33:00](#)
(no subject)

You and your stomach.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-03 22:33:20](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, it gets all touchy and everything.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-03 22:36:28](#)
(no subject)

I need to think about this a bit.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-04 01:23:26](#)
(no subject)

Professor Carrow may have tried to corrupt you, Terry, but I don't think he succeeded. Not where it really matters, in your heart.

Because if he had, I really don't think you would be warning us like this.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-04 01:23:50](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe, maybe not.

That doesn't change the fact that I did those terrible things, though.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-08-04 11:17:17](#)**
(no subject)

Hear, hear! Well said, Terry.

This week has been.... Well, more difficult than I care to say, what? I say, I knew it would be dashed hard to keep one's composure at all times but the exercises are...well, they're bloody indecent.

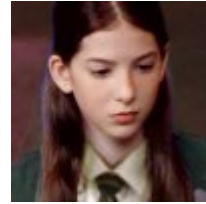
I've got to say all the right things, particularly, what, but it's bally well challenging.

-Justin

2012-08-03 14:08:00

Private message to Professor Sinistra

So yesterday we had this class on muggle crowd control.



And don't misunderstand me, it was really interesting. They showed us the Herding Charm, and talked about how it was originally developed by wizarding farmers to herd animals but it can be used on groups of muggles as well, and it's a little like Imperius on a large group but much easier to resist.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

They used the charm to get all the muggles to come in, and then pick up some metal objects, which weren't weapons of course but they noted that most muggle weapons were made of metal (and muggles still sometimes think metal tool = potential weapon).

And then they showed us the Vulcanis charm, which heats metal very quickly, and all the muggles cried out and dropped the things they were holding.

And one was really loud about it, actually, I think she didn't get it out of her hand fast enough and she let out a real shriek and then the instructor said, this leads me to the next useful charm, and he cast a ~~curse jinx charm~~ spell that took her voice away. She was still making faces like she was screaming but nothing came out. And then he showed us there was a larger version of the same charm.

And then he showed us the Boundary Jinx, which (like the Herding Charm) was originally used to work with animals but does work well with muggles, too, because they don't like pain any more than animals do. And then he wanted them to move really close together so he shrank the boundary, but one muggle woman (the one who'd been burned, I think) dropped to the floor and just wouldn't move. ~~I thought he was going to~~ ~~It was like she'd~~ I guess she just wasn't in the mood to be cooperative, and he was frustrated that she wasn't cooperating so he used Imperius and that worked well and they finished and then we went off to do something else and here's the thing, Professor Sinistra, I am not very good at this sort of thing. I have to just admit this, I'm SOFT, and I know that's not a good thing, it's not what Our Lord wants, but when I look around me I see some adults I respect immensely who are also soft and some of them are even teachers or ~~matrons~~ so I think I can probably be useful in His Service the way I

am

but

okay I am running out of time so I'll write quickly.

I took Dark Arts for one of my electives. That was a mistake. I really hate it. The class, I mean. It's not just that it was taught by Miss Professor Carrow (though that was part of it), honestly the worst is that I don't like curses. I got into the class because I almost cast Avada Kedavra successfully on an animal. My natural father uses the killing curse to hunt, and it's very humane. And for hunting I think it's fine, because that's the thing, I HATE seeing ~~people~~ creatures suffer. Even muggles. Even rats.

I HATE it.

Because I'm soft, and it's a personal flaw but I'm not sure it's a flaw I'll ever be able to overcome.

I don't know what I'm asking, really. I guess

how much more like yesterday is there going to be? in CCF, I mean.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-03 21:30:11](#)**

(no subject)

Oh. Yes.

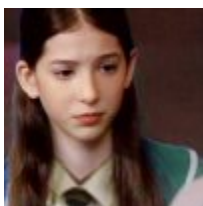
Let me answer the last first. (I trust your usual discretion here.) There are a few more activities related to Muggle control: a challenge involving some of the simpler/least harmful charms and methods and a lecture on Muggle control and camp management theory on the 8th. And on the 15th, an activity where more ~~harmful~~ advanced charms and sharper motivations will be allowed.

You have guessed, I think, that I have had only some control over the activities: many of them are set out by other consulting instructors. This is one of those places. What I did manage is that no task should require harming other beings (of any kind) to succeed. But there are places where that approach may be a route to quick and sure success.

On the rest, well. I struggle with the same thing, and more given this year. I did not learn to cast the Cardinals until I took on the YPL and was required to learn: I've still never cast them on anything more complicated than a rat. And there are many people who, yes, think me soft and useless for that, and many related things.

The only way forward I've managed is believing that the world, even our Protectorate, needs many kinds of service, many kinds of skills. There are days I convince myself of that more easily than others.

Finding my way to that - well, that's harder to explain. But thinking through it, when I can, helps. Reading philosophy to try and make sense of the world. Doing my best to take care of the people I love.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-03 21:49:33](#)**

(no subject)

Which ones are supposed to be less harmful?

I mean --

I know wizards who say that they'd rather have Cruciatuſ cast on them than Imperiuſ. Even people who know what Cruciatuſ feels like ſometimes ſay this.

So

But theſe are muggleſ ſo maybe I don't know how any of them would feel about it.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-03 22:01:59](#)**

(no subject)

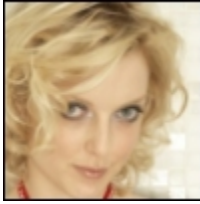
For the laſt exerciſe - nothing like the Cardinals will be required (though they will be allowed) - after all, not everyone's taken Dark Arts. And even things like the Herding Charm can be applied humanely. You could, inſtead, perſuade them, or give them ſome other incentive to do what you wanted, rather than uſe force of magic.

Of courſe, aſ I ſaid, thoſe methodſ might be ſlower, and of courſe, people will be obſerving your choiceſ.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-03 21:50:38](#)
(no subject)

Also, if we choose to NOT take the route to quick and sure success but to do something that's slower but doesn't hurt anyone will we have to explain it later to Madame Umbridge Healer-St anyone?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-03 22:04:56](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps, yes. (We are asking you to explain a great deal else these weeks, after all.) But it shouldn't be anything like a deciding factor in your success in the overall programme. Not at this point, at any

rate.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-03 23:20:45](#)
(no subject)

~~I wish I could offer true reassurance. And I can't. I don't have it to give.~~

Look. The one thing I do know is that these three weeks aren't the whole of your life. Which isn't to say people don't watch, and make judgements. I do believe there are many ways to go forward.

And I'm confident that you - and Pansy ~~and Harry~~ and so many others - will find a way. You are smart, and you are resourceful, and you are careful. And all of those things must make a difference.

And if talking in person is better, or even just watching the stars a bit, we can make that happen. Tomorrow, I've that wedding so I'll be gone after mid-afternoon, and Monday, I've a meeting, but other than that, I'll be around more than not.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-04 02:40:10](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

Have a good time at the wedding.

2012-08-03 20:37:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Pansy and Ron



 **alt_sally_anne**

Bloody hell, I can't believe they've got us in ANOTHER lecture. It's like they don't want us to have time to think about anything at all. Anyway, you probably saw that I wrote to Professor Sinistra.

Here's what she said. There are going to be a few more activities related to 'Muggle control.' On the 8th she said there'll be a challenge involving 'some of the simpler/least harmful charms and methods' as well as a lecture on Muggle control and camp management theory.


On the 15th there'll be an activity 'where more harmful advanced charms and sharper motivations will be allowed.'

None of this was Professor Sinistra's idea. She said she managed to make it that no task would REQUIRE harming muggles to succeed BUT there are places where that would mean you'd easily succeed and that any other choice would take longer. (We can use persuasion and incentives if we want. It just might take longer. Or not work as well.) Oh and on the 15th it sounds like they'll be allowing the Cardinals (though not requiring them).

And people will be watching and we might have to defend our choices. After, I mean.

Of course she said she was trusting all this to my discretion so you're going to have to pretend you don't know.



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-08-04 16:49:38**
(no subject)

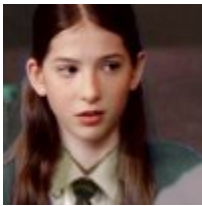
It's hard, isn't it?

I guess it's one thing to say the right things, even if you don't mean them, or have people just assume you think everything is fine, but it's different to actually do them. Or maybe it isn't, not according to Terry at least.

I don't know.

I don't know a lot.

We all aren't meant to be soldiers. Or do that sort of thing every day. But I guess I'd almost rather see it and know it happens than pretend it doesn't. It's still awful, though.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-04 18:00:13](#)**
(no subject)

I tried to talk to Justin at breakfast and he had this look. Like, he couldn't bear to look at me. Maybe he's afraid I'd say 'I told you that you were mad to stay.' I don't know. He looks like he's not sleeping well and he hardly touched his food.

They gave the visitors that tour of the muggle camp that looked all cute and scenic. I know Justin SAID he thought it was all for show but I wonder if until he saw that class he didn't REALLY believe how muggles are treated here?

Anyway this is a good point. That it's better to see it than to be able to pretend it's not happening. Except I think for a lot of people, it means that they have to convince themselves now that they've seen it that it's all fine and that muggles REALLY SHOULD be treated this way even if they'd never dream of treating a dog or a cat like that.



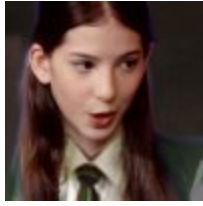
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-04 18:39:18](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. He hasn't been talking to me, either. Avoiding me's more like it. He's been going to bed really early, too. I mean, he just puts on his night robes and rolls up in his blankets.

Not that anyone's staying up late.

I can't believe they're making us fly all over the Nottingham battle site this afternoon. I guess I should be glad it's not all walking, huh?

I hope they keep talking a while longer, though. Never thought I'd say that about a history lecture!



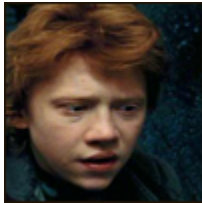
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-04 18:40:44](#)
(no subject)


I know, at least we get to SIT for a while. And I can pretend I'm taking notes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-04 18:16:25](#)
(no subject)

I just saw Justin replied to Terry. He certainly sounds chipper enough. I think he's faking, though.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-04 16:55:25](#)
(no subject)

Thank Merlin that's over. I've never wanted to wash up as much as I did just now. Ugh. And my ears are still ringing.

And then there's all this other stuff. To think about.

And Terry Boot giving us lectures. Nice for him he's somewhere safe and doesn't have to explain everything he does or doesn't do.

And if I have to listen to another speaker talk about how Our Lord's rise was tarnished by stupid common people who wouldn't understand what he was promising them, and how all these battles were necessary and were so horrible because of collaborators and blood traitors who worked with the other side. Like the Longbottoms. I started keeping count how many times somebody mentions them, but it was too awful.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-04 17:54:56](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, about Terry, I know it hasn't been easy for him but for him it was never exactly a decision, you know? He had to obey Carrow or Carrow would kill him. And now he's escaped and presumably the people he's with aren't the sort of people who'd put you in the position of mistreating other people.

I mean I think he'd say it's all horrible and we shouldn't have anything to do with it, not on the 8th OR the 15th. But it's not that simple. It's not as if Padma would hesitate to use cruciatus on a muggle. If we refuse to participate that'll just leave the MOST heartless or sadistic students without anyone to say, 'maybe there's another way, let's do this another way.' You know?

I mean I know he's right when he says they're trying to corrupt us but that doesn't mean there's a simple answer to the question 'so what should we do,' it really doesn't. But I think it seems simple to him. (Which is why I wrote this as a private message, really we ought to just have it on the lock because I'd like to hear Hydra's thoughts and Justin's, too.)



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-04 18:35:33**
(no subject)

What he said about my dad-

Really, I was so hacked off when I read what he said, if he'd been here last night, I'd've wanted to smack him.

Sorry.

But he doesn't think we've got brains enough to know that we're in a mess unless he puts it down in great big letters for us? Yeah, thanks for EXPLAINING IT ALL, Boot. That made it all SO much plainer!

I mean, what does he want us to do? Walk out of CCF and tell them all they're evil? Yeah. That'd go down well.

And I didn't hear he ever tried that with Carrow.

Yeah. I think that's it. Why it's just so annoying, what he said. Well, and the way he said it. I mean, it's awful whatever all Carrow did to him, but, yeah. He didn't have any choice. And now he doesn't seem to have to worry. But now he's all 'this is what it all means, if you weren't too dim to get it. Let me tell you how you should think. And let me tell you what you're going to turn into in twenty years.'

Does he really think we thought that was all great? That we thought the trainers were really super amazing the way they treated those muggles? Cause I don't think anything any of us said made it sound like we were that daft. What a-

And, of course, it's not okay to be hacked off at him, because if we are, obviously, it's because we're just so blind living our comfortable little lives that we just don't get all the stuff that he knows because he's so- whatever.

I can't even talk to him. Cause I'd say what I think.

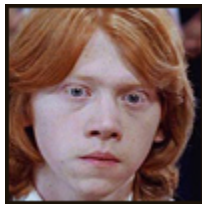
So, yeah. Thanks for writing this way. I just kind of needed to say all that.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-08-04 18:45:29**
(no subject)

I'm not hacked off at him exactly, it's just -- I need to think, I need to figure out what to DO, how to ACTUALLY DEAL WITH THIS RIGHT NOW since we're here and it's a bit too late to say 'sorry, CCF sounds like a load of bollocks, count me out!'

and Terry lecturing me isn't going to help.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-04 18:51:12**
(no subject)

Right.

And it's not like we just wanted to be in CCF because it was all fun.

Ooh, maybe they'll give us uniforms and let us march in parades!!


Wow!! Battlefield drills, how nift is that?!!!

Yay! Capture the flag with people who use Cardinal curses on the other side!! Snitchest stuff, ever!

We went out for it because we knew we had to show loyal. I mean, what've we been talking about on the lock all this time?

I am hacked off. Enough for both of us.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-04 18:58:27](#)**
(no subject)

I mean. Okay.

Some of it is really dead useful. And nift to learn. Especially the stuff I'm really good at.

But mostly it's really good to learn as much of it as we can. If they're going to teach all this stuff, we need to be here finding out how to track and map and, yeah, how to fight.

And it's not like there's a choice between 'Go off and join a resistance army and fight for freedom in next week's battle for the Ministry' or 'Spend an amazing holiday learning how to torture Muggles', right?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-08-04 23:42:09](#)**
(no subject)

Well, and that's something to think about.

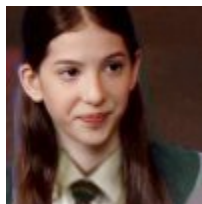
Like what can we learn that is useful? And useful how? And you're right about showing

loyal.

Because sometimes showing loyal means you can do things you wouldn't be able to otherwise. Things that might help loads more people.

Like

Maybe like what your dad does.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-05 02:47:35](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe you could talk to your father about this when you get home. (Or even in the journals, if you're careful. Like the way I talked to Professor Sinistra about it.) You could maybe imply it was

Neville who was criticising you. And see what he says, because yeah, honestly, if your father's told 'we need a dozen adult

muggles between the ages of 20 and 30, and make sure they're healthy,' it's not as if he gets to say 'bugger off,' or even 'what do you want them for? because if I don't like the answer you're not getting the muggles.'

He has to do it. And he knows if he refuses, they'll put someone else in his place who'd be worse.



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-08-04 23:40:06**

(no subject)

I know how you mean.

What he said made me feel like... well, like by that standard I'd been corrupted right from the start.

And always would be.

I know it's not what he meant. But it still hurt.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-05 00:12:10**

(no subject)

Well.

Maybe he needs to think we are all corrupted cause we've had it so much easier than he has.

And maybe it helps him if he can feel like he's cleverer than we are.

That's sort of what the twins say about him sometimes. I don't know. They don't say it that way exactly, but I think it's what they'd say if they heard what I said up there when I was so cross.

It's just that it's bloody irritating for someone to butt in and make like they can tell you exactly what you ought to be doing, which is nothing like what you are doing or what you actually probably can do even if you wanted.

And yeah. I hate it that he made you feel like that all over again.

Did you go off with the others to Sandoval's wedding? I guess you won't probably see this for a while if you are. Unless it's

really boring.

Hope it's not. I mean, I hope you have fun.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-05 02:55:00](#)
(no subject)

I'm really glad for the wedding, they didn't want the ones going to miss anything important so we've mostly had the evening off. It's a patriotic concert and we're all getting ice cream.

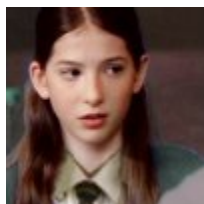
Anyway.

Terry doesn't like the Cardinals. Like, he said if I EVER used one he would NEVER speak to me again. Which is why I've never admitted to most of the Lock that I have used Imperius -- when I was nursing all those sick muggles I used Imperius on some of the children who were sick and miserable and refusing to drink water. If they didn't drink they were going to die, and I didn't have time to jolly them into it because there were so MANY sick people, so I used Imperius. And since they all lived, except for that one baby, I still think it was the right thing to do. And maybe Terry would, too, but I didn't want him to feel like he had to stop using the lock in order to avoid me, especially while he was still stuck with Carrow.

THAT was to heal people so maybe he'd be okay with it but

Does he really think that Sirius Black wouldn't use the killing curse if he had a shot at the Lord Protector?

Terry wants things to change but he doesn't want anyone to get hurt -- actually it's more than that. He doesn't want any of the people he LIKES to get THEIR hands dirty. And that would be nice but I just don't think it's even possible.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-05 05:25:39](#)
(no subject)

Ugh, now Terry's all upset.

I told him no one's cross with him. You're not cross anymore, are you?

You don't think he can see this conversation, do you? I mean none of us really answered but it's true we've been busy.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-05 10:33:40](#)**
(no subject)

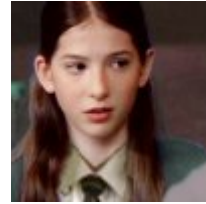
What? Oi!

We've got to answer every daft thing or he'll be all 'I know you don't like me!'?

You're right, we're busy. I'm going with that, too. Or- yeah, okay.

2012-08-03 20:47:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Hermione have you seen Harry at all since we came to CCF?

Has he talked to you about the class with the muggles?

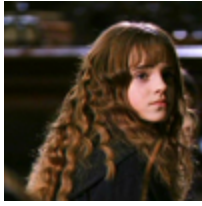
I talked to Professor Siz and she said they're going to give us exercises later where we have to 'manage' muggles and we'll be allowed to use curses and all the rest of it. But we won't have to. But we'll be WATCHED, observed I mean, by adults who might ask us questions later.

I'm thinking about what Terry said, about them trying to corrupt us. I've seen him in Dark Arts class and Harry doesn't like curses any better than I do.

Do you think I should warn him? Harry, I mean. About what they're planning? I'm not supposed to tell, but Harry's discreet. I'm just not sure there's -- okay, so what I'm thinking is that IF he has warning then he'll be able to think about other strategies to use AND he'll have time to think of good reasons for why he did what he did. But I'm a little worried that if I tell him, and give him time to think about it, he'll talk himself into using curses instead because he's afraid of how angry his Father will be if he doesn't, and he'll think it's the lesser evil, to hurt a muggle, instead of having his Father get cross and kill a bunch of wizards.

I don't know.

Do you think I should talk to him? On the 8th there's going to be a challenge involving the 'simpler and less harmful charms and methods' and on the 15th there's going to be an activity where we can use 'more harmful advanced charms and sharper motivations' if we want and she means the Cardinals, at least they're allowed.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-08-06 13:17:08](#)
(no subject)

Yes, he talked to me a very little bit. But we're watched here all the time, you know. I think for sure you should talk to him, because he doesn't always think of things, you know, and then he gets all twisted up in knots about them.

2012-08-04 07:35:00

Congratulations, Lana and Ned!

Best of luck today and all the days hereafter!

I can't wait to see you both. I'm sure the ceremony will be the talk of the Protectorate for days. I know you're going to be really really happy together.



 [alt_padma](#)

And it's really so kind to invite so many of us to the wedding.

Well, I don't know if you'll even see this until after, with so much to do today, I'm sure. (Plus we've still got some CCF lessons before we're released to attend, so I really need to keep this brief. Oh, but CCF has been marvellous, really! We're even learning cryptomancy, which is utterly fascinating. I wish I had time to tell you all about the amazing things we're doing and seeing and learning. Maybe when I get home I can write everything up.)

Anyway, I just wanted to wish you both the very best and I hope you're excited that your big day is finally here!

2012-08-04 07:44:00

Private Message to Claire Clearwater

Mum,

You're so right. It's been absolutely liberating to have a place of our own. And I know what Dad thinks but you're right about that, too: Getting out of there is the best thing I could've done. I wish you could do, too, but I know you won't so let's not worry about it.



 [alt_penelope](#)

The thing is...setting up a household? It's a little more expensive than either of us realised. I guess I thought the Weasleys would send him off with a little more furniture (his mum thought she had a kitchen table in the attic but it turns out the legs were sawed off by the twins years ago to make toy brooms) and she's trying to help through the barter network but...not very successfully. And I went shopping for a sofa and some other things, second-hand, but even second-hand they're all pricey.

Of course, we're very grateful for the silverplate, and we're using it all the time, and the linens, of course, and all the kitchen things, between you and Mrs Weasley. But what we really need is a proper kitchen table, some proper chairs and things, and a bit more dosh for incidentals. Oh, I did take the open container of Mrs Skower's. But every day it seems like we discover something else that we had at home and don't have here, like bins, or a coat rack near the door (there's no proper cupboard), dishes, and so on.

It's almost too much to think how many household presents Sandoval will be raking in today, when she doesn't want for a thing! But I don't think waiting to get married first would have been a good idea, really. For one thing, Percy and I don't want to get married yet. ~~I'm not sure I want to get married at all~~ But for another, you know, it would have taken so much longer to get away from Dad. And honestly I think if I'd had to live with you both for another *week* I'd've used the Cardinals, much less the months it would take to prepare a wedding!

Okay, I'm kidding. Sort of. You know how he gets, that's all I'm saying.

Well, the point is, we're both great, and living here is great, and being flat-mates is snitch. But if there's any way you could loan me, say, 50£? I can pay it back in a couple months, once I've built up a reserve

out of my pay.

Oh, speaking of that, work's going well. Mr Powell is very precise but really interesting. And I think I'm making headway on convincing him that I'm trainable!

I think Percy's working late most nights this week, so let me know if Dad goes round the pub and I'll pop over by Floo, all right?

So much love,

Penny

2012-08-04 13:13:00

Order only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley



 [alt_terry](#)

I can't sleep. It's been going on for a week. I just can't. Every time I close my eyes, I see his leering face over me. Watching me.

It's crazy. I know he's dead. ~~I keep tasting~~

It's like he's haunting me, but I haven't seen his ghost. But I keep turning around quickly, half-expecting to see him there.

I said some stuff on the lock that maybe was a mistake. I just don't know. I'm so tired I can't even tell.

I'm glad Mr and Mrs Longbottom get back soon. Except if they figure out something's wrong and ask me about it, I don't even know what to say to them.

I'm free, right? So shouldn't everything be okay now?

I don't get it. I mean, I'm so happy here. Except I'm starting to not be able to sleep, and sometimes I feel like I don't belong here at all.

I don't even know what I'm asking.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at **2012-08-04 19:03:04**

(no subject)


Glad you said something. Even if you're not sure what you're trying to say. But that's okay.

Hey, cut yourself some slack, Professor: you've gone through a helluva big change and a lot of upheaval. It's bound to be confusing. While nobody's in the least bit broken up that Amycus 'that bloody git' Carrow is out of the picture, he was your whole world for years and years. Had to be, if you wanted to survive. Everything revolved around him for you, didn't it? So it's no wonder you feel a trifle unmoored now that he's gone.

As for what to say to the Longbottoms, well, maybe just start with the simple fact that you're having trouble sleeping. They may have some

practical suggestions. Or maybe Stephen McGivern might have some potions that would help you get through this, just for the short term. And then you can talk, or not, as it seems right. Don't think they'll push you into saying anything you're not willing to say.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 19:08:41](#)
(no subject)

There's what I said on the lock, too.

I should have just kept my big mouth shut.

Cause some people haven't replied, and it's probably because they're hacked off at me.


I don't even know how to have friends like a normal kid.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-04 19:09:17](#)
(no subject)

Are you kidding? Having your friends hacked off at you is being a normal kid.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 19:11:21](#)
(no subject)

Ha. True. Maybe. I'll have to take your word for it.

It's hard. Trying to figure out how to be a normal boy, instead of a crawling boot.


Do I need to apologise to them?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-04 19:15:58](#)
(no subject)

It depends. Did you say something that was untrue, or unfair? What was it you said?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 19:17:51](#)
(no subject)

Is it okay if I don't want to say?

I'm just feeling more and more sick about it.

Maybe I just didn't have the right to say what I said. I can't even tell anymore.

Gah. I can't even think. I need sleep.

Maybe I don't deserve to have friends.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-04 19:18:48](#)
(no subject)


Re: that last. Rubbish.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-04 19:24:13](#)
(no subject)

Anyway, Neville didn't think so, when you saw him this week. Did he?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 19:25:24](#)
(no subject)

...


All right. Yeah.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-04 19:26:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, there you go.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-04 19:32:48](#)
(no subject)

It's just....

They don't know. They don't have any idea, that I killed him. It's the most important thing about me, that I'm a murderer, but they don't even know that. Well, except I suppose Hermione knows, but that's even worse.

And there's other stuff. Stuff I've never spoken about to a soul. And I don't know if I ever will. Even to you.

It makes me feel like I'm so different. Like there's a pane of glass between me and the rest of the world. Nobody can see it but me, but it makes me feel shut off from everyone else. It's like I can't explain it to them, I don't even dare. They'd hate me.


Maybe it's better if they're hacked off at me instead.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-08-04 19:35:57](#)**
(no subject)

First of all, we take exception with you using the word 'murderer' to describe yourself. You need to get Frank to explain the legal concept of 'self-defence' to you. What you did clearly falls under that definition.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-04 19:36:35](#)**
(no subject)


Except that mudbloods don't get to defend themselves from their masters.



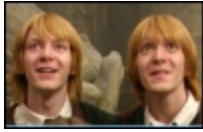
 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-08-04 19:37:12](#)**
(no subject)

Bloody hell, Terry, for once and for all you are not a mudblood.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-04 19:38:05](#)**
(no subject)

Easy for you to say.



 **alt_gredforge** at [2012-08-04 19:38:30](#)
(no subject)

Don't try to get us hacked off at you, too. We see right through that trick, and it won't work.



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-04 19:38:54](#)
(no subject)

...



 **alt_gredforge** at [2012-08-04 19:39:45](#)
(no subject)

Second of all, whether you're a...a murderer or simply someone who had to defend himself to save his own life isn't the most important thing about you.



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-04 19:40:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh yeah? Then what is?



 **alt_gredforge** at [2012-08-04 19:43:24](#)
(no subject)

It's that you're a survivor.

You survived Amycus Carrow, the worst arse end the Protectorate had. You're still living, in spite of everything he threw at you. He tried to destroy you, and he didn't succeed. So don't you do his job for him and destroy yourself.

Talk to the Longbottoms. Tell them what's going on. They will help.

2012-08-04 22:26:00

Private message to Mr Rosier



 **alt_seamus**

It was good to see you at the wedding this evening. Since Smith brought it up, and I didn't want to explain during the reception -- the CCF exercise this afternoon included something that was supposed to look like an explosion. For a second I thought it wasn't something planned -- that it was a real bomb, the muggle kind. I got a little bit upset. I pulled myself together and finished the exercise, and I'm not bothered by gits like Smith, honestly. It's just

Also I wasn't the only one who got upset. It didn't go all that well. It's been tough this year, CCF I mean. Not that I'm complaining, I think what you said about Gryffindors is true, we show our true strengths and our value to the Protectorate in times of difficulty.

Anyway. The wedding was interesting. Was there something special in that wine they both drank? ~~It made their voices~~ Lana Sandoval was an amazing Head Girl, and Ned Pennifold an amazing Head Boy. I'll try to live up to their example, next year when I'm Prefect.

I don't ever want you to be disappointed in me, sir.

Ever.

2012-08-05 00:04:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

i'm sorry

i shouldn't have said anything

i had no right
after everything you've done for me I had no right
it was ungrateful

i'm really sorry

count on me shutting up for a good while now

please don't even answer this

better to ignore boot for awhile



 [alt_terry](#)

i'm *sorry*



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-05 05:20:46](#)

(no subject)

Bloody hell, Terry.

They're hardly giving us time to eat and sleep, okay?
No one's angry at you, we just don't have a lot of time
to write in the journals.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-05 15:27:49](#)

(no subject)


oh



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-05 10:35:20](#)**
(no subject)


Huh?



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-05 15:28:28](#)**
(no subject)

never...never mind. just forget it.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-05 16:40:29](#)**
(no subject)

If this is about what you wrote last time, I'm not cross. You did give me a pause, though.

Mummy's been after me for as long as I can remember, for being too soft, for not being strong-willed like her. I suppose that I had come to think that I couldn't really be corrupted if someone like her never got the job done proper. But then I've done some very bad things too, if you remember, so in the end I don't think anyone is really safe from being used.

I'm more afraid of being influenced by people who are kind to me than people who act awful.

I don't know if anyone can be innocent forever, anyway. Not here in England.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:19:16](#)**
(no subject)

You always have a right to say what you think.

I might not agree with all of it, but that doesn't mean you can't think it. Or write it.

Has anything happened? Is everything okay?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 12:01:22](#)
(no subject)

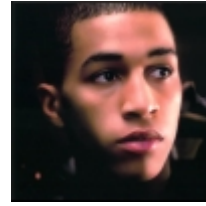
not been sleeping well.

there was a big storm here last night. wrecked a lot of stuff.

2012-08-05 02:21:00

Private Message to Pa

N md



 **alt_blaise**

2012-08-05 07:28:00

Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrangle

Thank you.

It worked perfectly. You needn't have worried. No, I know you were. It's not like you could have tested it for me first.



 **alt_lana**

Oh, truly, Rod. *Thank you.*

Ned says so, too. Or he would if he knew I were writing you. We're both really grateful. He's telling them all to shove off now, and then maybe we can get a little actual sleep. Without worrying so much.

Which is completely thanks to you.




 **alt_rodolphus** at **2012-08-05 16:46:45**
(no subject)

-Lana, you surmise correctly. The device was untested, as well as having not been used for at least one hundred years. I did what I could to strengthen the spellwork on it before giving it to you, but I did harbour a small fear that the device would fail.

I'm quite relieved to hear that it all went as planned, funny as it is to think of your husband thanking me.

You looked beautiful, by the way.



 **alt_lana** at **2012-08-05 20:46:29**
(no subject)

Well, he was grateful. I mean, we'd both have been in the soup if the elders had discovered any taint in the magic this morning.

I suppose he wasn't as nervous as I was because, well- that's obvious, but he would have felt terrible if I'd been shamed, since he thought it was his fault. (He wouldn't have gone on thinking that if the ritual had worked, but it is what he

thinks, and I'm glad of it.) And, of course, it would have been horrible for him, too, losing face so publicly--because it would be public as quick as anything.

So he was very glad when I thought to ask you for help. Funny as that may seem.

It was a very odd sort of magic. Maybe because it was so old? Or because you'd just added something to it? That would be an interesting thing to investigate, actually. It made us both feel terribly queer while it was- well. Ned had to stop more than once, and I thought maybe he wouldn't want to go through with it, but he did.

And it was all right in the end, and I'm sure you really didn't want to know more than that, did you?

Ned's still sleeping. But I can't.

Thank you for saying that. It means a lot to me that you were there and that you thought so.

2012-08-05 08:23:00

Water Logging in Moray Firth

Since Healer Stint kindly indicated a desire to read what I'm learning at the seminars I'll be attending in these summer weeks, I'll steal a moment on this Sunday morning to tell you about my studies here on a research platform in the middle of Moray Firth.



 [alt_poppy](#)

This is a beautiful and fascinating outpost in our northern waters. Some of the teams here are studying weather; others, water; others still are studying the marine life in this bay; but I'm here with a group of Healers to learn what can be taught about treating water-related injuries. I only wish I'd had this course before our tournament last year when we asked our champions to brave the bitter waters and hostile creatures of our Hogwarts lake.

In the first week, we treated victims of savage creature attacks, saving a surprising number and easing the trauma of passing in the remaining cases. I refreshed skills that are easily transferable to treating other sorts of trauma than merely aquatic accidents. We've also, of course, been studying the effects of hypothermia and exposure to extreme conditions, collecting data that our instructors, Healer Soddenham and Master Healer Sturgeon, will use in a paper they are writing on the subject.

This week we will be turning our attention to the problem of identifying the line that separates treatable waterlogging from irremediable drowning.

In fact, we had a bit of an unplanned foretaste of that topic when one of the weather wizards washed off the platform in the midst of a hail storm Friday. (The weather has been one of the incidental challenges here--not unexpected, but not insignificant, by any means.) The poor man was beaten nearly to death against the structure before they could retrieve him, and he was severely waterlogged--so much so that we wondered if he could possibly be revived. He was fortunate to have two of the Protectorate's foremost experts at hand to treat him, and we, of course, were privileged to witness firsthand their skilled mediwizardry. I'm pleased to say the fellow is beyond danger now, though he's lost an eye and a forearm to the experience.

The weather report this morning was drear but not dire, so all is well.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-05 14:13:45](#)

Order Only

First. Pomona, I'm sorry to have had to renege on my promise to join you at that wedding last night. I hope it wasn't too unbearable.

Then. I trust all is well with the rest of you. The horrors you'll read between the lines here probably need little elucidation.

Arthur, I'm not sure I want you to tell me whether the poor souls we're 'studying' have come from the camps or from the prison wards. We've been told that they are here because they stand convicted of capital crimes, and some of them have had the distinct look of incurable curse damage, so there's no telling: they may have been Dogstar or others pulled from MLE's dung heap.

I'm tempted to ask MH Sturgeon whether the curse damage might queer his data, but, of course, I shan't.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-05 15:49:44](#)

Re: Order Only

It was more or less entirely what you might expect - rather horrible around the edges, especially with all the expectations. The weight of the Sandoval family traditions, in particular. ~~I feel almost sorry for her.~~

I spent most of the evening in the corner with either Bathsheba or Septima or a few of the herbologists the Sandovals have business connections with. And I left before the more enthusiastic partying took over, as you might expect. (From a few bits of gossip I've overheard this morning, that was a sensible move.)

Aurora was rather sorry not to see you, but she spent much of the evening managing her own social connections. From the looks, there's something up, but I've no idea what - she looked perfectly well pulled together and pleasant, but with that tightness round her lips she gets when she's focusing hard on something. And Rabastan was being extremely attentive, though this is the first time I've seen

them in quite that setting.

As to the rest, how horrible. I do hope you're getting a little relief, soon. Anything I can send you to be a help?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-05 23:55:26](#)

Re: Order Only

I saw the Prophet's report: it was all the talk at breakfast. Some interesting conversation about the physiological effects of binding rituals--before we turned back to our baseline conversation about new remedies we might all try to combat nausea out here. That and traction charms are our hottest topics. Fortunately, water-repelling charms are straightforward things. For garments, at any rate. It's a shame there seems to be no magic that will prevent water overwhelming the human respiratory system.

Sorry this isn't a more cheery report.

It is beautiful here when the seas are calm. Unfortunately, those hours have been few and far between.

But back to the wedding: I had an owl from Irma with her impressions on the matter. For instance, she reports that the newly-minted Mrs Pennifold seemed increasingly uneasy as the evening wore on towards the moment of the couple's departure; that the younger former Ravenclaws, led as usual by Mr Sandoval, were entirely too rambunctious; and that the chief celebrant, whom she remembers clearly for his wasted potential as a researcher of arcane magics, grew quite tipsy at her table and confessed his dislike for binding ceremonies. She also reported that our Professor Sinistra was wearing a new bauble on her right hand and was making a slightly-too-concerted effort to keep it from drawing attention. She suggests that it is a ring not meant for wear on the right hand, at all.

You know Irma. She observes almost everything. And is more than a little skilled at reading gestures and looks at distance.

What do you think?



 **alt_pomona** at **2012-08-06 00:08:49**

Re: Order Only

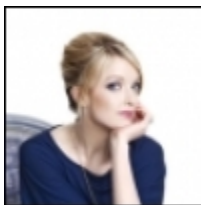
I'd scarcely dare question Irma's observational skills - she's her usual sharp self here (and spotted two things I'd not consciously noticed.)

The various recent students, well, quite. Though I gather that was not entirely unexpected (given young Mr Sandoval's reputation) and they were eventually coralled into one of the less obvious rooms. There were, at least, no screaming fights from young women of his acquaintance.

On the matter of binding ceremonies - well, quite. They promised everything up, down, sideways, and I'm only surprised they didn't go for the full versions with blood drawn in full view or something of the kind. I almost think that's more honest.

On Aurora - I'd noticed the ring, but when she was speaking with us, she was not quite so obvious distracting attention about her hands as I think Irma caught later in the evening. (And of course, she's left-handed, so the right is less obvious anyway.) Quite the lovely design - but not something that made one think a more formal commitment immediately, either. I didn't ask her about it, since she clearly didn't need one more person prying last night.

Not that I won't at some later point, mind you. But more privately than we managed last night. She did also mention she's had a few interesting conversations with both our Mr Diggory, and quite a few with Miss Perks, Miss Parkinson, and young Mr Marvolo, though she didn't go into details on those.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-05 14:41:12**

Private message to Poppy

So very good to hear from you, though of course I missed seeing you last night. (Quite the party, and as lavish as you'd expect, though I'm having the worst time getting moving this morning to go back out to

Leicester.)

It does seem odd they're only running that course now, given both the second task, and the amount of time we're spending in the water here. (Though, of course, the Soar doesn't have nearly the number of

risks that the ocean does, even with creatures included.) Do stay safe yourself: I do worry. (And that poor wizard.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-05 23:11:56](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

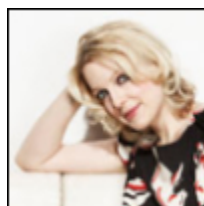
I was sorry to miss the chance of seeing you, too. (Though I can't say I was exceedingly sorry to miss the event itself. I gather the ceremony tested its witnesses' fortitude, though I'm told the supper was excellent afterwards. And the music both places.)

Oh, this course! Honestly, it's only being run now because the leads have a paper in mind and wanted funding and subjects (and *paying* assistants who wouldn't expect an author-listing) so they could collect a large batch of data in a hurry. I expect they'll ask some of us to draft the thing for them.

Fortunately, I'm due in Seathwaite by Saturday, so I shan't be tempted to 'volunteer' my services. That one is a seminar on the diseases spawned by excessive damp.

I do believe Stint and Strangeweale hope I'll dissolve before the summer's over.

I trust you recovered your equilibrium in time to participate in whatever business Leicester held for you today. I trust that continues to go without incident?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-05 23:55:33](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy

Quite the long ceremony. So many different blessings and charms for all sorts of things, and formal statements: nothing at all like either Diane's or Storm's or various other ones I've been to.

Makes one think about vastly different traditions families have, really. But the supper was excellent, as you'd expect, and the music.

The social pieces, well. I'm doing better with that sort of thing now I've begun to get a grasp of who's who, and gotten a bit better at ducking the more obnoxious personal questions (lately, 'My, you've kept his attention a long time' followed promptly by "But he still

hasn't made any step in a more permanent direction now, has he?" There is nothing one can say to that that is at all useful.) But we were there until about two in the morning making the necessary pleasantries.

Leicester's going well enough, given Madame Umbridge sticking her nose into everything, and the instructors all having their own strong opinions about various matters. Our Miss Perks has had quite a few questions for me about that series of Muggle control exercises I think I mentioned to you, and I have been unable to be as reassuring as I wish I could be, but ~~many~~ some things are out of my hands there.

They had a rather exhausting challenge this morning (I missed most of that, as I just couldn't get moving fast enough after last night), a lengthy session this afternoon about preparedness (which did have quite a few useful pieces), and they actually have the evening off.

But pardon - you mention Strangeweale. Is that Marston, or his father? I've got a meeting with the oversight board tomorrow (Marston Strangeweale, Latimer Caldwell,, and Bagnold Whitacre. I'm not looking forward to it in the slightest, but we need to talk about Darius Warrington, and a few other matters.)

I do hope your next round is at least less potentially risky, even if it still sounds miserably damp. The rain's backed off a little both in New London and in Leicester, which after the camping trip is much appreciated by all.concerned.



 **alt_poppy** at **2012-08-06 00:15:44**

Re: Private message to Poppy

I find that few nuptials follow a standard pattern. I wonder if they ever did.

Mine were quite straightforward, really-- agreement from our families and a license from the Ministry, followed by a trip to a local practitioner for the basic binding charm.

I confess I'm puzzled about Madam Umbridge's intrusions into your sphere. I should have thought she'd have poked about and grown bored by now. I'm so sorry to hear that she's making such

a persistent nuisance of herself. As if you needed anyone else in that category!

As for the Strangeweales, it's Otto--the father--who has taken such an interest in me. One of these days, he's going to fall to dispepsia, but it hasn't happened yet.

Is yours a regular meeting or a special session with the oversight board? I trust there will be nothing to cause you distress this time. You've earned a smoother season.

I'd like to think I'd earned an escape from soaking rains and incessant damp, but it's not to be. I may have grown webbing between my fingers and toes before you see me again. I'm sure it would be an advantage in my current surroundings!



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-06 04:55:47](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy

Diane's and Storm's were both quite simple as well. A little more involved than yours, especially Diane's - there's a number of family charms everyone insisted on including. But far more along the line of flowers and foods and colours and so on than formal ritual, at least for most of it. (At least what I remember, anyway: I wasn't involved in all the details, and it was better than a decade ago.)

As to Madame Umbridge - what I know is that she's got the ear of the oversight board, they've made it clear I should welcome her input, and I am not foolish enough to argue. Though I am, at this point, so very tired of her. And her advice.

On the meeting itself - well, Darius Warrington continues to struggle with any number of things, and there are some other matters where I've had safety and well-being concerns come up. (Nothing dire, but one does learn to see the places where there might be difficulty.) I hope they'll be reasonable, but of course I've no idea. That'll be some of the afternoon.

(And before you ask, yes, I had trouble getting to sleep. About to go try again. It really is much better when I've more time with Raz.)

2012-08-05 09:42:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

Have you seen the special insert that was meant to be in the Prophet this morning? You haven't made off with it, have you? Or furry face? It says here at the end of the write up about that wedding that there's a special section with more pictures.

Anyhow, I'm snipping out the two that are here with the article and saving them for Bea to colour. There's a really good portrait shot of the two of them, with her train draped around in front. And the white marble of the church behind them. It'll be perfect for colouring. Hope you don't mind. Doesn't look to be anything important on the back of the page. Just the financial news.

What a beautiful church, though! St James, Spanish Place? I didn't even know it existed, but it looks like a fairy chapel, all lit with thousands of candles and so many flowers. Maybe we should take Bea to see it one day. It would make a nice outing, up to Marylebone, don't you think? And then we could have a picnic in the park. Next nice day we get.

It says here there were four officiants and a procession with nearly a hundred people to a flourish and march played by chamber musicians. There's a picture of the families all going up the aisle with the choir and the celebrants and the banners and regalia and all already up there. Her train must have been thirty feet long! In the picture, it's not all the way in the church yet and she's halfway up the aisle!

Think how many people were there, if there were a hundred up front like that.

It says they did full Spanish rites. I wonder what that included? They must have been at it a long time! Says the mothers levitated cloth of gold over them during the opening rites, and they did the thing where Pennifold cut the cloth, and their mothers put the halves around their shoulders as a sign of their motherly something or other. But it must have been nice. To have their mothers there. And fathers, I mean, too. Only, I think it must be nice to have a ceremony like that with all the families. If you've got a big family like they've got, I mean.

Anywiz. Where's that insert got to, do you know?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-05 15:12:59](#)**

(no subject)

I think Ellie was looking at it, actually. I'll get it back from her.



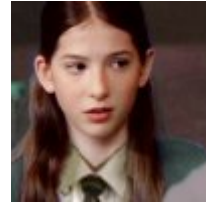
 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-08-05 15:20:00](#)**

(no subject)

Would you? Thanks, luv.

2012-08-05 14:04:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 **alt_sally_anne**

So okay, here's what I was talking to Pansy and Ron about. Hydra and Justin, you really need to know about it, too.

After the thing on Thursday with the muggles and the demonstration, I wrote to Professor Sinistra to ask if there was going to be a lot more like that? She said there were a few more activities related to 'muggle control.' First is on the 7th -- she said the 8th, but then she found me yesterday before she went to the wedding to tell me she had the day wrong, it's the 7th. There's going to be a challenge involving 'some of the simpler and less harmful charms and methods' as well as a lecture on muggle control and camp management theory.

And then on the 15th there'll be an activity 'where more harmful advanced charms and sharper motivations will be allowed.'

None of the tasks will REQUIRE hurting muggles BUT if you do you'll probably get done faster, or it'll be easier or more certain. But we're allowed to use persuasion and incentives and we're allowed to do things to win their trust or whatever. But we'll also have to persuade the group leaders, because these are group activities and Professor Siz didn't tell me who the group leaders are but I'm pretty sure it's not going to be any of us.

On the 15th they'll be allowing the Cardinals.

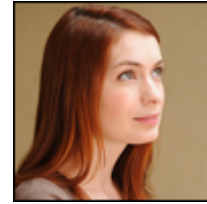
Also, people will be watching us, and in the debrief after we may have to defend our choices.

Of course she said she was trusting all this to my discretion so I'm not supposed to be telling anyone. But of course we did have that demonstration, and they've clearly been dropping hints (I packed a satchel as soon as I got back to the dorm -- THAT certainly wasn't a hard hint to spot) so it's not unreasonable that we might expect we'd get to work with muggles at some point.

2012-08-05 20:37:00

ORDER ONLY

It's been spitting rain and overcast all day today, but it looks like we've got quite a storm front moving in. We're already getting some rather strong winds, and there are some rather nasty looking clouds moving in. Victor and Richard are heading down to secure the boats, and Danny's off to get as many of the goats and chickens penned as he can. We've got everyone else closing shutters and checking doors.



 [alt_alice](#)

Frank, love, we could use a wand if you're free.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-06 00:42:08](#)

(no subject)

I saw him walking down on the beach, away from the sanctuary. About a half hour ago.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-06 00:42:48](#)

(no subject)

Did he have Winston with him?



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-06 00:43:17](#)

(no subject)

Um, no, I don't think so.



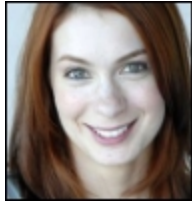
 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-06 00:43:50](#)


(no subject)

Wow, those clouds are amazing.

Is there something us kids should be doing to

help?



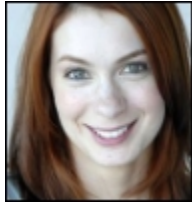
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:46:35](#)**
(no subject)


You can help Danny with the animals, I think that would be best. He doesn't have a wand, so you might be a great help. Thank you, sweet heart.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:52:31](#)**
(no subject)


Yes, ma'am.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:45:28](#)**
(no subject)


I see. Well, I'll be sure to check that Winston is safe inside then.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:47:05](#)**
Private Message to Frank Longbottom

We need you here. Now.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-06 00:48:09](#)**
Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

fuck.

just saw.

coming.

sorry.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-06 00:49:33**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

Don't splinch yourself, Frank.

I'll see you soon?



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2012-08-06 00:51:29**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

right.

yes.

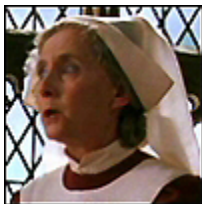
soon.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2012-08-06 00:48:26**

(no subject)

on my way.



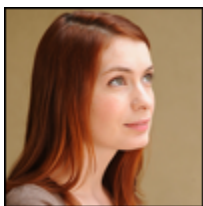
 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2012-08-06 01:54:58**

(no subject)

Give us a report when you can?

I asked one of the weather experts here, and they agreed you've got a very serious storm to contend with out there in the west.

Be safe.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-06 02:25:07**

(no subject)

It's howling like a coven of banshee out there, Poppy. But the roof is holding.

We'll have to wait til it dies down to see about everything else.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-06 02:40:01](#)**
(no subject)

I trust everyone's safe and accounted for.

Batten the hatches and hold tight, then!

2012-08-05 20:59:00

Private Message to Ned and Lana Pennifold



Congratulations to you both.

Imagine you're pleased with yesterday's celebrations. Well planned, well executed, well done.

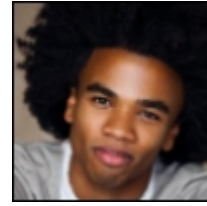
 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

I'll expect you to report at the usual times on Tuesday morning.

Take tomorrow for yourselves.

2012-08-06 07:01:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Toodleloo*



 [alt_lee](#)

This is my last post here on the Lock. I turn 17 tomorrow! Funny, because I haven't really posted much, just commented mostly. Anyway, I'll see you lot back at school and Terry, you will be hearing from me, because I'll write to you, using Pig.

I'm going to miss this, talking freely the way the Lock lets us do, but you know that since I hang out with Gred and Forge, I'll be keeping my hand in with causing mayhem.

Ron and Nev, we'll be counting on you mostly to keep us up-to-date with what you think we should know. But this safe space is up to you to run now.

Use it well.



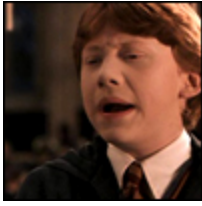
 [alt_hermione](#) at **2012-08-06 13:15:41**
(no subject)


I think this means it's time for me to say this.

I'm allowed to say it now. Nothing except this, mind you, and don't ask me because I won't, but:

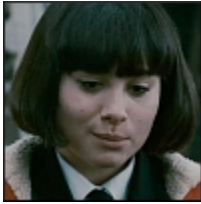
- 1) Sirius Black and Neville's parents and me are all part of the Wand Smugglers.
- 2) We're sheltering Terry.
- 3) You can join after you passed NEWTs and it isn't fair I know but I didn't get to pick that.
- 4) And they're going to come up with a passphrase I think so we can tell them it's us, if something really bad happens. But I don't know what it will be yet.

And that's all I'm supposed to say, but I thought I had better do it NOW.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-06 17:12:27](#)
(no subject)


I knew it.



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-08-06 17:16:22](#)
(no subject)

Which part?




 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-06 17:23:05](#)
(no subject)

That she's in it with the Black and the Longbottoms and they've got Terry now, and they're wand smuggling.

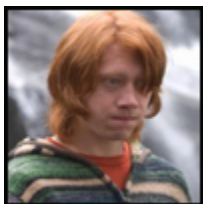
And Mum's in it.


She's gotta be. She says that all the time, about having to get through NEWTs before you can do any of the good stuff. I mean, mostly she says it to the twins. But it's like it's her biggest thing of all. Like we're going to quit school and be rubbish pickers or pedlars or summat.



 **alt_pansy** at [2012-08-06 17:25:29](#)
(no subject)

Well, she didn't say anything about your mum.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-06 17:41:55](#)
(no subject)

No, I know it.

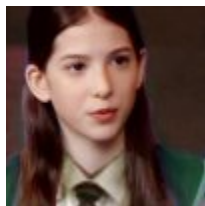
And, actually, I shouldn't've done, either. Only, I was just totally sure about it when I saw that.

And it's good to know you're right. Sometimes.

Argh.

The thing is, I'm totally NOT asking Mum if I'm right. I mean, I want to ALL the time I'm home. I can't stop thinking about it. About Dad, too. But that's why I can't: it would be really, really bad for me to know. And they're right not to tell us who they are, all of them.

But it's hard not to think about who they must be.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 18:13:20](#)
(no subject)

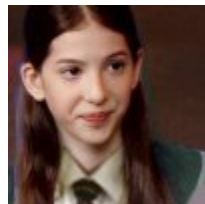
Well you know what I think.

BUT, I don't think 'pass your NEWTs and we'll let you join' means anything about your mum. It could just be that they want us to have all the training we can get before we start doing anything dangerous.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-06 18:21:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, and that's the thing. What sort of dangerous are we talking about?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 18:26:13](#)
(no subject)

Smuggling wands to muggleborns is pretty dangerous. Sheltering muggleborns who've escaped: also pretty dangerous.

I don't know what else they're up to. We could speculate but it might make Hermione cross since she can't tell us if we're right, or wrong. (Terry, too.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-06 18:35:24](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne

Would you do it?

Join up with them, I mean.

I know they aren't like Dogstar. They don't blow things up. Or people.

But still.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 18:55:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Only if you were joining up with them, too.

Keeping the lock a secret from you was awful.

I don't ever want to have to keep a really big secret from you again.

But also it depends on what they're doing. I mean they've said they're not like Dogstar and they don't approve of Dogstar's methods but I don't know if that means they don't approve of blowing up Quidditch stadiums to try to get at one person and never mind if thousands more are in the way, or if it's that they don't think anyone should ever kill anyone else ever, or if it's something between that. And what sort of world do they want, anyway, I mean obviously it's one where muggleborns gets to have wands, but do they want us to go back to the Statute of Secrecy, or is there some other idea they have? And how do they think they're going to make that happen?

I wonder sometimes if some of the people on the Council really thought this is what it would be like? Or if some of them are just showing loyal, like us? I mean, look at Mr Warrington, being ordered into the arena and casting the Mark into the sky and then being killed by the Lord Protector for ... fun, as far as I could tell. Was that what he thought he was fighting for when he signed up?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-06 20:19:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I know what you mean.

I'd want to know too, and really talk it over first, and even then, I'm no Sirius Black. Or Alice Longbottom. Even if half the things they are supposed to have done are made up.

I wonder sometimes if it would be sort of like signing up for the Council. I mean, thinking you're doing it for the right reasons, but having it be way bigger than you ever thought. Or having to do things you never thought you would. Talking with Terry and making a bag to help him get out is one thing. Keeping muggleborn people hidden in our flat to get them to safety is another altogether. And that's just what we THINK they do.

I know that it's not right, what's been going on, how people like Hermione and Terry and your mum are treated, and it's like now that I've sorted out that it isn't right, it's wrong of me to not do anything about it at all, but it's scary to think on.

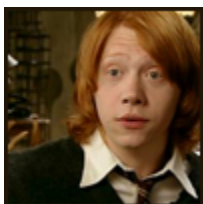
I'm glad you wouldn't without me.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-06 17:53:22](#)

(no subject)

Or she could just be telling you that you have to pass your NEWTs because that's what mums do.



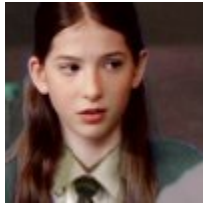
 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-06 17:16:54](#)

(no subject)

Only, uh-

What's the passphrase meant for? Who's going to use it to tell what? What'd you mean 'so we can tell them it's us'? Who are we going to tell? Shouldn't they be telling us who they are? Or- how would they know who to say it to either?

I mean, what?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 18:02:15](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, is this something we could say to Madame Pomf one of the people we think is their lot, if we need to tell them something urgently, or something they'd say to us, if they need to tell US something

urgently?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-06 18:12:00](#)
(no subject)

Maybe it's for both?

I can see how that'd be important. Like if there was someone we really thought was part of all of it, but they weren't, it'd be important to check first.

Maybe we should come up with one we'll say, and they can come up with one they'll say?



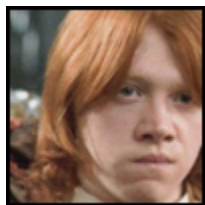
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 18:23:28](#)
(no subject)

That's a good idea. But we should make sure they know that we'll only use the pass-phrase if it's really important, and not just out of curiosity.

It should probably be a question and an answer. Because if we get it wrong it shouldn't sound like a code, you know? Maybe it could be a question about some really obscure spell. 'Have you ever cast the Romanian Left-Footed Toenail Hex?' Or something like that. And the answer could be, 'Yes, but I'm hesitant to talk about the experience.' Because then in response to that we could say part of what we needed to say, like, 'it's a really urgent question, can we go somewhere private' or 'it's really Neville who needs help' or whatever.

I don't know, though, if there's one thing I learned from that codes class on Thursday, it's that the lot of us aren't as subtle

and clever as we think we are. (And Patil's not as funny as she thinks she is, but THAT I already knew.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-06 18:57:28](#)

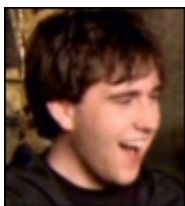
(no subject)

Patil. Yeah. Thinks she's dead hilarious, but has no sense of humour at all. Amazing.

I mean who doesn't think a code question like What's deLISH?

TunaFISH!

is dead awesome? Catchy. Easy to remember. And it was obviously A JOKE to get everyone to bloody lighten up a bit. But, noooo, Patil had to act like I was the biggest nutter from Nut Hall. Whatever.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 18:38:23](#)

(no subject)

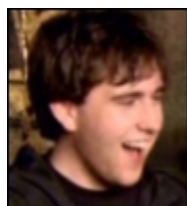
My parents? MY PARENTS! THEY'RE PART OF THIS?!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 18:40:21](#)

(no subject)

Yes, they are, Neville. I'm sorry I couldn't tell you before, but they've given us permission to tell you now.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 18:42:00](#)

(no subject)

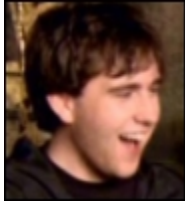
You know them? You've seen them!?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 18:43:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes to both.


I like your parents a lot, Neville. They're really good people.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 18:44:27](#)
(no subject)

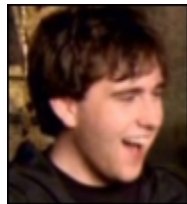
And my brother?




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 18:47:29](#)
(no subject)

Um, I haven't been given permission to talk about him. But I guess I can tell you that I've met him, and he's safe.

Neville...if you ever need to get word to them, you can use me. As a go-between.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 18:50:42](#)
Private message to Terry Boot

I can't believe it. I can't believe it! I've been wondering and wondering, and I didn't know, and it was driving me crazy!

This has made me so incredibly happy!

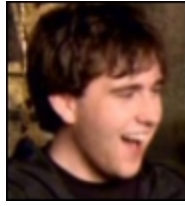
Do you...do you know where they were last week?




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 18:52:00](#)
Re: Private message to Terry Boot

Yes, I know.

I'm so glad you got to see them.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 18:56:50](#)

Re: Private message to Terry Boot

You do know then.

I'm sure I'll have a tonne of questions for you. Probably most of which you can't answer, but, anyway...tell them thank you. For giving me this. You have no idea what it means to me.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 18:57:49](#)

Re: Private message to Terry Boot

I have some idea, I think.



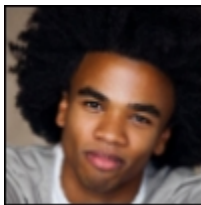
 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-06 17:30:48](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday, mate.

Sorry you're getting to old for the lock, though.

Have you told the twins yet what Hermione said? About joining when we're through NEWTs? That's wizard, because they'll totally hold them to it. And you will. And then you can make sure they don't change their minds about taking us, too.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-06 18:30:04](#)

(no subject)

Thanks. I'm on my way to the Burrow to tell them now. And yeah on that last part, too.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-06 17:34:58](#)

Private Message to Lee Jordan

And once they take you in, you can tell us more about them. I mean, what all they do, not who they are because, well, yeah. I don't think I really do want to know that.

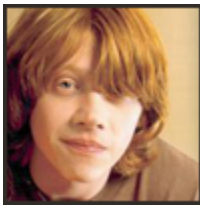
I should explain that to Pansy, actually.




 **alt_lee** at [2012-08-06 18:34:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Lee Jordan

Well, I would if I could, but they probably wouldn't let me, if they have a lick of sense. Remember what happened to the Dogstar people? You gotta think that any secret organisation doing the sort of stuff the wand smugglers do would require their members to keep their mouths shut. Maybe enforcing it with oaths and all. Wasn't Hermione under an unbreakable oath? She got permission to tell us this, but still.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-06 18:43:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Lee Jordan

Look at you: already on their side. Guess you really are too old for us.

you? Say Hiya to those other two old gits for me, will



 **alt_lee** at [2012-08-06 19:02:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Lee Jordan

I'll leave some dung bombs under their pillows for you.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-06 19:35:50](#)


Re: Private Message to Lee Jordan

Yeah!

Oh, say. Would you ask the twins if they'd send me a sack of those Cheering Chews they've been working on? Tell them they've been great during the trekking. Bundy and I have both been using them, and we think they really help with keeping up the pace and feeling positive even when we've been dead exhausted. We told some other people about them, and they want to give them a try, too. So tell them to send as many as they can.

Ta.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-06 20:39:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Lee Jordan

I asked, and they said they'd send you more tonight.

And they also said to tell the rest of the CCF lot

'hullo.'



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-06 19:00:30](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday a day early, Lee. And yeah, Ron and me will fill you in, just like we do with Fred and George.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-06 19:04:14](#)

(no subject)

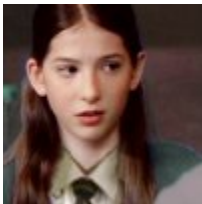
Goodbye Lee Jordan. It was good to get to know you better, even if it was just for a short while. Happy Birthday, too.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-06 19:04:39](#)

(no subject)

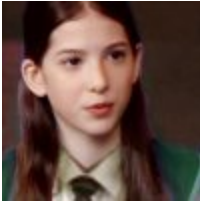
Happy birthday early, Lee. I have a present for you, but you're gonna get it late, because I'm not sure who has Pig now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 19:10:16](#)

(no subject)

Uh -- I had him, but I just used him to send a letter, I'm sorry. I sent him out last night. As soon as he comes back I'll send him along to you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-06 19:10:35](#)
(no subject)


Happy Birthday, Lee.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-06 20:21:03](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and many happy returns.



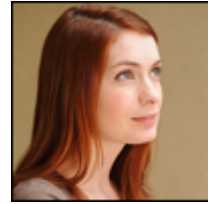
 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-06 20:41:30](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Lee, and it's been a pleasure to get to know you a little better.

2012-08-06 11:07:00

ORDER ONLY: The storm.

We've had quite a morning. We went out as soon as the weather died down and it was light enough to see, and I'm taking a moment to update everyone before heading back to work.



 [alt_alice](#)

The storm was indeed a bad one -- we haven't had one on quite that magnitude for ten years at least. We're all safe and sound, but we lost four goats and a dozen chickens. One of the greenhouses was smashed to pieces by a falling tree. There's glass everywhere and we're working as best as we can to salvage as many of the plants as possible, but it will be difficult. The other two greenhouses are in much better shape -- they were sheltered from the worst of the winds, and we only lost a few panes of glass in each along with some minor water damage, but our fluxweed supply has been halved. The roof held, but is in sore need of repair, and several windows will also need to be replaced. Our new dormitory addition wasn't fully walled in yet, so that had quite a bit of damage as well. Victor is currently assessing the boats, and I've no idea if they are still seaworthy until he comes back with his report.

Everyone with a wand is currently shin-deep in mud, trying to accio the root vegetables out of the ground so we can store them properly before they rot. There's very little we can save of the veg that was above ground. It's late in the summer to re-plant those particular crops, but we'll see what we can do once things dry out a bit. We had a good month in July, so we've got quite a bit canned and preserved already, but August's crops of tomatoes, courgettes, peas, cabbage, and corn will be sorely missed. Our carrots, onions and potatoes are such staples of winter that I'm hoping we'll be able to save as many as we can, but we won't really know until October whether we'll have enough to float us through. I have a feeling we'll be very dependent on the solstice shipment this year.

I've got to get back to it now. I'll be sure to keep you all apprised.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-06 16:10:50](#)**
(no subject)

Bless.

I'm very glad that you are all safe and sound--but do, please, take care not to hurt yourselves as you go about the clean up tasks.

What a blow the loss of your food crops will be. Gracious. We shall have to put our heads together to see what we can do to help bolster your supplies.

The fluxweed will be missed, too, of course. Halved? At least we've the means to help you rebuild that crop. Pomona was feeling really pleased this spring about the quality and quantity of our plants. Surely that means we could send some starts along to you. Pomona?

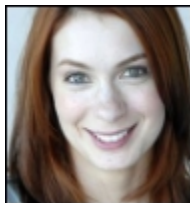



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-07 12:43:06](#)**
(no subject)

We've done quite well with them, yes. I do think we could send along some starts. Not enough to make enough the entire loss, I fear, but enough to help.

The only thing is, it'd be much easier to do now, rather than after school starts. It's tricky enough to hide the fluxweed beds, without moving things in and out of them.

We can't offer too much in the way of actual food supplies from the Hogwarts greenhouses - you know those are carefully tallied. But I should be able to manage seed and starts and such for next spring without any difficulty, especially if you can give me a list in the next week or two of what you'd want.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-07 18:24:15](#)**
(no subject)

That would be much appreciated, Pomona. I'll send along the list.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-07 19:08:44](#)

Private Message to Pomona Sprout

I didn't get the chance the other day, but I wanted to thank you for what you said about Neville. It was so good to hear, and it means ever so much to me that he has so many champions at Hogwarts. And it also makes me feel better knowing that you're there to keep an eye out for both of my children.

