



2012-09-01 10:21:00

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Professor Sinistra,

I want to say congratulations on your engagement. You seem very happy. And I wanted to also let you know that I really did enjoy CCF this summer.



 [alt_ginny](#)

I don't know any other way to say what's on my mind then to just say it. Shortly after Easter, you extended the invitation to talk to you if I needed to. I know that you are busy with your classes and wedding plans, but if you have any time available in which I might have your ear, I would really like to talk with you and would like some of your advice. I hope it's not too late to take you up on the offer.

Ginny Weasley



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-01 16:37:28**

(no subject)

Miss Weasley -

Thank you for that - we are both very happy, yes. And I'm glad you enjoyed the CCF work - they were very full weeks indeed, but my hope was always to make them also enjoyable in the end.

Of course I remember the offer, and I'd be glad to find some time. (I assume it's on that topic, and not something else? You needn't tell me now, if you'd rather not, but if you did, I could have some useful notes or resources handy.)

If it's urgent, I could manage an hour or so Sunday evening, but if you could wait, a late afternoon during the week would be better. Any day between 3 and supper would be fine for me, though I'd prefer to avoid Thursday.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2012-09-01 17:02:19](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you.

It is on that topic and what I should do about it. late afternoon during the week would be fine for me. Would Wednesday work for you?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-09-01 17:11:06](#)**
(no subject)

Wednesday at four in my office would be excellent. (I apologise for the stairs: my legs are reminding me it's been months since I did several dozen flights a day.)

I'll give some thought to that, and there were a few things I read this summer on related topics I'll have handy.

2012-09-01 11:33:00

Hogwarts again.

Such a joy to be settling in for the year. I just finished finding all of the charts and materials I need the first week of classes, I'm partway through some revisions for later in term in several years, and I'm about to tackle a few needed repairs, including one of the telescopes our fifth years will be using shortly.



 **alt_sinistra**

And of course, I look forward to welcoming everyone back, and to the Sorting. Always so wonderful to see people find their homes for their time at Hogwarts. There's the hope of some different and entertaining stories at the staff table, the crispness of Scotland's air (already!) and all the wonders of the year.

I am even quite looking forward to Quidditch, this year (which fact I am sure has deeply amused most of my family) and I understand that the improvements to the pitch over the summer are quite something. (Very extensive, and more than a few to be much appreciated by the spectators as well as the players.)

Welcome back, students!



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-01 15:59:30**

Private message to Raz

Dearest,

I finally feel settled again - being back here's helped immensely and so has having proper work in my hands (though I'll not make it down for lunch: I am all bits and disassembled telescopes at the moment and I don't dare risk Peeves making trouble while they're in pieces. What I'd do without house elves bearing sandwiches, I've no idea.)

August really was a month of months. (I think the YPL business shook me more than I admitted. And well, Stint.) Wonderful bits, of course - that'd be you - but also complications.

Last night was lovely, though. Far more than I'd quite expected. You don't mind that he flatters me like he's done, do you? Georg, the Guildmaster, also does that - very European, not meaning anything

more than mutual amusement. I'm more than human enough to find it pleasant and especially from someone you and the Malfoys and all clearly think so well of. If it bothers you, Alde taught me long ago the proper ways to gently redirect, and I will.

(You know, I've never asked. Are you prone to jealousy? As opposed to protectiveness, I mean. Not that I expect to give you any cause for the former, mind, and I've more and more appreciation for the latter.)

On which note: now we're engaged, I do think we might allow ourselves a tad more physical affection around here. Which is to say, thank you for your restraint with that, I know it's been a trial for you, and I look forward to your arm around me, your hand in mine, and so on. Though you should probably still refrain from staring too much at my chest at meals. Gives at least half our students distracting ideas.

And speaking of students, I've had a thought about Harry. (Totally unrelated, I promise, except for my very wandering line of thought.)

Right. Back to fixing that lens mount on the Callisto telescope. I can be down at your rooms at half-five, and we can walk down to supper together, or you're welcome up here before then if you want.

Entirely your
Rory



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-09-01 16:33:37](#)**

Re: Private message to Raz

Not if you don't mind how much he flatters *me*. Toshenka's effusive manner is something you'll get used to- wait til you see how thick he lays it on with Narcissa. There is sincerity and affection there, mind, but putting people at ease is one of his many talents. He and I have that in common, I suppose, though we present it differently.

In the past I've been accused of not being jealous enough, so...no? Though it might stand to be determined. There's only one person I can imagine getting jealous over and that's you. But I don't think it's a very attractive quality.

So you're saying I can be less restrained, but ultimately still restrained? This could be hard to work around, but I think I can manage. If I'm staring at your chest at breakfast it's definitely only

because you've got toast crumbs all down the front of your robes.

What's your thought about Harry?

Rod had a thought, too. About Stint. I'd be interested to know your reaction. Best saved for in person, though.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 16:57:11](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Ah, love. You do have that in common, yes. And I certainly don't mind. (As I just said in a message to him, the quickest way to my heart these days is an appreciation of your virtues.)

I quite agree jealousy is not particularly attractive, no. And it's always rather seemed a waste to me. Much better to sort out whatever's making one feel uncertain, and get on with it, than wallow in distress. (Though as I write that, well, I don't always follow my own advice, do I? Not particularly distressed at the moment, promise, just commenting generally.)

As to restraint, well. Passionate snogging in public is still not on, I fear. (I know you are tempted, but really. I want to be able to look Minerva and Septima and all in the face. Never mind students.) But much more touch than I was comfortable with before in public, yes. All those little affectionate gestures you keep catching yourself in.

(Though as to breakfast, Septima did a few tricks with my schedule, and I likely will take the chance to sleep in when I can, if you can bear not to see me. Though goodness, I'm looking forward to actually being able to share rooms, at the same time I'm dreading the necessary rearrangements.)

On Harry. He and I had a talk last Saturday morning, while you were off with your brother and family. I - well, I was blunt enough to make sure he really was all right with us, and he is. "Well, yeah, of course." to quote him.

But I also got the impression that - look, I don't want to intrude on your time with him, and it's clear he thinks the world of you - but. I got the idea that time with both of us, just the three of us, is something he'd really enjoy. Do you think we could make that

work, from time to time? A quiet fly (if the both of you don't mind my comparative lack of skill) or something? (I will cheerfully let you both educate me further on Quidditch, too.)

I'm now curious about Rod's thought, but I will be patient as you wish. And I've no plans but you after the Sorting.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-01 19:22:18](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I think I'll manage breakfast without you, though the toast crumbs always were amusing (the hazard of eating with your eyes nearly closed. Best that you get the extra sleep, yeah?).

I think it's a good idea to invite Harry on an outing with us, yes-quiet and discreet is best, since he can be a bit sensitive about appearing as if he's been singled out for special treatment- even if everyone does expect it and doesn't begrudge it (out loud).

Perhaps we can get Draco and Hydra on their own, as well? Hydra especially, since she's my blood relation. Now, I've told you how withdrawn she can be around women, so don't be hurt if she doesn't warm up to you straight away. Narcissa and Druella are the only women I've seen her truly be herself around, and she's only known them her whole life. And now she's got the former Beauxbaton's lad that she's all wrapped up in. I can't help but think it's gone a bit too serious for someone her age (and he's nearly two years older than her, at that), but it seems to have done her a bit of good, as well? But as a man and historically terrible judge of these things, it might be good for her to have a woman she can talk to, who she's *not* related to, about boys and hormones and...whatnot.

And Draco, well. I think he's always seen me as the cool older brother (much older), and I'm not sure it's really sunk in that I'm engaged to be married. He's not nearly so difficult to penetrate as Hydra, but (like both of his parents) I suspect he's got a face for every occasion.

In comparison to those two, Harry is blessedly straight-forward and simple.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 19:40:50](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Sleep best, yes. (I keep telling you I have no desire to repeat last spring.)

Yes, on Harry being blessedly straight-forward and simple in comparison.

Glad you brought it up, honestly, because I've been unsure quite how to go forward with both Draco and Hydra. Truly, I won't be offended if she doesn't warm. Not only has she not known me long, but I'm really nothing like either her mother or Narcissa, and I'm sure that's no help whatsoever in her figuring out what to do with me.

I do wonder if books might be a way in, if I can strike on something to talk about with her. I don't know. (Which is to say, should you have suggestions, please share.)

But on the topic of a willing ear. Well. Yes.

(I'd been thinking about that with others, too. Pansy, for a start. One doesn't want to put too many ideas in a head, but at the same time, I know far too many women whose first relationships were rather a mess, even with boys who were trying to do everything best they could, because there's just so much you don't know you don't know. As it were.)

And on Draco - well, yes. There's an easier way in if I let you talk Quidditch at me, there, and see what grows from that? (And truly, I don't mind at all. Especially now you can show me the whole pattern more clearly - see, my present to you was entirely selfish.)

One other thing: Antosha suggested he and I might enjoy some discussion of - as he puts it - the minutae of research that may not interest you, on Fridays. My thought is that we might alternate both of us (he'd love time with you as well, mind) with that. And that would give you some time alone with Harry and Draco and Hydra, as well, if you wanted. And then we could arrange other things for Saturday or Sunday, depending. (Just don't expect me up before 11 on Saturday mornings, is all I ask. Maybe noon.)

Stars, Narcissa is right, and I do appear to be turning into your social secretary. Not that I mind.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 16:27:33](#)

Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Thank you again for a most enjoyable evening. And for the coffee! (I admit terribly provincial tastes as a rule. My age and limited budget - and a love for books and charts above all other luxuries - meant I never developed a taste for most imports. Real chocolate is the exception.)

I do hope my comments were of use, besides their clear amusement. I confess I've not been quite so opinionated quite so quickly with anyone on staff, well, ever. (I am, of course, with Raz, and with Poppy and Pomona, but it took us quite a time to work up to that.)

Beyond that, it was a true delight to see your pride in Raz. I think, perhaps, it's easy when you see someone regularly, not to see them growing and changing, and becoming more truly what they could be, and that those things are clearer with time and distance. While I admit I'd have found his parents formidable to deal with, it is wonderful to see someone who's mentored him so clearly approve of who he has become and how he's grown.

Seeing him grow as a teacher and guide (much of which I am increasingly sure he must have learned from you) gives me so much hope for the future, beyond those things he's long been best known for. Do excuse me. You have already realised, I think, that the quickest way to my heart these days is a thorough appreciation of Raz's virtues. I needn't go on so.

Again, should you have questions about any manner of school-related need, please don't hesitate to ask. As long as you do not ask me to be cheerful or coherent before about 9am of a morning (and 10 is safer), I am at your service there.

A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-01 18:12:24](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

The pleasure was entirely mine. And I'm quite happy you felt comfortable enough to be opinionated, or rather, to share your opinions freely; rest assured I shall not repeat any of your observations on our colleagues to anyone.

Casting my memory back over the conversation, and to follow up on your many and varied offers of assistance, all deeply appreciated: I *would* be grateful for whatever insight you can give about managing the staircases; it's been years since I've set foot in the castle and though I *know* I'd figured out at least some of the knack by my NEWTs, I can't for the life of me recall.

I would also be eager for the charms your sister gave you for ease in marking -- I wish to achieve as much critical engagement with the material as possible, and therefore must assign as much writing as my time will bear. The Arts are intensely individual, requiring (paradoxically) a disciplined and orderly mind and a flexible and creative approach; when teaching *en masse* I am less certain of my ability to instill those qualities, but I shall certainly try my best. Who was it whose ideal equation for instruction was one teacher, one student, one log? Whomever it was, he was entirely correct.

Ah, well: as I've said to you before, it will be an adventure. (I have adopted this as my motto for the year; a very dear friend, alas now deeply mourned, used to proclaim that as long as you deemed something an adventure at the outset, any setback encountered along the way would simply become an element of the adventure, not an annoyance to be snarled at.)

Also, yes, please do (if you've a chance) turn up the information regarding Septima's favorite tea, and I shall apply myself to the task of acquiring a suitable amount of it. I do so dislike beginning an interpersonal situation at a disadvantage, and -- having looked at the larger schedule and all the considerations that must be taken into account -- I am clearly at a disadvantage in my balance-ledger with her! (I almost regret my proposal to make such sweeping changes to the curriculum -- and then I think of what I've learned of my illustrious predecessor and the style and remit of her instruction, and the feeling passes. Quickly.)

I believe that is the last of the outstanding items of business from last night, save for me also to say that I am grateful for your cautions regarding allowing oneself to be overwhelmed by a tightly-packed schedule (particularly, though you were quite kind not to call mention to it, given my status as convalescent, one distinction of which I cannot rid myself soon enough). Gruelling though my schedule may be, I am quite used to keeping such hours, from the work I have been doing for Our Lord -- and I can assure you, what your research and stargazing is for you, teaching is for me. Ask your Razzer if you doubt me: I am never more content than I am in the moment when the light of comprehension first dawns in a student's eyes.

And speaking of he: there was a brief fashion in my childhood for Muggle literature; do you know the novel *Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, or its titular character? (If not, I've a copy to lend, should the prospect intrigue; my library is not all old and dire, and the bottomless book-trunk has joined me at Hogwarts along with much of its contents. Though, likely impolitic to be seen reading it these days; you are welcome to borrow my sitting-room as well.) Have often suspected Razzer was cast as the Peter of our company long ago, and certain comments made in my hearing indicate a concerted effort to place you in the role of his Wendy. Darling though you might be (a reference to the text, I assure you) - it is clear to see the changes in him must predate your happy acquaintance. I do look forward to renewing my ties and becoming familiar with the person he's made of himself.

In the meantime -- by end of week I'm certain I will be in dire need of company above the age of maturity, particularly after Thursday. (One hour's grace in my schedule between 10AM and 5PM. Say it with me: it is an adventure.) If you've time on Friday after 4PM and before your night's classes, or on Saturday or Sunday, I'd be pleased to offer a glass of wine (or another cup of coffee, if you haven't made up your mind on whether you enjoyed it or no), and we could discuss that text you mentioned last week. I could not promise any form of swift turnaround on a formal translation -- you've seen my schedule -- but at very least, could read it aloud to you and provide a very rough rendition; Arabic was indeed one of my childhood tongues, and one I retain fluency in.

Raz is, of course, welcome as well -- I imagine you never get enough time together and would be loathe to surrender even a moment of it -- but I do suspect it would take more than a decade for his itchy

wand hand whenever two conversational partners apply themselves to the minutiae of research to disperse. I assure you, though, I will not be offended in the least if you choose time with him over me. The offer will be open as long as it needs.

Longwindedly, but with utmost affection,
A



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 20:13:47](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Let me take this in something like order, while I let the back of my mind mull over the best way to handle a repair (or whether, in fact, I will be calling in a favour for it.) I steward a small fleet of specialised telescopes, and Peeves made trouble in my storage over the summer. While most of the difficulties are put to rights, there are one or two that are proving more challenging.

On your requests: I should have both routes to your most likely places and the charm notes tonight at supper. You'll want a dedicated quill for the charm, and an hour to set it to your preferences, but it's otherwise quite simple. Septima's tea, my notebook says, is any sheng pu'erh, but preferably 15-20 years old. (I had, prior to that conversation with her, no idea one could ferment and age tea leaves so long.) I'll bring the name of an import shop that sometimes carries it, too.

As to your comments about not overburdening yourself - well, I do have eyes and ears. And more to the point, have been at close hand to observe Raz the past eighteen months, in both recovery and set-back. (That is, I should say here, something he and I almost never discuss directly, though if you need the chart of what happened, I'll tell you in private sometime.)

As to overwork - well. As I glancingly referred to last night, I have been known to suffer from the problem. All the joy in the work in the world is one thing, but as Raz told me, in rather small and pointed words last spring, long-term damage to one's ability to do that work is another. I am not trying to mother - truly, neither my style, nor my intent - just to underline that teaching the arriving hordes is quite different than one teacher, one student, and one log (the luxury!)

On the book, I am now most intrigued. I believe I've heard the title, but never read it (and you are quite right that admitting to reading Muggle authors is most impolitic these days. Of course, people do, quietly.) I will take you up on the loan and conversation after.

Finally, Fridays sound most promising. You are quite right that Raz and I never get enough time together, and do our best to keep Saturday and Sunday evenings for ourselves, and find a few other hours in private during the week. (For any number of things, mind you, besides the ones everyone seems to assume.) But for all that, we do not need to be joined at the hip, and it would give him time for conversations and projects of his own.

I'd love a good regular research wrangle on a regular basis (perhaps alternating with time with both of you on less academic topics?) And naturally, I deeply appreciate help with that text, if it's truly no burden. After supper Fridays would be more relaxed, as I needn't be up the tower until at least half-ten, but between four and supper would also do.

I am quite looking forward to watching your experience of a Sorting from the staff side of the table. (And I've a young cousin being sorted tonight, which adds to my personal interest.) Ah. Now I think I've come to a solution for rebracing that lens properly. Handy how that works, really, to do something else and trick the mind.

Yours in the amusements of the day,
A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-02 04:33:33**

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

Goodness, a Sorting does look different from the other side of the tables. Suspect it shall take me quite some time to answer readily to "Professor Dolohov", as well! (Do they always look so young and unformed?)

The study cards for the staircases have already been a help; the second staircase on the first floor and I engaged in a brief bout of mutual apprehension (primed by your whimsy, I wonder if the

castle is taking my measure?) and your notes aided me to an alternate route back to my quarters.

I have been issued a revised schedule -- we all managed to miss that we'd forgotten the third years' theoretical session (and now I am doubly in Septima's debt) -- and so my Friday afternoons are now more full; a standing arrangement for an end-of-day nightcap (or mid-day pause, for you, one supposes) after supper would be lovely. And no, you needn't fear imposing, re: the translation; if you had asked for Sanskrit or Hittite I would have to demur, as my capacities with those are at "fumbling through dictionaries" level, but my mother would rise from her grave and berate me unceasingly should I not be able to translate a few pages of her mother tongue on the fly, though I may need to demur on some of the specialised vocabulary.

If you still feel awkward at accepting assistance: do you know anything of the prevailing attitudes on astronomy in China several centuries ago? Dominic Selwyn dropped by for a visit earlier in the week and lent me a text I've found quite fascinating so far; there's a section touching upon astromantic calculation I'm only barely able to follow (your subject was never my strong suit, alas, and I'm at a double disadvantage as the Eastern practises remain shrouded in mystery) and I would appreciate the chance to consult with an expert.

As to Raz -- "recovery and set-back" sound rather ominous; I won't ask you to betray any confidences, but do tell me there's nothing to fear? A man does fret about his former chicks, even once they've fledged.

Most sorry to hear of your telescope's fate, by the by, and hope your solution proved to be an implementable one. I will confess I'd managed to block Peeves from my memory over the intervening years. I shall hope I manage to escape his notice, or am able to redirect it to a more worthy target.

Awaiting Friday with all anticipation,

A



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-02 17:23:50](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Doesn't it look different? And yes, the firsties do have that unformed look. I do actually adore working with them: they are so new and so nervous, and so full of possibilities. If one can get beyond their spelling and writing skills. (And I am glad my help with the stairs was of use.)

As to "Professor", it took me more than a little time, though of course I was both quite young and most nervous about proving myself when I started, which did not help. (And while not in my classes, my youngest brother was still at school, along with all his friends and I was very much upon my rather stilted dignity for a while.) There are variants, from time to time - last year, a fair portion of the school went to calling me Professor Siz, at least outside of class, and while I try not to admit it to them, it delights me entirely. (Raz is likewise often Professor Raz.)

Friday evenings will be lovely. I quite like my Friday evening classes - it's my OWL class and then my 7th year NEWTs, so while it's a long evening, they're extremely willing to focus most of the time. And the latter, of course, adore the subject, or they'd not have come this far. A glass of wine over the course of a few hours would not be a problem, but I'll demur in advance from anything more alcoholic than that: best practice is not to dull the senses when you are going to be on high towers with steep stairs in the dark of night.

As to the actual research, I suspect the language in the Arabic will not be so obscure as all that, fortunately. On the Chinese approach to astronomy, it's certainly not an area I touch on all that often, but I do know the theory, and I've a few relevant reference books in my rooms. And the calculations are - well, not precisely the same method as we use, but numbers are more of a universal language than theories of the patterns in the sky. I'll see if I can't brush the cobwebs off this week, and if I can't untangle it myself, I do know who to ask.

On Raz. Better kept for in person and in private. But briefly, it's of a matter with Hannah Abbott's death, and a situation last June. He does see his healers, and I leave it there because he so

clearly does not wish to discuss it much with me.

As to the telescopes, I truly am philosophical about it. It helps that they were not my own (Raz, last Christmas, surprised me with the newest and most elaborate model - a hair wrong on that and my world falls to pieces.) Instead, Peeves played dominoes with my storage. Most of them are well enough, but one had a lens slipped entirely from its place, another had a bracket wrenched, both now mended. The last one, alas, the charms are noticeably weaker, and I shall have to beg for a replacement sooner than planned, but it should last the year.

Truth is, it's been long enough since Peeves made trouble for me, I'd half expected it. He does take a turn for those newer, if he gets a chance, but we can hope he prefers Dolores over you as a target. Alas, there's no particular trick to managing him beyond force of personality and a knack for distracting him into something that is less a bother. (If he's truly a difficulty, you'll likely remember from your school days that the Bloody Baron is a great ally.)

And now I've the prospect of a cheerful afternoon catching up with Pomona, and my final preparations for tomorrow. Do enjoy your last day without any looming marking for a while!

A.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 17:07:14](#)

Private message to Pomona

I'm so sorry we've not managed to catch up yet: I spent yesterday engrossed in some new ideas for class lessons, now I've enough projections to be useful. And then last night was busy, and today, I've been elbow deep in telescope repairs. (I suppose it was my turn for Peeves to make mischief, and at least I've time to mend things.)

Tomorrow, after lunch? I'd love to chat properly, and there's a few bits of House related business we might wish to discuss, and a few other things.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-01 18:21:36](#)

Private message to Mum

Mum -

All settled here, and I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to see you again last week. It was all sorts of chaos over the matter with Stint. (The thought of what he nearly did to Poppy. Well.)

The spinning has gotten much more even, though my attempt to weave cord is less so: we will have to find time to try that again together sometime sooner than later. (My stubborn insistence on doing for myself, yes, but I would prefer given the use it's going to.) Funny what our hands remember longer than we'd think.

I've not had much chance to start going through the books you and Diane got me, though Narcissa and I did talk through some of the larger questions. I am afraid the thing is going to need to be huge: my starting list of family, Council Members and respective spouses, fellow staff is already pushing past 150, before we even get to anyone else.

Dad's not still - well, upset probably isn't too strong - about the wording of the announcement, is he? Just, there's tradition and there's fairness. And it's not as if I'm just out of school and have never provided for myself. I promise, we'll gladly let you both help, in all sorts of ways. Just that I refuse to be a burden, or limit what you could do for Sage or Temp if the time comes for them.

2012-09-01 13:36:00

Making tracks!



 [alt_daphne](#)

I always wondered if the Prefect's car was different from the others on the Hogwarts Express! When I was younger I always fancied that it had massive plush seats that one could recline back and take a nap in, as well as piped-in music from the wireless, hot towels for refreshing one's complexion, and a full spread of tea and treats.

I'm sure the rest of you will be satisfied to know that it's just like any other car, though there is a little tea service set up, with tea, water, and some ordinary biscuits.

But we've all been moving through the cars to help the firsties. Draco and I have already had to hunt down an escaped rat (well, Draco hunted it down, while I tried to cheer the little girl up) and break up a quarrel between two boys. I hope this doesn't mean that the new firsties will be as tempestuous as last years!

King's Cross was more of a mad house than ever, wasn't it? Or maybe it just seemed that way because I, Astoria, and Queenie were all on our own. Mother and Father are still down in Brighton with Grandmother, and Miss Jessup had some kind of terrible stomach upset this morning (the noises from the loo were the stuff of nightmares, ugh!). Mr Krumgold had insisted on escorting the three of us, but then he was waylaid by an emergency floo call from the director he's working with (Christmas and holiday pantos already! I can't wait). So there I was, managing all our luggage, owl cages, and other odds and ends, while trying to keep Queenie nearby so she wouldn't get lost in the crowd.