Neville was talking to us the other day about his future plans, and Herbology featured rather heavily in his notions. That's due to your influence, I've no doubt about it. You're his favourite teacher by far, and I know he looks up to you.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-07 23:23:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Pomona Sprout

It's a pleasure, truly. He's a delight as a student, and that's far more his doing than mine, truly. I'm simply glad to encourage him.

I am rather wishing the decision had gone the other way - he'd be an excellent help replacing some of your plants, but I suppose that's a hair too much of a risk to take just yet.

I'd been wondering if you'd be upset that my comments - that distancing him from his friends might be the wrong choice - lead to some of the decision. I'm glad it's not so. And I do still worry about that. (And frankly, thinking about that quite a lot for my own reasons, not simply his.)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-06 18:25:52](#)

(no subject)

Oh, no!

Well, I'm certainly glad no one was hurt, but oh, dear!

I'll do whatever I can to help. Send me a list, Alice. Perhaps I can scrounge for glass through the barter network, if what you have is too pulverised or scattered by the winds for *reparo*. I'll put some of my eggs aside to set to get you more chicks. I think I can spare at

least one goat, but it will have to be after the children leave for school, of course.

But the root crops--that is a blow. And whatever you manage to save will still be small.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2012-08-07 01:08:54](#)**
(no subject)

Ouch. That's really not good about the fluxweed. Especially for us Players, as we're the ones using a large percentage of our supply.

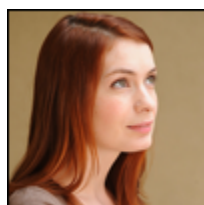
I can check with my black market suppliers, to see if any new sources have opened up, but I doubt it. Anyway, I'll investigate.


Do you need another wand or two for cleanup, Alice and Frank? We could spare you a couple of Players, if it would help, as long as it's not for too long: we're still guarding Ridley.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-07 01:10:34](#)**
(no subject)


I could come out this weekend, too, if it would make a difference. Or I could request a personal day Thursday or Friday. I think it'd be all right with Rosier; things are slower right now, as it's August, and I haven't taken any time off at all as long as I've worked with him.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-07 01:17:49](#)**
(no subject)

That would be much appreciated, both of you. We'll certainly have plenty to do.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-07 01:23:57](#)**
(no subject)

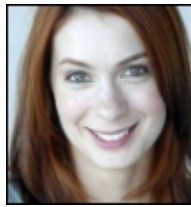
Right, I'll ask Rosier tomorrow and let you know.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2012-08-07 01:27:29](#)**
(no subject)

Right, I spoke with the rest, and Benjy and Caradoc will be there at the rendezvous point tomorrow morning at 8:00 am.

Believe me, you'd be doing me a favour. After weeks of kicking our heels here, they're bored out of their minds. They'll relish the chance to do some hard physical labour, and I hope they'll be in a much better mood when they come back.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-07 02:56:25](#)**
(no subject)

We'll make sure to put them to work, and that Benjy won't spend all his time with a certain Ms Chadha. Thank you, Kingsley.

And I'm sorry Frank will be otherwise occupied this week. He'll be able to help out again just as soon as we've dug ourselves out of this mess.



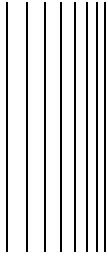
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-08 13:27:46](#)**
(no subject)

I spoke with Rosier, and I'm taking a personal day on Thursday and Friday. (Good thing he doesn't know why.) I'll see you Thursday morning.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2012-08-08 13:29:51](#)**
(no subject)


In that case, would you like me to show up Thursday and Friday, too, Alice? If it would be a help, rather than a hindrance.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-08 17:24:23](#)**
(no subject)

I can't imagine you would be a hindrance, Molly. You would be much appreciated. Thank you.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-07 02:51:47](#)**
Private Message to Severus Snape

Severus, I know we've talked about your coming down to Moddey Dhoo sometime this summer. I'm afraid we're wrapped up in recovering from the storm, and will be for the next two weeks at least, and as such wouldn't be able to host you properly.

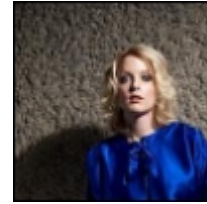
That being said, I do want you to know that when it comes to our end of things, you are free to come whenever you wish, and that you'd be welcome (even though we'd most likely put you to work if you came down this summer). I talked to Arabella when we came back from our camping trip, and now that you've had a chance to meet properly, she's willing to give you entry.

You may want to tell Minerva of your intentions first, as a courtesy, but I can't imagine she'd take any issue with it, especially as Arabella is on board.

2012-08-06 13:15:00

Private message to Raz

Love? No more YPL for me as of the afternoon of the 18th. Not by my choice. And you're not going to like the new leadership one bit.



 **alt_sinistra**

I'm not going to fight it, though. Promise. Don't have it in me after this spring. (Even without a rather blunt suggestion that being "reasonable" and "graceful" about this is particularly in my best interest this week.)


Truth is, I'm just sort of numb.

I've got to make the right noises here for a while longer - we're all being so terribly polite about it - and there's some parchment work to get started on. But I'll be back at Spence sometime late this afternoon and I'd welcome whatever distraction you can come up with tonight. (If you're not able to get free, tell me and I'll go lose myself in charts in the guild hall.)

Morgana's tits. Getting extremely drunk is so very tempting, but I don't dare given the next few days. Besides, not how I want to spend our time together this week.

Tell me it'll all be all right?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-08-06 19:01:10**
(no subject)

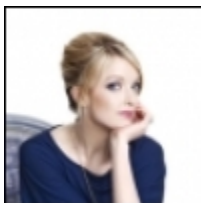
Blast it. And after all the time and effort you put in, too. I'm sorry, love, truly.

Though I can't say I didn't have an inkling that something like this was coming. This, or either you getting strong-armed into more and more decisions that you aren't fully comfortable with, or that clash with your vision of how the YPL should benefit students. I have to say that I prefer this to the latter, though I'm sure that provides little comfort.

Who will the new leadership be, then?

And what reasoning did they give for their decision?

Once we announce the engagement I might stand a chance at changing their minds, you know. But from your tone I gather you don't want that. And I fear that even if I could persuade them otherwise, they'd find ways to make you sorry for it, just the same.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-07 16:28:11**
(no subject)

Dearest, thank you again for last night. It made all the difference, knowing you were waiting.

I'm even more certain I don't want to - can't bear to - fight it. Partly because they've been so careful this time: not a complaint about my actions or work, but rather "we'd like to go in new directions." And you're so right that even if we managed one last gasp, they'd try something even worse.

Just - you don't think I'm a coward, for giving up? Or that I'm letting students down? You're right that it's hurting more and more to ask them to do things I've got huge concerns about. (This afternoon's tasks among them.)

There's still things I'm worrying about. How things go tomorrow. Court on Friday. Next week. What students - and various others - will assume, and why. And I'm sure you're going to tell me it's silly, but I do fret about the money (there's no denying the YPL salary has made things easier for me).

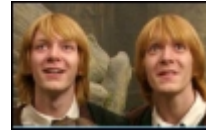
Just have to trust that somehow it'll all work out right. And even I have to agree that no amount of hard work would let me juggle teaching and the YPL and planning a wedding. There are simply not enough hours. (Are you shocked I'm admitting that?)

On scheduling: should be back around half-eight tonight (I'd like to stay through the lecture.) Tomorrow, if all goes well, I should be back before supper. I need to be in Leicester most of Thursday, but I've cleared all Friday, so I have plenty of time to get ready for the afternoon, and gotten Saturday morning free as well. (I feel somewhat less guilt about that given yesterday's news, too.)

Love you. Always love you.

2012-08-07 10:47:00

Happy birthday to Lee Jordan!



 **alt_gredforge**




Happy birthday to our best mate Lee Jordan! Ickle little Lee is all grown up!

Congratulations on your coming of age. Now you'll have to be all sober, serious, responsible and dignified. Like us.


(Merlin help us all.)



 **alt_lee at 2012-08-07 15:49:24**
(no subject)

Thanks, gents. It's been a good one so far.




 **alt_gredforge at 2012-08-07 15:52:13**
Private message to Lee Jordan

Hey, are you free to come over for dinner tomorrow night?

We have some stuff to discuss with you. We'll ask Mum to make her shepherd's pie that you like so much. Say around 6:00?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-07 15:54:56](#)

Re: Private message to Lee Jordan

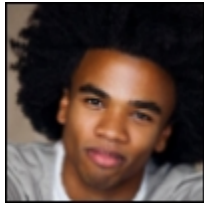
What, about the Weasley Wizarding Whizbangs or something? Thought you didn't dare talk about that stuff round your mum.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-07 15:57:00](#)

Re: Private message to Lee Jordan

That, and other things. And about Mum, you'd be surprised. She's loosened up amazingly this summer. Of course, the way we pulled our marks up this spring thawed her out a lot.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-07 15:59:36](#)

Re: Private message to Lee Jordan

Huh. Still don't know what got into you, making you hit the books like that.

Well, sure. Don't think I've ever turned down Mrs Weasley's shepherd pie. Thanks, I'll be there.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-07 16:00:00](#)

Re: Private message to Lee Jordan

Great! See you then.

2012-08-07 22:26:00

Private message to Sally-Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson



I think today went okay.

With what we were talking about, I mean.

 [alt_harry](#)

I don't think Bundy's the type who'd throw her weight around, but I think it was easier for her to be nice when I told her some of the suggestions we came up with. I think.

And it worked. I mean, it seemed to go really well with the teams who did rewards. They were all so scared it didn't take much. Anyways. I don't think it made anyone important angry. Hembridge looked a sour, but she always does.

Do you think it went okay?

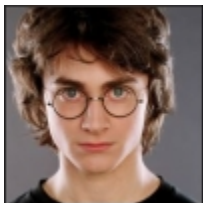


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-08-08 03:41:09**
(no subject)

Yes.

And I think it really, really helped that it was you making the suggestions, so thank you.

I think it'll be easier on the 15th, that we can point to today and say 'see? the teams that used a light hand got the best results.' (And if we get the best results on the 15th they can't complain, can they? Even Hembridge.)



 [alt_harry](#) at **2012-08-08 03:49:18**
(no subject)

Good.

It was the right thing to do.

And yeah, it'll be easier now that we've shown it works. And if it's the same group of people, maybe they'll know what we're trying to do.

Maybe.



 **alt_pansy** at **[2012-08-08 03:54:08](#)**
(no subject)

I still think they shouldn't have put us in that sort of position to begin with.

And the 15th will be tricky, but it will be easier than it would've been otherwise.

They looked so sad frightened.

[2012-08-08 17:52:00](#)

Happenings

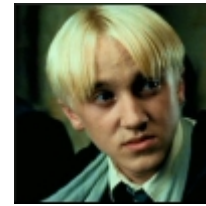
Today was something, wasn't it? I mean, it was all a bit mad. It was really... just.

I just really have a lot of things to say about what went on today. And I'm so knackered, but I know there's absolutely no way I'll be able to sleep. There's so much I've got to do. And it's all just so, so...

Does anyone know what I mean? Even a little?

I really ought to stop writing. But I can't. I really can't do that right now. I've really got to try to keep on.

Bloody nightshade, what a day.



 [alt_draco](#)



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-09 00:58:32](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

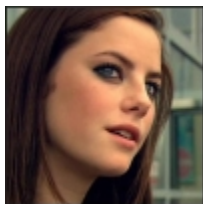
Draco?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 01:24:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Hello Father.

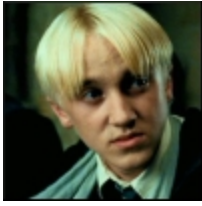


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-08-09 01:23:18](#)

(no subject)

You certainly sound knackered, Draco! It really was a very strenuous day, both physically and mentally. I'm sure that you'll sleep ever so soundly.

You are quite all right, aren't you? If you've been made so exhausted that you're ill, then you really ought to tell one of the adults.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 01:27:24](#)
(no subject)

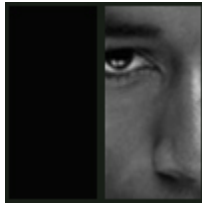
I'm not telling anyone. What would be the use?
Absolutely no use at all.

I really ought to sleep, you're absolutely right. But I've got to think about what I've got to do, first. And then I can sleep. You see where I'm going with this, don't you? I don't have to spell it out or anything, I'm sure that it's obvious.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-08-09 01:34:58](#)
(no subject)

I'm afraid that it's not very obvious at all. I think the combination of logic tasks and physical trials must be affecting you. Or maybe you got into some black mustard seed when you were documenting wildlife? In any case I think you had better rest up.



 [alt_blaize](#) at [2012-08-09 01:37:34](#)
(no subject)

Black mustardseed is an idea. I didn't see any in my area. Was there some in yours, either of you?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-08-09 01:41:14](#)
(no subject)

I thought I saw some in mine, which is why I thought of it. But no one would pick it up and eat it, surely? Unless he mistook it for something else...



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 01:42:04](#)
(no subject)

No, no, no...



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 01:44:20](#)
(no subject)

It's a task, you see.

Do you?

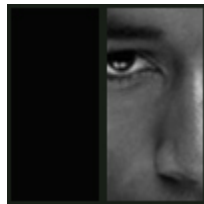



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-08-09 01:45:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh... oh! You mean... we're still being tested?
Even after such a long and arduous day?

So, we're meant to figure out what it is that you
ate? Or, oh, maybe this is another code-breaking challenge!

Blaise, any ideas?

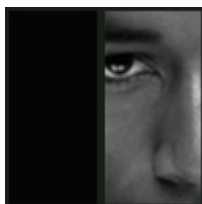



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-08-09 02:01:53](#)
Private Message to DaphsIs and Draco

Sorry, I was distracted by someone pacing up
and down and around the barracks.

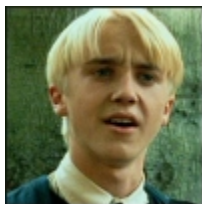
I don't know. Funny sort of code, if it is one.


A test, maybe. You don't think one of the trainers put some
sort of hex on his area, do you? Draco: do you think so?



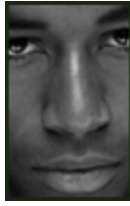
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-08-09 01:35:20](#)
Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Is there something the matter? You seem a bit
wound tight. Not yourself, exactly.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 01:38:32](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Yes, yes - exactly. I mean to say: don't get me
wrong, I *am* myself, like always, but I am most
certainly wound tight.

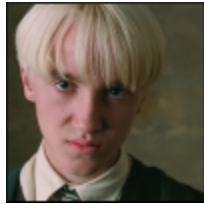


 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-08-09 02:03:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Do you think there could have been some sort of magical trap in your area you were meant to detect and avoid?

What sort of tasks and clues did you have?



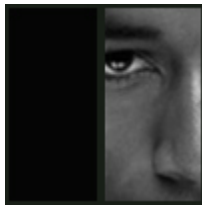
 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 02:11:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I...I...

Oh bugger, this isn't going to work.

Just, don't worry about it, all right? It'll all be fine.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-08-09 02:27:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

All right, then. No worries.

Do you think you could maybe sit down, though? And read or something? You're making me tired, watching you.

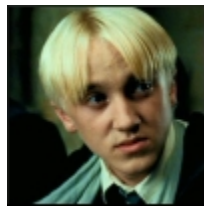


 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-09 03:04:23](#)

Private Message to Draco

What is it you've got to do?

I mean, is it something you can say?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 03:56:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

You'll see. I'll figure out a way.

Sorry... that's all I can manage just now.


I'm sure you're really confused, I know I would be, but it'll be all right. I think.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-09 03:06:34](#)
(no subject)

I think it would be of use to tell someone.
Especially if they were able to help you sort out
what you were meant to do?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-09 03:02:46](#)
Private message to Draco

Are you okay?


They'd probably give you some dreamless sleep potion
if you need it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 03:59:40](#)
Re: Private message to Draco

Yeah, maybe that.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-09 03:09:52](#)
Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Is there anything I can do?

What's happened?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-09 04:00:45](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

No...

Don't worry about it, I'm just going to stop now. I'll
be better tomorrow, I think.



 [alt_pansy at 2012-08-09 13:40:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

All right.

I hope so.



 [alt_draco at 2012-08-09 15:27:45](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Auror Wright and Professor Siz know about it; they'll write to Father, if they haven't already.

They all knew that something might happen, and so did I.



 [alt_pansy at 2012-08-09 15:51:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Good.

And you knew... Oh.

All right then.

Well, no, it's not all right.

I know you told your Father that you'd help, and that it was your decision. But what happened to you yesterday... I just don't like it. And it's not because I don't think you're capable. I just hate the *idea* of it. His using you like that. Stint, I mean.

And you know me. I like to worry.



 [alt_draco at 2012-08-09 15:57:45](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

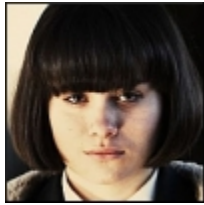
I can't say I like it much, either, but I'll do whatever I can to keep a madman from dropping another dismemberment device on my Mother.

Not that he has that planned, necessarily. No one knows *what* he's up to, which is why I said I would help.

And now I need -

I really can't. Not even in writing. I'm trying, but no.

I need to stop trying. I'm going to fail spectacularly at the next CCF task if I keep trying to fight this.



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-08-09 17:03:44**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I know.

And yes, I think I understand what makes it worse. I'll not push things. I know how strong you are, which can't make it easy. You were fighting it so hard yesterday.

But I do want you to know that you're not alone. And if you tell me, if you *can* tell me what you need help with, I'd do it. I'd do anything you asked. Because this is important for you, and for your family, and because I

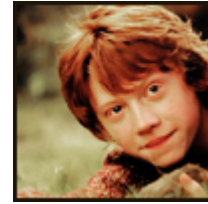
I think that last part is best said in person.

But I'm here. And Harry and Hydra and Sally-Anne and Daphs and Blaise are all here too. And even if you can't say a thing about what you've got to do, or how we could help, maybe it'll do you good to know that you've got so many people looking out for you. They'd all fly to the ends of the world for you, Draco. And it's because you're such a good leader, and a good person, and a wonderful friend.

2012-08-08 21:07:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So, I can't really think of anything to say about it in the open. I mean, anything that wouldn't sound, y'know, arrogant or that wouldn't hack off Patil and Finnigan--which, y'know, I'd love to do ordinarily, but it seems a dumb thing to do tonight when we've got so many days still to go.



 [alt_ron](#)

Anywiz. I came first!

And after yesterday, when my group did well, too.

Don't think they meant that to happen. Either day.

But, really, today's stuff was pretty much designed for me. Mapping the area, following coordinates to hidden clues, negotiating different terrain challenges. All of it. Even the things with clues you had to work out. Or scenarios you had to work out solutions for and then say what you'd do differently if the weather were rotten or whatever.

I laughed out loud when I got the one that said an enemy of the Protectorate had been tracking me and had just surprised me. That one was hidden in an old wreck of a barn, just at the edge of an overgrown field, so I said I'd drop and roll out of view into the tall grasses. And defend if attacked magically. I said if it was a non-magical enemy and they got close enough, I'd use Petrificus Totalis, but if it was a wizard, I'd try evasive manoeuvres first, moving low through the tall grass until I got to the river, since that runs down to the town and then to the reservoir. I mean, it was just like all the issues of Peter Purefoot or Fearless Flyers or Thundering Broomsticks, y'know: the enemy surprises our hero, but he knows just what to do!

And then we had to find our brooms and race back to base camp? I knew I had a really good chance, even if it was a really crap broom they gave me. Really crap, I'm serious. I thought it was going to go to bits when the wind kicked up, but it was funny, as soon as I hit the ley lines outside Leicester, it straightened up. I think its magic realigned. Surprised me, I'll tell you.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-09 03:05:43](#)
(no subject)

You did brilliantly.

I was doing really well for a while. I'm good at a lot of the outdoors stuff -- I mean, I know some of the things you can eat, in the woods, and I'm not too bad at building a shelter. But then I got the 'enemies of the Protectorate!' task and my mind just went blank. So I lost points there. And I'm just not a very fast flyer, even now. So it was a loooooooooong ride back.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-09 12:25:16](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

Sorry about not answering last night. I fell asleep with my journal open!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-09 14:38:24](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I was really tired, too.

Are you enjoying your morning off from chores? Or was it just physical conditioning they let you out of? Not so bad a prize either way.

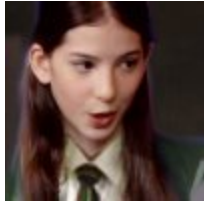


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-09 16:41:52](#)
(no subject)

Ha, yeah. It was both!

Nice, right?


I ended up with a cold shower, though. Let everyone else go first since they had to get out and get moving.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-09 16:45:08](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah I think I'd take a lie-in and a cold shower over the hot shower. Especially today!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-09 17:50:11](#)**
(no subject)

Oh? What'd they make you do this morning?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-09 19:31:36](#)**
(no subject)

The fact that they made us get out of bed wasn't enough? Yesterday was a REALLY LONG DAY.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-08-09 03:12:05](#)**
(no subject)


You ought to be very proud, Ron.

My temporary shelter was very poorly made, but I liked drawing the map quite a bit.

Is anyone from your house acting strangely?

Like they've still got something left to do for their tasks?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-09 12:32:46](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

I had it easy. I had loads of trees and brushy stuff in my area, not far from the spot where I was supposed to build the shelter. I didn't use any Muggle building stuff, though, since I figured that's not what they wanted, but there was a village down the south corner of my area and a couple of farmsteads, too,

so there were still some actual buildings in there. Just not out in the part where they told me to build the shelter. I actually had a really great little territory: two spinneys with real bramble thickets and a river winding all the way through from southwest up north.

What do you mean about acting strangely? Finnickan's all tense about all of the exercises, but that's not so odd for him.

You mean Malfoy? What's up with him, anyway?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-09 13:43:45](#)
(no subject)


I don't know and he won't say.

Can't say.

I'm not sure which.

I thought maybe he was given something else to do yesterday, but if no-one else is acting odd, then it probably isn't something that was supposed to happen.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-09 17:49:22](#)
(no subject)

Maybe someone slipped him something in his supper? I mean, the way he was going on was almost like someone who'd got one of the twins Giddy Gums--back when they first worked out the recipe. They're better now. Funnier and, um, *pinkier*. But when I first tried them, I sounded a lot like that. A bit daft and not able to finish a sentence.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-09 13:44:46](#)
(no subject)

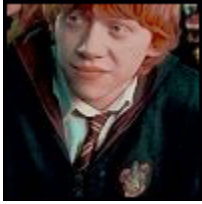
And it sounds lovely. I wish I could've seen it.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-08-09 03:32:43](#)**
(no subject)

Congratulations, Ron!

And who knew wizarding comics could come in so handy?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-09 12:33:25](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, right?

Thanks, Nev.

2012-08-09 11:28:00

*Private Message to Campanella
Wright and Aurora Sinistra*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Wright. Got your report this morning. Agree further action not immediately necessary.

Want to be copied on all follow up. All follow up.

Professor Sinistra, that includes you: if you have additional details or observe anything else of interest, please include me along with Wright.

And, Wright: have scheduled a meeting with Malfoy this afternoon at 4pm. St James. Would find it useful to have you there. If you're able.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-08-09 16:48:53**

(no subject)

Of course.

Campanella's report included my full observations yesterday, but I do have some prior material you may not have seen. I'm glad to forward the transcripts and comments that caused my initial concern if you'd like.

I won't be in Leicester at all on Friday, or Saturday morning, but Campanella's agreed to keep a close eye in my absence.

2012-08-09 20:13:00

Order Only: Lee Jordan



 [alt_arthur](#)

Fred and George invited Lee Jordan over for dinner last night, as the day before was his 17th birthday. With Percy moved out and Ron and Ginny off with CCF, this was an ideal opportunity for sounding him out as a candidate for the Order, pursuant to our vote at the last meeting to allow him to join. Lee's been at the Burrow for dinner many times before, so he was entirely comfortable with Molly and me. He was, however, a little puzzled to hear Fred and George openly discussing their plans for the joke shop business they want to start. Apparently, they had told him last year that Molly was quite hostile to the whole idea. (That, of course, was before Messrs Fred and George Weasley had finessed their way into creating the R&D department of the Order of the Phoenix--meaning that Molly is rather more tolerant about the occasional explosion coming from behind their bedroom door.)

George timed it perfectly, saying brightly just as Lee took a big gulp of pumpkin juice, 'We'd like to talk with you about the wand smugglers.' The result, of course, was a mouthful of juice sprayed across the table (fortunately just missing the shepherd's pie).

Once Lee had quit laughing and mopped himself up, he cried, 'I knew it!' He was totally surprised, however, to learn that Fred and George were already members and very eager to hear all we were willing to tell him. We limited explanations, to begin with, to Fred and George's role, and he could immediately see how some of the products they were developing (the Extendable Ears, etcetera) could be useful for an organisation such as ours.

He said that he wanted to join, but he did ask for a night to sleep on it, 'because of course it's a big decision, Mr Weasley. You'll want to know I've taken the time to think it through carefully.' I told him that was indeed right and proper, but he wouldn't be allowed to leave until he had given us his decision. He pleased me even more with his quick understanding; he said matter-of-factly that he expected we would have to oblivate him if he refused. Fortunately, Lee has stayed over many times before on the spur of the moment, and so his mum wasn't surprised in the least to receive a floo call asking if he could spend the night. His toothbrush and pajamas were passed through the fire, and he settled down on a bedroll on the floor in the twins' room. He even suggested that we lock him in for the night and set up an anti-

apparition ward.

The boys stayed up quite late into the night talking, and Lee was heavy-eyed at breakfast, but he cheerfully assured us he hadn't changed his mind, and he wanted to join. So I took his oath at the breakfast table over a platter of eggs and sausage, and he is now a fully-fledged member of the Order. Just before I left, he suggested that he might be useful for approaching Nick Towler. He knows my new assistant even better than the twins do, and he felt sure he would be the right person to sound Nick out about his political opinions. It was a good thought, and would be extremely useful information to have as I weigh whether it's safe to approach Nick about doing some of the dangerous Order-related work I do in my department.

He spent today with the twins, reviewing the Order-related posts that have now appeared in his journal. Molly is now off at Moddey Dhoo. Alice and Frank, I hope the clean up is going well.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-10 19:51:17](#)
(no subject)

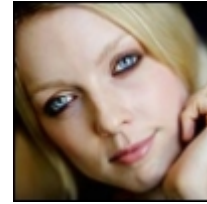
A momentous occasion, indeed.

If you are reading here, Mr Jordan, I wish you welcome!

2012-08-10 13:06:00

Hic certe mira res sit

Amor chaos comitatur, praecedit mundum ...
obscura illuminat, vivificat mortuos, format
informia, perficit imperfect.



 **alt_sinistra**

Marsilio Ficino, *De Amore* i:iii



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-10 21:05:09**

Private message to Mum and Dad

We have permission. I was so terrified we wouldn't that it doesn't seem real, but the ring's on properly now. And I can't stop looking at Raz and being amazed all over again.

Mum, I'm sure there'll be all sorts of opinions about plans. Did you know it's been, what, five years since any of the Council Members married? And that was Nisha Desai and Kamesh Pandya, so all sorts of different specifics there.

Dad, I know it's traditional for the bride's father to cover many of the expenses, but that seems entirely unfair to you and to Sage and Tempest down the road. I think Raz is likely to insist on helping, given other conversations we've had, and I have savings too. Can we talk further about that, and what's fair all round? Please?

Supper Monday or Wednesday this coming week, and we can begin to talk through some things? (Just you both, please. It's been a hard week for other reasons, and I'm not up to dealing with Diane on planning yet.) Harry's still at Leicester, so Raz should be free as well. Working on notes out tonight to the family and a few friends (and he's got people to tell too), public announcement sometime. If - when, really - you get press inquiries, direct them to Raz, please.

Thank you - always, forever - for all your support and patience, and for being so welcoming to Raz. (And Mum, thank you again for letting me cry on your shoulder yesterday. Really did help me go into last night the way I wanted.)

Much love and see you soon.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-10 21:45:15**

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

I can now actually tell you the thing I've been delighted about and fearing and consumed by.

Raz proposed on the 25th. Took me entirely by surprise, but of course I said yes.

But then there was the (very tricky) part of getting Our Lord's approval. I was so terrified we wouldn't, and that it'd change everything in my life in all the worst ways. But today, we got His permission and I feel like I can breathe again. I do hope you'll both be happy for us.

There's so much that's complicated about the whole thing, but what's simple is how much I love him (and he loves me, he insists), and how we're better for having each other. Even while I keep wondering how we ever got to this place.

It's been horrible not telling either of you, but we only told my parents (and Narcissa because I needed her advice). Do forgive me? Our Lord requested Minerva's presence when we asked permission, so she already knows, though I've no real idea what she thinks. And we'll manage some sort of public announcement soon, though I've a few people to tell first and so does he.

Poppy, your delicate sense of traditional manners might be amused that part of the reason he invited all my family over was to get my father alone and ask formally for permission. (Dad was amused but rather pleased. I've gotten over my annoyance and am now amused as well.)

And Pomona, Mum's already been bending my ear about family traditions, and there's a few Herbology related pieces I'd love to get a refresher on so I can decide whether I have an opinion.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-11 01:30:47](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Well! Your poker face has improved a great deal--I didn't suspect a thing.

Congratulations are certainly in order. (Thus, congratulations, my dear!)

Of course I'll be happy to help with Herbology matters--were you thinking of using the language of flowers, or does your family have its own traditions?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-11 01:40:13](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

One of the skills I've apparently picked up that I rather wish I didn't need so often. But good to know - it might keep the gossip quiet long enough we can tell people ourselves.

I really am very happy. If still a bit stunned.

On the Herbology - there's the language of flowers piece, of course, though some of that depends on when we pick. But Mum's also got a whole lot of family tradition notes from both her side and Dad's. I've not gone into the details too far with her yet, couldn't bear to until we were sure. They disagree on which plants are best for some of the family charms. (Something about number of petals and leaf structure, combined with flowering and budding patterns and harvest cycles. Entirely over my head.)

Which brings me to ask: I don't want to make things too difficult for you, truly, and I know you've not the most pleasant experience of the topic.

If you'd rather I didn't discuss plans overmuch with you, I won't. But at the same time, friends who won't push about their own biases are likely to be in rather short supply. And I do trust your common sense far beyond most people's.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at 2012-08-11 01:50:40**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Well, you know Poppy & I will certainly be discreet, though we may well have a good long gossip about it amongst ourselves.

Would it be an imposition if I were to owl your mother directly? It would spare you all the Herbological back-and-forth at least, though the final decisions would all be yours of course.

And as to the latter, well, I won't deny I've biases of my own (and some of my friends would say I don't keep them to myself as well as I ought), but that's old business now.

Theodore is off with his gout and his playing gentleman farmer and his two-Knut Demeter, and I'm well shot of him, but it doesn't mean I've soured on the institution altogether.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-11 01:56:46**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, I don't expect it will stay quiet too long - but a day or two would be pleasant, and give us a chance to get the word out the way we'd prefer.

(Must say, having the ring in the proper place is a lovely feeling, too.)

Please do owl Mum directly, if you'd like: you're quite right all the theory would be quite over my head. And until I'm done with the CCF work on the 18th, I've quite enough to juggle right now.

I'm glad to hear you're not soured on the idea entirely. And despite Raz's reputation, he really has been stellar about the whole thing. Very earnest and careful and sweet in the proposing, though I know a good portion of his friends would find the idea of "earnest" and "Raz" in the same sentence laughable.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-11 02:03:18](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Indeed. As I've no doubt said before, I don't envy you the pressure of being a public figure that goes along with this--you've been handling it all admirably of course, but the fact that you can put up with all that nonsense for him says good things for the strength of your bond.

That said (and feel free to give me a good telling-off for this if I'm overstepping), be careful not to let go too much of yourself in the midst of all that's expected of you.

That's what I regret most about my own marriage. It takes a damned long time to get that back, when you've stuffed it into a box for someone else's sake.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-11 02:10:55](#)**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

You're not overstepping, truly. But we wouldn't be where we are now if he hadn't been exceptionally careful about that for so long.

You're right that there are an awful lot of expectations though. And they're rather boggling sometimes. (Narcissa has been a great help, and far more generous with her advice than I'd have thought to ask for when we started dating.)

It is all nonsense. And the wedding likely more so. Good thing I've never really been one of those girls with strong ideas about what it has to look like or be like. The bit that matters is that we're married at the end, and know already I'll put up with a lot in service to that. (And honestly, it can't be that much worse than everyone's strong opinions about the YPL, can it?)



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-11 02:27:42](#)

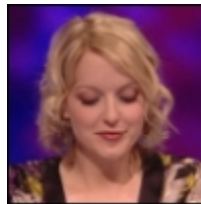
Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

I'm glad to hear that Raz has been (and is continuing to be) careful about such things, and that Mrs. Malfoy has been helpful.

She's always struck me as the sort who could be a very good friend or...otherwise, if you take my meaning.

Speaking of which, I don't doubt that at least some of Raz's social circle consider social intimidation their bloodsport of choice, but I get the sense that you're already better than I ever was at handling that sort.

And oh goodness, YPL...I'm so sorry that you have to endure the regular presence of Dolores Umbridge in your life. That woman is an *excrescence*.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 02:45:12](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout


Narcissa is, yes. I don't want to be her, mind you, but I've got a far greater appreciation for how she does what she does than I used to.

On the social circle, rather. That's part of why I was being so diligent last Saturday - and why Raz was being so attentive. It is one of the places his reputation is a help, really. And why Narcissa's good will matters so much.

There seem to be very few people who'd risk annoying one or the other of them without far better cause than I intend to give. Mostly, I try to listen a lot, which can be rather informative and occasionally amusing.

As to Madam Umbridge, she really is. And I fear it's not going to improve any time soon. She makes my skin crawl. (And I'm dreading whether she notices the ring tomorrow, and comes over all *helpful*.)




 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-11 03:09:45](#)**
Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Ugh. Don't suppose you could do a quick Deflection Charm on it?

Then she might not even notice.




 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-11 03:13:07](#)**
Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, that's an idea.

I didn't risk it last Saturday because that kind of thing can set off various wards and alarms. But it shouldn't in Leicester. And I won't be there terribly long anyway.

On the other hand, they're doing rough camping exercises tomorrow, and that's not precisely her favoured location. (Especially if it's as muddy as I think it might be.)




 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-11 03:23:57](#)**
Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

If she is there, take her on a nice, pleasant walk through some strategically-placed mud for me, would you?

I shall take great pleasure in the fantasy, at the very least.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-11 03:27:43](#)**
Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

It is an exceedingly pleasant fantasy, yes. And I'm sure there are a number of students who would be delighted to assist, as well.

Speaking of: I've had several long chats with Diggory. He's

still not sure what he thinks of my advice for the third task. Since I'm not sure what I think of it, I scarcely blame him, but he's been sorting through rather a lot this summer. I've encouraged him to chat with you, too, when that's easier.

He's doing splendidly otherwise, though, and the comments I've heard about his flying suggest the team might actually have a solid chance at the Cup this year. (You may thank Raz entirely for my desire to be interested in Quidditch.)



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-11 03:40:51](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

I'm glad you've been able to be a listening ear and a mentor for Diggory; he's got a lot to sort out, quite in addition to the general upper-school anxiety that seems to start afflicting them at that age.

Rolanda will probably appreciate your new-found interest more than I! I enjoy a good match, but don't interfere beyond that--I think it's good for them to have to sort it all out themselves.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 03:47:25](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

He really does, and I hope it doesn't spoil him entirely. He's done so very well in difficult circumstances, and he has so much to offer. He's been very good with the CCF lot - soothing down ruffled tempers so that meals are pleasant enough, that kind of thing. It helps that Harry clearly respects him, of course.

As to the Quidditch, well. Self-defence, really, to learn more about it. And far more enjoyable than some of the other subjects I've been having to pick up. (And honestly, setting up games for that model stadium I got Raz for his birthday is actually quite interesting, now I can make sense of it a bit more.)



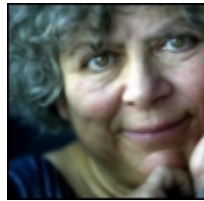
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-11 03:34:19](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

I'd no idea that was the direction your fantasies wander!

Mud and Madam Umbridge?

Bless.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-11 03:42:22](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Really? You don't harbor a secret desire to see great clots of mud blossoming atop that hideous pink ensemble?

I'm surprised at you!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 03:42:33](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Now I'm laughing and laughing. Poppy, you have quite the mind some days.

(Or should we be worrying that your endless course requirements have finally sent you over the edge?)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-11 03:51:51](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

It's good to laugh.

(I believe I'm still this side of the precipice.

Thank you.)



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-11 03:53:20**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, good. I'd miss you rather a lot if that were to change.

(And besides, I fully expect there will be further horrible pamphlets to discuss with you in the next round. And all sorts of other misguided advice.)



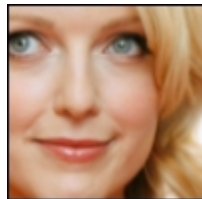
 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2012-08-11 02:09:09**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, my dear. Congratulations!

And, of course, I entirely understand that you were bound to keep mum until you'd got approval at Court. I can't imagine how nerve wracking that must have been.

When will you marry?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-11 02:14:39**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, thank you. And yes, it was. Mum's been stalwart, and Narcissa was very helpful with all my worries except about the actual decision.

We're not quite sure yet on timing. Easter hols or summer, maybe. (They've both got their challenges, really.) Christmas hols are clearly not far enough away, given the social obligations.

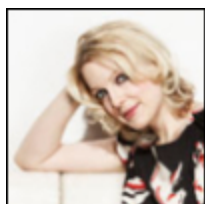


 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2012-08-11 02:28:46**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

You're not feeling uncertain about the decision you've made? I shouldn't wish to think you'd felt pressed or unable to make a free choice.

Sometimes in the rush of events, I know it can seem that one has already committed or missed the point of turning back, but, my dear, if you're feeling that way at all, know that it's not too late to reconsider. And, well, as awkward as it might seem to do so, it would be far worse to go forward if you've any reluctance.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-11 02:34:30**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Not worried about my decision in the slightest, truly. (What Our Lord would say, yes. What it'd mean if He said no, yes.)

Promise. I hadn't expected him to ask yet, but I've known for months I'd say yes if he did. In some ways, known for a very long time: Raz worked himself into my loyalty and my orbit far further back than I wanted to admit for ages.



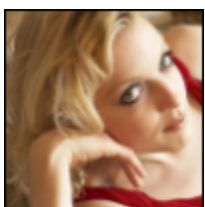
 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-08-11 01:08:43**

Private message to Rory

I hope that's not some kind of obscure quote that translates to *what have I got myself into?*

Because you seemed a bit stunned when we left court today.

In a good way, I hope?



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-11 01:20:43**

Re: Private message to Rory

Stunned in the very best way possible. I was... well, I can admit it now. I was terrified we wouldn't be allowed. And it is taking me a little to realise that we are.

(Writing endless notes to the family to go by owl is helping, mind you. Each time I write it out, it feels a little more real.)

As to the quote, on the contrary. Rather more "Whatever happens, this is all completely worth it." It translates - roughly, there aren't

the right words in English, quite - to something like: Love walks along with chaos, precedes the world, lights the dark, forms the formless, and perfects the imperfect.

By which I very much mean that my life is far the better for you. If you'd had any doubt.

I'm up in the Painted Room, if you'd like to come keep me company, but I really do want to get the family notes done all at once so I can drop them off tomorrow for owl post on my way to Leicester. I've already sent a note to Gilly and Nashira's off with Dai's right now.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 01:46:35](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Even if I can't read it, I very much agree with the quote's sentiment. Especially the part about it being worth it.

I was worried myself, but didn't allow myself to feel it. Told myself it wouldn't change the outcome even if I did, and that seemed to do the trick.

I am left wondering a bit about his Lordship's words- you know, what he said about how "there aren't many of mine who have done so much and asked for so little." I suppose he means this to be a gift, so we probably shouldn't expect new china once the wedding comes.

I will come up and keep you company in a bit. I'm bracing myself for Roddy's inevitable owl or PM. I'm not sure who looked more shocked at court today- him or Barty.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 02:03:20](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Have I mentioned recently that I adore you? I do, you know.

And yes, on the worrying. And you have taught me, love, that sometimes talking is not the thing that's helpful. I'm glad we spent the past fortnight as we did, enjoying the time we had together and not fretting about maybes.

What He said - yes. I wondered, too. But as gifts go, I will gladly take this. (Far more than china, which, really, when would we use it?)

As to your brother and Barty, well. Pomona just admitted she was quite surprised, even after seeing us together last weekend. And if we fooled her, I'm not that startled they didn't spot it.

The one I wasn't sure about is Minerva. It must have been awkward for her, and I've no idea how to read her response in the slightest.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 03:08:05](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Ah, I knew there must be a reason you said yes. I only hope that I will be worthy of your adoration from here on out, love.

As for Minerva- we'll have a good deal to discuss with her before the term starts. Hopefully she can sober up long enough to sit down with us and sort out the details.

Nothing from Roddy yet, but a PM from Barty. He sends his congratulations, but seems rather stoic. Well, one can't blame him, really.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 03:16:30](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

You are doing an excellent job so far, dearest. (Honestly, do you *really* have any doubts at this point? I will clearly have to convince you of my adoration when we finally make it to bed

tonight.)

Yes, on Minerva. Timing, among other things. (Christmas hols clearly are too soon. Waiting for summer - well, I don't fancy final planning alongside exams, really. Nor waiting that long. Easter hols seems plausible, but it's more complicated for Minerva.)

I'm glad Barty was pleasant. And after today - well, I can't blame him either. Having to be told no must have been

miserable for him.

Do you really worry what your brother's going to say? Or is it more how he might say it?



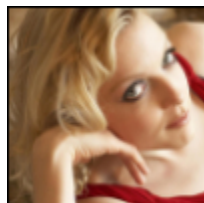
 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 03:22:26](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

I've no doubts about my feelings for you at all, nor yours for me. But I want to always do right by you, and I'm sure you've heard from more than one person (Narcissa, in particular), how I'm prone to muck things up without meaning to.

Easter does seem like it might work out best, but we don't need to decide straight away, either.

As for Rod- let's just say that marriage isn't something he's advocated for in some time. I've also got this nagging feeling he's keeping a mistress- a real one, I mean. He's stepped out on Bella before, but it was always to draw Bella's attention back to their relationship. This time, he's keeping it to himself.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 03:39:24](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Mmm. You've done very well by me so far, dear. If that changes, you can be quite sure I'll let you know. I certainly don't expect you to be perfect. And you have given me quite fair warning of your tendencies, you know. (I was rereading that apology you made me over Acton, that first December, this week. It is even more endearing now, you know.)

And no, we don't need decide immediately. I'd like to get past the CCF weeks, too, before I let anyone drag me into too many new details. Are you up for supper with Mum and Dad early this week, though? It'd be good to talk through some basic things, so they can help manage the rest of my family.

On your brother, well. Is there anything I can say to that paragraph that doesn't sound horrible? I do see the difficulty, though. And I'm sorry, love, that you're so worried.

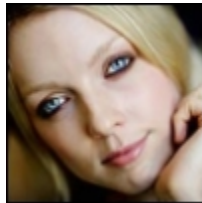


 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 03:52:21](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

How comforting to know that I'm endearing even when I've been a proper arse!

Supper sounds brilliant. And as for Rod, it's not that I'm worried, it's that I'm simply not looking forward to. Barty says I should just let him speak, and I think he's right. It's not as if it'll change a thing, anyway.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 04:01:16](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

It does explain why I'm less worried about you being a fool in the future, mind. That all worked out well enough, and I suspect you're unlikely to try anything that tops that for a good while yet.

And excellent, on supper. Mum likes feeding you up. And Dad can keep being proud.

Barty seems quite sensible. And really, it won't change anything, you're right.

It does make me think, mind you. You two brothers really are quite different - well, from what I've seen of him. (And I quite think I've the better model, there.)

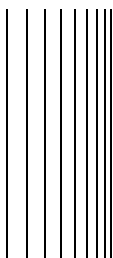


 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-11 04:45:38](#)

Re: Private message to Rory

Right, love. I'm finally done.

If you've not heard from Rod, come to bed?

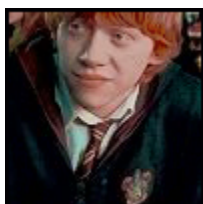



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-08-11 04:58:39](#)**

Re: Private message to Rory

Not yet- thankfully.

On my way.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-11 02:02:44](#)**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

You don't suppose this is a code we're meant to work out, do you? Prize to whoever gets it cracked first?

I mean the Latin words might each be code for something else, yeah?

2012-08-10 21:11:00

*Private Message to Rabastan
Lestrangle*




 **alt_crouch_jr**

Congratulations.

Know that you must be glad to have today's business behind you. Today's successful business. Good show.

When's the stag night?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-08-11 03:16:31**
(no subject)

Thank you, Barty. Your well wishes mean a great deal to me.

And yes, immensely glad, and relieved.

We've not even set a date for the wedding yet- were waiting for the Lord's blessing first. When I've figured out what's what, I'll be sure that you're first to know when the stag night is.

Can't say I'm looking forward to hearing from Rod. For years he was after me to settle down and make a marriage, but in the last few he's been counseling me to avoid it at all costs. Bracing myself for a slippery sort of lecture.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2012-08-11 03:45:31**
(no subject)


In that case, let's not wait for the stag. Are you in town currently? Drinks tomorrow?

Re. Rodolphus: let him talk. May help him, and won't actually hurt you.

Worked with Mother. When I had the patience for it.

Don't tell Rod I compared him to my mother.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 03:47:54](#)
(no subject)

At Spence, in fact, so right in the neighbourhood.
Drinks would be welcome.

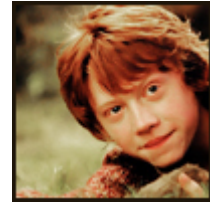
Oh, I don't know... it might get him to retreat rather quickly, now that you mention it.

But yes, you're right, and I'll let him talk. What he has to say is more about him than it is about me, he just doesn't realise it.

2012-08-11 08:03:00

Happy Birthday, Gin!

Hope you have a good group for the camping. Maybe they'll make you a cake out of twigs and berries or something! Or let you have the dry spot in your shelter tonight.



 [alt_ron](#)

Oh, and I gave Bobolis your present. Hope she remembers. It's a finding stone I charmed for you. It'll do more than just point the directions. Try asking it to point clean water or fruit or high ground or whatever you need. The spells we learned to put on them are bril.

Anywiz. Don't know if I'll see you at all today, but many happy returns and all!



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2012-08-11 16:47:50**
(no subject)

Thanks Ron! The stone is great. Bobolis gave it to me this morning. I think I will pass on the cake of twigs and berries. I really do like the stone. Thanks again.

2012-08-11 09:20:00

Order Only

Um so.

Hello.

I'll do my best for you all. My head's sorta spinning from everything I've read, but I'm honoured to be a part. I'll do anything I can to help.




 [alt_lee](#)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-11 15:02:09](#)
(no subject)

Welcome, Lee.



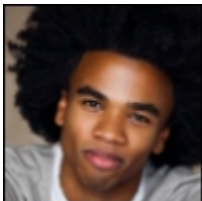
 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-11 15:06:12](#)
(no subject)


Thanks, Mrs Weasley.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-11 15:03:55](#)
(no subject)

We're hoping you can join us on Wednesdays when we go to 12 Grimmauld Place and work on defence with Sirius and Terry. And maybe there will be a chance for you to meet Fu sometime before we go back to school, too. He's brilliant.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-11 15:05:14](#)
(no subject)


I'd be glad to join you on Wednesdays, yeah.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-08-11 15:04:39](#)**
(no subject)


I'm glad I'll still be able to talk with you, Lee.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2012-08-11 15:05:44](#)**
(no subject)

Likewise, Professor.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-11 15:39:35](#)**
(no subject)

Welcome to the Order, Lee.

2012-08-11 09:23:00

Happy birthday, Ginny!

Happy birthday to my dear girl. I'm sorry we can't all be together, but I'm sure you're having a wonderful time with CCF, and know that your father and I are very proud of you. We'll have a delayed birthday celebration when you and Ron are back.



 [alt_molly](#)



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2012-08-11 16:52:07**
(no subject)

Thanks Mum. It is odd to not be home for a birthday, but we did have such a great time together at the Freedom Day festival, so that will just have to hold me over until I see you again. Well I will see you all soon. I love you all.

2012-08-11 09:32:00

Private message to Roddy

Look, I know you'll want to say something, so let's have it, shall we?



 **alt_rabastan**

I'm sorry I didn't tell you ahead of time, but I didn't want to jinx things before we'd even gone to court. We are very, very happy though, and we will be very, very happy.



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2012-08-11 18:16:16**

(no subject)

How interesting that you are waiting for my reaction.

Is there something specific that your expect from me?



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-08-11 18:16:53**

(no subject)

Ha, no thank you. I'll not be wandering into that little snare.



 **alt_rodolphus** at **2012-08-11 18:17:46**

(no subject)

No, you'll have difficulty wandering into anything, now that you're in the biggest snare of them all, brother.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-08-11 18:20:58**

(no subject)

Okay, that looks about like what I expected.


Whether you think its a mistake or not, my mistakes are my own to make. I've listened to you on almost every major decision I've made in my life, but I'm a big lad now. Whatever happens, it's not likely to affect you much, anyway.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 18:21:33](#)
(no subject)

So you think yourself a changed man?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 18:24:14](#)
(no subject)

That sounds like another snare, but I'll bite.

Changed from what? If you mean my notorious past as a wooer of women, then yes. I was weary of it even before I met Rory, though your keen observation skills never seemed to register that.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 18:27:52](#)
(no subject)

I mean: are you changed at all?

In my experience, a man's mind can change, grow sharper, more calculating, or duller if he drowns himself in vice... but the very heart and core of a person will always stay the same. Oh, it might try to steer a different course for a time, but that will end in folly. The passionate heart always yearns, and the cold heart steels itself in ice.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 18:31:56](#)
(no subject)

I think if you had said *the passionate heart always flames* your cold/ice/passion metaphor would have more weight. But then it would be a bit too overly poetic for my tastes.

But you'll be surprised to hear that I agree with you. The core of a person rarely changes- that's something I learned from Evan.

It sounds as if this is a fairly new realisation for you, though.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 18:42:59](#)
(no subject)

Ah, so you believe that callow, pleasure-seeking playboy wasn't you. Perhaps it wasn't, but you can't deny that you enjoyed playing the part.

And what of her? Do you know her as well as you know yourself?

Most of us accept that we can't change, and yet we love to indulge in the fantasy that we can change someone else. That we can be the one who opens ~~her~~ them up, dives inside them like a pensive and gives them everything that they every wanted.

If you know that such a thing will never happen, then the two of you may actually stand a chance.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 18:46:07](#)
(no subject)

I do know that.

Is it really all that bad for you, then?



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 18:57:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I rarely think on it these days, but all these weddings, and talk of weddings, they do tend to bring it all to the surface.

There are things I wouldn't take back, and would never, ever want to lose. My children, our reputation, our standing before the Lord Protector.

But I never have changed. All of those metaphorical *flames* just found another source to consume.


Meanwhile, the Missus remains faithful to her fantasies. I'm happy to let her have them.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-08-11 18:58:07](#)**
(no subject)

How did you make this about me?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-08-11 19:03:17](#)**
(no subject)

Silly Rod. It was always about you.

Look, glad as I am that your, uh, flames found something to burn, you ought to be careful. I've always had the feeling that Bella thinks of you as a mirror of her own devotion. You know- a dog kneeling before an idol and waiting for scraps. And if you're kneeling before another... I mean that figuratively, by the way-

Anyway, she doesn't take kindly to insults.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-08-11 19:14:10](#)**
(no subject)

As much as I appreciate your concern, I've been "kneeling" for a while now. She knows or she doesn't, but I proceed as if she doesn't - very carefully, that is - precisely because I do not want to insult her. Nor do I want to lose the other benefits our marriage brings.

I suspect that she doesn't want to lose those things, either - it's my desire that she can do without (and has done since we had Rigel).



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 19:16:14](#)
(no subject)

Since ***Rigel!***? Bloody Erebus, no wonder you've... well, you know.

I was planning on a rather tame stag night, but now I think I'd better concoct something completely lecherous- for your sake, not mine. Barty would probably enjoy it, too.




 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 19:18:48](#)
(no subject)

I don't think there will be a need for that.

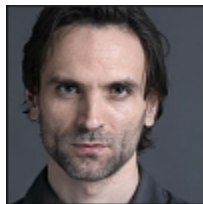
A man can't change, remember?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 19:20:11](#)
(no subject)

You mean...?


Ah, I see.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-08-11 19:21:40](#)
(no subject)

You needn't make it *too* tame, though.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-11 19:21:59](#)
(no subject)

Ha, so noted.

2012-08-13 10:54:00

My Birthday


Thanks Mum for the cake. It was great. I shared it with Ron and some others yesterday after lunch.



 [alt_ginny](#)

Thanks all for the cards. I will see you all soon.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2012-08-14 02:25:16**

(no subject)

I'm so glad the cake was appreciated, and I hope you had a wonderful birthday, dear.

[2012-08-13 11:36:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

So, have you worked out how you're going to answer your latest owl?



 **[alt_lupin](#)**

I'm telling you, this Agony Aunt business isn't for the fainthearted. I'm glad I've never hung out that particular shingle.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-13 17:00:56](#)**
(no subject)

All in all, I think breaking in to Buckingham and challenging the bastard to a duel would be simpler.

Particularly when the only sensible answer is some waffle about deciding where one's personal lines are. Cardinals. We call them 'Unforgivable' for a reason.

Still. If what we've seen about their CCF training is any indication, the whole point is to force them to find those lines - and to show people like Umbridge where they stand on the issue.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-13 17:15:21](#)**
(no subject)

Mm. Rumour has it he's rather good at duelling, unfortunately. Also heavily guarded.

She's asking the right questions. It's a shame there are really no easy answers. Or hard-but-good answers. Or even hard-but-not-utterly-terrible answers. The easiest option for the lot of them keeping their hands clean is to quit the CCF, but then, we JUST sent all of them a message that they need to keep their noses to the grindstone through NEWTs because that way they'll be more useful to us.

Part of me likes the idea of using the training they're giving these children against them, someday. Part of me thinks the price is going to be too high.

I mean, according to what we gleaned from that Preece kid's

journal, they were forced to watch while muggles were abused, under the guise of it being a 'demonstration.' And then they were given an assignment where they had to control them. I think there's probably a third piece they've got wind of (Perks wrote to Sinistra, I saw; she's got a varied correspondence) where it'll be a step up from there. If you're trying to corrupt the innocent, you start by easing them in -- but the worse you can persuade them to do, the more control you'll have over them later. If that makes sense.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 17:28:34](#)

(no subject)

Makes sense?

It only describes the first ten years of my life, Remus. 'Watch Mummy show you how it's done' turns into 'Give it a go yourself,' with a healthy (or unhealthy, as the case may be) dose of disappointment if you don't fall in line.

It's ten times worse when you actually want to impress the person judging you, or prove that you're worth notice. That's the thing about their Professor Sinistra, isn't it? They all seem to like her so much. It's a powerful motivation to do well in her eyes.

Miss Perks does mention 'having to kick Muggles' at a future point in the programme. Obviously that's just a metaphor but what she means is clear.

And yeah. Did you see the entry from Cuthbert? Bragging about how they used the Stinging Hex at triple strength to create an electric shock to 'herd' the Muggles into place? Disgusting.

But there has to be some sort of answer or apparently I am also a misogynist, male chauvinistic dog.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 17:47:12](#)

(no subject)

I think she's rather bitter about your failure to promptly answer Pansy, in the past.

And I think she knows you DO answer Harry.

I don't know how she'd know he's your godson, so I suppose 'you only care about boys' is the next most obvious answer?



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-13 17:56:36](#)
(no subject)

Merlin help us when Bea's old enough to have a best girlfriend. The pair of them (Pansy and Sally-Anne, I mean to say) between them ask the thorniest questions in all creation.

It's not like I ever had a sister. (Well, apart from Reg.)

Then again, if they think I only care about boys perhaps they'll stop writing!



 **alt_lupin** at [2012-08-13 17:59:30](#)
(no subject)

Ha, you wish. They'll just abuse you instead of asking for your advice on things.

Which might be more relaxing, mind.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-13 18:02:06](#)
(no subject)

Or give it to Dora to answer, next time.



 **alt_lupin** at [2012-08-13 17:48:46](#)
(no subject)

And that's a good point about Professor Sinistra. She seems like a lovely person. A lovely person with all the wrong friends.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 18:05:20](#)
(no subject)

Well, Poppy and Pomona seem to be friendly enough with her. Probably on the theory that if she maintains some connection to reasonable people she might not fall off the precipice

completely.


Easier said than done.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 18:18:04](#)
(no subject)

And if what I heard Saturday night is to be believed, she's a lovely person with the entirely wrong fiancé, and all.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 17:24:32](#)
(no subject)

Anyway, she asks a whole load of questions. You COULD just answer the ones you can come up with an answer to.

1. You don't like Dogstar's methods, but do you really think anything's going to change without violence?
2. The Unforgiveables: really all that bad (other than cruciatus)? Does it matter HOW you kill somebody?
3. Do you think killing is always wrong?
4. If you're killing someone who completely deserves it (Carrow, Voldemort, Bellatrix -- I like her examples, by the way) can you commit justifiable premeditated murder using the killing curse, striking from behind, and have that be okay?
5. Where do you draw the line for the thousands of everyday wrongs and indignities you're forced to participate in as a child (a fostered half-blood, in her case) growing up in the Protectorate?
6. What about those things you have to participate in as a member

of the CCF?

7. What if choosing the right course of action will have truly grave consequences for you?

8. What if choosing the right course of action will have worse consequences for the person you're trying to protect?

Sadly, I'm not sure I know how to answer ANY of these.



alt_sirius at **2012-08-13 17:48:06**
(no subject)


1. At this point, I'm not sure. I'd like to introduce her to the Americans and the Civil Rights movements of the '60's but that's hardly going to work against wizards. The question is one of degree. Widespread, wholesale violence with no discrimination between guilty and innocent helps no one. On the other hand, people like Bella or Malfoy aren't going to stop just because we ask nicely.
2. Yes. And yes, it does matter.
3. No.
4. No. It's too painless for someone like Carrow. Lets them off too easily. Albus would probably say that they should have a chance to show remorse but in all honesty I'd be surprised if they could even register what they'd done wrong. Still, the choice to kill in that case ought to be made by more than one person alone. Unfortunately, someone like Voldemort isn't going to go quietly. So there's always that duelling and self-defence option.
5. That's a personal question - no one else can possibly tell what another can live with doing and what would make that person lose self-respect. It's extremely hard and one can't do it alone. Alone, most people will eventually take the path of least resistance. And alone, eventually that path leads to more and more compromises for the sake of one's own safety.
6. See above.
7. Define truly grave. Define the consequences to one's dignity and

self-respect for not taking the right course. What other options are there besides do as you're told and refuse to participate altogether? How can you mitigate the action that keeps you in a position of relative safety with actions that are more humane?

8. What does that person want? To be protected or to be treated well? Again, can you think options that lie between the black and white ones the Protectorate wants you to see?

It's all bollocks, of course. But it's a start.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 17:55:07](#)

(no subject)

I mean, offhand

1. No. But we have to target that violence carefully -- not haphazardly, like Dogstar. Mind you, I'm not sure we have 100% consensus in the Order on that. (In either direction!)

2. Yes. And yes. Which is not to say I wouldn't use Avada Kedavra if I were facing off with Bellatrix. (What? Are you telling me you wouldn't?)

3. No. It's not wrong when it's in self-defence, for instance.

4. Merlin. I don't even know what to say here. I think perhaps the best answer is, 'you are not old enough or experienced enough to EVEN THINK about taking on any of the people you list as examples. Therefore, we don't need to answer this one.'

5. You know what, Miss Perks, we are going to defer to your judgement here. Would you really appreciate it if we said, 'you must toe the line this far, but no further,' when we aren't living your life? We are not the ones who will be sent to the camps if expelled from Hogwarts (not that our lives are risk-free, but we're making a completely different set of choices and running a completely different set of risks.) You're a good and decent person in a situation where it's sometimes possible to behave decently, and sometimes incredibly risky. You have close friends who are living these risks with you. Talk to them, and make your own choices here.

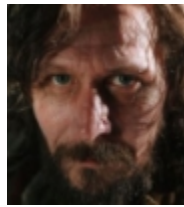
6. See #5. Although it's tempting to just tell you to quit now; they're only going to get more intent on corrupting you.

7. If your choice is between kicking Hermione and being sent to the camps, I think Hermione would tell you to go ahead and kick her if you have to, just try not to leave too much of a bruise. On the other hand, if it's between kicking Hermione and being mocked by Padma Patil, I think Hermione would rapidly lose respect for you if you chose to kick her.

Really, the answer here is the same as #5.

8. This is the sort of horrifying moral quandry that the people who run CCF rejoice over, because there is simply no right answer.

I would encourage you to protect people when you can, even when it means getting your hands dirty. But it's important to realise that of all the no-win situations in the universe, this is one of the ugliest to be confronted with, and to be clear in your own mind about the source of the ugliness here. Don't let it consume you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 18:00:11](#)
(no subject)

Regarding using the Killing Curse on Bella, well ... perhaps if I had no alternative. But I do think it's a bit lazy, don't you? When there are so many other spells that would subdue her and hurt much more, particularly.

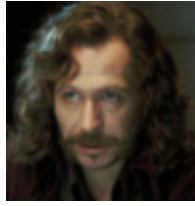
I like your answers for 5-7; I'll just borrow that, shall I?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 18:04:50](#)
(no subject)

You'll probably want to change 'we' to 'I,' lest she imagine her letter being discussed by a committee.

Though I suppose if you tell her that you shared her questions with a close friend (who is not Hermione or Terry) this might show her that adults, too, seek out advice from trustworthy friends, just as we're advising her to do.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-13 18:12:35](#)**
(no subject)

On due consideration, I think I'll modify both our answers somewhat but make it clear that I've shared her note with someone far cleverer than I and we've got slightly different opinions on some of her questions, so here's a range of possible answers. With heavy emphasis, as we both said, on 'You have to draw your own lines in the situations that face you on a daily basis.'



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-13 18:20:15](#)**
(no subject)

That's not a bad idea.

It's what we're telling her to do, after all. Won't hurt to show that we do the same.

You might want to make it clear you DIDN'T share her letter with Hermione or Terry.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-13 18:31:16](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, yes, I read that the first time you wrote it, Moony.

If calling you cleverer than me is going to give you licence to boss me about then -

I'll have to do it more often.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-13 21:16:24](#)**
(no subject)

Oh for Merlin's sake.

I guess I can write off my failure to think of asking Dora for her thoughts on this as just another symptom of the fact that my brain was not working this afternoon.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 18:06:26](#)
(no subject)

And frankly I'm not sure the best message to send about the killing curse is, 'it's too quick a death for the likes of Bella; you'd want a spot of torture to go with it.'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 18:15:31](#)
(no subject)

Oh, go ahead, take the fun out of my life, you.

Bella's a special case. Tell me you wouldn't hurt her first if you had the chance.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 18:18:52](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't.

Because I want her dead more than I want her hurting. If she's at my mercy, I'm taking absolutely no chances that someone else will walk in, or she'll seize on my distractions and get away, or any of it. If I can kill Bella, I'm just going to KILL HER, with no messing around.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 21:14:32](#)
(no subject)

You haven't sent it off yet, have you?

Because it occurred to me that there IS someone in this house who's been

- a. a girl
- b. a half-blood in fostering
- c. a student at Hogwarts under the Protectorate

and we could get her opinion on that list of questions.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 21:17:19](#)
(no subject)

Didn't I say we should have Dora answer them?

Good thought.

And no, I've not sent it. Ellie came back to wash up the tea things before I finished; I had to duck into the cellar.

(You know, telling her about your furry problem has, if anything, made her want to fuss over you even more.)




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 21:21:19](#)
(no subject)

No, you said we should have Dora answer the NEXT letter.

She doesn't fuss over me half as much as she fusses over you, but then, who doesn't love Sinbad? (Somehow I doubt the revelation about your true nature is going to go over as well as mine. Ironic, that.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 21:39:23](#)
(no subject)

This one, the next one; they're all pretty much the same.

Fine. You're probably in a better position to show the original letter to Dora than I am at present.

(You can call it ironic. I call it just my bleeding luck. Then again, I doubt she's prattled on to you about her personal habits quite as much, either.)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-13 21:40:31](#)
(no subject)

Clearly you are FATED to hear endlessly about the personal problems of young women.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 21:44:59](#)
(no subject)

Obviously I am being punished for some horrible crime of which I am completely unaware.

Funny I never minded when there was sex in the offering but without that lure (or the desire for it, ta), it's bloody well tiresome.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-13 22:13:19](#)
(no subject)

And if you think you can start telling me all your boyfriend problems you've got another thing coming, you.

2012-08-13 20:31:00

Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black and Remus Lupin



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

Look, I'm just going to put this here. Who knows whether Ellie will give us a chance to talk about it, and I suppose you want to send off your owl tomorrow morning first thing.

These questions aren't half impossible, you know, but I know that's how she feels about it all--as if there are no answers to be had.

And she asks the hardest one first, doesn't she?

But do you really think we can change anything without using violence?

I do think there are things we can change or at least things we can do without violence, but I don't know at all that we'll be able to change everything that needs changing. I do doubt that's possible.

She's twisted things up about the unforgivables, hasn't she?

I think dead is dead, and it doesn't matter all that much whether you kill someone with Avada Kedavra or with a blasting curse to the midsection or with a knife to the heart.

That's coming at it backside front. Is that the way they're teaching them to think about murder? Yes, there are lots of ways your enemy might end up dead, but *Avada Kedavra* has only that one outcome and it only works if you absolutely mean it to. The difference is wanting to protect yourself and wanting to kill--wanting to disarm or, well, harm.

I know I come to this from a different place than most do, but I've seen it used. And I never could. It takes-

It takes bloodlust to be able to cast it. The killing curse. I really think it does. And I know it causes it, too. I mean, after a person casts it, they look more bloodthirsty than before.

And there's no taking it back. If you use the killing curse, there's no chance of bringing the person to trial. Or of correcting a mistake, if you were wrong in thinking they were guilty. I know she's talking about Bellatrix Lestrange and the Carrows, but what are the chances that she'll end up opposite anyone like that? It could happen--well, not with Carrows now, thank Merlin--but it's more likely to be someone she doesn't know enough about to make that judgement. That's part of

it: you act the wizengamot, don't you, if you kill someone outright? I don't want to make that decision because who am I to say whether death is the right sentence? And even if it is, who am I to say they shouldn't make restitution or be made to tell all they've done or reveal important information before they're put to death? And there's no chance of any of that if I kill them in a duel or a battle. Let alone an ambush.


They didn't give my mother a chance. They could have arrested her and put her on trial, but they didn't. They killed her where she stood. And that was horrible. It was evil. You should have seen his face when he cast it. And after-

I may want revenge, but that doesn't mean I want to do to them what they did to her. That would make me just like the wizard who killed her. Mulciber.

I'm sorry. I know she asked more questions, but that's all I can write for now. Not sure it's what you wanted even. I don't think it would make much sense to her, would it?

I'm sorry.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:33:43](#)
(no subject)

Don't apologise, Dora. This is a good answer.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 02:39:42](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

I didn't know what I was going to write before I started, and then-

I haven't thought about that in a while.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:41:37](#)
(no subject)

I'm going to make you some tea and biscuits. We don't have to tell Ellie why.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 02:45:25](#)
(no subject)

Chamomile, maybe?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:50:02](#)
(no subject)

Kettle's started.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 02:51:41](#)
(no subject)

Ta.

I think I'm done sniffing. Just going to keep at this washing up, though. Won't hurt to wash all the glasses a second time, will it?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-14 02:43:07](#)
(no subject)

Now there, Dora, don't get in a strop.

But you do see she's not throwing us the slow Quaffles, at least.

Moony's right; there are good responses in what you're saying. That the AK has only one outcome and that by definition it's premeditated, that sort of thing. And not what either of us said, so that's a good perspective.

And as for Andie... Circe, I'm sorry you had to see it happen, love.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 02:49:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's a reason to fight back, isn't it?

Just not with AK.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:52:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I'm thinking about this (waiting for the water to heat) and I think Miss Perks WOULD understand what you're saying -- and might take it rather more seriously than anything Sirius or I already said about it. (We were, hmm, probably a little more brief than was helpful.) The question I'm pondering is whether we need to obscure the bit about your mother being killed -- what are the odds she'd work out it was you?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:53:23](#)
(no subject)

I'm probably worrying too much about that detail. Quite a few mothers died in the war, after all.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:02:36](#)
(no subject)

Well, there's that.

Are you going to let me hear your answers now?
Or do I have to answer the rest before you'll tell me?

What else did she want to know?

Oh, about whether it's ever all right to go along with a bad business because you don't want anyone to think you're disloyal. Where to start with that one, right?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 03:05:43](#)
(no subject)

Here's what all she asked:

1. You don't like Dogstar's methods, but do you really think anything's going to change without violence?
2. The Unforgiveables: really all that bad (other than cruciatus)? Does it matter HOW you kill somebody?
3. Do you think killing is always wrong?
4. If you're killing someone who completely deserves it (Carrow, Voldemort, Bellatrix -- I like her examples, by the way) can you commit justifiable premeditated murder using the killing curse, striking from behind, and have that be okay?
5. Where do you draw the line for the thousands of everyday wrongs and indignities you're forced to participate in as a child (a fostered half-blood, in her case) growing up in the Protectorate?
6. What about those things you have to participate in as a member of the CCF?
7. What if choosing the right course of action will have truly grave consequences for you?
8. What if choosing the right course of action will have worse consequences for the person you're trying to protect?

My answer to #2 was 'yes. yes.' Yours was much better.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:14:58](#)
(no subject)

The last ones--that was her story about being ordered to kick someone and knowing that if she didn't do as they told her, then the next person might use Crucio instead of a kick.

I thought I was going to tell her that it might make the person behind her think again about what to do if she set an example, only, I know that's not how it seems to her. No one would have taken me as a model when I was in school. I was lucky if they ignored me, but it was more likely they'd point out everything I did and make a meal of how it was all wrong.

I can't blame her if she just tries to keep her head down and not cross any lines at all ever.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 03:19:54](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. After getting the letter we went reading through the other journals, trying to work out what on earth they've been up to in CCF that might have set off this round of questions.

Apparently they had a class where 'muggle management' was demonstrated. Then they had an activity where they were expected to 'manage' some muggles themselves.

Kicks were the least of it, apparently.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:29:09](#)
(no subject)

Ugh.

I'm glad they didn't have that CCF business when I was in school. I suppose I'd have been made to do it, so they could force me to show how glad I was to be a loyal subject. They never missed a chance to make me renounce my parents all over again.

Did you see the pictures of them all marching on Freedom

Day? In uniforms. I'm so glad we didn't drag Bea out for the parade. Besides then we'd have missed all the people who came here instead.

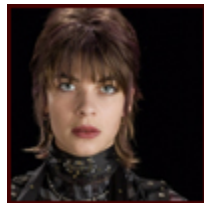



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-14 02:54:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, I said to Moony I've always thought the Killing Curse is a lazy way to do it, in point of fact. There's no sporting chance.

What gets me time and again is how the Protectorate thinks they can ever raise a nation of people whose families were torn apart like that and actually trust them *not* to want vengeance.

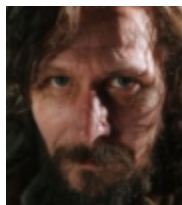
Just promise me when she starts asking for advice on boys or clothes or kids, you'll take it upon yourself to answer. You saw her comment that I dislike girls? Perhaps she ought to consider that boys ask more straightforward questions!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:04:23](#)
(no subject)

Do they really?

I thought Harry asked you pretty much the same things. You just don't mind them when they come from him.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-14 03:11:59](#)
(no subject)

He asked a few of them, yes. But it was different. Boys don't ask their questions with quite so much nuance. And they don't expect as much nuance in the answers, either.

Besides, he's my godson. My connection to Miss Parkinson is tenuous and to Miss Perks even less so.

Mainly, though, girls are just bloody confusing.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:16:11](#)
(no subject)

So she's right. You just like boys better.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-14 03:18:37](#)
(no subject)

No. I understand them better.

Sometimes I think they train you girls to speak a whole other language together.

As well as twisting anything a man says. Honestly, you.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-14 03:20:39](#)
(no subject)

Well, you made me smile, at least.


So, ta.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-14 03:23:26](#)
(no subject)

Ta, sniffles.

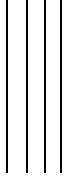


 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-14 03:08:44](#)
(no subject)

When Harry was ordered to cruciate Hermione, he wrote to you wondering what to do.

That was basically questions #7-#8, right there. He could refuse, but there might be grave consequences -- including for Hermione.

I'll admit that Harry seems to space out the hard questions a bit more.



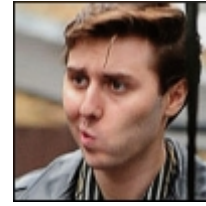
 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2012-08-14 03:12:46**

Private Message to Moony

Yes, your memory banks are quite helpful. Shut it.

2012-08-13 21:05:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Hydra and Sally-Anne



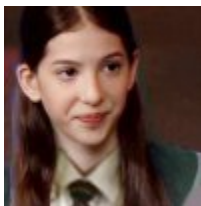
 [alt_justin](#)

Remy can't stop worrying about what's to become of Warrington. He left this morning, did you notice? Not even a proper announcement about it. I think it's that more than anything that has Remy concerned, only I keep trying to assure him that the counsellors are likely just respecting Darius's privacy, what? I mean to say, it's not as if they'd bally well announce he's withdrawn due to cracking up on that overnight camping exercise.

I say, Sally-Anne, thanks for coming over when it all started. I rather wish Remy had said something more about him before we started our hike but I'm well certain no one expected him to go berserk like that.

I know I've been somewhat distant but I think you'll agree it takes a fair amount of concentration not to say or do the wrong thing under these circumstances. You've both every right to tell me you told me how it would be. I knew it, too. It's not that it's worse than I was expecting, quite. It's.... I've been distracted and rather focused, is all. I do apologise if it's seemed as if I'm not myself.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-08-14 01:38:09**
(no subject)

Yeah, I noticed he left. Honestly I think they ARE keeping quiet about it to protect his privacy. No one wants to shame him, you know? Everyone understands why he got as upset as he did. And no one (except for maybe Hembridge) wants to make a cake of it, but they can't keep him here, not after

You know what set him off, right?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:10:52](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I know what happened. Did you get the whole story, then?

He was determined to show Preece he could use the Killing Curse properly and he botched it utterly. Preece scoffed at him and cast it quick as could be on the partridge he'd been stalking.

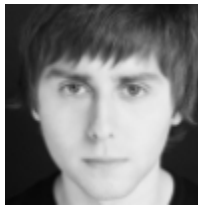
That's when he started shrieking, do you see. And then you ran up and so did Higgs. And when Higgs began ripping into Preece about the safety spell, Darius broke down completely. It's no wonder if you didn't put the whole of it together just then; Remy says he came to him after lights out last night and told him he couldn't stand any of it anymore.


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-14 02:15:24](#)
(no subject)

Oh, ugh. I hadn't realised that Warrington had already tried the killing curse himself and botched it. I bet he didn't use the safety spell either. That must have made it even worse.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:20:29](#)
(no subject)

Yes, rather.

Could you make out what he was blubbering when we cast that calming spell on him? I couldn't at first but after Remy told me what Darius said last night, it made sense. He was saying 'I could've killed someone'--which was rot, what, because the spell didn't go. What he meant was that he didn't check to see if anyone else was downrange--and of course, Higgs was, worse luck.

But later, what bothered him was that he couldn't even kill a pheasant properly and that he disgraced himself at seeing the

poor thing drop at his feet. It's a bad business all round, what.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-14 02:30:13](#)
(no subject)

OH

Yes. It makes sense that's what he was saying.

I think Preece cast the killing curse without the safety charm because he was so focused on showing up Warrington. I imagine Warrington forgot it because he was trying so hard to show he could use it without it bothering him.

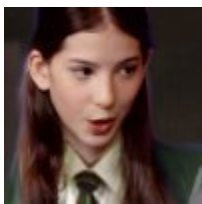
Ugh.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:39:06](#)
(no subject)

Yes, quite.

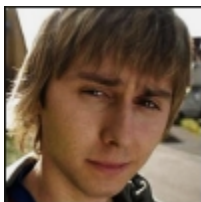
-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-14 02:16:29](#)
(no subject)

And are you HOPING I'll say that I told you so?

Because I wasn't planning to but if you'll be disappointed I could reconsider.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:21:33](#)
(no subject)

Not at all. Only anticipating that you shan't be able to resist the opportunity.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-14 02:30:41](#)
(no subject)

It's far more satisfying when people know I COULD say it -- but I don't.

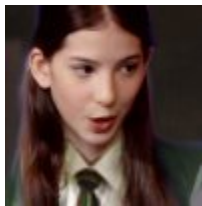


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:38:04](#)
(no subject)

Spoken like a true swot. And may I say, a tactic quite worthy of a Hufflepuff.

You see, there's a conciliator in you yet.


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-14 02:43:22](#)
(no subject)

Ohhhhhh touché!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 02:32:45](#)
Private Message to Hydra

It doesn't help that we've not half had a chance to spend more than a few minutes alone. I thought I might ask Remy if we could invite you over once we get home. I'm sure he'll keep Alfie distracted for us for an afternoon.

It would give us something to anticipate after getting out of this place, at least. I almost look forward to going back to school, if it means we can be together in your secret stairwell, what?

-Justin



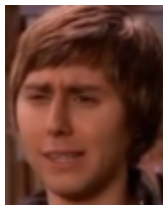
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-14 03:24:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

I was watching what you said to Sally Anne, and its more or less the same thing Remy told me, as well. I did wonder if Darius wouldn't run into some kind of bother once we were out here, but Remy seemed a bit taken by surprise, did you notice?

Anyway, I'm not going to say "I told you so," either. As soon as you started to go quiet I knew what must be on your mind. I figured you would talk about it when you were ready.

Being alone would help, if only to remind you that not everything here has to be grim.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-14 15:26:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

I think it's more that Remy didn't expect someone he knows as well as Darius to go round the twist, what, and so frighteningly as well. Poor lad.

There's nothing much to say, though, about it all. No use talking about it when what's to be done is simply to keep on. At least you're the sort who'll let one go quiet, what, and there's that.

Besides, once we're alone I bally well hope to do something that doesn't remotely require talking. That would help, tremendously, I'm sure.

-J



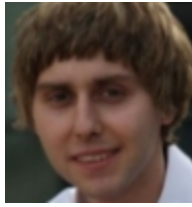
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-14 18:10:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

That's how Remy is, sometimes he doesn't imagine or expect anything unpleasant until the moment it happens right before his eyes.

And I wouldn't let you go quiet for too long, you know. Because I'd start to miss talking to you, eventually.

Though I am missing not talking a bit as well.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-08-14 18:23:44**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Right, well, that settles it, then. I hereby declare we ought to take advantage of this evening's break in the proceedings to team up and go somewhere and not talk.

-J

2012-08-14 20:01:00

*Private message to Pansy Parkinson
and Daphne Greengrass*



DID YOU NOTICE SIZ IS WEARING A RING?

I think she and Professor Raz are engaged!!!
I mean there's been no official
announcement but she's a bit busy right now
and they probably wouldn't want to distract everyone.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

There ARE women who just wear a ring on that finger because they wear a lot of rings, but Siz has NEVER. So.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-08-15 02:42:32](#)
(no subject)

I noticed she was wearing it before, actually, only she had it on her right hand, and now for the past few days it's been on her left. I thought it might just be a family heirloom at first, because up close it looks vintage. But that fact that she moved it from her right to her left MUST mean something!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-15 13:30:46](#)
(no subject)

Ooooooh!

I agree completely. It has to have been deliberate.

2012-08-14 21:23:00

I Solemnly Swear That I am Up to No Good

I keep thinking about Darius Warrington.

The rumours have been flying about, but the stories of what happened are rather garbled (and mostly when the counselors spot us talking about it tell us to shut it, that it's none of our business. Which I must admit is probably true). But I've heard from a couple people that it had something to do with the killing curse. One person said that Sally-Anne Perks was one of the people on hand when whatever-it-was occurred.



 [alt_luna](#)

I'm not asking what happened because I want to know, for gossip purposes, I mean. I just...


He never was the pleasantest person. And ever since the Frost Faire, it's as if something inside him turned truly nasty. In fact, I've heard a couple of people say *good riddance*, now that he's no longer with CCF. But now...I think that sometimes there are moments in people's lives that we can seize, if we take the trouble to notice them. A kind word said just at the right time, when a person is hurting or feeling truly vulnerable, might change that person's path for the better. Maybe now is that moment for him?

The thing is, would I be the right person to say it? I've been wondering if it would make any difference, if I reached out to him somehow. If only to say I know what it is like to lose a parent.

It's not so much that I'm afraid he'd be cruel to me if I said something anything. (I'm rather used to it now when people are cruel to me, so I don't let it bother me particularly). But it might not help him because, well, boys our age can be so prickly. Perhaps he would think I was criticising him or pitying him, and he wouldn't be able to bear that and would become even nastier.

Perhaps the kind word would be better coming from someone else, someone in his House, I mean. I just don't know who his close friends are.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-15 02:52:53](#)
(no subject)

Huh. That's not what I heard at all.

I heard Warrington attacked Higgs with the killing curse, but he missed.


That's not good at all, y'know? And you can totally see why they sent him down.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-15 02:54:57](#)
(no subject)

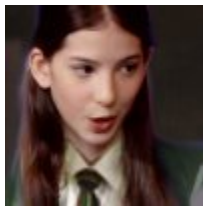
No, that's not what happened. If Warrington had actually tried to murder a counsellor they'd have done worse than kick him out of CCF!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-15 03:06:49](#)
(no subject)

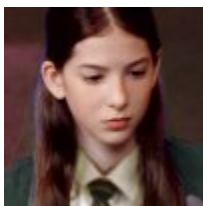
Oh.

Really? What did you hear?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-15 03:14:51](#)
(no subject)

Well I heard Higgs yelling at him, since I was right there. (I came because I heard screaming.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-15 03:04:22](#)
(no subject)

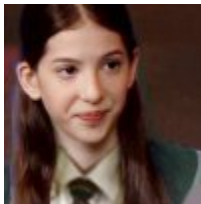
Warrington was one of the others who volunteered to try his luck with hunting. You know how they told us we weren't going to have any rations other than what we caught or gathered, well, there were people who went fishing, and people who went out looking for things like edible fungi and so on, and people who went out to try to get rabbits or squirrels.

We were given specific permission to use the killing curse for hunting BUT we were supposed to use Hominum Revelio first to be absolutely sure no one was standing where they could be hit with the curse accidentally.

Anyway Warrington and Preece were out together and spotted a squirrel and Warrington tried to cast the killing curse but it didn't even work, I mean the spell didn't work at all. I think he forgot Hominum Revelio because he was so intent on showing everyone it didn't bother him to use the curse. And then Preece (because he's a prat) cast the killing curse to show up Warrington and it worked fine for him, but he was in such a hurry to show that HE could do it properly that he also forgot to cast Hominum Revelio.

And Higgs was right near the squirrel. So you can see why he was cross.

Warrington started screaming and I came running over because I was afraid he was really hurt. He wasn't, though, just really, really upset, and I'm not even sure whether he was more upset because he'd failed, or because he'd forgotten the safety procedure, or because Preece forgot the safety procedure, or because seeing it cast so close by really upset him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-15 03:14:02](#)
(no subject)

The problem with talking to him is that ever since the Frost Faire he's been trying so, so hard to pretend that nothing bothers him and his father's death was an honour of some sort or ... I don't even know. But he thinks he has to pretend he doesn't care.

I have to pretend I don't care that I never get to see my parents. But I've had a lot of practice I can't very well set him down and say, 'I know some of how it is,' because first of all, my parents are at least still alive and his father is dead so I DON'T know, not really, and second, I can't set him down and admit to him how much I miss my mum because I don't trust him. Not even a little.

2012-08-15 08:28:00

Happy Birthday!

Dean, I hope you have many happy returns, and I hope you have a good day.



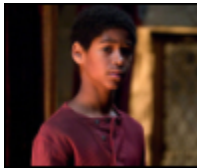
 [alt_ginny](#)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2012-08-15 19:46:23**

(no subject)

Yeah, happy birthday, mate!




 [alt_dean](#) at **2012-08-16 00:17:52**

(no subject)

Thank's guys! Mr Peakes sent me word that I may have a gathering when CCF is over. You are welcome to come if you like.



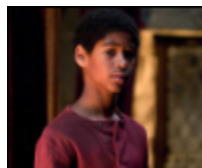
 [alt_arthur](#) at **2012-08-16 01:47:00**

(no subject)

Happy birthday, my boy, and I send along my best wishes to you. I often think of the accident of fate that allowed us to meet, and that set you on the path to achieve your true heritage by coming to

Hogwarts.

I do wish you the best and do hope your summer is going well.



 [alt_dean](#) at **2012-08-16 01:54:39**

(no subject)

Thank you Mr Weasley



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-08-16 01:33:26](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Dean. Hope your summer's going well.
Won't be long before we're all back together again.



 **[alt_dean](#)** at **[2012-08-16 01:55:37](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks Neville. I am looking forward to returning to
Hogwarts too.

[2012-08-15 17:28:00](#)

Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Rabastan Lestrangle



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

Minerva - I'm sorry it's taken this long to follow up, but I realised we really ought to do so.

First, I am sorry we ended up surprising you with it, but we both weren't at all sure what the answer would be, and had no idea Our Lord would ask for your presence. I do know it does complicate things for you, and I'm sorry for that.

But we really should talk, perhaps in person, about the practical implications, as they'll affect some of our choices. We're thinking perhaps a wedding over Easter holidays, which simplifies some things, but does mean we'd want to make a more lasting shift in rooms mid-year. And while I hope you've no undue concern about our behaviour around students, I'd rather talk about that now than have it be a discomfort later.

Beyond that, though, I presume the YPL oversight committee has already been in touch? They've required I not discuss their choices before the public announcement, but at this point, I do not want to be responsible for laying one more surprise at your feet, so if they haven't, I'd rather explain.

I am still tied to Leicester for much of this week, and Raz has commitments for some of the next, but I can get free for an hour or two somewhere here if needed.



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2012-08-15 22:05:29](#)**
(no subject)

Practical implications, yes. I shall be free to-morrow for the afternoon: would then be acceptable?

One implication that I must clearly say I do not like is the natural increase in your involvement in politics. I know you have always been at least tangentially related, thanks to the YPL—but I hate to see you drawn in further yet. It is not an arena which I like to see any person enter; it has been nothing but strife for me.

Strife and, of course, the honour of serving our Lord Protector. But the two things do not always balance.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-15 22:18:57](#)
(no subject)

I believe I can get free between about 1 and 2:30pm, as long as it's New London. Or after supper. They're working on a project in the afternoon where I'd like to hear the actual discussion in the late afternoon.

(That code analysis project.)

As to the rest, I do appreciate the concern. And I know that things have been very difficult for you (which, as I know I said several times this year, the YPL has given me only the barest glimpse of. There are things I'm glad to be well shed of.)

I can only say it has been a very carefully considered decision. I do admit I would not have come to this place without caring for Raz far beyond reason. But he has also been quite honest with me about the challenges and implications, and we've talked at some length about the political sphere. At each step in our relationship.

I know there are no easy answers but I find that of the available choices I prefer some knowledge and at least the potential to be of help over blind ignorance.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-15 23:42:18](#)
(no subject)

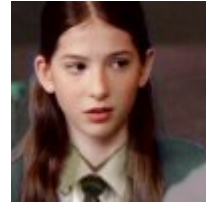
Minerva -

There are also at least two incidents here we should probably discuss, so you're fully aware. Darius

Warrington, over the weekend, and one today, with Seamus Finnigan.

2012-08-15 22:46:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good*



Okay

so

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I wrote a letter to Sirius Black and he wrote back. I'm going to transcribe his letter here partly because it's advice to all of us, really, but mostly because I want to be able to come back and read it later but I want to burn the actual letter. I think sometimes at CCF they search our stuff when we're not here.

Here's what he wrote:

Miss P,

Like many of your friends, you make a central mistake in your line of questioning: You accept the premise that there is a single, simple answer to what you ask. That there is a definite wrong and a definite right. I'm afraid we don't live in a world that easily divided.

I'm concerned that you think you can't discuss these questions, difficult as they are, with your own agemates. If your friends are any kind of friends at all, you ought to be able to wrestle with the issues, even if you disagree, and together gain insights to yourselves and each other. I think you'll find that you are all struggling with the same conundrums - and that many times, the answers lie not so much in what you **do** as in what you learn about each other.

However, I think it's unfair to ask you to open that discussion with your friends without showing you that adults sometimes have to talk things through, as well. Accordingly, I showed your letter to two close colleagues of mine, one a little older than yourself and one closer to my own age, and we decided to share all our answers with you.

You ask about non-violence. Unfortunately, while we all wish we could achieve our goals without any bloodshed, we're all a bit cynical that it's possible. The question is one of degree. People like the DogStar don't care who they hurt, or how, or why, in the path of reaching their goals. That sort of indiscriminate violence is despicable. In the Muggle world, there have been successful campaigns of non-violence, where people put themselves in the path of violent men and

eventually earned the world's support. But those campaigns were in places with due process, where regular citizens could participate in democratic change, where they cared when innocent people got hurt. That kind of protest can't survive in a place run by fascists. So it's hard to imagine a way to stop *everything* without resorting to some directed violence. But what matters is the why and the how much. If you have a choice between using a brutish method and a persuasive one, nearly always, the persuasive one is a better course. If you don't have that choice, however, then there's little to be done.

As for killing, we all agree that it's to be avoided, but again, there are times when it's entirely justified. Such as in self-defence, when your opponent has no intention of letting you walk away. But in terms of the Unforgivables, they are Unforgivable for very good reasons, all three of them. Think about the fact that the Killing Curse is just that: a Curse with only one purpose and only one outcome. Casting it requires conviction and a certain amount of desire to do harm. I'm not saying (and neither are my friends) that there are *no* circumstances in which it would be understandable, but generally speaking, there are almost always alternatives to the AK, alternatives which would subdue one's foe but not necessarily end them forever. As my younger friend said, 'Once it's done, there's no taking it back.'

Now, you ask about more gradated instances and you know what? We can't answer that for you. That's an intensely personal judgement - and a lot depends on the circumstances. We are not the ones who will be sent to the camps if expelled from Hogwarts or who has to live your life. You're a good and decent person in a situation where it's sometimes possible to behave decently, and sometimes incredibly risky. You have close friends who are living these risks with you. Talk to them, and make your own choices about what you can live with, and what will lose you your self-respect. Also, if you can, imagine what your 'victim' might want if you were in her circumstances. For example, if your choice were between kicking someone else's servant or being sent to the camps, that servant might wish for you to spare yourself, but try not to kick too hard. If the choice were between kicking her or being soundly mocked by another classmate, then I think you're confident enough to survive a few schoolyard taunts. To say nothing of the respect you might lose among your true friends for taking the easy way out, at someone else's expense.

The Protectorate is trying, deliberately and methodically, to create these no-win situations precisely to test your resolve and find the cracks through which they can chip at your sense of right and wrong. The best advice I can give - that I can continue to give all of you - is to

understand and create your options. Try to see through the lies and beyond the black-and-white, into the grey spaces. The more you reject their premise, the better equipped you will be to think outside of their 'choices' and find ways to subvert their careful, calculated plans.

-S

P.S. Noted but I think your visit probably did more to lift her spirits than an offer to run away to the woods might do, don't you think?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 03:52:15](#)

Private message to Pansy

He is such an ass. Assuming I'm NOT talking about these things with my friends, first of all. Maybe I wanted a grownup's perspective?

At least he wrote back. I didn't really expect him to.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-16 04:25:07](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

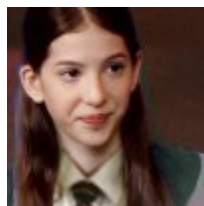
No kidding.

He's right about the risky part, though.

And the decent part.

I think sometimes he doesn't get just how hard it is, because he can just sort of look at everything from a distance. He doesn't have to live it every day.

I don't want to kill anyone. Ever.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 04:30:51](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Yeah me either. But honestly there ARE people I would be awfully happy if someone ELSE killed. So it's not that I object to killing people, it's more than I'm squeamish about doing it myself.

I did like what he said about the Protectorate trying to put us in

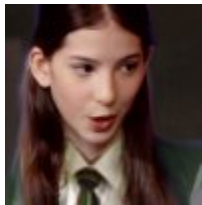
situations like this. I think it's Madam Umbridge's favourite thing to do. I think she likes putting people in awful impossible situations even more than she likes adorable kitties.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-16 04:44:23](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I think if Hembridge had her way, we'd all be tow-rowing along as mighty warriors of the Protectorate. And then we'd either die gloriously, or have tonnes of pureblooded babies.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 04:46:06](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Presumably I'd get the 'die gloriously' job since any babies I have won't be purebloods.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-16 04:53:51](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I *demand* that you grow ancient and wrinkly with me.

And I will not be refused.

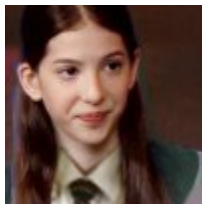


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 04:56:36](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I wouldn't THINK of refusing.

The fact that I will get to spite Hembridge by my refusal to die gloriously is merely a bonus!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 04:46:42](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

She really is horrible. I dislike her almost as much as I dislike Healer Stint.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 21:14:36](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

BUGGER

She's going to be running YPL and CCF this year. Hembridge. Siz told me right after lunch.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-16 21:15:27](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Oh, VOM.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 03:58:50](#)

(no subject)

So I should probably explain what I wrote since I didn't show anyone the letter before I sent it.

I asked him if he thought anything would change without violence, that's why he talked about that. I asked him if he thought killing was always wrong, and if you were killing someone who REALLY deserved it, would it be okay to use the killing curse, from behind, if that was your best chance? And also did he think it MATTERED how you killed someone.

And then I asked about the muggle exercises, kind of. I asked what you do if you're supposed to do something that you know is wrong, but you'll get in terrible trouble if you don't do it. And what if you won't get in terrible trouble, but you'll lose opportunities to learn things that will be really useful later (useful for changing things, I mean). And what if you've been told that either YOU kick someone or the next person in line is going to do something even worse, what do you do THEN?

And I told him I visited my mother and I don't even know what to make of his PS, does that mean he's decided not to help her? He's ~~SUCH AN ASS~~



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-08-16 18:30:54](#)**
(no subject)

About the P.S., maybe he's working on it, but thinks it would be safer if he didn't hint there's a chance your mum could get away. For both of you.

Or maybe not, maybe he's just trying to let you down gently so you're not too disappointed. It must be a hard thing to pull off.

Blimey, I don't know. No way to tell, I suppose.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-16 04:04:40](#)**
(no subject)

OH ALSO I thought I should probably follow up on what happened today with the muggles.

We were divided into three groups. Pansy and I talked to people, quietly, beforehand, to try to get them to use gentle tactics (we were told explicitly that we could use the Cardinals). In particular I wanted to talk to Harry and that worked really well, I think.

But one of the groups was led by Seamus Finnigan and some muggle didn't jump high enough when Finnigan said 'jump!' so he cruciated him. And after, Madam Hembridge talked about how he showed his mettle and she understood the need. For someone who seems to live to pet kittens she's a bloodthirsty old bat. (Cats are actually really bloodthirsty, I mean they hunt for fun, not just for food, so maybe that's the real reason she likes them?)



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-16 16:04:19](#)**
(no subject)

I think it's odd that he's concerned you can't discuss these things "with your own agemates." Maybe he doesn't understand how hard it is to know what you can and can't discuss with other students at Hogwarts? And if you make a mistake and talk to someone who will squeal on you, or spread rumours... We're lucky we all have each other to talk to here on the lock, but most people don't.

Plus it's normal for younger people to want role models, and adults to show them the way. I think Ron has those sort of adults in his life, but I don't, and I know others of you don't, either.

I do think he's right that that the Protectorate and things like the YPL programme tries to create no-win situations. I wonder if that's the whole reason why the programme was created in the first place.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-08-16 17:16:17](#)**

(no subject)

But I think he might already know that we--or that is, at least Sally-Anne and some of her friends--have a way to talk that's safe. He answered all those questions, what? So perhaps he's worried that we've got a forum for these types of discussions but aren't using it? I don't know.

Nor do I know what to make of his last to Sally-Anne, either. I mean to say, he certainly acted on my behalf, when there was no necessity, what, so why he'd not intercede for Sally-Anne is a mystery.

When he talks about a servant, could he mean Hermione? He knows that we know and talk to Hermione, as well.

Incidentally, I think he doesn't much like being a role model for us. I mean to say, it's bally well inevitable, what, but he never seemed to fancy himself much of a hero. Perhaps that's why he's sometimes rubbish at giving answers.

(By the way, have you heard anything more from Bobolis about Tuesday evening? She hasn't gone and peached on you us, has she?)

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-16 17:37:45](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not sure that he's a role model for me. I don't much fancy the idea of being on the run from MLE and having my Mother trying to kill me, too.

I suppose that's why I'm more interested in what people like Ron's parents say about things like the Cardinals, and Muggles and Muggleborns, because they live in the same society that we do, and they have to face the same sort of pressures.

But then again, I think the pressures that I face, and Pansy, too, might be different than what Ron faces. And then Neville's situation is completely different, and so is yours. So there can't really be a one-size-fits all answer. But still, hearing more perspectives on it would be good. That's all.

I do wonder who Sirius' close colleagues are. Do you suppose they're fugitives like him, or ordinary citizens?

And no, Bobolis hasn't said anything more to me. And Daddy hasn't gotten in touch, either, so there's that, at least.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-08-16 18:19:53](#)**
(no subject)

Those 'close colleagues'...they could be my parents. I mean, we know they're with the wand smugglers, right? And Sirius is, too. And he knows them. They sent an announcement to him in

France when my brother was born.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2012-08-16 18:21:45](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose they could be.


You must think about them a lot. And your brother.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-16 18:22:10](#)
(no subject)

All the time.



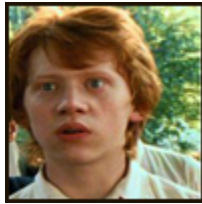
 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-16 18:23:59](#)
(no subject)


I wonder if you'll ever be able to meet them.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-16 18:24:25](#)
(no subject)

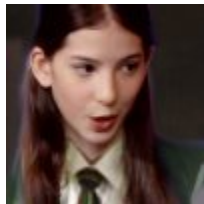
Who knows.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-16 21:03:02](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, but I want to know what he means by 'one a little older than yourself'. How little?

Who've they got besides Hermione and Terry?
They're our age, so that's not who he means. Have they got people who are still in school? Who've just left school? What?



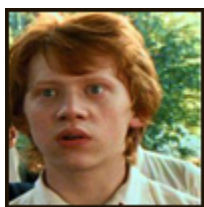
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 21:07:40](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's certainly not Neville's mum and dad.
Or YOUR mum and dad.

Maybe it's Percy. He's been fooling us this whole time. (THAT'S A JOKE.)

But Hermione said they'd let us join when we were done with our NEWTs so maybe it's someone who just passed NEWTs?
The only NEWT students I know at all well don't strike me as

the wand-smuggling type. It might be someone a few years older, but I know even fewer of them.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-16 21:31:48](#)

(no subject)

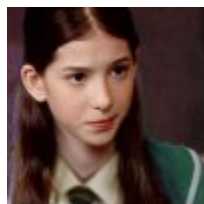
Percy?

Ha.

That's the funniest thing I've heard in days.

Because honestly? There's been nothing funny for days.

Listen, this isn't about Sirius Black. I want to know how your group did better than mine yesterday. Did you change your plan after it started? Because we were doing the same thing, right? And we got it done pretty equally well, but I got a giant earful from Hembridge about not using stern enough measures, and not using the advantages we were allowed, and not being commanding enough, and not using my wand as forcefully as I ought to have. But she seemed to like what you did just fine. Not as much as she liked Crucigan. Can you believe him? I mean, you could hear it even out where we were set up: our muggles all froze until it was well over. I had to use a cheering charm to get them to do anything after that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 01:11:10](#)

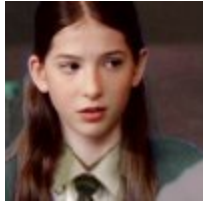
(no subject)

No. We didn't. And yeah, we were doing pretty much EXACTLY the same thing.

It's because as far as she's concerned, if a Gryffindor does anything other than cruciatus it's because he hasn't got the guts. If it's a Slytherin (or Ravenclaw) it's because we were thinking our way out of the problem.

Gryffindors who think are dangerous.

And don't even get me started on Finnigan.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 01:35:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, if one of them is only a few years older -- there aren't any recent Hogwarts graduates who are fugitives, are there? I can't think of any. There was that girl who worked for Dogstar but MLE caught her. So MAYBE he works with some regular people who help the Wand Smugglers on the sly, and they're who he asked.

As far as Ron's parents go -- I could ask Mrs Weasley about all this. Or Ron could, when he gets home, and tell us what she says. I'm sure she doesn't approve of the Cardinals, ever, I mean she doesn't even use the killing curse on their chickens before they go into the oven for dinner. I sort of wonder what she'd say about the CCF muggle management assignments, though. And what she thinks Ron ought to do.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-16 21:12:44](#)
(no subject)

Professor Sinistra took me aside this afternoon to tell me some bad news.

She's been sacked from the programme. Programmes, really, because it's CCF and YPL both (she'll still be teaching Astronomy at least).

Worse, she's being replaced with UMBRIDGE.


And to top it all off she warned me it's going to be seen as extremely suspicious if any of us up and quit right now.

She clearly felt terrible about it and she warned me not to challenge her. Umbridge, I mean. She said I should keep my head down -- which would be a bit easier if I weren't a counsellor. Not to mention in CCF.

UGH.

It's supposed to be a secret but she said I could tell anyone I thought really needed some advance warning. I guess if it gets around by rumour it's not a really big deal. I think they're going to officially tell us the last day.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-16 21:17:19](#)
(no subject)

Wot?!

That's such total bollocks!

Hembridge?

No. Just really NO.

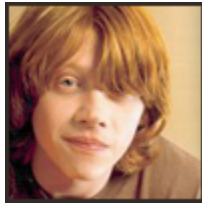



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-16 21:32:55](#)
(no subject)

Did she say why they're replacing her?

I suppose it was because she was too fair.

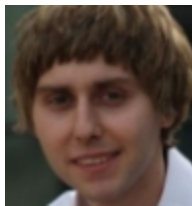
Umbridge is starting to make me dislike the colour pink, and it's always been my favourite.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-16 21:34:54](#)
(no subject)

I think pink just really doesn't suit her.

Or she doesn't suit pink, y'know? Something like that.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-17 00:08:53](#)
(no subject)

Yes but she tends to favour a stronger pink than you like. Fuschia? I still don't mind it on you, though, what?

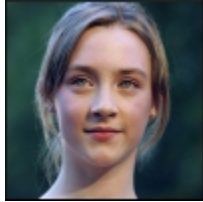
Blue's quite a lovely colour, you know.

As for Professor Siz, that's bally well beastly she's not in charge anymore. I suppose you're right and it's to do with her fairness. Might it have anything to do with your uncle?

Oh, botheration--does this mean Madam Umbridge shall be living

at the school, do you think? I bally well hope not, what?

-J




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-17 00:17:31](#)**
(no subject)

Blue is very nice indeed.

You mean Uncle Raz? I don't think he would try to get her replaced, if that's what you mean. He's in love with her, and he's usually quite fair himself... which is fine for a professor but not so much for YPL.

I don't think she'd need to live at the castle to run YPL - I certainly hope not.

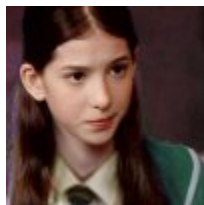


 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-08-17 00:57:25](#)**
(no subject)

I mean to say, if one can't stand the thought of liking pink, blue's not a bad alternative.

But no, I don't mean that he would sabotage her with the YPL, not at all. However, sometimes blokes don't wish for their wives to work, what, or she could have been a target because someone else is trying to make a point to your uncle. Madam Umbridge used to be Minister for Magic, what? Perhaps she means to send a message that she's not altogether toothless anymore.

Let's hope that, indeed. I can't half imagine her taking over all Professor Siz's lessons, what?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-17 01:36:22](#)**
(no subject)

She's NOT taking over Astronomy. Professor Siz is still going to be teaching, I asked and that's what she said.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-17 02:01:41](#)**
(no subject)

But Uncle Raz isn't married to Professor Sinistra, and if he were, I should think he'd be agreeable to her working, though he might not have wanted her to be involved if he saw it was becoming so intense and political. It really must be too much work for her to do during the school year, too, along with teaching her lessons. Remember how tired she always looked this Spring past?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-17 01:13:55](#)**
(no subject)

I asked why, and Professor Siz said the official reason was that the programme had grown big enough that it needed someone running it full time (and not also teaching) and also the oversight committee (I guess) wants a change in direction and wanted someone more amenable to the direction they want things to go.

So.

It's not even 'Siz was too fair.' It's more, 'Siz didn't like giving people assignments to cruciate muggles, so we've found someone who does.'



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-17 02:04:13](#)**
(no subject)

Like I said to Justin, it really probably is too much work for someone who's a professor, too. But I think you're right, they didn't think she had the "mettle" to turn YPL in the direction they decided

on.

(I heard that "you've got mettle" is what Madam Umbridge said to Seamus Finnigan when he used the Cruciatus Curse).



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 01:14:25](#)
(no subject)

And don't let her make you stop liking pink.

It's YOUR colour. Not hers.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-17 02:04:30](#)
(no subject)

I'll try.

[2012-08-15 23:27:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Hi.

Are you doing okay? Because you didn't seem okay earlier.



 [alt_harry](#)

And I thought

I don't know.

Anyways.

I know today wasn't easy. For any of us. It was a lot to take on, and I know how hard it can be to do stuff when you know important people are watching and they want things to be a certain way. If that makes sense.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **[2012-08-16 03:46:13](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't want to do it, but when that one muggle defied me, I thought I'd better, because if you let them think they can get away with it --

I don't know.

Madam Umbridge said she understood why I'd decided to use the cruciatus curse and that she admired my mettle. Professor Sinistra didn't say much of anything, though. I don't think she was happy with me ~~but she hates me anyway~~



 [alt_harry](#) at **[2012-08-16 03:55:53](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I don't know either sometimes.

Like the second task of the cup. All I knew right then was that Delacour was hurt, and I didn't even think that she'd be taken care of. I didn't think at all. So I went for her instead of the Ouroboros.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:08:06](#)
(no subject)

I knew I had to do SOMETHING.

And I knew it had to be big or they'd just keep pushing.

And afterward I felt like I'd done the right thing but the way they looked at me -- and I don't mean the muggles, I mean some of our classmates.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:19:43](#)
(no subject)

Maybe.

Madame Umbridge was pushing too. For us to do things.

And yeah, I think some people were surprised. And they didn't like seeing it.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:20:48](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, she was, wasn't she.

She said I showed 'mettle.'



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:25:55](#)
(no subject)

It's hard to be a Gryffindor sometimes. I mean our whole House is viewed as a little suspicious, because SO many traitors have come from there. (It's not as if there haven't been Hufflepuff or Ravenclaw or even Slytherin traitors, too, it's just ... fewer.)

Anyway I try really hard to be a good Gryffindor. And 'mettle,' you know, that's like 'courage, but for the right things.'



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:34:03](#)
(no subject)

I don't think you're suspicious. Just so you know.

Sometimes I wonder what it would've been like if I stayed sorted in Gryffindor.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:35:19](#)
(no subject)

You and ALL the Gryffindors.

Not that people really talk about it, but everyone wonders.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:40:31](#)
(no subject)

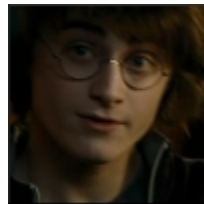
I didn't ask to be re-sorted, you know.

But sometimes things just sort of happen and you don't get a say in it.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:43:17](#)
(no subject)

Are you glad you're in Slytherin, though?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:49:23](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

But it can be hard too. In a different way. And sometimes I'm not very good at it.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:50:39](#)
(no subject)

I think you'd have made a good Gryffindor.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:56:53](#)
(no subject)

I would have been proud to be one.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:26:16](#)
(no subject)

I don't like the way Madam Umbridge giggles when she talks, though



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 04:28:16](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I know what you mean.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 03:56:46](#)
(no subject)

And it's okay.

That you didn't want to do it, I mean.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-08-16 04:00:56](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

I didn't want to. But once I did --

It felt bad but also good, I don't know how to even describe it.

2012-08-16 09:13:00


Order only: private message to mrs longbottom



boot requests permission not to attend classes today

 [alt_terry](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **2012-08-16 14:49:26**
(no subject)

Yes, of course, Terry.

Is there something that's happened that you want to talk about?

I'll be in the gardens for most of the afternoon if you or the Professor wants some company.

[2012-08-16 14:55:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Hermione Granger



 [alt_harry](#)

So. Professor Siz told me after lunch that she's not going to be in charge of the CCF programme any more. Not her choice.

She also said that she thinks Umbridge has plans to toughen me up or something, so she was letting me know to prepare for it. I think she also told me ahead of time so I wouldn't get all angry and do something stupid, like threaten to quit or something.

Which I've been thinking about doing.

Especially if Umbridge takes over.

But that wouldn't change things. Not unless everyone in the CCF did it too or something. And that's not likely.

That's all I know. For now.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-16 19:47:43](#)

(no subject)

So wait, is Professor Sinistra just not in charge of CCF anymore? Or has she been sacked from all of the YPL, too?

Umbridge has definitely been acting like she's in charge of CCF lately, though.

You really think your Father would let you quit? He'd just chuck you back in, wouldn't he. I'm sure my Father would do the same, and I'm pretty sure he doesn't even like Umbridge.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 20:51:40](#)

(no subject)

Yeah.

Probably.

Which is why it'd be stupid.

I think she's sacked from everything.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-16 21:12:04](#)
(no subject)

I guess that's what happens when you play favourites. I mean, all professors do it, but her favourites were halfbloods and Hufflepuffs, and that just wasn't on for some of our classmates. But they still liked her, I think - definitely a good deal more than Umbridge, anyway.

If Umbridge does end up in charge you ought to try to position yourself as one of her favourites. I bet she'd just love a good arse-kisser. Not to mention that it seems like the phrase "keep your friends close and your enemies closer" was coined with someone like her in mind.

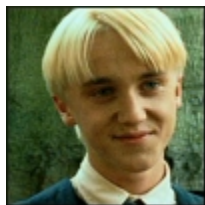


 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 21:14:27](#)
(no subject)

Gross.

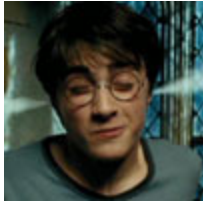
I don't know if I could.

But yeah, I see your point.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-16 21:30:06](#)
(no subject)

I don't think it'd be that hard, not for the Lord Protector's son. You'd just have to tell her how splendid her pink hat looks today, ask her about her kittens, and say things like "Oh, I do so enjoy having my mudblood clean my toenails every Sunday." See? Easy.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-16 21:39:50](#)
(no subject)

Well, I guess that's not as hard as actually kissing her arse.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-16 21:59:52](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, don't do that. You'll never see your lips again.

Hey, I've been wondering.. has Pansy spoken with you in private in the last few days? I know she's been talking to you more this summer, and I was just wondering if she said anything to you. You know, lately.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-17 02:15:51](#)
(no subject)

We talked about what they were going to make us do to the muggles so we could come up with strategies and things, and when you went a bit weird, we talked about that too.

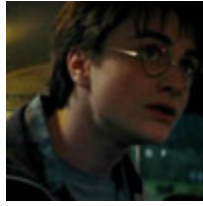
Why?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-17 03:02:19](#)
(no subject)

Oh, no reason, just wondering about something.

Did she seem exceptionally *worried* about me, or anything? You know, in that way she gets?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-17 03:28:04](#)
(no subject)

We were both worried. You were acting really weird.

I don't think she was *worried* worried though. Maybe a little bit? She didn't get all quiet like she can sometimes.

She mostly wanted to talk about what we could do to help. And she was angry with whoever was messing with you.

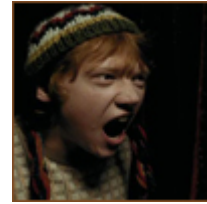
2012-08-16 15:51:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Merlin's hairy ears!

I'm going completely mental over here.

We cannot find the code. None of us. We can totally see where it is, but



 [alt_ron](#)

ARRRRRRRRGGGGGGGHHHHHH!

what is the bloody key??!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-08-17 02:34:19**

(no subject)

Only you would write in real secret code about trying to break a fake secret code, tuna brain.

2012-08-16 20:11:00

Well done, team!

Effie, that tablespoon error was well-spotted. And Perks, good on you for recognising that there was far too much salt in the recipe compared to the amount of sugar. Donovan, good show with the maths. It's a good job the three of us know our way round a kitchen, though, because that really gave us an advantage. (And yes, 'cinnamon' *is* spelled like that.)



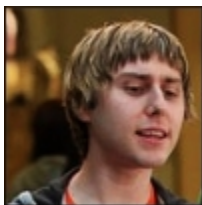
 [alt_padma](#)


Pansy, you and your team did really really well. I wasn't sure we were going to break our code before you translated yours! Well done. It was close.

Marvolo and Weasley, I shouldn't feel too bad if I were you. Zach said the bit about blatching was really convincing and clever. I think you both ought to get points just for realising that the passage was incorrect! But that would be Quidditch game theory, wouldn't it, and not codebreaking. Still, it was a noble effort. And besides, finding codes where there aren't codes is actually pretty easy to do.

Still, this was loads of fun, and thanks, Professor Sinistra, for including it in the programme.

I hope everyone's ready for tomorrow's fitness testing!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-17 01:06:39](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, Patil. It's just our bad luck that none of us knows much about cookery.

-Justin



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-08-17 01:46:52](#)
(no subject)

Cheers, F-F.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-08-17 01:09:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, there *could* have been a code. I mean, why else would anyone talk about cobbing like that?

But I suppose they were trying to be clever and make us think extra hard.

The funny thing is, I didn't think there was any code to begin with. And then we started arguing about the rules which took a long time, and when we finally decided that they were dodgy, and that must be the key to the code, that took some time, too. But then trying to find a code that's not actually there? Dead bonkers, that is.

We'd've won in a hurry if we'd just said there was no code, and all.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-08-17 01:48:03](#)
(no subject)

I know, it's odd that it took even longer to prove there wasn't a code! But I think that's part of the point, isn't it: Sometimes you see what you're looking for.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 01:16:05](#)
(no subject)

That was a really fun exercise, actually.

I'm just glad we had a code and not a badly written recipe.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-08-17 01:51:59](#)
(no subject)

Well, it's not surprising that it threw them off. We were told to look for codes! But it's interesting isn't it, that you find what you're looking for.

I mean, I thought once that there was a code hidden in someone's journal posts, but it turned out it wasn't at all. Did you ever read Mrs VanderBeek's posts? She's always talking about embroidery and beadwork and things like that. And I could have sworn

sometimes the stitches she was naming didn't go together--or at least, didn't create the kind of pattern on the fabric that she was describing.

Turns out she's just half-blind. Mum knows her.

But it sure looked like a code.



 **alt_umbridge** at [2012-08-17 01:29:39](#)
(no subject)

Most nicely done, Miss Patil, indeed. And the rest of your team.

It was quite the excitement to hear you all present your theories this afternoon. I am so very glad this was included in your tasks for our little sessions together over the past weeks, and I'm sure you'll put it to the very best use going forward.


Now, do rest up, as I'm quite sure you'll all need every last bit of your energy for tomorrow, and for Saturday, of course.



 **alt_padma** at [2012-08-17 01:33:53](#)
(no subject)

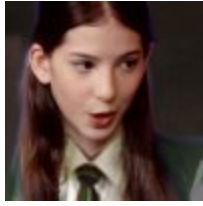
Yes, thank you, Madam Umbridge! It was loads of fun and very educational. It was a lovely idea to make it a race, too.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-17 03:39:33](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Ooh, er.

Kisskiss, Madam Umbridge! It was loads of fun listening to you clear your throat with that adorable high pitched little hem of yours. And so lovely to have you leaning over our shoulders the whole afternoon. It gave me chills to have you so close!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 05:37:24](#)

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

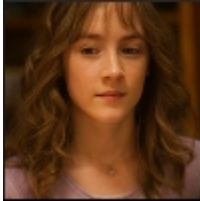
Do you suppose she actually likes her? I really don't think it's possible. I think she's just kissing up.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-17 01:38:38](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

YOU ARE SUCH A HIDEOUS USELESS BAT. I WISH HORNETS WOULD NEST IN YOUR NOSTRILS AND YOUR CATS WOULD PEE ON YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-17 02:05:27](#)

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

Ooh, I'd never thought about using the lock for this.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-17 02:20:12](#)

(no subject)

Thanks, Padma! It was a really fun exercise, wasn't it? And congratulations to you too. Your team worked really well together, and it was a great idea.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-17 12:04:18](#)

(no subject)

You're quite welcome, Miss Patil, and I'm glad we were able to work out a way to include it that gave you all a balanced approach to the topic. It was most interesting hearing your different reasons and explanations the last two sessions.

Good luck to you all on the testing today (though you're all so well-practiced luck is scarcely a factor), and for tomorrow.

2012-08-16 23:53:00

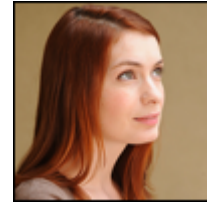
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank

Love, you need to get some sleep.

Whatever you're working on can wait til tomorrow.

Is the Professor with you? I was hoping he'd spend the night here.

I wish he'd tell us what's been bothering him.



 [alt_alice](#)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-17 04:04:07](#)

(no subject)

I'll be there in a few.

and no, he isn't in the greenhouse with me. I haven't seen him all day.

haven't seen much of him since the storm.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-17 04:07:09](#)

(no subject)

I'm worried about him, love. When he wrote me earlier, and was calling himself boot again...

I thought he was doing so well. He was so happy to talk to Neville, and now it's like he's going backwards again.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-17 04:09:39](#)

(no subject)

maybe we should sit him down.

maybe you should sit him down.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-17 04:10:34](#)
(no subject)

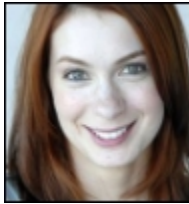
Oh, love, I think perhaps you ought to.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-17 04:11:50](#)
(no subject)

yeah.

I don't think he'll like it though. he doesn't seem like he's in a talking mood.



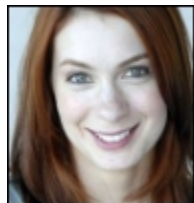
 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-17 04:13:14](#)
(no subject)


That's the pot calling the cauldron black.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-17 04:16:30](#)
(no subject)

I figured it would be more polite of me to keep my mouth shut.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-17 04:20:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes. Well. Molly and Bill were also far too polite to mention anything about your not talking to them.

So I suppose that makes you all equally polite.
Congratulations.

Come up to bed, love.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-17 22:04:45](#)

(no subject)

we talked.

now I've got a professor on my lap.

and I feel like a giant piece of shite.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-17 22:05:17](#)

(no subject)

Oh?



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-17 22:13:18](#)

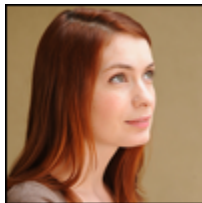
(no subject)

he smelled it on me, al. that night. the night of the storm.

reminded him of carrow.

fuck.

he's been jumping at shadows and doesn't get why he can be safe and carrow dead and still be scared. he said he looks at his friends, and the kids here, and doesn't know how to be a normal kid himself. and that they'll never understand what he's been through. and he's bloody right.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-17 22:17:00](#)

(no subject)

I know you didn't intend for that to happen. I'd imagine quite a lot reminds him of that awful man.

And he's talking about it. Which is a start.

I have to think that's better than keeping it to himself.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-17 22:18:14](#)**
(no subject)

don't let me off the hook this time, al.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-17 22:23:35](#)**
(no subject)

I shan't.

But I also know you feel awful enough without my help.

I'll come in and give the Professor a hug, shall I?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-17 22:24:05](#)**
(no subject)

yeah. come on down.

2012-08-17 20:25:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Terry Boot and Alice Longbottom



 **alt_frank**


hey, kiddo.

just wanted to see how you're doing.

and see if you had anything else you wanted to talk over.

some things are easier to write down than say out loud, yeah? and remember, questions are okay.



 **alt_tery** at **2012-08-18 01:59:21**
(no subject)

Dunno if it's easier, exactly. Especially if you've never been allowed to ask any questions before.

I want to ask them. But I'm afraid they'll make me sound stupid. ~~or like I'm going barmy~~




 **alt_frank** at **2012-08-18 02:03:46**
(no subject)

I won't think they are.

that's a promise.



 **alt_tery** at **2012-08-18 02:12:11**
(no subject)

I dunno if you want to answer this. Especially where Mrs Longbottom can read it. But...

have you ever hurt someone so bad that it horrified you? Whether you were drinking or not, I mean; like when you'd come to your senses, you don't even recognize yourself?

I suppose there are other reasons than being drunk. Like if you're really angry.

Or if you're really frightened.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-18 02:31:29](#)
(no subject)


it's been a while. but yes.

it was that kid who tried to kidnap you, alice.

she was pregnant with neville.

I didn't see how scared he was. how young he was. he was a stupid kid trying to prove himself. didn't even have a mark yet.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-18 02:37:48](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I reckon that would make you scared. And hacked off, too.


I wonder if that makes it different somehow. If you're protecting someone else.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-18 02:41:40](#)
(no subject)


or if you're protecting yourself, kiddo.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-18 02:54:46](#)
(no subject)

See, I never thought I was worth protecting.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-18 03:15:15](#)
(no subject)

he tried very hard to make you think that way,
yeah.

so what about if it was someone else? anyone
else?

alice?

hermione?


dudley?

would you blame them if they defended themselves to stay
alive?

because you can't be an exception to that rule, kid. not if
you're a person. and last time I checked, you were.

part of you had to believe that, because you didn't give up. you
fought back.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-18 03:28:27](#)
(no subject)

I'll...I'll have to think about that.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-18 02:36:19](#)
(no subject)

sometimes being horrified is a good thing.

it'd be easier the other way around, but you
wouldn't be you any more.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-18 02:52:04](#)
(no subject)

But see, it's like--I don't know if this'll make any
sense.

I don't know who I am. I never knew. Because I was always pretending, until I was just hollow inside. Because I had to be the best mudblood in the world, and mudbloods don't have feelings. They don't have thoughts. They only exist to serve their masters.

And then when Fred and George sort of adopted me, and they got me on the lock, and I started to have some hope, I started to dream. I thought, if only I could be free. If I could just get away from him, then everything would be great, because I could finally just be me.

But I was only able to get away from him by...by becoming like him, you see?


And you rescued me, and let me into this perfect place, but you don't realise that I don't deserve it, because he got his stinking claws into me, see? And I brought him, that evil taint right into Moddey Dhoo. Right in among all these innocent kids.

I'm scared of what might happen. If I can't be rid of him.

And I can't figure out how to get rid of him.

I never would have thought that killing him wouldn't be enough.



 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-08-18 02:53:15](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sorry. this must sound so crazy.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-18 03:08:33](#)**
(no subject)

it doesn't.

it's just something new, is all.


and maybe part of all this is figuring out what sort of person you are now that he's gone. who you want to be.

when it comes to you being here at moddey, let's just say we come at it differently. because I think you deserve it more than

anyone I know.

you're not evil, terry. he was. he did what he did because he was a sick fu wanted to. you did what you did to stay alive.



 **alt_tery** at [2012-08-18 03:20:09](#)
(no subject)


but I still did it.

see, my friends have been talking on the lock this week. about ethics, and where to draw the lines. And they've been saying stuff about killing, and when they talk about it, I just don't know what to say to them. it's eating me up inside.

I remember one of them said once that doing murder rips the soul.

How can I figure out who I am if I'm all ripped up inside?



 **alt_tery** at [2012-08-18 03:21:07](#)
(no subject)

is that the sort of thing that can be healed?
like, ever?




 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-18 03:25:36](#)
(no subject)

I don't know.

sometimes I go a long time without thinking about something I've done or seen, and then it'll take me by surprise and it's like it just happened. I think it's different for different people.




 **alt_tery** at [2012-08-18 03:36:21](#)
(no subject)

Like it just happened. So it's that way for you, too, then?

I thought I was crazy. Because it's so incredibly vivid. And smells hook into it, like when I smelled the alcohol--you know. And tastes. sometimes I can still taste the blood.

And it keeps happening, over and over, those sensations taking me back so I'm reliving it. The more I try to push it away, the worse it seems to get. Does that ever get better, fade away?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-18 03:56:04](#)

(no subject)

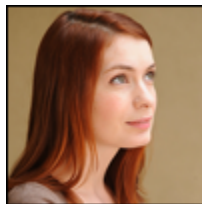
it is.

happens for al too. when that news story was published about leicester, she didn't sleep sound for a week.

but time helps.

it's like I was talking about earlier, about those scars on the inside that no-one can see. scars fade, don't they?

if you keep blaming yourself, keep feeling like you didn't deserve to make it out of there, I can see how that'd make it harder.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-18 03:59:38](#)

(no subject)

Whenever I woke up, I could still feel the grit under my fingernails, and my hands kept shaking.

I remembered faces I hadn't thought of in a decade. And then I felt so enormously guilty for having forgotten them.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-18 04:03:15](#)


(no subject)

Huh.

Don't think I'll ever manage to forget him. But if I do, I know I won't feel guilty.

I'll be grateful.

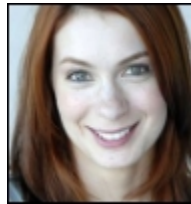



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-18 04:01:18](#)
(no subject)

Sleeping, yeah. That's another problem.

Transforming helps some. Because I don't think as much then, so this stuff isn't running through my mind, keeping me awake.

Dudley's starting to twit me about it a bit, though. He's always joking that if I spend too much time as the Professor I'll shed too much hair on his clothes.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-18 04:06:20](#)
(no subject)

Let him twit away, love. You do what you must.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-18 03:33:35](#)
(no subject)


you're not a murderer.

I know what the MLE would slap you with these days, because you're muggle born, but back when I was an Auror, we didn't call what you did murder. we called it self defence.

you're right. your friends can't understand what you've been through. and that means that they can't judge you either. they've never had to make that decision before.

if they're talking about that sort of thing, it's just an idea to them. a what-if. and they're thinking about it in their comfortable lives, where they don't have to be afraid every day.




 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-08-18 03:39:11](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not a murderer?

So, back when you were an Auror, when I was treated like any other wizard, what would have happened to me? If I killed someone and it could be proved it was self defence? Would they still have put me in Azkaban? Or given me to the Dementors?




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-18 03:47:10](#)**
(no subject)

you'd be a free man. you wouldn't be charged with a crime.

when people came up with those laws, they decided that self-defence was justifiable. and those laws were written because so many people thought that was fair. so it's not just me saying it.




 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-08-18 03:48:37](#)**
(no subject)

I'd be free? Not even charged, really?!

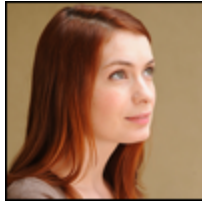
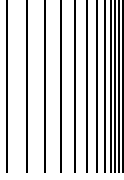
I had no idea. Blimey.




 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-08-18 03:48:55](#)**
(no subject)

wow.

that helps. a little.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-18 03:56:51](#)
(no subject)

Good.

2012-08-18 10:17:00

(no subject)

We're so looking forward to today's concluding CCF exercises. I'm told that the location is part of the challenge, so you'll not hear from me where it's to occur, students! But I *have* seen a thing or two about the prizes to be given and I'm sure you'll all feel quite pleased and proud of yourselves with the results - and rightly so.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Professor Sinistra and her entire committee have clearly spent great efforts and put not inconsiderable time into the success of the YPL programme and thus far, Mr Malfoy and I have not been disappointed. We sincerely hope that the same spirit of leadership, collaboration and excellence seen during the last two years shall continue into what is sure to be a glorious future.

I'm struck, as always, by how quickly summers fly by, particularly when the boys are away for so much of it. But I've managed to find a location for our family holiday, so we may at least have a few days all together before seeing Draco and Harry back onto the train to Hogwarts. I can hardly believe they are about to commence their O.W.L. studies! It seems just yesterday we were carting them about in prams.

Speaking of prams, my nephew has seen fit to utterly reject his lately. Razzar, I think that toy broom you gave him is a sign of things to come. He rides it everywhere, or so I've observed when we saw him for his birthday party. Unless I miss my guess, we may have another future professional Quidditch player in our midst.

Celia, I did want to mention that we'll be going to Diagon Alley after returning from holiday; there is simply not enough time before we go. If you want to bring Vivian for her robe fittings and such (they do grow in that first year, don't they?), I can send you an owl about meeting for lunch. I hope I can convince Bella to let us take care of Hydra as well. Perhaps she and Vivian could be fitted at the same time together and get to know one another better?

Well, there's still much to do before we attend today's festivities. Best of luck to the Cadets!