(By the way, F-F, it's quite evident that you had a French upbringing now)

Well, somehow we managed, but I haven't managed to check on Queenie yet. Astoria, be a dear and see that she's alright, won't you?



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-09-01 19:55:39](#)**

Private message to Astoria

Put away those magazines and find Queenie straight away, or I'll charm the pages so that they slice you to bits!

And you're wearing far, far too much makeup. You're only in third year. You look absolutely silly.



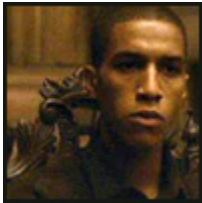
 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-09-01 19:59:04](#)**

Private message to Blaise

I really thought we might at LEAST have the wireless in the Prefect's car. If the bath is as much of a let down as the car is, I might rather wish they'd chosen Sally Anne.

At least I can tell you this: you're not missing much!

Though it is enormously fun to order people about - at least until they complain and start talking back! The *lip* on some of these firsties is truly astonishing. It almost makes me wish that they had to face both Carrows on Monday.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-09-02 02:41:35](#)**

Re: Private message to Blaise

I'm afraid I still don't think the Prefects' bath is enticement enough to outweigh having to chivvy firsties and rein in the unruly. I'm sure you'll do a fine job of it, though. Draco, too.

Shame about the train carriage. Or are you just saying it was naff to put the rest of us off trying to crash your party on the way home?

Are you all right tonight. I thought you looked a bit pale as we arrived. As if you were remembering something unpleasant.

Or. You don't thinking coming ill with whatever Mrs Jessup had?



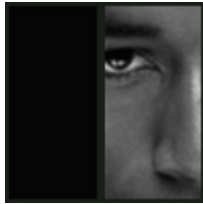
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-02 05:54:33](#)

Re: Private message to Blaise

I'm not ill, no. I suppose I was remembering last year, and all the things that went wrong, and how I'm hoping to avoid making the same missteps this time around.

I still don't understand why I let Barney treat me like that.

Oh, and the car really wasn't special at all - you know I'd tell you the truth if it was!



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-02 14:36:23](#)

Re: Private message to Blaise

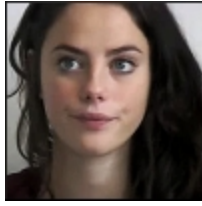
This year almost has to be better for you than last, hasn't it?

It's different looking back on it than it seemed at the time. You learned something about people like Bole, though, so maybe it can't happen again. I hope. It was an experiment that didn't turn out well, but it's done and the results analysed, and that's useful. If you think about it that way.

You went about things wisely this summer, I thought: involving yourself in so many new things and rededicating yourself to your dancing. What do you plan to do about that this term?

And now you've taken on all the responsibility and dignity of a Prefect, you haven't time to think about last year. You've got to stamp out mischief and malfeasance wherever it grows! I expect that'll be less demanding here in Slytherin House than it will be for Brown and Finnigan up in Gryffindor.

Say, what do you think of Diggory so far? I mean, he's obviously fit, but does he have what it takes to be Head Boy?



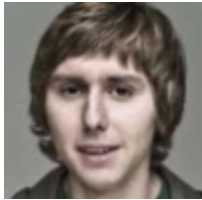
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-02 15:18:57](#)

Re: Private message to Blaise

That's true.

Now that school's started I don't know if there will be *time* to involve myself in new things - my plate is quite full enough as is! What do you think of the new timetable?

Diggory is fair and level-headed. Easy to get on with. Dreadfully boring. I think certain people will adore him, and others will have about as much respect for him as they had for Clearwater.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-01 20:45:35](#)

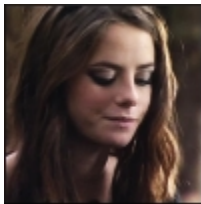
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Hullo, Greengrass,

I say, I'm sure I don't know what you mean. My upbringing was rather pointedly English, what?

Perhaps you've a mistaken impression of the French, though after last year it would be difficult to explain an unfamiliarity with their stereotypical rudeness. I daresay the British reputation for discretion is safe and sound in Slytherin, however.

-Finch-Fletchley

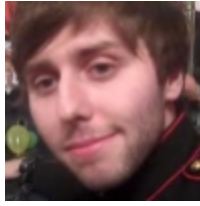


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-01 20:54:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Of course it's safe and sound. I could have reported you, after all, but I decided that King's Cross doesn't really count as school grounds. And that snogging really ought not be a punishable offense, so long as both parties are enjoying it.

But I did think it best you be made aware that you weren't as hidden as you thought. Better be more careful when you're at the castle. I wouldn't say a word if I ran across you and your sweetheart, but someone else might!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-01 21:28:58](#)

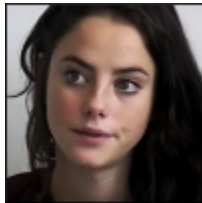
Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Of course, I see.

Thank you for the pointer, then.

I'll be sure to share your advice with her, as well.

-F-F




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-01 22:20:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Yes, you should do. I especially don't like to think what Draco's reaction would be, should he witness such... intimacy. It would be quite the shock.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-02 01:42:22](#)

(no subject)

I think the difference with the Prefects' car is that the train runs on occasions other than when we're all on it. So it would be a little daft to have a special car just a half-dozen times a year.

But the bathroom is for us all-year round. Although. Did you get the timetable yet from Pennifold? Anderson's given us ours and--well, it'll mean getting up a little earlier than last year.

(And I know what you mean about looking after them all. We've already had one break out sobbing with homesickness. I'm just waiting while Madam Pomfrey gives her a dose of...whatever it is she doses for that.)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-02 05:51:58](#)

(no subject)

But then, why not? There are always travelers willing to pay extra galleons to sit in first class. But even if the car had been luxurious, it's not as if we would have had much time to enjoy it.

It's going to be a busy year, no doubt. I might be glad I'm not a YPL counsellor after all, because that along with being Prefect would be quite a lot to manage. Though if there's anyone who should be able to, it's you!

2012-09-01 15:39:00

(no subject)


So it's good to be going back. I hope everyone had a good hols. Draco, Daphs, hope the firsties aren't too much of a handful.



 [alt_harry](#)

I figure we can set up the Quidditch club meetings once we've got our schedules sorted, but I think it'd be good to keep it up if you lot agree. I mean, even if we're going to be playing on different teams, it could still be fun.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2012-09-01 20:12:48**

Private Message To Hermione Granger

You okay?

2012-09-01 20:16:00

Welcome, Ravenclaw First-Years!

Brampton, Case, Corner, Giles, Gupta, Lorimer,
Shelton, Stretton, Tatterson, Whisp and Xing!



Congratulations on being Sorted into our House.
We in Ravenclaw have a reputation for excellence
both in and out of the classroom. You're sure to fit
right in.

 [alt_padma](#)

We Prefects are here in case you have any questions or problems.
Don't hesitate to come see any one of us if you need anything. We'll
use every discretion on your behalf.

And don't forget that the Common Room will have loads of
information for you about life at Hogwarts. I hope you'll check out the
notice boards and consider any of our many clubs, including History
Club, Duelling and so on.

Especially for those of you with siblings in other Houses, your journals
are a great way to keep in touch. By now I think you'll all know how
they work but if anyone has questions about them, please ask any
older student; everyone knows how to use them. Not in lessons,
though, of course!

Welcome again and it's going to be a marvellous year.

[2012-09-01 22:32:00](#)

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



 **[alt_neville](#)**

I have a favour to ask of you all. Been screwing up my courage for awhile to say it.

I want to add Evelyn to the lock.

She talked with me some in the Common Room tonight after the Feast, about our little brother, and how he'll never be able to come to Hogwarts. And I could tell how bad she feels about it. She's sort of shy, and I know how alone she feels. The thing is, it's so hard, not being able to ever say anything to her about the stuff we discuss here. It's getting to the point that it's just killing me, especially now that we know that my parents are with the wand smugglers, and Terry and Hermione can get word to them. I think she has the right to know.

She had a horrid year last year, between ~~McLa~~ some of the school bullies and Professor Carrow--well. She really needs this, and I know she would never ever betray us.

Please, can't we just add her?



 **[alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-02 03:58:43](#)**
(no subject)

Neville, old chap,

I thought we'd already decided that she ought to receive an invitation, what? I mean to say, we talked about Susan Bones (and I quite agree; she and I have been talking in the common room a bit this evening and it only reinforces the recommendation that she join us), and several others suggested people. I rather assumed you'd offer your sister the chance. I say, I'm surprised you haven't done it before now, in fact.

If we're meant to be voting then consider mine a 'Yes, of course,' old fellow.

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-02 04:16:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, we have been talking it over a bit, toying with the idea for awhile. But I wanted to think about it over the summer, because I wondered if it might be a more of a burden for her than a help.

But that talk I had with her tonight sort of clinched it for me. I think it's time. Past time, really.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-02 04:23:48](#)
(no subject)

I'd be all for it.

If it makes any difference, I really owe Mr and Mrs Longbottom a lot. In fact, Mr Longbottom was one of the people who actually found me and brought me to safety when I escaped.

So I'd really like to let his daughter onto the lock.

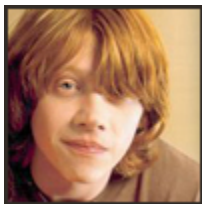



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-02 04:26:17](#)
(no subject)

He was?!

Wow.

Thanks, Terry.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-02 11:09:46](#)
(no subject)

Course we can. What are we waiting for?

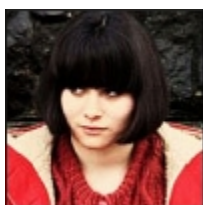
If anyone wants to hear more about her from someone who's not her brother, I can tell you. She's quiet, but she's nice. Clever, and, well, a bit swotty--that's compared to me, though, I guess. She can be funny, too, sometimes, but mostly serious. You'll like her.

And Nev's right, I think it would be good if we let her write here because she could use some more people looking out for her.



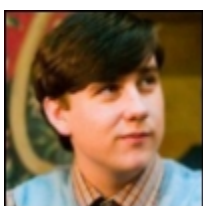
 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-02 13:54:24](#)
(no subject)

I think it would be a very good idea to add her.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-02 14:12:47](#)
(no subject)

I think that sounds just fine.

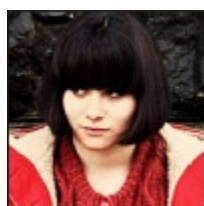


 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-02 15:46:52](#)
(no subject)

Sally-Anne's already told me in person she's in favour of it. I talked to Fred and George and Lee on the train. They're not on the lock anymore, but I thought it'd be good to ask them. They said sure.

That's everyone then, isn't it?

Great! I'll go ahead and talk to her then.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-02 19:34:23](#)
(no subject)

Everyone except Hermione.

But if Terry's for it, I can't see how she'd be against it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-02 15:21:03](#)
(no subject)

I don't know her at all, but I look forward to meeting her.

Which is to say: yes, I'm in favour of adding her.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-02 15:47:18](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2012-09-03 06:56:00](#)**
(no subject)

Normally, I'd say 'no,' but—yes.

2012-09-01 23:04:00

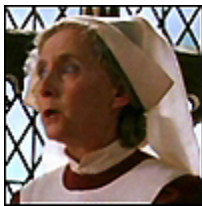
Order Only: Babies

While attending to the Sorting—among other things—I checked the Hogwarts book, as per usual. Five names: Neal Smullen of Oxfordshire, Tabitha Dixon of East Sussex, Bronwyn Griffiths of Cardiff, Agam Singh Japra of Coventry, and Jennifer Brown of the Orkney Islands.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#)

As for things at Hogwarts: it seems quite odd to say that I am grateful that such a man as Dolohov has been assigned to teach our children, but at least he does not set my teeth on edge the way that Umbridge woman does. (You see, she has progressed to 'that Umbridge woman' in the space of so little time. Imagine what I shall be calling her by the end of term.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-02 14:46:34](#)
(no subject)

Well, I suppose even if we'd known before term started, I couldn't have been any use in retrieving them.

As for Dolohov, anyone would appear charming if measured against Dolores Umbridge. I rather think it wiser to consider him in his own right.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-02 14:59:29](#)
(no subject)

Couldn't agree more about Dolohov, Poppy. A charming cobra is nonetheless a cobra.

As for the sprogs, Dora and I are keen to go whenever Arthur can arrange the entry parchments. But we also think it's time to go pay another call on little Puneet's parents, since they persisted even in the face of Alice's most persuasive arguments. After last time, we figured we'd keep checking back every few weeks. Once his magic manifests, that's when (we hope) they'll change their tune.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-02 15:00:08](#)
(no subject)

(Besides, Dora's becoming quite fond of their take-away.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-02 15:03:47](#)
(no subject)

(Oh, and you don't like it a bit, I suppose.)




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-02 15:06:42](#)
(no subject)

True, but I like everything, me.

But truth is, we *all* like it, Ellie included. And it saves her thinking she should cook for us on a

Sunday.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-02 22:39:08](#)
(no subject)

Please do keep an eye on them, love.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-02 15:02:01](#)
(no subject)

I'm ready to help whenever Arthur can point us to the specific locations for these babies.

I overheard a funny conversation Friday morning down in our storage room at the Ministry: two of the chaps who repair things and restore charms when they go wonky were talking about Madam Umbridge. One of them had a story about being in a lift with her when it conked out. Said he's been working ever since on an idea for a trapdoor that would let you drop someone annoying

out the bottom of the car. Both of them were well pleased she's gone off up to Hogwarts.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-02 22:41:40](#)**

(no subject)

Good to know, Tonks.

We'll be able to help out with one or two, but with the work we're having to do at Moddey, and the need to be a bit careful about polyjuice until our fluxweed supply is back up and running, we could really use your help.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-02 17:43:29](#)**

(no subject)

Her speech last night, as if her programme were the only thing of consequence in the school. (And the looks on the faces of the children, as they realised there was to be yet one more expansion on their

schedules?)

I had quite the chat with young mister Diggory this morning about that - of course, as a YPL counsellor as well as Head Boy, he's expected to put on the best face. He gave me a few more tales of her interference this summer than Aurora has so far, too. Not so much what she's doing, but rather how she does it.

And yet, a number of the CCF instructors were clearly very much of a mind with her. Not just going along because they could see the power shifting, from the bits I gathered, but honestly seeking her out an enjoying her company. (Minerva, did you see her talking to Cordelia over breakfast? Quite the same effect, I thought.)

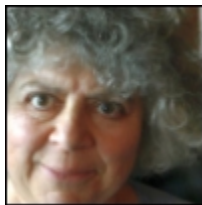
As to Dolohov, well. I will take charming over the chance of being hexed for no reason in staff meetings, or far worse. I suppose. I had not quite realised what a pall the Carrows cast until coming back and realising we'd not have either of them ever again.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-02 18:06:11](#)
(no subject)

I wonder if there are flies to be caught with honey, and whether I could bear attempting that with Umbridge. Perhaps I ought to make a pre-emptive address to her and see where that takes me, but it's tempting to allow her to continue ignoring me.

With Dolohov I believe there's a more pressing reason to make nice: Aurora seems quite taken with him, and I do not intend for some upstart Death Eater to worm his way in and divide her from her better angels. I know she may be a lost cause in the end, but if it would be a sorry shame: she's got a good heart and plenty of solid, good sense.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-02 21:16:42](#)
(no subject)

On Dolohov, quite. I did get the conversation around to that, easily enough. At least enough to see some of what we might face.

First, all the connections Dolohov has to her Raz and his relations and circle. I couldn't begin to argue with her reasoning that his good will can make things greatly easier for her there, nor that she's found herself more than a little adrift. (For all I gather she's moved to first names with most of them over the summer, she's still quite tentative.)

Also, in that too-pragmatic way she has (the YPL work did change her, rather) that if we're going to have a new faculty member, and especially teaching Dark Arts, she would far rather have them be in the best possible mood, and with more than one source of assistance, than have them cranky and difficult with students (or worse). And that if there is a frustration, perhaps she can head it off before it's a problem to his classes. I do hate when she's right about that kind of thing. I never spot it myself, and feel horribly stupid once she points it out.


But most, I think, I forget - because she's so good at making one do so - that she really is a researcher at heart, even more than she is a teacher. And as she pointed out, rather acerbically, it's not as if she's ever gotten much interesting conversation in that line

here. Gwendolyn's hopeless on deeper Charms theory even if it weren't for Rabastan's missteps, Septima and Bathsheba are well enough, but only interested in their own fields. And I know that you and I, Poppy, are friends, but not research colleagues, in her eyes. Not that she doesn't also desperately need friends, mind.

Alas, though, for all her good logic - and it is - I do think we need to worry, Poppy. She is rather taken with him, and it may be very easy for him (easier than her Raz, perhaps), to incline her in directions from which there may be no retreat.

As to the rest of our conversation, well. She did ask who young Ellie was. Among other things. (Many of which I'm thinking over.)



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-02 18:07:59](#)**

(no subject)

I will get going on the parchmentwork, Minerva, and I'll let you all know when Bill and I have the documentation ready, and we can start divvying up the trips to fetch them.

2012-09-02 08:08:00

Return to Routine

I dare say I've never felt more pleased to see the long vacation end and term begin. I have filed the materials from my summer courses, unpacked the supplies that were delivered in my absence, and set this ward to rights.



 [alt_poppy](#)

And have had not a spare moment since!

I forget that as much as this school is my home, the place I miss dearly when I am away, it can seem a strange and foreign place to those newly arriving on its docks and doorsteps. My first official duty of the term was to assist those of our newcomers who found the water journey discomfitting. And, of course, there have been the usual weeps, wobbles, and wettings, but on the whole I'd say we've had no worse a first night than usual.

Welcome to those joining us for the first time, and welcome back to the rest.

Do not hesitate to come if you need my care.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2012-09-02 13:44:01**

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I truly am relieved to be back. I trust you're fully settled.

Among the things I brought back with me were some very nice scones from my favourite bakeshop in Shrewsbury. They're freshness charmed, of course, so whenever you have a free hour, they and I will be ready for our first tea of the term.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-02 17:30:24**


Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Just a quick note before I'm off to meet Pomona, but yes, very nicely. I'm glad we came back on the Wednesday, though, as it took me until yesterday to feel like I had my feet properly under me.

I will, I am sure, be keeping up with New London visits this term. (Though for wedding planning, rather than meetings, which is at least something of an improvement. I think.) Certainly not this week, though. Tuesday afternoon, and we can have a nice chat? I seem to think you should be past the first thrust of back-to-school difficulties if this year goes as in the past.

I am so very relieved you are back, as well. And that ... well, the dire things that might have come to pass did not.

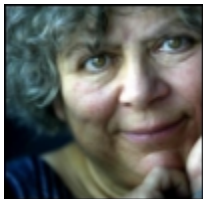



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-02 14:08:37](#)**
Private Message to Pomona Sprout

I trust the pots were the ones you meant. You did see where I left them by your potting bench at the back?

I'm afraid there was a bit of confusion at the shop, despite your having sent the order to them directly. I think we got it sorted, but I'd feel better if you'd let me know whether they were really the ones you meant.

Do you know, I nearly wept just looking out over the lawns from my window up here. I will happily trade all the vistas of Snowdonia for this dear, familiar view.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-02 17:34:29](#)**
Re: Private Message to Pomona Sprout

I am so sorry - we had the usual rush here, and our Cedric wanted my ear this morning, wanting to be sure he was doing his best by the House, and mulling over his summer.

I did see, and they are the right thing. That shop. I like them for other reasons than their ability to keep any kind of order, but there are limits.

As to the view, well. This is home and center and many wonderful things. And now, think, you can go into the year without Stint looming over your head. Perhaps you will have the luck you deserve, and his replacement on those committees will be more favourably inclined to you.

Aurora's due down here any minute, and I do intend to bend her ear

about our new Professor - from what little she said at lunch, she and her Raz had quite the chat of a Friday evening with him.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2012-09-02 14:10:36**

Private Message to Miss Sally Anne Perks

I've not forgotten our conversation about the possibility of your joining me here in the hospital wing for a bit of practical introduction to the tasks of Healing.

If you could stop up once you've got your timetable for the term, we could discuss which hours might best suit your schedule.

And not to worry if your interests have changed or if you simply can't spare the time this year. You've OWLs ahead, haven't you?



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-02 22:22:11**

Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey

Madam Pomfrey --

Allow me to say up front -- my request is by no means urgent and I do not wish to disturb you in your start of term preparation; the children's needs should certainly come first. (I do fondly recall your dedication to the students under your care from my own school days, and suspect your skills both in healing and in bedside manner to have only bloomed over the years.)

That having been said: no doubt your experienced eye has noted signs of my condition; I took damage from an unknown curse at end of June. I am under treatment at St Mungo's (and suspect, given the clear fascination aimed in my direction by the Healers I have seen, and their tendency to multiply in progression as each one calls in a friend to marvel, that my case is more interesting than they're willing to admit in the patient's earshot) and have seen a number of their specialists, following up on my initial care in France. I mention this not to imply I would receive better treatment elsewhere than in your infirmary, but to reassure you I've no intention of burdening you with the overseeing of my convalescence.


With that as a given, it is the sad truth that the teaching of my subject does tend to result in situations in need of healers' ministrations with distressing frequency, no matter how cautious one

is about classroom safety and firm about classroom discipline. It would be foolish of me were I to withhold information on the state of my treatment so you were not fully informed in the event immediate intervention is required. To that end -- I am uncertain about the procedure for having records copied from St M's to your attention, but would be happy to follow whatever instructions you may have. I do have the list of potions I am taking, both on a regular and an as-needed basis, and the (exhaustive) list of admonishments on which symptoms should be considered an expected part of recovery and which are cause for concern.

I also wished to assure you that I've no intention of making additional work for you this year in another fashion. While my practical lessons will of course involve spell-work, student safety is one of my utmost priorities -- if you would find it helpful (or reassuring) I am happy to consult with you once a month or so to inform you of my plans, and to adjust those plans if you feel a particular bit of work would be courting disaster beyond my ability to unravel or your infirmary's ability to heal.

With warmest regards,
Antonin



 **alt_poppy** at **2012-09-02 23:19:33**
Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey

Thank you. Antonin, then. And do, please, call my Poppy.

I appreciate your letting me know the facts of your condition, and I agree it would be a wise precaution if you would let your principal healer at St Mungo's understand that you have authorised me to see to any immediate care that might be needed here if you were to take a turn for the worse.

I assure you that with the magic of the Floo at our disposal, I have managed rather a number of cases here while receiving close consultation from the specialists at St Mungo's. And, of course, when necessary, we've transported patients there (or specialists here).

Let's hope none of that is necessary, but if you would, do please initiate the basic protocol of authorising my assistance in your care.

As for your offer to warn me in advance with respect to the risks your lessons might entail for students, well. Would that your colleagues would show the same wisdom! Thank you.

Do send along the list of your prescribed potions and any other information on your condition that you are able to share. I hope that we have opportunities for fuller acquaintance, but I understand that walking this castle from end to end is not yet on your list of therapeutic activities, so I do not anticipate seeing you here in person.

In that regard, please let me know (the fires work internally here) if you require a visit from me. In circumstances like yours where mobility is an issue, I am happy to make a 'house' call--provided, of course, that things are quiet here on the ward.

Wishing you continued and steady healing,
Poppy



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-03 00:52:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey

Madam Pomf Poppy --

(I am likely to have the same trouble with you as I appear to have with Professor S Horace. I beg your leave as I work to retrain old habits.)

I shall write to St M's directly, then, and authorise you to receive information on my care. (And once you receive it, I would be ever so grateful if you'd confirm my suspicions as to whether I am being treated as an interesting subject! It's not that I mind -- I've a researcher's bent myself -- so much as a man does like to be warned before he finds himself a published case study.) So as to save you the trouble of copying information from journal to file, I shall duplicate the potions list and the list of cautions myself; if you plan on being at table tomorrow for supper, I will pass them along then; if not, I shall press one of the children into service as runner for their delivery. (You are quite correct that I am looking to condense my regular range into as small a footprint as possible!) I also hope that if I've need of your services it will not be on an urgent basis, but it is very good to know the option is available -- I thank you in advance for your consideration even as I hope there'll be no need for me to rely upon it.

Your good wishes for my healing are greatly appreciated, as well. I am better than I have been, less recovered than I hope to be. (Isn't that always the way?)