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-08-18 14:56:58**

Private Message to Bellatrix and Rodolphus

I'm quite serious in my offer, dears: I'd be happy to bring Hydra along on our shopping expedition and see that she's got her school robes and such. Also, I hope you will consider coming to Pembroke at the weekend, with the children or without. It was so lovely when we were all together last summer. Or send them along and stay home; we'll have plenty of space. The sea air will be good for them but I think a bit of a getaway might do for you both as well.

I'm considering inviting Raz and Aurora for a little of the time. Not that I expect they'll have much freedom with school coming up so quickly but I do think it would be good to see how they're coping with all that's happened in the last two weeks. We could at least get some of the preliminaries out of the way, as well: the date, ideas for the venue, deciding on the size of the affair, etc.

And I thought ... well, Rodolphus, dear, I know you don't know the Professor very well but she's a good sort. She's certainly had a steadying effect on our Raz, from what I've been able to observe. So I thought, perhaps in a less formal setting, you might be able to get to know your future sister-in-law a bit better, and allow her to see you in a different light as well.

Naturally, whatever you decide will be fine with us. I believe I have almost convinced Lucius that he needs the respite. He's been driving himself quite relentlessly for some time. I believe he's been working harder than you, Bella, dear - though I know you will object at the thought that *anyone* could do!

Shall we see you this afternoon?



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-08-18 15:10:50**

Private Message to Draco

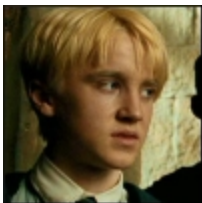
You probably shan't see this until after today's activity, dear, but I did want to let you know that Mother took your request quite seriously. We've kept the arrangements quite secret so that Harry need have as little supervision as possible and we can keep our party small.


I do hope you don't object, however, if we invite members of our extended family to visit for a day or two while we are away. You are welcome to go out flying or foresting, or swimming or fishing or whatever you like, if you don't wish to pay your respects to your cousins, uncles, aunts, or whomever else may come to call. I promise it shall only be those with close connection, at least. And a minimum of MLE protection.

Well, we can talk about it once you're home this evening, if you can keep awake after all the last weeks' hard work. I know your Father is anxious to speak with you as well; he shan't say it outright, of course, but I can tell he has been concerned since your post of the 8th. ~~So~~ ~~have~~ I So I hope we can sort that all out, as well.

~~I wasn't going to say anything~~ That is, I hope that it was just a measure of your excitement for the day's events, and nothing more worrisome.

Mother loves you so very much, dear. Now I'm going to stop before I embarrass either of us.




 **[alt_draco](#) at 2012-08-18 23:02:14**
Re: Private Message to Draco

I think I've had enough of foresting about for a while, but flying and swimming are always good.

And I'll be ready to speak with both you and Father tonight. As much as I can, at least.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-08-18 15:24:00**
Private Message to Aurora Sinistra and Rabastan Lestrangle

Well, I hope that puts a bee in Dolores' bonnet. Aurora, dear, I'm so sorry the programme has been wrested from you. Particularly as it's been put into the hands of a simpering prude such as Madam Umbridge. Whatever 'direction' the Committee wished to see, it's certain she's not going to manage the thing with as much sensitivity as you have done. Poor Darius. Yvaine is so distraught. Do you know I was three hours with her on Monday after she collected him and brought him home? I can only imagine how she must wish Lycus back among them - for dozens of reasons.

But I was writing to speak of more pleasant topics: Our holiday in Pembroke. Rizzer, I know you volunteered to chaperon Harry but Lucius and I have arranged things carefully enough that he thinks it shan't be necessary for you to spend the whole week with us - unless you wish to do, of course. But Aurora, I thought it would be lovely if you had any time to spare, if you came and joined us for a day or three. Perhaps at the weekend? I've invited Bella and Rod, though I don't know if they'll accept. But whether they do or not, we would love to see you both. You've no idea how hard it has been to sit on my hands this week and say nothing to anyone! I can only guess that it's been twice as hard for you, too.

Do think about it and let me know. And if not, then we shall have to arrange to meet some weekend soon after the start of school, to officially celebrate your good fortune.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-18 16:29:30**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra and Rabastan Lestrage

Oh! Let me take this in order, while I've a break finally today. I'm so sorry to hear about Yvaine: it was truly a miserable situation, all round. I'm so glad you were able to be of some help.

And you're quite right about Dolores' lack of sensitivity: I'm shuddering to think how she's going to manage the rather delicate egos and preferences of many of those I've dealt with in the past years. But I'm resigned: getting the news when I did has helped. I'm even finally satisfied with my draft of the formal announcement to post later this afternoon after the ceremonies.

As to a holiday: honestly, the one good part about losing the YPL work is that I do have more free time on my calendar than I'd expected. I've a few final reports to turn in, and some preparation for classes (and a little personal research in the Astronomy guild library). But we've two weeks between now and start of school, and there is plenty of time for other pleasures besides astronomy. (Raz, if you are free, perhaps we could take a day or two just for ourselves, as well?)

I'd certainly love to visit. And of course, there is planning on my mind, and things I'd love to ask your advice on at some point. We've

finally decided to be terribly modern about the engagement announcement (rather than imply my parents are hosting), and it should be coming out in tomorrow's Prophet. And we've talked enough to my parents now to have an idea which of the family traditions they feel strongly about or actively encourage, and which they don't.

It is finally starting to feel real. And if the announcement goes out tomorrow, it can die down a little before we're back to school, which is no bad thing.

I'll look forward to seeing you and your husband not too long from now. Draco really has done wonderfully this session, (so have Harry and Pansy) and I'm sure you'll have more than the usual to be proud of.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-08-18 15:44:13**

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

I hope the spell works this way as well as the other; it ought to do, I know. You needn't assure me. But I didn't dare use the codes after all the CCF have been learning how to spot them! I don't know what Wright was thinking, inviting them to look for irregularities and then post their codices. It's highly inconvenient.

Are you all right? (And don't say you're 'fine' - I think MLE really ought to change that particular code word! The whole country would be daft not to realise it means the just opposite to you all. Or rather, it indicates, 'No, I'm quite about to fly apart but let's just ignore that for the moment, shall we?' A skill which you, Bella, Lucius and apparently my son have all mastered, I might add.)

But what I mean is: Rizzer's petition. I know you're happy for him but I'm sure there's a bitter taste to it, as well. You have my sympathy, you know.

We're for Pembroke on Tuesday. All very quiet so that we can avoid the MLE circus of last holiday and still be assured of Harry's security. But you're welcome to drop in if you like. Whenever you like. I'll send you the name of the house we'll be letting.

I've been ... thinking of you. I was watching you the day of Ned's wedding. You looked Well. As if you'd insist that you were 'fine' if

anyone asked.

It's all right to feel sad on one's own behalf, when the situation warrants it, you know. That's not 'wallowing' and it's not 'weakness': It's grieving, darling. And that's warranted, too.

Forgive me, I don't know why I'm so sentimental today. All I meant to say is that - well. Freedom Day was too brief an opportunity to see you. Come to Pembroke when you can.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-18 20:48:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Yes. I'm quite all right, but thanks for asking.

Rather busier than I'd hoped this month. Weddings are a nuisance.

Pembroke, this year? I'll see what I can do. Last I was there, we were tracking someone along the coastal paths: the chase ended with a rather dramatic duel on the cliffs above Solva. You wouldn't like that story a bit: we were all fine when it was over. Only required a night or two in hospital after.

I miss you, too.

2012-08-18 16:25:00

The Close of CCF

Good show, all of you. Fifth years, there really was an enormous difference between last summer and this one - in most cases it was pretty clear that people kept up a fitness regimen during the school year, in addition to paying attention in Defence class and duelling club.

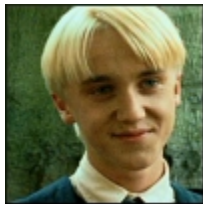


 [alt_draco](#)

Congratulations to everyone who got special awards this year, too. They did that bit a little differently than they did last year, if I recall correctly.

And after all of that... I, for one, definitely need a holiday.

Quite sorry to hear you'll be leaving the YPL programme, Professor Sinistra, though of course we'll still be seeing you in Astronomy lessons. And perhaps elsewhere, as well.

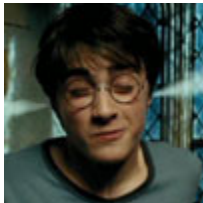


 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-08-18 22:31:38**

Private message to Harry

Special awards in duelling, flying, *and* leadership? You're already in an excellent position to start smooching Bumbridge's bum, if she had as much to do with those awards as I suspect.

Not that you didn't deserve it. All that training for the Tri-wizard Tournament has definitely given you an edge.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2012-08-18 23:14:03**

Re: Private message to Harry

Well, she spent so much time today kissing mine, it'd just be returning the favour at this point.

Sometimes it's hard to tell whether I'm actually good at something or people are saying just because. So thanks.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-18 23:23:55](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Well if I'd been training with Raz for all those months I'd definitely have won the Tri-wizard Tournament, too, just so you know.

And yeah, she does kiss your arse a bit, but she's no Acton. All this stuff about making the YPL 'stronger' and 'more powerful' and 'energetic...' She reminds me of Auntie Bellatrix a bit, if Auntie Bellatrix looked like a frilly pink cushion and said every word through a mouthful of syrup.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-18 23:51:24](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Do you really think she's that dangerous? I mean, she looks ridiculous. And she's obsessed with kittens.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-19 01:26:11](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Maybe not her, but the changes she wants to initiate? Probably. Remember who got the "Best at Meeting CCF Goals" award? Finnigan. I bet you can guess what that was for.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-19 01:27:09](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Point.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-18 22:47:09](#)

Private message to Pansy

You can't tell from Mother's journal entry because we're trying to keep it somewhat secret, but our holiday's at Pembroke. I almost thought about asking if you could come out for a few days, but I figured you might want to spend time at Gloss House, with your baby brother

and the horses (and I rather doubt my parents would have agreed to it without causing a fuss). When I get back, though, we can meet up and do our last minute school shopping together.

I did what I could to imply to Bumbridge that the castle is crawling with ghosts and wretched food so that maybe she'll re-think her plans to live at Hogwarts. Doubt it will do a bit of good, though.

Meanwhile, I'm trying to convince Harry he ought to brown-nose up to her, but he's not too keen on the idea. And if he's not keen on it then he'll be positively rubbish at it, so it might be down to me to do the deed.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-18 23:09:45](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Ugh. Can you just see her tripping through the halls? "Hem hem. May I make the teensiest suggestion?" It's already giving me a headache.

You're right that he'll be rubbish at it. Perhaps we ought to convince him that it'll help lots of other people if he does?

I know what you mean about Pembroke. And I do want to see Ewan. I've spent so little time there this summer with all the clubs and things that it'll be nice to not do anything for a while. But I'll very much look forward to our shopping trip once you get back.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-18 23:19:13](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Well, I can't tell yet if she's the sort of person that he can have an influence on, but even if that ends up being not the case, I'd like to know what sort of plans she has for us. I mean, it was Siz who told Sally Anne about the muggle training exercises, but she probably won't be able to do that sort of thing from here on out. I get the feeling Bumbridge plans to elbow her out entirely. And Bumbridge herself just seems like the sort of person one ought to keep an eye on, even if it means having to pretend you like her when you don't.

I look forward to it, too. We'll have to make a date of it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-18 23:24:38](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Yes, I definitely see how it'd be good to keep her in our sights. Even if she is incredibly distasteful.

I suppose one of the benefits of being a Slytherin is the ability to smile and compliment someone who you find repulsive, and have them not know the difference.

Harry's definitely going to need help.

I'll just plan on staying over in New London for the evening so we can take our time with things, then. That would be lovely.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-18 23:29:28](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

A Slytherin would know the difference. We're just lucky she's not one. I'd peg her for a Hufflepuff - she expects everyone to scurry around and pull their own weight and do their level best to please

her.

Allright, sounds good.

And, you know, I was thinking.. ~~did you really mean~~ Ah, never mind. We can sort it out later.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-18 23:39:40](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I'm sure we can.

It's funny, because I know we've spent most of the summer together, but I'm really going to miss not being around you. Even if it's only for a little while.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-19 01:27:23](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

So you'll miss me because you miss me, and not because you're worried about that Stint stuff, right?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-19 02:09:29](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I'll miss you because I love our conversations.

And snogging.

And watching you play guitar.

And you.

Honestly, I'd rather this Stint business be over and done with, and I still don't like it. But I also know that you and your Father won't make it easy for him.

Is that what you were thinking about?



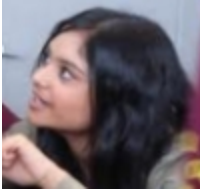
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-18 22:53:06](#)

(no subject)

Thank you for that - I'll quite miss working with all of you outside of class, as I said.

I do agree that you all did splendidly this summer, and that all the hard work everyone put in really showed. But also that every single one of you completely deserves a holiday. You have survived a grueling schedule and demands with remarkable fortitude and good humour.

(And congratulations on your own awards, of course. Well-earned.)



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-08-19 15:54:00](#)**
(no subject)

I was going to post something about this, too, but then Mum and Dad had planned a big party at *Bangladesh* and by the time we got home I was just too tired to finish up my post.

Congratulations to you, as well! The awards were a little different this year but I think I like it better that way. Honestly, I think it's a little bit like the nursery to come up with all sorts of nonsense categories just so everyone can come away with a prize.

But it's a shame that Professor Sinistra's leaving the programme, all the same. I guess three years is a long time to do two jobs. And besides, she's getting married! (But you probably knew that, I bet.)

Have fun on your holiday. Maybe we'll see you at Diagon Alley, or if not, definitely on the train!

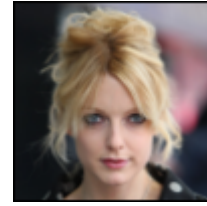


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-20 03:46:23](#)**
(no subject)



Cheers, Draco. I look forward to seeing you on the train.

2012-08-18 17:03:00

YPL students, parents, colleagues, and members of the public:



As many heard at the CCF awards presentation this afternoon, Madam Dolores Umbridge will be replacing me as the chair of the YPL planning committee beginning immediately. She has spent the past two months observing our summer programmes and making suggestions, and I am confident she will bring a new vision to the school year opportunities as well.

 [altermity](#)
 [alt_sinistra](#)

The Ministry and the YPL oversight board both hope that additional focused time and resources will allow for coordinating a more robust programme of education and training for our young people of all ages than can be arranged around any teaching schedule. To aid this, Madam Umbridge will be residing at Hogwarts during the school year, but also available to meet with various constituencies and interested parties in other locations.

While it has been my privilege and honour to be of service, from this point forward please address any questions about either the YPL or CCF programmes to Madam Umbridge's self or staff. They will be delighted to be of assistance.

Thank you again to everyone who's assisted with the programme:

We truly could not come this far without the help of so many - from those who serve on the YPL planning committee to those who offer instruction and logistical support to those who readily coordinate matters within their own fields and departments so that everything runs smoothly. I've deeply appreciated your help and service to the Protectorate and I'm confident you'll offer the same to my successor.

Students:

There are so many fond memories for me, far beyond the formal aspects of the programme and the chance to get to know you outside of the classroom. I remember chance moments on the camping trips, laughter during play rehearsals, exploring the redevelopment of New London, and seeing students thrive and grow in skill and grace and magic during the challenges of the CCF training. Thank you all for the chance to be a part of your growth in magic, potential, and skill.

On a personal note - while I do admit I'm looking forward for more time for new teaching approaches, astronomy research, and other interests - I very much hope all students will feel welcome to continue stopping by my office hours and talking about all manner of topics. Otherwise, I'll quite miss hearing about your triumphs and other interests!

Finally:

Thank you all for both the opportunity to be of use to Our Lord's vision, and for three years of learning, new understanding, and collaboration. My best wishes for the ongoing success of the programme and all the students involved.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-18 21:45:54](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, dear, for that graceful statement.

Children, colleagues, Hogwarts staff, I am simply delighted that I will be joining you this year in helping to forge a stronger, more energetic programme.

While Aurora - Professor Sinistra, that is - has done a quite good job with the foundation of the programme, especially given her lack of formal background in organisation, it's clear it could be so much more. I am so terribly excited to be joining you all to take the programme and shape it into something more powerful and wonderful for all the most deserving students at Hogwarts and I particularly look forward to nurturing the gifts and talents of the brightest of our newest generation of wizards and witches in the CCF programme.

Look for a further announcement from me with some exciting new plans once we arrive back at dear old Hogwarts. And in the meantime, yes, all questions about either programme should be directed to my office.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-08-18 22:27:54](#)
(no subject)

So you'll be residing at Hogwarts then, Madam Umbridge? Hope you don't mind the company of ghosts - or poltergeists. The food the elves cook is getting better all the time, though.

I'm sure I speak for the rest of my fellow Slytherins when I say that we very much look forward to what the programme will deliver with you at the helm.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-18 22:45:21](#)
(no subject)

I'm just ever so delighted to be returning to Hogwarts, yes. (And I do remember the ghosts from my own time there, of course.) How lovely to be able to return to a place I remember with such fondness from my youth.

One point the oversight board did agree with most clearly is that the programme does benefit from having someone who can see all of you dear students day to day, not just at YPL events. While I won't be in the classroom in the same way, I'm expecting there will plenty of opportunity to get to know just everyone and all your strengths and weaknesses.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-18 22:47:25](#)
Private message to Dolores Umbridge

Just a final few details, as we didn't manage time to speak about them after the announcements.

As you've asked, I've directed Felix to make the various records and materials fully available to your staff. I understand that as of a week Monday, his duties will be reassigned, and he will have limited time for further assistance after that. (As you preferred, yes?)

His files are most complete, so I believe you'll have everything necessary going forward. That includes, of course, the materials and activities already planned for this coming year and the relevant contacts should you wish to make other arrangements.

At the moment, I expect to return to Hogwarts very shortly before the students do, and am likely to be occupied with a variety of other plans between now and then. Should you have questions, I suspect I'll be more available by owl or journal than for meetings, but I'm sure you feel you have everything well in hand.

I'll be submitting my final reports for the CCF weeks this coming week, but of course you're already well aware of the events and issues there.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-18 23:09:12](#)

Re: Private message to Dolores Umbridge

Aurora, dear (and I hope you don't mind, now we're to be true colleagues), that sounds excellent. You've done truly heroic labours for the YPL and CCF, especially given your age and lack of experience, but I'm so very glad you've been appropriate and graceful about this transition.

I had hoped, of course, to have another day or two of your time to wrap things up, but I suppose you feel it's necessary to move on. As long as you're responsive by owl or journal, we'll just have to make do the best we can. It must be a great relief to you, dear, to divest yourself of a job to which you were never quite suited.

Now, I do hope you'll take a teensy bit of advice, if I might offer it. I do wonder - I hate to press - but I have noticed your new ring, and I hope there's a reason to offer public congratulations in the near future. I'm sure I'm not the best person to offer advice on many romantic matters, but on the topic of logistics and organisation, I would be most glad to offer whatever assistance I can. Please, do call on me as you would one of your own sisters or aunts. (And should you speak to your aunt Alphecca, do pass along my good wishes for her health. Or your uncle Salvus, on the other side, who I remember as quite the gallant from my own school days.)

Sometimes it takes the eye of someone capable of being objective, dear, standing outside it all. And of course, I'm married to my work and service to the Protectorate, without other matters to be a distraction. While I'm sure the dear students will come to be treasured, I'm quite sure I'll have time to be of help to you and to others.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-18 22:06:47](#)**

Private message to Campanella Wright and Helena Provim

Thank you, both, for your support, recently and over the past three years: the work we've done would not have been possible without both of you. I certainly plan to continue at least some visits on Tuesdays to New London, and hope to see you both at least sometimes.

I'm torn between wanting to know exactly how things go, and knowing I shouldn't pry, but I'm sure you both know me well enough to know which one will win out. And of course, if I can be of help to either of you, please ask.

And Helena, thank you again for your offer to look out for Felix. It's good to know he's got someone to help him adjust to the shift in duties, and I can't recommend his work and attention to detail highly enough.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-08-18 23:15:28](#)**

(no subject)

Thanks for all the work you've done on the programme, Professor Sinistra.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-18 23:43:51](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Marvolo. And excellent work, the past weeks. Truly.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2012-08-19 00:29:05](#)**

(no subject)

Thank you for everything, Professor. Other people may continue the programme, and I'm sure they will do a wonderful job, too, but by starting it, you had the opportunity to truly shape it into what it has become. That will linger a long time afterward.




 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-19 00:53:37](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Miss Lovegood. That's quite a lovely thing to say, and most appreciated.

Do stop up, when we're back at school? I've a couple of things I've come across this summer that might interest you.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-19 01:33:05](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Professor. I shall.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 01:48:51](#)
(no subject)

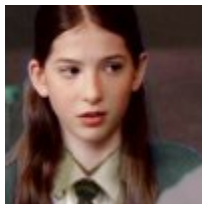
Thank you for all your hard work setting up the programme, Professor Sinistra, and for giving us so many exciting opportunities.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-20 15:51:50](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Miss Perks.

(And I saw you'd left a note for Madam Pomfrey. When I last talked to her, she expected to be rather wrapped up dealing with her most recent training course today and without much spare time, but I'm sure she'll reply when she gets a chance.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 16:16:31](#)
Private message to Professor Sinistra

I realised that after I wrote, that she probably wouldn't have time to answer, so I told her not to worry about it and I'd stop up to say hello when we got back to school.

I hope I didn't look terribly impertinent.

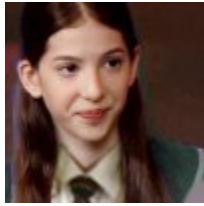


 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-20 16:23:00**

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

Oh, not impertinent at all - I know she'll be eager to hear about what you've learned over the summer. Just that she's had more than one thing on her mind.

Are you doing all right, settling in with your foster parents again?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2012-08-20 16:30:38**

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

Mrs Stretton and Jeremy are fighting almost all the time. I got woken up this morning by the shouting. It's sort of related to me, even, Mrs Stretton said something about how that ruddy half-blood charity case might make something of herself and Jeremy hasn't even found a job yet.

And you know I AM going to make something of myself but I'd rather not be the stick she uses to beat Jeremy with? Because I get on okay with Jeremy most of the time and now he's not speaking to me.

It's okay other than that. I'm looking forward to coming back to school.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-20 17:25:42**

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

I am sorry. Glad you know it's not your doing, or anything you should feel guilty about. I'm looking forward to school as well. Well, largely. Glad to be back to a routine again,

anyway.

2012-08-18 18:20:00

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout



 [alt_sinistra](#)

I hope the public message conveys what I'm trying for: grace and civility and good will. It's certainly not how I feel. But I've known since they told me on the 6th that there truly was nothing I can do about it. They hedged it around with thanks and pretty words, but it was the clearest possible "Your services are no longer required." one could imagine.

I - well. I don't have another fight like this spring in me. And, as Raz has pointed out, some of what they've been insisting on including is only going to get worse. More difficult. (I don't know how much of the discussion you've seen about the Muggle management sessions, or some of the other challenges. I did what I could, but I couldn't prevent their inclusion entirely, as inappropriate as I think it is for 16 year olds.)

I've hoped for so long that I could moderate some of the worst of it and that if they replaced me, it would be with someone inclined to balance. Or at least practical good sense. Clearly, I've failed entirely on the latter, and I wonder about the former as well.

The oversight board took no chances, either. They made the quite blunt threat that if I were difficult, they'd do their best to ensure Raz and I didn't get permission. I swear it wouldn't have changed my choice not to fight but I hate they think it might have. ~~Or that you might.~~

She insists on a clean split, which gives me the shudders - there are so many details she clearly hasn't grasped yet. And I hate even more that we'll have to bear with her at school. She keeps trying to give me *advice*, and unlike you both, of all the wrong sorts.

And again, apologies for not telling you sooner: they gave me an explicit instruction not to tell anyone. (I told Raz, of course, and I did warn Miss Perks on Thursday so she'd have time to brace herself.) Last thing I've not been telling you that needed telling, I promise.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-08-19 20:53:08](#)
(no subject)

My dear, when I sat down this morning to write in my journal, I had meant to reply to yours here to say how sorry I am for the miserable treatment you've received in return for your commitment, your generosity, and your skilled work for those programmes. It's unconscionable what they've done and appalling how they've handled it.

But then I had a very unpleasant surprise interrupt my quiet breakfast: a most unsettling visit from Healer Stint. Here, in Cumbria, at my cousin Dearborn's inn out beyond Troutbeck: it's not exactly on the beaten path to anywhere, and I had not until this morning mentioned in any public forum my intention to come here.

I've not been feeling at all well, I'm afraid, and I thought a few days to recover would be a help, but here this morning, before I could chip the shell from my egg, was Stint, glaring down at me and insinuating that I was shirking my duties by coming here between one seminar and the next.

And then he insisted on examining me, as if I intended to plead this ague as a reason for avoiding Snowdon. Which, of course, I've no intention of doing. Not least because it was made plain to me that they could choose to sack me if I fail to fulfill any jot or tittle of their requirements.

If I felt the slightest bit easier this morning when I awoke, I can assure you that after swallowing Stint's restorative, I feel worse than ever. Quite wobbly all over.

I'm not entirely certain I will be able to make the journey to Snowdon, even if I floo to Llanberis and leave apparating for only the last bit. And, well, I feel silly saying so, but I wanted to check in with you both to let you know what's happened.

Just in case.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-19 21:08:55](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Poppy, goodness. Truly, that worries me. More than a little.

Can I do anything to help? The one good part of the whole mess with the YPL is that I've only the last few final reports, and it's only my own sense of work ethic that's making me finish them. It's not like Dolores wasn't there for all of the relevant discussions.

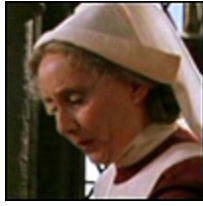
So if either rousting out someone trustworthy - Delilah, say - or coming to do side-along for you would help, you have simply to ask.

There's been other matters with Stint, too. I'm hesitant even to spell them out in the journals (and frankly, this is a separate message because I worried they might check into any replies on the formal announcement more than they normally do.)

But you did see that rather odd post from Draco Malfoy last week? His parents are well aware of the situation, and so are other people who might be able to be of assistance, but ... no one's quite sure what to make of it, apparently. What Stint's up to. I'd be glad to tell you more in person, or by owl, where I can charm properly for privacy.

And then having to be obedient to their whims and biases. Ugh. I wish you far more success than I had, though that's not hard to manage, really.

(As to the referenced pub, incidentally: I was there, it had decent ale, but it also had some less than courteous locals who do not think highly of outsiders swanning in. You'd likely be quite all right as they're notably kinder to older women than most others, and a little appreciation of the local brews, music, or the publican's wife's good taste all go a long way. But I mentioned it rather hoping Stint would have to inspect it and then put a foot wrong.)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-19 21:33:08](#)**
(no subject)

Are you saying that-

No, you're quite right not to say more here.

I really don't know what to make of Facinorous Stint. He's appeared with no warning every three or four days all summer. Sometimes he does not bother to say a word to me directly, but he makes sure I realise he's there, speaking with the instructors.

But today- really, he would have to have been reading his book just as I wrote and then apparated within minutes, or he would need to have spoken to one of the two people to whom I mentioned stopping in here this weekend. I'm not even certain I named the inn to either of them, so he'd need to have done a fair bit of research. Alun's not even a close cousin, really.

I'm sure I don't know, but it's making me feel worse than I did out on that infernal platform in the north sea! This is the worst case of the collywobbles I can remember.

I'm afraid I'm seriously considering your offer to help with the trip to Snowdonia. I hate to think of putting you to that trouble, but I'm not certain I'll manage it on my own.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-19 22:25:27](#)**
(no subject)

It's not just the more dire interpretation, Poppy. With the formal announcement today, all it'd take is one person in the right department at the Ministry more interested in a quick sale to the gossip rags than their job. Makes one careful.

I'd not put it past Stint at all to be that kind of attentive, when he's got someone in his sights. But I agree that's highly suspicious.

And look: I've cleared off my evening, had a quick chat with cousin Mel (and she suggested a few things to bring with me that might help) and I can come meet you whenever.

Is floo my best choice? The Snowdonia side, the apparition's no problem. I was up and down near every inn and pub in the area, between my own research work and Cadugan's interest in long rambling walks that summer.

What else are friends for?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-19 23:02:24](#)
(no subject)

Yes, they're on the Floo here. The Mortal Man. Troutbeck.

Thank you, dear. So very much.

And Pomona, thank you. I'm sorry I haven't the energy for more just now.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-19 23:08:09](#)
(no subject)

Oh, goodness. You're quite close to Mum and Dad's, actually, I just haven't been in The Mortal Man in a decade or more.

If you feel you can't make the trip tonight, I know the guest room at Mum and Dad's is free, and you'd be harder for Stint to find. We could try for Snowdonia first thing in the morning instead.

(And that means I can avoid flooing, you know me, I'd rather.)

Be there inside of a quarter hour. Just want to update Raz on my plans, and grab my satchel.



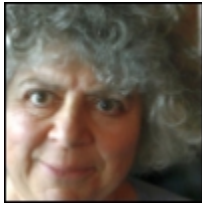
 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-19 22:41:02](#)
Order Only

Goodness, Poppy. Do take Aurora up on the offer.

And I think it's past time to give the rest of the Order a bit more information. I'd particularly like to see if Alice or Frank can offer anything we've missed. I'll do that as soon as

I'm done writing here.

I'd offer to come myself, but we've had people in and out - the storms wiped out quite a few stocks, and so I keep fielding requests for replacement stock, there's a desire to expand the food greenhouses again (they're worried about the low harvest), and so on. Keeping them away from the fluxweed and the other things we'd rather no one spotted is rather keeping me stuck here.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-19 23:44:14](#)

(no subject)

Aurora, dear - so glad you can help. I'm rather stuck here with people in and out (all the storms played havoc with both harvests and a number of rare plant stocks) but it's such a relief you're able to lend a

hand.

As Poppy said, I'm so very sorry it came to this, and after all your hard work and loyalty to the programme. And I don't mind saying privately, but I've no desire to share a castle with Dolores again. She was two years ahead - and in the sett - when we were in school, but for most of that time, she wasn't nearly as rigid as she's become.

I've heard more than a few stories from contemporaries about her since, and Tilda had a run-in with her over a matter that ended up in front of the Muggleworthy Excuse Board in the mid-70s.

Do let me know if there's anything I can do from here, and of course I'm looking forward to seeing you soon and hearing all the news that doesn't make it into the journals. (And your mother and I've been having quite the useful chat about plants. I do see why it was confusing you, and we're working on the best solutions given plans for the spring.)

2012-08-19 08:34:00

From Seathwaite Onwards

I've spent the past week in Cumbria at Seathwaite, a precious place that likes to boast it is the rainiest settlement in Our Lord's good realm. The local weather witch assures us that although it has been an extraordinarily rainy year elsewhere, Seathwaite has held off all challengers for first in the standings.



 [alt_poppy](#)

Seathwaite: Raising Dreariness to an Artform

One shouldn't wish to question the local sloganeering. (Pomona, I've sent you a parcel with the hat and sash they gave us--to soften your disappointment at having to miss this seminar. Should I have enquired about a spot for you on next summer's course?)

Seathwaite is, quite naturally, the perfect place to study those illnesses which attend on mould and damp--fungal afflictions (internal and external), pneumonias, agues of various sorts, affective disorders including the grey ennui, and ailments caused by proximity to or tangles with a variety of creatures and growing things that thrive in dank corners.

One likes to think there is always something new to be learned, and the Seathwaite Institute has not disappointed, having provided me my first view of a creature I had long believed imaginary. Friday, for the first time, I came nose to snout with a moult-tailed musting. Though I'd never before seen the gleam of its sharp little eyes, I can say with certainty that I've smelled its telltale scent on too many occasions. I have, accordingly, forwarded the relevant materials to Mr Milland with a suggestion that he set about fumigating the lower reaches of the castle before term begins.

A useful week, to be sure.

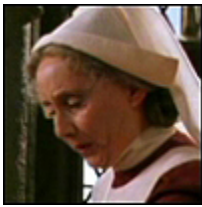
After a relaxing weekend at the Mortal Man in Troutbeck, I'm off tomorrow for Mount Snowdon and the Experimental Weather Station on its summit.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-19 15:27:48](#)
(no subject)

Oh, goodness. This is your last course, I hope? You'll want some time to get ready for the coming students, I'm sure.

I do remember there being quite a good pub - The Giant's Cloak - in Rhyd Ddu. (Though, granted, last time I was there was summer of 88, just before I started teaching. Excellent ales, and some quite decent music in the evenings then anyway.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-19 20:57:50](#)
(no subject)

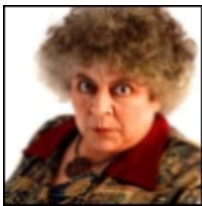
Thank you, dear.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-19 20:56:54](#)
Order Only

Pomona, I haven't the energy to write it all again both places, but do have a look at what I've written Aurora on her most recent message to the two of us.

And perhaps you'd be good enough to fill in the others here, if I don't check in again tomorrow from Snowdonia.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-19 22:54:43](#)
Re: Order Only

Quite. Right, everyone, this is something where I think we need more minds on the problem soonest.

You saw that Aurora posted yesterday - quite clear that she's most worried about the future of the YPL and CCF and the students involved, but in no position to change the board's minds. We should discuss further, perhaps when I've gotten a few more details out of her, or Poppy has.

But Poppy was more explanatory there, about her current worries. Our newest members may not recall (I've no idea how much you all

have been able to read back), but there's a Healer, Facinorous Stint, who's taken quite the interfering hand with Poppy's work, and been difficult with Aurora, and apparently Miss Perks. Among others.

This June, he was apparently stymied in his desire to drive Poppy out of Hogwarts entirely, but he's got quite a deal of weight on the committee that oversees ongoing education. So she's spent the summer going from one miserable course to another, and he's popped up at all of them. (In between meddling with the YPL and CCF plans.)

You all saw Poppy's post this morning. She swears that until just then, she hadn't told a soul where she was going to be in specific - told a few people the area. And he both demanded she continue with her planned course tomorrow, but insisted on a restorative, after which she feels only worse. (And Poppy, forgive me, but I'll add you've felt poorly several times this summer, and you so rarely do.)

Aurora's offered assistance on the practical side. I'd have discouraged her, but there's no need to put the rest of you under Stint's suspicion or waste polyjuice. And I think at the moment, she might be a tad safer than previously - even from Stint - with the formal announcement out.

But perhaps we could arrange someone to check on Poppy in a day or so? If we could do so without suspicion.

And an eye to the larger problem - I don't know if it's other suspicions rubbing off on me, but Aurora's mentioned he's clearly up to something, and I deeply dislike his trailing our Poppy around the more and more I think about it. But what does one do about it?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-20 01:06:16](#)

Re: Order Only

When you say she feels worse after his ministrations, do you mean that you think he's poisoning her? Or is he just a terrible Healer?

Either way, I'm free. I can find my way to Seathwaite or wherever you decide to go next, Poppy, and observe him when he turns up.

I could even take a bit of Polyjuice to cosy up to him if that'd help.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-20 14:36:59](#)

Re: Order Only

Aurora's got us rooms at a place called the Giant's Cloak--vouched for us with the proprietor and all.

A rather clannish lot apparently, but she knows the area well, due to a former lad of hers.

How do you want to play this?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-20 14:47:28](#)

Re: Order Only

Well.

Let me just tell Remus I'm off.

I think the thing to do is find an empty grate nearby, get out there, change back to Padfoot and join you so we can arrive together.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-20 15:11:52](#)

Re: Order Only

I think you'd better have the potion ready right off--they'll be expecting two people, and a person and a dog might strike some as odd.

I think Padfoot will be of more use later, when you're out on the mountain. He could easily be some farmer or shepherd's animal gone wandering, and no one would think anything of it.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-20 15:13:20](#)

Re: Order Only

Right.

Let me see what we can do here on short notice.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-20 14:47:42](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm just home, sorry. Catching up. Very glad Sirius is going to go, but what can we do from here? I don't like to think of Madam P being ill and that git harassing her. It's horrible.

What do we know about this Stint bloke, anyway? I suppose his personnel files are all at St M's not the Ministry, but, Bill--do you have anyone who could poke around a bit in his background and find out- I don't know, anything Poppy might use to make him back down?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-20 18:27:51](#)

Re: Order Only

I do have someone in my network that would do, yes. Worked at St Mungo's until last year, but then switched over to the Ministry as part of a public health initiative. Will report back as soon as I can.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-20 18:02:45](#)

Re: Order Only

either he's poisoning her, or he's a shit potioneer.

if it's deliberate, and she's noticed feeling poorly other times, he might be slipping things in her food. or it could be a cursed piece of equipment she comes into contact with regularly, like the plaque that was making alecto carrow sick.

I'll see if stephen can spare a dose each of the common and uncommon antidotes so we can owl them up to sirius. as far as the object goes, if there's a kneazle around, it might help sniff out something that doesn't belong on her person or in her rooms.

let us know if you need anything else.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 03:24:59](#)

Private message to Madam Pomfrey

It doesn't sound like they're giving you much time to relax at all this summer! I'm sorry you've been somewhere with such miserable weather (and now you're off to a mountain? for the rest of August?)

I hope it's at least been really interesting?

CCF has been interesting. Not diverting. But interesting. I've learned quite a bit this summer and got an award for 'top focus skill mark' in medwizardry. Maybe when we're both back at school I could stop by and tell you about CCF this summer?

I'm sure you heard about Professor Sinistra being replaced by Madam Umbridge. Have you ever met her? I'm trying to think how I'd describe her if you haven't, but you've met a lot of people so possibly you have. She's going to be at Hogwarts next year.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 03:26:06](#)

Re: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

I just realised I asked you loads of questions and you are terribly busy so I thought I'd add that I'm looking forward to seeing you at Hogwarts (if you don't mind me stopping by when I'm not ill) and you don't need to answer.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-20 13:46:12](#)

Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

Right, Pomona - thought you'd want an update.

First, we've done the best we can manage without Poppy just giving up on this course entirely. I'm not happy with how she looks (and she's not been admitting just how poorly she is), but giving Stint an excuse to fire her is the last thing we want.

Let me back up. Last night, I got to the Mortal Man, and she was terribly hard to rouse. I had a word with Alun and Margaret (good thing they know Mum and Dad and Diane and Chiron well, or that

might have been trickier) and we all decided she'd be better off at Mum and Dad's.

(Among other things, easier for me to do some protective charm work there. Dad borrowed Artio - Diane and Chiron's mastiff - too. The wards didn't go off, quite, but Artio was snuffling around all night, and clearly agitated.)

Mum's a marvel, really. Soon as we got her settled, Mum got one of her general systemic remedies going, and we poured rather a lot of that down her, and a couple of the potions Mel suggested, and she looked a bit better after, so we we let her get some proper sleep.

Mum and I were up late, both talking over things, and packing a hamper for her. I've never been so grateful for Mum's obsession with a well-stocked pantry! (Lots of applesauce, and cheeses from the neighbor's cow, and carrots and hard-boiled eggs, and a few simple salads in stasis charms and all sorts of useful tisanes. And Mum did some baking while we were up, so fresh rolls and homemade jam. Anti-tamper charms on everything, of course.)

This morning, I took her off to her course. The apparation was a bit of a jolt for her - she was quite right not to attempt it herself - but she's in session now. I promised to stick around till after lunch, but there's someone here she does more or less trust who's keeping an eye on her.

I've work with me, and once I head back to New London, I've some hair and nail clippings to drop off with cousin Mel, just in case. (She half-offered, and if there's nothing there, well, I'd like to know that.)

Had a word with the publican here, too. Thank Hypatia, he remembers me from my time with Cadugan, and has promised to have an eye out, but I hate leaving her alone without support. And yet, if I stay too long, Stint's bound to make trouble with me. For me. (And I do have things I need to do in New London, too.)



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-20 14:01:45](#)

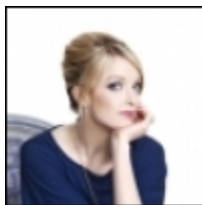
Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

It's a good job her course was so close to the greater tribe of Sinistra, and them so willing to help.

Not that I think for a moment they'd be otherwise, but I shudder a bit thinking what might have gone on without help near to hand.

Unfortunately, if he's clever enough to tamper with her without her(or indeed any of the rest of us) noticing, he's probably clever enough to leave off as soon as he catches hint of the wards.

Leaving us with nothing but our suspicions. Again. Bloody bugging hell.



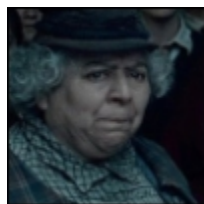
 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-08-20 14:11:21**

Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

Quite glad she was so close to Mum and Dad - given her reaction this morning, I'd not have wanted to take her far last night.

I did think about the wards warning him off, but Raz would have had my head if I were careless about necessary protections (and quite right, too, really.) I'm not entirely looking forward to filling him in when I get back, either. I'd have asked him to come last night, except I thought Poppy might be uncomfortable being that ill with him around.

Look. Do you know someone who might be willing to come and hang out in Wales for the week? I don't know who Poppy might not mind having handy, but I know she's got friends I don't know about, and you might. I don't entirely trust her judgement of her own health at the moment, but I think she more needs someone to make sure she doesn't overdo, and to keep her from being alone with Stint than anything else.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at 2012-08-20 14:16:51**

Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

No, I think you were wise to put up wards, it's just that I keep thinking he'll slip up and we'll have him, but so far we've no such luck.

I can come up myself for a bit, and bring a friend of ours as well,

someone who would be uniquely suited to keeping an eye on Stint without being seen.

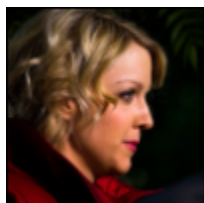


 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-20 14:29:03](#)

Re: Order Only

Oh, I've just thought of something--I've every reason to want to talk to your mother, under the guise of helping with the wedding plans.

If you'll give her the alert, I'll floo in to see her and meet our friend later.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-20 14:31:38](#)

Re: Order Only

Mum's at work now at the Ministry now, alas.

(She thought about staying home in case we needed something, but her boss is touchy enough right now it didn't seem worth the risk. Partly my fault, that, as I've snagged her out of the office twice in the past three weeks.)

I do know she'd be glad to see you, though, so if you wanted to be the one to snag the next round of supplies, I'd be glad to arrange that.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-20 14:29:11](#)

Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

You can? Oh, that's a relief.

I'm currently in the public room at the Giant's Cloak in Rhyd Ddu - Poppy's apparently supposed to be housing somewhere else with a much stiffer walk up the mountain, but I got her a room here.

The publican's a Pyderi Gadarn, his wife's name is Delyth. They're on the floo at "Giant's Cloak - Wales" because apparently half their tourist customers can't manage Rhyd Ddu ("rheed-thee" if you want to make points). They've a few rooms free still

(apparently *not* the pick for this course, but that's all to our good), and I've put in for them for you and your friend.

Both of them are a bit insular - the town's not that fond of outsiders - but that's all to your benefit, here now I've vouched for you. (I have gotten more benefits out of that relationship with Cadugan than I ever would have guessed.)



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-20 14:34:44](#)**

Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

We'll be there as soon as I can arrange things here.

It's good that your former bloke was good for something besides long Creature-spotting walks. You never know, I suppose.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-20 14:41:22](#)**

Re: Private message to Pomona Sprout and Poppy Pomfrey

Excellent. I'll manage till then.

And yes. Not that he wasn't quite fun at the time (especially since we both knew it wouldn't turn into anything serious) but I've been more and more grateful for him the past year (teaching me there's more to a good relationship than brains, among other things.)

Right. Now to see if I can get a little work done while I'm waiting. (Though it's quite distracting. I've just enough Welsh to pick out about one word in ten when people are talking near me.)

2012-08-19 09:05:00

Private Message to Otto Wied

Shut yer gob, yeh stinkin git. Or I'll be shuttin it fer yeh.



Think yeh can go round, tellin me mates I'm no good fer 'em? Tellin 'em I'm a 'dangerous character', eh?

 **alt_wagstaff**

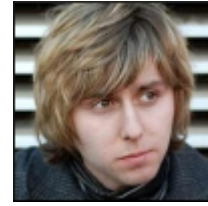
Well, I'll show yeh what a dangerous character is if yeh've got enough spark in yer wand to meet me.

Cobber's crypt, Highgate. Half-two tonight.

Bring yer second. And third and forth, ifn yeh need em.

2012-08-19 19:10:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Hullo, All,

I'm back at the Jugsons' and Remy has been telling Alfie all about our 'adventures,' as he calls them, what. At least he's not well excited about Madam Umbridge coming to Hogwarts to run the YPL. I say, it probably would have been too difficult to hold my tongue if he were.

 [alt_justin](#)

I was a bit worried at first that Remy would be jealous because I earned two of those bally old awards and he had none. It's odd, though, because he seemed even more proud of them than I am, as if somehow it reflects on him as well. Alfie was more upset by it than Remy, what? I'm not half sure what to make of that.

But at least it's over for the nonce. Although it sounds as if Madam Umbridge has no intention of allowing us to rest during the year, what? I say, I've never been quite so sorry to be right as when we learned she'll be quartered at school.

Speaking of which, when do you lot expect to go to Diagon Alley for your school things? Thankfully, the Jugsons have scheduled no more parties but it should be relatively simple to arrange to meet whenever others are going to New London.

I've been thinking more about Sirius' letter to you, Sally-Anne. In particular about his saying that we should all be talking more with each other about our opinions. I say, I don't know what you asked, apart from what you said, but I think he might mean that if we've already made friends we trust, we ought not to stop trusting them just because we think something different to one another. Or perhaps because we're afraid that those thoughts will end the friendship.

I think the Protectorate wishes us to distrust one another and to think that each of us is alone in any misgivings we might have. I think it works, what? I mean to say, Darius was so upset mainly because he didn't think he could talk to anyone. Luna, that's not your fault, what, nor anyone's in particular, except that no one wished to be the one who stepped forward. Or perhaps no one thought it was his place to do so.

It makes one wonder how many others are foundering in their own doubts, what?

It's got me to thinking about what we can do, as a group. Not bringing more people into the lock, obviously; I'm not going to open up that can of worms again, what!--but perhaps there's something to be done under the guise of something innocuous. What about a club? We could make it invitational and only invite the ones we think are bound to be reasonable. And Lee and the twins could come as well. Perhaps we could create some sort of educational lecture that we could have if we think someone's untrustworthy?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 01:47:10](#)
(no subject)

Like Teatime of the Strange. Only Teatime of the Seditious.

What do you mean about an educational lecture? There ARE people who think like us but don't want to say, and they tend to feel really alone. ~~Like Jeremy Stretton~~

NOBODY likes Delores Umbridge. I don't think even Padma Patil actually likes her. So with her around there will be a lot of people who will be thinking, 'well, if that's what SHE thinks, it's probably wrong!' but they'll feel even less like they can say anything. If we're inviting people in to have seditious conversations we'll have to be absolutely sure Umbridge doesn't find out, and she had a way of just popping up during CCF, didn't she, when you least expected it.

We could always pretend it was a revision club. Or we could call it 'Cat Fanciers', she'd surely think THAT was just FINE.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-20 02:24:26](#)
(no subject)

Patil would be likely to stick her nose in if we're not careful. She's keen on clubs and things, and likes to Be Involved.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-20 02:33:52](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Pansy,

I'm sure we could come up with something that Patil wouldn't be interested in doing, what?

Not that I can think of anything at the moment, mind.


-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-20 03:24:56](#)
(no subject)

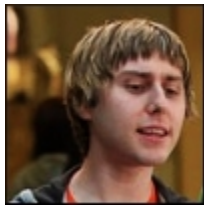
I quite like this idea. But I agree, we'll have to put some thought into what to name the club for it to work. I wonder if Fred and George might have some ideas about how to keep it sort of semi-private. Which I think would be best.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-20 17:07:49](#)
(no subject)

We could have a club that studies one of those creatures only Luna's ever heard of.

Patil would be well unimpressed with that sort of thing.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-20 17:34:04](#)
(no subject)

Ron,

I quite like that. Fanciful Creatures, what?

See if your brothers would be interested, or have any suggestions, will you, old chap?

-J




 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-20 02:30:48](#)
(no subject)

If it were 'Cat Fanciers' she might show up all the more often, what?

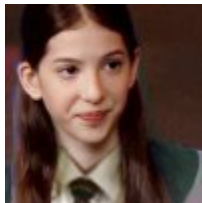
But what I mean is some sort of programme that we could run if we wind up with someone coming in, like Patil, who would report on us if we were talking about things that matter. If we say we're 'Cat Fanciers' then we ought to have things about cats, if you follow me. Only not that. Something that appears to fit with what we claim to be.

-Justin



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-20 03:19:56](#)
(no subject)

Madam Umbridge does seem rather mad for cats. She's constantly wearing cat brooches.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 03:30:15](#)
(no subject)

I didn't really mean it ought to be Cat Fanciers, only that it should be the sort of thing she'd approve of but find very dull.

History, except Patil and Finnigan already have a History Club. Maybe we could say it was Opera Appreciation. Or we could call it a book club and we could read great wizarding classics like Shakespeare, that doesn't sound seditious.

But yes, you're quite right about a programme. We might want to take it in turns to put something together just in case, so we weren't repeating if people stopped by more than once. If we made it a book club we COULD have a book each month and we could always fall back on that. We'd probably want short books, though, come to think of it, most of us are going to be getting ready for OWLS.



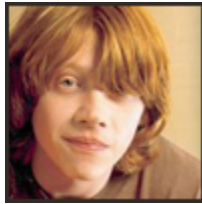
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-20 15:36:12](#)
(no subject)


I think a book club has loads of promise. Particularly if it were the sorts of books one says one really ought to read but never actually does, if you follow me. *War and Peace* and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Tom Jones*, that sort of thing, what? *Ulysses*. Or perhaps there are lists of wizarding books like that, what, the sort of dry and rather boring literature that everyone thinks is smashing but no one can quite say why.

Those are all quite long but there used to be plenty of aids for reading them.

Perhaps the wizarding version of 'Great Books' are all much shorter?

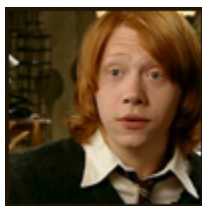
-J




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-20 17:08:49](#)
(no subject)

Um.

Would we have to actually read them?

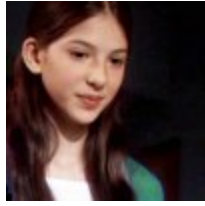


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-20 17:14:30](#)
(no subject)

And sure there's plenty of boring books out there. I think it would be loads better to pick wizard ones, too, y'know. Just cause.

How about biographies of all the founders and people who lived when they did.

We could ask Binns to be the staff person who backs us up. Or, well, maybe Madam Pomfrey. She's really old.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-20 18:44:05](#)
(no subject)

Biographies of ancient famous wizards sounds delightfully unobjectionable and there are probably some short ones!

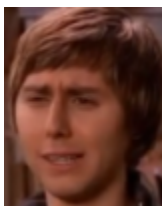
I think Madam Pomfrey would do it if I asked. I don't think I'd better until we're back at school, she's really busy this summer. Binns....huh. I don't think he remembers who ANY of us are.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-20 15:24:15](#)
(no subject)

Do you really want to make it by invitation only? Because making something "invitation only" is bound to rub some people the wrong way. Lavender and Padma might make an invitation-only club and feel perfectly justified in doing so, but if someone that they thought wasn't on their level made an invitation-only club, they would probably find reason to scorn it - especially if the people that *were* invited weren't them.

Not that I'm worried about rubbing them the wrong way, just that it could lead to more attention from Madam Umbridge, or other people, than we would necessarily want.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-20 15:35:08](#)
(no subject)

If we do something like a book club, then I think the best course is *not* to make it invitation only, what, but perhaps we ought to seek out certain others and encourage them to come, if you follow me.

Not that we'd actively discourage people from coming, but if the friends we wish to make all truly believe we're reading dusty tomes from days gone by they might not take an interest, what?

-J

2012-08-20 10:28:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony and Dora



Pomona's asked me to go and check after this Stint character. I'm off, then.

 [alt_sirius](#)

Remus, maybe Wednesday you can talk to Terry about how he's been lately? You're better at that sort of thing than I am, anyway. I wonder if it's anything to do with the rest of that lot's problems at the CCF?

Well, anyway. I'm not sure I'll be back by then but if I'm not, might be a good opportunity for a heart-to-heart.

And if Ellie starts fussing over Sinbad not being about ... well, I don't think we ought to tell her until after that Ministry check-in coming up (four months, already?) but maybe after that, we could sit her down and explain.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2012-08-20 17:20:03**
(no subject)

I shouldn't be up yet, I know. I'm not really. Just checking the journal for news.

Did you see I left a note for Bill? Only, I'm not sure he's able to get in touch during the day now he's working for Rosier. Anywiz, if he turns up anything about Stint that could be useful, I'll check that you and Pomona both see it.

Take care of yourself and the two of them, will you?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-08-20 18:04:02**
(no subject)

Yes, I saw you asked him about this Stint bloke but I was a bit occupied by the time I saw it.

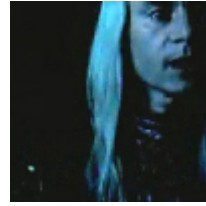
Merlin, her hands are tiny.

Anyway, I'm here and yes, I'll look after them. Poppy's a smidge more alert, or so I understand, than she was last night. But now

| Sinistra's off for New London, so Pomona and I can take it from here.

2012-08-20 15:23:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr. and Narcissa Malfoy



 **alt_lucius**

Barty, did you receive an owl from Rizzer's intended this after-noon? Mine indicates she sent you a similar note.

If it signifies what I believe it signifies, we ought to meet. Name place and time.

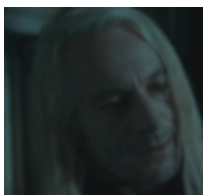
Narcissa, do not wish you to fret: Draco is still un-involved, if Sinistra's message is accurate. Given what he told us on his return from the CCF, his rôle thus far has been as a conduit more than an end in itself. Do not think he is in any real danger. However, want to see Barty's analysis of this latest before sharing its contents with you, dearest. Just to be sure.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-08-20 19:44:32**
(no subject)

So long as it doesn't interfere with leaving tomorrow?

You already know my opinion about Draco offering to step into the flames but he's enough your son that I know it's pointless to protest. Shall I assume, then, that I'm included here more to throw off the chase than because you have real information for me?



 **alt_lucius** at **2012-08-20 19:54:01**
(no subject)

Let us see what Barty says first, my love, but based on this I see no reason to change your plans. You and the boys ought not be disturbed at all; I have been debating whether it would be preferable to join you later this week. Thursday, perhaps. Otherwise I may simply have to go with you to Pembroke and return on Wednesday, which seems inefficient.

As for the other accusation, it is both. A message to both of you could be many things, to the outside eye. However, I have every intention of providing you and Draco with as much information as

we need to be prepared - particularly if you leave to-morrow and I follow. It's still unclear what his endgame is. It could be the opportunity he's looking for - but whether that opportunity is in Wales or New London is ... impossible to say.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-08-20 19:56:59**

Private Message to Lucius

I thought we agreed you'd come for the whole week.

Is Court that necessary? Couldn't you come in just for the afternoon, if it is?

Please, darling. You need to rest.



 **[alt_lucius](#) at 2012-08-20 20:04:14**

Re: Private Message to Lucius

I know what we agreed. But yes, Court is that necessary. As is the preparation for and action after Court. It's going to be difficult enough absenting myself on Friday.

Working from the seaside is simply not as convenient. I promise I shall join you Thursday, even if it means staying at the St James' house 'round the clock. (Let us hope that is an exaggeration!)

You needn't make it sound as if I'm doddering, either, Rio. I'm perfectly well.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#) at 2012-08-20 20:49:17**

(no subject)

Yes, have heard from her. Not sure what to make of it. Stint trying to rid himself of a nuisance, apparently. Why he should have such an obsession with the Hogwarts matron, I can't imagine.

But if he's manoeuvred her to an ice station the other side of Maebh's fences, I take it he's done using poison. (I do wonder if the professor's imagination was stretching facts on that point, but I understand she's submitted materials for testing, so we shall see.)

Don't like that he's concentrated all his interests in Wales.

Narcissa. How did you come to choose Pembroke? Was it someone else's suggestion?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-21 00:33:01](#)
(no subject)

Poisoning the Matron? Surely not.

As for Pembroke, it was rather a spot on the map. Our last holiday was in the east so I thought the western coast would be lovely. And I remembered Pembroke from holidays when Bella and I were girls.

I can assure you no one influenced me. Merely a coincidence.



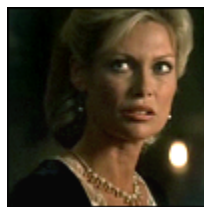
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-21 01:00:17](#)
(no subject)

Good.

Think I'll do a bit of reconnaissance, all the same.

We'll install a few people--at a discreet distance. To stand ready.

Has Bella said whether she and Rod are joining you? What about Rabastan?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-21 01:11:40](#)
(no subject)

~~More security?~~ I hope it's a very discreet distance, Barty. We tried so hard not to have to bother with all that, for Draco and Harry's sake.

Bella hasn't answered, which is not at all unusual; I would not be surprised if Mrs Baylock turned up with Hydra and Rigel in tow, nor if we did not see any of them the whole week.

As for Rizzer, I gather that Aurora has taken on the burden of their social calendar. Yes, we shall see a little of them toward the

weekend.

Surely we don't need them to cancel their plans together so he can stay closer to Harry? If Lucius came tomorrow we'd have all the wands we need.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-21 01:15:28](#)
(no subject)

A laudable effort, my dear, but out of the question.

Asking Raz to accompany you and the boys is a wise alternative.

Barty, is there any merit in someone besides yourself alerting Maebh? Or would that present more problems than it might resolve?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-21 02:47:53](#)
(no subject)

Not sure it's wise to approach Maebh at all. It's entirely possible she's among those for whom Stint is serving as pawn.

Someone could go and try to strong arm her into standing back, but you know as well as I do, she's likely to take that as a challenge. And it risks tipping our hand to Stint.

I think Maebh will have to make her own moves in this. As always.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-21 02:41:21](#)
(no subject)

Agree we should meet. Have been in admin meetings all afternoon/evening.

Could meet for breakfast. White's?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-21 02:54:54](#)
(no subject)

Fine. Six?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-21 03:11:07](#)
(no subject)

Good.

2012-08-20 22:05:00

Order Only: Facinorous Stint

I promised Dora that I'd try to glean what I could concerning Poppy's nemesis, Healer Stint. I took my source (formerly of St Mungo's, now working for the Ministry) out for drinks after work, and this is what she was able to pass along to me off the cuff:



 [alt_bill](#)

Facinorous Stint is a former Ravenclaw noteworthy for his blatantly carnivorous attitude toward relationships: he is notorious at St Mungo's for sizing people up according to how useful they might be to him and then treating them accordingly. My source says that the people around him or just below him 'tend to have footprints on their face because of the way he keeps stepping on them.' He has had three assistants quit in the last year. He's thick as thieves with one of his former roommates from Ravenclaw, and the other three despise him and refuse to have any contact with him.


He did author two papers, one on potion cross-contamination and one on potion interactions which indicate that he could have knowledge regarding poisons.

Also: his ex-wife is missing, as of about five or six years ago. Which is ominous. His career took off noticeably after that.

I know this isn't helpful for the immediate issue, but I should have more from her in a day or two, including a list of the committees he's serving on. My source remarked that he was involved with an unusually high number: he's cutting quite a swath through the bureaucracy.

I hope that there is no further alarm with regard to Poppy before then.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-21 12:40:47](#)
(no subject)

Oh, for goodness sake. Bill. I'm appalled to think that you've dropped other necessary things for this.

Truly, I'm feeling much better today, and I really don't wish to be a bother.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-21 13:42:15](#)**
(no subject)

You're not the bother, Poppy. That blasted Stint is.

Just watch your back. I don't like you up at the top of a mountain with no one to watch it for you.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-21 14:02:00](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, Bill. At least it's something.

As for the ex-wife, I don't doubt she wanted as much distance between herself and this bloke as she could possibly get. He's the sort comes off as charming at first but there's an undercurrent like he's figuring out how best to dispose of your body when he's done with you.

Yeah, I don't know if he really poisoned Poppy but I'd sure believe it if he had done.




 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-21 14:35:21](#)**
(no subject)

That does rather match with what we've heard from Aurora, too. (She wouldn't talk much about that incident at the St. Mungo's gala between Rabastan and Stint last December, but I gather it was both most unpleasant and entirely in character.)

He did, I should note, try and put his head in the door of the pub last night. Tried to insist they make space for him at the bar, tried to insist that Pryderi rouse Poppy so he could "have a word". At that point, the local men made it quite clear that sort of thing wasn't done round here, and set him back out in the chill inside of three minutes. Clearly not the sort of setting he's used to dealing with.

Aurora was quite right that they're clannish here, but whatever she said by way of explanation's been a help to us, at least.



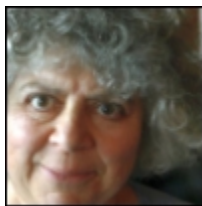
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-21 17:26:52](#)**
(no subject)

More tidbits on Stint, passed along by my source this morning, as well as dropped by Rosier in a conversation I had with him today. My, Poppy, your nemesis really does sound like an utter git.

About the Gala: Stint was tightlipped about it himself at first because he was, get this, literally tight-lipped. As in, Rabastan LeStrange got furiously hacked off at him and magically sealed his mouth shut. Over something Stint said about Aurora Sinistra, because when Stint managed to unstick his mouth ten days later, he was saying all sorts of vile things about her. Calling her a slut was the least of it. He's also supposed to be furious, now that their engagement has been announced.

Also, I'm chasing down rumours that Stint has a couple of very unhappy society witches among his patients who filed claims of dissatisfaction only to retract them suddenly and claim no knowledge of the matter when questioned by oversight board members following up. Which sounds downright dodgy to me. Maybe there's some dirt there we can use?

He's been more absent than usual this summer from St Mungo's, too. Which is also upsetting his coworkers. Whatever is absorbing his attention, it isn't his usual work.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-21 17:56:00](#)**
(no subject)

I'd known most of that about the Gala (not the last bit in detail, though Aurora mentioned she'd had a few notes from other people who'd been targets of his after he started complaining about it in

January.)

That part about the unhappy patients is new to me. Quite worth exploring, if there's a way into that, I'd think.

As to this summer, well. He's been chasing Poppy around. He's been out at the YPL activities far more than he was supposed to be. But it makes one wonder if there's some other occupation for his time we haven't spotted yet.

Thank you, Bill, for digging. And I'll make sure Poppy sees this when she comes back, in case she has other thoughts.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-21 16:10:39](#)
(no subject)

I also must admit that we may have painted ourselves into a corner, rather.

When we arrived yesterday, I mentioned to Aurora that Ellie (that being the handy material for our Sirius and his potion for a possibly extended period of time) was my great-niece. She made no comment yesterday, beyond the pleasantries, and of course she had a number of other things on her mind.

But middle of the night, I woke up and realised just how flimsy that is. The problem with Aurora, really, is how much time she's been at Hogwarts. Not just her own studies, but she was only gone six years before coming back to teach, and as a required course, she sees every student until after OWLs.

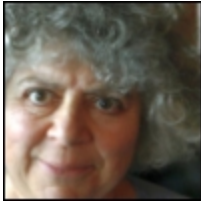
I've no idea if she'll start thinking on it later, but I, well. I needed to admit the problem, and see if you all have any suggestions. I do think she'd ask me or perhaps Poppy before telling anyone else, but I also know of her weekend plans with that nest of snakes.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-21 16:22:24](#)
(no subject)

I know you and Poppy won't like this suggestion but that's what the Confundus Charm is for, isn't it?

Then again, if she doesn't ask about it, it might be a sign of what you were saying last night, that she's someone to consider as a potential ally. I don't know as I'd offer her membership in the Order, not without more concrete proof that she can protect herself (and us) among the vipers, as you aptly (asptly?) put it. But thus far, I'll admit, she does seem to maintain a healthy sensibility.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-21 16:42:08](#)
(no subject)

I don't like, but for more reasons than the obvious.

Aurora's strength, really, is her sense for patterns.
(Well, when it comes to anything other than plants.)

The problem with a Confundus or anything of that kind is that we might get the immediate problem, and cause more later, as she worried over what she was missing. And I don't think we want that at all.

I don't know how much sense you made of the conversation at lunch yesterday - she was being rather oblique, if you didn't know the background. Back in April, something in their planning meetings, half a dozen nearly harmless questions from Stint had her more and more convinced he was plotting something for the CCF time at Leicester.

I don't know what happened, and I don't think she'll share the details easily, but clearly something did. That's what she meant yesterday about being proved right, and thinking that the Malfoys might take her concerns about this thing with Poppy slightly more seriously as a result. But she spent weeks worrying at the transcripts before she convinced herself this spring, wanting to be absolutely certain she wasn't missing something. (She said something about how astronomy teaches you to recognise what you can't see from what you can, but she has been rather more philosophical recently than her usual.)

Last thing we want to do is give her an excuse to do that kind of digging in and looking at the details. And beyond that, we've no way to find out what she might have said to Rabastan in the interim if we can't ask her. (They do talk. More than most people assume.) Besides the fact I don't expect to see her again until we get back to school.

I am, however, glad you approve of her healthy sensibility. And it seems that this might be a possible test: I think she's unlikely to put me at risk without talking to me first, anyrate, which would at least give us some warning.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-21 16:54:29](#)
(no subject)

Well, there's no point worrying about it until it becomes a problem. I didn't mean to suggest you ought to go track her down and Oblivate her on the spot, just in case. It's more a question of 'If she comes back to you in the school year and asks anything worrisome. But then, I suppose you can always say something about how you're not surprised she doesn't remember Ellie since she was a mousy thing at 11 or what have you.

I'll grant you it's not wise to Confund or Oblivate her when she's so often in the company of the likes of Malfoy. Or Bella. Just remember that if she *does* mention any misgivings to someone else, you might find yourself caught in the lie before we have time to do anything about it.

Anyway, Frank's coming too, so we've another able wand if we need one. I'm forming a plan to see if we can catch Stint off-guard. Bet Frank'll be up for it. Well. Part of it, anyway.




 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-21 17:02:01](#)
(no subject)

Well, good. And quite the point, about the company she's keeping. Though, really, I'd worry more about Rabastan directly. And no. I'm aware of the risk, but I really do trust she'd come to me or Poppy first if she does worry over it.

I think the part of this plan I dislike is that if you want me upstairs with Poppy, we won't get to watch the fun. Though I really should not be encouraging you two, even in this good a cause.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-21 17:05:10](#)
(no subject)

It's good to know I am here to amuse you.

But no, what I've in mind will work best if the chaperone is elsewhere. We can always send you

a Patronus if you want to join in the interrogatory portion of the evening, mind.



 **alt_pomona** at **[2012-08-21 17:15:55](#)**
(no subject)

You have an excellent record of being quite amusing, yes.

I would be interested in the 'interrogatory portion of the evening' as you put it, if we can arrange it without suspicion, though.

[2012-08-21 07:42:00](#)

Fresh Wind

I've arrived here at the top of the world, or so it feels. It takes a bit of adjustment, living at altitude, but the topic of this course is stimulating. A breath of fresh air, indeed.



 **[alt_poppy](#)**

We've another two days of lecture and demonstration before we strike out to do our own research into the processes of hypothermia on a rough trek. It promises to be a quite challenging exercise.

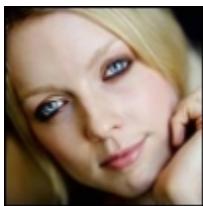


 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-21 13:03:16](#)**

Private Message to Pomona Sprout and Aurora Sinistra

Aurora, I'm so terribly sorry to have put you to such trouble. I promise that I am on the mend. Ever so much better today after another good night's rest. You may now quit worrying entirely.

Pomona, dear, I'm afraid I left my satchel beside my chair at breakfast. Not to worry, though. I'll pop down and collect it at lunch: they're giving us a reading period again today, to catch up on some of the literature. if you're not out for a ramble, I'll see you then. And if you do happen to be about, it would not go amiss if you'd check, as you did yesterday, to see that I'm awake when it's time for the afternoon session.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-21 14:24:16](#)**

Re: Private Message to Pomona Sprout and Aurora Sinistra

I am very glad to hear you're doing better - but do be extremely careful, please. I am, in fact, going to continue to worry. Don't you know me better by now?

Mum also wants me to reassure you that while it was not precisely a pleasure, she was very glad to be able to be of help. She'd love to have you for a proper visit sometime, so you can both talk food and remedies and such. And as she points out, you've been of endless

help to various of our clan over the years and it was nice to be able to return the favour. (And on my end, well, Raz managed, and it was nice to get to sit up with her and cook, just the two of us, even with so worrisome a reason.) So please don't worry on that account.

I did have a word after I left with the various people I mentioned to Pomona: I'm not at all sure how seriously they're taking it, any of them, but they didn't dismiss me entirely, either. I'll let you know if I hear anything more, but Mel said it might be a few days.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-21 13:07:25](#)**

Private Message to Miss Sally Anne Perks

I'm terribly sorry to have let your questions go unanswered for so many days, and I'm afraid that this morning I haven't the leisure still. This evening, perhaps.

I hope you are enjoying the final days of your holidays. For my part, I am looking forward to the return to Hogwarts and its familiar routines.

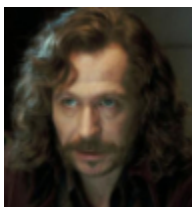


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-21 22:13:47](#)**

Re: Private Message to Miss Sally Anne Perks

Please don't worry about it, Madam Pomfrey.

I'm looking forward to going back to Hogwarts, too. I'll see you then.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-21 14:54:54](#)**

Order Only

Pomona and I have arranged for hot stew and dumplings, if you're feeling up to it. Take the Floo back down and you can have a lie-down before the afternoon session.

She told you Stint's attempt to join in the fun at the pub was roundly resisted? I've a feeling we'll see him back tonight, though, so you and Pomona had best go up straight after supper.

I've a feeling that if I'm in the taproom by myself, he'll try his luck.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-21 16:24:11](#)

Re: Order Only

do you need any help keeping an eye on things?



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-21 16:29:35](#)

Re: Order Only

Wouldn't say no to a strapping lad who can run Stint off if need be.

It'd give credence to my planned rebuff, anyway.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-21 16:50:35](#)

Re: Order Only

all right.

I can spare a few days.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-21 16:58:32](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Frank

Righty-ho. Give me a chance to ask you a thing or two about our Terry.

Oh, incidentally, I'm disguised as Ellie, and we've given out that she's Pomona's grand-niece.

Stint imagines himself a ladies' man and I caught him giving me the eye a bit last night. Fancy playing the jealous boyfriend? I think it might give us just the excuse we need to get him alone and discover what harm he means to do Poppy.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-08-21 17:19:14](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Frank

yeah.

had a conversation or three with the kid, so I can fill you in on where his head is right now.

|||| ricky might do for a disguise. fin might be a bit too intimidating.

2012-08-21 12:58:00

Order Only: Nick Towler



 [alt_lee](#)

I've met with Nick Towler a couple of times to try to get a read on what he thinks of his new job and the Ministry. And you, Mr Weasley. We met at his house again last night, and stayed in his room and talked there. I put up one of the charms Fred and George showed me (without him noticing). So I'm sure we weren't overheard. He shares a room with his brother Ken, but Ken was staying overnight with a friend.

I suggested chess, since Nick always liked to chat while playing (drove his opponents mad, in fact). He had opinions about everyone, but he likes Vilas Rupadam (hope I'm spelling that right) and Mr Weasley the best. Vilas has been good about showing him the ropes, and he's brilliant at knowing where every last piece of parchment is. And Mr Weasley because he 'treats people decent.'

He's changed since the Frost Faire. Dunno how to describe it, exactly. Maybe quieter. Less happy-go-lucky. But I'm a long-time friend, so he trusts me, and he opened up more last night. He's been smarting over some remarks he's heard at his job, casual slurs about half-bloods. The thing is, he's a half-blood, although technically he's classified as a pureblood, now, since they 'elevated' his family in blood status when his brother Mark was killed. He knows perfectly well that everyone calls him a pureblood, but no one thinks of him as one. So he takes those remarks he hears dropped all the time as little digs at his competence. Gets him real hot under the collar. It's making him think, maybe for the first time, about other stuff he's heard all his life. He's heard talk around the department since he started work about muggles and mudbloods: about how they're nothing but animals, and dumber than rocks and can't wipe their bums without help--sorry, but that's the way he put it.

Thing is, Nick's a real fan of history. Not just magical history, but the history of England before the Protectorate. 'It's bleedin' crazy,' he told me. 'Muggle England was the navigation superpower of the world, ruling an empire spread across the planet. The royal families ruled for over a thousand years. And now we're supposed to believe that the people who did that are incapable of anything but hoeing turnips for wizards?'

I took a chance. I asked him, 'So do you think the way the Ministry

treats muggleborns is right? Or muggles?'

That seemed to make him struggle a good while. But he finally said, 'No.' Looked troubled and added, 'But it's not like I can do anything about it.'

Mr Weasley, I think Fred and George steered you right when they told you to hire him.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-21 22:34:12](#)
(no subject)

Of course we were right. We frequently are.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-21 22:35:42](#)
(no subject)

Very interesting, Lee. Thanks for the report. I must say that if he's been bothered by remarks others have made at work, he's keeping it to himself. So far. You don't get the impression he's spoken to anyone else

about it?



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-21 22:39:23](#)
(no subject)

I don't think so, no.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-21 22:42:17](#)
(no subject)

Hmm. Perhaps if I were to invite a conversation about first impressions in the workplace, it might lead to something more. Which would be a reasonable subject to raise, as I'm supposed to be mentoring him.

2012-08-21 19:21:00

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

All quiet here. Made sure the pre-arrival check was thorough.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Asked Forney to dig into some of the holes in Stint's file. The wife, for instance. Just had an owl: she's alive, has a new name (Posset), and is working in a millinery shop in Leicester. Forney paid a visit. Got an earful, apparently. Scathing. Would like to see him flayed and boiled in acid. (Her words.)

Had word he turned up at Snowdon yesterday. Under surveillance, but at a distance.

Will let you know if I hear more. Unless you'd rather not be bothered with developments.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2012-08-22 00:42:37**

(no subject)

Barty.

Where developments concern Harry or my family, of course I expect to be kept informed.

Should have gone with her myself were it not necessary to remain. Your diligence in ... looking after Narcissa ... is as always most appreciated.

We are ... fortunate that we kept our holiday location tightly protected.

Expect there shall be no incidents with him disrupting her or the boys' sojourn.

Shall be there by noon Thursday at the latest.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-22 00:44:38](#)
(no subject)

I intend to see there are no interruptions or incidents here.

And nothing for you to worry about.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-22 00:52:05](#)
(no subject)

No, I should think not.

2012-08-21 20:19:00

Order Only

I hope you do realise, Sirius, that keeping Poppy contained up here - given the music we can hear down there - had better be worth the effort.



 **alt_pomona**

I am only somewhat teasing. (Poppy, really, we'll have plenty of chance to listen later this week. And I understand it may be quite something on Thursday or Friday.)

At any rate. What on earth is going on down there, please?



 **alt_sirius** at **2012-08-22 00:25:06**

(no subject)

He's not made his move yet but he's watching.

I don't see Frank yet, either. I'm going to the bar; I hope that'll convince him to strike up a conversation.

Besides, I'm not convinced Poppy doesn't need the rest. She can hear the fiddles just fine where she is.



 **alt_pomona** at **2012-08-22 00:26:43**

(no subject)

That is not what she argues. But. She is, at least, sitting in a comfortable chair and having another mug of that tisane Aurora's mother sent along.

Right. Do have a care.



 **alt_sirius** at **2012-08-22 00:28:34**

(no subject)

I'll send a pint upstairs, then.

Oh, wait, here he comes.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 00:35:29](#)
(no subject)

She is reading what you write.



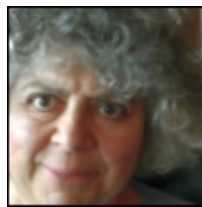
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 00:35:00](#)
(no subject)

I take exception to both your assumptions and your tone. Both of you.

I can't believe I'm letting you bait the hook this way. Are you really missing Remus so much you'd consider a date with that miserable piece of manflesh?

Fine.

I am not, for the record, over tired. I feel very greatly improved.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 00:41:32](#)
(no subject)

Poppy, dear.

You did worry us, quite a lot. Let us fuss, would you? We so rarely get the chance. (And I'm saying that here, so that Sirius can chime in.)

As to the plan, look. More information can only be an improvement, surely? And it's not as if Sirius is intending to let it go very far. (The shudders. I can quite see why Aurora's refused to be alone in a room with him for months. Slimy all the way down.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 00:50:53](#)
(no subject)

Yes, yes. I realize you were and are worried. And I'm sorry to sound ungrateful.

We'll just sit here, tapping our toes to the faint rhythms from downstairs, then, shall we?

And imagine what is developing between your dear niece and that ridiculous popinjay.

Sirius? What can you report?



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-22 01:16:26](#)
(no subject)

He's gone to the loo. (Sodding arse. Can't hold his beer, either, apparently.)

Poppy, you'll be pleased to know that he's morally outraged by the thought that you and Pomona are upstairs tonight doing what you've insinuated I intend to allow Stint to do.

And there's something about you getting in the way of 'plans' of his at St M's. Not sure what. I'll find out when he comes back.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-08-22 01:22:30](#)
(no subject)


Doing what I've insinuated-

Hrm. He imagines we're having an energetic time of it!

A backhanded compliment, but I'll take it.

But he says I've been in his way at St Mungo's? How can that possibly be true? I have so little standing, it's laughable.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-22 00:50:05](#)
(no subject)

You're not the only one with shudders at the thought of letting Stint get too far, Pomona. (And comparing that to Remus? I do have *some* taste, give me a little credit for that much.)

And you've had us submit to your fussing enough times. It's only fair that we get to turn it back on you now and then. I suppose it's

true that Healers make the worst patients.

Now, stop bickering. I'm trying to concentrate on acting like a lass.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 00:52:00](#)

(no subject)

Oh, that does give us something to imagine, yes. (And now you see why we don't want to miss the show?)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 00:52:05](#)

(no subject)

I'm sorry, Sirius. You're right. I'm quite in the wrong.

I'll just sit quietly now.

And twitch.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:06:33](#)

(no subject)

I am trying to console myself that if it all does go horribly wrong, at least we'll hear the shouting. Unlike most times you're fretting over Sirius. Or Frank.

(Have you seen Frank?)

And I promise you, Poppy, plenty of music tomorrow.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 01:24:14](#)

(no subject)

I'm holding you to that.

Do you see what they're saying about us? Not that I mind. It's rather sweet, I think. And could be true, if we were two different old birds than we are.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:26:18](#)
(no subject)

It is rather sweet, if we were different old birds.

(I sometimes think that would have been much easier, in its way. But I will *not* get maudlin tonight. We've far better entertainment.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 01:27:50](#)
(no subject)

Mind you, there's nothing sweet in Stint's thoughts about us.


And you're quite right about that. I hope to hear the discordant sounds of his discomfiture rising up from the bar at any moment.



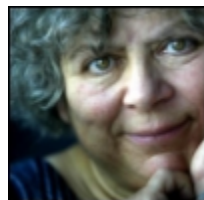
 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:48:06](#)
(no subject)

Did you hear that, or was that just me? Out toward the courtyard?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 01:48:43](#)
(no subject)

I thought it was the band starting back up.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:50:06](#)
(no subject)

No. Definitely something else.

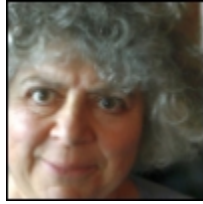
And wait, there's the band stopping again. (I suppose they could maybe just be tuning, but.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 01:51:11](#)
(no subject)

No. You're right.

I'm going out to have a listen at the banister. I promise I won't go downstairs.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:53:36](#)
(no subject)

No, let me. If you're spotted, it'll be more difficult for everyone, really, Poppy.

And you've the better ears for picking things out from among other sounds - too many mandrake classes in my lifetime, I'm sure.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 01:55:18](#)
(no subject)

Fine. Have it your way.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 01:58:31](#)
(no subject)

Goodness, Sirius, you are enthusiastic in Poppy's defence.

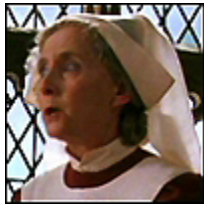
Poppy, don't know if you caught any of that, but, to quote our friend: "I happen to care about that 'meddling fussbucket,' thank you very much, and there's some as don't take kindly to your poisonous intentions, you miserable fuck."

Oh, and there's Frank, with a bit about "we're watching out for you, you asshole" At least I assume that's Frank.



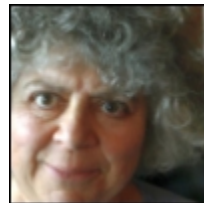
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 02:00:06](#)
(no subject)

I'm blushing.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 02:00:33](#)
(no subject)

What are they doing to him? Can you tell?



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 02:02:16](#)
(no subject)

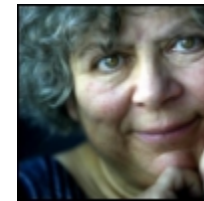
There's sounds of scuffling and fighting, but I can't see at all - too little moon, too many dark corners in that courtyard.


But oh - I think that was the doors. There's some new voices, anyway.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 02:05:29](#)
(no subject)

Is it Ellie or Sirius in the fight? You said-
Has he let his polyjuice break?



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 02:08:53](#)
(no subject)

He did, but he got more into him before everyone came out - or at least before they got close.

They're all treating him like a perfectly innocent girl. That part is entirely hilarious, Sirius.

Poppy, I think you could come peer out the window with me now, if you wanted.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-22 02:10:10](#)
(no subject)

You don't have to ask me twice. I'm bringing your wrap.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-22 02:27:47](#)
(no subject)

I let it break at just the right moment, actually.

Right when he thought he had 'Ellie' where he wanted.

The best part was listening to him try to tell Gwydion and Rhys there that I'm a bloke. Now they think he's a pervert *and* a madman besides!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-22 03:26:52](#)
(no subject)

You're having way too much fun with this. Admit it.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-08-22 03:36:25](#)
(no subject)

worth it.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-22 03:40:10](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Wish we were there to enjoy it, too!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-22 03:48:10](#)

Private message to Fred and George Weasley

I'm trying to figure out what Madam Pomfrey meant up above about insinuations.

But I guess it isn't my business to ask.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-22 03:49:04](#)

Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Ha, so you asked us instead. Well, yeah, that's probably more tactful. And the insinuation she means is that she and Professor Sprout are, well, they're together. Like...



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-22 03:49:28](#)

Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

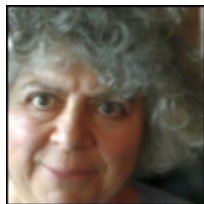
Oh. Oh! Like Sirius and Remus, you mean?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-22 03:50:10](#)

Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Yeah, or Richard and Danny.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 02:06:19](#)

(no subject)

And now I can hear ... Sirius is explaining that Stint is a dirty old man, and that his (her. Goodness, this is complicated) boyfriend was defending her.


They seem to be listening.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-22 02:33:41](#)
(no subject)

He says 'Sorry, Hermione and Terry.' (And, er, yeah. Sorry.)



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-22 03:30:24](#)
(no subject)

Uh huh, that's Mr Longbottom, then.

Goodness, he'll stop in the middle of anything to apologise to Hermione and me whenever he curses.


Stay safe, both of you. He sounds like the sort the git would have liked.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-22 03:33:41](#)
(no subject)

My goodness. I hope Sirius and Frank do their best not to mix it up so badly that anyone gets picked up by the local authorities. Complications like that we do not need.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-22 03:34:38](#)
(no subject)

They know better than that, Dad.

Well, mostly. Occasionally. Now and then.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-22 02:48:24](#)
Private message to Sirius Black

Look, I'm assuming you've got to handle things downstairs, and that neither of us would help matters there right now.

But I've been thinking, and tonight seems as good a time to say it as

any. I owe you an apology. All three of you at Laszlo's.

I overreacted, at Christmas. And then compounded the unfairness by never explaining why. I still don't want to go into it, really, but my marriage was really very bad, I was forced out, and. Well. Enough said.

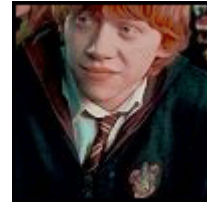
Not that I'm not abundantly happier where I am now, and with a far better circle of friends than I'd ever imagined finding, but some things get a hold on you and don't let go for a long time.

Thank you for coming to help. And for helping me convince Poppy that it's needed.

2012-08-22 10:21:00

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Happy Birthday, big brother. Hope you get to do something awesome today in New London. Like go out to eat somewhere really brilliant or go to a show or something. What do you actually do now you live there?

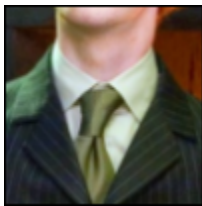


 [alt_ron](#)

Say. Speaking of.

You wouldn't mind if I shifted my stuff down into your room, would you? Mum thinks you'll be all, I dunno, but I thought I'd just go on and ask. Only, it's really not great living under the ghoul, y'know? He makes a ruckus and smells foul, yeah?

So. What do you say? I could have your room now, right?




 [alt_percy](#) at **2012-08-22 18:19:28**
(no subject)

Thanks for the good wishes, Ronald. Penny and I will probably just have a quiet evening at our flat. A nice dinner in our own home is still enough of a novelty to make it rsther special.

I suppose I don't have any objection to your shifting your things down to my room. I can see why you'd preder to escape the ghoul. Oh, but I left a lot of books on the bookshelf in my room. I'd prefer that they not be moved to the cellar or anything: they might get mouldy, butI suppose you could shift them to your old room.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-08-22 19:10:40**
(no subject)

Thanks, Perce!

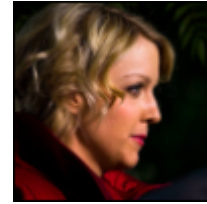
Sure. I'll move your books up to my room. No worries.

So you're not coming for supper, then? I saw where Mum asked. Being Mum, yeah?!

[2012-08-22 10:49:00](#)

My astronomy NEWTs:

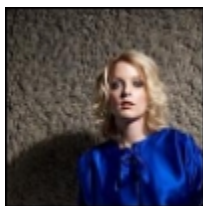
If you get the chance, take a look at the western horizon after sunset the next night or two. Mars, Saturn, and Spica are in an unusually small equilateral triangle - about six degrees of each other. One thing everyone can enjoy are the colours: the crescent moon was nearly white last night, Saturn has a golden glow, and Mars is more orange than red. Spica herself is blue-white.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Spica, for those who don't remember, is a particularly well-matched binary star system, and the brightest star in the constellation Virgo. 6th years, we'll be discussing Spica in September as part of our look at precession. And for those of you who are early morning risers, Venus is particularly lovely in the hours before dawn this week as well.

I finally got a chance to spend the evening at the astronomy guild hall doing some research, and had a chance to catch up with several professional colleagues while we worked. There are some exciting topics under consideration for next summer's guild-sponsored projects. Several have pieces that would make a good focus for the NEWT year-long research projects, and possibly open up internship opportunities for next summer. For those of you more interested in locational magics, there are a few possibilities there, as well.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 15:07:03](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Narcissa -

I hate to trouble you on holiday, but someone left a early copy of today's *In The Soup* on the doorstep at Spence, flipped to an entirely nasty story about me and Raz. And I'm sure when he finds out, he'll be furious.

It's not what it says that worries me - I know the truth about him and he does about me. And honestly, I'd sort of expected something like this before now. But, look, I've been reading *In The Soup* for a year, and I know perfectly well it's usually the nastiest of the lot, but this is beyond their usual level of vile.

Implications of my past relationships. Of his. (Dredging out every old rumour imaginable, and yes, I know how many of them are false.) Of my earning the Astronomy position on my back and that I've been sleeping around on him all year. (When anyone thinks I'd find the time or opportunity, I've no idea.) And all in the most derogatory and belittling terms.

I've sent my owl with a note for him, because are some things I'd rather not say even in the journals, but could you tell him it's coming? And keep an eye on him, if you would? He really is going to be upset, I think.

I was already planning to stay in for a few days - I've plenty of research and reading to keep me occupied - so no worries there.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-22 19:57:48](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Aurora. He's

Well.

He and Harry are out in the back garden. They were going to play chess but it quickly turned into an impromptu lesson. Rather good for them both, I think.

He's all right but yes, rather upset. I think he's worried it might have implications none of us care to consider.

If you prefer to get out of town altogether, you're welcome to come earlier.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 20:26:51](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Oh.

Good for them both, I agree. And I hadn't even really thought about that. Hypatia.

Thank you for the offer, but ... perhaps tomorrow evening? If that wouldn't be too much.

Both my parents are - well, now they've seen the details (some of

Mum's colleagues are entirely too happy to share that kind of thing apparently), they need a bit of soothing. I don't want to be tricky to reach for a little yet, while they're still fussing.

Or my oldest brother is. (He was at school with Raz, which in this case is not helping. At all. Of all the times for him to actually notice the larger world.)



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-22 20:37:21](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Do forgive me, dear, but I have not rushed out to obtain the thing in question. If for no other reason than it leaves one free to answer 'I've not read it, nor would I do,' should anyone be rude enough as

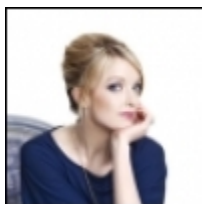
to ask.

But I, for one, hardly think that either of you were pure as snow before meeting one another. Nor should you have been expected to be (whatever Inigo Sandoval may think about his daughter, we are living in more modern times than all that). Even if it was somewhat, well, wild let us say or impetuous, I should think if you were ashamed of anything in your past, you'll have already told Raz about it, or agreed that it doesn't matter.

He certainly is in no position to cast hexes at you, whatever the accusations may be. And thus far there has been no hint in him of any blame toward you, let me assure you.

I think the best thing you can tell your parents, my dear, is that obviously someone has forgotten their manners at *In the Soup* and clearly run with a story that shows poor judgement and worse taste. On their part, not yours.

Not to worry. It will sort itself given time. And given a few choice repercussions for the editor and his staff.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 20:51:41](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Raz does have a copy, should your curiosity get the better of you - that's part of what I sent by owl this morning.

And no. It's not that my parents think I'm pure as the driven snow. (Our family's actually more prone to earthy pragmatism than perennial protestations of chastity.) But I don't like rubbing Dad's face in it too much if I don't have to, and there is the complication of students.

Raz already knew all the (quite few) bits that were truth, and truly, I've no worries there, and know he's been just as honest with me. (Though it's good to be reassured, thank you.)

It's trying to figure out where a couple of the accusations came from that bothers me. There's a couple of pieces that were just detailed enough to have had an ill-informed source of a particular kind. And I didn't think there were more than a couple of people who disliked me quite that much.

If you're sure it's all right and won't be a bother, I think I would like to come tomorrow, rather than wait, though.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-22 23:47:53](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Yes, of course. Come whenever you like. We shan't stand on formalities here.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 23:55:12](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Oh, thank you.

I'll aim for four or so, and be safely out of the way in case my brother thinks better of tonight's conversation tomorrow.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 15:27:21](#)

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Look. There's a story in one of the gossip papers that's coming out today that I think will make Raz very angry. Can you Would you Um. Not at me, on my behalf. And his own. It's extremely nasty. (And very little of it is true.)

Can I ask you a favour? Can you do what you can to make sure he doesn't overdo it today or do anything too foolish? I hate to ask it of you, or ask you to waste any of your holiday or limit yourself for him. Just - I'm so worried how he'll take this, and I can't be there.

I've sent my Nashira with a note for him, and she should be there early this afternoon. It explains a bit more.

Just

Thanks.



 **alt_harry** at **2012-08-22 17:02:24**

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Okay. I'll try.

And I'm sorry.

~~Is there~~

Is there anything else I could do to help? If you don't want me to say anything about it, I won't, but I could write a letter to the person who wrote it or something. I don't know.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-22 17:19:12**

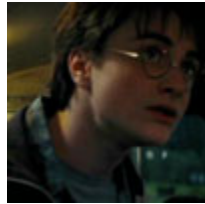
Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo


~~Oh, sweetheart~~ You are so very kind to offer, but no, I don't think there's anything you can do to make that better. I'm going to trust to Raz (and the Malfoys) on a response, but I rather suspect ignoring it in public is the best thing to do.

Helping make sure he's all right is the best thing right now. I've got some very nice research to keep me busy, and I'll see you this weekend. (And I know Narcissa is looking forward to time to talk to me, but I'd also love a bit of a fly and seeing what you all have discovered so far about the area.)

And look. It's possible someone might ask you about it. If you want to know if anything they say (or any other gossip you hear) about me is true, you can ask me, and I'll tell you truth and what you can

share. As much as I can without giving away someone else's secrets. (Blame my House, but I prefer honesty when I can and especially with those I trust.)



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-08-22 17:31:42](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Yeah.

I'll make sure.

And I don't care what it says. I mean, it doesn't matter to me. It wouldn't change anything. And it's not like it's anyone's business anyways.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 17:35:58](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Thank you. And that does help, if you'd wondered.

Right. I'm sure you've more enjoyable things to be doing, and I'm going to go try and find some of that for myself for a bit.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-23 03:26:42](#)

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Thanks - I think it was a great help, from what Narcissa's said.

I'm going to be coming up there a little earlier than we'd planned - late tomorrow afternoon. Anything I can bring with me you'd like?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-22 20:41:26](#)

Private message to Raz

Dearest,

Narcissa invited me to come earlier, if it'd help. But Mum and Dad are fussing, and Orion's already been on to me (and he is being a total prat about it), so I want to stick

around and soothe them a bit.

They'll get over it, it's just messy while they sort out if they should be outraged or offended or disappointed in me, or protective or what. I promise not to leave Spence, and I'm keeping myself as distracted as I can.

But I thought tomorrow evening, maybe. I'll be sensible until then if you will be too. (By which I mean, attempting to get enough sleep and not making rash decisions. Because as tempted as I've been, I'm sure you must be too. Not about you, I rush to add, but about the rest of it.)


[2012-08-22 12:42:00](#)

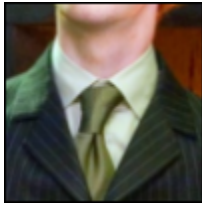
Private Message to Percy

Happy Birthday!

I hope all is well. Now that CCF is over, we can get together. What day would work best for you before school starts again?



 [alt_ginny](#)



 [alt_percy](#) at **[2012-08-23 01:20:06](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Ginny. Although it hasn't been one of my best. I'm still at the office, if you can believe it. I really can't predict how late I'm going to stay after work each day. Perhaps Saturday would be best. Would that work for you?



 [alt_ginny](#) at **[2012-08-23 05:32:19](#)**
(no subject)

That's perfect. I knew you'd be too busy during the week, but I wanted to make sure you had an opening in your schedule.

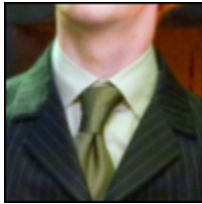
[2012-08-22 13:20:00](#)

Happy birthday, Percy!

We'll see you both at dinner tonight, won't we?



 [alt_molly](#)



 [alt_percy](#) at [2012-08-22 18:24:13](#)

(no subject)

Oh. Oh, um...no, as a matter of fact, Mum. Penny and I were planning on a quiet evening, just the two of us. I'm sure you understand.

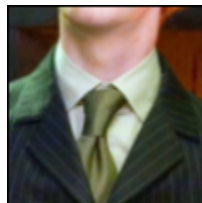


 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-22 18:25:40](#)

(no subject)

Oh, but--

I was planning on making all your favourite things!



 [alt_percy](#) at [2012-08-22 18:28:52](#)

(no subject)

Well, that's exactly what Penny had in mind. You see?

I'm sorry, Mum, I just didn't think you'd expect us tonight. I assumed that since we'd be coming over Sunday night as usual, we'd just, well, have the family celebration then.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-22 18:31:51](#)

(no subject)

Oh. Oh, I see. I'm sorry, dear; I just made an assumption, and it was an assumption, I see that now.

Well, I'll simply make your cake Sunday instead of this afternoon.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-23 02:36:26](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday, and I'll look forward to seeing you then, my boy. Unless you can meet me for lunch before then?



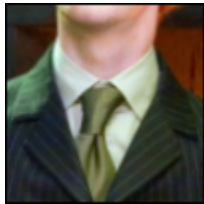
 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2012-08-23 02:37:40](#)**
(no subject)

I think it's unlikely, Dad. I had to turn Bill down today, as I had too much to do. But yes, Penny and I will see you Sunday.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-08-23 02:39:32](#)**
(no subject)


Hey, if we have four more days to work on your present, it'll be extra special. Something really explosive!



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2012-08-23 02:40:04](#)**
(no subject)

Ha, ha. I can hardly wait.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-23 02:41:28](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry it didn't work out, but we'll get lunch sometime next week for sure, even if it doesn't work out for this week. Happy birthday!

[2012-08-22 13:25:00](#)

Private message to Lucius and Barty

Barty - any new updates on that surveillance report?



 **[alt_rabastan](#)**

Quiet here, more or less. Draco just left to go flying, but Harry wanted to stay in to play chess. Lucius, told Draco we'll be out to look for him if he's not back in an hour sharp. He knows the drill by now, anyway.

If Stint is still at Snowdon, I'd like to pay him a visit. Leave him absent more than just his mouth this time.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2012-08-22 20:16:52](#)**
(no subject)

You've seen a certain article, then? I can give you the editor's address if you'd like to pay a visit there, as well.

Have two people watching Stint. Plus one at the top of the mountain at the station. He's in and out of there frequently.

Ours are keeping their distance as that's the only chance to see who's making contact with him. The manager at the station, and the director of the course. This morning there was a lumpish looking yokel. Stint paid him for something.

But the most recent report is that he has a nasty habit of disappearing. Has gone and returned twice today from the inn where he's got rooms. Those weren't trips to the top. Uses the Floo for that. (Not sure what's wrong with his legs. The rest of them are expected to hoof it, except the matron. Apparently she's a bit fragile at the moment. Age catching up.)

At any rate, Desai and Montague are looking at planting a tracer on him, but that may not be worth the chance they'll tip their hand. There's no sign of him here at Pembroke yet. Perimeter's clear. Desai assumes he's still trying to sniff out where Narcissa booked the holiday, but he'll work that out soon if he's got any sources worth their fee.

He'll either turn up here or he won't. And then we'll see. I've got LSP shadowing Draco under Look Don't Touch orders unless there's clear provocation.

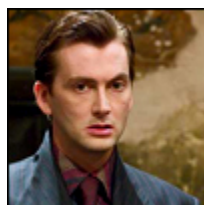


 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-08-22 20:39:31](#)

(no subject)

Tempting as that is, you shouldn't give it to me. Would rather not end up in the papers again so soon after...*this*.

Hm, don't like to hear about the frequent disappearance. Is there a chance he's picked up on the surveillance and is creating diversion?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-22 20:58:25](#)

Private Message to Raz

Not sure how to read L's silence on the subject. Want to think it hasn't earned His notice. (It doesn't deserve notice.)

Agreed. And there's no telling. Desai is one of the best I know, and Montague is best of his cohort. Stint's come back both times. And Desai points out that he could easily lose them if he wanted. But he seems unaware or unworried.

Maybe he had to put in an appearance at St M's. Someone there might have noticed they're paying him for a lot of not much.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-22 20:21:55](#)

(no subject)

Steady, Razzer. Not that you don't have adequate reason, naturally, but there is no proof of anything yet. Nor does it make sense to compound one problem by adding another unnecessary one.


As for Draco, if Stint is still at Snowdon then he ought to be safe enough for an hour's flight.

Kindly tell Narcissa I shall arrive very late to-night, if not to-morrow morning. Our business at Court was ... extensive ... if not unwelcome. And there is much to be completed before trusting the business of

the realm to run itself for a few days.

Barty, you'll be pleased to know one of our number has returned. One who may be of considerable benefit to all manner of ongoing business, in fact. Will explain to-morrow.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-08-22 20:42:26](#)**
(no subject)

One of number's returned, then? Colour me intrigued.

And still angry, at that. Not to worry, though, I'm staying put and keeping me head for now.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2012-08-22 20:49:21](#)**
(no subject)

Karkaroff? Imagine that would have been an extensive bit of business. Sorry to have missed it if that's what it was.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2012-08-22 21:05:09](#)**
(no subject)

Warm but no.

Suspect that particular party may still be inventing excuses for his conduct. To-day's prodigal had no such need.

2012-08-22 14:28:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora



Did Terry come for his lesson today, Remus?

I had a chance to talk to Frank about the kid, very briefly, after we ran off Stint last night.

 [alt_sirius](#)

It's pretty much what we thought. And I think there's more Frank's not saying but even that's pretty close to what you and I were guessing, Moony.

And then there's something else. You saw that Pomona included a private message at the end of all her and Poppy's teasing last night? Well. I'll copy it out for the two of you, since really it's meant for all three of us:

I owe you an apology. All three of you at Laszlo's.

I overreacted, at Christmas. And then compounded the unfairness by never explaining why. I still don't want to go into it, really, but my marriage was really very bad, I was forced out, and. Well. Enough said.

Not that I'm not abundantly happier where I am now, and with a far better circle of friends than I'd ever imagined finding, but some things get a hold on you and don't let go for a long time.

Thank you for coming to help. And for helping me convince Poppy that it's needed.

I mean to say. I assumed she was long over whatever was bothering her, since she's been talking to us and acting normally (well, normally for Pomona, anyway). So. Obviously I've no hard feelings and I'll tell her so. But I'm not sure what to make of the rest of it. None of our business, is it.

Still it seemed like maybe you both ought to see it. And Dora, maybe you know what she's on about? Poppy told me a tiny bit - more than I really want to know, in fact - but. I dunno. Witches talk to one another, don't they.

At any rate, no sign of Stint here so far, though Poppy said he popped in at the weather station again. Luckily, Poppy's been in much better spirits, although she didn't dare smile or laugh in his direction lest he realise she'd seen our adventure last night.

No repercussions from that, either, at the moment. 'Kenny' and 'Ellie' went for a walk in the hills this morning, now that Poppy's back to herself. I'm not sure about Pomona but I think I'll stay around another day, just to look after her, but if Pomona is ready to leave then I might slip off and return as Padfoot to save on potion.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-08-22 19:34:54](#)**
(no subject)

Oh.

That was, well, it's something that she wrote that. Isn't it?

No, I don't know anything about Professor Sprout's marriage. Though, you know, I went to see Madam P that once so she could check on me before Bea came, and I stayed with her sister-in-law. SprPomona's, I mean. We didn't talk about much of anything in particular, but she did say something that made me think Pomona wished she'd had children and hadn't ever been able to.

I'm not sure that's anything to do with this, though.

You know when it happened, it was clear to me what she meant. She was upset on my account. Because she felt you two were doing something ugly to me. See where she says 'forced out'? That's what she thought you lot were doing.

She didn't tell me that, mind you. Only, that's what I thought she meant.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-08-22 21:18:35](#)**
(no subject)

Say. You might see what you can do to keep Madam P from catching sight of today's gossip mags. Have a look about that pub you're staying in, and steer her away if you see any lying about.

I just cleaned one off a table here that's got a terribly nasty story about her friend Professor Sinistra. It would upset her, trust me. Better she doesn't see it.

Or maybe those things don't make it out to Wales same day they turn up here?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-23 14:58:52](#)
(no subject)

Dora,

We've had other things besides gossip to worry about but I've not seen anything of that nature at the inn. And Poppy's feeling more herself but hasn't had time for shopping or going to the news agents or anything.

And now -

Well, Pomona's going to tell everyone about the news on our end.

What's it say, out of curiosity?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-23 15:49:34](#)
(no subject)

It's full of hideously bad pictures, for one thing. She looks a bit like a gnome in one of them. Splattered with mud. Must have been from one of her YPL outings. Another has her windblown and her robes suctioned against her so that its downright lewd. Poor thing.

As for the article, well. Awful gossip about her--she sleeps with everything that moves of all genders. No bestiality, but they were probably saving that for next month. Really. Do keep Poppy from seeing it.

There's all sorts of nonsense about Rabastan Lestrangle, too. Including that he's involved with students, including the daughters of witches he's dated in the past.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 15:54:29](#)**
(no subject)

Charming.

But at least it's nice to know that there are some Death Eaters the press believes they can smear without repercussions.

Actually, that's sort of odd, isn't it? I mean, usually you'd think someone like Raz would be considered off-limits.

Well, anyway, Poppy's unlikely to see it since she's heading onto a mountain trail this afternoon. (I dunno if you saw what I told Remus but I'll be following at a discreet distance to watch out for that bastard Stint. Though if I catch him he may well wind up being reported as 'mangled by wild animals' and too good for him if he does.)

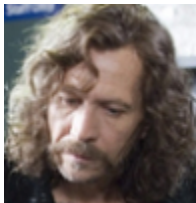


 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-23 14:52:59](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, Terry came. As did the twins, though they spent most of the day off with Severus, since that potions exam Slughorn promised is mere days away.

Terry was a little quiet but willing to work. Apparently the twins told him to talk to the Longbottoms and he did, and that helped.

Interesting about Pomona.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 15:04:20](#)**
(no subject)

May have helped Terry (and good, that) but it doesn't seem to have helped Frank.

I wish we could have answered differently about Neville. All of them. But it's far too dangerous and children, even as grown-up as this lot sometimes appear to be, are far too unpredictable.


Yeah, I don't quite know what to make of Pomona. I mean to say,

good, obviously, but - I guess I didn't expect it to come up again. I think I inadvertently earned some points with her for defending Poppy. Though I honestly had no idea anyone could hear me.

Look, Poppy's got to go on some sort of nature hike so I'll be following after in case she needs help. Right? You can hang on for another day or two, without your faithful hound by your side?

How's everything at home?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-23 15:54:34](#)
(no subject)

Things are fine here. I'd say Poppy needs a faithful hound watching out for her far more than any of the rest of us. Bloody hell, the bastard really WAS poisoning her, then?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-23 15:56:41](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Hard to believe, innit?

If he knows what's good for him he'd best not Apparate anywhere near her route. Or he's liable to not make it out of the wilderness.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-23 16:08:59](#)
(no subject)

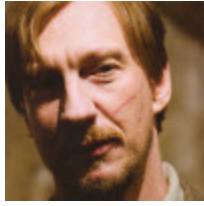
Yeah. He's gone from 'bloody irritating nuisance' to 'serious threat.'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-23 20:22:47](#)
(no subject)

Glad you agree.

Only, it's full moon. Are you feeling overly snappish? Ellie's all right to take care of Bea; you could go to Grimmauld and kick holes in the walls. Give Kreacher something to clean up.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-23 20:25:36](#)**
(no subject)

I will be FINE.

I've been assuming you won't make it back. Ellie's happy to take care of Bea, I have my potion, and I'll be at Grimmauld well ahead of when I expect to transform, not that I intend to shred any wallpaper but it ensures no one sees me by accident.

You stick with Poppy.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 20:31:11](#)**
(no subject)


Right.

Sticking.

Next month: No crisis.

What was it you sent to Hermione, anything crucial?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-23 20:33:33](#)**
(no subject)

I was thinking it would cheer Terry up to see her, if she could get away from Buckingham for an afternoon. I was thinking we'd make it a surprise -- there's no surprise quite as nice as seeing an unexpected friend, first of all, but also, if something comes up and she can't come after all, he won't be disappointed.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 20:36:42](#)**
(no subject)

Hairy Snout, Human Heart has nothing on you.

[2012-08-22 17:05:00](#)

Private Message to Percy Weasley

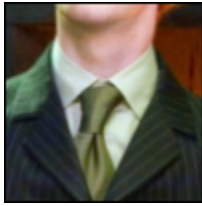
Are you coming soon?

Only I've had the roast in and the potatoes are heating and it'll be ready when you are.



 **[alt_penelope](#)**

I think.



 **[alt_percy](#) at [2012-08-22 21:30:02](#)**
(no subject)

Penny, I'm so sorry, but I'm going to be later than expected. Mr Malfoy is out, as you know, and it's been extremely hectic. Might be an hour or two later than usual.

Or--blast. Another owl just came in. Maybe more.



 **[alt_penelope](#) at [2012-08-22 21:36:27](#)**
(no subject)

Well, he's not out; he just told you to come and see him. So I guess he's back from wherever he was.

Does he even know it's your birthday?

I'll keep supper warm, then, I guess.

2012-08-22 17:28:00

Items Following Court

Too many for private messages.



 [alt_lucius](#)

- Hogwarts: Minerva, since you have been incapable of bringing to the Board of Governors an acceptable candidate to undertake instruction in Dark Arts, Our Lord has seen fit to resolve the vacancy on your behalf. Understand that he shall present his credentials and portfolio to you this week; note that there are other changes to the timetable which Our Lord deems appropriate (and half the Governors have already concurred), which must be accommodated before start of term. Trust you will see to the letters and revised book lists for the students.
- NRBC: Cumulus, have reviewed the statement of accounts from Monday's meeting and find it unfathomable that additional savings cannot be achieved. Presume this is down to your commitment to avoid staff cuts; advise you and your brother to re-evaluate said position.
- Weasley: There are three manuscripts from Charles here. Two of them irrelevant; third can be taken to the address affixed. Suspect the recipient will welcome the chance to review the material and provide his notes on the subject. Would appreciate if you delivered it to-night or to-morrow, if you please. Also note the addendum to Monday's schedule regarding the inspection of the Battersea Park project. Finally, require the revisions to the Commerce Committee's minutes before end of day. MacMillan's clerk was supposed to send them over. Kindly track them down, will you; I'd like to sign off before leaving.
- LB: Expect an owl from me. Sending you some reading for your time at Gloss. Trust it will make the days pass more pleasantly.
- Narcissa: Trust you are settled? Did not hear from you this morning. *Did* hear from Yvaine, hoping to find you. Told her 'holiday' meant you were likely not tied to your journal. (Seem

to recall something about not carrying them everywhere this holiday; that was the plan, was it not?) Heard from a few others as well, all hoping for your opinion about something. You might wish to contact Miss Poddington as it seems she received a handful of messages as well.

Oh, and Weasley, come in when you have a moment; there are some other matters to attend arising from Court, which cannot be entrusted to the journal.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-22 22:01:07](#)
(no subject)

Lucius;

Thank you for the books! I'll be on the lookout for them, and will probably devour them very quickly. It's odd to have so little to do. I suppose it's nice after so much activity. I've been working on song writing. Nothing radio-worthy yet, but it's still fun to try.

Ewan is very sweet. He shrieks like mad whenever I hide behind my hands, and he's already got several teeth. I think he'll be far more interesting when he's older, though.

I hope you'll be able to join Aunt Narcissa and Draco and Harry on their vacation for at least a little while. If not, I might have to come down to New London to take you out for a nice dinner just so you'll have a moment where you're not working.

Your LB



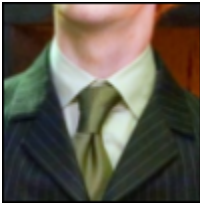
 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-22 23:23:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes, never fear; I shall take my holiday as directed, whether I need it or not.

I wondered what you made of your brother. Doubtless you are correct and he shall be much more companionable once he

is able to hold up his end in a conversation. It's true of you and of Draco and Harry, as well. But then I expect you shall be rather like your mother in that regard, immune to the charms of infants.

As for the books, well, two of them you may be able to gobble up; the third promises to be a bit more challenging, but nonetheless I think you'll find it edifying. Call it a head start on your O.W.L.s.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2012-08-22 22:20:15](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, sir.




 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2012-08-22 23:44:52](#)**
(no subject)

We're well settled, husband, and only awaiting you to make it complete.

I don't doubt that my opinion has been sought by many today. I am on holiday (as you ought to be); the requests shall have to wait.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-08-23 01:11:10](#)**
(no subject)

Father, will you be joining us tonight?

I hope so.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 01:26:09](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, son, presently. Though not for a few hours yet.


Unless there's an urgent need?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-08-23 01:31:01](#)**
(no subject)


Good, I'll be waiting.




 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 01:35:34](#)**
Private Message to Draco

I take it there is something you wish to tell me?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-08-23 03:00:42](#)**
Re: Private Message to Draco



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2012-08-23 03:06:48](#)**
Re: Private Message to Draco

Again?

Where?



 **[alt_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2012-08-23 03:58:55](#)**
(no subject)

Our Lord is kind to save me the headache.

2012-08-22 19:24:00

Private Message to Claire Clearwater

Oh, bugger, Mum!

What do I do?

I got the afternoon off from Mr Powell, so I could come home and cook Percy supper for his birthday. Everything was going so well. I made the recipe perfectly, I swear, and then I put the roast in the oven.

And then Perce said he'd be later than we thought, so I turned the cooker down.

Well.

I thought I turned it down. I was sure I turned it down.

Are there any spells to un-crisp a roast? Only it's all sort of black. And dry.

And the potatoes are none too edible.

It's really rather a ruin, actually.

After I spent extra on the groceries this week, too, to get fresh broad beans and real butter and all his favourite extras.

Maybe next year we should just let his mum cook.

I mean, it's not like he'd have been home for that, either.

Oh, bugger it. I'm getting take-away.



 [alt_penelope](#)

2012-08-23 09:59:00

*Private Message to Nisha Desai and
Bellatrix Lestrange*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Bella. Think you should know what's developing here, too. No action required. (Were you planning to come to Pembroke? Narcissa seems uncertain.)

Yesterday, Stint took the bait while Draco was out flying solo (attended at a distance). Recast Imperius, so, of course, D cannot make a sensible report himself. Appears otherwise unharmed. No attempt to abscond with or harm him physically.

LM arrived last night. Has been briefed and is in agreement. NM less than pleased, but consents.

Appears the imperius targets L's day book and portfolio of official materials. We've prepared the materials for delivery and are waiting for D to lead us to the drop. Will respond as circumstances warrant: will arrest if conspirators assemble or allow collection and proceed with extended snare if necessary.

Desai. Have just had an owl forwarding toxicology report from Melantha Sinistra. Pomfrey's samples show slow poisoning. Probably over several months. Safe to assume AS was correct to suspect an acute poisoning episode at the weekend.

Upgrade status: Stint should be assumed dangerous. Use lethal force if needed.

Whereabouts: last seen slightly before closing time last night. Horse and Hounds in Llanberis. LS-P reports he was there all evening, drinking heavily. Received two owls. (Recheck his rooms as soon as opportunity permits. Assume he'll have burned them, however.) Sent one. Showed no interest in any of the other patrons. Including S-P. Tried to lure him into conversation. Bought him a drink, but that caused him to leave abruptly. She followed but did not approach. Reports he returned to his lodgings at 12:12am. Turned watch over to Montague at 1.

Expect update from your end ASAP.

[2012-08-23 10:39:00](#)

Order Only

I suddenly feel in need of a very stiff drink. Aurora sent an owl first thing this morning. Her cousin finished the testing she was doing and I'm sorry, I still can't quite believe this.



 **[alt_pomona](#)**

They did find poison.

Something like arsenic, though apparently not quite. I don't begin to understand the details.

Aurora said she was sending a copy to the relevant MLE folks next. She, her note, sounded quite surprised. She only asked Melantha to test because it would rule things out and ease her worries, I gather, and she's more than a bit startled to be proven right.

Her cousin's promised to assist with advice on treatment, but in the short term, avoiding any further chance of that bloody bastard interfering with our Poppy's food or drink should be sufficient, and we were already doing that.

I was about to leave, already - this delayed us a tad. Frank is going to come back to Hogwarts with me and collect the fluxweed starters (I'm sure he'll make a very fetching Ellie), and we should have him back to you, Alice, early this afternoon. Sirius will be keeping quite a close eye on our Poppy as Padfoot as soon as he can get out of sight.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-23 15:22:10](#)**
(no subject)

WHAT?! Good lord!



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2012-08-23 15:28:59](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, my!

Well thank goodness you were watching out for her, then!

She will be all right? There won't be any permanent effects?

I suppose Poppy could answer that question more easily than you...



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-23 15:31:28](#)

(no subject)

Bugger all.

We should take care of this Stint bastard once and for all.

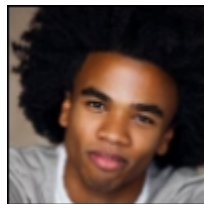


 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-23 15:33:29](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, we're hoping to hear that she's ok, too.

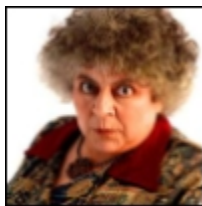
Nobody messes with our Madam P.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-08-23 15:34:13](#)

(no subject)

Hear, hear.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-23 15:36:40](#)

(no subject)


Melantha's note said that someone would need to do a proper examination (and as a fellow Healer pointed out quite bluntly that that meant someone other than Poppy.) Her supervisor, apparently, is willing to assist quietly.

As to long-term damage, Melantha told Aurora directly that there should be no lasting worries from the amounts seen in hair and nail samples. However, it seems clear there was a larger dose, last weekend that would not have shown there yet. (One can only assume it was in whatever that Stint gave her Sunday morning.)

However, she tried to be reassuring: Poppy's recovery since bodes

well, and several of the potions they got into her Sunday night were also useful in cases of poison.



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-23 15:36:13](#)
(no subject)

Oh, no.

Give her my best, will you? Tell her...tell her I'm thinking of her.




 **alt_pomona** at [2012-08-23 15:44:34](#)
(no subject)

Don't worry, dear. We've been doing our very best to keep her safe.

They have a mandatory activity - a long hike, and things they're required to do - today, but Sirius will be nearby her the whole time. And she'll see this when she gets back, if not before.

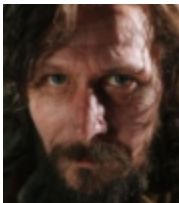


 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-23 16:17:05](#)
(no subject)

Mercy.

How awful.

We can't let him get away with that.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-23 16:25:31](#)
(no subject)

We won't.

2012-08-23 13:47:00

Order Only: Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo

Hermione, how much freedom of movement is Harry giving you these days? He's off on holiday, isn't he -- did he leave you at Buckingham?



 [alt_lupin](#)

I'm just wondering if there's a way we could possibly slip you off for a few hours to 12 Grimmauld, and maybe have Terry arrive at about the same time, so the two of you could see each other. It would be easy enough to arrange from Terry's end -- as a surprise for him, I'm thinking. ~~To cheer him up~~ Is there any way to do this from yours?

(It just occurred to me that if we want to try something like this, it will be a great deal harder once you and Harry are back at Hogwarts.)



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-08-25 03:33:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh it would be so easy! I could slip away at almost any time. Harry says so - he's already said that I should have anytime I want, and told people that it was a reward. I asked. When will be best? Oh Terry!!!

I can't wait!!!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-25 03:56:19](#)
(no subject)

Terry normally comes to 12 Grimmauld on Wednesdays for some lessons here. Of course, it would be easy enough to have Alice and Frank send him any other day, if that worked better for you.

2012-08-23 14:44:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Dux



 [alt_justin](#)

Dux,

Are you going on holiday with the Malfoys? Mr Jugson told Remy you might do.

It's funny, at CCF I thought it was torture to see you sitting just down the table, but not be able to spend any time alone together. But now I miss even being able to catch a glimpse of your hair or your hand reaching for the butter and rolls. Being able to watch while you tried some task or hearing your voice across the grounds. By comparison, CCF feels like it was perfect.

Is everything all right, at home? Your mother's not been too intolerable, I hope?

I say, though, when Remy asked about inviting you, Alfie got a very strange...look. I'm not half sure how to describe it. Perhaps his tomatoes were just a bit mushy or something, what, but he looked like he'd tasted something bitter. I think he's disappointed that Remy's so keen to include me in the family. In a way it was better when your aunt and uncle were stewarding me about the country, what?

Any idea who's going to be taking Dark Arts? If it's Madam Umbridge, I think Sally-Anne might have to give it up for a bad job. Bad enough she's running the YPL. I hope that doesn't make things well awful for Luna or the others. I guess we'd be able to help each other with lessons, so everyone can keep up their marks despite whatever she--or whomever it winds up being--might decide to do. But I say, I simply can't see her teaching in a classroom, can you?

Also, did you notice what Mr Malfoy said about 'changes to the curriculum?' I don't well like the sound of that. What do you think it means? Remy says he's just happy we've not gone and bought all our supplies yet, what, because it probably means they're changing textbooks or something. I'm not sure it doesn't mean more than that.

You've not gone to do your shopping yet, either, have you? If not, and you do know when you're going to get your school things, what, tell me and Remy and we'll make sure to go then, too.

Did I mention that I miss you?

-Justin



alt_hydra at **2012-08-24 02:02:59**

(no subject)

Everything's all right...mostly. Daddy was at St James the other night and he tried to discuss the Malfoy holiday and they ended up fighting about it. Not screaming - they never scream - but Mummy has this laugh she does...

I think that Daddy, Mrs Baylock, Rigel, and I will go up at the weekend, but I'm not sure for how long.

Mummy's still been bringing some of those other Aurors over quite a lot, and sometimes I get to listen to what they talk about. They're never very direct, but I'm sure that some of it is about Sirius. I think they're all hunting him. I mean, everyone knows that MLE is hunting him, even if they still pretend like he's dead, but it's clear that they have a whole division dedicated to it, and that Mummy is in charge.

I don't know, do you think these are the sort of things the rest of the lock would be interested in? Not just in MLE and Mummy, but in things that go on when I'm at home? Or might they just be shocked, or feel sorry for me? I'm still not sure how much I can or should share with the others.

I don't know about any changes in curriculum, but if I see Uncle Lucius this weekend I can tell you if he says anything about it. I hope it's not like the changes that they're making to YPL though, and if Madam Umbridge takes over Dark Arts... well, I don't know who could be worse than Miss Professor Carrow was, but if anyone could be, it might be Madam Umbridge, though in a completely different way.

I'm sorry Alfie's being strange. I'm really not close to him so I don't know that I can tell you much, except that he might feel a bit abandoned by Remy? Though they've always squabbled a lot, so I'm really not sure.

Anyway, I haven't gotten anything for school yet, and I really need new everything. Clothes and robes, especially. Even my socks feel

tighter!

I miss you, too. I wish we could fire-chat more, but I'm worried that Daddy might show up. It would be so good to get to hear your voice, though. I wish they made a type of howler that spoke softly, instead, and only to the person who it was meant for. Maybe I should try to invent it.

Love,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-24 03:43:27](#)
(no subject)

Dash it. Not that I don't wish you to have a fun weekend's holiday but I'd rather hoped that if you weren't going with them, you could accept Remy's invitation instead.

Well, I do think they'd all be quite interested in knowing anything about the hunt for Sirius, what, but I say, I suppose I can understand if you don't want to tell. The thing is that Hermione could warn him, if you did tell her. I'm sure he knows they're well aware he's alive but it would have to be useful to know any sorts of details about their search. One wouldn't want you to be caught spying, though--by your mother or anyone else.

But as for telling them things about your home life.... I say, that's up to you, love. I doubt anyone would pity you worse than they might do already, simply because you had the poor fortune to be born to your mother. It might well help them understand more about you, what? But it's up to you whether you're well comfortable talking about it or not.

On the other hand, one thing that I think shall make or break the future of the lock is whether the people on it believe it's safe to bring up any topic, what? I think--I mean to say, I believe--that might be what Sirius was trying to tell Sally-Anne.

Especially with whatever changes might be in store, what? I don't quite understand why your uncle and the others seem to think they can just make every subject so well dire and dreary yet expect everyone to still want to study them! It does seem counter-productive. I don't think Mr Malfoy truly likes Madam Umbridge,

though, does he, so perhaps there's hope. He did say half the Governors agreed--though he did not say whether he was on the half that agreed or the half that disagreed.

About Alfie, that would make sense but Remy's not abandoned him at all. He encourages Alfie to come with us whenever we're doing anything. It's rather endearing, in point of fact. He's always trying to bring Alfie along. Perhaps it's that Alfie feels pressured to be social.

You'll have to let me buy you at least one item when we're shopping.

I wish we could talk properly as well. It'll be good to be back at school (always assuming school isn't well horrid!). I've never called someone through a fire chat. What's it like? Don't one's knees get terribly tired?


I'm sure you could invent something like that and it would be brilliant. Perhaps a toy or a card into which one can record a message. Then one could listen to it over and over.

For now I suppose we'll just have to write.

Yours,

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-24 23:40:02](#)
(no subject)

If I accepted Remy's invitation Daddy might think it a bit odd. He also might not, but it's probably best to play it safe. And I know that Aunt Narcissa will be sad if I don't come along, too.

I'm not too certain about many of the details, but they did say that they believe he's hiding in New London "the majority of the time." They only call him "the target," though, never by his name.

It's not that I don't think it's safe to share with the others on the lock, it's more that I'm not very used to it. You're the only person I've ever shared so much with ~~except for~~ But then when I read back through some of the old entries, I saw that Pansy wrote about how I'm so incredibly private, and that I only talk about surface

things and no one can ever tell what I'm thinking. So maybe I should try to share more.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-24 23:55:58](#)
(no subject)

No, of course. Quite right that you should spend time on holiday with them. Do you think you might be able to visit next week at all?

That's the sort of information it would be well useful to pass to him, what? I say, if you don't want to tell Hermione, then perhaps I'll write to him to warn him. I realise New London's large but it's not that large, after all.

I suppose the real question, Dux, is whether you want to share more. No one shall judge you if you don't do, you know. It's not a requirement, what? But if you decide that there are things you'd like to talk about, I don't think you ought to feel as if you must censor yourself, if you follow me.

Why, is there something you've got on your mind, sweetheart? I say, anything I can do to help?

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-25 00:30:27](#)
(no subject)

I think we should be able to manage something, surely.

I don't know about telling Hermione. Does it seem a little like she feels burdened as a go-between, sometimes? I shouldn't like to be a bother.

I don't know what I want. If it seems like I'm just forcing things out to make conversation and make people feel comfortable with me, then that's no good. But if there's something I really feel like sharing, I don't want to bring it up, only to find out later that it wasn't important at all, and nothing to worry about in the first

place.

But I can at least share with them what I know about the hunt for Sirius Black. They'd probably like to know about that.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-25 01:00:37](#)
(no subject)

You're sounding like me, not wanting to be a bother. Some people seem to think the lock is good for any passing thought that comes to mind. So how could your thoughts be a bother?

I know what *I* want. But I shall have to wait for it, shan't I?

I do hope you have fun, though. Do you know where they're staying? No one's said--for security, I shouldn't wonder, what? I quite expect it to be jolly lovely, wherever you're going.

-J

2012-08-24 06:22:00

Private Message to Toshenka

You're here!

And with a journal? (Understand from LM that you may have been using yours all along for diplomatic briefings, but not for wider communications.) Have, nonetheless, sent reply by return owl (including grateful acceptance of your offer--do hold the *Cruor Invictus* for me--the copy with the 15th century annotations, since you offered it. Very glad to have it.)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Am currently in Wales, but will pay my respects at Cottesmore as soon as I'm back in Our Lord's fairest city. Eager to hear your news, but regret it was injury that brought you home. I suppose nothing short of that would have redirected you.

But Hogwarts?

Not that I doubt you'll be an excellent teacher--you're the greatest I've known.

Wisest thing the governors have done in years, summoning you to hone the skills of those with exceptional promise. It bodes well for our realm.

Anxious to see you and toast your return, Toshenka. Expect to make it there in the next day or two.

Your rival for Our Lord's esteem,
B



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2012-08-24 13:41:19**
(no subject)

At your own convenience, of course. I have reached the stage of convalescence where one's temper resembles that of a fussy newborn, and was feeling about as demanding, but Lucius sent that clerk of his with a manuscript yesterday (and if *that's* the state of scholarship on the Arts these days, I will indeed have my work cut out for me). Which neatly reminded me I've a list of texts to finish assembling, which led to further unpacking of the trunk, and I lost myself to a

pleasant afternoon with the other sort of old friends.

(Speaking of -- in addition to the *Cruor Invictus* I turned up doubles of, I've also discovered an extra copy of *De rerum mortalum* -- the original, not the translation. First rights go to Lucius, if he hasn't located one of his own in the intervening, but if you've kept up your Latin you're welcome to read through it before I make delivery. Thinking of having an open day for those of our circle to come browse my acquisitions, actually; I'm sure those two are far from the only ones I've multiples of. My inability to remember whether I've already found a particular title has only worsened over the years. I suspect something about the fumes in an antique bookshop of clouding the mind.)

Nevertheless, my door is always open to you, dear friend. The inability to keep up correspondence with my chicks has been the only trying part of the past decade or so. (Regarding the journal -- shamefully, I must admit a tendency to relegate it to the book-trunk when not corresponding with Our Lord, mostly for a lack of time to puzzle through its use. Nearly lost it to a particularly voracious stack of grimoires more than once. But Lucius took the time to demonstrate, and I find myself charmed, though no doubt it will take me some time to figure out the niceties.)

Still, from what Lucius has said, you've done me all honor in my absence -- quite looking forward to hearing of all your triumphs. And to seeing what you remember of my teaching, although the balance may have to wait until after I've composed an entire curriculum. Much of which I suspect you will find familiar.

Affectionately as always, in rivalry and in service --

Тошенька



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-24 16:27:31](#)

(no subject)

Unsurprised you have found solace in books old and new. Would very much like a copy of your NEWTs list when you've readied it.

(I am actually in possession of Arcturus Black's copy of DRM; maybe I'll bring that along and we can rehash the controversy around his fourth theorem. That and a bottle of MacTavish's Old Peat?)

Wish I could make it tonight, but things have stalled here.

As ever, working to surpass you,

B



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-08-25 03:37:18](#)

(no subject)

Quite all right: I have just now holstered my wand from negotiating with the bookstore (sadly, not literally, though I was tempted more than once) and if you'd been able to make it tonight, you'd've only laughed at me. Or them: what kind of a bookstore can't produce sufficient copies of St John's Compendium to kit out Hogwarts with a full week's lead? I'll be spending the weekend speed-reading their suggested replacement.