As for class -- it will be several weeks before we move to practical application and I do intend to start slowly and with areas of study that have not been foregrounded in the schoolroom thus far (and, as I'm aware of -- let us be kind and call it "past classroom trauma" -- for the most part when a human partner is required they will be practising their casting on me, rather than on each other, until they are more comfortable with their skill, so I've extra incentive to choose spells with less chance to go wrong.) But I am well aware of several -- difficulties -- to have come out of Hogwarts' programme of study in the Arts these past several years, and so my curriculum is designed to be strong on variety while seeking to avert potential harm at every opportunity. I shall hope I am significantly less of a burden on your resources throughout the year than you may have been fearing.

With warmest regards,

A

2012-09-02 09:44:00

A perfect day for flying...



 [alt_ginny](#)

Flying is awesome and a good way to listen to one's own thoughts, especially now that the common room is full of chatter from the newly sorted firsties. After practising so much this summer flying comes naturally, this gives me loads of time to think about other things. I feel like I have a sense of clarity in the air. Am I the only one that feels that way? Is there something else that gives others that sense of clarity as well?


While flying today, I figured my social life and my work schedule aren't compatible. I need to find a way to juggle everything better. Maybe Madam Umbridge's YPL sessions on useful tips to make the most of study time will be just what I need; I hope. There will be so much to do now, with the new changes to YPL and CCF. I'm also wondering what DA will add to our work loads. So many new books to read, I can only imagine how many essays we will have to write. Hmm... maybe I shouldn't think about that.

Flying today made me realise how much I am looking forward to Quidditch. I've been practising dodging bludgers with the twins. There came a point when they took out their wands and said "if you can dodge a jinx, you can dodge a bludger". I got hit with the first two. I think Fred turned me purple and George had me smelling like a dungbomb, but I only got hit by two. Stinky with purple skin and red hair is not a good look, but they are really good to train with. I love Quidditch and I think I belong in the air.

Speaking of Quidditch, did anyone else see the changes made to the Quidditch stands? They look like they have been completely rebuilt. I flew over them, then landed and walked through them. Quidditch this year is going to be spectacular.

With all that flying, something else came to my attention. Ron, would you mind lending me your guide on broom maintenance, or spare some time to help me? I think my cushioning charm is wearing off (my bum will thank you). I would like to have that fixed before trials. I know my photographer overhauled the broom for me before he gave it to me, but it also wouldn't hurt to you take another look at it. We've done plenty of flying this summer, and I would like to be certain that all is in good order.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-02 18:08:54](#)
(no subject)


Oooh, they've rebuilt the Quidditch stands, really?
What's different about them?



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2012-09-02 21:07:55](#)
(no subject)

Better seats and vibrant house colours inside and out. I even saw the changing rooms, which are brand new. Flying over there also seemed to be a special box for our Lord Protector.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-02 21:11:25](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, and did you see they've got a new section on the other side, too. I bet it's for reporters and photographers and all!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-02 18:10:00](#)
(no subject)

What do you mean, stinky with red hair and purple skin is not a good look for you? You've always wanted to be a fashion leader, eh?

Good practice, sis.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2012-09-02 21:06:50](#)
(no subject)

Very funny, stinky is not a good look for anyone.


It was a very good practice indeed



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-02 21:13:49](#)**
(no subject)

You always think people want to look more like you.
Daft.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-02 21:10:15](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I went down there today, and it's dead wizard, isn't it? Did you try sitting in the stands? Totally cushioned! And there's some kind of charm that must be meant to help you see even there's someone giant in front of you. It was odd to look through it with no one else around, so I can't wait to find out what that's all about when there's a crowd!

I hear the changing rooms are all redone. Guess Fred and George made them smell so foul, they had to knock the old ones down and start over!

Oh, and no worries about your broom, Gin. Sure, I'll do it. We could take it out now before supper, actually. Otherwise, it'll have to be after lessons during the week--my timetable's pretty dire. Not many gaps at all.



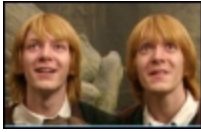
 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2012-09-03 00:32:10](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks for going out with me. It was nice to just sit by the lake afterward too.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-03 13:14:07](#)**
(no subject)

What openings are there on the Gryffindor team this year? Chaser and Keeper, right? Thinking of going out for one of them, Ron?




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-03 13:16:36](#)
(no subject)

Ooooo, ickle Ronniekins going out for the team?

Might be dangerous to those shiny new stands. He's liable to do a barrel roll wrong and take out one of the upper decks!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-03 15:35:47](#)
(no subject)

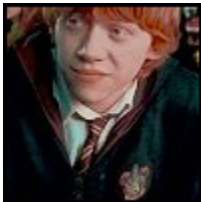
Oi!


Shut it.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2012-09-03 17:02:18](#)
(no subject)

Give him a break guys. You know he plays well. He should try for the team.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-03 21:14:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. They've got to fill Wood's spot. And Nick Towler's. So, yeah, Keeper and a Chaser.

I haven't heard anyone say they're going out for it. Have you? Aside from Ginny, I mean.

[2012-09-02 13:11:00](#)

Private Message to Madam Umbridge

I've not had a chance to introduce myself, and, of course, I hope there will not be many occasions when you find it necessary to visit my ward, but I did wish to tell you how very striking I found your remarks last night.



 [alt_poppy](#)

You have a remarkable vision for the future, and I admire that you are one who not only speaks many fair words about the hope we place in our children, but who intends to work directly with those young people to realise their promise.

Joining you in the hope that our young charges will thrive,
Poppy Pomfrey, Matron



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-02 21:12:42](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, for your welcome. And do, please, call me Dolores. I'm particularly glad to hear from you, because I believe I could use the advice of someone long familiar with the school. And of course, while I did not need your care often, I do remember your early days here from my own school days.

I know Aurora, of course, from this summer, but I can scarcely ask her - she's made it most clear she wishes a clean separation. And I do suppose, in hindsight, that the manner of the change in leadership was perhaps a trifle unfair to her and harder to deal with than it might be. Having had so much tied up in the success of the programme as she did.

It is clear to me, at any rate, that there will be much to explore in the coming year. And I am hoping very much to get the faculty working closely with me to support the aims and goals of the YPL, and to a far greater extent than Aurora managed. But at the same time, I am not sure how best to go about doing so.

I do have a meeting planned with Antonin tomorrow, in order to coordinate the increased demands of his course and their implications (and perhaps some assistance with a few of our planned

projects), but could you, perhaps, advise on the best approaches for other faculty?

I understand you must stay close to your ward, but perhaps I could come and call at your convenience, early this week? Tuesday afternoon, perhaps?

In mutual service to the good of the students,
Dolores



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-02 21:55:07](#)
(no subject)

We've all progressed a good deal from those days of youth, I hope. I'm told I was rather 'starchy' when I was first starting out and attempting to project authority while still feeling rather tentative. A bit of age and experience are useful things.

You're most welcome to stop in of an afternoon, though I'm afraid that this coming Tuesday will not be possible as I have a commitment already.

Any other day this week would do nicely, though, assuming there are no flying accidents or upset stomachs or the like to call me away.

Best,
Poppy



 **alt_umbridge** at [2012-09-02 22:25:33](#)
(no subject)

Ah, well. Shall we say Wednesday at 3, then? I suppose you must have a great deal to catch up with. If something comes up, just let me know.

I understand that you spent much of your summer on training courses, if I heard right from a few of the Healers I know of my acquaintance? That must have been most interesting, to have a chance to learn from and with others for a change. I am already getting the sense of how isolating it may feel here, especially for those of us who are not working with the dear students each day. We must all stick together, I'm quite sure. I had quite the chat

about that with Rolanda earlier this afternoon, as well.

I am sure you have a great deal to attend to, but I will look forward to our chat on Wednesday. In the meantime, if I can be of assistance, please do ask, as I'm waiting until next week before starting to attend to many of our plans, and could certainly help if there are items you need to unpack or inventory or anything of the kind.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-02 22:57:35](#)
(no subject)

Wednesday would be fine.

In fact, I have everything in its place--it is neither sanitary nor safe to have things sitting about in a hospital ward--but thank you for your offer.

I love my summers for just that reason. I make a point, every year, of enrolling in courses that expand, refresh, and stretch my skills. This summer was no exception, though it is true that I do not generally attend the orientation sessions at St Mungo's early in the season. The short courses in the latter half--all focused on the healing challenges of cold and damp--were closer to the usual pattern.

I do always appreciate the return to this school, however. My true calling lies here in the rhythms and crises of each Hogwarts term.

2012-09-02 22:03:00

Announcement of Class Cancellation

Due to the vagaries of scheduling, I must announce a class cancellation for the week of 3 September. Students in fourth and fifth years will have their single-hour session of Dark Arts cancelled this week.



 [altonity](#)
 [alt_antoin](#)

All students save the fifth-year Gryffindors will have had their first lecture before that cancellation, and should use the time to work on the week's assignment, which will build upon our class discussion in that first session. Fifth-year Gryffindors, I apologise that the schedule prevents me from providing you with similar arrangement. However, if you wish to use the time to do as much of the assignment as you can in advance, study section one (the introduction) of *Intra profundis*. Of the topics it summarises, choose any one, and read the section about that topic. If you do not have and cannot borrow a copy of the book from someone else, please come to my office during my open hours; I have several copies available, though unfortunately in a variety of translations, some less helpful for student use.

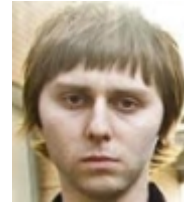
I trust I need not mention that any student using his unexpectedly-free time to cause a disturbance or to interfere with others' study will suffer penalty commensurate with the severity of the offence.

I am reachable at any point via private message; please do write to me if you have any questions at all. (This offer also extends to those sixth and seventh year students not taking my class, and to any recent graduate of Hogwarts who wishes to expand his knowledge of the subject. You will not in the least be imposing by writing to me, though I will of course need to prioritise inquiries from my current students.)

I shall look forward to meeting you all in the week to come.

[2012-09-02 22:10:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



Hullo, all,

I say, did you see that Professor Dolohov's already giving out assignments and cancelling lessons? Classes haven't even begun properly, what!

 [alt_justin](#)

I expect I shall have to use at least part of the hour on Creatures. (The tutor the Jugsons engaged for me didn't seem to put much stock in Care of Magical Creatures, so it's the one subject in which I've not had much help, if you follow me.)

Although come to think of it, he announced that the lessons will be cancelled after writing to Madam Pomfrey. I wonder if the two are related, what?

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 03:35:07](#)
(no subject)

Huh.

Well, I confess I'm a little relieved to put off the start of the class. I'm in a bit of a bind, however, because I don't have copies of the books. I hope I can borrow Ron's to read until things get sorted.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-03 03:59:28](#)
(no subject)

I'd lend you the two I got but that shan't help you much; Gryffindor and Hufflepuff only have the single hour together and that's the lesson that was cancelled.

Besides, my *Intra Profundis* isn't the translation he asked us to get. I can see why, what: The translator for this concordance version clearly did not understand declensions. It's bally well terrible.

I say, I hope you'll not take it too much to heart, having to take the

lessons along with everyone. I think Sally-Anne's quite right when she says that there are advantages to at least understanding the theory of Dark Arts, what, so at least one knows what one's facing in a battle. I know it's not what you wanted to do, old man - it's not what I wanted, either - but now it's here we'll just have to make the best of it.

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 04:36:22](#)

(no subject)

I can understand Sally-Anne's point. But I don't want to have anything to do with it. I don't.

Only I have to, you know, show loyal. Being the son of blood-traitors and all.

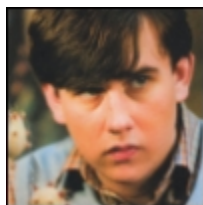
Bloody hell. I don't want to do this.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 04:39:06](#)

(no subject)

Neville, it's gonna be all right.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 04:39:42](#)

(no subject)

You can't know that.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 04:40:30](#)

(no subject)

It will. I'll help you.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 04:41:06](#)
(no subject)

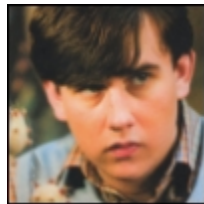
You'll help me? Look, no offence or anything, Terry, but what can you do when you're with the wand smugglers?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 04:43:05](#)
(no subject)

I mean I can help you through the journals. More than you realise.


You forget: I know a lot about the Dark Arts. The git talked about them with his sister all the time. They were used on me. And I read books in his library. Not because I wanted to learn it, but to try to figure out ways around it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 04:47:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Oh, I see....



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-03 14:38:34](#)
(no subject)

You mean that he cancelled the lesson because he's sick or something?

I've seen him at meals, in the Great Hall.

2012-09-02 22:59:00

Order Only: Puneet Kamathali

Well, Alice, we were right that the parents would relent as soon as he manifested his magic.



 [alt_sirius](#)

As I said, we've been checking in on them every few weeks, using the same polyjuice disguises so they'll recognise us, since we decided not to Obliviate them again. The moment Dora and I walked into the shop, Mrs Kamathali's hands flew up and she treated us like her best customers in the world. 'Oh, you must come in; I have your table ready for you, Mr and Mrs White,' she said and kept up a steady stream of chatter all the way to the back of the restaurant.

'You must take him with you,' she said in a hushed voice as soon as she seated us. 'Three days ago, he began to show signs you told us to look for. We have been taking turns watching him to make sure he shows nothing in front of anyone. I have been terrified someone will see and report us.'

Dora asked if her husband agreed. Mrs Kamathali nodded but at that moment one of the couples at another table demanded their check, so she left us and we quickly looked over the menu.

By the time she came back to us, we knew what we wanted and we had a plan to get him out of the shop. Dora gave her our order and then said under her breath, 'When do you close? We'll come back then and collect him. There are things you and Mr Kamathali will need to know.'


Mrs K was willing to do whatever it took. She tried to insist on giving us our suppers at no charge but we put the lid on that cauldron.

So, after Ellie went to bed, Dora and I popped back round the shop. Mr K let us in, we gave them the rings and exchanged photographs and explained the rest. And now I'm staying overnight in Grimmauld because, it seems, Kreacher refuses to do so much as make up Bea's extra cot for the little sprog.

Besides which, explaining an extra baby to Ellie might be a little awkward come the morning.

How soon can someone come and get him?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:11:30](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, thank goodness. That really is a relief, Sirius.
Thank you. Well done, both of you. I can be by within
the hour.



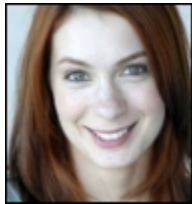
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:12:56](#)**
(no subject)


Fair enough. I'd've been fine with a 3:00 AM feeding
but can't say I was looking forward to it!



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:40:32](#)**
(no subject)

May I come see him in the nursery tomorrow?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-03 05:07:59](#)**
(no subject)

Of course, love.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:26:51](#)**
(no subject)

Good. Good! I'm most relieved.

Thank Merlin. It was fortunate you didn't oblivate
them, Sirius, so they knew enough to keep their heads
and wait for you to come back.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:32:28](#)**
(no subject)

True, Arthur. Mrs K said that she'd spent the last
three days wishing she'd had a way to reach us. And
looking up every time someone came in at the door,

hoping we'd get there before anyone else did.

After the second attempt, when we had more for them to consider, we'd decided the only way to proceed was just to keep an eye on the situation. It could have been dangerous, of course, if they'd reported two people matching our descriptions, but - well. Like you said, we wanted to give them a chance to see that we weren't going to just leave them on their own.



 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-09-03 03:38:35](#)**

(no subject)

I'm really glad, too, that you managed to save him.

No one will call him a mudblood now.

2012-09-02 23:50:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Neville Longbottom



 [alt_terry](#)

Didn't want to leave you a private comment in Justin's journal, because that would be sort of rude. So am writing to you here.

Look. I get it. I know you're scared. (I figure we're good enough friends by now that you won't get offended if I tell you that, even if you are a Gryffindor. Because you'd have to be an idiot not to be). I loathe the Dark Arts just as much as you do. And that's why I'll help.



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-09-03 05:07:45**

(no subject)

Yeah, well....

Yeah. All right, I am scared. I'll admit it. The way that Gran always talked about the Dark Arts, and the few times I've talked with Dad...they suck people in, don't they? They change people, and not for the better. I don't want to change that way.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2012-09-03 05:10:05**

(no subject)

Yes. They can. And they do.

The git changed a lot, even in just the years I was with him. Because he was messing around with that stuff all the time. Well, it was the alcohol, too; that didn't help. To be fair, though, he was a really extreme case. Maybe a little mad to begin with, anyway. And he turned even worse after he ate the meat from that unicorn hunt. You remember, your first year?



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 05:12:26](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, well, I'm not saying I'm afraid I'll go as mental as he did. Not exactly.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 05:12:54](#)
(no subject)

Of course not.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 05:17:46](#)
(no subject)

It's just that I don't want to mess with anything that he thought was such a bang up idea.

It's not just that, though. It's Professor Dolohov, too. I keep hoping Mum or Dad will send me and Evelyn a letter, giving us more of a clue about him. Because you sort of hinted that he's not the sort of person they'd want teaching us.

So it's not just that I'm afraid I'm going to be sucked in. I also need to keep him from realising how much I don't want anything to do with this stuff. Because that might not be so good for this act I have to put on, that I'll do anything to prove I'm loyal, to live down Mum and Dad. I'm afraid that's not going to be very convincing once he realises I don't want any part of what he's trying to teach.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 05:23:39](#)
(no subject)

That's another way I can help you, maybe.

If there's one thing I learned, living with the git, it was how to put up a false front. To make him believe things about me that weren't true at all. Of course, the fact that the git had so much contempt for me made it easier in a way. He was mad, and he was dangerous, but he was so sure he was superiour, because of his pure blood, that he assumed I had to be much stupider than I really was. When I acted cowed, he

took it at face value.

Don't know if Professor Dolohov will be as easy to fool, though.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 05:26:40](#)
(no subject)

Guess I'll find out.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-03 14:28:17](#)
(no subject)

Huh. Got a letter from them at breakfast, enclosed in one from Gran, which answered some of my questions.

They warn me that Evelyn and I shouldn't try to get out of the class, because it'll draw too much attention. Yeah, that's about what I figured. Mum also said 'Unlike your late professors, Antonin Dolohov is charming, and gives every appearance of being a reasonable person. Make no mistake, however; he is dangerous - and because of his charm, is that much more dangerous than you may expect him to be. I've seen his handiwork with my own eyes, and he is capable of unimaginable cruelty. He may single you both out as children of his enemies, and would be the sort of person who would take pride in teaching you something knowing that we would disagree with it. I would suggest that you be respectful of him at all times, and to avoid open disobedience or debate.'

Well, I'm glad they wrote, except maybe I'm even more nervous than ever.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-03 14:32:19](#)
(no subject)

That's the advice I'd give you, too: give every signal that you can that you respect him. Like, pay attention all the time in class instead of talking to your friends, that sort of thing. Take lots of notes, and get your essays in on time.

2012-09-03 10:16:00


Order Only: Ridley emergency

Kingsley here, very quickly. Ridley made a break for it, and she got the drop on us, damn her. Flung the contents of a pepper pot right in Emmeline's face just as Emmeline was setting a breakfast tray down in front of her. A fight followed, and now Ridley's cornered in the pantry. A dead-end there, but she has Emmeline's wand, and Emmeline's in there with her. Stunned, we think. Ridley's out of line of sight, and there's only a narrow passage way, so no good way to rush her without risking Emmeline. No one's hurt permanently--yet--but she's yelling threats and demands and getting real twitchy.



 **alt_kingsley**



 **alt_bill** at **2012-09-03 15:18:56**
(no subject)

What?! Bugger all.




 **alt_frank** at **2012-09-03 15:19:09**
(no subject)

buggeryfuck.

on my way.


what sort of demands is she making?



 **alt_kingsley** at **2012-09-03 15:20:23**
(no subject)

A wand. And to be quit of us. She says she'll keep our secrets if we'll keep hers. What the hell--



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-03 15:21:47](#)
(no subject)

WHAT?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:22:29](#)
(no subject)

She says she's back in contact with her network in the camps, and they've reported back in and are ready for next orders. No idea how she managed that.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-03 15:23:46](#)
(no subject)

She's bluffing. She must be.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:24:27](#)
(no subject)

Well, of course she might be bluffing, Arthur, I'm not thick! But I'm not about to call her a liar when she has a wand pointed at Emmeline's throat.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:25:02](#)
(no subject)

no way in sodding hell am I giving her a wand unless we have proof.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:25:31](#)
(no subject)

right. okay. I'm coming. I'm bringing a wand.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:26:49](#)
(no subject)

And have Steve come along, too. He can check everyone for injuries if we manage to talk our way out of this standoff. I think Ridley listens to him the best. hurry



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:27:02](#)
(no subject)

right.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:28:25](#)
(no subject)

She must have sneaked in an alternate communication method.

As soon as you can get Emmeline out of there, we'll have to close up that safehouse.

Bugger. Bugger bugger bugger.

What's happening?

Is there any way to get in to the pantry from the rear and take her?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:30:15](#)
(no subject)

NO. No back entrance, so she's trapped, but if we try to rush her, she might kill Emmeline.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:31:52](#)
(no subject)

Frank's here now. But we're letting Steve talk.
Frank's fuming too much.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:32:30](#)
(no subject)

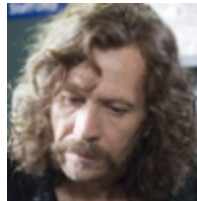
I know there's no back entrance. Can you *make* one?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:36:17](#)
(no subject)

Sure, and bring the whole wall down on Emmeline. Thank you very much but no.

Shut UP, Sirius!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:41:16](#)
(no subject)

Not the whole wall. Transfigure a *section* of the wall.

But if she's talking then perhaps there's a way out without that.

Mordred, perhaps this is Ridley's notion of a friendly chat.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:45:17](#)
(no subject)

maybe she wasn't ready to negotiate until she had some chips in her hand.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:49:07](#)
(no subject)

That's the problem; her idea of a bargaining chip is someone else's *life*.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:57:40](#)
(no subject)


I know.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:58:49](#)
(no subject)

Merlin. The things we do, Frank.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 16:00:45](#)
(no subject)

yeah.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 16:02:58](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Kingsley.

It's just that you know it kills me, not being able to just Apparate wherever you lot need help. Not without consequences, any road.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:37:09](#)
(no subject)

she's still talking.

we're holding off for now.

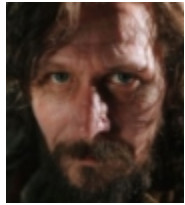


 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 15:56:28](#)
(no subject)

All right. This is the deal she's offering.

She gets a wand, bugger all, and she gets out of here in one piece. She says she'll keep our secrets, although I don't trust her any further than I can spit. We'll agree on a mutual safe drop spot for communication.

We get Emmeline back, alive and without any further hurt, and the names of twenty-five of her contacts in the camps in her network. Arthur, we threw her a parchment and quill, and she's writing them down, now. We figure you can check, say, five of them quickly so we know she's not just blowing smoke at us.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 15:58:06](#)
(no subject)

Kingsley, what about asking for proof that she's been in contact with anyone? The names might be legitimate people who were in her network before she was captured but when's the last time she communicated with any of them?

Or would that tip the balance back to a wand-point?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 16:04:52](#)
(no subject)

Hang on.

She says she has a familiar she's been using when no one's been looking.

She just told us to open a window.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 16:08:49](#)
(no subject)

fucking bird

jesus.

right on my fucking head.

~~moth~~



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 16:09:00](#)
(no subject)

sorry. sorry.

she's been using a magpie.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 15:59:37](#)
(no subject)

we've got to burn the safehouse if her contact knows where it is.

maybe apparate her far enough away while we clear out so it'll be hard for her to regroup and come back with reinforcements.

she's never seen the outside, right?

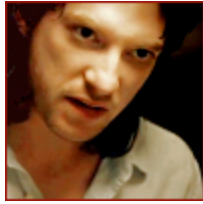



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 16:04:55](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'd agree with that. Clean it out, someone take her side-along far away, and then destroy the safehouse.

Bugger.

This is a bad bargain.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-03 16:06:48](#)
(no subject)

I hate to say it, but you're right.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 16:07:14](#)
(no subject)

of all of us, steve's the most calm. and least likely to get a wand pulled on him once they get there.

kingsley, you think he's good for it?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 16:09:05](#)
(no subject)

I do, yes.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-03 16:01:53](#)
(no subject)

All right, Arthur: check these names and locations:

Linda Toulson, Dacorum, Hertfordshire

Mitchell Alden, Harlow, Essex

Lorena Elliott, Manchester, Greater Manchester

Timothy Mytens, Shroton, Dorset

Gaius Pater, Ashford, Kent



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-03 16:08:01](#)**
(no subject)

The first three check out.

Hang on, checking the last two.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-03 16:12:20](#)**
(no subject)

The names all check out. And with the magpie, I presume you do have proof she had the capability of being in touch with them. Damn.

I say go ahead and make the deal. And let us know when you're all safe again and she's gone.



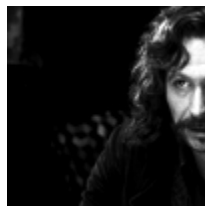
 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:26:50](#)**
(no subject)

and keeping our secrets is a shite exchange for a wand.

I know

she's got the upper hand

but damn it all.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:31:42](#)**
(no subject)

She's shown no willingness to negotiate with us when we were treating her decently, Frank.

I say take her out and Obliviate her. Blindfold her and Apparate her somewhere else and then leave her to it.

If she's got communications with her old network then she can bloody well find them again.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-09-03 15:38:17](#)
(no subject)

that would be my first fucking choice

but whose to say she hasn't been passing notes just in case we do go that route.



 **alt_frank** at [2012-09-03 15:38:24](#)
(no subject)

sorry.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-09-03 15:19:48](#)
(no subject)

Bugger.

Once a terrorist always a terrorist. We should have forced her to leave at the last solstice.

What do you need from us, Kingsley?



 **alt_kingsley** at [2012-09-03 15:21:04](#)
(no subject)

Frank says he's on his way. Hang on--



 **alt_kingsley** at [2012-09-03 15:27:43](#)
(no subject)

I wish Albus had dumped her somewhere else, ANYWHERE else instead of on us. She's been nothing but trouble.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:47:02](#)**
(no subject)

Could I help at all? What I mean is, would adding a voice she doesn't know--and a witch's at that--might that shake something loose in the negotiation?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:48:34](#)**
(no subject)

too many cooks right now.

steve's got it in hand.

he's sitting on the ground and he's acting like it's a normal conversation. don't know how he's doing it, but yeah. she's talking back too.

right now they're drawing up lists.

2012-09-03 10:48:00

Private Message to Mssrs Fred and George Weasley



 **alt_horace**

I must congratulate you both on your new-fostered dedication to the subject of Potions. While your exams in June showed promise but were on the whole, mid-grade, it is clear you have applied yourselves to the art over the long holiday.

However, the true test of a Potioneer is in his brewing, and there, as I am sure you already know, one of you missed the mark.

George, I do wish you to know that it was a difficult decision. Your Draught of Peace was a solid effort. (Solid, unfortunately, is not an acceptable state for a Potion.)

Knowing you both as I do, I am sure that the news that only Fred will be attending my lessons shall not deter either of you from continuing to share your academic efforts with one another. But alas, only Fred shall be able to continue within the practicum of my classroom.

Do please note, Mr Weasley, that your first lesson with me is this afternoon. See you then.

-HEF Slughorn



 **alt_gredforge** at **2012-09-03 15:13:19**
(no subject)

I'll be there, sir.

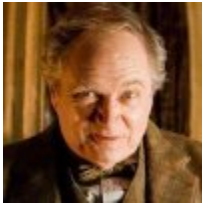
Thank you for giving me this opportunity. You won't regret it.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:13:55](#)**
(no subject)

Understood, Professor.

I'm sorry it didn't work out.



 **[alt_horace](#)** at **[2012-09-03 15:15:47](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Weasley. I'm sorry as well.

Allow me to say, though, that I am sure you two will
make the best of the situation. You always do seem

to manage.

2012-09-03 12:16:00

Order Only: Grimmauld

Kingsley, Frank:

When you've finished up there, have everyone come round to Grimmauld, will you? We'll meet you there.



 [alt_sirius](#)

I think we've got to have a talk about what just happened and what we're going to do with the new information we have.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2012-09-03 16:20:42**

(no subject)

All right.

It's over. We have the names, and Emmeline's safe. Steve's checked her over, and now he's apparating Ridley away. Good riddance.

We're going to clear out our stuff and then torch the house.

Yeah, thanks, Sirius good idea. We definitely need to do a security post-mortum.

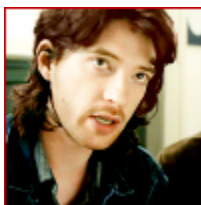
(Frank: you missed a spot, right over your ear, if you want to grab one of the towels.)



 [alt_arthur](#) at **2012-09-03 16:22:09**

(no subject)

Will you stick around until the evening? I can stop by briefly after leaving work.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2012-09-03 16:24:42**

(no subject)

Good idea, Dad. I'll come over, too.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 17:02:43](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, come along. Molly, too.

I've a feeling we'll be here for a while.

I'll just go tell Kreacher that we'll have company for supper. Lots of company.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-03 17:04:23](#)
(no subject)

What about having dinner there? I would be happy to cook, Sirius, if you like.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-03 17:07:37](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Molly. Your cookery would be most welcome.

I'm not sure which bit of news Kreacher will object to more: The fact you're all coming for supper or the fact that he'll not be expected to provide the meal for you!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-03 17:17:49](#)
(no subject)


Well, and you could all come along to the beer garden later. (I don't think we ought to close for the night, so at least one of us will have to come back here for opening.)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-03 16:23:35](#)
(no subject)

yeah. okay.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-09-03 16:32:05**

Private message to Frank Longbottom

All right, love?



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2012-09-03 16:33:08**

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

a bird shit on my head.

but yeah.

steve was brilliant. he deserves a medal. and emmy's safe. so it's okay.

it's really okay.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-09-03 16:36:45**

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

Good to hear it.

I know it's been a while since one of us was in that sort of immediate danger.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2012-09-03 16:48:32**

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

yeah.

...yeah.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-09-03 16:30:14**

(no subject)

I'm glad to hear that Emmaline is safe. And honestly, I'm glad Ridley has been taken care of too. I know how hard it was on the Players, Kingsley.



 **alt_poppy** at **2012-09-03 17:15:20**

(no subject)

Emmeline's safe?

Thank goodness. And good riddance to Ridley.

I'm sorry I won't be able to join you all in New London. Do tell us if you turn all that adrenaline to brilliant ideas, will you?

Pomona and I--and Minerva, I'm sure--will be most interested to hear what you've discussed. Perhaps Remus could provide us with the minutes again. Or, poor chap, he's just had the blue moon--maybe someone else could take those for him.



 **alt_pomona** at **2012-09-03 18:45:58**

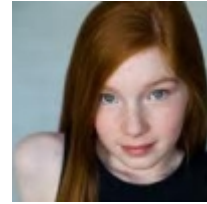
(no subject)

I agree, Poppy, with the desire for minutes from someone. There's no earthly chance I can get away, and I can only assume Minerva's even worse off.

Between the first years and the nerves over Dark Arts, well. I expect to be busy with students until their curfew, and in no shape to go to New London thereafter. I only snatched a few moments here to catch up because my students were settling in so well.

2012-09-03 14:20:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_evelyn](#)

Hello.

Neville told me about the lock, and how to write using the ink and everything. I think it's brilliant, truly, and thank you for letting me be a part of it. Especially because most of you don't really know me at all. I promise I'll keep your secrets.


I don't write things down here hardly at all really, because other people can read it. So it will be nice to have a place where I won't have to worry about who's listening in.

Neville said I was supposed to tell a secret too. Which makes sense, because you're trusting me with yours. I've been thinking about what I could say. ~~I'm not used to~~

It's good to know that Terry Boot and Hermione Granger can pass on notes and things to my mum and dad. I'm glad that they know my parents. I'm also glad that I can talk to my parents if I ever needed to. And yes, it's because they're my parents, but it's more than that I guess. I know I'm not supposed to be, but I'm proud of my mum and dad, and I have been for a long time. And when I found out they were friends with Sirius Black and just yesterday when I learned they also smuggled wands to people who needed them, I was even prouder. Only I haven't told that to anyone except for my brother. It's sort of odd to see it written it down like this. I hope that's enough. I really do.

I wanted to say thank you to Sally-Anne Perks for the hex she taught to Neville. And thanks to Pansy Parkinson for what she said after the news stories came out. Ron Weasley, you've always been nice to me since I've been here at Hogwarts, so thank you for that too. I am also very glad to hear that Terry Boot is alive and well. I don't know the rest of you enough to say something for each of you, but thank you all for being such good friends to Neville. You mean a lot to him, and now that I know about this, I think I can see why.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2012-09-03 18:35:40**

Private Message to Neville Longbottom

Was that okay, Pete? Did I say anything wrong? ~~Do you think they'll~~

I think it's good that we have a place where we can talk. Really talk. At least until you get too old, that is. You still owe me your pudding for at least a week for keeping this to yourself. And help with my next three herbology essays, and one game of chess.



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2012-09-03 18:43:28**

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom

It's perfect, Lindy.

You need the pudding more than I do, probably. Remember how Mum was going on about how skinny you look now that you're starting to shoot up a little? And sure, I'll help you with Herbology, but the game of chess won't be much good. You'll just slaughter me the way you always do.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2012-09-03 18:44:58**

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom

That's the plan, yes.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2012-09-03 20:37:51**

(no subject)

Hullo, you.

Glad you're here. That'll be convenient, because now I can bother you more about when you're going to let me have a game. You can't duck it forever, y'know.

So. When'll it be? Hm?




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-03 21:12:49](#)
(no subject)

Hullo back.

I'll play you if you start short two pawns for the first match. And if you promise not to laugh when you win anyways.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-03 21:16:59](#)
(no subject)

Ha.

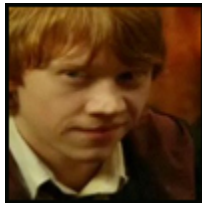
Yeah, that'd be all right.


When?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-03 21:21:51](#)
(no subject)

Tomorrow night.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-03 21:23:14](#)
(no subject)

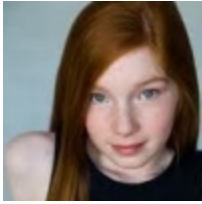
Brilliant.

I'm holding you to that, y'know.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-03 21:11:02](#)
(no subject)


Welcome, Evelyn.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-03 23:47:07](#)
(no subject)

I am pleased to make your acquaintance.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-03 21:24:30](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, Evelyn,

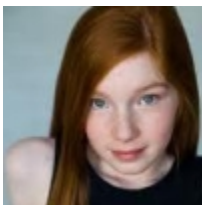
Welcome.

Hydra and I were the newest additions before you, what, but I daresay you'll not be the last. (I say, Neville, shall you speak to Susan as well, or shall I do it? I've got better access, what, but you know her a bit better.)

It just occurs to me that as you need to get to know us, she shall do, too.

I think the sooner we add people who need this bally old lock, the better. And the club as well, though now we've got to think of some way to hold it without drawing Madam Umbridge's attention.

-Justin



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-03 23:47:26](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-04 03:32:35](#)
(no subject)

Hello back, Evelyn.

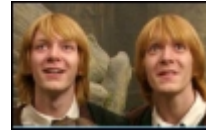
I'm glad I could help. It was the right thing to do.

Welcome to the lock.

[2012-09-03 20:13:00](#)

Order Only

So we finished our first day of classes and went for dinner and after a couple of hours getting a jump on our essays, we thought we'd check our journals.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)**

And here we were thinking that grownups had such uneventful lives. Dreary, dull and humdrum, even.

Not today, apparently! And now you're off to party at 12 Grimmauld Place, and you didn't even invite us?!

In other eventful news, the Dream Team was actually split up this afternoon, much to our consternation.

Fred made it into the NEWT Potions class, but George didn't.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:26:26](#)**

(no subject)

I'm sure Mum and Dad would vastly prefer it if your lives would remain as most grownups do.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:30:54](#)**

(no subject)

Yes, indeed.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:31:18](#)**

(no subject)


Ah, but you lot aren't like most grownups, are you?



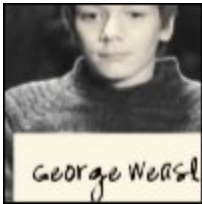
 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:31:45](#)**
(no subject)

I'm afraid we're not.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:32:51](#)**
(no subject)

Are you really disappointed about NEWT Potions, George?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:35:00](#)**
(no subject)

Well...I am, and I'm not. It sucks that I put in all that work, and I don't get to take the class. On the other hand, I don't have to put in the work of taking the class.

Although we've been toying with a couple of other possibilities.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:35:57](#)**
(no subject)

I'm almost afraid to ask.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-04 01:47:16](#)**
(no subject)

We're used to collaborating. We can go over the material together, so we'll both pick up a lot. Anyway Fred can concentrate on Potions, but George now has an opening in his schedule. Which maybe he could use to drop in on some of the gatherings that Professor Dolohov is hosting for seventh year students.



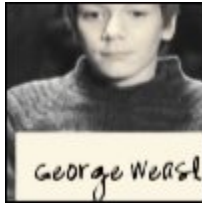
 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-04 01:50:19](#)
(no subject)

I don't like that idea one bit.



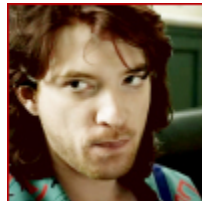
 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-04 01:52:04](#)
(no subject)


Nor do I, I must admit.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 01:58:58](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, we figured you wouldn't. But you should think about it. Wouldn't you like to have a sort of Order spy, who can report back and tell you what he's saying to the older students?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:00:49](#)
(no subject)


You said you were toying with a 'couple' of possibilities. What else are you two devious little wretches plotting?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:02:01](#)
Private message to Bill Weasley

We ARE identical twins. Sometimes even our dear old Mum can't even tell us apart. That suggests possibilities, doesn't it?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:03:00](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

What, you mean you'd take turns going? To Sluggy's class?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:04:17](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Sure, and share notes. We're used to studying together, and looking over each other's essays. No one can tell our handwriting apart, either.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:06:34](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Merlin, it sounds like a scheme with all sorts of possibilities for mayhem.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:07:13](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

We like mayhem!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:09:52](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Don't be idiots. Mayhem in Potions class you don't need. Sluggy would give George a safety precaution, and the next class Fred, who never heard it, would blow his cauldron sky-high. What would you do about testing on potions you never brewed? And what if you get caught?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:15:58](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Aw, people just generally laugh when they catch us switching places.



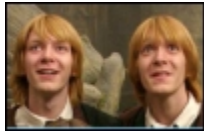
 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:16:45](#)


Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Not when you're talking NEWTs Potions class, they don't.

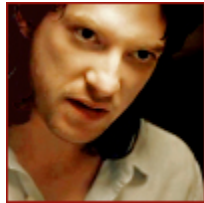
Wait a minute....you're talking just about


Sluggo, right? You're not thinking of trying to double-cross Dolohov, too?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:17:17](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley


Interesting idea! Thank you for suggesting it.



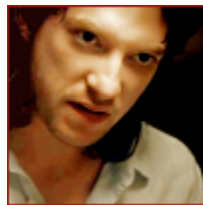
 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:18:16](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley


You're not going to do it.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:18:52](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley


Oh, aren't we? Why not?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:22:57](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley


Because I'll tell Mum and Dad about it. AND Minerva, if I have to.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:25:41](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Oi, why would you go do that?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:26:49](#)
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

That has to be a violation of the Weasley Code of Brotherly Conduct.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-04 02:30:00](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Because Dad and Minerva are your superiours in the Order, that's why. If you try to mess with him, I will personally nail your arses to the wall for even thinking about it. After Mum and Dad and Minerva are through with you. If there is anything left of you, which I doubt.

I've learned stuff about Dolohov that you don't know and you are not going to try to fuck around with him.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-04 02:30:39](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Oh.

Okay, then.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-10 11:51:54](#)

(no subject)

I'll have to think about it, boys. And talk with your mother.

2012-09-03 20:49:00

Private Message for Toshenka

Your first full day. Were they bright and shining or agonisingly dull?



Regret that you're stuffed away in that pile of Scottish rubble. Rizzer, as well. May have to fabricate excuses to visit. If you'd plant seditious letters in the staff room, or leave anonymous threats against Madam Umbridge's person--either would do.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Seriously, though. Haven't said how glad I was for the afternoon with you before you left.

I was. Very.

When you're next in town--surely the Healers will insist?--we'll go to that Russian tearoom I told you about. Katyenka. Excellent for long afternoons of talk.

In the meantime, don't let them drain your reserves.

Envyng the little bastards,
B



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2012-09-04 04:49:25**
(no subject)

Dear friend, it is exceedingly good to hear from you. Was just pondering writing to several of our little family to assure them I'd survived the first day of class, in fact, but the prospect of taking up quill seemed insurmountable. For you, though -- always.

And indeed, survived I have; this week shall be the philosophical questions you and yours were always so patient in indulging, so nothing too taxing. I planted my arse on the desk (earning some raised eyebrows, quickly concealed lest I turn into darling departed Alecto and curse them senseless on the spot) and asked the age-old question: what are the Dark Arts? The seventh-years' answers were textbook, the fifth-years completely at a loss, but after a quarter-hour or so of establishing trust that I did not care for the correctness of

the answer so much as the ability to defend it and that my classroom is a place to challenge assumptions and unpick preconceptions, we were able to achieve a satisfying debate. Am hoping news will spread among some of the little darlings that I'm entirely more reasonable than they might fear -- this will go ever so much better if I'm not working against old frights at every turn, after all.

You know that you are welcome at any point, excuse to arrive on investigation or no, and I'm certain I speak for the Razzers as well. (Although do not tempt me against darling Dolores any further than her own actions already have. We had a perfectly ghastly appointment today in which she attempted to enlist my slavish devotion to her agenda for the year. I offered what little I thought necessary to avoid earning her enmity -- I have no desire to be watching my back all year and suspect even my sterling reputation would not suffice to avoid irritating repercussions should I finally snap and leave her staked out in the Forest for bait -- and put her off the rest with endless pleas of overwork and infirmity. I hardly need you inciting me to misbehaviour, my little sunshine; Narcissa is a bad enough influence to begin.)

Still -- I beg of you -- do not wait for an excuse. I know you too well, мой дорогой: if left to your own ways you will wait eternally for some right moment and let too many almost-moments pass you by. Out of all my flock you have ever been the most self-possessed; do not let yourself forget you've a door always open to you, wherever I might find myself resting my head.

(Ever mindful of your discomfort with such lines of conversation face to face, I have not yet said, but -- my dear heart, I am so very proud of the man you have made yourself. I will never regret the years of service I have laid at Our Lord's feet, but know it is only that, and no lesser cause, that could have kept me away from the family of my heart for so long.)

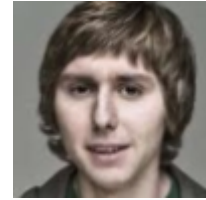
The Healers wish to see me again in several weeks, and I shall reserve as much time for you as you've desire to put up with me for. You'll not get rid of me that easily. Though I reserve the right to be catty about any place calling itself Russian should the cattiness be warranted.

Eternally and affectionately yours, in service and in exhaustion (and slightly dreading the unformed thirds tomorrow; how do they make them so young?) --

T

2012-09-03 21:06:00

Private Message to Susan Bones and Bobby Stebbins



Hello,

I say, that was certainly a gruelling first day, wasn't it? And Bobby, you had the extra hour with Divination! Mondays are going to be well horrid (and Tuesday doesn't look much better, does it?). Best get used to it, I suppose.

What did *you* think of Professor Dolohov? I heard several others down the table asking you your opinions. I know Zach and Ernie said compared to Miss Professor Carrow he's a treat but that bally well shouldn't have taken much, what?

I've a feeling we're going to be quite challenged, if the first lesson is anything like the pace he intends to maintain. Fancy doing some revising together? Wayne and Megan as well, if they're interested. I say, Bobby, did you speak to him about obtaining books? I'd offer to let you look on in mine but that would hardly do any good, as we're seated about as far apart as one can get, what!

But if what he's said is true, at least we shan't have to hex each other in lessons. I suppose that's a blessing.

Right. Back to Professor Acton's assignment. Do let me know if you'd like to revise together.

-Justin



alt_susan at 2012-09-05 03:25:03

(no subject)

It's always good to have mates to revise with, as long as we can keep our minds on our studies and not get distracted--you should definitely invite Ernie as well, he's good at keeping the rest of us on track.

Hope you've had a good week in the sett so far!

2012-09-03 21:25:00

Private message to Campanella Wright



C -

Quick note, because it's been such a day. (Nothing bad, just first day of classes, and all the accompanying chaos. But they're all off to curfew, and I've a moment to breathe.)

 [alt_sinistra](#)

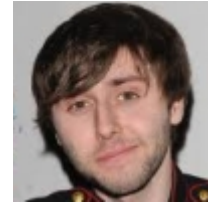
Mostly, would love to see you a week tomorrow for a chat about one thing and another. (The true pleasure of your company, mostly, but some other bits and pieces: a sanity check on a thought I had about the wedding, a little conversation about mutual acquaintances, and so on.) Could you arrange the usual lot at the Archetype at 6, and meet me either before, or we'll shoo everyone off at 8 and have an hour after?

I did notice, just now, this morning's paper (told you it'd been a day) - that notice about Meniscus Fulton. Odd it's not even an obituary, just the notice of death. I admit I'm curious about the circumstances, after our various encounters. If you can't say, that's fine, but, well. You and I've discussed the details of January long since. I won't retread that ground.

To answer the questions you're trying not to ask: no, D hasn't gotten back in touch since that last owl - not even over the note about that horrible story. (Part of why I want to see Gilly and make sure he's at least all right.) Have met our new DA instructor, and find him quite charming. Holidays were good except for the last bit, which you might have guessed. Glad to be back, all in all.

2012-09-03 21:43:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Pansy



 [alt_justin](#)

Hello,

I say, that was certainly a gruelling first day for me; how was yours?

What did *you* think of Professor Dolohov? At our table the others were all asking for our opinions. I said I had nothing much to compare but that he seems to set a high standard but a fair one. I mean to say. Assigned seating isn't something I've encountered before, even at Beauxbatons, what. Though I knew some people there who had it in primary school.

I've a feeling we're going to be quite challenged, if the first lesson is anything like the pace he intends to maintain. But if what he's said is true, at least we shan't have to hex each other in lessons. I suppose that's a blessing. Do you think that will make it easier on our Neville? I say, I know Neville's stalwart, what, but I'm well worried about how much he's worried about this. I hope it's more the dread of the thing than the thing itself, what? And that once he's in lessons he'll find it's not as intolerable as he fears. We've each other to keep perspective, what?

I'm working on the first Charms assignment. What about you?

Oh, by the way, I've asked Susan Bones and some of the others if they'd like to revise. That might give us an opportunity to meet without making a meal of the thing, if you follow me. We can always break apart into smaller groups to discuss the finer points. And if not, then at least we'll have a revising group.

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-04 03:29:16**
(no subject)

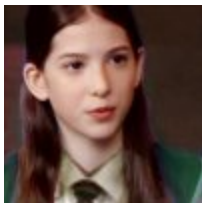
I liked it. I mean, it was a great deal more like a conversation where there were no right or wrong answers instead of like a lesson. I do think that we're

going to have a lot to catch up on, though.

Do you think you'll go practical or theoretical?

And yes, I agree about Neville. If he goes in dreading it, he'll be miserable. Perhaps we could talk to him about what exactly he's worried about? I do think you're right that his having options might make him feel better, at least.

I'd be up for a combined study group.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-04 17:22:50](#)
(no subject)

I have been so busy I have hardly been able to breathe.

I like Professor Dolohov, though. He's fair and he doesn't seem to have it in for half-bloods in general or me in particular and the books he assigned are all pretty interesting.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-04 17:56:08](#)
(no subject)

He seems miles better than Mrs Professor Carrow. I wonder what the individual meetings will be like.