(This would be so much easier if it weren't such a bad idea to Duplicate books on the Arts.)

The last thing I want is to be a disturbance to your work on behalf of Our Lord, particularly since my arrival was on such short notice. If one slightly-broken-down old battle thestral could be of any use to your troubles, just ask, though of course you're certainly practiced at making your own way without my tutelage by now.

(Don't let that give you any fancy ideas -- I'm not ready to lie down and give up on our little game just yet. You'll be working harder than ever to challenge me soon enough.)

Luck with your task, and I shall see you soon. Current plan is to pack up for Hogwarts Wednesday or Thursday to begin seeing what a state the classroom is in. (If you remain engaged past then, I could always sneak down to Hogsmeade for that drink and discussion, though scheduling might have to wait for a day when I'm up for the ramble.)

Affectionately yours, though you're still wrong about the fourth theorem,

T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-25 04:15:59](#)
(no subject)

Not to worry. Should be finished here by Monday at the latest.

Situation has devolved into the standard exercise in waiting. A fair training game for the ducklings, but little more. Unless we're rewarded with a surprise of some kind. Standing ready, but not indulging hope.

You're dealing with F&B in Diagon Alley, I assume. Should have hexed whichever one was giving you the run around. They're all idiots in there these days. How many copies are you short? If you put out a call, there must be wizards throughout the realm who would donate or loan their copies for the cause.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-25 04:42:42](#)
(no subject)

Yes, F&B -- the dragon's wing of the argument involved me holding firm that *they* were to be the ones owling around to hither and yon to source sufficient quantities of the correct translations, no matter to whom they have to grovel, and not I. I've no objection to the children using secondhand or familial copies as long as they follow the guidelines on the booklist -- I'm being picky about editions and translations for some titles -- but I'd hesitate to put out a call more widely for *loans* lest something awful happen to someone's prized copy in the hands of one of the little darlings. Still: I shall encourage anyone with familial copies to bring those and leave the bookstore copies for those who are not as lucky. I'll likely be able to loan out a few myself.

As for your ducklings, I hope they are as bright and motivated as you and your cohorts were for me. Though I seem to recall a few instances where "patience" was hardly your strong suit either. (Dare I bring up a particular pair of dragonhide boots, and the circumstances of their unfortunate demise? Or is it still too soon?)

Was so very sorry to hear about Regulus, by the by -- that was one bit of home news I'd managed to miss, and not a pleasant one at all. If the wound's still fresh for you I will tactfully say no

more, but if not, I'll try to turn up a bottle of something suitable for toasting his memory.

Affectionately yours, with hopes any surprise is not the singed-boots sort,

T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-25 14:29:37](#)
(no subject)

Sorry to have dropped my end of the conversation. There was business here, after all. A bit of reconnaissance. Just the thing to sharpen the senses.

Quite right about F&B. It's entirely their task to provide what's needed. Or see their custom go elsewhere.

And patience, yes. Trust you to remember. Still not a strong suit, I'm afraid. At least where weakness is concerned. On the hunt, it's a different matter. Though that's not so much patience as focus.

The ducklings are as one would expect.

Thank you, re. Reg. He failed in so many respects. It's as well he didn't live to see your return, but he would have sold his patrimony to talk books with you again.

Must say I regret not encouraging him to shift more of his father's library to Marlborough.

Yours, with hopes you avoid being dragged under in the Slough of Nostalgia,

B

2012-08-24 06:23:00

Private Message to Auror L Sandoval-Pennifold

Awaiting your report.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2012-08-24 11:06:00

Order Only: Reporting in



 [alt_sirius](#)

Because I know you're all wondering.

Thought I caught a scent of Stint yesterday right as Poppy had made her camp and was bent over her notes. Tracked it for a while; had to break off when I heard a crew of two wizards over a ridge about two kilometres north of Poppy's campsite.

They were repairing boundary wards to some kind of game preserve. The first cautioned his partner that a bugbear has been snuffing about a stand of trees right near that spot and they needed to make sure it was secure before the weekend.

Then the other one said something that made my blood pressure rise: They're expecting a 'shipment' of Muggles from the Chester camp - and I gathered it was for the same 'hunting party' they were supposedly preparing for.

Makes me wonder how secure the wards really are and if there's a way to leave a weakness. But there's no guarantee it'd work. And then how in Morgana's name would we get word to the Muggles where the breach is or how to get through it?

Anyway.

I doubled back along the scent trail but it was fading. It occurred to me that it might have been a day or two old, which I like in some ways less than if he'd been skulking about directly.

Poppy, was your campsite already on marked on your route or did you select it on your own? What I mean is, did someone tell you that's the spot you needed to reach?

There's been no sign of him returning today, at least. And I've not picked up any other traces of his stench.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-08-24 16:56:39](#)
(no subject)

I really do not like any of that at all. Either the part about that foul Stint, or about the "hunting party". Muggles? Really?

Though now you mention it, I half-remember hearing something, but I can't remember where or who.

Do keep a close eye on our Poppy.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-24 17:36:16](#)
(no subject)

I've been sent to a set area, yes. And you're quite right that means Stint could be perfectly aware of where I was assigned. Rather like the business with his meddling in the set-up for that CCF exercise

Aurora was so fussed about--if one thinks about it that way, which I am now.

Well.

I have a wand as good as any, and I know how to use it if necessary. And I've made it through the night, so that's something. If he'd meant to assault me, he could easily have done so last night.

But here I am. Hale and hearty. If also cold and damp, but that's the point of this jolly exercise, so I'll soldier on and show them what a tough old hide I have. I'll show Stint, too, if need be.

In the meantime, I've enough and more to keep me busy. I will try, however, to keep one eye on my book in case you need to be in touch.

Pomona, I trust you and Frank made short work of packaging up the fluxweed and sending him on with it. All else well in your greenhouses and our school?

Oh. And, dear. Do remind Minerva it's time to have a look in the book again.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-08-24 17:44:19](#)**
(no subject)

You're quite right about the parallels to the CCF issue. I rather wish we'd gotten more details out of her on Monday about what actually happened there, but she was being tight-lipped about it.


Just do be attentive. And I know Sirius will keep a most watchful eye, but I very much dislike what can go wrong if someone has that much chance to prepare.

As to the rest, I did send Frank off with seedlings, and they should do well. Everything else is well enough, though I've escaped to my rooms - that Dolores came in, about two hours ago. She's insisting she has to look at what rooms are to be hers, now, without so much as a "Is it convenient?" and I caught her mentioning that she couldn't imagine where Aurora had gotten to, as she'd hoped to catch up with her in New London this morning.

On the whole, making my excuses and disappearing seemed the safest. (Though I do wonder where Aurora got to. Her parents, perhaps, since last I heard, she wasn't joining Rabastan and the Malfoys until sometime this evening or tomorrow morning.)

I'll see if I can get hold of Minerva. But between Dolores and the new Dark Arts instructor, it may be a few days. (On the latter, I know nothing more than you might have glimpsed in Lucius Malfoy's journal. I'm wondering if Aurora might find out more this weekend.)



 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-08-25 02:43:38](#)**
(no subject)

Please stay very safe, both of you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-08-25 03:31:38**
(no subject)

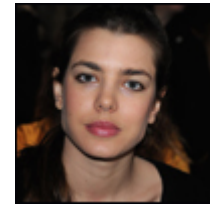
Don't worry, Terry. We'll be fine.

2012-08-24 12:38:00

Private Message to Auror Crouch

Milford Haven.

Sir. There's no change here since Montague collected my morning report. Thought you'd want to know. The drop sack remains where it was placed, wholly undisturbed. And there's been no sign of anyone in the area. Nothing visible off shore, either.



 [alt_lana](#)

Thanks for sending the tea with M. ~~I was a bit chill~~ It was welcome.

You mean for me to continue here, then? Only, I expect I'll need more Madknyght's oyle drops if I'm not to sleep at all. Or is Montague going to relieve me tonight? He didn't have orders yet when he was here.

Wish I had more to report. You don't think Stint knows we're watching, do you? I've kept well out of sight, I promise. Following protocols to the letter.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-24 19:39:47](#)
(no subject)

Your orders stand.

Expect you to keep command of yourself. Staying alert on watch is an Auror's duty.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2012-08-24 20:19:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Of course, sir.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-24 21:48:44](#)
(no subject)

Not sleeping, are you, S-P?




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2012-08-25 02:55:03](#)**
(no subject)

Am sending Montague to relieve you if I do not hear from you within a quarter of an hour.

You do not want that.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:23:00](#)**
(no subject)

Oh! No, don't send Montague!

I'm fine. I haven't lost focus at all. Only, I'd set my book aside so it wouldn't distract me. That's why I didn't see your messages.




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:25:43](#)**
(no subject)

I'd decided to send Montague in any case. You can share watch tonight however you choose.

At ease, S-P.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:26:48](#)**
(no subject)

I understand, sir.

Thank you.

2012-08-24 22:51:00

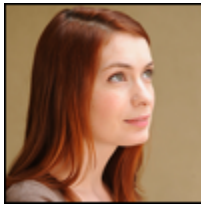
Order Only: Private message to Frank and Alice



alt_lupin

Hermione thinks she might be able to slip away for an afternoon next week -- Harry's given her permission, apparently -- and come here. I was thinking it would be a lovely surprise for Terry if we could arrange for them to see each other. If she can come on Wednesday, he could simply come as usual for his lesson, but if another day works better, can you think of some pretext to send Terry over?

(It doesn't absolutely have to be a surprise -- if he's reluctant to come for some reason, go ahead and tell him. But this way, if for some reason it doesn't work out, it also won't be a terrible disappointment.)



alt_alice at 2012-08-25 04:20:21

(no subject)

I know how much Hermione has wanted to see him again. And Terry's been feeling so cut off from his old friends -- perhaps this would help a bit. I worry he might not want to see her, only because he's still so very guilty over what happened with Carrow. I'm also not sure a surprise would be best.

Once we're very sure she'll be there, I'll let him know, just so he'll have a chance to prepare a little.

2012-08-24 23:32:00

Order Only: Private Message to Frank and Arthur



 [alt_sirius](#)

I've been tromping about as Padfoot for most of the day but I just chanced transforming to catch up on the journals, in case Stint has been spotted anywhere (not here, by the way, it's all clear).

Have you noticed some of the traffic from Rosier, Rookwood and Crouch? Private Messages to 'Toshenka.'

That can only be one person, surely? It's not Karkaroff. And how many others of Eastern European descent were there in Voldemort's close circle?

Arthur, have you heard from Minerva about it? Tell me you've kept Molly from going round the twist that he's back.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2012-08-25 03:45:41**
(no subject)

I noticed too.

I think you're right.

wonder why he's back. wasn't he in europe?

what did you hear of him when you were over there?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2012-08-25 04:07:37**
(no subject)

Not much. Occasionally I'd hear the name but nothing concrete. There was the one time I thought I saw him but I wasn't going to tap him on the shoulder to confirm that it was him.

I think he may have joined up with Bella when they caught my trail in France. He may even have been the one who killed my neighbour, Gregoire, back in Monte Carlo. It's his specialty, after all.

And I think Arthur's right about why he's back, Frank. Best warn your Neville to grow eyes in the back of his head.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:30:14](#)**
(no subject)

whenever a body would turn up and we had no idea what was done to it, we knew it had to have been him.

always had an alibi, though.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-25 03:57:11](#)**
(no subject)

Haven't heard from Minerva, but I'm afraid....the coincidence of him popping up now right when it's being announced the Dark Arts position at Hogwarts is being filled...Oh, dear.

This will hit Molly terribly.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:02:37](#)**
(no subject)

There's one crumb of comfort: if it's true, at least he won't be teaching any of mine.

But then there's all the rest of the children who will come within his orbit. Makes one shudder.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:04:02](#)**
(no subject)

you think he'll be teaching?

he's pretty high profile for that sort of job.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:09:11](#)**
(no subject)

Well, Lucius Malfoy wrote a post this week that mentioned that a new Dark Arts teacher had been hired, that it was the LP's doing. If he's been to court, I suppose we could check the Court blotter.



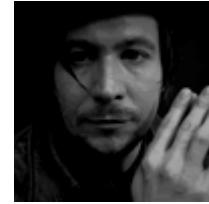
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-25 04:19:00](#)**
(no subject)

It's not a question of whether he's been to Court (though I'm guessing of course, he has been) but whether he's the appointee that Malfoy hinted at. I suppose it might say.

Unfortunately, I'm rather a long way from the nearest copy of today's *Prophet*.

[2012-08-25 00:19:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora




 [alt_sirius](#)

Are either of you reading?

Remus, have you got today's paper? Check the Court report, will you, and see if there's anything about *who's* meant to be taking on the Dark Arts teaching job?

If it's *who* Arthur and I think, we might want to advise the Jr Auxiliary to keep their wits about them this term.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-25 04:41:20](#)
(no subject)

I'll go see if I can find it. Ellie might have used it to start a fire, but usually she tries to pull from the bottom of the pile.

Give me a minute.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-25 04:43:21](#)
(no subject)

Found it. The paper, I mean. There's nothing about the teaching job. The Court report is lots of stuff about people like Malfoy and then at the very end, 'Antonin Nikolaevich Dolohov returned to pay homage to the

Lord Protector.'

Do you think it's Dolohov? You think he came back from the continent to teach Dark Arts at Hogwarts?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-08-25 04:45:38](#)
(no subject)

That can't be right. What would his sort want, teaching kiddies to hex each other?

2012-08-25 10:13:00

(no subject)

Our holiday is shaping up to be quite the lovely intimate gathering!



Lucius has arranged for us all to take a sail this afternoon; in the meantime, we've been on some lovely long walks, the boys have gone flying, we've even managed to sun ourselves a bit while taking in some light reading.

 **alt_narcissa**

(Though, speaking of reading, Mr Weasley, if you happen to be looking out for my husband's posts, he did mention that he must have left his date book on his blotter at the St James' house. It's been mislaid, at any rate. Now, I hardly think it worth your making the trip to confirm its whereabouts, but he was thinking about returning on Sunday night as he could not recall exactly where to start on Monday morning. If you remembered and could let him know, his wife would be most grateful for the extra time.)

There's a quaint little pub near the end of the quay in the village, where they serve a peculiar morning fry-up. I think Raz has been there every morning since our first; we intend to lunch there before our sail.

I'm so glad that we're joined this morning by my sister and her family, as well. It's astonishing how little we see of them, considering how easy it would be. I think Mother and Pascoal may join us for supper, though not overnight, since these family gatherings are increasingly reserved for Christmas and the like. I truly appreciate having the whole lot of us to enjoy each other's company.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-08-25 14:26:46**

Private Message to Lucius and Percy Weasley

Mr Weasley, have no fear for Mr Malfoy's agenda and please do not trouble over it.

In fact, if you were to not answer, that would suit my husband's particular needs in this case even better than if you did.

Will that do, dear?

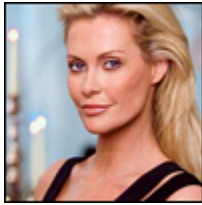


alt_lucius at 2012-08-25 14:27:30

Re: Private Message to Lucius and Percy Weasley

Perfect, my love.

As ever.



alt_narcissa at 2012-08-25 14:42:32

Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Welcome back, Tosha.

I'm not sure what you've said to Barty but he's bloomed on hearing of your return. Just when I'd almost given up on him finding true love.

I hope we may call once we're back from holiday? When do you leave for Hogwarts? And please, if there are any creature comforts you may need, don't hesitate to tell me what I can do. I confess I'm not at all sure how well your elf may have kept Cottesmore in your absence. Acceptably, one hopes? But surely there are deficiencies, since it could not be expected to know when you would come home.

Now, Lucius mentioned that you're under Healer's care? You really must have the best St M's has to offer; has Healer Fletcher seen you yet? You've no idea how most of your comrades drive me to fits with their stoicism when it comes to the Healing Arts. Do be an example to them in that, as in all other things, Antoshenka, and show them that you submit to the ministrations of those qualified to speed your recovery.

How good to have you taking a firm hand, though. I confess I'll feel much easier about the coming year knowing that you are there, as well as the Razzar, to look after Draco and Harry and guide them properly. That Carrow wench! Well. The less said about her or her brother, the better. They're both gone and none too soon.

In fact, sometime I might amuse you with the truth behind her downfall. We've not forgotten your counsel, Toshenka dear.

Do let me know when you'd be up for a visit, if we can arrange it this week. If not, Lucius and I usually come up for Quidditch and we would welcome you to our table for supper.

Affectionately,

Narcissa C.B. Malfoy



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-25 17:24:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

It is lovely to hear from you, little flower.

I trust Lucius passed along my very best? Also that your holiday is proving relaxing, and that the atmosphere is suitable, though you're the sort who will eternally be capable of lending grace and charm to even the rudest hovel. Which mine, rest assured, is not: any elf Ummi trained would take far more than a decade to forget the lessons. It only wanted a bit of dusting, and of course the pantry needed to be stocked. The pleasure of your company would be the best comfort you could provide, though I may trouble upon you to catch me up on the current players in our merry game -- Lucius took the time to brief me earlier, but I have always valued your particular form of insight.

I am, fear not, submitting to my Healers' admonishments with meekest submissive grace (and making faces at the foul-tasting potions, but only behind their backs), and the care I've received has been impeccable. Things are not as dire as rumor may have it: even St M's agrees the best cure is time and rest, although I'm hoping less time and less rest than they're predicting. My pride received the worst injury, and forbids me to confess the exact sequence of events: I shall only pass on the hard-won piece of advice that if you ever catch yourself thinking "oh, surely the terrain there can't be too bad for an engagement", stop and remind yourself of my folly. I suffer that you might gain.

I'm eager to see your boys again -- from what I could see in our last passing visit, Draco is growing into a fine credit to you and his father both. I will certainly do my utmost to provide what small guidance I might: you know how much joy I find in mentoring others into Our Lord's service and their discovery of the Arts. Though I'm sure Lucius has had Draco's education well in hand. I strongly suspect I will find many others not as fortunate: I've spent the past two days poring over the curriculum she of whom we shall not speak was teaching from, and -- well. Our Lord had his reasons, of that I am certain, but I will confess to finding those more impenetrable than any decision of His I've known before. But that's

why He is Our Lord, and we the subjects, no?

Lucius did not mention there was a story to be had there, but you've piqued my interest. I shall look forward to the telling of it. The warm glow of knowing my teachings have been of service will hold me until such time as I can hear the details, but if you had a hand in it enough to know what transpired, I'm certain those details will be delightful. The female of the species, etc.

To the practicalities: I will eagerly receive you (and any of yours you may wish to bring along) whenever you find a moment free. I know how full your schedule was when last we spoke, and I imagine your commitments could only have bred like Puffskeins since. I am keeping invalid's hours this week -- the Healers assure me the tendency to nod off in the middle of a sentence is caused by the potion I'll only need for another few days, which I devoutly hope, as random fits of snoring do not inspire the sort of earnest dread in one's students every teacher should try to cultivate -- but for the chance to see you, milaya, I will leave instructions that I am to be woken.

I shall be at Cottesmore until mid-week or so, then away to Hogwarts to speak with Minerva about my curriculum (and to see what eldrich horrors lurk in the classroom from its last inhabitant). Give my love to the rest of your company -- and tell the Rizzer my congratulations, and that I eagerly anticipate meeting his intended (and you'll have to tell me all there is to know about how that came about!)

Yours in perpetual admiration,
T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-25 17:41:22](#)

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy and Rabastan Lestrangle

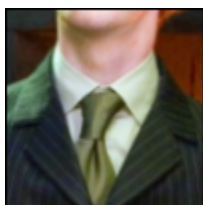
Too fair a day for cloistering inside with books and reports. Don't know how L stands it.


At least Rigel agrees. Or did you tell him he couldn't zoom about indoors on the broom?

I'm off for a walk round the headland. Need to shake off all this holiday sluggishness. Get the blood flowing. Assume I won't be

needed for any reason. (Take it Bella's already left? Didn't see her in the garden with the rest of you.)

Later.



 **alt_percy** at [2012-08-25 22:58:54](#)
(no subject)

I'm pleased to hear that your family is having such a successful holiday, Mrs Malfoy.


I'm willing to go in to look for the day book tomorrow...it's no trouble for me to pop in to take a look around. But at any rate I can tell you with absolute certainty that his first appointment on Monday is with Stinson at 9:30 am, at St James. I remember because of the reports he asked me to have ready in preparation: they're waiting for him on his desk.



 **alt_lucius** at [2012-08-26 01:12:52](#)
(no subject)

Yes, thank you, Weasley. Your diligence is noted.



 **alt_lucius** at [2012-08-26 01:45:04](#)
Private Message to Percy Weasley

Exactly which part of my wife's instruction that there was no need to answer did you fail to grasp, Weasley?

Kindly do believe Mrs Malfoy when she tells you not to trouble about going in to look for my diary. It would be a fruitless errand; I have not misplaced the book at all.

You are lucky that I am well aware of my first appointment on Monday and that we did not choose that item for alteration (though if truth be told, that is one reason I asked Narcissa to use it for her ruse).

No doubt you'll respond with some waffle about how *not* replying would have looked amiss. Nonetheless -

Nevermind. Barty's returned with news. We'll continue this on Monday.

[2012-08-25 12:07:00](#)

Order Only

Reporting in to tell you all that you may stand down from fussing over me. I am perfectly well.



I've survived poisoning, harassment, boredom, the physical duress of trekking at high altitude over challenging terrain, and have endured sleeping rough in variable conditions controlled by the station. (My results have proven without doubt that it needn't be actually freezing to induce hypothermic symptoms, but that those set in faster and more severely the colder it gets--which one wouldn't have thought needed investigation, but they are most welcome to my report if it will please them to accept it and release me from this tedious course.)

 [alt_poppy](#)

I have several stops to make after leaving here and no intention of sharing my itinerary with anyone but you all. I've learned my lesson, thank you.

Alice. Could I be of help if I were to make a stop at Moddey Dhoo? I could be there for a couple of days. Are there supplies you need that I could pick up before coming?

I've written Charlie to see if he could find a way to get me some fresh dragon's blood. My stocks of Cinnabaris Vitalis have gone beyond their date and will need replacing. I haven't heard from him yet, but I know it's no easy favour for him to manage.

Hope the rest of you are well and that I see some of you soon!

Sirius. Thanks are not enough to repay your efforts on my behalf. Are you still hereabouts? Perhaps I could buy you a drink at the Giant's Cloak this evening?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-25 18:45:42](#)

Order Only Private Message to Pomona Sprout

And you, dear friend, have earned my undying gratitude for your help in what has just passed.

What errands can I do for you that you set aside while I was ill? I'm happy to make any stops you might wish.



 **alt_pomona** at [2012-08-25 19:43:30](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Pomona Sprout

I'm trying to think what's urgent. Though, actually - if I placed an order for the seedling pots I most like, would you be willing to pick them up? The maker's in New London, and while I quite love the pots, their staff is horrid about packing, and the last set arrived half broken. I'd rather trust them to your care. I could use about 20, but they're small, and not that heavy.

On the rest, have you not seen that Stint at all? And honestly, making you go through all that, and you having been ill. Poisoned. I still can't believe that. Are you sure you're recovered? And do promise me you'll follow up with whoever Aurora's cousin recommended.

I would also love your company back, oh, Wednesday or Thursday. I gather we're expecting our new Dark Arts instructor then, and that Umbridge, and I could rather use knowing there's another friendly face in the castle.



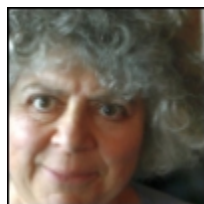
 **alt_poppy** at [2012-08-25 20:28:02](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Pomona Sprout

Of course I'll collect the pots for you. I can do that after I keep my appointment at St Mungo's, which I will do, despite my aversion to the place after- No time like the present to begin getting over it.

I'll see what I can do about getting back before the weekend. That rather depends on whether I go to Moddey Dhoo.

So there's a Dark Arts appointment at last. I confess I hoped Minerva might contrive to 'fumble' the process so we could let the post go unfilled. Too much to hope, I know. Who is it to be, then?



 **alt_pomona** at [2012-08-25 21:43:36](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Pomona Sprout


I'm glad to hear you'll keep the appointment. (And honestly, from what Aurora said, her cousin's made it as easy for you as can be.)

Though I notice you have not actually answered the question about how you're feeling.

And there is - I don't know if you saw Lucius Malfoy's journal, but he said, and I quote: "Minerva, since you have been incapable of bringing to the Board of Governors an acceptable candidate to undertake instruction in Dark Arts, Our Lord has seen fit to resolve the vacancy on your behalf." Apparently with some curricular changes as well, which I do not like.

But no news yet on who that might be. Though I'm sure there are some guesses, and perhaps Aurora may have news from her holiday. Though I've not heard from her since Monday except for that note about the test results.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-08-26 00:23:44](#)
(no subject)

Poppy, I'm so glad to hear you're on the mend. If you're feeling sturdy enough, we would be glad to have your help. The fluxweed seedlings are requiring some babying, and we're still in a frenzy of canning and preserving all we've recovered from the storm. The children also need their yearly poking at as well. If you're in need of a spot of rest before you start off the term again, though, don't hesitate to take it.

Would it be too odd for you to pick up some carrot and parsnip seeds? If it would, than you would just need to bring yourself and we'd find plenty for you to do.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-08-26 14:17:33](#)
(no subject)

I could come this afternoon. I've left Snowdon and am making a stop in St David's now. I know just the place here to see about those seeds, as it happens.

I expect to be in Solva for lunch, and then I'll head your way.

So looking forward to seeing you all.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-26 01:09:54](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Poppy, I've already found an open Floo and returned (and none too soon: I think Ellie was counting on Sinbad being back at her side on as busy a night as this is shaping up to be).

No repayment is necessary, though.

2012-08-25 14:35:00

Order Only: Private message to Kingsley Shacklebolt



Kingsley:

I found a letter Ron left for me, in all places, in my sock drawer. He wanted to consult with me without bringing Molly into it. My word, I hardly know how to reply to it. Reading it just about broke my heart. I wish I could discuss it with Molly but he specifically asked me not to.

 [alt_arthur](#)

He is quite troubled about some of the things he had to do during the recent CCF retreat, and from his descriptions of the goings on, I don't blame him. He is struggling with the question of whether he should drop out of CCF altogether. They had to do an exercise where they demonstrated directing Muggles to accomplish certain tasks, and he said that the supervisors--particularly that monstrous Umbridge woman--marked the students down who, like him, used 'soft' methods, whereas the ones who used Cruciatius were praised. If he stays in, he fears that they'll expect him to demonstrate more and more curses, maybe Dark ones, maybe even the Unforgiveables, which he knows are wrong (thank goodness), but he doesn't know how he can get out of doing them if he stays. On the other hand, he's afraid to drop out now, for fear he'll get tarred as being 'disloyal.'

Well, of course he doesn't know what to do. It makes my blood boil to think of my son being forced to make despicable choices like that! I go to my job and I do despicable things every day, and I can only bear it with the hope that somehow I'm helping some. And if I work very hard, and our work with the Order prevails, maybe there'll be a chance that my children won't have to do the same. That somehow my work would make the world a better place by the time they've grown enough to lose their innocence.

But they're not even getting a chance to grow up first; their innocence is being purposely stripped away now.

Toward the end of the letter, he wrote:

Dad, do you really think there's any way things will change? I mean. Would there have to be a war? Or is there a way to make things change by working for the Ministry and, I dunno. Are you making things change? Is someone going to have to

kill the Lord Protector? Or would that even make a difference? Because it's not just him and the Council, but the Minister and his people (like Madam Umbridge) and the Wizengamot, and all of MLE and all the camp enforcers, and loads of other people, too. Whoa. Yeah. See that's the thing? I don't see how things are going to change. And I don't know what I have to do now so I can, well, not be part of doing horrible things I know are wrong.

and a little later in the letter, this:

Is it always wrong to kill? Like if there were a war again, we'd have to fight, right? So is it wrong to use spells that could kill people who are going to kill you if they can do? And then, wouldn't it be best to know how to use the surest kind of killing spells out there so you don't just hurt them and give them a chance to get a killing curse off at you?

I read that and I want to tell him about the Order. I want to, so badly, but I know I mustn't. But how can I advise him without telling him, yes, there are some of us who are doing everything we can, working from within, who hope to finish off this rotten, corrupt regime once and for all. Can I advise him to do what he can do from within the CCF programme, if he has no idea of the larger picture? It's like keeping him blindfolded and telling him to find his own way. Preposterous.

Blast. I hardly know why in turn I'm dumping this into your lap. I suppose I just hoped that with your experience training aurors, you might have some ethical advice for me to pass along to him. Minerva has enough burdens now, and you know ~~with her~~ she's not coping very well. Frank's a father, too, but he isn't speaking to me at all now what with that business with Neville, and--blast.

I want to take Ron aside sometime in the next few days, perhaps fishing. The traditional Weasley method for heart-to-heart talks. And tell him--Merlin.

What do I tell him?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-08-25 20:04:41](#)
(no subject)

Arthur, you have my deepest sympathies. What a difficult situation for both you and Ron. You're right, my friend: no child should have to be faced with these kinds of decisions, but living in Lord Voldemort's Protectorate, I'm afraid we must confront them whether we wish to or not.

Of course you can't tell him about the Order, but I suppose you can tell him about some of the dilemmas you face at work, and how you try to weigh the harm you must do against the good you hope to accomplish. He needs to carefully weigh the benefits that the programme can give him. Are the benefits truly worth it? Is he learning valuable skills? Will those skills put him in a position to be able to help people later on? Those *pros*, whatever they are, must be weighed against the *cons*, which includes the harm he may be forced to do. And yes, harming others, especially using the Unforgiveables, will mean harming himself.

We taught our trainees that the first step was threat assessment, and there are many choices available to them before they should think to use deadly force. Threats escalate depending on whether the person doing the threatening is a friend, a neutral or an enemy. And who is he protecting? Himself, a friend, or a bystander? Reactions can range from warning to attempting to escape, to causing injury without causing permanent harm, to permanent injury, to death.

So that's how I'd suggest you start, with a talk about the benefits of the programme. To my mind, they'd have to be downright spectacular to justify mucking about with the Unforgiveables. Best to avoid those if all possible. And you had best warn him about the dangers of dealing with Dolores Umbridge if he stays in. You know very well how poisonous she is, no matter how sweet she pretends to be.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-25 20:09:13](#)
(no subject)

The issue of whether killing is ever justified: well, Terry Boot is an example, I suppose, but I hardly feel I have the right to discuss Terry's case with him. And that last bit, the question of whether things can be

changed from within...I confess it was a question that kept me quite wakeful last night. What am I doing helping prop up this dreadful regime? I think of what I preach to my children, and contrast that with the awful things I must do at work every day...

I suppose there is no shame greater than failing to live up to our children's expectations.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-08-25 20:10:11](#)
(no subject)

You know very well what you're doing, Arthur. Without you, it would be almost impossible to rescue the kids we pull out for Moddey Dhoo. What's so hard is that you can't tell Ron about it.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-25 20:10:33](#)
(no subject)

Is it enough to justify everything else I've done?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-08-25 20:11:09](#)
(no subject)

Only you can answer that, my friend.

But I suspect that for each and every one of those children you've rescued, it's everything.

2012-08-25 21:29:00

*Private Message to Claudius Yaxley
and Mafalda Hopkirk*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

The body is Stint's. I was able to ID. Case has the scene at Marloes Sands cordoned off and is processing evidence. Pelton's seeing to the corpse.

Desai has taken point in Marloes, interviewing witnesses, identifying suspects to be interviewed.

Fulton--how did he happen to come along with Case?--has gone off to Snowdonia to find Stint's accommodation there. Will take point on interviewing witnesses and identifying suspects at the weather station and surrounds.

Need a team to follow Stint's movements between Pembroke and Snowdon. Desai can advise or be relieved in Marloes and take point, since she's done the surveillance up there.

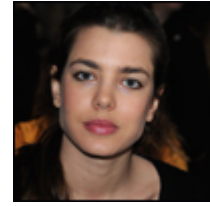
Need someone on this end to conduct interviews with the party collected here at Pembroke. Recusing myself now, for obvious reasons. Will make a full report to whomever you send.

Montague and S-P remain on watch at the drop site. Think it might be useful to have the news in tomorrow's Prophet--since no one's come to collect our bait yet, that must have been Stint's task. Perhaps once his co-conspirators learn of his demise, we'll catch one or more of them yet on that hook. Will keep the watch until Monday, at least, on that theory.

2012-08-25 22:24:00

Private Message to Aurors Crouch and Desai

Collection observed at 11:00pm. Lone figure. Wizard. Average build. Dark cloak. Glamoured. Movements muted and obscured by a silencing charm and some sort of disillusionment.



 [alt_lana](#)

Montague is reading the ward disturbances and stabilising the scene. We've collected a footprint and a bit of parchment. Not sure if it fell from the daybook or was dropped by the collector.

We'll wait for morning to search for physical evidence we might have missed tonight. Unless you wanted us to report directly?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2012-08-26 03:47:44**
(no subject)

Stay put.


How much have you disturbed the scene? Blast.

Continue watch. Possible that news of Stint's death will arrive at different times in different quarters. If there's any failure in their communications, there could be more than one attempt to collect.

First light: remove any sign of your presence at the drop point. Death notice will be in morning paper.


Continue there until I reverse the order.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2012-08-26 03:50:43**
(no subject)

Yes, sir.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2012-08-26 04:04:27](#)**
(no subject)

Wait.

He's dead?



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2012-08-26 04:06:24](#)**
(no subject)

You have all the information you need.

You'll be briefed on developments when you've finished there.

Focus. Both of you.

2012-08-26 03:34:00

(no subject)

Those for whom the information is useful -- as mentioned in the Prophet, I have returned to Our Lord's Protectorate in hopes I may be of service.



 **alt_antonin**

Those for whom the information is enticing -- I have finished unpacking and shall be holding informal salons over the next few days for those who are so inclined to come relieve me of the excess books that appear to have bred in my trunk while I wasn't looking. Inquire at the usual address.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-26 07:59:47**

Private Message to Minerva McGonagall

Minerva --

I must apologize for taking so long to finalize the booklist -- I of all people know how inconvenient it is to have change thrust upon you. I have owed the final revision to your attention and it should arrive this morning. Do let me know when the student copies go out, as I'd like to make a public announcement for the benefit of those who may find themselves confused.

Books will be on hold with Flourish & Blotts beginning Monday, and they've agreed to accept journal orders for those unable to make a return trip to Diagon before start of term. I strongly suspect there will be ongoing issues with the availability of certain titles, particularly at NEWT-level. If you hear from parents having difficulty, redirect them to me so I might take up the cause: I believe I finally have my contact in Procurement suitably cowed.

I had hoped to arrive at Hogwarts by Wednesday to begin my prep, but it's looking as though Thursday is far more likely. I shall call upon you to pay my respects at the earliest opportunity. I trust my request for quarters near the office that is to be mine, to minimize the strain to an entirely-too-slow-to-recover body, will not be too taxing.

Do let me know if there's anything I can obtain for you.

Yours in faithful service to Our Lord's ideals,
Antonin



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-26 08:16:32**

Private Message to Stephen Rosier

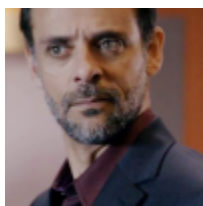
S --

Following up on our discussion of yesterday -- jog my memory, did you wind up using the Anne Plath translation of Khātūn for your foster-son's tutoring after all? If so, do you have a spare? Turning out the book trunk, I can only locate the Hector Plath, and -- well, the less said about that the better. I only keep it around for the amusement value.

I'm certain my copy is somewhere in the pile but neither Berry nor I can lay hands on it and if I tried to summon it there'd be disaster -- I really have let the cataloging go entirely too long. I don't want to take up a copy that could go to one of the students; F&B is having enough trouble sourcing them to begin with.

Looking forward to catching up with you in person, no matter how clever and useful these journals are. I have a few questions on how things will be received I'd like to run by you for your take on them -- after this long, and so long as Our Lord's Voice, I'm much more confident in my read on people than I used to be, but a man does like to show his teacher how much he appreciated the lessons.

With respect and affection,
T



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-26 11:25:53**

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Mr Weasley --

Our conversation of Thursday morning having been so pleasant, I wished to extend an offer to continue it. (As well -- I would like to commend you on your tact and diplomacy when discussing the curriculum your own study of the Arts involved. Having finally had the chance to examine what was being taught -- well. I apologize for intimating the blame for your unfamiliarity with certain seminal works may have rested on your own shoulders; further, deponent sayeth not.)

My elf Berry will be calling upon you at some point this afternoon to deliver a parcel of books too awkward for owl post. Should you find them at all useful, do consider them a gift; I am drowning in the things and you will no doubt obtain more use from them than I will. (Should you find them dreadfully dull, pass them along to someone who will not -- you will know better than I which of your contemporaries would appreciate them the way books deserve.)

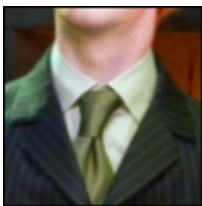
Tucked into the front of the *Cavernae Medullitae* is a suggested reading order (with a few key passages noted), and I've also copied out the booklist I will be using for NEWT-level classes for your future reference. Do not purchase them now: I've spent the last two days in pointed battle with Flourish & Blotts over their ability to provide copies in sufficient number for my students, and, I am sad to say, students will likely be sharing many of their books this year, during first term at least. But once F&B are able to correct their incompetence, I suspect you will find Clements-Chichester's *Grimories of the Worthy Families* to be a useful reference for the circles around which you find yourself moving.

The slender volume atop the stack is a fair copy of my own translation of Aleksey Vladimirovich Korovin's *Mastery over Self* -- that's the book I mentioned as being the most helpful guide I've ever found to mapping one's inner landscape. You will gain the most utility from it by following its exercises exactly, spending as little or as much time on each meditation as you feel necessary to fully appreciate its nuances. Ten minutes a day should suffice, stretching to twenty once you've completed the first sequence. Do not expect immediate results -- for instance, I am not likely to make it much past the fifth sequence with my classes this year -- but also do not hesitate to reach out to me if you feel you are "stuck" too long on any one exercise: the whole of the third sequence, for instance, is notoriously difficult for a solo practitioner to summit and my translator's notes alone may not suffice.

Mind you, unlike the rest of my soon-to-be flock, I certainly have no authority to assign you homework! And I imagine my old friend keeps you quite busy. (Having seen the way your eyes kept being drawn to my shelves throughout our conversation, though, I suspect wild centaurs couldn't drag you away.) Should you have time and inclination to discuss your study, though, I would be pleased to assign some of what little time I shall have free in the coming year or so to hearing your thoughts.

Should you happen to be at home when the delivery arrives, meanwhile, the elf has been instructed to lend you the afternoon if you should have any suitable tasks. I hardly mean to be rude or to make you self-conscious, but at several points during our visit I believe I sensed a hint of the exhaustion that inevitably arises from too many responsibilities hanging unaddressed over one's head. Do make free of an afternoon of Berry's service if you could benefit from it.

With my regards,
Antonin Dolohov



 [alt_percy](#) at [2012-08-26 18:49:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Percival Weasley

I, too, enjoyed our conversation greatly, I assure you, sir. You were most kind to give me so much of your time when I am sure you have so many pressing matters of your own to arrange. I was quite surprised and most touched when your elf arrived this afternoon with the parcel of books as well as the very generous offer of the elf's services for the afternoon. My flatmate and I have just moved into this location and have many odds and ends still to arrange, so frankly, the assistance could not have been better timed or more fortuitous.

Thank you for the books. I will read them with great interest, as well as do the exercises. I felt the gap in my own education on this subject most acutely during our conversation, but I hope I am the sort who constantly strives to better himself. I assure you that any guidance you are willing to offer could not be more gratefully received. I quite envy the students of Hogwarts who will reap the benefits of your expertise this coming year. If I may venture a prediction, I expect you will become quite a favourite to the students among the staff.

Yours,
Percy Weasley



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-08-27 00:23:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Percival Weasley

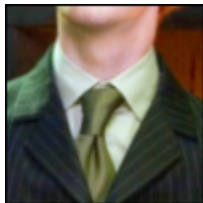
Mr Weasley --

Think nothing of it. The task of educating is not a chore but a privilege, and one scholar does always recognise another. I will look forward to hearing your insights should you choose to share them, though the gift carries no obligation save this: someday you will see that hungry look in the eye of another. Pass the books along then, and think fondly of me when you do.

You flatter me, though modesty (prudence, alas, is a lost cause if I haven't found it by now) forces me to disclaim a Venomous Tentacula would likely be a more popular instructor than my predecessor. Happy to tutor you through your educational shortcomings by journal throughout the year, though you may need to remind me, and please do.

My only requirement -- do not allow your work to suffer; my old friend would likely feed me to said Tentacula should I distract you too badly.

With regard,
Antonin Dolohov



 **alt_percy** at [2012-08-28 02:08:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Percival Weasley

Thank you again for the use of your elf's services for the afternoon. The assistance was most welcome.

I am already two chapters into one of the books and finding it quite absorbing (although not to the neglect of my work duties for Mr Malfoy, I hasten to assure you!). I hope you won't regret your offer to give me the benefit of your insights through the journals if I send you occasional questions. Thank you again.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-26 11:26:18**

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Old friend,

Should you happen to take note of my message to your clerk, rest assured, I am not trying to interfere -- we had a very pleasant and wholly insightful chat on Thursday about the prior state of the Hogwarts curriculum that influenced my syllabus considerably. In appreciation for his assistance (whether he knew he was giving it or not) I've sent him a stack of many of the texts he mentioned being unfamiliar with, including my translation of the Korovin should he care to follow its exercises. (If he begins to manifest the traditional side effects 'round about the second sequence, and they become too unpleasant to cope with, send him to me; I'll straighten him out.)

Your little note regarding his uncles slipped out of the manuscript while he was handing it over, by the by. Keeping a straight face was only possible due to years of long practice. I take it his presence as your clerk indicates the traditional familial sympathies are not shared in the progeny? Or are you simply indulging yourself?

Oh, and regarding that manuscript -- trite and shallow for the audience it's written for, but possibly containing merit as a schoolboy's introduction with a bit of revision. Would be happy to edit if you feel it warranted, though it will have to wait until the new year at the least.

Yours in that pleasant little stroll down memory lane,

T



 **alt_lucius** at **2012-08-26 17:00:16**

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

T,

If I object to anything it is the way in which your re-entry to our circle has affected my wife, not my clerk! (Rest assured, I know better than to worry on that score. Besides, she is currently more perturbed by the seeming impossibility of taking a holiday that is not plagued by calamity. You can be sure, Toshenka, that if she ever begins to consider seriously that the life of an itinerant scholar's wife might be preferable, I

shall quash the impulse easily enough by revealing certain of your own foibles.)

Nonetheless I should have known you could not resist the opportunity to encourage any and all flies which have the fortune to land in the proximity of your web. Confess I merely thought you might be diverted by his visit; delighted that he proved useful in more than one way. (Hope you did not keep him over-long, however: You are correct that even though I am on holiday, he has more than enough chores to occupy his time!)

But I would caution you not to trouble yourself over-much with his education: He has proved acceptable, perhaps one might even go so far as to say, promising, but he does grate on polite company, so feel no compunction at all regarding ejecting him should he grow too insufferable. As for the family ... well. 'Common' rather encapsulates the whole household.

Arthur Weasley is undoubtedly a soft, sentimental blood-traitor of the worst kind but he manages to keep his nose infuriatingly clean. In what one can only guess is an attempt to single-handedly replace her brothers and more besides, Molly Prewett Weasley birthed a passel of boys and one girl, most of whom you shall soon see in your classrooms. Besides my clerk, there are two older brothers as well; one is stationed at the dragon preserve at Stornoway and the eldest has assumed the duties of secretary to our mutual friend Stephen. Thus far he seems to be the gem of the family but with tempering, 'Tertius,' as Minerva calls him, may yet lead us to the true nature of the rest.

Whether he does or no, believe you may already see the effect of good influence on his character. Have no illusions that he can truly rise above his poor breeding but the knowledge that his ideals are properly aligning (as is his ease with spells which, am sure, turn Arthur Weasley's stomach), was in itself of enough amusement value to have obtained his services.

His own merit as a clerk has - thus far - provided enough value to retain those services. (Much to my relief, I might add: Really, it is an exceptional effort to break in new ones when time and accuracy are of the essence.)

As to Charles' project, was more than happy to dispense with the volume altogether. Obscurus has no interest in publishing drivel. Feel free only to tell Charles that it is only good for pulp and he may

reject it out of hand.

Now, it seems my presence is once again required by MLE.

Yours in anticipation of proper reunion, *bratishka*,

-L



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-27 00:20:51**

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Your little flower indeed has more sense than that -- and you know me too well entirely, old friend.

Your Weasley, meanwhile, has less sense than he ought; what are they teaching in schools these days, when one so blatantly of the house of Lion doesn't think twice at an unfettered offer from the house of Snake? His return missive was charmingly artless (in all senses) and adorably sincere -- apparently I'm certain to be a favorite of the little darlings in this forthcoming year. Well, I suppose it doesn't need a Seer's powers to predict I'll be more of a favorite than darling doomed Alecto, at least. Wonder how many of the chicks will flinch instinctively when I walk in the room?

Still -- there is ever joy to be found in a challenge, and he wears the hunger more plainly than the dirt clinging to the hem of his family's robes. And not the hunger for a more elevated station to which you refer (though yes, someone does need to culture him -- much as one might an oyster -- before he's presentable in polite company). If I could be bothered, I'd stake the pride of my library against the best of your cellar I could temper him to steel, actually, if never precisely to greatness; as is, well, you know how helpless I am in the face of a sincere desire to immerse oneself in the lore. No matter what the poor boy's done or not done, he hardly deserves Alecto to have been his only tutor. We shall see how matters develop and whether (and how quickly) I grow bored; for now at least, I find the artlessness endearing.

(Rest assured I shan't encourage dereliction -- in fact, sent the books by way of elf, ordered to provide whatever services the household requested for an afternoon. Curious to see what it'll observe while there.)

My love to Narcissa, and if you haven't already told Draco of the news for fear of it spreading, you've twelve hours or so to beat the Hogwarts owls. Stephen stopped by earlier to avail himself of the fruits of my travels (I did cull those titles I thought you'd be most interested in beforehand, though the thestralskin-bound *Cruor Invictus* with the 15th c handwritten marginalia was my apology gift to Barty for missing so many birthdays) and offered his usual astute observations on how to head off a Howler or two at my sill tomorrow evening. Should prove entertaining, if nothing more.

I find myself oddly anticipatory of the adventure that awaits, actually. Our Lord's kindness in allowing me this task defangs much of the manticore's sting in knowing I've still a long road to recovery ahead of me.

(Oh, and -- MLE? Shall send the elf out for a copy of the Prophet when it returns, to see what I've missed. I trust you know that if you've need of me, you only need call, Lyoushka, though as always I can hardly imagine anything that might be.)

Yours faithfully, and surprised to discover how much I'd missed that mode of address,

T



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-27 01:21:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

You have been gone too long without enough exposure to the changes Our gracious Lord has wrought, Toshenska: Our esteemed House has gained its rightful place as the pinnacle of proving grounds. And you are more than correct in your assessment: My guess is that if you are not careful, you shall have a supplicant in Weasley to rival that unfortunate Rothschild chap. The one who made the mistake of taking 'boot-licking' literally in his zeal to join Our Lord.

However, you needn't concern yourself that Alecto was and remains his only tutor, старик. I flatter myself that I have at least managed to impart the rudiments amongst the more immediate lessons of Ministerial politics and gate-keeping. But you are right, as usual, that there is something about the lad that tips him more toward 'intriguing' than 'altogether unacceptable.' There is much to be said for youth and enthusiasm, no?

Shall certainly reap the benefits of your voracious buying habits at the earliest opportunity! Not to worry about Draco, however - he knows and is pleased that his professor shall be another somewhat familiar face (though not, alas, as avuncular as we might have wished. We all serve as best we may). But we have had more pressing concerns than his books, if that can be believed. Still, presume you mean to use Brandt? Calidus? He has read the introductory chapters of Wierus but no further as yet. (And of course, he read the Khātūn edition Father gave to me, years ago.)

Confess, you do know how to wound me, *bratishka*, in selecting that volume for Barty and tempting me with its existence, but shall not begrudge him his own special token of your affection. (Narcissa, incidentally, has been merciless toward his delight at your proximity. You know how she can tease. But it is only because he seems quite transformed - to the good, of course. You'll be aware of his altered circumstances in the last six months and if not, suggest you let him admit to you the details.)


Besides, there is always the challenge of finding a means to win it from him.

Regarding MLE - nothing to worry you and it requires too long an explanation. There was a matter of a death a short Apparating distance from our holiday cottage. As it happens, the victim was also a party of interest in an ongoing investigation Barty has been conducting on my behalf, concerning Draco. The worst part is that we were hoping to follow him to a larger conspiracy, which his death somewhat disrupts, but per Barty's this afternoon, we may yet bear fruit from higher up in the branches of his political tree.

All I require from you, my dear Toshenka, is that you regain your full strength and vigour. With that, shall leave you to your rest.

Expect me to-morrow after noon.



 **[alt_selwyn](#)** at **[2012-08-27 03:07:24](#)**

Private message to Antonin Dolohov

I believe we met only a few times before your departure to the continent, but we have quite a few friends in common and I've heard enough stories to make me feel that we're already acquainted. I'd very much like to make your acquaintance in person. Do you mind if I stop in?



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-08-27 13:11:30](#)**

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

If the stories were good, they're all true; if the stories were embarrassing, they're all lies.

Any of Our Lord's devoted servants are always welcome; any friend of my dear friends, doubly so. I do indeed remember you, and am pleased to see you've grown so far into your potential. I'd be delighted if you were to stop by; tomorrow may be more convenient than today, as there's a bit of news going out from Hogwarts this morning that may cause some upset. Shall we say tomorrow evening, after supper?

Your brother in service to Our Lord's glorious future,
Antonin

2012-08-26 10:41:00

Order Only

Goodness. I just saw the morning's *Prophet*. Poppy, Sirius, Frank, have you seen it?



For those who haven't, it's a brief little piece saying that the body of Facinorous Stint was found yesterday on Marloes Sands (near Marloes). Nothing like details, mind you.

 [alt_pomona](#)

It seems quite impossible, really. And yet. I assume it's true enough, because why. No, never mind, in this world, there are all sort of reasons for false information.

Do any of you know anything further?



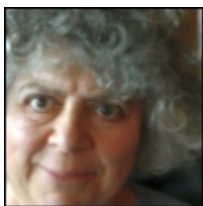
 [alt_bill](#) at **2012-08-26 16:18:59**

(no subject)

My word.

I've just checked with one of my sources, and I can confirm that yes, a body was found there. Well, no great loss to anyone, I'm sure, and I presume it was probably Stint, unless MLE has some burning need to dispose of someone else and transfigured the corpse to look like him. I will keep on working to confirm.

Only who did it? The paper doesn't say anything about anyone being picked up for questioning.



 [alt_pomona](#) at **2012-08-26 18:15:27**

(no subject)

I suppose - well. I suppose it's possible he fell off a cliff on his own. Isn't it? Only.

I'm not sure I like to think about the other.




 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-26 18:38:27](#)
(no subject)

Don't look at me, Pomona. I didn't see him while I was following Poppy.

Course, he's the type with loads of people who'd like to see him dead.

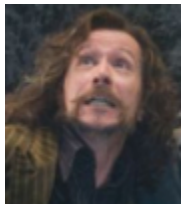



 **alt_bill** at [2012-08-26 19:14:53](#)
Private message to Sirius Black

I'm presuming we can believe you about this.

But...I hate to ask this, but what about Frank? Or even Poppy? Frank's not been himself lately, and Stint was really threatening Poppy.

I don't doubt the bastard deserved it, although I'm not gonna say that sort of thing in front of Terry Boot. But give me a hint if I have to figure out how to pull anyone's chestnuts out of the fire if there's any risk they're going to get pulled into a murder investigation.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-08-26 19:20:14](#)
Re: Private message to Sirius Black

Bill, I can't speak for Frank but I think we ran Stint off fairly thoroughly without resorting to murder.

And I don't want to say it in front of everyone, either, but there were times when I wasn't right there watching Poppy every second. Like when I broke off to follow what I thought (no, I was sure) was Stint's scent.

So it's unlikely but it's *possible* that he returned and confronted her alone.

But then she'd have had to Apparate with him to dispose of the body and I just can't see our Poppy doing something like that. Can you?

I mean to say, it could have happened but you'd have to work hard to convince me of it.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-26 19:30:49](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius Black


Right. No, I can't see it either. Besides, she does take that bit about 'First do no harm' pretty seriously.

Although if it were self-defence, I suppose she might. But I would think, in that case, she would have told you.

That leaves Frank as an outside possibility at best, and I suppose he's safe enough at Moddey Dhoo, if worst comes to worst.

Anyway, I get the impression there were plenty of other people who had their wands out for him. Not a popular man, our Stint.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-26 21:10:19](#)

(no subject)

Poppy, how much time were you off by yourself?

Not that I'm making any accusations, but his antipathy for you was well-known. If someone ELSE makes any accusations, can we readily establish an alibi for you?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-08-27 02:34:07](#)

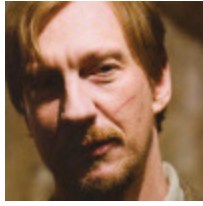
(no subject)

Oh. From mid-day Thursday until mid-day yesterday.

Sirius was with me, but I can hardly claim him as a witness to my activities. There was another member of the course half a mile from me, but we never saw one another in that time.

Do you think I'll need an alibi?

When is he meant to have died?



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-08-27 03:09:35](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not sure. Either about whether you're likely to need an alibi, or what time he's meant to have died.

Bill, do you know if they're treating this as a probable murder or a probable accident?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-26 20:44:09](#)**
(no subject)

colour me unsurprised.

first I've heard of it, though.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-27 02:28:09](#)**
(no subject)

Died, has he?

Frank told me I ought to read this. And, well. I can't say I'm sorry. Or surprised someone would do him in if they'd a chance to.

Of course, the way he was drinking the last we saw him, he could well have gone up those cliffs and toppled off.

[2012-08-26 19:40:00](#)

I can't believe that summer's

almost over. I guess with the time away for the CCF and all, there hasn't been nearly as much loafing about as usual. Which is probably a good thing, overall.



 [alt_padma](#)

Not that there was all that much loafing about, even normally. But this summer, Pav and I were also helping in the shop. (Mum's said more than once that it would be lovely if one of us took an interest in the business.) It's fun, of course, but it's also a load of work. And Mum recently took on some more help, but if anything, going through the CCF training made things more efficient afterward. I dunno, I'm happy to help out but I'm still leaning toward other things. I think it's important that each of us does our utmost to serve the Protector the best possible way we can. I don't think clothes design is really all I'm capable of, is all.

That doesn't mean we didn't have a grand time designing! Mum's putting a few of our robes into production, even. I wish they'd been ready before the end of the summer but holidays will do. (It's also well strange to be designing things for winter when it's hot and for summer when it's cold, but that's the nature of the business, isn't it?)

Ginny, I think *Purest Sparkle* might even be interested. I mean, young clothes for the young witch about town? Mum's going to see about it, anyway. If you're still modelling for them that would be really snitch, wouldn't it?

That's not the only news we had this summer. Haruman's brought one particular girl round for supper about half a dozen times. Mum's holding out hope he'll make a Big Announcement any day.

They came tonight, too, but not to make a Big Announcement. Haruman wanted to talk to Dad about something in the papers today. Apparently a Healer that he works with occasionally at St M's turned up dead in Wales yesterday. He was really shaken up about it. Not because he particularly *liked* the Healer but because so many people have been talking to one another about whether it could have been a murder.

It's kind of disturbing and exciting at the same time, isn't it? I wasn't sure why anyone would want to kill a Healer but Haruman said that to

know this Healer was to hate him, basically. And apparently he had a string of patients who were always complaining and Haruman was one of the Jr Healers who sometimes had to calm them down while someone else tracked Healer Stint down and well--he's not surprised if someone got cross enough. Or it could have been an accident, too. He was found at the bottom of a cliff, so he could have fallen (though it's odd he didn't Apparate away, if he fell, right?).

Well, anyway.

School starts in only a week! Has anyone heard more about the 'changes to Dark Arts' that Mr Malfoy mentioned? (I saw that and wondered if anyone had been mad enough to buy their books already-- I mean, we've all been waiting to find out what would happen since Miss Professor Carrow died, right?)

Oh, by the way, for Ravenclaw Corner: We're meeting up in Diagon at 1:00 tomorrow afternoon. Seamus, Lav, if you want to join us that's fine. Pav and Su Li are coming too and my cousin Darshana, and Desai as well. Cooper, Bole, if you're interested, come and meet us outside Fortescue's.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-08-27 01:51:02**


Private message to Padma Patil

Healer Stint died? Really? (Or was murdered, I suppose.) ~~Was your brother sure~~

That's disturbing! I hope it was just an accident. Maybe he'd been drinking? That might account for his problems with patients, too.

I haven't heard anything about Dark Arts either BUT did you notice the post today from a Mr Dolohov -- he says he just returned to the Protectorate to 'be of service,' he seems to know everyone on the Council and his first PM was to the Headmistress. Maybe he's our new teacher?



 **alt_padma** at [2012-08-27 01:59:46](#)

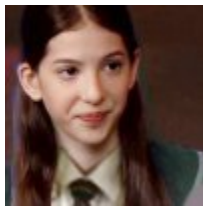
Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Yes, and I checked the *Prophet* when Haruman was telling us about it. It's right there, page two.

I don't know if he drank. Do you? It sounds like you know who he was.

And yes, I think that's probably a safe guess about that Mr Dolohov person, too. We actually Floo'd Flourish and Blott's yesterday to see if the fact that Mr Malfoy said there'd be a new Dark Arts teacher meant that they finally knew what books we're supposed to buy. And they said that they were working on putting aside the stock and that they thought by Monday they'd be able to sell them. That's why Ravenclaw Corner's going on Monday, to make sure we can all get our books right away. You might want to see if the Strettons will let you go, as well.

If he's not our new teacher, though, I wonder who is?



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2012-08-27 02:31:41](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

The Strettons get the *Prophet* but I didn't see it today so I'll take your word.

I don't know whether he drank. I DO know who he was -- he worked some with CCF, actually, so you might have met him and he just didn't make any impression on you. Draco definitely met him -- Stint came up to us when we were walking around Cambridge last April (this was with YPL, I think? during spring hols) and butted into our conversation and annoyed us both immensely. After that I always noticed when he was there. Anyway, not that I wanted him DEAD or anything but I certainly understand why he was so unpopular.

Thanks for the information about the books -- I've been waiting and wondering. Philip Stretton needs his books, too, so I'll be taking him when I finally go to Diagon Alley. As far as the teacher goes -- so long as they don't find some previously unknown third Carrow sibling I'm not gong to complain.



 **alt_seamus** at [2012-08-27 01:58:23](#)

Private message to Padma Patil


Tomorrow at Diagon? I'll be there.

I CAN tell you who the new Dark Arts teacher is, and the book lists are going out so we should have them by the time we're shopping.

It's Professor Antonin Dolohov. He's on the Council, and good friends with Mr Rosier. I can tell you Mr Rosier is DEAD PLEASED, too, he says all the extra reading on Dark Arts I've done in the last few years was books recommended to him by Professor Dolohov. He's been on the Continent, working for Our Lord there, but came back quite recently.

Anyway officially it's still a secret but Mr Rosier told me and EVERYONE will know by tomorrow so I can't see as there's any harm in telling you now.



 **alt_padma** at [2012-08-27 02:09:16](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Oooh, excellent.

Perks was just asking, I'm glad I didn't see this before or I'd have been lying when I told her I didn't know but that I thought Mr Dolohov was probably a good guess.

What was he doing on the Continent, do you know? Something exotic and exciting like curse-breaking or was he a diplomat like that time Mr Malfoy went to France?

And yeah, I checked with Flourish and Blotts yesterday and they said they were trying to get all the books needed, so I figured we'd better get there right away if we want to be sure, because it sounded like maybe there won't be enough to go round. But they said that they thought they'd be able to start selling them tomorrow.

I've got so much to tell you, it's amazing it's only been a couple weeks since we've been home and yet everything's changing. So. Haruman really *is* serious about this witch but Mum's actually less than happy because she's not Indian. She's not going to say anything about that, though. And Dad told her that they probably

should have just arranged a marriage a long time ago, when he was 13 like normal, and I can tell you Pav and I were both so *relieved* that no one suggested it's not too late to arrange matches for us!

But you see how I'm saying 'Mum and Dad'? That's because I guess they've been trying again. I mean, Dad's moving back in. He's given up the New London flat and all. I dunno if it's really the best thing for them, honestly. But. I guess they feel like they have to make the effort. Especially if Haruman's considering marriage--they want to set a good example for her family (even if she isn't Indian).

Well, I'll see you tomorrow. I want to hear all about Professor Dolohov and how the rest of your summer went!



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2012-08-27 02:36:48](#)**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Mr Rosier said he was 'officially a diplomat' who 'unofficially represented the interests of the Lord Protector in many capacities,' so I think he was probably doing interesting things but it was a


secret.

Good news on the books. And Haruman! I mean, I think that sounds like good news, even if your parents aren't entirely pleased. It should make it a little easier for you and Pav if he's the first -- I mean, if you fall in love with an Indian then great, but if you don't, you should get to marry who you please, I think.

And even better news about your parents.

The rest of my summer has had TOO MUCH REVISING IN IT but at least I've got out flying a few times. I'll be glad to get back to school where I'll see my friends and won't have to do Conditioning every morning like in CCF.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-08-27 02:49:16](#)**

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Wow, I wonder if he's sort of like Lockhart, someone with loads of practical experience (or, well, you know what I mean), or if he's someone who just reads and reads loads of books but never

really uses it much.

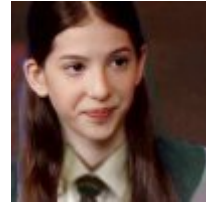
I guess we'll find out when we see the book list. And you'll have a jump on all the reading, so good on you!

It's good news about Haruman. I'm not sure it's wonderful news about Mum and Dad. Somehow I think they were happier when they were living apart.

I've been doing the conditioning, too, only not every day. I think we ought to continue it into school. (Actually, if Umbridge is running YPL and all, maybe she'll be doing the conditioning, too. She could use some!)

2012-08-26 21:37:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

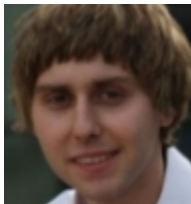


 **alt_sally_anne**

I'm going to Diagon Alley tomorrow to buy books -- Patil tipped me off she heard Flourish & Blotts will have the books for Dark Arts ready tomorrow. SHE'S going at 1 so I think I'll try to be there at 10, right when they open and beat the Ravenclaw Rush. Gemma doesn't let me lie in much anyway.

Philip's going to be with me, Mrs Stretton got all his books owl-order already but he was really cross about missing the trip to Diagon Alley so I said I'd take him with me. Anyone else not have books yet? I think Hydra's the only other person on here taking Dark Arts and she's still on holiday (I think?)

I cannot WAIT to get back to school.



 **alt_justin** at **2012-08-27 02:55:26**

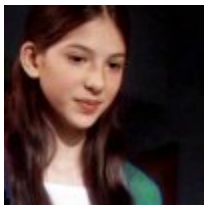
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

I was waiting until Hydra could go, but Remy's taking Dark Arts and he'll need anything that comes out.

Did Patil tell you anything else about that Stint chap? I say, he's the one who harassed you and Malfoy in Cambridge, isn't he? And who told you you'd never have the stuff to make a Healer?

-Justin



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-08-27 03:11:27**

(no subject)

YES.

I have to say I'm a little shocked he's dead? But not particularly sad. I sent her the private message because I wanted to know if she was quite sure, but apparently it was even in the Prophet. (I didn't see it today.)

And it really is good news for me, because Madam Pomfrey warned me that even one Healer who really had it in for me might be able to keep me out of St Mungo's and I should hope he just forgot about me completely in the meantime.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-27 03:27:49](#)

(no subject)

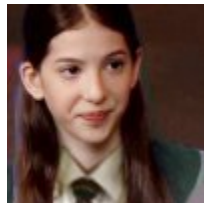
Oh, I say.

Well, then it couldn't have happened to a nicer bloke, what? Not that one would wish it on him, what, but I can well see how it's an advantage to you.

I expect Madam Pomfrey must feel a mixture of relief and regret, as well, what?

I asked Remy about whether he'd rather get his books tomorrow but he said he'd take his chances so we could go with Hydra. I rather guess he thinks he'll be able to get copies without too much trouble, though.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-27 04:13:50](#)

(no subject)

She couldn't STAND him.

Neither could Siz.