2012-09-04 12:35:00

Order Only: Meeting Minutes, 3 September 1995



 [alt_lupin](#)

MEETING MINUTES
Order of the Phoenix

Date: 3 September 1995
Location: 12 Grimmauld

Members Present: Molly, Arthur, Bill, Frank, Steve, Emmeline, Benjy, Dorcas, Caradoc, Kingsley, Sirius, Dora, and yours truly.

Members Absent: The rest of you.

Guests: Not Ridley, apparently!

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Apparently they were approved, as everyone seemed to expect that I'd be taking the notes this time, judging from the enthusiasm with which parchment and pen were thrust upon me.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

We're apparently down one (1) wand.

AGENDA:

The main agenda item was to review security procedures. Additional agenda items involved second-guessing prior security procedures, complaining about security procedures, anguishing over the ethical implications of ongoing security procedures, and complaining about Albus Dumbledore ~~dumping Ridley on us~~ leaving Ridley with us in the first place.

AGENDA ITEM 1: RIDLEY

On the up side, she's no longer our problem and we have the names of twenty-five of her camp contacts. Dora volunteered to cautiously make contact with these people, since she can change her appearance without using polyjuice.

(There was some concern about whether we can trust Ridley's allies any more than we could trust Ridley. Apparently she suggested that

these contacts might be useful for 'your lot's sort of low-value operations,' I gather that was a direct quote. The consensus opinion was that Dora should be careful. I'm sure Dora found that exceedingly helpful and will take it into due consideration when she plans her camp visits.)

On the down side, Ridley took one of our wands with her, we had to burn a safe house, and poor Frank had to wash his hair.

AGENDA ITEM 2: SECURITY PROCEDURES

We spent some time discussing whether we could have improved the outcome here. (Note: there was no consensus on whether still having Ridley as a prisoner would be an IMPROVED outcome.)

I asked why, precisely, she had access to a pepper pot in the first place (and at breakfast?) Emmeline said that Ridley liked pepper on her eggs, and they'd been told to TRY TO WIN HER OVER WITH KINDNESS. (I should note that Emmeline was deeply embarrassed at how things went the other morning, and that if Rudy is tempted to pick up his journal to snipe, he should kindly put it back down, as anything he's likely to say, she's already thought.)

Sirius armchair-Seekered several details from the standoff he thought they could have solved more creatively. Kingsley admitted they hadn't exactly covered themselves in glory and that Sirius was right. This kicked off fifteen minutes of ~~arguing and sniping~~ spirited debate about whether or not we were all losing our edge and need to start thinking seriously about a programme of retraining, or whether we were all just exhausted from being too much on edge and need a tropical beach and coconut shells with drinks and little paper umbrellas in. Consensus not achieved, discussion shelved when yours truly pointed out we could be at it all night.

Benjy morosely said that we should have gone with suggestion Sirius and Frank made months ago -- put her in a full body-bind and dragged her to France back at the summer solstice. On the other hand, she might well have worked out what this implied about the wards and returned in December, and we'd have less to show for it. Though at least she'd have had to come up with her own wand instead of making off with one of ours.

Also, in June, Albus Dumbledore seemed quite confident we'd eventually win her over with kindness and respect. If you'd like to take a moment to defend that position Albus, WE'RE ALL EARS.

AGENDA ITEM 3: MILLAND

Benjy further noted that keeping Ridley locked in a dungeon for a year with no one but Severus for company would have been unlikely to win her support, which naturally enough brought up Milland, who is presently locked in a dungeon (or 'suite of secure subterranean rooms,' as someone put it) at Hogwarts. Arthur agreed emphatically that this issue needed to be discussed and hopefully resolved with a solution that did not involve keeping Milland a prisoner permanently.

Sirius noted that Poppy and Pomona (neither of whom were present; it turns out the very beginning of September is not an optimal time to hold an Order meeting from the perspective of those who work at Hogwarts) expressed concerns when he saw them in August both about the conditions under which Milland is being held, the fact that we appear to be holding him prisoner indefinitely, and the fact that Severus is using up a great deal of polyjuice impersonating him and the ingredients are not available in limitless supply.

Severus did successfully capture and confine Milland when he was caught spying, and has used his position at Hogwarts to provide occlumency lessons to Hermione, Neville, and Harry. The possibility that lessons could be provided in a way that didn't require continuous polyjuice use and maintaining a prisoner indefinitely was raised, several ideas were discussed, and then that particular discussion was shelved as we decided we needed the input from the various Order members who are actually at Hogwarts.

Caradoc suggested we Obliviate Milland and release him -- this is problematic for a number of reasons. He changed the suggestion to Obliviating Milland and releasing him in *France*.

Emmeline muttered that she hopes Milland doesn't take pepper with his breakfast eggs; Frank said that no one, least of all Severus, was trying to befriend Milland and win his trust and that probably makes things a bit easier. This was all speculation, however, as Severus, like the rest of the Hogwarts Order members, had other obligations yesterday morning. We moved on.

AGENDA ITEM 4: DOLOHOV

The discussion of unpleasant realities at Hogwarts that we're unable to do much about led rather naturally to Antonin Dolohov and the now-mandatory Dark Arts class. There was a great deal of sympathy

to the Weasleys and Longbottoms, and we moved on to whether there was any practical advice we could offer the Juniors -- who were sufficiently shaken up by the activities at their Jolly Junior Fascists Summer Camp where they spent their summer holidays that several have been asking for some ethical guidance.

Of course, 'Just tell them you won't do it' is impractical and dangerous. Moreover, Arthur noted that they're acquiring a large set of thoroughly useful skills at Jolly Junior Fascists Summer Camp -- skills that might be quite a bit of use to the Order, later on, and can we afford to have our future likely allies pass those up? (This is a less compelling argument when it comes to Dolohov's class, but that's also not even technically optional.)


Frank is recommending to Neville and Evelyn that they go for the theoretical section rather than the practical (and take him at face value that some people Just Aren't Suited to Dark Arts and be those people). Sirius noted that the theory class could be every bit as ethically damaging -- that learning to justify and rationalise the Dark Arts is only a marginal improvement over learning to practice them.

Frank also mentioned that Alice thinks those who can afford to should 'fail' the Dark Arts class. Others will have to skate a middle ground. But for Merlin's sake, don't trust Dolohov -- not even when he sounds perfectly reasonable.

ADJOURNMENT

We'd planned to discuss Minerva's large crop of babies, but after that discussion everyone badly wanted a drink. Molly and Arthur headed home; everyone else decided to convene a meeting of the Order Subcommittee for Beer Testing and headed off to the beer garden to test as much beer as possible. Whether some of those pints of beer included little paper umbrellas I will leave to your imagination.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-09-04 22:57:27](#)
(no subject)


Technically, you ought to add the loss of the safe house to the Treasurer's Report.

I've got to write that letter. Wonder if I ought to send multiple copies to Miss Parkinson, Miss Perks, and Justin? That way I can't be accused of liking boys more than girls (no comments, any of

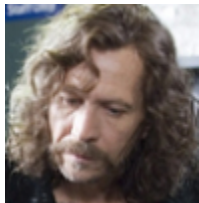
you).

I just wish we had something more concrete to tell them than that waffle up there. Not that your minutes are waffle, puppy, just - well, you know what I mean.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-09-05 00:37:19](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps we could tell them something a little more specific about their current professor's past? I know Molly'd rather Ron not know about Fabian and Gideon, but one of his other cases might serve?



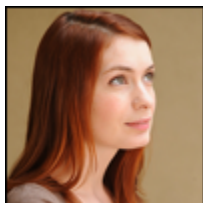
 **alt_sirius** at [2012-09-05 02:42:45](#)
(no subject)


Merlin. I don't want to give them bad dreams. Or make them so afraid in lessons that he'll know something's up.

I mean to say, in some ways it was easier with Alecto bloody Carrow. She *wanted* them to fear her and didn't care if they loathed her.

But he's gregarious, even social. And his whole approach is to make himself appear harmless - formidable, to be sure, but affable. He had a way of oozing himself into the big pureblood households (including my father's, sad to say). I never knew for sure but I suspect he's the one who convinced Reg to join the Death Eaters.

We can be glad they didn't put *him* in charge of the YPL but he's dangerous. Wherever he is.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-09-05 02:58:17](#)
(no subject)

I agree there's a danger of tipping the scale too far. But if he appears to be so charming and inoffensive, how else are they to know what he's capable of?

All we've got is smoke and vague warnings otherwise.

Fred, George, Lee, Terry, Hermione, what are your thoughts?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-05 18:04:11](#)
(no subject)

We understand why Mum doesn't want to let on to Ron and Gin about our uncles. Are there other murders you know he was involved in? Less personal to our family?

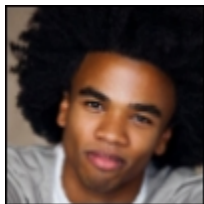
You know, we hate to say it, but it probably was a brilliant stroke to give the job to him after Alecto Carrow, who was hardly ever 'Miss Congeniality'. We've been hearing stuff in the Common Room about how approachable he is, how friendly. The difference is so extreme that people won't notice if he's a little 'off' in different, subtler ways.


Don't know, but...do you have any stories about him where he starts out friendly and turns out sort of creepy?



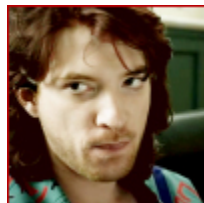
 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-05 18:07:31](#)
(no subject)


Not that we're suggesting that you make stuff up about him, exactly.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-09-05 18:08:56](#)
(no subject)


Well, is that worth thinking about? If it makes the kids wary of him?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-05 18:12:08](#)
(no subject)

As someone who has been involved in disinformation campaigns, I trust you'll think better of that idea if you consider it for a moment. You don't really want us to start lying to your friends, do you?



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:12:57](#)**
(no subject)

Ah.

Um, no.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:14:38](#)**
(no subject)

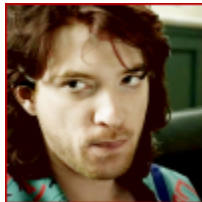
No.


Worse luck. Well, it was a thought.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:15:08](#)**
(no subject)

Perhaps not a very good one.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:16:40](#)**
(no subject)

Your words, not mine.

But I agree.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:19:52](#)**
(no subject)

No! Especially since it'd be Hermione and me
passing it on.

The truth only, please.

Knowing the truth is important.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-05 18:16:02](#)**
(no subject)


We certainly have cases Frank and I worked that we could speak to, if you think that your younger friends would be receptive, that is. I think it's worth a nightmare or two to know there's more to him than what meets the eye.

Whenever we took him in for questioning, he was always very careful to keep his charm in full force. His work was very distinctive, but it was also very difficult to charge him formally with anything -- he had alibis, and following the letter of the law meant that we couldn't keep him in custody while working for the MLE. Which was very frustrating, and means that a good deal of what he did before the Fall of the Ministry is not on record at all.

When everything fell apart around us, he was quite a bit more open, of course.

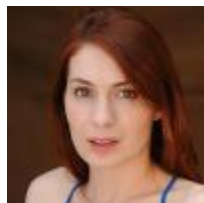
Sirius, you remember Columbus Clarkson? You could talk about him. He was right around your year, wasn't he?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-06 02:41:25](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. That's the one I was thinking of, Allie. (And for the record, it still gives me nightmares sometimes, and I was already halfway to Monaco when it happened.)

But that's the problem. I was halfway to Monaco and from what you and Frank said, no one was ever even charged with Cobble's murder.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-06 03:06:14](#)**
(no subject)

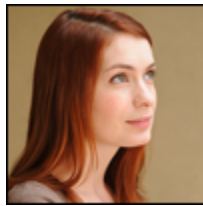
I didn't find out until he'd died that he'd been recruited by the Aurors, he was that far undercover.


Poor Brodie just about fell to pieces after that.

oh dear.

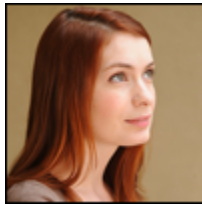
I'd forgotten about the Brodies.


And you're right, he wasn't formally charged, but the signs all pointed to him. And, well, the Auxiliary know that we're working with you, so you can just tell them that we worked the case and knew who did it, but couldn't seek justice because of the Fall. And even if they don't fully believe that much, it might plant a seed of doubt, and that's better than trusting his charm at face value.



 **alt_alice** at [2012-09-06 03:08:50](#)
(no subject)

I'd tell them myself (through Terry, of course) if you think they'd be more trusting of a first-hand account, but I suspect they'd be more likely to listen to you.




 **alt_alice** at [2012-09-06 03:11:21](#)
Private Message to Sirius

I know I'm not going to be sleeping very well tonight.

It's funny, isn't it, how you can go just ages and ages blissfully forgetting something awful, and then when you stumble into remembering it, well, it's like it's only just happened all over again.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-09-04 22:57:57](#)
(no subject)

Minor correction: although I believe MLE would have been delighted if Frank had stopped into the beer garden for a pint (with or without a paper umbrella) he didn't oblige them. He headed home after the gathering at 12 Grimmauld Place as well.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-05 00:32:58](#)
(no subject)

didn't fancy the makeup emmy was threatening me with.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-04 23:43:22](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Remus, for your excellent note-taking. And for the point - I presume yours - that five of us can scarcely disappear from Hogwarts on a moment's notice, especially on a first day of school that includes Dolores and Dolohov - blast, I should remember to call him Antonin, or it'll look bad - in the castle.

I've very little commentary on the strategy portions of the evening, but I do on the latter part.

Milland, yes. I am none to happy with that, both with the supplies issue (for Poppy bemoans the implications to me far more than she does to the rest of you) and with the ethical implications. I am beginning to find "Would I be all right telling our Junior Auxiliary about this when they come of age?" a better and better guide to actions than I wish.

On Do, sorry, Antonin, must get in practice - quite. I do get the very strong impression that failing to do well at the skills will be safe enough, but failing to try at all might be deeply disturbing. Dolores has already been at him, I gather. (Poppy tomorrow, I gather, and she made noises at me today about "Catching up on the dear old House and all its doings" this weekend.) I do agree he's been exerting every bit of charm so far, and it is distressingly effective.

(Poppy, did you see Gwendolyn, by the by, at supper? Severus, you may have a chance at freedom from her attentions, at least for a time.)

I do agree there's little for them to do though than pay close attention, keep their heads down, and not attract undue notice.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-05 01:58:24](#)**
(no subject)

(I did see. I don't believe he was half as tolerant, let alone enchanted, as he seems when it's Aurora conversing with him. Which is a cause for caution. She called him engaging, I think. Finds him a welcome partner for conversations about research. Said his library is expansive. In a mildly envious tone, I thought.)



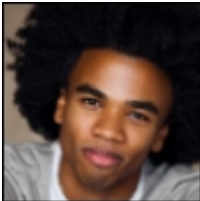
 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-09-05 02:28:06](#)**
(no subject)


(Blast. You are not reducing my worries at all tonight, are you?)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-05 02:58:28](#)**
(no subject)


(Forgive me. I wish I had more reassuring matter to report.)



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2012-09-04 23:56:29](#)**
(no subject)

We're keeping a prisoner at Hogwarts?



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-09-05 00:06:14](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't

I just went back and looked at the notes from the last meeting. I was there, but I was almost asleep when you started talking about Milland, and I didn't realise

I didn't understand

I mean, I get why you had to keep Ridley a prisoner. Anyway, she's

gone now, and it sounds like no one is sorry. But this Mr Milland...you're just going to keep him locked up? So you can use his hair in this potion?!

~~How is that different~~



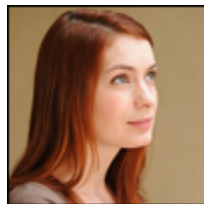
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-05 00:33:17](#)**
(no subject)


Terry (And Lee, and Fred and George, while I'm at it),

There were those of us (if you'll look back) who had strong objections at the time Milland was, er, subdued. The fact of the matter is that Snape acted on his own volition. (Most likely because he knew we'd all tell him in no uncertain terms how despicable it was. And if you're reading, Snape, you can consider this another opportunity to try to explain yourself.)

The problem is that as soon as he'd captured Milland, there was no easy way to let him go - and every reason to let the charade continue, at least in the short-term. I think we all thought it might lead to uncovering some other secrets.

But Madam Pomfrey and Professor Sprout are completely right: It's been far too long with no results and no change. It's more than past time we rectify the problem.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-05 00:46:42](#)**
Private Message to Sirius

Terry's very upset. He just came storming in and asked us how our using Milland is different from Carrow using him for potions and spells. Then he ran off as the Professor, and I'm not sure he's coming back any time soon.

He said he thought we were the good guys.

Bugger.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-05 01:33:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

Let him go, Allie. I'm not sure we *are* the good guys on that score.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-05 01:37:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

I think I'm going to have to agree with you, love.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-05 02:11:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

All things considered, I'm glad that everyone was able to talk a bit after. I think it was very much needed.

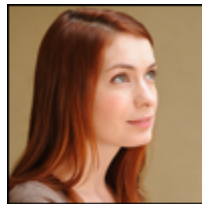


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-05 02:46:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

He kept himself in check, Allie.

I'd've stopped him, if he hadn't done.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-05 02:54:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

I gathered.

Thank you.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2012-09-06 00:19:10](#)

(no subject)

Needs must when the devil drives.



 [alt_terra](#) at [2012-09-06 07:17:06](#)
(no subject)

That sounds like a stupid excuse for turning into the devil yourself. Sir.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-05 01:31:48](#)
(no subject)

Yes, all right. I'll entirely own my opinion on the matter of Milland's incarceration and Severus's daily consumption of polyjuice.

We've lost half the crop on the Isle of Man, to rectify which, we've sent a portion of our own starts. Honestly, even if Nymphadora could do all the visits to the camps to cultivate Ridley's people and all the baby rescues, we'd still need to be very cautious about any plans requiring any of you to polyjuice. And why? Because multiple doses a day every day amount to a profligate drain on a precious resource.

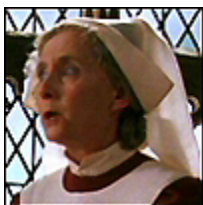
And imprisoning Milland in a dank dungeon in the bowels of the school is simply inhumane. We've ignored due process as though we were the Pretender's MLE. What does that say about us?



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-05 02:03:46](#)
(no subject)

That does remind me. We've forgotten there's *another* spy at Hogwarts, still entirely unidentified. And that one is more worrisome, for the longevity, and that we've not figured out what she - whoever she was - was or is up to.

If it were solely about Alecto, we're well out of it, but if it weren't...



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-05 02:18:05](#)
(no subject)

Quite right.

I can't say that I've had any notion that anyone was watching me. Aside from Stint's cadre of protocol

enforcers.

And Dolores Umbridge, actually. She offered to help me unpack, stock, inventory my supplies, which comes high on the list of improbable offers on first acquaintance, wouldn't you say?



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-05 02:26:24](#)
(no subject)

Well. Rather. Though perhaps she's just following up on the unlamented Stint's interests? Aurora did mention he was quite attentive to her - Dolores, that is - during the CCF weeks.

(Did you manage to put her off? If she pressed, I suppose you could be more certain it was entirely suspicious, as opposed to simply discomfoting.)

I'd say I had more information of help, but while I've been in and out of the castle all summer, you know I never see much more than my greenhouses and my rooms when everyone's gone.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-05 02:51:49](#)
(no subject)

You think there's a connection between Stint and Umbridge? (Beyond his being on that YPL committee, I mean.) That would be an unpleasant thing if she had it in mind that she needed to carry on his intrusions into my work. Fortunately, she's no authority for that. I have overseers enough at St M's, and the protocols for handling my stores are quite strict now.

(I was able to truthfully tell her that all was put away and the inventories complete. As is necessary in the running of an infirmary.)



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-05 03:02:31](#)
(no subject)

There you go being terribly efficient again. It's so lovely to watch when that discomforts.

I don't know if there's a connection - just that Aurora did mention they were chatting more than one might have expected. It may have been nothing more than knowing the way the wind blew, and making nice with the new head of the programme. She did not, she admits, try overhard to hear their actual discussions. Even if they'd have let her.

2012-09-04 16:49:00

Order Only Private Message to Pomona Sprout



 [alt_poppy](#)

I was just checking to see if we'd had any word of Sirius's soiree. But since there's nothing on that front, I shall tell you several things that came out during my tea with Aurora, instead.

I was relieved to know that she's not heard anything more from MLE about Stint. It was reassuring, almost, to compare notes about the way they questioned each of us--what they wanted seemed all very straight forward, really. Where we'd been, when we'd seen him, what we knew of him, etc. We both agreed that they seemed more interested in what she and I could tell them about Stint's behavior and where he was when, than in questioning either of us about whether we might have killed him.

By the way, did you happen to notice a death notice in The Prophet for Auror Fulton? I missed it, but Aurora saw it and wrote her friend, Auror Wright, hoping to find out more--I gather the paper said nothing about how or when or where he'd died. But apparently MLE are keeping mum about those details. Wright sent an owl today--not a reply to Aurora's private message, mind you--that said, more or less, 'no questions, please'.

Aurora's got reason to know there was more to the Stint business than his harassing the two of us and a handful of other females junior to him at St M's. There was something to her worries about his undermining the CCF exercises--involving someone in her new circles, someone highly enough placed that she was quite careful not to give away the details. She did say that she'd passed along word of Fulton's abrupt attempt to question her off the record to someone who could look into his breaches of protocol. Campanella Wright, again, I suppose, which may be why Aurora finds it so telling that Wright is unwilling to share anything at all with respect to Fulton's demise.

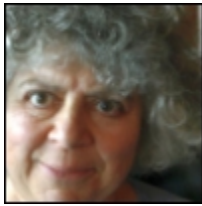
Gracious. I've just had an awful thought. I hope Wright's refusal to comment doesn't mean they think Aurora could have had a hand in that. Surely not.

At any rate, we mostly talked about schedules then, which seem to have been discombobulated for everyone due to the additional Dark Arts offerings. I gather Septima tried scheduling Aurora at 9am

following one of her 2:30am finishes up the tower, but she says they sorted that out: it was possible to shift things and leave her with a bit more time for sleep.

How has your week been so far? Has your schedule suffered on Dolohov's account?

And, oh. Now I see we've minutes to digest, so I'll leave this and see what Remus has to say.



alt_pomona at **2012-09-04 23:16:06**
(no subject)

You seem to have passed in the night, on the minutes, but I'm going to answer you here before I comment there. (Though at least someone - Remus, I think - seems to have realised how badly timed last night was. Not that there wasn't some reason, but several of the points they raise about life here.)

I've not seen Aurora today, but I didn't expect to, other than meals. (Though did you notice, she was bending both Septima's ear and said something to Dolohov that quite made him laugh, though I couldn't hear what.)

I can't decide if it worries me or soothes me that she's worked out some of the method of running in those circles. I do still remember her as very transparent young woman, though I suppose once Alcor - and that Alde - got hold of her properly, she'd already started show signs of where she is now. The YPL did change her. And yet, I can't say that it's bad that she's learned how to use the advantages and connections she has - as she's clearly been doing. At least if it's in service to the right cause. Whatever that is.

You know, it's curious. You talked to her for quite a bit, yes, and I did on Sunday. Ours was mostly about House matters, and Diggory, and - well, she did ask about Ellie, but seemed happy enough with my answer. You say you and she talked about schedules and Fulton.

And yet - did you get anything out of her about her holiday with the Malfoys and her Raz's family? Or any of the more personal matters? (You know, it occurs to me, but I don't think I've even got the story of the engagement itself out of her.) I can't decide if she's just not

talking about some of it at all, or if she's decided not to talk to us about it. And I'm not sure which is worse.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-05 02:11:21](#)
(no subject)

I did ask her. About the holiday and about whether she was finding her way with those who are set to become her extended set of in-laws. I set it out in relation to things that can become problems for couples over time if they are not satisfactory on one side or the other.

And... she didn't tell me much, really. That she's most comfortable with Rabastan's brother, Rodolphus, and with Narcissa Malfoy, who has been very generous of her time and advice. One hopes she is not merely giving the appearance of tolerating Aurora, while quietly politicking against her.