I don't know anyone who liked him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-27 03:13:09](#)

Private message to Pansy

We were wishing him dead, both of us.

You don't suppose that DID something, do you? I mean if it HAD done something it would've done it last April when I was really furious at him. I think. Not made him topple off a cliff five months later.

He was such a horrible person I don't think anyone's going to miss him.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-27 04:06:56](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I don't think it works that way. I do think that if he was a horrible person, then we're not the only ones who wanted him that way, which means it might not've been an accident.

It's like the Carrows.

Things didn't end too well for them either.

Maybe it does make a difference.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-27 03:21:53](#)

(no subject)

Do you want me to see if I can go tomorrow? I can ask, if you think you want to go then.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-27 03:30:07](#)

(no subject)

Oh!

Well, if you think you can. Are you back from visiting the Malfoys?

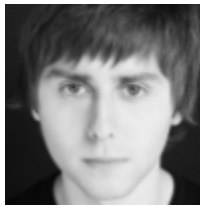
I don't much care, so long as we can go together, but if you and Remy need to buy texts you might have a easier time tomorrow morning.


-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-27 03:40:33](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'm back. We left after tea. I heard the adults up early this morning talking about Healer Stint; I didn't hear much except that they seemed disappointed he turned up dead before they could figure out what other things he was involved in. Oh, and it seems he was using Imperius on Draco? But it was at that point in the conversation that Rigel woke up and started crying, and they started talking about other things.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-08-27 03:51:53](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I say, this Stint fellow seems like more and more trouble. Why on earth was he using the Imperius on Draco?

Did you have a good time, otherwise?

Yes, let's please see if we can meet tomorrow. Shall we go in the morning or later?

-J



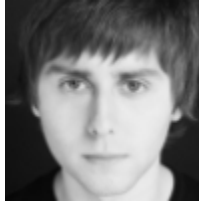
 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-08-27 04:01:29](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know. I asked Draco about it later and he said it was "nothing to worry about," it was all part of some plan that he had with his parents, to help them sort out what Healer Stint was up

to.

It was all right. There were some uncomfortable moments. Mummy has a way of making everyone feel like they ought to be grateful for her presence, since she has so many other things she would rather be doing. It was also a little strange to see Professor Sinistra chatting with everyone in my family, and her and Uncle Raz holding hands on the sofa... that sort of thing. Not bad strange, just different. I'm not used to it, you see.

I should be allowed to go in the morning so long as I say that I'm meeting Remy.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-27 04:12:09](#)
(no subject)

That sounds well ominous, what! Whatever was he up to that had the Malfoys using Draco as bait?

I can see it would be strange when someone like a Professor suddenly acts and treats one differently but I'm sure you'll get used to it. After all, you must have had the opposite experience when your uncle suddenly became your professor!

Speaking of which, did Mr Malfoy say anything about the new Dark Arts instructor? It's not Madam Umbridge, I hope.

Say you're meeting Remy, then, but tell them you expect the shops to be crowded and it may be hours before you get back. Then we'll have all day. I can't wait.

Sweet dreams.

-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-27 04:15:17](#)
(no subject)

It SHOULDN'T be Madam Umbridge. Their excuse for taking the YPL away from Professor Sinistra was they wanted someone running it full time and not also teaching!



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-27 04:22:42](#)
(no subject)


I got the impression he was trying to meddle in the Malfoy's affairs, but I'm not sure how.

And no, the new Dark Arts professor isn't Madam Umbridge, it's someone called Dolohov. I've met him

before but I don't remember it much, I suppose I must have been much younger. Everyone seems to like him quite a lot - everyone in my extended family, that is. And you know that Raz, Uncle Lucius, Daddy...they never liked Miss Professor Carrow at all, and I think that while they tolerate Madam Umbridge, they don't enjoy her terribly much as a person. But they seemed very pleased about Dolohov, and Uncle Lucius even said that it's high time we have someone teaching us Dark Arts the proper way. I'm not sure what that means, but it sounds as if it will be better than Miss Carrow's class, at least.

See you tomorrow!



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-27 02:58:09**
(no subject)

Um, yeah. I don't know when Mum was thinking we'd go. Maybe she wouldn't mind if I met you there and did my shopping at the same time. Or, well. Even if I couldn't get my books, yet, maybe I could go and have

a look.

I have something I wanted to tell you about, anyway. I'll see what Mum says.

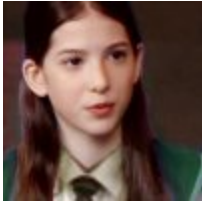
So you're going to stick with Dark Arts, then? I thought you were thinking of ditching out of it.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-08-27 03:14:48**
(no subject)

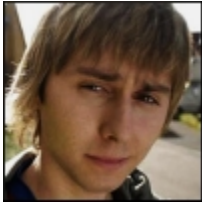
Come meet me! If you don't want to get up early enough to come meet me at ten, it's not as if Philip and I will be hurrying back.

I keep thinking about it but with Miss Professor Carrow gone -- anyway at this point I might as well get the OWL.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-27 03:16:29](#)
(no subject)

I keep thinking about ditching Dark Arts, I mean.
Not about hurrying back to the Strettons'.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-27 04:01:23](#)
(no subject)

Everything all right, Ron?
Hope you'll come along tomorrow.

-J



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-27 03:08:47](#)
(no subject)

No Dark Arts books for me of course, but yeah, I do
need to get all my other textbooks. And stuff for my
potions kit. I probably need new robes, too.

I'll see you at Flourish & Blotts tomorrow.

Think I'm ready to get back to school, too. Things have been rather
dull around Gran's house.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-27 03:15:47](#)
(no subject)

Well I'm glad you lot all held off on shopping even if
you weren't waiting because you didn't know all
your books, because now you can come shopping
with me.



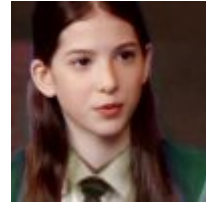
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-27 04:08:21](#)
(no subject)

I can't wait either!

2012-08-27 09:33:00

Book list!

The book list for Dark Arts came by owl this morning. Whew!



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I'll be on my way to Diagon Alley in a bit, with Philip (who doesn't need any books for Dark Arts yet but is very, very excited to be going to Hogwarts this fall). See some of you later..



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-08-27 14:57:01**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

DID YOU SEE PROFESSOR DOLOHOV'S POST?

EVERYONE is going to have to take Dark Arts.

I'm really glad I'm going to the bookstore early.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-08-27 15:30:07**

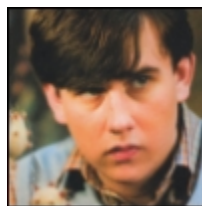
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Hello,

Yes, I did see it. That's...unexpected.

Are you already in the queue for the shop? We've arrived but I don't see you.

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-08-28 00:07:40**

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

Very unexpected.


I didn't buy the books, because the word came out after we had already left for London, and Gran had only enough for my books that we knew about, no more.

She sure isn't pleased about it. She was even talking about sending a letter to Hogwarts to see if Evelyn and me can get out of

it, but I don't think that'd be a good idea. Given, you know, who my parents are. I can't be seen as shirking, exactly.

But I really don't want to take it. Neither Evelyn or I do.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-28 01:44:06](#)

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

Yeah, I went early because I wanted to get some of my summer stipend out so I could buy- well, it doesn't matter what now. Anywiz, it meant I had a little more than those books cost when I met up with Sally Anne and found out about having to buy them.

Yeah. Well, all I can say is it better be dead interesting.

I'm thinking I'll ditch Divination, y'know? Only, I'm taking three electives and you don't have to, and it turns out there's a book that the sixth years have to have that's shared with Runes, so I guess I won't drop that. Otherwise, I totally would, because Divination doesn't take any work, really. It's all creative writing, innit? And I actually like Creatures, even with Professor G-P, so I'm not dropping that.

I don't know.

No, actually, I do. I can't believe we have to take Dark Arts. I was just asking Dad about whether it would be all right to drop out of CCF, and we'd decided it really isn't safe to. And for sure not, now, if they're making all of us do Dark Arts.


Dad said about CCF that I should figure out if the benefits are worth more than the compromises you have to make, or, y'know, than the things you have to do that are just dead wrong. He asked what I think the benefits of staying in are, and I told him all the stuff we're actually learning--the orienteering and defence stuff and tactics. I mean, mostly, we're learning what tactics the Protectorate will use if we ever have to fight them. That's why we applied, right? You, too.

We've got loads to tell you about, if you want, because this summer was way more serious than last year. I mean the marching and the uniforms, that was dead ridiculous compared to the rest, but I'm dead glad to know what the rest of them are

learning--and to be learning it, too.

Actually, that's what we should be doing if we get up this club we're talking about. We should teach you the stuff we learned in CCF, and practice it ourselves, and we should totally be figuring out other tactics to use against anyone using those strategies. Am I right?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-28 03:18:37](#)

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

Yeah, I'd really love to learn the stuff you've learned in CCF. Well, some of it, anyway. I was sorry I didn't make the cut, although I suppose I'm relieved I haven't had to make some of the choices you've had to make. Although maybe I will now, if I'm in Dark Arts.

Makes sense, what you talked about with your Dad, I mean.

Now you're making me think about dropping Divination. A lot of people might, now that we have another core course.

Ugh. I can't believe we have to take Dark Arts, either.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-27 23:14:29](#)

Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Miss Perks -

I took a chance to ask a question of interest to you, and I suspect others who may bring it up with you where they wouldn't with me. My apologies for not managing it a bit earlier in the day, but we were a bit delayed in our plans this morning.

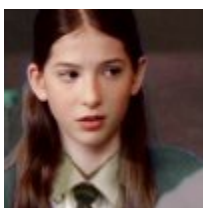
I've just introduced myself to the new Dark Arts professor via journal, in part to inquire whether he'd a plan in place to handle students whose budgets might not stretch to the rather extensive list. (I had a look at Mr Marvolo's) and doing my best to note that the resources of some students do not stretch as far or as readily as others.

He assures me that he understands the difficulty, and that any

student who can't lay hands on a copy due to finances should simply let him know. (He suggests he will not ask why, beyond inquiring whether he should agitate the staff at Flourish and Blotts further over the matter or no.)

If that is of reassurance to you, or to others, please do pass it along as widely as you like. I do get the strong suspicion that he means what he says about translations, and that sharing may be preferable to the wrong one, but I'll see if I can clarify that later this week.

I do hope you're enjoying your last week of holidays, though I admit I'm now very much looking forward to settling into the year.



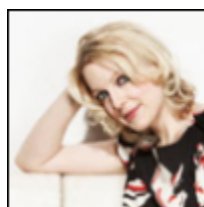
 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-08-28 03:43:02**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

Thank you, Professor Sinistra.

I used some of the money I'd saved to buy the books. So that was okay. I was able to find used copies of some of it.

I'll let others know. I think the biggest shock is to the people who didn't sign up for Dark Arts in the first place? because they REALLY weren't expecting to need to buy any more books.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-28 14:58:05**

Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I was thinking just that. And how much my own parents would have scrambled to add a whole new set of books on top of what they'd carefully planned for. They hated admitting they couldn't provide everything we might need just for the asking.

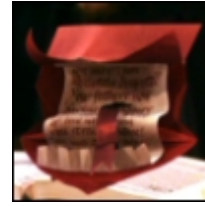
While I'm half-reminded of it: I know we'd talked about you spending the time you've been working with me with Madame Pomfrey this year, to gain experience. I'm still just fine with that (not that I won't miss that quiet time), but if you do find yourself in need of pocket money, do let me know, and I'm sure I'll have some handy tasks.

I'm rather assuming that the time I was spending on YPL matters is going to get wholly subsumed by navigating wedding planning,

and will be pleasantly surprised if it turns out to be less all-consuming to handle.

2012-08-27 09:56:00

*ORDER ONLY: ANTONIN SODDING
DOLOHOV!?!?!*



 [alt_molly](#)

**ANTONIN DOLOHOV TEACHING AT HOGWARTS?
TEACHING DARK ARTS AS A REQUIRED CLASS?**

**MY CHILDREN TO TAKE CLASSES FROM THEIR
UNCLES' MURDERER!? AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
SPEND ARTHUR'S HARD-EARNED MONEY ON HIS
VILE, LOATHSOME DARK ARTS TEXTBOOKS?!**

**WHY DOESN'T THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS JUST
PUT THEIR WANDS TO OUR CHILDREN'S TEMPLES
AND BLAST THEIR BRAINS OUT WHILE THEY'RE AT
IT?!**

**THAT DEGENERATE EVIL DISGUSTING MAGGOT,
THAT SMARMY CARBUNCLE, THAT STINKING
PUSTULE--HE'S ALREADY SUCKING UP TO PERCY!**

**ANTONIN SODDING NIKOLAEVICH BLOODY
DOLOHOV IS NOT GOING TO OOZE HIS SLIMY WAY
INTO MY CHILDREN'S--**

HE DESERVES TO BE--

OOO, HE--


IF I HAD--

**HE DESERVES TO BE TORN LIMB FROM
LIMB! HE SHOULD BE--SHOULD BE
BURIED UNDER A THOUSAND YEARS OF
ROTTING DRAGON GUTS!! DRAGON
SHITE!!!**

***HE CAN GO SUCK A
DEMENTOR'S ARSE!!!!***

Minerva, how could you ALLOW THIS!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-27 15:00:24](#)
(no subject)

Blimey, Mum.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-27 15:05:01](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, why don't you tell us how you really feel.

He killed our uncles? Really?!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-27 15:08:00](#)
(no subject)

Yes, he did. Which is a fact you are not to share with anyone else, boys.

Molly...take some deep breaths. Do you need me to come home?



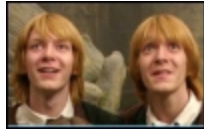
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-27 15:08:48](#)
(no subject)

Why not?



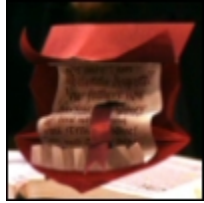
 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-08-27 15:11:50](#)
(no subject)

Because they were killed while doing Order business. And an Order source told us so, specifically Minerva. So the official story, which you will stick to, is that it was an accident.



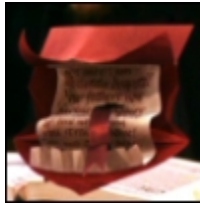
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-08-27 15:13:05](#)
(no subject)

Blimey.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-27 15:16:18](#)
(no subject)

**I NEED YOU TO STOP THIS
FROM HAPPENING!!!**




 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-27 15:30:49](#)
(no subject)

**OH! ARTHUR! GIDEON AND
FABIAN...**

WE CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN!



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-27 15:52:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh dear.

I'm sorry, Molly. That's awful.

I'll say that I was significantly worried on Neville and Evelyn's behalf when Rabastan Lestrage came on staff. To be completely fair, he's been far more even-handed than I thought he'd be, but from what I know of Dolohov... he's far more dangerous, and I don't trust his motives one bit.

And requiring it for all students... that's something that doesn't sit very well with me either. At all.

Perhaps we ought to contact the auxiliary with some words of advice? I know Frank and I will be writing Neville and Evelyn, but seeing as how Molly and Arthur can't be quite as straightforward in their advice, we could send a message through Hermione to make sure they have some tools at their disposal to handle a course like

that. And that they know a bit more about what they'd be facing with Dolohov.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-27 16:19:11](#)
(no subject)

That's what I've been thinking.

Morgana, the idea that he'd be recalled just to *teach*
....

I think I preferred it when the prevailing philosophy was that the Dark Arts were only for the elite.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-27 17:17:37](#)
(no subject)

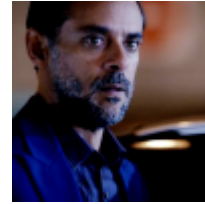
They're certainly being re-labeled as Noble, love, but I see it a deliberate attempt to make it both more desirable and that much more normal for everyone to be around. And that's just terrifying.

It's awful to consider how quickly people's views of the cardinals changed. I didn't ever think it would be that easy.

2012-08-27 10:39:00

Revision to Hogwarts curriculum

A revised booklist has now been sent to students and parents and I've seen confirmation that at least some owls have arrived. No doubt, many individuals are quite confused; please allow me a moment to address some of the concerns I'm certain many may have.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_antoinin](#)

Those for whom my name is unfamiliar: I am Antonin Dolohov, Our Lord's true and loyal servant and former ambassador-at-large from the Protectorate to wizarding governments of the world.

Over the years, Our Lord has often inspired me with His vision for the future of our nation, particularly regarding the study of the noble and ancient magics known to many by the name of "the Dark Arts". For many years before Our Lord came to power, misguided notions and incomplete information about the Noble Arts have caused people to fear and shun their use. True strength, however, lies in confronting outdated superstition and in understanding, embracing, and working to improve one's own abilities and affinities, which cannot be done when an entire subject of study still lingers under the shameful taint of decades -- centuries -- of mistrust. Our Lord has long wished for the study of the Noble Arts to regain its proper lustre, and I am pleased to serve as the instrument of His will, in this as in all else.

To that end, I write to announce a revision to the Hogwarts curriculum. My classroom door will be open to -- and my class required for -- all students who pass through Hogwarts' gates, beginning with this school year with some few exceptions. There will, no doubt, be a brief (and regrettable) period of disruption as we transition to the new requirements; however, I will do my utmost to minimise the disturbance and enable Our Lord's vision for a safe, strong, well-educated generation of youth marching forth into our collective future.

Parents, I eagerly await the chance to meet each of your children and assist them, on both their academic journey and the path of personal discovery each student of the Arts will find himself upon. Please allow me to reassure the trepidation that inevitably arises from unexpected change: the welfare of your children is my primary concern, and I have years of experience in mentoring students of the Arts to develop self-control over mind and body both. When properly supervised,

study of the Noble Arts is rewarding, illuminating, and perfectly safe. If you have any questions at all about the curriculum I have designed and Our Lord and the Hogwarts Board of Governors have approved, I am reachable by owl and by journal. A student is best served by teacher and parent working together; I look forward to allowing that partnership to flourish.

Anyone seeking to expand their familiarity with the Noble Arts and what their effective study entails may wish to obtain a copy of Khātūn's *Omnium mortalum* (once, alas, the bookstore is able to locate sufficient quantities, which may be some time) or Salieri Brambell's *A Tool In Hand*, both of which are excellent introductions to the subject and its many facets.

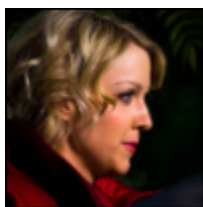
To some practicalities:

- For those sixth and seventh year students who have had no previous instruction in the Noble Arts: we have decided the disruption to your studies and to the school as a whole would be too severe to require the class now without allowing for a grounding in basic principles. However, the list of texts has been sent to you as optional reading, and you are encouraged to join in the extracurricular enrichment and the evening and weekend gatherings I will be hosting, should you wish to make up for lost time. Please do make free of my open hours, whether registered for my classes or not. I am here to educate and serve.
- Sixth and seventh year students: I must apologize in advance for the difficulty I anticipate the bookstore will have in filling all orders immediately. They have not yet been able to acquire sufficient copies of Wierus's *Musaeum mallificarum cardinalium*, or an acceptable translation of ibn Waḥṣīya's *Commentaries Upon 'Intra profundis'*. (To accommodate the delay, we will begin our term with the Clements-Chichester and Calidus.) If your head of family will allow you to bring personal or familial copies of any of the required texts, please do so, and save the bookstore copies for those who are not as fortunate. If you have spare, non-heirloom copies whose potential loss would not be a tragedy, please consider lending them to your classmates.
- For those entering their third year, your timetables have been revised to reflect that my class is now a core requirement, not an elective, for third year and above. Those of you who feel, or

whose guardians feel, this overburdens your schedule will be permitted to choose one elective from which to withdraw. As with the NEWT texts, the bookstore has been unable to acquire Khātūn's *Omnium mortalium*. (To accomodate the delay, we will begin with Brandt et al.'s *Introduction to...*) As above, if you have your own copies of any of the texts, please bring them with you, and please consider lending any spare copies to your classmates.

- Fourth and fifth year students: though my own Hogwarts years are (well) behind me, I am wholly sympathetic to the shock of such last-minute upheaval to your plans for the year, particularly for those of you preparing for OWLs. Please do not worry: my curriculum is designed to be accessible to all, including those who have had no previous formal study. I will be entirely reasonable in my requirements of you. My love for my chosen field runs deeply, and I shall do my best to instill that love in you as well. I hope to reassure you at our first meeting that my class will be nowhere near as dreadful as you may be fearing.
- To all who are new to the subject: in recognition of the sad truth the Noble Arts do not answer readily to the hands of all wizards, my class will -- though now required for all -- be divided into options for theoretical study and practical application. Each student will elect the course of study best suited to his interests, affinities, and future plans. No one will be penalized for an unfortunate difficulty with the wandwork who is willing to apply himself to the theoretical understanding.

I leave you with one small piece of good news: the booklist for the fourth and fifth year students is entirely in stock.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-27 20:47:44**

Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Good afternoon - I admit that I'm struggling with the etiquette here, so I hope you don't mind my leaping directly into professional-colleague mode. First, welcome to the Hogwarts staff. I had the opportunity to hear quite a lot about you from the Malfoys and Lestranges this past weekend (all clearly delighted at your return, and your new teaching role.)

I do want to ask - having heard half a dozen names used for you the past few days - what do you prefer as a general rule? Generally, the staff are on a first name basis, with a little variation. I'm Aurora mostly, except for Raz, who calls me Rory unless we're being formal. (You may already know, but Raz and I are recently engaged to be married, rather to the startlement of many of his friends and relations, and our mutual pleasure.)

But I should move on to the actual reasons I'm writing. First, I've been at Hogwarts long enough (this is my eighth year) to both remember all the things no one tells you when you begin teaching, and to know many of the answers. Where the supplies cabinets hide themselves, the best times to make some requests of the house elves, tricks to managing a class of students, and any number of others.

And while I'm far less familiar with your subject than I probably should be, I've a good sense of the length of assignment or complexity that may work best a given year of students. (Though you're spared the generally atrocious spelling and writing skills of the first years, there is an art to creating meaningful assignments that can still be marked in a reasonable amount of time.)

Likewise, I was until recently head of the planning committee for the Young Protectors' League, so I've had the chance to work with many of our students (and particularly our fourth and fifth years) in a variety of settings outside of my own beloved subject. If my experience with any of the above can be of use as you settle in, please do ask.

Second, a delicate matter. While I know you must have excellent reasons for the booklist you chose, I've already had a question or two from students whose family finances are carefully planned, wondering how they'll manage the new lists on such short notice. (And it's worse for our halfblood students in fostering: the stipends they get are ~~wholly inadequate~~ cover only the barest basics.)

Coming from a large family where money was sometimes delicately balanced, I'm also very aware of the awkwardness children can feel in approaching a professor - especially an unknown one - directly on this topic, so I thought I might inquire. I'm sure you must have some plan (especially given your other apparent supply issues), and I'm glad to help spread the word of your preferred solution with worried students if you'd like.

I hate to take your time further, so I'll end here. Raz and I intend to

be back at Hogwarts either Wednesday or Thursday, but we both have a few final tasks in New London and I'm hoping for a bit more research time in the Astronomy Guild library. Again, welcome, and I look forward to meeting you in person.

Aurora Sinistra



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-27 22:33:15](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Aurora,

I had indeed heard your news, and must confess to being one of the ones thus startled, though pleased by the hearing. Congratulations, and I wish the two of you a lifetime of joy in each other.

I am not offended in the least to be addressed as a colleague (and must confess my delight at the opportunity; surely some of your holiday compatriots have mentioned how much my past experiences in teaching and mentoring have meant to me). As to names -- a thorny question. My paternal heritage is Russian, maternal Egyptian; individuals of both tend to accrete names and nicknames throughout life and trail confusion of reference behind them like comets' tails. Call me Antonin, or Antosha as we're to be colleagues. I will answer to anything in the spirit with which it is imbued; I do not stand on formality when formality would stand in the way.

Your offer of orientation is extremely kind, and I would be a fool indeed were I to respond with anything other than "yes, and thank you most kindly". There's no doubt I will have an exceedingly trying year as I work to make up for certain past failings. I do intend my curriculum to be intensive (though not overwhelming) -- any tips on not drowning in marking while still encouraging engagement with the material would be greatly appreciated. I am used to providing a far more individual instruction.

I will confess to not giving much thought to finances when constructing the booklist -- do reassure those who have inquired. I've been locked in battle most perilous with the bookstore since Thursday over questions of edition, translation, and availability anyway; if a single person has all texts in hand before November I'll know them to have raided the familial library. Ah, well. It will be an adventure.

Anyone having difficulty of any sort may approach me without fear; reassure them I'll not ask whether the difficulty stemmed from finance or the bookstore's recalcitrance if they don't volunteer it, save to inquire whether they'd prefer I harangue the clerk on their behalf or place a copy at their disposal. Would prefer all to have individual copies of Merindel's *A Compendium of Common Curses and Their Counter-Actions* by 1st October at latest, as that's about when we'll be starting our in-class practicals, but that should be less of an issue. Happy to run through you if they're more comfortable and you're willing, as well; a certain wariness aimed in my direction is only logical and I'm confident you've developed a rapport through your work with the YPL.

Thursday is looking most likely for my relocation as well (and Friday possible if my followup at St M's Weds morning goes poorly) but I await the chance to meet you, and promise I will hold my tongue about teasing Raz until you are at least out of earshot. If it should suit, you are (both) more than welcome to stop in my office, wherever it's to be, for a visit Friday afternoon or evening and we can get acquainted as I set it to rights.

Yours in anticipation,
Antosha



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-27 23:08:23](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antosha,

Thank you for the explanation (quite confusing this weekend, until I pieced the names together). And thank you as well for your good wishes - I will certainly pass them along to Raz.

Let me give a little thought to the most urgent questions of managing assignments, then, and to a list of all the other small things people forget to tell you, and we can certainly discuss late in the week. By then I should be able to round up some sample essays from my own classes, that may give you an idea of the best and worst one might generally expect of a given year.

On that note, Friday is fine from my end, and I believe Raz's as well. (Narcissa has been teasing me about taking over Raz's social

calendar already, but he has been doing more things this summer - such as flying with Harry and Draco - where a journal is simply not handy.) Though I may well leave you to Raz's company once it's fully dark, if that would not offend: I have been missing my tower and observing mightily this summer, and Raz is blessedly tolerant of my research obsessions.

As to the books, I will do what I can to spread the word (both directly, and to a few students who know those who may not even ask me). I assume, in the short term, that sharing copies would not be too much of a difficulty, as well? I do appreciate the problem of edition and translation - one of my NEWT texts is Latin in translation, and all but two of the translations muddy the astronomy horribly.

At any rate, I'm sure you have many things to be settling out, and I certainly have a lengthy list of my own.

Aurora



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-28 02:52:51](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Aurora --

Briefly (ha!), but: would not be at all offended that a researcher prioritises her research over socialising with someone she's only just met. (Remind me someday to tell you of the time I almost caused an international incident because someone sent me a copy of a manuscript I'd been hunting for years at an inopportune time.)

Sharing copies not at all an issue for the most part -- nearly all of the work will be done outside class, though the *Compendium* will receive more in-class attention. As for translation, the less said about that the better. Shall be using at least one of my own, in fact, and if I had more time I'd do several more. Do please reassure the children that I may be particular, but I've no intention of being wholly unreasonable.

Looking forward to discussing the vagaries of language, and to receiving your accumulated wisdom --

A



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-28 15:53:16](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antosha -

I've passed all that about the required texts along, and I hope it eases some of the student worries.

On the research, most glad you understand. Raz is entirely supportive of my research obsessions (and my lack of observation time this summer is entirely my doing, not his), but I can't say the same about much of the world. I would love to hear that story, mind, and I'll remember to ask when we've time for it.

And yes, on the vagaries of language. And the distractions - this morning, I got pulled away into a footnote about the different cultural myths of the naming of Ursa Major and her stars, and frustratingly, I've not the languages to read most of the original sources. (My research being on that constellation, but far more about the origins and movement of the individual stars. A pleasant digression, anyway.)

I do in fact look forward to meeting and much conversation, A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-28 21:25:34](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Aurora --

Most likely I am teaching the cock to crow at the morning, but thought you should be aware: I am in receipt of a rather sugar-coated missive from your successor, intimating (in dulcet tones) your general unsuitability for anything save being penned up in your tower, and advising me to avoid overburdening your poor pretty head. Nothing truly overt enough to have earned an outright rebuke (though I must confess, as she had already set my teeth on edge with her first paragraph and prodded them along to grinding by her third, I was perhaps less diplomatic than I ought). Was taking tea with Narcissa when Umbridge's message arrived; made reference to the sheltering wings of N's tutelage in my reply to aver my conviction you were a better shepherd of your boundaries than

charming Dolores would be.

Though we've not yet met in person, your kindness to me (unlike that of some others) lacks the wand secreted up the sleeve of the outstretched hand: that alone would prompt me to your defence even were you not an intimate of my nearest and dearest. I would be extremely naïve to believe you were not already aware of her animosity for you, but likewise remiss should I not pass along the warning. I will trust you have the situation well in hand, but do let me know of any assistance I might render.

(Inquired of N (long since a partner in catty remarks when in no danger of being overheard), am passing along in hopes it will amuse: why has no one ignited that woman's knickers in a tragic accident as yet?)

To happier matters: what languages are you in need of? I am fluent enough for translation in half a dozen, capable of teasing out meaning if not nuance in perhaps a dozen more. I would be happy to place those skills at your disposal.

In regard,
A



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-08-29 00:20:22](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antosha -

You have the most impeccable timing for a kind word - I had an odd event this afternoon, and your message quite improved my mood after.

I should begin here by saying I'm a Hufflepuff, from a long line of them (Hufflepuff yeomen, my mother likes to say). But I like to think that I know my strengths and my weaknesses, and put the gifts of my House - hard work and loyalty and fairness - to the best use I can and with pride.

That subtlety is not seen as one of our skills is quite true, though I've spent enough time around Slytherins to appreciate the art at its finest. You would have had Professor Bobbin, of course, who was my great mentor in astronomy. And I believe

you would have known Aldebarana Moran, as well, my research mentor between my student days and her death in '86. I miss them both rather a lot some days.

They did their utmost to teach me how to manage when those with far greater skill are at work and play. These days, I find that a certain thread of blunt honesty serves me very well, when silence or practicality will not do. (Raz now admits he found it charming for its novelty from nearly the first, though perhaps that's his story to tell and not mine.)

Thus, while I much appreciate the warning (and would welcome others, if chance should fall that way), I'd already suspected her kindness toward me was not quite so well-meant as it appeared. Or rather, that she'd be kind if I'd just do exactly what she said without a fuss. For all her years in the Ministry, I do not think anyone gave her the lessons the Professor and Alde gave me. (And Narcissa, of course, more recently. Though I scarcely presume myself an intimate in those circles yet - this weekend was perhaps the first step there, beyond Raz and Narcissa's generous welcome so far.)

As to your aside, alas, I have no idea, though that thought is perhaps shared by more than one of the CCF students this summer. And yet, I know there are a number of people - my parents know many of them through work - who find her 'delightful' and 'charming' and 'so attentive', and seem to mean every last word. (Did you know Gilderoy Lockhart? One heard the same thing of him. I am convinced there is some potion or oil involved in making such people seem so appealing to so many.)

As to the languages - well, today's digression took me glancingly through references in Italian, Greek, Arabic, and a touch of Sanskrit. (As well as the Latin and reading German I have myself.) But my actual object of desire at the moment is Abd al-Rahman al-Sufi's work. He wrote something that was a combination of his own observations and Ptolemy's *Almagest* - the transliteration for the title is *Kitab suwar al-kawakib*, or the Book of the Fixed Stars. There's no translation into English, or even German, just French, and I wonder how much I'm missing in the text itself, though I can puzzle through the French well enough for the actual measurements.

The section I'm interested in is the portion on Ursa Major -

four pages of text and a chart. (You will see, I'm sure, given my previous, why the historical locations of the stars in their best possible measurements would be of interest.) That said, it is scarcely urgent, and I expect to be quite busy with one thing and another myself.

On that note, I'm quite sure you've other things to attend to, and I should have an eye to my own packing. We do hope to be at Hogwarts tomorrow, but that just makes matters more rushed here.

Aurora



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-08-29 01:37:06**

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Dearest Aurora,

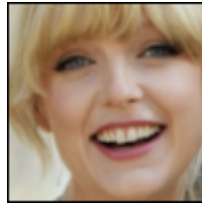
My deepest apologies -- I've a window of fifteen minutes or so before the evening's potions carry me away, and a day crammed full of visitors which, while pleasant, was somewhat exhausting -- but I did not want to leave you to wonder in the cold light of day whether the previous evening's honesty was ill chosen.

A Hufflepuff's honesty is indeed a powerful weapon when laid against Slytherin guile -- we of the Snake are often caught wrong-scaled when confronted with candor and 'charming' is often as good a descriptor as any. It isn't that only Slytherins are capable of subtlety, of course, but one thing concerted study of the Arts teaches is an appreciation for those who know their strengths and limitations both, and play to them. Were you to continue applying that blunt honesty in my direction and commit to being wholly Hufflepuff, rather than attempting to masquerade as that which you are not, I should commit to returning the favor as much as I may. Look forward to discussing traits and characteristics over a cup of tea of an evening (before releasing you to your stars, of course -- your field is as much a mystery to me as mine is to you, but I shall ever respect passion in all its forms).

I am pleased my note could brighten an afternoon, and hope the oddness subsides, or at very least does not come home to roost at an inopportune moment.

(And yes, I do remember Alde warmly, and though Professor Bobbin's class was never my strongest subject, he as well. Did not have the dubious pleasure of Lockheart's acquaintance, but am somehow not surprised to discover he's another with the gift of ingratiating himself to the weak-willed. Suspect you may be on to something with your potion theory; perhaps interactions with darling Dolores will be made more palatable by looking for evidence. Save me a seat near you at the supper-table and I shall do my best to amuse, or at least stand as human shield between you and your tormentor.)

Dozing off, but with fondness, and wishing you swift packing,
A



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-29 13:57:00**

Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antosha -

Goodness, I must have made quite the impression. Truly, trying to be something I'm not has never appealed, though I had long conversations with both the Professor and Alde over the years about how to go about being most fully myself. (I will say I am changed from the wholly-star-obsessed and entirely awkward first year who arrived at school twenty years ago, and for the better.)

I'd quite look forward to that conversation on traits and characteristics, mind you. And on that note, I do enjoy talking about topics besides my beloved sky. Alas, Gwendolyn Acton (Charms) is not much of a theorist, and Bathsheba (Babbling, Runes) and Septima (Vector, Arithmancy and Ravenclaw Head of House) prefer to stick to their own subjects where I am more of a synthesist by nature (and a generalist in my field by training.)

But beyond that, I read, and so does Raz for that matter, more than you might have guessed from previous acquaintance. We overlap most in history (popular and otherwise), and if my collection offers anything of interest to you, I'm glad to lend. I also, often to my despair, read most of the gossip magazines in an attempt to keep the players in various social circles straight. (And a number of trifles - mystery novels for

pleasure, romance novels to mock, some books our students recommend.)

I thought you might have been one of the circle Alde knew better. She talked very little about her work for Our Lord, especially in '82 and '83 (something Raz has comment on: I was far too much protected in those years, though with the best of intentions), but she was an excellent astronomer and mentor, and the charts of her final years remain magnificent.

As to supper companions: I do try to rotate (and insist that Raz do likewise: it is too small a castle for anything else to serve.) I sit most often with Pomona (Sprout, Herbology) and Poppy (Pomfrey, Matron) - both good friends - and Raz, of course, but also enjoy conversation with Septima, Bathsheba, and Mina (Grubbly-Plank, Creatures) in particular. Adding you to the mix will be most enjoyable, even without the assistance dealing with Dolores. (And I do promise you my take on our colleagues on Friday, though there are a few delicate places.)

On that note: Dolores is of my own house, though a rather different breed of it than I try to be. I think I'll have to turn my attention to a better way to approach her, and see if I can't improve the situation. If nothing else, it's probably good for me somehow. (And surely more interesting than at least half the wedding planning on my list.)

Right. I hope in my own rooms in the tower tonight. May your preparations likewise go smoothly.

A.

2012-08-27 11:30:00

Order Only: Private Message to Arthur and Bill



 [alt_sirius](#)

Yeah, I thought she might have that sort of reaction.

Arthur, what happened to preparing her for the possibility?

But - I hesitate to ask *her* in her current state but - what does she mean, he's sucking up to Percy? (Isn't that the reverse of Percy's usual problem? Sorry. Couldn't resist.)

He always was a long-winded bugger.

Mordred. I'd better write to the lot of them, eh?




 [alt_arthur](#) at **2012-08-28 04:15:58**
(no subject)

Well, I'd told her that the rumour was that Dolohov was coming to teach at Hogwarts. Possibly Dark Arts. I'm not sure she believed me. You know what she's like on the subject of Dolohov.

Percy came over for dinner last night, and he was bubbling all over about meeting the man. Apparently, Lucius Malfoy, the wretch, sent Percy over to drop something off for him, and they had quite the cosy little chat. Dolohov sent over some books afterward for Percy to read. I was afraid Molly would have a coronary right there at the dinner table, but I must say that she managed to hide her rather reaction well, and I don't think any of the children were the wiser.

Then came this morning's announcement, that now the class is required for all students. Did you see it? I think that after last night's heroic effort to hide her reaction, that was just the last straw for poor Molly.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-08-28 04:16:30](#)
(no subject)


So that's why she upset the bowl of brussel sprouts.



 **alt_arthur** at [2012-08-28 04:16:58](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes. I'd forgotten that.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-08-28 04:17:30](#)
(no subject)

Is she doing better tonight, Dad? That was...that was quite a rant. Haven't seen Mum go off like that for awhile.




 **alt_arthur** at [2012-08-28 04:18:14](#)
(no subject)

She de-gnomed the entire garden this afternoon, rather than asking the Fred and George to do it. Therapeutic, no doubt.

She seemed to have entirely calmed down by dinnertime at least. I'll talk with her tonight, after everyone else is safely in bed.

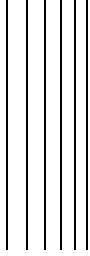
This has hit her extremely hard, son.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-08-28 04:18:39](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that's pretty obvious.

It's funny, because she talks so rarely about Gideon and Fabian.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-08-28 04:19:12](#)**
(no subject)

Not funny at all, if you think about it. It's just that the memories are really too painful.

2012-08-27 13:17:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am up to No Good: Private message to Terry Boot



Terry,

Could you get word to my mum and dad? Tell them--blimey, I don't even know what to tell them. I guess they probably must have seen that Mr Dolohov's announcement. And that Evelyn and me will have to take Dark Arts, now.

 **alt_neville**


The thing is, I'm afraid my mum might just about be going spare at the idea. Because I know her boggart is--well, never mind.

Just ask them if they have any idea of how we can get out of it.

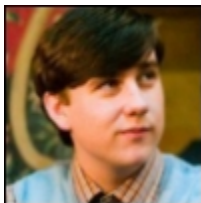
But if we can't, well...what she's afraid of won't happen.

I promise.



 **alt_terry** at **2012-08-27 18:29:02**
(no subject)


Of course I'll tell them for you, Neville.



 **alt_neville** at **2012-08-27 18:29:17**
(no subject)

Thanks.



 **alt_terry** at **2012-08-28 00:11:36**
(no subject)

I let them know.

Hermione and me will probably be passing along some information back to you about this. I'll let you know. Because, well, some of the wand smugglers know stuff about Mr Dolohov.

Given what they know, they don't like this news one little bit.

[2012-08-27 15:03:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom

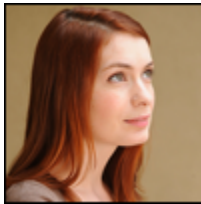



 [alt_terry](#)

Neville asked me to pass along word to you. He figures you must have seen the announcement that students at Hogwarts will have to take Dark Arts. He's thinks that you might be worried, especially Mrs Longbottom. He started to say something about Mrs Longbottom's boggart, but then stopped himself and didn't explain that part. Anyway, he just asked if you had any idea how he and Evelyn might be able to get out of it.

But if he said they can't get out of it, you mustn't worry. Because what Mrs Longbottom is afraid of isn't going to happen.

(I hope that made sense to you.)



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-27 20:27:51](#)
(no subject)


It very much does, love. Thank you.

I ran into a boggart about five years ago, and it was Neville showing me a Dark Mark and laughing. Now that I know him far better, my boggart is probably different, but when he was younger the fear that I'd have to face him as an enemy used to keep me up nights. I think more than anything, I can see how hard certain people work to make what we fight against every day something normal and desirable, and it sickens me.

But Neville's right. He's a strong person with a good moral compass, and he's able to see evil for what it is and fight against it.

Did you see the message I wrote on Molly's journal? I think we'll be asking you and Hermione to pass along some general words of advice to the rest of the auxiliary about taking Dark Arts and dealing with Dolohov. Perhaps we could all sit down and work on it together? I'd appreciate your help, and you'd know far better than I would what they might find the most useful, and what they'd think about any advice we'd have to offer.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-27 23:51:52](#)
(no subject)

I'm willing to pass along anything you think would be helpful, yes.


Neville sure doesn't want to take the class, but I don't know about the rest of them.

Yes, I saw what you wrote to Mrs Weasley. Whoa, she was really upset, wasn't she? Fred and George joke sometimes about how their mum gets when she, um, works up a full head of steam, but I've never quite believed them. Until now.

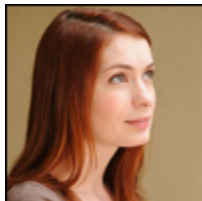
I'm awful sorry about her brothers. Did you know them?


I'd ask Fred and George about them, but wasn't sure if I should.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-27 23:52:44](#)
(no subject)

And yeah, I can't see Neville ever doing anything like getting a Dark Mark on his arm.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-28 02:45:55](#)
(no subject)

Yes, we did. Very well. The Prewetts were in the Order before Arthur and Molly joined up, actually. Molly had lots of young ones and although they were both sympathetic, they didn't want to take the risk. When Fabian and Gideon were killed, well, that changed things.

They were both good people. And good friends.


They've got a spot in the garden, if you want to see it tomorrow.



 [alt_tery](#) at [2012-08-28 11:50:13](#)
(no subject)

I would like that. Thanks.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-28 03:55:26](#)**
(no subject)

And love, I'm not going to tell you all that happened, but one reason she reacted the way she did was because the way they were killed.

It was very cruel.

Excessively so.


You see how she'd not want Ron or Ginny taught by him.



 **[alt_terr](#)** at **[2012-08-28 22:17:08](#)**
(no subject)


I see. Thanks for explaining.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-27 20:28:11](#)**
(no subject)

thanks, kiddo.



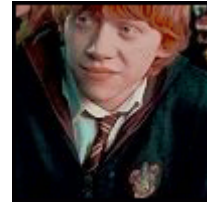
 **[alt_terr](#)** at **[2012-08-27 23:56:16](#)**
(no subject)

I was glad to do it, sir.

2012-08-27 19:07:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So those are some big books. A load of them, too. And he seems to have a lot to say. In that post about the course, and the letter about the books.



 [alt_ron](#)


Glad I left this morning before that came in. Mum's not saying anything about it now, but I bet it was hot here this morning. I think it was good I went on and bought those myself. She hasn't said yet when we're going as a family, but they might not have any left by then, and this way, maybe I won't have to hear about how cross it makes her to have to buy those, y'know.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-08-28 00:25:42](#)
(no subject)


How much did they cost altogether?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-28 01:26:01](#)
(no subject)

About fifteen galleons.

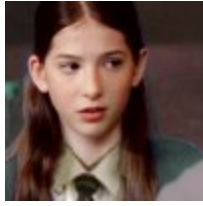


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-28 01:30:19](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Neville,

They were well expensive, assuming one purchased all new copies. There were quite a few used ones but several were not the editions or translations Professor Dolohov specified. I left several, since it sounds as if we shan't get to them right away, at any rate. Wait until next month's allotment, what?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-28 03:40:00](#)
(no subject)

Siz left me a message to say that she talked to Professor Dolohov about the fact that the books might be expensive, and he said that if a student can't lay hands on a copy for any reason (either because of finances or because the bookstore is out of stock) they should talk to him about it. It sounds like he was at least being reassuring to her.

I bought mine but I had to use some of the money I'd saved up from my YPL counsellor position and so on. I didn't want to wait as it looked like they were about to run out of the preferred translation on the Peverell (as it was I didn't get the preferred translation of 'Intra Profundis.')




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-28 04:06:24](#)
(no subject)

That's...

I'm sorry you had to spend your money on that.

Both of you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-28 04:14:18](#)
Private Message to Sally-Anne

Lucius sent me the books for class ahead of time. Only I didn't know that that's what they were for when I got them, and I was silly and didn't check to see when you'd be at Flourish and Blotts, and I didn't think ahead of time because I could've bought you a set since I didn't need to spend the money on mine.

I'm sorry, Sally-Anne.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-28 03:45:03](#)
(no subject)


Also, it was nice of her to say that but I REALLY HATE not having things I'm supposed to have.

Even if the professors are understanding about it.

I hate it. It was definitely worth spending my own money to avoid having to go to the professor.

(Besides, by the time I saw her message, I'd already been to the bookstore.)

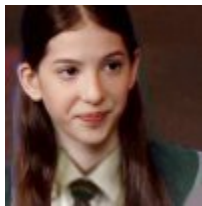



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-28 12:06:35](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Sally Anne

Yeah.

And, well, I know she meant what she said, but it doesn't really help when Pansy goes all apologetic about money things. It's just-

Yeah.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-28 14:46:51](#)
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Yeah.

I mean I really, really appreciate all she does for me.

But I hate that when Patil talks about how I always turn to Pansy to get the things I need, she's right? I know I shouldn't care what Patil says and I know Pansy's glad to do it and sometimes it DOES even make me feel better, like when she promised me she'd bribe anyone she had to at St Mungo's to get me into the Healer training programme even if Stint tried to keep me out.

But

Yeah.

I hate being poor.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-28 14:52:54](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Sally Anne*

But the good thing is, I have that money from being a YPL counsellor! so I COULD just buy the books instead of having to watch while all the good translations slipped away.

Have you looked at anything yet? The Peverell books is actually dead interesting. It's about how you write your OWN spells, or if you've had something cast on you, how you figure out what it was and how to do the same thing. At first it's pretty general, it gets into curses in the later chapters.

2012-08-27 21:03:00

Private Message to Honoria

Honoria,

Did you see the list of books today? I think its brilliant that everyone has to take it now. I mean, how can you really apply what you learn in Defence if you don't have any DA background. And just because you are educated in the art, doesn't make you a bad person. Since I was already in DA and doing well, I'm sure I shouldn't have a problem getting into the practical track. I am really excited.



 [alt_ginny](#)

I was in-town all weekend on PS work so I was able to get together with Troy and go to the bookstore to get all of our books, but some of his were back ordered. They will send them to the school later. Also we better get working on some bigger hexes. With everyone now taking DA I suspect jinxes and hexes will be a whole lot dirtier from now on.

I guess I will see you soon. You can sit with us on the train. I will catch up with you on Saturday.

2012-08-27 21:36:00

Order Only: Private message to Frank Longbottom


Dad told me that you were one of the aurors on the case. When Gideon and Fabian died.



 [alt_bill](#)

Tell me. He and Mum won't.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2012-08-28 02:52:57**
(no subject)

yeah.


I was.

do you really want to know?

because I'll tell you if you do. but you've got to be sure. it'll be hard to pretend to be nice if you ever run into him face to face, and working with rosier, you will.

you'd be better off if you didn't.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2012-08-28 02:53:43**
(no subject)

You're probably right.

Tell me anyway.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2012-08-28 03:39:12**
(no subject)

right.

they were brilliant, you know.

as a pair, best duellers I'd ever seen. they'd keep up this stream of hexes and shielding charms and you couldn't tell who'd cast what but it would just keep coming without a pause. ~~fab~~ fabian was so damn fast. and gideon was the strategist. a regular chess player when it came to fighting.

we used to

they were

we were mates. back in the day.

when I got word that they'd been killed, I made sure I got lead on the case. found a witness who was terrified out of her mind, and we managed to piece it together based on what she managed to tell us and the scene.

they were cornered by five death eaters. don't know who started the fight, or why, but we could sort out who finished it. there was a lot of blood. most of it was theirs, but there was a significant amount that matched the blood of Yuriy Levkov, a suspected protege of Dolohv's. there was enough to suggest a mortal injury, but we never found a body.


based on what was done to the bodies afterwards, as well as the spells that we could trace that were used during the duel, all signs pointed to Dolohov as the primary instigator. before we could charge him, the ministry collapsed, things went to shit, and al and me had to go into hiding.

Dolohov was a nasty son of a bitch when he got angry.

we couldn't tell which one was which. there was too much damage on their faces. it was done to them post after they'd died. there were other things too. he put a galleon under their tongues. posed them face down, and broke their arms so they were palm up. carved 'nice' on one and 'try' on the other right where the dark mark would have been.

when we brought him in, dolohov had an alibi -- playing dragon poker with four friends who'd swear he was there all night -- and the fucker offered to show me the bag of galleons he'd won. smiling.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-28 03:52:34](#)**
(no subject)

God, Frank.

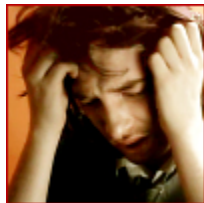



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-28 03:57:39](#)**
(no subject)

your mum had them cremated and buried in the same plot.

they were why she and arthur ended up joining up.


sorry.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-28 04:00:06](#)**
(no subject)

God. No wonder they couldn't bring themselves to tell me.

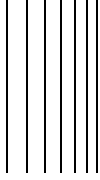


 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-28 04:01:16](#)**
(no subject)

"Thanks" isn't quite the right word.

But...

Thanks.

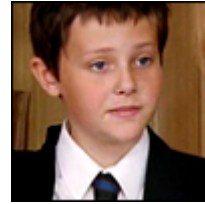


 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-28 04:02:03](#)**
(no subject)

yeah.

2012-08-27 21:53:00

Private Message to Ron Weasley and Susan Bones



So, let's get this straight:

Our parents are supposed to get hold of books you can't buy, to answer questions about a subject we weren't supposed to be taking, as an introduction to the books that we sort of can buy but sort of not, and they're supposed to read them before we go to school. On Saturday.

 **alt_michael**


That's naff, that is. Innit?

Sue, what do your parents think? They can't be happy about it. And Weasley? After that fiasco with Lockhart's books, are they really going to get all those for all of you?

Seems bonkers to me. I mean, Miss Professor Carrow as good as said some of us are just not suited to Dark Arts, anyway.

What I don't get is why we need another subject. Or why we need all those books just for a theory class.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-28 02:21:53**
(no subject)

Well. They did have all five of them on our list when I was there this morning. I don't know about the ones he said parents might want. I didn't look for those.

And, um. I kind of doubt my parents would buy them. I mean, cause you're right it's gonna be really dead expensive to buy books for all of us with all these Dark Arts books added in all of a sudden, unexpectedly.

Maybe you should ask him if all the books are needed if we end up in the theory section, yeah? I don't expect I'll be any good at it, either. The practical part, I mean.




 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2012-08-28 02:33:41](#)**
(no subject)

Hah. You ask him.

So, you went this morning? Did you get them all, then?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-28 02:40:25](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I did get them. So if you want to know that, you'll have to do the asking.

Or get someone else to.




 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2012-08-28 02:49:21](#)**
(no subject)

Call yourself a Gryffindor.

Fine.

Bet Bundy'll do it.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-28 02:54:02](#)**
(no subject)

Get Smith. He's always opening his mouth and putting his foot in it.

Or was he already taking Dark Arts? I'm not really sure who did or didn't, y'know. Didn't really matter much.

Before.



 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2012-08-28 02:57:47](#)**
(no subject)

Smith's in. So's MacMillan and Summers, Hopkins, Moon....

Guess you're right, it doesn't matter.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2012-08-31 16:07:06](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, Mum and Dad were dead cross about the expense, *especially* after Lockhart.

I'm definitely hoping to get into the theoretical section, but I could see him insisting that Prefects have to take the practical. S'pose I'll find out.

2012-08-28 07:07:00

*Private Message to Meniscus Fulton
and Mafalda Hopkirk*



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Fulton. Have read your so-called report. You call yourself an Auror? I'd dismiss a trainee who couldn't prioritise tasks better than this.

Understand you wanted to secure the room at Horse and Hounds. That took what? Three quarters of an hour, tops, including time to travel there. And then you... interviewed staff and guests at H&H until closing? Waited for morning to interview station head and staff at Snowdon? What did you do all night? Sleep? Oh, no. I see, you 'reconnoitred'. Itemise that.

Want to know exactly what kept you from interviewing those most likely to have material testimony about Stint's motives, connections, movements over the days leading up. You waited for noon to begin enquiries at the station? Because you decided at daybreak to inventory Stint's rooms. Inventory not attached. Want that ASAP.

And then? Found you had missed speaking with any of the registrants in the St Mungo's hypothermia seminar, who had all departed after breakfast. The nine most significant interviews for this case.

Protocol, Fulton. It exists for a reason. If followed, it should keep even imbeciles from making the hash you've made of this work.

Hopkirk. Need someone on this who knows his arse from an egg cup. Get Yaxley to lend us Laverty. Fulton's off this investigation. If that needed saying.

2012-08-28 11:11:00

Order Only: Hermione's mother

I've heard unexpectedly from my contact at Smythstone, the werewolf enclave where Hermione's mum is being held. We've had an opportunity arise where Hermione might be able to visit her, if she's willing to take polyjuice.



 **alt_bill**

My contact says that there was a visit from representatives from the werewolf registry scheduled for Wednesday (tomorrow), but he just got word that the visit was to be cancelled, and rescheduled for a month from now. BUT, he thinks if he tells the enclave security that the visit IS going forward, we can pull a switch and get our own people in instead. Hermione can see her mother, and if we're lucky, we might even be able to get Mrs Granger out of there entirely. Apparate her out via side along, pop back, and then exit the enclave.

The thing is, he warns me that there have been rumblings that they may be shuffling some of the residents around to other enclaves soon. There has been upheaval in the pack, with the fall of the old Alpha, and they want to break up some of the new pack alliances. Mrs Granger is a high profile prisoner, given that she was bitten at the Lord Protector's order himself, and if they take her out of there, who knows if we'll ever be able to locate her again.

My contact has sent me the information we'll need for the bonafides, three of them, and I brought it to my best forger, in case we decide to go ahead with the idea. The question is: do we want to risk it?

Is there any chance you could break away tomorrow afternoon for this, Hermione? Remus, do you think you might be able to make yourself available for this? It might be smart to have a werewolf on the inside on this job. And Kingsley, could you be the third?



 **alt_kingsley** at **2012-08-28 16:20:53**
(no subject)


I can make time for this, certainly.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-28 16:37:35](#)
(no subject)

I'll absolutely make myself available.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-28 16:41:08](#)
Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

I'd already discussed with Hermione, and with Alice, the possibility of Hermione coming to 12GP tomorrow to visit Terry. We'd kept that a secret from Terry, though -- that way, he wouldn't be disappointed if something happened to prevent her coming.

She's already arranged to have time off tomorrow, so going to the enclave instead of 12GP should be ... not easy, exactly, but certainly within the realm of possible.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-28 16:51:46](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

The full moon is in three days, and she wouldn't have had the benefit of wolfsbane. We'd have to scramble, but Mellisandra's workshop would be secure once cleared of her things. It's been awhile since we've tested the door and shutter strength, as well as the dormitory doors and windows, but we'll put all hands on it so that we'll be prepared should you have a chance to get her out.

Remus, would having her take some wolfsbane the day of help at all? Do you have a dose to spare?

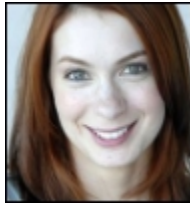
And no, I haven't told Terry yet.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-28 16:58:37](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

There's a reinforced room in 12GP, as well. No worries there.

I don't have extra wolfsbane to share -- Severus has to brew it fresh each month, and he only makes as much as is needed, since it spoils quickly. I don't think a single dose would help, in any case. He's told me several times how imperative it is that I take it in precise quantities at precise times, and I don't think that's merely him wanting precise data on the side effects.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-28 17:10:23**

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

Good.

You'll be in the best position of all of us to sort out where she would be best suited for her transformation, and it's always good to have multiple options just in case, so we'll go ahead with the preparations on our end of things.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-28 21:34:36**

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

...but that's a rather moot point now. Bother.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2012-08-28 22:02:39**

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley and Alice Longbottom

Sorry, Alice, I didn't have any inkling of the plans for Hermione and Terry to meet. But I think we should grab this opportunity. Our contact is taking a big risk for us, and we may never get another. It's the first chance we've had to rescue her in three years.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2012-08-28 17:12:03**

(no subject)

it's worth the risk.

we'll be ready on our end if you do manage to get her

away.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2012-08-28 19:59:40](#)**
(no subject)

But - what about Terry?

I mean... yes, yes, I want to see Mum. I mean I have to. But, there isn't any way for me to do them both. Is

there?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-28 21:29:20](#)**
(no subject)

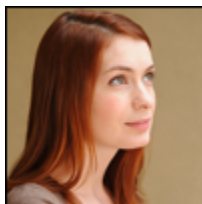
You're right in that if you're able to get away for a little while, it would be hard to see everyone you might want to.


It depends on some things, I think. How long can you be away for? We don't know how long the visit to the enclave will take, but if there is enough time, we could try to coordinate something.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2012-08-28 21:34:36](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe six hours? I don't know. I've never really gone out before for more than an hour or two, but I'm supposed to have all afternoon. I don't think anyone would come after me. But if I got it wrong I would be in terrible trouble. I'm to get free at noon, and if I'm back by supper at six it should be all right...



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-28 21:42:54](#)**
(no subject)

Well, after talking with Remus, Grimmauld might be a good place to have everyone in terms of simplicity and security. So if you do go and visit with your mum, we might have you swing by Grimmauld after to see Terry for a little if there's enough time. And if you do manage to bring your mum back with you, you could bring her to Grimmauld, and still might have a chance to

see Terry.

Does that work for you, Terry love, to have you wait at Grimmauld on Wednesday afternoon with Sirius?

And Remus, I'm assuming -- would that work for you as well?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-28 22:00:31](#)

(no subject)

Yes, I'll wait. But I told her not to worry about me if she's running late and has to go back without seeing me. The important thing is for her to see

her mum.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-29 00:38:00](#)

(no subject)

Yes, absolutely.

I hope we're able to bring Mrs Granger with us.



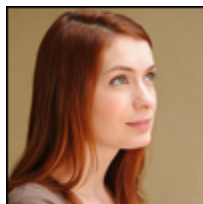
 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-28 21:59:38](#)

(no subject)

Hermione, if there's any chance you could see your mum, and I mean any chance, you should grab it with both hands. Don't worry about me.

I can wait at 12 Grimmauld, but don't risk trouble on my account. You go see your mum.

I really hope the Order can get her out. I'll keep my fingers crossed.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-08-28 22:04:46](#)

(no subject)


I'll be crossing mine too.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2012-08-28 22:48:50](#)**
(no subject)

All right.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-28 21:34:13](#)**
Private Message to Terry Boot

Terry, we'd been talking with Hermione about her possibly being able to get away from Buckingham for a little while.

We'd originally thought that she'd be able to have a quick visit with you, but that seems like it's a bit more up in the air now.

If you can't see her this time around, rest assured, it's something she very much wants to have happen, and we'll keep our eyes open for other opportunities.

2012-08-28 13:25:00

Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antonin -



 **alt_umbridge**

Welcome back to Our Lord's most glorious realm, I'm sure. So unexpected to hear of your return and I do hope your transition to a new role is smooth. Having made that type of shift - all in His service, of course - myself, I know how discomfoting it can feel. Going from your diplomatic tasks and your additional duties to the tedium of unformed children must feel something of a blow.

Now, I read your little post to the students with quite some interest. I do hope that this additional workload won't interfere too much with all of their other important duties. Their classes of course, but I know Our Lord is particularly interested this year in my plans to develop the YPL into a truly vibrant, active, and effective organisation to solidify the desires of our youth behind Our Lord's most glorious goals and projects. And of course, to give them the appropriate skills needed to do so.

In that vein, I must admit I was a little startled to see the Dark Noble Arts required for all students through OWLs. I must admit that my own philosophy has been to only offer more complex and challenging opportunities to those most able to benefit. Regrettably few of our current students may be fit for such work, though I do hope for better once those going through the revised village school programmes come to Hogwarts. I'm sure I must have misunderstood something in your intentions, though, and that you'll gladly explain.

Now, I do also hope that you'll feel free to call on me for assistance. I'm sure that we could wonderfully support each other through the first trials and tribulations of the adjustment. I've already been out several times to look at rooms and find a space for various YPL related storage, and it was quite wonderful to be back in the old place in some ways.

I did see that Aurora had written as well. Now, I'm certain she means well, really, but she's always insisted on taking on so much, and her adjustment to life among dear Rabastan's circle must be quite challenging for the little thing. (Not that she's not bright enough, I suppose, and no one can dispute her diligence, but that is one of the

reasons they removed the weight of the YPL from her.) Knowing her as well as I do, I'm sure she offered some kind of assistance, but I do hope you weren't thinking of overburdening her at a time when she really should be focusing on building her future life. (And honestly, I'm none too sure she'll continue teaching much past her marriage.)

So, do let me know if I can be of any assistance at all. We'll not be starting YPL matters until a week or so into term, so I'll have plenty of time for all manner of things should you need a friendly hand.

Yours in His Service,
Dolores Umbridge



[alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-28 20:49:49](#)
(no subject)

Dolores --

Must apologise for not being able to give your missive the full response it deserves; it has been a trying week. No doubt we will discuss upon arrival at Hogwarts.

From what I have heard, the work being done with the YPL is exemplary; would not dream of interfering with any program successfully enabling students into their future roles as the sinews of Our Lord's empire. Revisions to my curriculum in service to that ideal: дело мастера боится, as my brother always said. Any dedicated student of the Arts will know the whole is greater than the sum of the parts; even those who cannot easily summon the greater magics should not be barred from the self-knowledge available in the small.

Am quite prepared to spend extra time with those uncertain of their skill, and of course the nature of the subject means students will be evaluated based on their own affinities and achievements. I have always found the noble task of education to be an honor and a privilege -- a change, to be certain, but given my history of seasoning already-gifted practitioners of the Arts, not so far as one might think. We all serve in our own small ways, and towards Our Lord's vision.

Must say, have thus far been extremely pleased with the generous offers to share institutional knowledge -- I would, of course, not dream of becoming a disruption to anyone, including Aurora, though I can hardly imagine anyone Narcissa has guided so closely not being

adept at making her boundaries known.

In service,
Antonin



 **alt_umbridge** at [2012-08-29 03:02:57](#)
(no subject)

Antonin,

I do begin to see what Our Lord had in mind. I must admit you put the argument far more clearly than I've heard in some time, as to the benefit of study for all, regardless of apparent talent or inclination. I'm most pleased, of course, that you agree on the value of the YPL: my plans for this year are more rigorous than in years past, and I do hope it will serve well. Perhaps there is even some way to collaborate?

I do remember, of course, your reputation for mentoring and guiding. But of course, doing so with adults, already well-versed in the basics is rather a different thing than working with the young. I saw this summer that the stumbling errors of our younger students can be quite pitiful. Amazing, really, that some of them manage to pass their OWLs (though, of course, not all do - you may have heard that as well?)

As to Aurora, well. She does speak well, and quite persuasively. But you should know more than one person commented to me this spring how worn she was looking, and wondered if she'd bear up in such high circles as she's been moving, and I saw some similar signs this summer. I know members of her family well (though, I admit, neither her parents nor their Quidditch side of children), and while they're reliable and stout folk in their way, certain kinds of grace and deportment are not their strength.

At any rate, you are quite right that Mrs Malfoy must see something of value there, to spend the time she has, or perhaps just fondness for Rabastan. I would not dare to disagree.

And you are quite right that much would be simpler in person. Perhaps we could find time when we are both settled to discuss further? Perhaps Friday, or perhaps sometime on Sunday, if either would suit, so that I can work my YPL plans around your early plans for your classes.

In mutual service,
Dolores



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-30 02:26:02](#)
(no subject)

Dolores --

Your words are entirely too kind. Pleased to hear my reasoning makes sense to you; I look forward to the opportunity to learn more of your plans for the year, and the opportunity to investigate the spaces in which I may be of some small use.

I am afraid my weekend is spoken for -- attempting to finalise the last details of scheduling; beginning to believe I will need hitherto-unachieved mastery over the magics of space and time to achieve my goals for the year -- but will quite anticipate the chance to sit down with you early next week. My first-week lectures will be entirely broad theory review, at least, so I'm certain I shan't interfere too much with your YPL plans before we get the opportunity to discuss.

In service,
Antonin



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-30 02:56:18](#)
(no subject)

Antonin,

Well, then. The only graceful thing to do, of course, is to look forward to time early in the week. Do let me know at your earliest convenience when you think you might be available. I can't imagine it will take too long for the initial conversation, an hour or so?