Or feeding the gossip press with horrible stories in an effort to undermine her by making her ridiculous. Do you know there was a horrible, horrible story run about her while we were away? I missed it entirely, but she says it was dreadful. I can't help but wonder about the charming Mrs Malfoy. After all, she is herself involved with a society magazine. It would be so simple for her. And Aurora seems not to suspect it in the least.

Well, it doesn't bear thinking. That sort of secret undermining is so cruel, but also quite commonplace.



 **alt_pomona** at [2012-09-05 02:21:22](#)
(no subject)

Oh, goodness, Poppy. You do have a mind.

Let me think through that. I'd not seen the story, and she didn't mention a word to me.

On Mrs Malfoy - I don't know. You're quite right she'd have every opportunity, but I hate to think someone would do that. (And they do all seem - from the little Auri said Sunday - to be so very pleased Rabastan is finally "settling down". Even if she's not quite what they expected.)


And there is the part, you remember, where Mrs Malfoy was the only person they told, other than her parents? Before they got permission, that was. Seems to me, if she'd wanted to spoil it, it would have been easiest then. Though again, I've no idea how that worked. Auri won't talk about that at all - I half tried, in Wales, just to make conversation.

(And now, see, I am worried, calling her Auri like that.)

And yet, I can't stop thinking about the Order discussion in June, and all the advice that it would be wonderful if we could draw her out, and use her as a source of information. And isn't that just as nasty as what you expect of the Malfoys? Only, perhaps, far worse, because she - well, I thought she trusted us. Enough, anyway.

Bother.

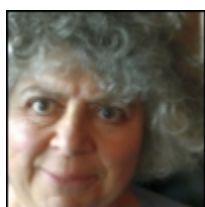


 **alt_poppy** at **2012-09-05 02:30:08**
(no subject)

I hope you are right. On both scores.

I do believe that Aurora trusts us, but it's not easy sometimes to reconcile one's friends when some are so different from the rest. She's joining a family that is very much beyond our sphere. Hers, too, until recently. I expect she's as little forthcoming about us to them as about them to us.

Small comfort, I know.



 **alt_pomona** at **2012-09-05 02:37:43**
(no subject)

Look, then. What do we do about it? I don't like at all how quickly she's found Dolohov - Antonin, whatever one calls the bloody man - engaging. Or what she's not telling us. Even the simple things, that you tell friends.

I do believe her Raz is solid enough, all told - two years of teaching, and I don't think I've ever heard a serious complaint about his fairness in class, and that goes a long way for me. And it's clear he dotes.

It's the rest of it. How on earth can anyone make good choices adrift like that? "Love makes a sturdy coracle, but where does one go?", as my mother once said. (Entirely different and less pleasant context, but true all the same.)

Perhaps what we need is to make sure we both make time for her. At least one of us each week. And do our best to draw her out, as we can, about the things she's not talking about. Not force it - and not pass it along, unless it really is crucial - but give her somewhere that's safer.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-05 03:13:57](#)

(no subject)

I agree. If she continues to have time for us.

This business with Dolohov (he's Dolohov to me as long as I'm talking about him behind his back) is troubling. Do you know that she and Rabastan had coffee with him on Friday evening, and he lent her a book? I don't know. It all seems to be becoming very cosy very quickly.



 **alt_pomona** at [2012-09-05 03:22:04](#)

(no subject)

You are rather less likely to have to speak to him direct in staff meetings. Or over a student matter. (Fortunate you.) And I don't dare slip, really.

Did she... No, I don't think she mentioned. Do you have any idea what book?

Mina - of all people, though I suppose she would know and better than most - pointed that of course, he's got quite close ties to the Malfoys and Lestranges, going far back, and others of that crowd. Beyond the more obvious Council connection, apparently.

Look. I don't think she'd actively turn us down, not yet. But perhaps we need to be the ones to persist in finding time.

Somehow. (And blast it, I know she'll want most of her weekends for her Raz, and the rest of her schedule's so off kilter mine. But I'll manage, if you'll help.)



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-05 03:35:15](#)**

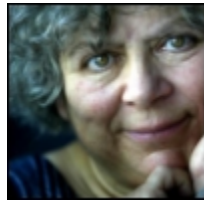
(no subject)

True, though he has already addressed me with regard to his condition. It seems to be well in hand, however, so I do not expect to have much to do with him.

She did not mention the title, but she confessed having stayed up far too late, reading it. (And for Aurora, 'far too late' means nearly time for me to rise.)

I believe that's true. Aurora suggested as much--his acquaintance with Rabastan runs far back.

And, of course, I'll help. I quite agree that we must make a genuine effort to keep her close.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-09-05 03:40:44](#)**

(no subject)

Right. (And speaking of, my own morning is rather closer than it might be.)

On her staying up. Well. That is a worry - both for her sleep, and her being that engrossed. She told me Sunday she was intending to try much harder on that front, too.

Right. You had time with her this week. I'll make sure there's something Sunday or early next, somehow. And we can go from there. And I'll be extra certain not to be quite so late for supper, at least, that I can't sit near her. (Lunch may be a faint hope, given the distance from the greenhouses.)

We have something of a plan, at least. And it is very good, Poppy, my dear, to have you to share the worry and the work with.

2012-09-05 06:03:00

Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays

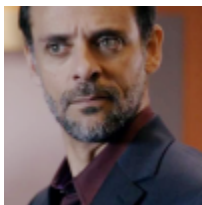


alt_antonin

As there was some confusion with the third-year classes yesterday, please allow me to clarify: the timetables you have been issued are not in error. Due to the difficulty involved in integrating the changes to the curriculum, we have indeed been forced to schedule several classes through the lunch hour. In addition to yesterday's third-year students, this also affects the fifth-year Gryffindor class on Thursdays.

As I'm aware that in many cases, your schedule does not permit you to eat earlier or later, you may arrange with the elves for lunch to be delivered to the classroom, and eat quietly and unobtrusively through our discussion. (I will likely be doing the same.) I know this is less than optimal; I apologise profusely for the inconvenience and will do my utmost to keep the situation from becoming too untenable.

As always, if you have any concerns, please stop in my office during my scheduled open hours, arrange with me privately for evening or weekend hours, or contact me via private message. I remember from my own school days how reluctant we always were to disturb our professors, but you will not be a disturbance to me in the least: I would far rather clarify the issue early when whatever problem can still be easily solved.



alt_antonin at 2012-09-05 10:09:21

Private Message to Dominic Selwyn

This book you have lent me is utterly engrossing. I particularly find myself drawn to the marginalia -- do you have any more information as to whose hand provided the commentary? I have more than once found his insights to be of considerable use in easing my way over some of the passages that are more impenetrable for one such as I who has none of the language -- if he ever published any translations of his own I shall certainly set my book-hunting contacts onto the task of finding them.

I will likely be back in New London at the end of the month (appointment at St M's and I might as well make a weekend of it, presuming I am not too behind in my marking) -- if it's not too much of an imposition I would greatly enjoy the chance to discuss further.

(Also -- if there is something I might trade you for a tour of your library, you need only name it; if there are more books like this in it, I may need to begin plotting the best way to earn more extensive borrowing rights!)

To follow up on an outstanding issue from last week: We have not yet been able to schedule the extracurricular exercises I've planned (apparently Dolores Umbridge has staked claim to a great deal of the schedule) but as soon as we have firmed up the date I will issue your invitation forthwith. It's far too soon to tell how much remedial work they'll all need before they're prepared to face a game of that nature, of course, but thus far I have been cautiously encouraged.

Fondly, while eyeing your library with an avaricious eye,
Antosha



 [alt_selwyn](#) at [2012-09-06 03:29:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn

Antosha,

I can tell you precisely whose hand provided the commentary -- the book belonged to my great-grandfather. He never published any translations; I do own a half-dozen manuscripts that he started but never completed, and about thirty or forty books that belonged to him. He was a perfectionist and an inveterate scribbler -- it's why he never finished any translations of his own, but why his notes in others' books tend to be so interesting.

You'd be welcome to come browse my library the next time you're in London. I'm hesitant to allow the manuscripts to leave the premises, but you'd be welcome to spend some time at my house reading if you have any free time over the next set of holidays, and you'd be welcome to borrow some of the other books he made notes in. (Actually, it's possible the unfinished translations would be amenable to a copying spell -- it's not something I've thoroughly investigated in part because they'd never been of interest to anyone beyond the family. You have quite a bit more expertise in that area than I do.)

Yours in arcane scholarship,
Dominic



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-06 12:23:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn

Dominic --

You are a torment. A most pleasant torment, to be sure, but a torment indeed. I will eagerly accept your offer, with utmost thanks. If the remainder of his commentary is of the same calibre, which I am certain it is -- once I am more settled in my role here at Hogwarts, would you care to collaborate on a project to bring his work to wider audience? As a bit of a perfectionist myself I can certainly relate to his reasons for not publishing during his lifetime, but it would be a very great pity not to give him his chance for the glory his mind well deserves, even posthumously.

At very least I would be delighted for the chance to investigate the possibility of duplication -- over the years, I've found a few tricks that can often be deployed to coax certain texts into permitting some liberties, and notes and manuscripts-in-progress in particular can often be courted into allowing reproduction without needing to go to the elaborate lengths a wizarding press must to allow the printing of whole texts without disaster. (About which I have some funny stories.)

I shall let you know the next time I'm to be in town, then, and anticipate many pleasant hours of learning all you are willing to share of your specialities.

Fondly, and doing my utmost to control the accompanying outstretched hands of polite but covetous glee,
Antosha



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-05 10:18:43](#)

Private Message to Rabastan Lestrangle

Razzer my dearest,

Shall try to catch you at supper tonight. (Am skipping breakfast and lunch -- hauling arse down to the Great Hall on Monday did me in more than I'd expected and that was without a class immediately after; eating upstairs yesterday after class was far less exhausting, and I grow weary of the little darlings staring at the way I walk when they think I'm not looking.) In case I

miss you, however: I find myself in need of an eye-catching demonstration for next week and was thinking of using Balliol's Blood-Lock. I've had a turn around the classroom, but have yet to unearth any boxes of suitable construction to use as the container; the only ones I've been able to find all have metal hinges rather than wood.

Could use one of my own, of course, but they've all been mine so long I suspect they wouldn't take well to unlocking for the demonstration! Do you have anything on hand that might suit? If you don't get a moment to check, I'll send one of the elves out to New London this weekend to pick up half a dozen, or switch to a different demonstration, but it occurred to me you might have something in your storage.

(Am most looking forward to the start-of-term pressures easing off us both so we might mount an expedition into the Closet of Dire Leftovers. It will be just like the old days. Though I suspect we've both gotten better at ducking, and at least this time nobody will be actively trying to kill us. One hopes. ...I most likely shouldn't say that, should I?)

Eternally yours, and hoping I've not just jinxed us all,
T



 **alt_rabastan** at [2012-09-05 15:27:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan Lestrage

T-

If you don't need it until next week I ought to have plenty of time to look. Any particular size?

I always assume that there's someone, somewhere, who wants me dead. My hope is that this year they won't be living in the same castle. Any case, we ought to let Rod know when we dive in- he loves dire leftovers, the more dire the better.

Any impression of our student body yet, or is it still early days?



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-05 17:59:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Rabastan Lestrangle

Quickly, while I wait for the little darlings to file in -

-

From what I've gathered of the last few years, a year where none of the people who are trying to kill you are sharing bed and board would be a novel change, yes. As disasters seem to beset the castle regularly of late, let us all hope that whatever enemy is no doubt plotting to arise should at least have the good manners to give us ample warning.

Have been favorably impressed thus far, actually -- I'd braced myself to have to start at barest beginnings, but there's more than a few of them thus far having demonstrated at least a hint of intellectual curiosity. (We've been covering the basics -- what are the Arts -- and after the shock of me disagreeing with their textbook definitions wears off, several classes thus far have rallied with suggestions I suspect them to have learned from you, actually.) I have high hopes. Now if only I can get them to stop flinching whenever I show my wand...

Would be quite grateful for the loan. As to size, "something that can be passed around" is my only thought -- was contemplating offering a substantial sum of House points for anyone who can get the box open once I've locked it to my hand, then sitting back and watching the inventive little darlings work. (Must confess, that exercise has always been one of my favorites for that very reason: watching the methods tried is often as telling as any manner of deeper analyses.)

And yes, do invite Rod along if you'd like -- once we've cleared the Direst of Closets, there's her former quarters as well, the less said about which the better. (There is a reason I am rooming elsewhere.)

Ah, and another group of young minds to pry open settles down and looks eager (and apprehensive). Time for me to pretend I know what I'm talking about.

Eternally yours,

T



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-05 10:22:30](#)

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Lyoushka,

Just a quick note to ease your fears before I bestir my lazy arse out of bed and into motion for the day (and no, I've no earthly clue why I'm awake this early, either): going quite well so far. Many of the little darlings take some prodding before they're willing to believe there's no such thing as a wrong answer, only one inadequately justified, but I hope to make more progress over the next few weeks.

Seeing the sixth years for the first time today -- let us hope none of them are as clearly terrified as several of the thirds were!

Eternally yours, and my love to Narcissa as always,

T



 **alt_lucius** at [2012-09-05 17:34:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Toshenka,

One could call you many things but lazy is not an adjective that springs to mind.

I've but a little time myself, between obligations. Dominic says you've some war games in the works? Fascinating. Should be intriguing to see which of your charges distinguish themselves in the heat of such a test. Horace behaving himself? And Minerva? No objections to the curriculum from any other quarter of the staff?

The Governors, you'll be amused to hear, are still awash in letters from concerned parents, including parents of first- and second-year students who are already anxious for their children's precious limbs, heads, vital organs and one can only assume souls. Why they insist on complaining about a change that shan't affect their own young for at least a year is beyond me. Perhaps they fear collateral damage.

It's as if Dark Arts had never been in the curriculum for 3rd-year and above before - though you are quite right that your predecessor was not only ill-suited but entirely too frightful in her own right to

foster much love for the subject. Perhaps this was Our Lord's plan all along, to depose her at some future date and introduce them to a true scholar of the Arts. (One hopes He did not foresee your injury, *bratishka*, but rather that He anticipated a time when your services would no longer be needed so far from home.) One cannot deny that the contrast alone ought to endear you to many of your students - and from thence, foster in them a deeper appreciation for your beloved grimoire.

If it's any proof, Draco wrote (five days early!) to say that yours (and Razzler's, of course) are already his favoured classes of the year. (None too surprising, of course, but Razzler's have always been unparalleled in his estimation, so that is hardly faint praise.)

Still, one hopes that your 'darling' Dolores is competent enough to realise that your efforts and hers ought to function in tandem. If there's one advantage to the change in leadership, it is that many did find Aurora - delightful as she is - to be entirely too soft when it comes to discipline. Expect it's her upbringing (and well, of course, she is a Hufflepuff by nature as well as Hat).

You know she has been after Narcissa to guide her through the minutiae of her wedding ceremony? My wife is happy to help, of course (you know witches and weddings - always a dangerous combination!) but she did wonder why, with all the other demands on Aurora's time, she doesn't simply engage a planner for the more tedious details.

The point, lest I begin to emulate you and your tangents, is that it's clear from her early forays, at any rate, that the family are all somewhat naïve in their approach to life in the Protectorate (or anywhere else, for that matter). But then one would not necessarily expect a family of their ... stature to be quite so grounded in the of purity and nobility to which one of true dedication to Our Lord's vision aspires.

At any rate, it's as well that the Lestranges are the ones uniting their bloodline. Not that she is not charming, and her effect on Raz has been, as you've seen, the making of him. But my guess is that the family are used to being able to indulge their innate sense of nursery-room notions of 'fair play.' Must agree with the YPL advisors that the students in general could use toughening up. No doubt your exercises will dovetail with theirs nicely.

Saw that Barty wrote, no doubt to check on your stamina in the face of all those stairs, passages, corridors and of course, the demands of the classroom itself. Narcissa has been bursting with curiosity but wished to give you at least a week to settle in to something like a routine. She is at her monthly retreat to Ardenia's, so you may expect her solicitude in perhaps a day or two; had hoped to hear from Barty about another matter we've been pursuing together, since her absence provides some time to devote to that project.

Must excuse myself; our next meeting is being called to order.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-06 00:16:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Darling,

Am not at all surprised to hear the Governors are beset. I trust you and Dominic are holding firm against all comers? Do let me know which voices are most worth wooing; I can likely cadge the time to exert some charm. (As long as it isn't a Thursday. Suspect I will be quite low on my reserves of 'charming' by Thursday end.)

Also suspect, though, that fears will ease when the first crop of public reports start appearing in journals. The little darlings have been skittish thus far, and I've not seen many references (in journals at least -- who knows what they're writing home) but I've received a first few tentative forays into trusting I mean it when I tell them I want them to think, not parrot. (Your son's class, for instance, managed to forget their affront at the disruption to their schedules quickly and settle straight down to merrily unpicking the questions I threw at them. Which reminds me: Tony's daughter is your goddaughter, yes? She had several astute observations to make; do I detect your hand in her past reading?) But there are ways and ways to skin a kneazle, as you of all people know, and I bear full faith and confidence that I've not yet lost my knack for overcoming the worst of objections through the repeated application of patience and reason. (Except on Thursdays.)

With luck, the worst complaints you'll be hearing by Hallowe'en will be moaning that I expect too much work out of them!

As for my predecessor -- well. Your theory that Our Lord has been planning this, or something much like, all along is a comforting

one, I must admit. I have been at a loss to think of any others, save one; I will say this for Alecto, for all I cordially despised her and her brother for years for their crudity and utter lack of self-insight (and for all the feeling was mutual) she was, at very least, a powerful practitioner of her small subset of the whole of our Art. It has occurred to me perhaps that is what He was after, the chance to show the children what power could be theirs if they applied themselves to study. Still, believing that would also require me to believe Our Lord could not foresee the effect sheer terror would have on young minds, and even were that not utter folly to contemplate, I have never known Him to be anything less than impeccable in his understanding of the myriad motivations of mankind; His wisdom and foresight were what first attracted me, and no small part of the reason why I am His loyal hands, for life and beyond.

It is a mystery I have not yet been able to unravel. Perhaps I should turn my thoughts away from it, and simply accept once again that Our Lord's understanding so surpasses that of even we happy few that we might never hope to follow.

To happier matters: Am quite glad to hear that your Dragon approves thus far; suspect interest levels will rise further once I begin demonstrations. In deference to parental vapors, we shall be easing in, but yes, I do plan on letting the little darlings loose on each other eventually, once we've established ground rules about how cross I shall be if they reach for any of the hexes and curses I can't easily undo. (Have reassured Madam Pomfrey she shall not be seeing an endless stream of patients from my quarter, at least; not sure if she believed me, what with past precedent working against me, but she seemed to appreciate the assurance.) Depending on how quickly they progress, I do plan on running regular sessions of class under Salazar's Rules (with, of course, my own variations) starting soonest; that should allow me to measure their suitability in advance.

(You may wish to assure the other Governors, should they hear of the plans for our little games before they reach fruition, that I shall design the objectives most carefully to steer them away from doing permanent injury to each other, at least.)

As to the rest of the castle: Minerva is well, though appears overworked; she has been quite supportive of my educational aspirations. Horace is Horace, ever and eternally. (Suspect it will take me months before I can call him that to his face without

stumbling; fifty-two years old and I still turn sixteen and spotty the minute he addresses me.) Razzer is a delight (and it is so good to see the changes time has wrought in him); Umbridge a horror (I am minding your cautions, Lyoushka, I truly am). The others are mostly forgettable walk-on players, save for Razzer's Aurora, whom I persist in finding utterly delightful.

I have hardly forgotten your thoughts on those beneath your station and stature, old friend -- but you will not have forgotten my conviction that there is occasionally mettle to be found in the strangest of quarters: in Aurora I have seen the faintest of stirrings to remind that the badger has tooth and claw, when properly roused. I do not yet know what it would take to awaken the badger's fierceness in her, but I have found -- on multiple occasions -- that still small sense I have always relied upon to draw me to those who have potential tells me she is one in whom an investment of time, and a bit of tailoring one's approach to account for both nature and nurture, might pay interesting dividends a bit down the road.

Besides, I do find myself liking the girl. A very great deal, in fact. And if I'm to be stationed here for foreseeable duration, convivial company will no doubt come to mean a great deal, all notions of future utility aside. I am not underestimating how much value there will be in a friendly face at table by February or so!

Barty did indeed write (and, to answer the question you most carefully did not ask: the assorted stairs, passages, corridors, &c have not yet defeated me, though I've resorted to breakfast in quarters and lunch in office these past two days to minimise my exertions) and we've plans for a good long wallow when I'm back in town for my next Healers' consult. Razzer, meanwhile, suggests inviting Rod up to the castle for whichever afternoon we feel bold enough to brave the pile of dear departed Alecto's miscellany I simply chucked into a closet and warded against the most curious of the little darlings, and making an expedition of it. (And then, no doubt, retreating to Hogsmeade to drink heavily and tell lies of our valor.) If this keeps up, I have no doubt we'll have moved along to happy reunions of we merry few by midwinter at latest.

And now, having discharged my duties of correspondence, I shall close with my eternal love, and retire to my bedchamber with the current book (no, nothing you'd find of interest; I am alternating texts on the Arts with hideous sappy romances, the more florid the better, and tonight is a night for *Petunia's Purple Passion* or

whatever the fuck the actual title is; I can't recall but it's certainly doing its duty of distraction) to brace myself for Thursday.

I did mention how dire Thursdays are likely to be, yes?

Waving this copy of *Love's Lascivious Lustre* at you, just to see the faces you are no doubt making,

T

[2012-09-05 13:06:00](#)

(no subject)

It's good to be back at Hogwarts.

We get Quidditch again, which will be ace. The distance flying and the club this summer really got me looking forward to it this term, and I think we'll have some good matches.



 **[alt_harry](#)**

And it'll be nice not having to work on triwizard stuff. I mean, I learned a lot. And we'll have OWLs this year. But I think it'll be good, because we'll all be getting ready for it, so we can study together. Which can be fun, sort of. And OWLS will be about lots of different things, and if you don't know the answer to one, it'd be okay, mostly, you know, but with the tournament it was like, oh, guess what, now you have to learn how to breathe underwater in a day or you're probably going to die.

Anyways.

I hope everyone else is enjoying their first week.

And I have an extra copy of the Peverell book if anyone wants to borrow it. It's not the 1821 copy, but it has footnotes that talk about how it's different, so it shouldn't be hard to follow along.



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-05 17:34:56](#)**

Private Message to Raz

I've been thinking about what you said, about picking something I wanted to work on this year.


I think I really want to work more on duelling. I mean, I worked on it some during the triwizard thing, but not as much because we were learning other stuff too, and I could always get better. Like maybe we could work on duelling while flying? Or like if it's more than one person? I was just thinking about when we went to Leicester. And how sometimes duelling isn't just you and another person. I don't know.

And the Patronus work we did a while back. More stuff like that. Protective spells.

I want to learn more about what happened I think the Noble Arts class will be really useful. For learning more about some kinds of things.

What do you think about Professor Dolohov?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-06 01:13:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

Duelling on broomback and double, triple, etc.? That's a regular focus of the duelling club for the NEWT-level students, but I suppose I could introduce it to students in their OWL year. Is that what you were thinking, adding it to duelling club? Or more for our private practices?

We'll do plenty of protective spells in class, unless there's something specific you were wanting protection from...which is to say- everything alright?

He's an old friend of mine, an old friend to a lot of us, which I'm sure you've realised by now. His knowledge is vast, not just on practical but on theory and history, too. You'll learn a lot from him, no doubt, but you might find his style a bit overwhelming. I think I would, were I a lad your age, attending his lessons. If you ever feel you're not grasping something, don't be shy to ask him to break it down for you in a different way. Or come to me, and I'll see what I can do.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:56:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

Okay.

Maybe both? I'm sure loads of people would find it interesting. If it's not

you know

too much.

And yeah, it's alright. More alright than it was at the start of summer. I just think

I don't know

If I really work on how to protect myself, it could be good. For a lot of reasons. I think my Father might like it, maybe? If he thinks I'm better at that sort of thing he might

I couldn't do what he wanted me to do. At the end of the tournament. He said he was trying to keep me safe.

That's it, I guess.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-06 02:10:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

We can work it in for the club later on in the term, I think, but you and I can start trying some broomback skills on our own to start. How's that sound?