I am sure I will see you before then, even if we do not get a chance to talk in depth. I do expect to be there Friday, now, moving my few things in. And of course, there's the Welcome Feast and the Sorting to attend. Ever so exciting for the children, I suppose.

Until Hogwarts,
Dolores



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-30 03:21:41](#)
(no subject)

Dolores --

Ah, but as any of my nearest and dearest will aver, the trick once you've gotten me started is to discover the key to gracefully winding up the conversation before the earth cracks and cools.

Still: I do not mean to leave you with the impression you've been dismissed -- my apologies for perhaps-clumsy phrasing (what do the Healers put in those potions they insist on pressing upon one?) I truly am eager for the chance to put heads together, and learn of the plans you've no doubt been working so hard upon -- it is only that I've so little time left in which to attend to the details if I wish to begin term with the bulk of my preparation behind me rather than before me, and of course I must also balance that with my desire to spend time with those of my brothers and sisters I have not seen in so long.

Not certain as to your schedule, but presuming I'm not issued a fifth revision (an uncertain presumption to be sure), I'm to have Monday at 2PM free, with bonus benefit to you that I've a class at 3PM that will at least provide an outer boundary to the amount of digression I am likely to be able to impose.

In service,
Antonin



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-08-30 13:08:43](#)
(no subject)

Antonin -

Monday at 2 will be excellent. My office, if you'd like to step out of your classroom for a bit, perhaps, would suit well.

As to the preparations, quite. Now I have had the luxury of

considering some potential plans for much of the summer - I'm not giving too much away there, I hope, despite the much more recent announcement of the change of leadership. I do quite see how the rapid change in circumstances might leave you needing all the time you can find.

Now, if you do need a hand, someone to oversee the house elves in their unpacking, or whatever else, don't be afraid to ask. All in mutual service, of course.

Dolores



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-30 16:05:02](#)
(no subject)

Dolores --

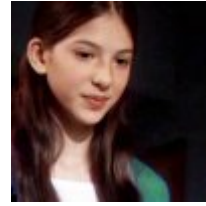
Shall see you then, and of course at the Feast as well. Am certain hearing of your plans will be most intriguing.

I've one slight request to make of you: while a change of scenery might indeed be welcome even by Monday, I've made special arrangements with Minerva to condense my area of perambulation to as small a footprint as possible. (Small matter of curse damage from which I am still recovering; my mind's desire to be ambulatory again has far outpaced my body's. Still: it was informing Our Lord of my need for convalescence that inspired Him to allow me home, so on the whole, not tragic.) Since I've a lecture immediately after, might we substitute my office instead? I shall sweeten the deal with a carafe of al-qahwa.

In service,
Antonin

2012-08-28 13:53:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Ron




 **alt_sally_anne**

Was there something you wanted to talk about yesterday? I'm sorry I had to bring Philip. I wasn't expecting he'd be quite so clingy but being around so many older students made him a little intimidated.

Not that we'd have had much time to sit and talk even without Philip. EVERYONE descended on Diagon Alley yesterday, I think (because they ALL needed Dark Arts books...)



 **alt_ron** at **2012-08-28 19:57:27**
(no subject)

No worries. Yeah, it was mad yesterday, wasn't it?

I was just going to tell you some things I talked about with Dad, is all. I asked him some questions, well, I wrote him a note and asked, and then we went fishing on Sunday and talked about some stuff.

Mostly I wanted to know whether to stay in CCF. I mean, if we're not just learning to fight and defend against wizards, but muggles, too. I mean, it was like we were in training to be camp enforcers, wasn't it? And that's not anything I want to do, ever.

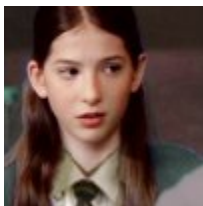
Anywiz, he asked me why I went out for CCF and whether it's really got benefits that are worth it.

I told him I did it because I thought I pretty much had to if I wanted to show loyal--or didn't want to get called a bloodtraitor. And I did it, too, because they said we'd learn more tactical defence stuff, which, yeah. If Finnigan's learning it, I want to know how to fight back.

And then it started, and it wasn't just duelling, it was other really useful stuff, too. Well, useful if you think you might ever have to fight a war. Stuff like mapping and orienteering and healing. We're not learning that in our regular subjects, so yeah, there are real, for certain benefits.

But then this summer. It got pretty real that they're teaching us how to fight wars. How to plan battles, how to lead groups, how assess strategies being used against you, how decide what you have risk or what you have to sacrifice in order to do the most important thing, whatever it is. And they started in with the unforgivables, and, yeah, I do think they're unforgivable. But even if we weren't using them, they were really pushing us to do stuff that would hurt other people, especially muggles, but each other, too.

And I just- I wanted to know if he thought I needed to ditch CCF even if that would mean everyone knew for sure that I'm a bloodtraitor.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-28 20:01:49](#)**
(no subject)

What did he say?

Your Dad seems pretty pragmatic. And we are learning a LOT of useful stuff in CCF, but -- yeah.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-28 22:11:14](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

We decided I probably should stay in, but that then the problem is how to stay in and not do really terrible stuff. I mean, how do we do what we're asked but not do what they want.

I told him about the Muggle exercises.


And he told me that when they train Aurors, they teach them that in almost every situation, you've got a choice about how you handle it.

He said that threats vary and responses should, too. You can warn off an opponent and see if you can get them to back down or run away. You can try to escape. Or, if you have to, you can fight either by using defensive charms and evasions--or, if you really have to fight and mean it, you've still got a range of responses. You can try to injure but not cause permanent damage (like using a stunner, even if that might break something, right?), or you could use a spell you know could cause real damage that might not heal. Or

you could use a spell that might kill the other person.

But he said it's never just down to AK or nothing.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-28 22:31:12](#)
(no subject)

I mean, I knew that. But- it's not really how they train us, is it?

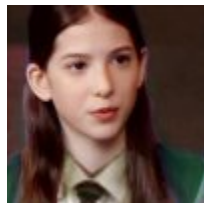
They set half of us to use one particular curse to attack the other half, and tell them to use some specific defensive spell to block it, right? And if there're options, it's mostly about using worse curses or stronger counters.

But mostly, I don't think we're really meant to be thinking through our options, even when it's not set drills. Or not the sort of options Dad was talking about.

And the spells we learn keep getting more difficult and more dangerous, too. And that just made sense because we're getting older and keep learning more complicated stuff that's more powerful, but Dad said that actually, sometimes you just need stuff you learned back in first year. Expelliarmus, for instance. Which-

I hadn't thought about that for a long time, really. I've been working so hard on Protego and other repulsions and counter-curses and all.

And he asked if I'd thought about using a Leg-locker, or a bat-bogey or a jelly-legs, even. And I said I'd've got laughed out of CCF if I'd done that. But then I was thinking, it'd be dead wizard to use that on Finnigan. Because it would make him look such an eejit. It'd totally be worth it if Madam Hembridge marked me down for it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-29 00:06:14](#)
(no subject)

That's a really good point. Defeating your enemy opponent with first-year and second-year jinxes, if you did it right you wouldn't look weak, you'd look like you wanted to humiliate them by showing that you didn't even need to use anything powerful to win the duel.

At least if you played it off right.



alt_ron at **2012-08-29 04:39:09**
(no subject)

So. There was more to what I asked Dad.

I asked him if he thinks it's really possible to change things by working for the Ministry or doing some other kind of job where you're fair to everyone and do small things to make things better where you can. Or, y'know, like staying in CCF for now because that's what I'd have to do in order to get a job later where I'd have any chance of making a difference.

And it was horrible, really. I mean he told me some stories about his job and things he's done that were really awful choices between something horrendous and something only a little bit better. Or where he had to agree in a meeting with something that would hurt a certain number of people so he could get his department to go along with him in not doing something that was going to hurt a whole huge number of people. And he just looked so sad about it. But he said he had to think about what that decision meant to the people he helped even though there were other people he couldn't protect.

It's like something else he said about fighting. He said that you make different choices depending on whether you're just fighting to protect yourself or whether you've got other people you have to worry about, too.

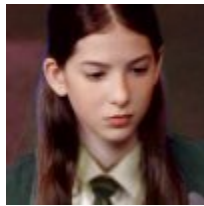
And I think what he does at work is like that. I mean, he could work somewhere different. Like he could fix things for other people like your father does or he could probably keep a junk shop in Ottery St Catchpole, and if he did, he'd only have to look out for us and for himself. But because he's got the job at the Ministry, he's got to make decisions about how to protect people in all the camps and he's also trying to protect us and then himself, too. And his decisions get really hard.

He didn't say it, but I think one of his choices would always be whether he should do something that would cost him his job but that would let everyone know that what the Ministry does in the

camps is wrong--but if he did that ever, they'd arrest him and lie about him and maybe no one would ever really hear about what he did, and then it wouldn't change anything at all. Or he could do something drastic and get himself killed, protecting as many people as he could that one time, but once he was dead, there wouldn't be anyone protecting those people any more, and there'd be payback for all of them, probably. So he doesn't do that. Or he hasn't so far.

I asked him later if he thinks we're going to have another war before things can ever actually change. And he didn't want to answer that. He didn't say anything for a long time. So I asked him if someone was going to have to try to kill the Lord Protector. Or whether that would even be enough, because it's not just Him, is it?

And in the end he said, yeah. He does think that's what it's going to take. Another war.



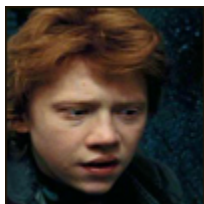
 **alt_sally_anne** at [2012-08-29 05:01:58](#)

(no subject)

Yeah. There's a hundred different jobs your dad could do that wouldn't put him in a position where he had to make awful choices. But then whoever did the job he has NOW might make choices that were a thousand times worse.

~~But he has to do things like send muggles to people like Carrow, some of the time~~

I think he might be right. About another war.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-08-29 05:14:04](#)

(no subject)

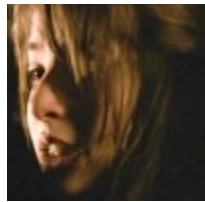
What did you scratch out?

I mean, I really can't tell, so whatever it is, you must have thought you can't say it. Or-

I think Sirius Black is right. We have to be able to talk about stuff with each other.

And, yeah. I know I'm not telling everyone this stuff, so you can tell me I don't know what I'm on about.

Or you could just say it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-29 05:19:50](#)
(no subject)

I wrote

'but some of the time he has to do things like send muggles to people like Carrow'

and then I felt bad, and didn't want you to think I was insulting your father, or saying that he ought to quit his job and own a junk shop in Ottery St Catchpole, so I scratched it out. But I was thinking about the truly awful things he has to do as part of his job. Because they're really awful. At least if you care about muggles at all and clearly he does.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-29 05:44:32](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I don't know how he does it, really. And some of the people he works with are just, well, a lot like Madam Umbridge. They just go on about how muggles are cattle and dirty, and they don't even think anyone could ever disagree. Or they're really cold about it, and talk as if it's all just numbers. Maths, y'know. How many galleons, and how many head of muggles, and how many turnips or spades or shoes or whatever.

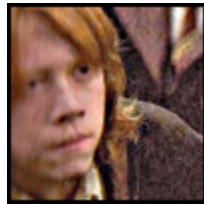
But to dad, they're all people. He goes out to the camps, y'know, and meets people. Talks to the ones the others listen to, and tries to get them to do the things that will-


Ugh. It sounds filthy, really, when you try to write about what he has to do.

He told me about one muggleborn girl who got pregnant

while working for a pureblood family. But this girl was only fourteen, and it was the son of the family that got her, y'know, knocked up. The family were really upset and they wanted the department to kill her, but dad told them that the Protectorate had paid to raise her in the camps and expected to get value from her working, so he got her sent back to a factory in the camps, and part of her wages goes to pay a fine to the family now. And they did a spell so she can't get pregnant again, but they didn't kill her.

That's the kind of stuff he has to do. He has to let horrible stuff happen so even worse stuff won't.

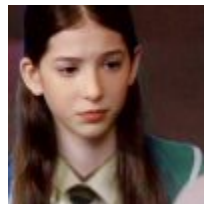


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-29 05:47:19](#)**
(no subject)

I mean, when I think about it-

I think I'd fight a war so my dad wouldn't have to do that any more.

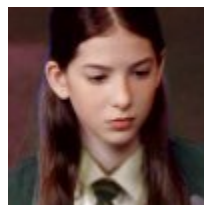
You know?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-29 13:46:13](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

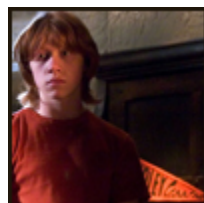
I know what you mean.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-08-29 17:13:40](#)**
(no subject)

What happened to the baby?

Did he say?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-08-29 17:53:30](#)**
(no subject)

Uh, yeah. He did.

They did a spell so she wouldn't have the

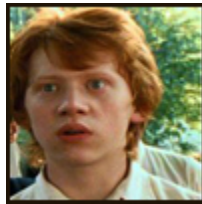
baby. And then the spell that made it so she couldn't get pregnant again.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-08-29 18:30:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

I hope she was relieved and not sad. The pregnant girl, I mean.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-08-29 18:46:05](#)
(no subject)

Uh, I don't know.

Dad said she was really glad to be back in the camp. That's how bad it was with the family she worked for. And he said he was able to get her sent to the camp she'd grown up in, so her mother was still there to look after her, I guess. He had to say he was sending her there so she'd work in the factory and pay off her fine.

For, um, whatever the fine was for.

But I don't know if she wanted to have the baby or not. I kind of think it was the family that said it couldn't be born. I mean, they wanted the Department of Purity to kill the girl, and I think they're the ones that said they didn't want the baby to live.

[2012-08-28 16:36:00](#)

Order Only

Well, bother.

Have just received an owl saying I'm expected at MLE's offices to answer questions as an interested party in the investigation into the death of Facinorous Stint. Tomorrow. At my 'convenience'. Mordred. When is it ever convenient to submit to questioning by MLE.



 **[alt_poppy](#)**

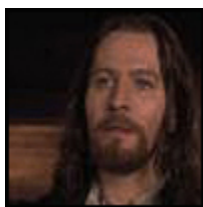
And the worst of it is, I'm still at the sanctuary. How long might that owl have been searching for me?

No good worrying about that now. I was planning to leave after breakfast at any rate. I've a stop to make in Winchester and one in New London before my appointment at St Mungo's. I've told MLE they may have the pleasure of my company after that.

And then if anyone wished to buy me a drink in some little hole in the wall beer garden, I'd very much appreciate it.

Supposing they allow me to leave the Ministry on my own recognisance.

I swear if that man has made my life misery for two years only to get himself killed and me arrested for his murder, I'll ... not find it funny in the least.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-28 22:36:09](#)**

(no subject)

What?!

Bugger all.

We're shaping up to have quite a party at Grimmauld tomorrow, if everything goes well. (Come to think of it, having a Healer on hand to look over Mrs Granger wouldn't go amiss, if everything works out.)

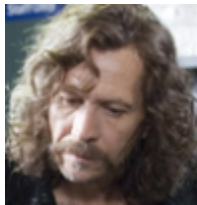
But if we can do anything to help, let us know.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-28 23:10:14](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, bless. Is that when you're going to the werewolf camp? Of course it is. I let myself get so wrapped up in my own business I entirely failed to register that.

Yes, of course, I could come to Grimmauld. That would be a much safer place to see you, in any case, and perhaps I could be of help with Mrs Granger. I trust she won't need my ministrations, but I'd be pleased to examine her to be certain she's well.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-08-29 00:20:04](#)**
(no subject)

Remus is going to the werewolf camp; I'm staying back at Grimmauld for Terry's lesson.

But I think we can manage a hole in the wall beer garden, as well.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-08-29 00:20:48](#)**
(no subject)

We miss you already, Poppy. Thanks ever so much for your help.

From what I can see, Stint has no end of potential enemies. I'm sure that they're having quite a time going through the list, and that this is simply a process of elimination, not assumption of guilt.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-08-29 00:24:35](#)**
(no subject)

ta, poppy.

the only person who'd go out of his way to pin you with something is dead. and you didn't actually do it, which helps.

you'll do fine.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-29 02:40:11](#)**
(no subject)

I've thought a bit about what it would be like if I had done it. At least I'd know it was really done. And properly.

Part of me would very much like to know who did do it.

I suppose it just feels incomplete, not having seen it for myself, the body at least. I don't know. I wonder if there's to be a funeral? I almost think I'd go, just to convince myself he's really gone.

And Morgana knows, if he turns up as a ghost, I intend to give him an earful of all the things I ought to have had the stomach to say while he was alive, but didn't.

I'll miss you, too, Frank.

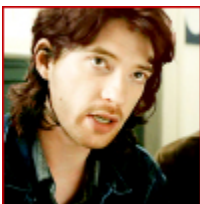



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-29 02:45:55](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Alice. I'll try to come back during the Christmas holidays. I feel sure that by then you'll be ready for a fresh pair of hands to pick up with the things that remain of your rebuilding.

You've done yeomen's work, that's obvious, and yet there's such a lot still to do. I suppose the best of it is you'll not go bored this autumn.

Do be well, my dear. All of you.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-29 01:48:32](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure that through the years you've given advice to many a student about to explode from stress from studying for OWLs or NEWTs. Surely some of those pearls of wisdom would be of use now:

Take deep breaths.

Get a good night's sleep.
Have a cup of tea.

I don't mean to belittle any fears you may have, and I know from personal experience that getting squinty-eyed looks from MLE is absolutely no picnic. But keep your head (which you always do anyway), and you'll do just fine.

Do please check back in with us when the interview is over.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2012-08-29 02:43:53](#)**
(no subject)

I second Bill's suggestion about a cup of tea.

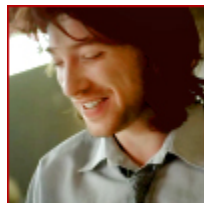
And if you drink enough tea, if you're getting flustered, you can always interrupt the interrogation by saying you need a break to visit the loo!




 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-29 02:47:27](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Molly, for making me smile.

And, Bill, for sage advice. Wherever did you learn such wise things?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-08-29 03:56:38](#)**
(no subject)

At my mother's knee, no doubt.

2012-08-28 16:46:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Any progress?

Am clear to-morrow morning should it be useful to bait the trap.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Toshenka says you found him well and he you.
Trust you thought the same.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2012-08-28 23:05:09**
(no subject)

Fulton did not take discipline well. Hopkirk says he's writing a complaint against Desai and me for misplaying the investigation. Should be fascinating. And self-implicating.

Now if he'll just lead Maule our way, we can wrap this up.

So, yes, re. tomorrow. All ready on our end. Lay the bait.

Toshenka is fine if he chooses to believe himself so. I hope his body will agree with him by Christmas. What did you think?



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2012-08-29 00:48:27**
(no subject)

Truthfully, have seen him look worse. But confess, I did not care for his colour. Did not stay overlong, for fear of exhausting him.

Narcissa dropped in this afternoon and said he was in good spirits but she, too, did not wish to tax him. However, know that he has the self-mastery to properly maintain his own recovery. If he can restrain him-self from over-exertion on behalf of his zeal for his subject matter and a whole host of captive pupils!

Re: To-morrow, fine. But not sure Maule shall be as obliging. Unlike him to take such a heavy hand in his affairs.

Took the trouble to check my source as well, who claims Maule was pre-occupied Thursday evening and all of Friday on a bridge job site. If he's involved, he has someone else doing his work for him - again.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-08-29 03:28:32](#)
(no subject)

If we'd all leave him to rest, he might recover more quickly. Know, however, that he thrives on company and discourse, so on the whole he's likely to recover the faculties that matter most if he has the audience he craves.

Suspect he will be a decade younger after a year of teaching. Compare that with Raz, who's aged at least that much in a similar span. (That one worries me.)

You're right about Maule, dammit. We'll be left with a mere whiff of his scent, but no trail. And now Fulton's lost his head completely, if it's Maule he works for, we can expect he'll go missing tomorrow and turn up on a beach somewhere, too. Maule does not survive by tolerating fools.

The latest: F accosted Sinistra outside a cafe and attempted an interrogation. She sensed something amiss in his method (small wonder) and refused to respond unless they moved the venue to MLE. Dropped me a note this evening to be sure I was aware of his 'most irregular' demeanor. Understand earlier, he made a visit to Endsleigh Gardens--Stint's flat. After he'd been removed from the investigation. Claimed to be carrying a message for someone who wasn't on site. Was rebuffed. End of episode.

Think tomorrow will be F's finale one way or the other. As far as we're likely to ride him.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-08-29 03:49:30](#)
(no subject)

Indeed, he did say more than once during my visit that he is grateful to be back among his true family. And that the worst pain he has suffered since his return is writer's cramp! (Make of that

what you will.)

Raz's new-found maturity is unsettling. Though I suspect you mean the other changes, which of course we have noticed but not discussed. Well. Narcissa and Aurora might have done, I suppose. Still a bit ... surprised at Our Lord's words regarding their matrimonial petition. On reflection you may come to appreciate your own unfortunate setback for reasons entirely unrelated to the suitability of the match.

But re: Fulton. Blast. Well, if there is no help for it, so be it.

2012-08-28 17:41:00

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout



 [alt_sinistra](#)

I... Let me try and get this into words, because if I go back to Spence like this, it'll be no end of worry to Raz. I will be so very glad when we're back at school. I was up at Pembroke with the Malfoys (and various others) for the weekend.

Well, Thursday, after that horrid *In The Soup* article ran. And because Stint died near enough by, they had to ask everyone where we all were.

We had the usual problem of any good mystery novel plot where we were not able to provide a suitable alibi for all possible persons at all possible times. (But really, who can. Even Raz and I spent time apart.) They did let us all go as planned Monday morning. And today I spent the morning in the Guild library, which was lovely and engaging, even if I did get lost in a totally different topic than I'd intended. Sorry. Trying to be clear here, and failing utterly.

I left there around two, and went to the Archetype. But just as I got outside - those benches in the square, just before you turn, Poppy - who stops me but that Meniscus Fulton. And he had question after question for me. I hate not thinking faster on my feet, and I'm better than I was, but well. Delia Forney was all business-like and straightforward with her questions at Pembroke. This was much like that mess in January, where he - well, it was Fulton then too - where it was clear he was after something else.

He kept trying to probe, and I kept pointing out I'd be glad to come to MLE and do it properly, and surely a park bench was not the best place. I seem to have discovered a backbone sufficient to deter that far, anyway, because after about fifteen minutes, he gave up trying, and went away, less than satisfied.

Then, as I was finally collecting myself enough to flee into the Archetype, Heloise Laverty caught up with me. I've only met her very briefly, but she wanted to ask her own set of questions. Though, thankfully, that involved a more comfortable chair, less late-summer breeze, and a pot of my favourite tisane blend of theirs.

And she was much more careful - she had some specific questions about my trip to Snowdon with you, Poppy, which Fulton never

bothered to ask about (tried to keep you out of it as much as I could, Pomona, without being too obvious). And then wondering, rather off-handedly, what Fulton had been asking me. If I hadn't seen Chiron in that same mode when Daedalus snuck Diane's wand away at Christmas two years ago to try it out, I'd not know what I was looking at. And she said no need to come to MLE, and if they did need to talk further they'd arrange it properly.

Right. I feel a little better having written it all out, (and I seem to have acquired a certain amount of good will in an unexpected quarter) and am going to apply myself to a cream tea before I go back to Raz. I'm still hoping we'll be back tomorrow night, but right now, who knows. And I'm going to drop a word in what I hope is the right ear and see what comes of it.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-08-28 23:22:59](#)
(no subject)

Fulton?

He and Stint had some business with one another. Did I tell you about the time--earlier this summer--that I interrupted them in a corridor at St Mungo's. Quite innocently, for my part, but they behaved as though I'd been spying on them.

I suppose it's not surprising if he's investigating Stint's death. Though I could wish someone less partial were running things. Anyone else, in fact.

I might as well tell you, though I'm sure they'd take a dim view of my consulting with anyone else about it: I've been called in to answer questions at MLE tomorrow. I suppose it will be Fulton, then.

But you had the feeling that the woman, Laverty, was looking into his conduct? That's what you meant about Chiron--an internal affairs investigation?

We can only hope.

It could as easily have been a staged routine, you know: one of them jostles you with rough questions, and then the next comes and is understanding and patient and hopes you'll pour your real secrets in her sympathetic ear.

I do wish we were back at Hogwarts and safely done with all this bother.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-08-29 00:33:28**
(no subject)

First, I am far more settled. (I do hate that first rush of the unknown. Better now.)

You did, yes, tell me about that incident with Fulton - I just went back and looked. July 17th. And yes. I wish the same.

I've been quiet about the questions too, mind you - it's part of why I didn't say anything all weekend. (Though before that, things were largely very nice, as long as I could avoid playing cards. It will surprise neither of you that that whole clan play fiercely indeed. Even if I were much good - and I'm not - I'd be far out of my league.)

But I had some excellent conversations, and some time with Raz and Harry (and I'm quite reassured on that front now, as I'd hate to come between him and Raz), and the setting was truly lovely.

Back to Laverty. I did get that sense from her, though I hope I'd wit enough to cover most of the recognition. I don't know if she's looking into him, or looking into the investigation or what, though - her questions could have been either. I did drop an owl to an ear that might be able to make more sense of it, though, if it is something.

And yes, it could have been a staged routine, I suppose. Yet.. Fulton was far less polished at it than he was in January. And their questions didn't match up the way things did then - where they were going about it different ways, but at least with the same basic point.

I wish we were back too. Though if I got back to my packing, that might happen sooner than later. I am quite pining for my tower and my stars, and while the summer (and far more time with Raz than we usually manage, even around the YPL) has been lovely, I'm looking forward to the year, really.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-08-29 02:32:22](#)**
(no subject)

We shall have to have something stronger than tea to celebrate our return to routine. I think I'll be back by Friday midday at the latest. Thursday night, perhaps.

Assuming MLE do not throw me in their dungeons.

Perhaps it's ill-advised to joke about such things. Begging your pardon.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-08-29 03:37:52](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, Poppy. If you need to joke, do. Please. You've heard more than enough of my own black humour by now, haven't you? (And if not, I can remedy that whenever you like.)

I've already accepted an invite Friday evening from our new Dark Arts professor - he's been quite charming so far. (And of course, he's had close ties with the Malfoys and Lestranges and all for ages, but we've found a surprising number of points of mutual agreement, including a distaste for Madam Umbridge.)

But Saturday and Sunday are thus far clear, other than the Sorting and Feast and the usual. (And my usual desire to have my head in the stars, of course.)

Do let me know how it goes, and I'm sure you'll be fine. Laverty really was straightforward with me, except for the part where she asked about what Fulton asked. I'm sure they'll treat you every bit as well, or they'd have tracked you down far earlier.

2012-08-29 12:12:00

Private Message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy



Old friend, little flower --

Forgive me for not writing you separately, but in the interests of saving time: have finally been set free from my checkup at St M's. I have been cleared for resumption of duty, though rung 'round with dire cautions about attempting to conquer all Gaul in an afternoon. And in possession of a sheet full of exercises I am to undertake morning and evening without fail, to which I shall apply myself diligently in eternal hope the last of this irritating tendency towards losing track of my extremities will soon be behind me. Delay at hospital due entirely to organisational confusion (and gossip in corridors) resulting around that unfortunate Healer's demise, not bad news. Do please discreetly pass the word for everyone concerned to stop fretting.

 **alt_antonin**

(You cover it well, all of you, but the lingering looks I've been at wand-end of over the past several days are unmistakeable to one accustomed to reading nuance. Am perfectly aware my reassurances will be taken as the culturally-mandated stiff upper lip, but rest assured, I've no intention of jeopardising my recovery; little petal, I hope to enlist your services in convincing our little family I'm not just blowing smoke up the dragon's nostrils. Old friend, I know you in particular far too well to believe you entirely sanguine no matter how well you pretend.)

Snowflake, since you were present for the overture, I share with you the entr'acte, in the hopes you've amused L with it as well: darling Dolores took my reply entirely at face value, wishes to flatter me into lending my shoulder to shifting weight for her glorious vision. I shall practise my best expressions of puzzled geniality and deploy them in her direction at all turns. The imp of the perverse (and the childish desire to introduce a foot into the stride of an irritant -- must learn to control that impulse, though if I haven't by now it's likely a lost cause) prompted me, after you had left, to issue warning to Raz's astronomer that darling Dolores has it out for her; she assures me it was not new information. (On that note -- I am most cross with you, milaya -- somehow in our cosy little gossip session you neglected to convey how guilelessly delightful Raz's beloved manages to be. Goodness, they're actually a love-match, aren't they? Must confess I was not expecting that!)

My eternal and undying affection to all. Off now to apply myself most studiously to Healer's directives (read: a balanced meal, a mid-day nap, and an hour in the gardens with a pleasant book for company, in no particular order) before addressing the remainder of my obligations. I shall be fetching away to Hogwarts tomorrow afternoon, assuming no disasters arise in my plans -- and that I do not get waylaid by someone else to whom I remain utterly incapable of saying 'no'. (I have so missed you all.)

Disconsolate at the length of time stretching before me until I will again have the pleasure of your company,
T



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-08-29 19:49:11](#)
(no subject)

Toshenka, knowing my husband so well as you claim, do you really expect him to stop fretting until you are fully hale once more? I'm sure he was the better for seeing you, however. (And just as a token of my esteem for you, I shall refrain from telling him about the teacup.)

'Darling' Dolores, truly? She made quite the impression! Quick work, even for you. It should be endlessly amusing to watch her twist herself to knots trying to curry your favour while asserting her authority over the poor helpless children. I almost regret that I'll be spared a seat in the Top Box for the whole affair. Only don't let her overtire you, dear.

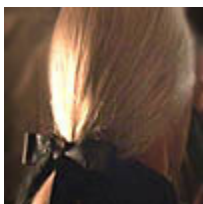
As for Raz and Aurora, I forget how long you've been away. You surely remember our Rizzer's notorious reputation as a rover? I do believe it's her specific blend of sincerity and discretion that brought him to his knees. Really, it's nothing short of astonishing for all of us to see him honestly over his head. I confess I was worried that the whole thing would devolve into saccharine sweetness or else burn itself out but I'm as surprised as any that he seems to return her affections with every bit as much intensity and sensitivity, as she lavishes on him.

There are still things to be worked out, of course, but then you know the Lestranges have never been quite as, well, as *particular* about those questions as the Blacks. Or the Malfoys. Or you, I daresay. Regardless, I do find her wholly enchanting and you shall see for

yourself how impossible it is not to be happy for them when one sees their devotion to each other.

(I had so hoped the same for our Barty and Maebh but - alas, Our Lord found the lady flawed in ways that none of us had yet had occasion to witness. He was right, as it turns out - not that we doubted His perceptions but at the time it was ... hard to bear, for everyone involved.)

Well, you shall have to pine for your 'little brother' at least until the 27th, as that is the next meeting of the Board of Governors. For my part I expect to attend the Slytherin Quidditch matches, whenever they are planned. And I don't think I mentioned but I am at least peripherally involved with the 'Sisters in Witchcraft' programme which does require my presence occasionally, and during those visits I would certainly welcome the chance to stop in and satisfy myself as to the progress of your recovery.



 **alt_lucius at 2012-08-30 00:16:55**

(no subject)

Teacup? I hesitate to ask. Not, I suspect, that either of you would provide a simple and honest answer, when there is an opportunity to share a private jape.

Regarding Dolores. She is certainly a buffoon but nonetheless a not altogether ineffective bureaucrat. Used to be much more tractable, as well. Something changed; she developed her own agenda along the way. And she is not without allies, Toshenka.

Still, it has taken her this long to regroup. Confident you can keep her rising above herself if necessary - if, indeed, it *is* in her scope of planning. Mislike her sudden insurgence into the direction of the YPL, though thus far, apart from dislodging Aurora, has had no ill effects. Could simply be luck.

You know how wise it is to trust luck.

Narcissa is correct that the 27th shall be my first opportunity to visit (barring calamity). However, as always, at your disposal should you have any need of me, *bratishka*.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-08-30 02:59:31](#)
(no subject)

Think nothing of the teacup, little brother. Your wife is only trying to get me in trouble again, most likely as revenge for some transgression of mine she's been holding on to for years.

I will heed your cautions and keep one eye on charming Dolores the Hufflepuff Heffalump, I truly will. But at least leave me room to be catty about the necessity with Narcissa; it has been a long and dull ten years without my partner in gossip. (Must borrow her from you in brief if I'm ever to return to the Americas -- could only get through meetings with their number two by imagining the steady stream of observations N would have about his beard.)

Fear not, I shall call upon you if I've need -- it would take much longer than a decade for me to have got out of the habit of relying on those who have always stood back to back with me. Suspect I will have little room for an antic disposition once term starts, however -- as is, I may have to give up breathing between Tuesday morning and Thursday eve. (Joking. Truly.)

Will keep you posted as to my progress with the children, by the by. Had a lovely conversation with Selwyn yesterday eve; invited him up to observe one of the battles of wits I plan to offer the children for extra credit, and he seemed quite interested in the idea.

And see, old friend, proof my recovery proceeds with alacrity -- able to stay awake past the end of supper by now. When next you see me, I may even have been able to retire the cane.

Eternally yours,
T



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-08-30 04:06:33](#)
(no subject)

My sunshine, if you wish to land me in hot water with my dear old friend, surely you've better tacks to take than to tell tales out of the tea-room. I thought surely you would reach for a reference to the unfortunate incident of the fireplace instead? Or has that retreated

too far into the mists of time by now?

I must confess, my time with Barty was spent more in gentle mutual admiration and in pleasant diversion than in questions of weighty matters of the heart -- not that I think he'd necessarily be averse to the telling (and if he's had as beastly a year as has been implied to me by several, perhaps he's long overdue for the purging of it), but it *has* been a decade, and I've missed so much. He has ever been the best and the brightest of my flock -- you'll have noticed, of course, the goad I always used to use to spur him to greatness was to urge him to surpass me in the service of Our Lord, and though it became our shared jest so quickly, I never once believed the potential was not there. But it is the best and the brightest who burn the most fiercely, and I ~~do find myself fretting that he seems so~~

I should leave the matter there (curious, how quickly these journals become a receptacle for that best saved for one's inspection of one's own self). Our Lord's ability to read that which no mere servant of his might suspect is one of His great bounties granted to us, of that I have no doubt, and the tool is honored whenever its master chooses to temper it. But a man does still ache to see his brother's heart so heavy. ~~I wish I could~~

Bah. Enough of this and I'll be bawling into my cups (celebrating freedom from Healer's restrictions with a glass or two -- do remind Lucius he still owes me for the loss to my stock experienced during the extended arrival of your firstborn, or perhaps you'd best be the one to make good on that debt). I should be delighted to see you whenever and wherever I may, whether that be in the Quidditch stands or the classroom or the merest chance to glance upon your radiance from afar.

Raising that glass to your very great health,

T

[2012-08-29 16:11:00](#)

Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Antoshenka, my boy:

Do forgive my not writing to you sooner. I've been quite remiss in reading my journal over the summer holidays. But I confess I'm much the more relaxed for having neglected it these weeks. Thus, imagine my surprise when I returned from my country cottage to learn that you are crossing the line to join our happy family of professors.



 [alt_horace](#)

I don't doubt that others have already made the offer but do not hesitate to ask, should you have any questions about protocols or process. I'm delighted to welcome another of my House and one of my better pupils back to our hallowed halls. I daresay I can show you a trick or two that will make marking your students' work go a great deal faster, as well!

There are a growing number of us who appreciate a quiet evening's drink; I really must have a salon or two once school returns to session. But whether I am hosting a group or alone, my door is always open to you, Antonin Nikolaevich.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-08-30 04:20:54](#)

(no subject)

Professor Slughorn Horace Sir

-- How curious that even after longer than I'd care to think about, I find myself wholly unable to shed the schoolboy's frame of reference for one's fondly-remembered professors. You shall have to make me practise whatever form of reference you'd prefer!

I am delighted for the chance to return to Hogwarts' hallowed halls (though inspecting my schedule, suspect they may turn into Hogwarts' harrowed halls by Hallowe'en -- but that's another story) and it will be a delight to see you again, good sir. I have reached the age at which a quiet evening's drink spent in convivial company sounds delightful, and will look towards the prospect with pleasure.

Suspect, as well, you've a plethora of tricks up your sleeve, as one

who's guided the house of the serpent so long and so faithfully -- I would be pleased for the chance to learn from you again. (Sadly, I must confess I've not actually brewed a potion in a double dozen years -- but the theory and discipline serves me eternally.)

In fond reminiscence, and finally willing to confess to having been the one responsible for causing Baker's cauldron to explode on alternate Tuesdays all through NEWT lessons,
A

2012-08-29 17:11:00

Order Only

Mrs Granger declined our offer to help her leave.

Visiting the enclave was a bit unnerving. Werewolves are treated as animals -- valuable animals, but animals all the same. It took us quite some time to find Hermione's mother. When we did, for a moment I thought she didn't recognise her daughter. Then I was briefly afraid that we would have no opportunity for privacy -- but that turned out to be easy. She simply ordered the others to withdraw until called for.



 [alt_lupin](#)

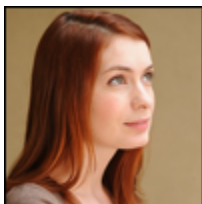
Mrs Granger herself is the new Alpha.


And that's why she refused to leave.

She feels a responsibility to her pack -- even knowing they might be broken up on the Lord Protector's whim, she's unwilling to simply leave them. And Hermione, you see, arrived in the company of two wizards who treated her with kindness and respect, and who could offer her mother the opportunity to be smuggled to safety. 'You have protectors,' her mother said. 'My pack does not.'

She told Hermione not to come again -- to stick with her new pack. The risks were too high for there to be another cozy mother-daughter visit.

I'm sorry, Hermione. I wish we could have persuaded her to come.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2012-08-29 21:14:11**
(no subject)

I'm sorry too, Hermione, sweet heart.

That must have been very difficult.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-29 21:15:51**

Private Message to Remus

All right, love?

That sounds like it was difficult all round. You included.

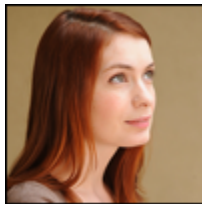
And did she get in her visit with Terry at least? I haven't heard from him one way or the other yet.



 **[alt_lupin](#) at 2012-08-30 01:42:10**

Re: Private Message to Remus

It took so long to find her mother -- by the time we were done, there wasn't time. She had to go back to Buckingham.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-08-30 03:24:45**

Re: Private Message to Remus

I'm sorry.

There really has been quite a lot of heartbreak to spread around today, hasn't there?

How is Terry? I'm assuming he's kipping there for the night, as he hasn't written asking to come back.



 **[alt_terry](#) at 2012-08-29 23:09:43**

Private message to Mr Remus Lupin

I just don't understand. How Mrs Granger could have done that, turned down Hermione like that. Her own daughter?

I suppose Hermione must have been really upset. No wonder she didn't come here afterwards.

Poor Hermione.



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-29 23:49:11](#)

Re: Private message to Mr Remus Lupin

Maybe it's something I just don't understand about the way that werewolves think or something?

If that's not offensive for me to say, I mean....



 **alt_lupin** at [2012-08-30 03:06:29](#)

Re: Private message to Mr Remus Lupin

Hermione would have come to see you if there'd been time. It took us quite some time to find her mother, and then she had to get back to Buckingham.

Her mother didn't refuse to come out of rejection of her daughter, but out of a sense of responsibility for the rest of the werewolves at this enclave. They're her Order, in a sense.



 **alt_terry** at [2012-08-30 03:49:41](#)

Re: Private message to Mr Remus Lupin

I guess so. I just...

I used to wish and wish for my own family, you see. I mean, that my own mum and dad would somehow find me, take me away from the git. From all of the awful stuff.


But I can sort of see what Mrs Granger meant, that Hermione has her own pack now. The Order. I mean, Mrs and Mrs Longbottom told me that the Order, and the folks at Moddey Dhoo, they're my family now.

I guess that's true of Hermione, too.

And that's something. No, it's really better than I had ever hoped for, through all those hardest times.

But there's a part of it that still stinks. That her mum thinks they shouldn't see each other again. Even if she has good reasons.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-30 03:53:58](#)
Re: Private message to Mr Remus Lupin

It absolutely stinks.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-08-29 23:11:51](#)
(no subject)

Oh, my. How very unexpected.

Hermione, dear, I'm very sorry.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-08-29 23:54:12](#)
(no subject)

It was a hard thing all around. For all of us. She was regretful about it, but very firm with her decision.

Hermione...don't know if this will help, but I could really see the ways that you are her daughter. The sense of responsibility, I mean.

She told me, as we were walking out, that she's very proud of you. I think it brought some relief to her mind that you came to see her, even though she couldn't accept our offer.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-08-29 23:55:47](#)
Private message to Remus Lupin

If there's anything I regret most about the meeting, it's that we couldn't take the risk of lingering and letting Hermione's polyjuice wear off.

So that she could see her daughter's face one last time.

Damn.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-30 03:06:47](#)

Re: Private message to Remus Lupin

Yeah.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-08-30 00:38:29](#)

Private message to Remus Lupin

She said 'No'? I didn't expect that at all, I'll confess.

Ouch. What a blow that must have been for Hermione.

(Although I have to admit there's a small part of me that's selfishly glad: less risk for us, and less repercussions for our contact, at least, if Mrs Granger doesn't go missing.)

Still. I don't want us to give up on her, and maybe there are more ways we can help her, even if she stays with the enclave. Is there anything she needed, or that she asked of us at all, Remus?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-08-30 03:07:36](#)

Re: Private message to Remus Lupin

No.

I think she's worried that contact with us will only make her position more unstable.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-08-30 03:25:46](#)

Private Message to Moony

Coming up?

Don't be too hard on yourself. And don't tell me you're not brooding over what you could've done differently.

Poor kid.

And Terry. He kept asking if I thought you'd be coming soon, with

them both or not. It was hard for him to concentrate on anything, too.



 **alt_lupin** at **2012-08-30 03:44:11**

Re: Private Message to Moony

I think the worst of it is that in some ways I think she made the right decision.

[2012-08-29 19:00:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo



I'm so sorry.

dunno what I can say more than that.

 [alt_terry](#)

we'll have another time we can meet. but I'm sure you've other things on your mind tonight.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-08-30 22:05:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh Terry why didn't I go see you instead?!


I just don't think

Mum was so different. And I was so happy to see her and it was like she didn't even recognize me. She sniffed me, like an animal, and then like I wasn't even her animal.

Remus was too nice about it, making excuses for her, they were all lies. She didn't want me at all, like I was something from another species, like I was dog mess on her shoe, and what she said was more "she's a wizard, she ought to be taken care of by wizards," and I said "I'm a witch, mummy!" and then she said "I can't be your mummy any more, I have my pack and you have yours."

How could she say that?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-08-31 16:51:00](#)
(no subject)

I've been wracking my brains all morning, thinking about how to answer you. I'm so afraid of blundering and saying the wrong thing, because I know you're really hurting, and I'd never want to add to your pain. If I do, I hope you'll forgive your stupid friend boot, who only wants to help, all right?

I went back in the journals and looked at what happened when you mum and dad were bit, and maybe here are some things to think

about.

First of all, maybe Mr Lupin wasn't lying, exactly. Maybe he was just trying to give you a way to think about what happened in your conversation with your mum that wouldn't hurt so much. Because he is kind. Please don't be angry if I say this, but he did save your mum's life. He refused to bite your parents himself, and he arranged with his friend for them to be bitten using the 'mercy method' instead of getting savaged to death. He couldn't save your dad, but he did save her.

Second...and this may hurt even worse. I'm sorry, but...your parents were bit to punish you. Lord Voldemort commanded it to hurt you. And if you let what your mum said sink in and break your heart, then he's achieved his purpose, you see? Don't give him that power over you, Hermione. Don't do it. Tell yourself your mum is alive, despite everything he did to try to destroy her. She was saved by the kindness of a friend. And yeah, you can't see her now, but maybe you'll see her again someday. I'm sure the Order will continue to do anything they can to help her. Maybe they'll still be able to rescue her, maybe even her whole pack!

Don't lose hope, Hermione.

If you do, then he wins.

Your friend,
Terry

2012-08-29 19:39:00

Private message to Raz

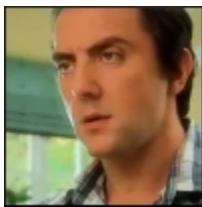
I find myself wondering, brother, what mood I left you in this afternoon. You were more silent than is typical.



 [alt_rodolphus](#)

Know only that I didn't mean to offend - not this time.

Still, you must admit it was a reasonable assumption.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2012-08-30 01:44:20**

(no subject)

I don't just admit, I agree.

Very well might have done it, had the opportunity presented itself. Suppose I'll just have to owe someone a pint now, instead.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at **2012-08-30 01:47:50**

(no subject)

All for the love of your star-gazer?

That shouldn't be a question, actually. I remember what you did for Evan.

Still - seems a certain former Minister for Magic best watch her fluffy backside if you're both to share the same castle.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at **2012-08-30 01:54:02**

(no subject)

Yes.

Well, for that and more. The old training comes back- eliminate the threat, minimize damages, protect the cause... you know.

Yeah. Mostly, I'm just wondering if other people share your

assumptions. Like Rory, in particular. She hasn't said anything, mind, but once the relief wears off she might do.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-08-30 02:02:18](#)**
(no subject)


If she knows what sort of man you are, then the possibility will, without doubt, cross her mind.

Why, would she honestly care if you did? There's a lot of sweetness and light there, to be sure, but some mettle, too. And more now than there was before she knew you, I'd wager.

You ought to worry more about whether his friends and colleagues share my assumptions.

Keep both eyes open, brother.



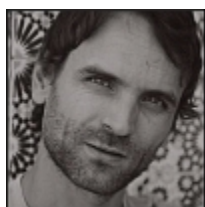
 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-08-30 02:08:09](#)**
(no subject)

She knows.

I imagine that she will care in some ways, but won't in others.

And thanks for the concern, but I will- I always do.

Have you seen Toshenska yet?



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-08-30 02:19:06](#)**
(no subject)

Not yet. I look forward to it, of course, but one has to wait in line and draw a number for the occasion. Very impressed with the selection of texts he's drawn up for the Arts class, as well as the decision to make the course a requirement for all entering students. Remember our own school days? Studying everything on the sly, or waiting until we were back at Le'Strange for the hols... no more of that. And none for your children, either - when you have them.

Don't worry - I will only grant myself a tiny amount of credit for the fact that the position opened up in the first place.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-08-30 02:25:46**
(no subject)

Don't you start down that path, now.

You're crap at hiding you're own smugness, you know. Though I won't lie- it'll be good to have a Dark Arts professor I can actually communicate and coordinate with. And who doesn't smell like a deadly combination of arse-sweat and ague weed.


Hoping to meet with him as soon as he's settled in. Might even propose a little tour of Hogsmeade, if you'd be interested in meeting us there.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2012-08-30 02:26:36**
(no subject)

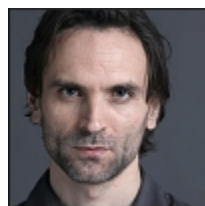
I am. Let me know the time and place when it's arranged.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2012-08-30 02:27:37**
(no subject)

Will do.

No talking in Russian, though!



 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2012-08-30 02:28:53**
(no subject)

You know that only happens after I've had several large vodkas.

They do have vodka in Hogsmeade, don't they?

Yes, I'm sure they do.

2012-08-30 07:30:00

Order Only Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo



 **alt_poppy**

Dear,

I want you to know how sorry I am for your experience yesterday. I shan't ask how you are feeling. I'm sure there aren't words to properly convey it.

Do know that you are always welcome to visit me. I am always happy to provide a reason for your presence should you wish simply to come and have a quiet place to be for a bit. (All matters of other permission acknowledged.)

Be well, my dear. I look forward to our return to Hogwarts.

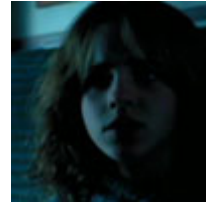
2012-08-30 15:00:00

Order Only: I'm fine.

Thank you all for all the nice things you said.

I'm fine.

I'd rather not talk about it.



 **alt_hermione**

2012-08-31 09:31:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Is anyone going to Smith's proposed water fight?

I'm not; it wouldn't be worth trying to lie around Mummy for. She doesn't ask many questions when I say I'm going to see Remy, but she would certainly ask about Smith. Especially now. Earlier this week she pointed out that I've been very neglectful of Harry and that I haven't tried hard to see him at all since CCF ended. I pointed out that he was on holiday but she acted as if that wasn't much of an excuse. So, to make her happy I told her that Harry had been confiding in me more that he used to. That's at least a little bit true, and she didn't press for details, either, so that's good.

 [alt_hydra](#)

I suppose this is where I say that when we're at school this year, I'll have to be careful about who I associate with from the lock. Of course, no one would say a thing if I spent time with Sally Anne and Pansy...also, Luna is in my year, so that makes some sense as well. And Justin and I are always careful, or try to be.

Right now I'm certainly not planning to purposefully ignore or be unkind to anyone, but if I seem a little aloof and distant, it's only because I don't want anyone to be hurt because of my parents. Because of my Mother, I mean.

I always have to be careful. She might go for months and months with scarcely a comment to me, and then, out of nowhere, unleash her disdain for something I didn't even realise she was aware of, or even cared about. And it's not because she's a legilimens. It's because she notices everything. She stores it away and saves it, and then, when she's ready, she uses it against you. I don't ever want her to be able to every use *this* against me, because I need it.

So, that's all. Have fun at the water fight (if you're going).

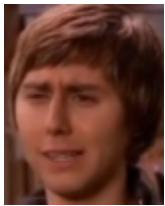


 **alt_hydra** at [2012-08-31 16:01:30](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Harry Marvolo and Hermione Granger

I'm writing a private message to Harry about what happened after the Tournament, because he asked me if I could ask Daddy about the ritual the Lord Protector did with him. I wanted you to know about what I found out, too, so I included you on the private message. I suppose Harry might think it strange but then again, he might not notice.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at [2012-08-31 16:31:11](#)

(no subject)

Hullo,

I'm surprised she didn't point out that you were *with* him on holiday, part of the time. Dash it all, it's well intolerable.

At any rate, Remy and Alfie want to go to the park and leave Maggie to do all the packing. I told them we could do but only if we spent the morning helping at least to gather up anything they want to bring to school. I say, they seemed to think she could simply guess what they'd need, what!

So if you told her you were going to meet them, it wouldn't be a lie. But I can see why you might wish to be cautious.

Only one more day, love.

I say, have you read any of the new books for this year? I started on the Callidus. I wasn't able to get a copy of the translation he mentioned, what, so I got a concordance. Only, this translation is quite wrong in places, so I've taken to checking the Latin over to make certain I'm getting it right.

It's...not as distasteful as one might have imagined. Still, one hopes that passing or failing shan't adversely affect one's O.W.L. marks overall, what?

-Justin



 **alt_hydra** at [2012-08-31 17:07:39](#)
(no subject)

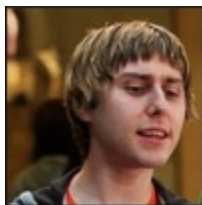
I think that in her mind, seeing Harry on holiday isn't the same as making sure that he doesn't "need me." She wants me to make myself indispensable to him.

It's funny, I don't think she even realises that she's suggesting that I be the way that *she* is around the Lord Protector.

Maybe they think Maggie can use her magic that she's not allowed to use to divine just what it is that they'll need in their truck throughout the school year?

And I *do* wish I could go, but I should probably be careful - I'm sorry. But it is only one more day, after all.

I looked through a few of the books out of interest, but I've mostly been trying to get a jump on my Arithmancy reading, since it was such a challenge for me last year. I didn't struggle nearly so much with Dark Arts, but that was with Miss Professor Carrow. Professor Dolohov seems as if he will be more challenging than her, but in a different way. I don't think, though, that he can expect students who are entirely new to the subject to be at O.W.L. level by the end of the year. Or not reasonably expect, at least.



 **alt_justin** at [2012-08-31 17:32:30](#)
(no subject)

I think it's that they're not well used to having a servant, if you follow me. From what I've seen about elves, they do have a way of anticipating what one might wish to have handy. But of course, Maggie's not an elf, nor a mind-reader, what. I've seen your Aunt sometimes expect something bally well unreasonable and then get cross when Maggie can't deliver. I've tried to very gently intercede so Maggie doesn't get into trouble. But it's well uncomfortable to see them grope their way, or to watch her wonder whether she's about to be cursed for her efforts. I don't blame her if she wishes she could get cross right back, what.

Yes, I read the first few chapters of the Arithmancy text, too, and that tutor spent quite a while over the summer bringing me up to snuff to enter lessons this year. Though he *was* somewhat surprised at things I already knew, so I suppose helping you revise has done me some good, after all. But he had Professor Vector's syllabus (I'm not sure why or how), so the fourth year is rather fresh in my mind, if you've any questions.

I'm a bit concerned that I might have to let Runes or Creatures go, what, as I wasn't planning on taking Dark Arts until now. I should like to have skived off it, of course, but one can't afford to appear to be shirking. Not after 'asking' to move to the Protectorate, what?

I say, I'm not well certain there's even going to be an O.W.L. exam in Dark Arts, what? I don't see how there can be, if Professor Dolohov is only just developing a curriculum. Or doesn't the Ministry need to approve it first?

I wonder if one ought to ask.

I say, do you think your mother or father will go with you to the station? Or Mrs...is it Mrs Baylock? I think the most difficult part of the day will be waiting on the platform and not being able to hold your hand or kiss you hello. I suppose we'll manage--we'll bally well have to do, shan't we?--but it's going to be well tempting.

-Justin



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-08-31 17:55:21**

(no subject)

Yes, Elves usually don't require much instruction, especially if they've been with a family for generations. Mummy says that mudbloods are stupid and the people who keep them as servants even stupider. I do think she has a point about the people who keep them as servants being stupid... though sometimes I wonder, if mudbloods were servants - well, slaves - for a long enough time, for hundreds and hundreds of years, would they start to act like elves? I mean, would they get used to it? Or even enjoy it? I keep thinking of Dennis... he was raised by house elves

so he could be the perfect mudblood servant. The others will remember how he was. He would even punish himself if he did something wrong, just like a house elf does.

That's a scary thought.

Do you want me to ask if there will be an O.W.L. exam? Daddy is friends with Professor Dolohov, so I could introduce myself, and then ask him about it. Through a private message, I mean.

I don't think Mummy will go, she hasn't since first year. It will either be Daddy or Mrs Baylock. But you know, if you're *that* eager we could always meet behind that giant mountain of trucks and luggage...

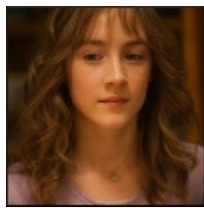


 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-31 18:09:00](#)

Private Message to Dux

If you're with your father I don't think we'd better. But if it's Mrs Baylock then do you think she'd care if you told her you're going to stand with some friends and she doesn't need to wait for the train to leave?

-J




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-31 18:26:48](#)

Re: Private Message to Dux

I'm sure she'll be too busy with Rigel, since she takes him along everywhere, and will probably be in a hurry to get him back home.

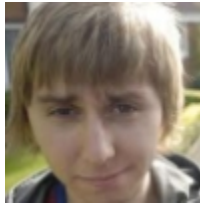
We'll need to mind that all the luggage doesn't topple over, though!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-01 14:14:45](#)
(no subject)

Why? Have you heard someone say they're cancelling the OWL for Dark Arts? Because the teacher's changing, maybe. Only, they didn't cancel the Creatures OWL when Brutka took it over or when G-P took it from him. Or the Transfig exam when Brutka took over from Carrow.

You're lucky you never had to take anything from either of them. The Carrows, I mean.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-01 15:08:20](#)
(no subject)


Wait, do you mean to say it's--oh, but of course it was an elective, what, but surely there hasn't been an official Ordinary Wizarding Level for it all this time?

I say, that's dashed inconvenient.

I do beg pardon, old chap, I can't say what I was thinking. Of course, there's already an O.W.L. in them.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-01 16:05:05](#)
(no subject)

No worries. I wish you'd been right!

So which electives are you taking? I've got Creatures and Runes. I'm leaving off Divination, though. I mean I took it because it's meant to be soft, but I've got to drop something. And when the twins got Dolohov's list for their year, it's got a Runes text on it, so I might as well stick with that. And no way I'm dropping Creatures!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-01 16:13:13](#)
(no subject)

I had already signed on for Arithmancy, Runes and Creatures before we learned about Dark Arts as well. I shall have to see how the year goes but I'm well concerned it's going to be rather too much, what?

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-08-31 18:39:38](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry about your mum. I mean, I know that's just how it is, but still.

And we can talk over these as much as we want, so there's that.

We can also be discreet about the Tea too, just in case.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-01 00:19:49](#)
(no subject)

I don't the Tea is much to worry about, they only happen on occasion. But I always try to be as discreet as I can, anyway.

We can always change it to a Tea Appreciation Club meeting, even if it's just the name. I think that a "Tea of the Strange" might be something that would get Madam Umbridge's attention, eventually, and perhaps not in a good way.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-08-31 19:31:21](#)
(no subject)

I'm sorry. That does sound extremely uncomfortable, and it's a shame you can't go to the water fight. It turns out I can't go either, because Mrs Brown wants me to go with her while she does some visits and meetings this afternoon. I think she hopes I'll pick up how to act like a 'proper' witch if I sit through a planning meeting for the St

Mungo's fundraiser, but I don't think it will work like that.

I will look for you on the train tomorrow, if you don't mind sitting with someone not in your House.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-09-01 00:20:30](#)**
(no subject)

What's a 'proper' witch?

Do you still have a hedgehog?

2012-08-31 09:53:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo and Hermione Granger



 [alt_hydra](#)

Hi, Harry,

I found a way to ask Daddy about the ritual. I told him that I was looking through my new Dark Arts textbooks for information about something I'd read in a storybook.

He asked "what storybook?"

I said that it was one of the Bramblewick Orphan books, and in it, when Elinor and Petra are kidnapped by the hedgewitch, she locks them in the cellar, then makes them part of a ritual, during which Petra holds their dead Mother's locket while the hedgewitch tries to make Elinor murder the hedgewitch's enemy, the glass knight. But the ritual is interrupted when Elinor and Petra's brother, Cid, bursts into the cellar and saves his sisters.

It's all true up to the part with the glass knight (I don't even know what a glass knight is, I just made it up, but it sounds like something from a storybook, doesn't it?).

Well, Daddy said there were lots of rituals involving objects that require "blood sacrifice," but it's the sort of thing that can kill you, if you don't know what you're doing. And it's usually for making an object that causes a lot of harm and destruction, often death, but that that's definitely not always the case - some dark objects are for protection, too, or make a person more powerful. He talked about how the glass knight being the hedgewitch's *enemy* is significant, because the blood of one who wronged you is different from the blood of the innocent. He said that the most important thing to ask was why the hedgewitch would want a powerful and deadly object, and that I should wonder if the object was meant to go to *Petra*, since she was the one holding the locket.

Then he laughed and pointed out that it was just a storybook, and probably not based on any "true depth of knowledge for dark artefacts."

So, whatever you had to do, it wasn't something that Daddy immediately recognised. But it sounds like it wasn't anything good.

I'm sorry I couldn't find out more. Maybe this gives you some ideas to go on?

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-01 06:10:21](#)**
(no subject)

It does, yeah.

Part of it was that she was supposed to be an enemy, I guess. At least I was supposed to think it.

The protection thing makes sense too.

Thanks. A lot. And good on you for coming up with the story.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-09-01 15:54:16](#)**
(no subject)

Protection from what, though? People like Snape and Macnair, or someone else? Or something else.

I knew if I said it was something from storybooks he wouldn't be concerned or ask too many questions. Daddy still thinks I read those Bramblewick orphan books, even though I outgrew them years ago.

I suppose I'll see you on the train, then.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-02 02:00:54](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. Something like that.

2012-08-31 10:57:00

Last Day!

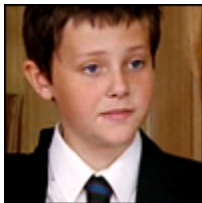
It's the last day of summer holidays!

Anyone who's finished packing, c'mon to Round Pond and we'll have a water fight after lunch. About 2:00?



 [alt_zacharias](#)

Bring your brooms, too.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-08-31 15:13:36](#)

(no subject)

Sounds brill! Mind if Bitsy comes too? She's itching to start using her wand properly.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-08-31 15:14:13](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, bring her along, mate. Cheers.



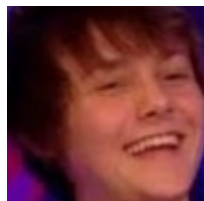
 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-08-31 15:59:35](#)

(no subject)

Brill! Ed and I could bring Carrie and Peter along too, then, and Bitsy's have someone to hang 'round with that's close to her age.

Somehow I think Mum wouldn't mind getting us all out of the house for a bit!

Bitsy's coming to Hogwarts this year, right Michael?



 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-08-31 16:19:00](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, and she's dead excited about it!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-08-31 19:49:49](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Peter just turned ten this summer, and he's already mad to go.

I'll tell Carrie not to fill her head with any wild

tales!

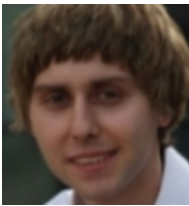


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-08-31 15:51:38](#)
(no subject)

I won't be able to make it, but I hope that you have fun.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-08-31 16:18:10](#)
(no subject)


Hullo, Smith!

Maggie's doing the packing, what, so Remy and Alfie would like to join the fun.

I say, I think I'll come along but a shady park bench and getting in some of the reading for the year sounds more the thing to me.

-Justin



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-08-31 19:51:34](#)
(no subject)

You'd be welcome.

2012-08-31 15:51:00

Private Message to Neville

I was just thinking about you and what you've been up to--it feels like we've not seen each other much this summer.



 [alt_susan](#)

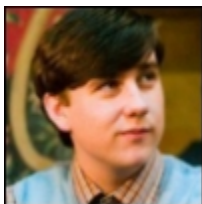
It would have been nice to have you in CCF, though I expect you're well out of it. Some things were a bit rubbish this year, anyhow.

I still can't believe I'm a Perfect; I've been dead excited about it, but it seems like things are going to be different this year, and now I'm a little bit nervous.

How's Evelyn? I hope it's not overstepping, but I asked Ed if he could look out for her a bit this year when you're not around. I know she had rather an awful time last year.

It's weird to think that our Peter (he says he wants us all to call him Pete now that he's 10, but I just can't do it) is the only one of my sibs left home, and Carrie's not an ickle firstie any more.

Anyhow, I'll see you on the train!



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-09-01 03:16:16**

(no subject)

I'm sorry we didn't see each other much this summer, either.

I've been hearing stories about CCF, yeah, mostly from Ron. I've mixed feelings about not being involved. Sounds like some of it was fun and dead useful stuff to learn, and some was--well, not so much fun. Bit scary.

If I haven't said it already, congratulations on making Prefect! Thanks, I would appreciate it if you (and Ed) could keep an eye out for Evelyn. You're right; last year was hard on her. I'm hoping this year goes better.

Just one more year for Peter, eh? Is he hoping for Hufflepuff, like you and Carrie? Or Gryffindor, like Ed?

See you on the train.

2012-08-31 16:13:00

Private Message to Padma

It was great to see you at Diagon!

Has your mum been sort of dropping hints about a surprise of some kind waiting for us at school?



 [alt_lavender](#)

Mine certainly has, and she's been putting her head together with your mum, so I'm sure whatever it is involves both of them--and both of us!

Pav seems a little out of sorts about the whole thing, don't you think?

I mean, she's happy for both of us, I can tell, but I think she's afraid of being left out of things.

Which is ridiculous, but maybe we should do something to cheer her up after we get to school?



 [alt_padma](#) at **2012-08-31 20:53:48**
(no subject)


What? No! She hasn't said a word, it's all about Haruman and how soon he'll propose (and whether he'll decide he really would prefer an Indian girl). What sort of surprise?

And Pav... I dunno, she's been getting upset about the slightest things, lately. She's upset that Dad moved back in, she was upset when we got home from CCF and my aunt and uncle asked for a second performance of the parade routine. She got upset because Seamus invited me over and she decided to stay at the shop. She even got upset when Mum liked my design better.

I keep telling her she's got to *apply* herself more.

I wonder if the Prefects' bath is really as incredible as Laverty and Bobolis bragged?



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2012-08-31 21:12:34](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what sort of surprise!

She's just been saying cryptic things like "all your efforts should be rewarded" and shooing me out of the room whenever she talks to your mum.

Although some of that might be that she's trying to get your mum's advice on how to make Tibs behave.

Honestly, I think she'd be *thrilled* if he proposed to someone instead of seeing the girls he's squiring around now.

Pav can work hard, you know, when it suits her. She did some *snitch* window displays at the summer this summer. It's just, school things don't suit her usually.