Knowing how to protect yourself is important, sure, but remember that there's a limit to what we mere mortals can do. There's only so much that we can control on our own, and dwelling too much on the things that are out of our control- well, it doesn't do any good, that's all.

Try not to think too much about what your Father would like, Harry. Or anyone else, for that matter. Just focus on being the best wizard you can be, because that's when you're at your best.

I'm not trying to push you off this fire you've lit under yourself, mind...but you just seem a bit tightly wound, seeing as the term's only just started.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 02:17:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

Okay.

thanks, Raz.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:59:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

And yeah, Professor Dolohov knows a lot. And doesn't just give you stuff to write down, he makes you think about it first. But that's okay, I think.

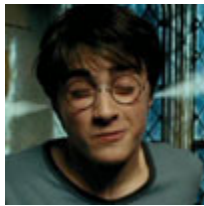
And he's loads better than Carrow.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-06 02:07:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

'Loads' is an understatement!



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 02:09:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Raz

Yeah.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-05 17:37:11](#)

Private Message to Granger

What happened?

Did I do something?

Are you okay? Are you angry at me?

...is it Umbridge?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-06 00:37:00](#)


Re: Private Message to Granger

I'm not angry at you.

I had rather a shock the other day. I don't know how much I should say about it, only—you remember first

year?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:04:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

Okay.

What about first year?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-06 01:11:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

Well. Do you remember how I was punished?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:13:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

yes.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-06 01:13:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

Well, I had a visit with my mum on my afternoon off.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:19:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

Oh.

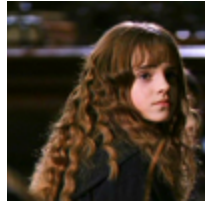
Okay. Well, I mean, no-one said anything to me about noticing you were gone. Which is good.

I guess.

What

I guess it didn't

So it wasn't okay, seeing your mum?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-06 01:28:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

Well, she didn't want to see me so much.

I guess she thought I had another family now, but I don't, not really. I mean you aren't really family no matter what, I mean you're lovely, but not family. You know.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:32:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

I am?

I'm sorry.

I'm really sorry, Hermione.

I mean, I can't do anything about it, but yeah.

I know.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-06 01:32:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

I think you might be almost the only one who does.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:37:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

I know it's not the same. But I've got you, and you've got me. And that's something.

It really is.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 03:19:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Granger

I'm glad you came back.

I know you didn't have to.

And if you need to go somewhere again, I'll help.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-05 17:52:11](#)

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Antonin Nikolaevich,

I was wondering if it would be okay for the people who have already met with you to talk with the Gryffindors in our year about what we covered in our first class. I wanted to check just in case it would spoil what you've got planned or something.

-Harry Marvolo



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-05 21:14:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Mr Marvolo,

I must thank you for your consideration, both for your fellow students and for my lesson plans. Also, for your offer to lend your books. (I do wish I'd been able to give the bookstore more advance notice. Ah, well; we shall have a mutual adventure.)

You are quite welcome to share whatever you've learned in my class with others, and in fact I hope you will: the more prepared for discussion each student is, the more we will all benefit. Particularly in these early weeks, when we are all learning to take each others' measure, I would also greatly appreciate any reassurances you feel you are able, in good conscience, to give to your fellows.

Five points to Slytherin, for your initiative and courtesy in asking, and I shall look forward to seeing more of that initiative in

discussion in the coming weeks.

Regards,
Antonin Nikolaevich



 **alt_harry** at [2012-09-06 02:52:12](#)
(no subject)

Antonin Nokolaevich;

I just wanted to let you know that we had our meeting. I'm pretty sure everyone from Gryffindor was there, and there were people from the other three houses who talked about what their classes were like. They had lots of questions, the Gryffindors I mean, but they were mostly just curious about the differences between the practical and theoretical tracks and the books everyone else had and stuff things like that. And we all talked more about the definition of Dark Arts, and what we thought were spells that were obviously Dark and spells that weren't and why.

Thank you,

-Harry Marvolo



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-06 12:07:28](#)
(no subject)

Very well done, Mr Marvolo, and my further thanks for keeping me informed of your results. I shall look forward to seeing the results of your discussion as reflected in class, particularly as we will continue to debate the question of definition next week.

Meanwhile, if you happen to become aware of any struggles among those of your fellows who are starting at a slight disadvantage in experience levels, do let me know, or send them my way. I have some additional study materials I couldn't use in class because of the difficulty in sourcing adequate copies of them (yes, believe it or not, there were several titles even harder to obtain than the ones I assigned) and I would be happy to lend copies to anyone who is at a loss; the individualist nature of the Noble Arts mean that someone who struggles with one explanation may find another to be the key that unlocks

understanding.

Regards,
Antonin Nikolaevich



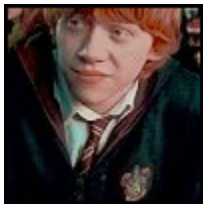
 **alt_harry** at [2012-09-05 22:28:51](#)

Private Message to Seamus and Ron

I know your class missed out on Professor Dolohov's first meeting, and I thought we could get together some people from the other classes who have already met to talk about it with whoever's interested. I asked Professor Dolohov, and he thinks it's a good idea, and maybe people who haven't taken the class yet at all can hear a little more about what it's like?

It'd be easy enough to get a few people from the other houses to come and talk about what it was like and what he covered and stuff like that.

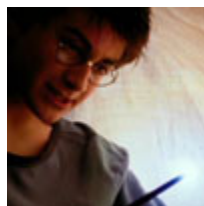
Could you ask around and see if the other Gryffindors would be up for it? We could do it tonight, so you can catch up before the next class.



 **alt_ron** at [2012-09-05 23:06:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus and Ron

Thanks, mate. Yeah, I'd definitely like to hear what happened in your lesson with Professor Dolohov. That's be wizard. Bundy says she'll come. And I'll ask Nev when I see him.



 **alt_harry** at [2012-09-05 23:08:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus and Ron

Ace.

Let's meet in the Charms classroom at 8.

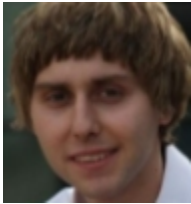


 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-05 22:51:13](#)

Private Message to Padma and Justin

I asked Professor Dolohov if people who've already taken his class could have a quick meeting with the Gryffindors tonight just to catch them up on what they missed and sort of just talk about the class and stuff, and he thought it would be an okay idea. Especially because some people haven't taken it at all before and might have questions.

Could you meet tonight? And maybe bring someone else from your class too? I'll ask some other Slytherins if they can come along.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-06 01:09:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma and Justin

Hello, Harry,

Jolly kind of you. Yes, I'd be pleased to come along. Where are you meeting? Let me see if Sue, Ernie or Zach care to join us, what?

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 01:11:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma and Justin

We're going to be at the Charms classroom at 8.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-06 01:10:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma and Justin

Oh, no, I just saw this! Are you still meeting? Lavender didn't tell me about it!

Su Li says she'll come, too. Is that all right?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **2012-09-06 01:12:36**

Re: Private Message to Padma and Justin

We're just now getting started. We're at the Charms classroom. That's fine. She can come.

2012-09-05 14:54:00

Private Message to Rolanda Hooch

I think you must be as busy as I have been, since you've not stopped up to collect the items you requested.



 [**alt_poppy**](#)

No worries. I think I'll bring them out to you, if you're finished for the day.

I've been wanting to see the refurbishments to the pitch and stands, and this is as good a chance as any, assuming no crises overtake me between here and the front entrance.

I trust your offer's still on for the guided tour?

[2012-09-05 22:34:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Do you suppose Terry's forgiven the lot of us yet?
For Milland?



 [alt_lupin](#)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-06 03:37:08](#)

(no subject)

Well.

He answered Allie. Which means he's at least gone back to human form (for now).

I could hex Snivellus for saddling us with this whole mess.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-06 03:42:10](#)

(no subject)

He saddled us with it, but the rest of us have been willing enough to look the other way.

I think I like Pomona's ethical standard. 'Do I want to have to explain this to the Juniors, when they come of age and join up? or will this just convince them there's no real difference between our side and the other?'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-06 03:49:22](#)

(no subject)

It's not that we've ignored it, precisely, but there's fuck all to do about it. I can't think of an acceptable solution; can you?

And Merlin knows we're not perfect, and I'm not proud of all the things we've done and had to do over the years, but yes, we're different from those blood-suckers.

We feel remorse, if nothing else. We try to do the right thing, even if we fail.

Fuck.

Now Allie's got me thinking about poor old Cobs.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-06 03:59:11](#)
(no subject)

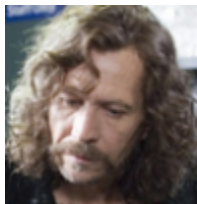
I know. Me too.

He was so deliberate -- you know, he gave the other side a fair hearing, when he was considering who to side with, what to do. It was part of why he was able to infiltrate so effectively.

From their point of view, he was a spy. They catch a spy, they kill him without mercy and use his body to terrorise his friend.

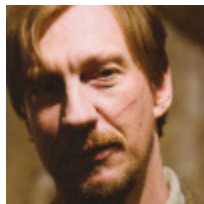
We catch a spy...we keep him locked up somewhere comfortable while we argue endlessly about what to do with him.

That IS a difference. Of a sort.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-06 04:01:49](#)
(no subject)

Brilliant. Ta, pup, that helps ever so much.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-06 04:03:56](#)
(no subject)

It's not as if I know what to do with Milland, either.

I sort of liked the 'shove him through the wards and obliviate him' plan. Is there a reason we can't do that? I suppose Severus would have to leave Hogwarts.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-06 04:07:12](#)
(no subject)

Well, we could shave his head first. And perhaps clip his nails really short. (Not volunteering, thanks.)

But do you know, it does occur to me that we've not heard much from Snively about the person Milland was supposedly spying *for*. Is he making regular reports? To whom? And about what? Why *hasn't* he shown us any benefit to his little impersonation act?

I guess we'd better ask. I don't think it ought to wait until Christmas holidays when we can get everyone together in person.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-06 04:09:52](#)
(no subject)

No, I agree. He's been lurking at Hogwarts, 'educating' the impressionable young, and ... using up polyjuice.

We could get enough bits of Milland to keep Severus well-supplied with polyjuice for a good long time, but we can't guarantee Milland won't find a Protectorate embassy quickly enough to get Severus arrested if he's still playing Milland.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-06 04:10:57](#)
(no subject)

Well, and brewing me wolfsbane. Credit where credit's due and all that.

But that doesn't require him to be at Hogwarts.



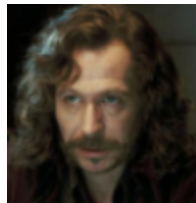
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-06 04:12:14](#)**
(no subject)


Doesn't require his oiliness, either. I bet Steve could make it reliably by now.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-09-06 04:11:32](#)**
(no subject)

Do you want to come to bed and we can try to forget about all this until morning?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-06 04:13:41](#)**
(no subject)

Yes. I do.


I'll be there soon, I'm just ... I want to get something down on parchment first.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-09-06 04:14:56](#)**
(no subject)

Don't stay up too late.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-06 04:15:58](#)**
(no subject)

With you waiting for me?

Don't worry.

2012-09-06 00:16:00

Order Only: Private Message to Terry Boot

Hey, kiddo.

Welcome back. Alice told me you spent a little time as the Professor yesterday. Hope it helped.



 [alt_sirius](#)

For what it's worth, being Padfoot usually helps me think, too. It helps to cope with the things in this world that just don't make any sense.

And I saw what Severus wrote; he's a ~~git~~ smarmy pillock, even if he is working for us. *If* he's working for us and not playing some game of his own, which I'm none too sure.

But then, he was also in Azkaban a long time. You've been near Dementors. Imagine being surrounded by them every day for years. Most wizards aren't half insane when they leave - if they ever leave there.

That doesn't excuse him, of course. Or us, for letting him have his way about Milland.

But, there is a difference between us and them. I think, if you think about it, you can see the differences.


Anyway, I know you've got the best people in the world looking after you at Moddey, but if you ever do want to talk, or somewhere else to be for a while, well. I'm here. Moony's here, and Dora'd hex me if I didn't remind you that she's here for you as well. Grimmauld's dead awful, and I'm sorry it's still not the home we'd like it to be, but the grate's always open to you, too. Or to the Professor. Padfoot won't mind sharing a water bowl.

I wish it were as simple as we're right and they're wrong. We're not always right, kiddo. We don't always make the right choices. We're human.

But we keep trying to make it better. And when we realise our mistakes, we try to fix them, if we can do.

That counts for something, eh?



 **alt_terry** at **2012-09-06 18:09:54**
(no subject)

Yeah, being the Professor helped. Some. Not enough.

I answered Mr Snape back. Guess I wasn't very polite or respectful when I did.

But I just can't respect this. I can't. I keep thinking of what it must be like for Mr Milland, locked up all the time, never seeing anyone but his jailer. Never seeing the sun.

I did talk a little more with Mrs Longbottom, and she explained why the hair is needed for the polyjuice. It isn't a Dark binding spell, and it doesn't hurt him or anything. So that's not quite the same as what the git did with me.

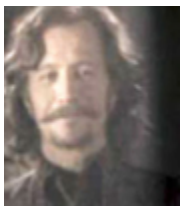
Thing is, I've been wracking my brains to figure a way out. But I can't think of one. It's the same as it was with Ridley, isn't it? Mr Shackbolt and the rest of the Players must have felt so stuck, having to watch her all the time.

Only not exactly. At least when she escaped, you knew she wouldn't run to the authorities. But Mr Milland would, if he ever gets away.

So yeah, I guess there isn't any easy way out. But I hate it. It stinks. And I want us not to stop trying to think of one.

I'd like to see you, yeah. Would it be okay if I came sometime this weekend? Dunno if I want to study anything in particular, I just...

It's just that the Professor would like to spend some time with Padfoot. If that's all right.



 **alt_sirius** at **2012-09-06 18:49:40**
(no subject)

Course you can, sprout.

And yeah. It stinks. Sometimes the whole rotten world stinks.

But we shan't give up. You can trust me on that.

Listen, I've been working on a message to all your mates back at Hogwarts. It's just about ready. If they ask, you can tell them that it's true, and that Frank and Alice were some of the people involved - I'm not mentioning them by name but they were part of it. Just in case there are doubts.



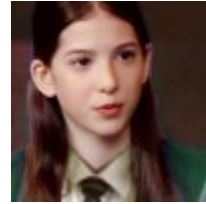
 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2012-09-06 22:37:46](#)**
(no subject)

I can do that, sure.

2012-09-06 09:05:00

Private message to Professor Dolohov

Sir, I was wondering if 'Antonin Nikolaevich' is your patronymic? And if you prefer to be addressed that way?



 **alt_sally_anne**

I spent some time with Durmstrang students last year, and Viktor Krum explained some things about Russian names.

I heard Harry use the name, and that made me wonder. But many of my housemates know people well who I am only just meeting, and address them accordingly (for instance, Pansy calls Mr Malfoy 'Lucius' because he's her godfather and it's fine for her but that would be terribly rude if I did.)

Thank you. I very much enjoyed my first session of class with you.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-06 18:06:10**

(no subject)

Miss Perks,

Indeed I am Russian -- unmistakable, one supposes -- and many of my nearest and dearest do quite indulge me, out of their affection. I have no preferences as to which my students use: both 'Professor Dolohov' and 'Antonin Nikolaevich' are equally respectful. I hope that as the year progresses, we will all grow more at ease with each other, and you and your classmates will feel comfortable addressing me however you would like. Hogwarts as an institution may prefer formality, but my classroom does not insist on it; true respect lies not in what a teacher is called but in how his students heed his teachings. Do not fear that I will see rudeness, so long as no rudeness is intended.

I'm very pleased to discover you found our first meeting enjoyable, and allow me to return the compliment: your contributions to our discussion were quite insightful, and I would like to encourage you to continue volunteering them in future. I shall not put you on the spot by requiring it, but should you be willing to model for your fellows the fearless spirit of discovery I hope to nurture in your cohort, you should find me most properly appreciative. In the meanwhile, five points to Slytherin, for demonstrating an excellent example of our

shared House's ideals.

Do let me know if you have further questions, or stop by my open hours for any reason at all, even simply to continue a discussion we have had in class. In all my opportunities to teach thus far, I have found the best results arise when my students feel wholly comfortable to bring any uncertainties at all to me, and I shall endeavour to create such an environment for you and yours to the best of my abilities.

Regards,
AND

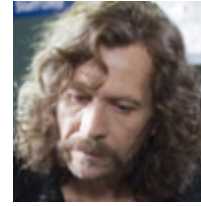


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-07 03:00:25](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, sir. I may stop by next week.

2012-09-06 09:29:00

Order Only: Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Potter



Hey, kiddo.

Did I ever tell you about what happened after my mother ejected me from the house?

 [alt_sirius](#)

I didn't even want to be there anymore but it was still a difficult period for me. If it hadn't been for Cyrus and Grace Potter - Harry's grandparents - I might not be the principled, trustworthy, fair-minded and handsome rogue you know and love.

Well. Or something like that.

My point is, I know you feel like the only person ever to have been rejected by a parent. You're not. I don't pretend my situation was like yours, or to know exactly what you're going through, pet. Just know you don't have to deal with it all on your own. There are people in your life who care and who are here to help.

And you've got Harry. I know he does all he can to make your life as normal as possible for someone in your circumstances.

But if you do want to talk to someone who's been through something a bit similar, you've only to write me a note. Merlin, I'll even come up to Hogwarts if you like; it'd be good to see you, maybe even to see some of your mates.

Speaking of mates, I'm working on something for them to think about. Just putting the final polish on it. You can tell them, if they ask, that yes, it's true. Frank and Alice were there, though I was already on my way out of the country. I'll tell Terry that as well, so he can confirm it.

Meantime, hang in there. And don't forget you've got friends.

2012-09-06 13:15:00

YPL: Our Exciting New Plans



 [alt_umbridge](#)

Dear boys and girls, I am just so excited to be able to announce the wonderful new plans for the YPL this year. We of course welcome all of our darling new first years, but I also invite those of you in upper years who have not been as previously involved to return. After all, this is the best opportunity to learn skills outside the classroom, and become the best young witches and wizards in service to our glorious Protectorate you can possibly be!

We are going to continue with just a few of the arrangements that Professor Sinistra had already made, but we have so much other material that we simply must cover that we'll be adding quite a few additional meetings. Full date lists have now been posted in all of your common rooms, but I just want to draw your attention to the highlights.

Our first meeting together will be on September 16th, from 2 to 5 in the afternoon. In that, we'll be handing out your membership sashes, learning about all the exciting plans for this year, and practising some study skills to help you all get the best start on the coming school year. We'll also talk about some of the ways that you can demonstrate your commitment, skill, and loyalty to the programme's aims outside of meetings.

One of these little projects will be to improve our fitness and overall health. We will be beginning to offer regular sessions of running, flying, and other activities several times a week. We'll discuss more of the details on the 16th, but CCF students, kindly plan to remain until supper, as I expect you will be eager to take the lead on organising these sessions.

Other events this year will include a lecture from some of our Protectorate's foremost magical engineers, a chance to be of service to village schools, and a truly wonderful writing project and competition to honour the Lord Protector. And for our CCF students, there will be a special activity building on the work of the past summer. We will also have many chances to gather loyally, polish our social and study skills, and temper ourselves to reveal our best and purest potential.

A chance to discuss your hopes for the programme: Now, finally, I want to let you all know that I take my position as the chair of the planning committee most seriously. I wanted to give you all a teensy amount of time to settle in, but beginning on Monday, I will be arranging meetings with all the current CCF members, and with all the counsellors (so for those who are both, we will be able to spend two delightful hours together). I have planned this around your course schedules, and I am sure you will be glad to set any other plans aside just this once.

After those are complete, I will be looking to meet with as many other interested parties - students in other years, faculty, parents, and members of our wonderful larger community - about long-term plans for the programme.

Again, should you or any of your parents have questions, I would be glad to assist. Students, my door is always open to you, and parents, I am readily reachable by owl and journal.



 **alt_umbridge** at [2012-09-06 17:31:39](#)

Private message to Horace Slughorn


Horace,

I do hope you haven't taken offence that I've not managed to make time to see you for a good chat yet. I felt it most important, first, to have a little chat with those whose duties most directly affect the YPL work itself. But please, don't think for a moment I'd neglect you.

Would you have time soon for a visit from me? I would so love to catch up, and of course hear all your lovely stories about how your students have succeeded in the years since I left school. Do say we can find a time soon, and of course, I'll bring a little treat or two.

Dolores



 **alt_horace** at [2012-09-07 14:16:43](#)

Re: Private message to Horace Slughorn

Dolores,

Not at all, not at all, my dear. In fact, I was just about to reply to you last night when that pack of

lies appeared and quite threw my evening into disarray.

The first week of lessons is always a bit of a jolt, but now that I've settled our fifth-year Hufflepuffs and Ravenclaws in for the morning, I can (blessedly) spend part of the hour catching up on the correspondence I missed last night.

I'd be delighted to meet with you, of course. My door is always open. May I say, it's remarkable to see you devoting yourself so passionately to the preparation of our young people. Particularly after your skills have been so valuable to the Ministry, for so long, I do hope your presence here means we might have more of a, well, a *direct* line, as it were? Not to fault the Governors, of course, or Minerva or even Septima, she does what she can, but it is good to know that someone with real influence in New London is only a few metres away.

Shall we say, Sunday afternoon?



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-07 15:09:05](#)

Re: Private message to Horace Slughorn

Horace, dear -

Quite the night, yes. I do hope the dear students weren't too much upset by it? Sunday would be lovely. Your office? Mine? Perhaps at three, and then we'd have plenty of time to catch up well and properly.

As to that lovely compliment, well, I certainly hope to do what I can. It's more than clear already that a little extra in that area certainly wouldn't go amiss, and Latimer Caldwell - Division Director for Education, you know - has proven most willing to listen to my little suggestions.

It is so good to catch up once again.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-06 17:35:30](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, *delightful*. I can't wait. Two whole hours with Hembridge! I may swoon from happiness.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-06 17:51:09](#)

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

Indeed.

I think I may have just vomited in my mouth a bit.

Sashes? I say.

Though one could never object to more chances to 'gather loyally,' what? On top of all the homework we've already got, of course. It's dashed considerate of her to give us so many opportunities to prove ourselves.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-06 20:25:04](#)

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

I know. Sashes, right?

I have a really bad feeling about this. Starting with those meetings she wants us all to have with her,

yeah?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-06 21:01:46](#)

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

You didn't really get sick in your mouth, did you? If so, I don't think I'll be able to meet you tonight.

I don't know, nothing she says here seems really awful. Perhaps she won't be so bad?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-07 00:23:02](#)

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

I didn't care for some of what we did this summer. So if that's what we're building on, well, I'm not looking forward to it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 00:56:32](#)

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

Do we know that the muggle exercises were entirely her doing? I'm not sure of that myself.

I suppose I'm just trying not to base my judgment of her on things like her off-putting way of talking to students as if they're really not bright, because she hasn't been a teacher before so she might not really know the best way to go about it yet.



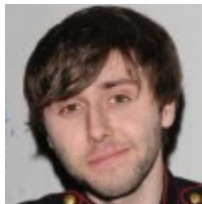
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-07 01:12:34](#)

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

Point.

And I don't like what happened with Professor Siz, but that might not have been her doing either.

She is *incredibly* annoying, though.



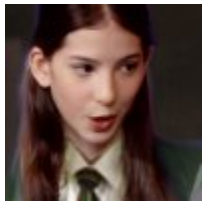
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 02:50:24](#)

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

No, and if I had done I'd have brushed my teeth as soon as I had the chance, what?

He's written again, did you see? Sirius.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 03:01:52](#)

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

At least for once it's someone from YOUR House driving us all mad.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 02:47:24](#)

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

TWO
HOURS

Ugh.

I went up to Siz's office tonight because I wanted to know if admiring her kitten plates for two hours would keep her diverted. She wasn't sure. She gave me some other advice, it's rather generally applicable so I'll share but I need to organise my thoughts first.

You should all know, though, Professor Siz has all sorts of wards on her tower and if you want to talk to her privately she can be pretty sure no one's listening in. And if we want to talk to ONE ANOTHER privately -- or other students -- she has spaces we could use. She can't stop Umbridge from walking in but we'd know she was coming in time to look like we were revising astronomy or whatever.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-06 17:40:09](#)

Private message to Padma Patil

Miss Patil,

You are one of those whose opinions about the programme I am particularly interested in hearing early on. Looking at your schedule, would it be possible for you to meet with me tomorrow? (As I see your Monday is very full indeed, and Tuesday not much better). Either at 11am or at 4pm seem possible - do just let me know which you'd prefer.

Do come by my office, if you would, where we can be quite private.

D. Umbridge



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-07 01:56:10](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Madam Umbridge,

Thank you very much! It's such a surprise to be

singled out from all the students like that.

(I'm sorry I didn't answer sooner but of course, I had my homework and then there were a few first- and second-year students who needed help from a Prefect. I hope you understand.)

I'd love to come and talk. I'm not sure what sort of ideas you're looking for, but I'll be happy to do what I can to bring people together through the YPL and CCF. I think they've been really amazing so far and I'm sure they're going to get even better.

I think 4 would be better, if that's still free for you, because then I'll be done with lessons for the day, and I'm not in Creatures, by the way, so that's perfect because I'll have had a couple of hours to start on homework already.

Thank you again! I'll try to live up to the opportunity to help shape the programme.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-07 02:27:49](#)

Re: Private message to Padma Patil

Miss Patil,

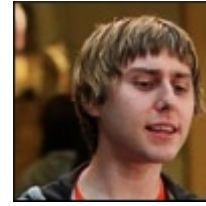
Ah, thank you for that, dear. I'm still getting the knack of sorting out all of your individual schedules. And I certainly do understand and admire you tending to your other commitments.

4, then, tomorrow? And that way, if we need to talk a little longer, we'll have the time for it. Do have a thought, if you've a moment, to things you enjoyed, and things you wish had been done differently this summer, and to topics that could use additional time this school year.

I did want to compliment you, as well, on the idea for the code sessions. Really most delightful to see how clever you and some of your fellows were at solving some of those puzzles. If you had more ideas along those lines, I'd be glad to see if we could arrange something.

2012-09-06 15:15:00

Private Message to Harry Marvolo



 [alt_justin](#)

Harry,

I say, thanks very much for thinking to ask me and Patil to bring others last night. I hope we alleviated some concerns for the Gryffindors, what? I know some of us are still none too comfortable learning Professor Dolohov's subject but at least one can agree that the fellow does seem a reasonable enough chap.

As I said, my primary concern is that he does seem to expect rather a lot from us all, when we've other work to be doing for our other professors, as well. It's jolly well and good to love one's topic, what, but perhaps Mr Capper's unfortunate outcome can show us all the dangers of loving it to the exclusion of everything else!

Have any of the others given you any sense of whether it was helpful? Mind you, I think we bally well might need more protection from Madam Umbridge's particular brand of enthusiasm than from Professor Dolohov's, if you follow me. I say, she *is* aware that we're teenagers, what, and not still in our nursery room skirts? I quite wonder whether she realises that the YPL is good and all, but part of why we all liked Professor Siz so much was she treated us like we had half a brain among us. Did you see her message? I say, do you suppose she really wants to hear our opinions? Somehow I doubt anything other than wholesale agreement would meet with her approval, but of course one would never suggest a former Minister for Magic to be anything other than professional in the performance of her duties, what?

Listen, a few of us, including Sally-Anne and some others, were thinking of starting a Dark Arts revising group. If you'd like to join us, I'm sure you'd be welcome. I can't speak for the others, of course, but I daresay no one would be fussed if you cared to bring Miss Granger along as well. In case you needed her for anything, of course.

I'd have written to you earlier but I ran out of time at lunch and we've only just sat down in History of Magic, so it's the first chance I had since last night.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 21:13:08](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

I haven't heard from them, but I think it went well.
And yeah, I figured it was good to have people from other classes too. You know. Not just Slytherin. So thanks for coming.

And a revising group is a good idea. Thanks for letting me know about it. Could Draco come too?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 02:34:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I well see the point of representing more than Professor Dolohov's own House. I've heard that there were past eras when the professors quite favoured students in their own Houses over those in the other Houses. Not now, of course, and obviously Professor Dolohov has been scrupulous with everyone, what? It was a jolly good idea, and well done.

I suppose Draco could do, if he wished. I suspect he might grow terribly bored--I mean to say, I expect he'll already know a great deal of what's brand new to the rest of us. I shouldn't want either of you to think we're inviting you simply to have an available tutor.

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:02:11](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

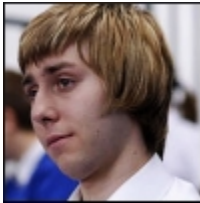
Okay.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-06 21:19:48](#)
(no subject)

She is a bit much.

I wouldn't say that anywhere she could hear it, though.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 02:40:20](#)
(no subject)

No, naturally not, what?

I say, I hope you don't think I've been too forward.
It's just that her message was there when I opened my book and, well, she rather made a cake of it. But I suppose one ought to be more charitable. Perhaps she really isn't used to speaking with teenagers. If so, I hope she'll soon come round.

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:11:24](#)
(no subject)

It's fine. Really. I don't like her. Lots of people don't. It's just that enough important people do so it's worth being careful about, yeah?

And here's hoping.

[2012-09-06 20:39:00](#)

Grim Truth: 95/6/9

Greetings, British Wizarding World!

It's story time. Are you all sitting comfortably?
Then I'll begin.



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

There was once a young man from a pureblood family who wanted to serve his country. He saw others of his generation growing more concerned with the bloodlines of their classmates and less with the proficiency of their spell-casting or the kindness of their actions. He found others who thought, as he did, that there was an insidious force at work in the land. This surreptitious influence was corrupting vulnerable and ambitious minds, convincing them of their superiority and turning law-abiding wizards into a gang of thugs.

Being a young man of principles, courage and good sense, he asked his friends what he could do to help Magical Law Enforcement stop the rising tide of murder and abductions. A plan was formed: The young man would feign interest and infiltrate the gang, reporting back through protected channels. In this way, MLE would learn the identities of the gang members and obtain evidence of their involvement in the gang's crimes.

They hired the young man in an unobtrusive department of the Ministry, and took every precaution to ensure that no hint of connection could be found between him and his commanding Aurors. He played his role well, or so everyone thought, though to MLE's great frustration, he was not able to offer up much in the way of intelligence that would lead to arrests. Owing to the nature of his undercover work, he had to exercise particular caution when it came to preventing the planned actions of his supposed comrades - for no hint of betrayal could reach them or he might be compromised.

Still, MLE were patient, and allowed the young man to infiltrate further and further into the organization. They believed that his efforts would pay in time, would lead them to a bigger opportunity to break the gang's growing power.

Before he could bring them indisputable proof, the Ministry fell to the gang's assault. The gang-leader destroyed both the Muggle and Wizarding governments and set up his own puppet administration.

Many of the Aurors and other MLE officials were named public enemies and sent on the run.

Not long afterward, the Auror who had been in charge of the young man's activities, a family man by the name of Brodie, came home to find his door hanging from the hinges and the Dark Mark slithering overhead. In terror, he entered his house, wand outstretched for anything - or anyone - lurking inside.

He found nothing disturbed, nothing amiss. Until he walked into his kitchen. There at the table, the young man sat, cradling a cup of tea, still warm. A scrap of parchment and quill lay on the table next to his elbow. The Auror noticed three things immediately: The young man was wearing Auror's robes; he was completely unharmed; and he was unmistakably quite dead.

Brodie approached and read, with a sinking feeling, the note left behind for him: 'Dear Sir, I deeply regret that I must tender my resignation from the Auror programme, effective immediately.' Up close, he could also see a curious but significant object: a single Galleon at the bottom of the teacup.


In what must have been an extreme act of determination and courage, he searched the rest of his house. His wife was not yet home; he found their nanny asleep in a bedroom cupboard with no idea how she came to be there. But his daughter was playing happily in her bedroom. As Brodie checked her for wounds, hex damage or evidence of curses, she asked him, 'You didn't go in the kitchen, did you, Daddy? The nice man told me I wasn't allowed. He said he was going to take someone on an awfully big adventure.'

Auror Brodie sent a Patronus to his wife and the family fled within the hour. More extensive examination of the child found faint traces of the Imperius Curse, used to prevent her from witnessing the atrocity committed in her own house. Brodie and his colleagues recognised the warlock's calling card from other victims: The Galleon on or near the body, the taunting messages. They knew whose work it was. But the Grim Truth was that by then, they had no way to bring him to justice. Months later, the Brodies were caught and killed, their daughter placed in the care of distant relations and raised to believe her parents were traitors.

The young man's name was Columbus Clarkson.

His murderer's name is Antonin Nikolaevich Dolohov.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2012-09-07 03:47:05](#)

Order Only

Whoa....

You sure have people in the Common Room talking, even if none of them dare make a comment to you.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-07 03:48:18](#)

Re: Order Only

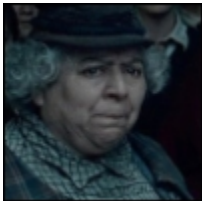
We asked for creepy and you gave it to us. Wow, Sirius. Bleeding disturbing, that is.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-07 04:28:08](#)

Re: Order Only

I wish I could say it was my invention.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-07 04:04:16](#)

Re: Order Only

I admit it's at times like this I wish I had a reliable source in the sett. I do worry: a good half of them have been at me with worries over his class already, and this is not going to help.

Not - Sirius, not that you shouldn't have written it. You should. The more truth, the better. And in a form that's so compelling.

I just hope. Well.



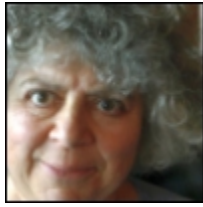
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-07 04:29:49](#)

Re: Order Only

They have to be forewarned, Pomona. You and the others can't do it.

It might be the only thing I can contribute but

Merlin's beard, I can at least do this much to show them what lies beneath the approachable exterior they are facing.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-07 04:43:04](#)

Re: Order Only

You're absolutely right. On both counts.

Just I'm not looking forward to the conversations tomorrow morning when I stop in. Figuring out what to say, without giving too much away. Well.

I should find my own bed, though, the better to think through that. Maybe something will come to me in my sleep.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-07 04:46:22](#)

Re: Order Only

So long as the something isn't Peeves!

I should sleep too. Up most of the night writing the first draft of this, then working on it off and on all day.

Knackered.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-07 03:49:59](#)

Order Only

Oh, boy. Can't wait to see the Prophet tomorrow.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-07 03:51:12](#)

Re: Order Only

They'll either deny it or, more likely, just ignore it.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:52:36](#)

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

Neville's mum confirms it. She was the one who examined the girl afterward.

She says he's telling the truth.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-07 03:53:19](#)

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

Blimey.

That's a story that's gonna give me shivers for a long time.

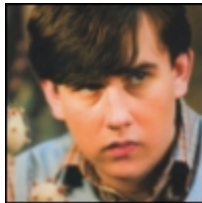
I know better than to say anything publicly to him. But I really want to.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:54:01](#)

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

Well, what do you want to ask him? I can pass it along.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-07 03:54:47](#)

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

For starters, what are we supposed to do with this information? It's not like we can ask to get him removed. It's gonna be not very easy to go to class and sit there and listen to him, knowing this.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:55:44](#)

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

I think that's sort of the point.

Sirius doesn't want you to trust him.

Anyway, I'll pass on what you said.



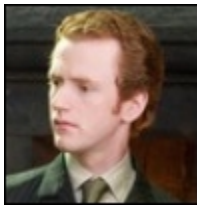
 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 21:56:37](#)

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

Sirius says that he wants you to know this so you'll be really careful. Mr Dolohov can come across as 'amiable and charming.' But he's capable of doing stuff that as bad as anything

the git did.

Remember that, because he--Dolohov--is liable to make you start to think that left is right and up is down.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2012-09-07 03:56:30](#)

(no subject)

There's nothing more PATHETIC than a COWARD hiding behind the face of a dead TRAITOR to spew LIES.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-07 03:57:11](#)

Order Only

Oh, Perce.

You humongous bighead.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 03:57:57](#)

Order Only

Sirius:

One member of the Junior Auxiliary asked me to pass along, 'what are we supposed to do with this information? It's not like we can get him removed.'

I said you wanted this story to come out because you don't want any of them to trust him.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-07 04:34:35](#)

Re: Order Only

Right.

And to be very, very careful. He projects an amiable and charming persona but he's capable of acts that are every bit as heinous as anything the git ever did to you.

I want them to keep that in mind when he starts making them think left is right and up is down.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-07 22:02:33](#)

Re: Order Only

Well, some of them are listening, and I think they'll be as wary as you want.

But for some of the others, your story hasn't had quite the effect you were hoping for, maybe. One of them pointed out--if the story is true--that Mr Dolohov was careful not to involve bystanders, and even careful so the little girl wouldn't see, wouldn't be frightened. And if Mr Clarkson was spying on them, well...sometimes bad things happen to spies when they get caught.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-07 23:21:05](#)

Re: Order Only

Some do see it that way.

What do *you* think his actions meant then, and mean about him?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-08 03:49:17](#)

Re: Order Only

I dunno. Answering your question is making me think about--it's hard for me to explain.

See, living with the git, dealing with the git, it made me--

I'm starting to realise that it forced me into really simple

thinking. Black and white thinking. First of all, he wasn't interested in teaching me how to think, to evaluate. I was a mudblood, so he never expected more from me than animal reasoning. Second, I had to play the role of stupid crawling boot all the time, so nothing was straightforward. Third, he was so crazy and awful, that it was just easy to reject everything he stood for. He was a monster, and he loved the Dark Arts, so I don't want anything to do with them.

I'm starting to figure some of this out as I'm talking with some of my friends on, um, the Junior Auxiliary lock. It's not so cut and dried for them. After all, no one's making me take Dark Arts, and so it's easy for me to say I'd never do it. But they have to figure out what to do. And I'm afraid some of them might get resentful (or are already getting resentful) if I bang on and on about how I'd never do any of this stuff. Almost like they're thinking, '*so what makes you think you're better than us?*'

I dunno. I could be entirely imagining things. But then, I've never really been taught how to get along with other kids my age.

So back to your question: it's hard for me to even think how to answer it, because I can't get past that simple thinking I was talking about. Like 'he's all about the Dark Arts, so I don't want anything to do with him, and everything he says must evil and bad.' And I've never even met the man. But then nobody's expecting me to take his class.

I can't take the next step and even imagine how I'd try to figure out how to evaluate his character if he's being charming and nice. Much less figure out how to evaluate how to think if he's really good at leading people around the nose with his questions.

That's not much help to my friends.

Not sure if that makes much sense.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-07 04:01:25](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Uh. Yeah.

I guess I'm glad I didn't read this before I had that lesson today, but~

yeah, I don't even know.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 04:05:20](#)

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

This reminds me of when the woman from Dog Star posted the list of Death Eaters, which included my parents, Uncle Raz, Uncle Lucius, and so on (I really don't remember if Professor Dolohov's name was on it, but I don't think it was, funnily).

I'm not sure, but I suppose he might be trying to say that Professor Dolohov can't be trusted, just like Terry says.

But he's usually better at trying to get people to think through things on their own, instead of just trying to give them a fright



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 04:39:49](#)

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

Are you frightened?

I think that was the point, you're right, but I think it's interesting that he didn't tell us what to think, at all, this time. I know the others have complained that sometimes Sirius can sound rather preachy, what?

I think his point is that the story speaks for itself. That alone ought to tell us what to think.

But I say, I hope he hasn't actually frightened you. I can't imagine Professor Dolohov committing murder here, certainly not of a student, what? Even if he can't be trusted, precisely, he's at least got a sense of propriety.

And pride, I think, if what Sirius is saying is true.

-Justin



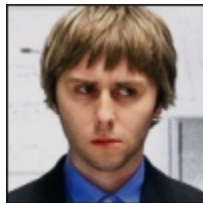
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 04:47:55](#)

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

I'm not afraid of Professor Dolohov. I'm afraid of not having the right perception of someone. Of making a mistake and trusting someone I shouldn't - or, even worse, not trusting someone I

should.

That's all, really.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 05:00:24](#)

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

Well, I'm afraid of him. Not because of this particularly chilling little parable, what, but because he does seem like the sort who would do exactly what Sirius described. But that's also because I think he's the sort who would take either side of a debate just to twist one's thinking. I think one shall have to go very careful about him, what.

But, on the subject of trusting people...I don't quite know why but I invited Harry to the revising sessions I'd been talking about. And then he asked whether Draco could come along. Well, I say, I certainly didn't want to exclude him and seem rude, what, but--what Daphne Greengrass said did rather make me pause for a moment. (To say nothing of the fact that I suspect I bally well sounded daft to him. I re-read my post and I was jolly well babbling. I didn't think I was that nervous about it but I suppose I was.)

Well, my point is, do you think Draco would--would he object if he suspected that you and I are together? Or if people there talked about anything not strictly on-topic?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 05:12:02](#)

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

Mummy used to do things like that, where she'd say something different than what she'd always preached before, just to see how I would respond. After a while I learned how to give her as neutral a response as possible, so she couldn't grab hold of it and say it was something it wasn't... It didn't always work, though.

So I suppose I might be wary, but I don't think I'm afraid.

I don't know what to think about Draco. I might ask Daphne Greengrass what she meant when she said Draco would have reacted badly, had he seen us.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 04:55:33](#)

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

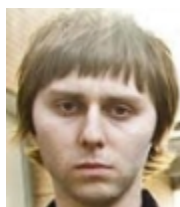
I don't know, I'm sure this isn't what Sirius meant for me to get out of this, but --

I was terrified of Miss Professor Carrow. I was really afraid she'd contrive of a way to kill me, or at least hurt me in a way that Madam Pomfrey wouldn't be able to fix. Because she hurt me badly and she was going to do worse, back in third year.

When Professor Dolohov went to kill someone who had spied on him and the others on his side, he took care not to hurt any of the innocents. He even made sure the little girl didn't SEE, so she wasn't frightened.

I'm not saying killing Columbus Clarkson was okay, but he was a spy, and they were on opposite sides, and I'm not sure it's really fair to say, 'you killed someone on the other side from you during the War so clearly you are an evil and terrible person.' They were on opposite sides of a war. Lots of people died on both sides of the war. I mean I assume Professor Dolohov used Avada Kedavra and I guess the Wand Smugglers think that's much worse and they always choose other curses when they're duelling but I doubt that was much comfort to Evan Rosier, you know?

At the very least, someone who would keep both the little girl and her nanny safe like that isn't likely to murder his students.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 05:13:16](#)

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

Sally-Anne,

You as well?

I agree, I'm sure Sirius didn't intend that. And I know you get frustrated with him so perhaps you're not inclined to think the best of his posts.

But reading this I'm bally well struck by the difference between Professor Dolohov and, say, what muggles would call a serial killer. There are tonnes of men in the muggle world who would simply have slaughtered everyone in the home. And men whose idea of terrorising someone is to drench the sitting room in blood. That's well horrific, of course, but it's the stuff of films and Grand Guignol, what?

What Professor Dolohov did strikes me as more...professional, if you follow me. As if he didn't feel any need to involve any bystanders. That in itself is disturbing, what, but it suggests he's much more cold-blooded than most.

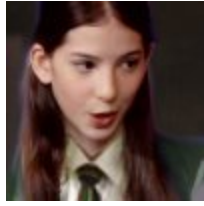
Which only means he's even less to be trusted, because perhaps he'll not see it as his duty to kill one but he'll definitely have no qualms about sending one to the camps or turning one in to MLE.

Yes, I'd say it's imperative to go careful.

And on that cheery thought, look at the time! Gracious, we'd better all get some sleep.

Assuming one can sleep, what?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 14:11:41](#)

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

Well there are different sorts of trust, you know? There are people I trust with everything, like you lot, and there are people I would trust with everything in a pinch because I think they're likely with the Wand Smugglers, like Madam Pomfrey and Mrs Weasley. And then there are people I trust with things like my real feelings, like Professor Sinistra. And there are people I trust to treat me fairly, like Professor Lestrangle and Professor Dolohov, and finally there are people I trust not to try to murder me when my back's turned, like Professor Acton.

It's not as if I'm not going to be careful in class. It's Dark Arts class, even if I can trust the professor I certainly don't trust Patil.

2012-09-06 21:49:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I talked to both Madam Pomfrey and Professor Siz this week, about CCF and about Umbridge.

Hem hem.

(Sorry. I get the urge to clear my throat now whenever I think about her.)

I told Madam Pomfrey about CCF this summer. She doesn't know Umbridge particularly well but I can tell she doesn't like her. Also, she thought it would probably not be a good idea to quit right now -- she wasn't sure whether it will hurt my chances of getting an apprenticeship in the Healing programme if I drop out sometime later (to focus on my OWLs, say) but she thinks it might. She definitely didn't want to advise me to quit, even knowing about the muggles, although she didn't like the idea at all.

After I saw Madam Umbridge's post today I went up to visit Profesor Sinistra because I wanted to know if she had any advice about dealing with her. I want to know how to flatter her, because I'm a YPL counsellor as well as being in CCF and I'm going to have to spend a great deal of time with her (TWO HOURS. MERLIN.) and she could really make things difficult for me if I get on her bad side. REALLY difficult.

I visited during office hours but when I said I was hoping for a private conversation she left one of her NEWTs in charge (there aren't a lot of Astronomy questions this early in the year, anyway) and took me down to her rooms. She told me later the whole tower has all sorts of wards on it so she knows who's coming in and out. If Umbridge had come into the tower she'd have known. And she hinted that she could arrange to give us a similar warning, you know, if we wanted to have a 'revising session' in the Astronomy classroom when she wasn't teaching. It wouldn't keep her out, we'd just know she was coming in time to look like we were actually revising Astronomy or something.

I am pretty sure that Professor Siz actually HATES Umbridge.

Anyway.

She said Umbridge doesn't like half-bloods. She doesn't know why. She thinks my best chance to get ahead is to develop skills no one can take away from me -- Madam Umbridge won't help me do that, but she might open opportunities for me without realising it.

She pointed out that Umbridge is a Hufflepuff and said 'don't try to out-House us at our own game -- I wouldn't try to out-subtle a Slytherin.' She said to give her my variety of loyalty (I guess she means, flatter her like crazy and pretend I like her? that IS the Slytherin version of loyalty...) and hard work and devotion. And it's fine if she suspects I'm doing it because I think it'll benefit me because she'll EXPECT that since I'm a Slytherin.

(Obviously 'go ahead and be a Slytherin' is not good advice for Hufflepuffs, Ravenclaws, or -- Merlin help us all -- Gryffindors.)

Since I'm a half-blood she said I shouldn't try to imply that I'm as good as my pureblood classmates. She didn't like giving that advice. I could tell. But she thought it would be worse NOT to give it because she wasn't struggling -- does that make sense? She didn't hesitate, she said it, even though she hated that she had to say it, and I think that means it's pretty important. (Justin, you might go talk to Siz too, and get your own advice, because you're in a unique situation. Sort of like a half-blood but not exactly and you ARE a Hufflepuff.) She said I shouldn't talk too much about being clever and instead talk about how glad I was to help as a counsellor and learn what I could at CCF and how I wanted to help people 'from the best families' at the QWC (ha! I saved Lana Sandoval's grandmother, I REALLY DID help people 'from the best families') and that's why I'm interested in Healing and if she makes me talk about it more I should focus on how there are Healing-oriented jobs that Pureblood Wizards don't really want to have to do because they're boring or drudgery or whatever.

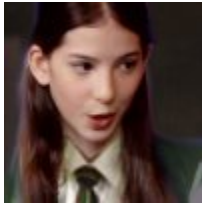
When she asks about the YPL she suggested I say something like 'I love to be challenged to grow, it's such a wonderful opportunity to learn where I can most serve the Protectorate,' and if I have to be dismissive of Siz she'll understand.

Umbridge likes to hear about things being organised and controlled and well-managed. I'd thought maybe I should admire her kitten plates (did you know they ACTUALLY MEOW?) but Siz isn't sure. She has kitten plates -- loads of them -- but she doesn't own an actual cat. But I could probably admire her hard work and ask her questions about herself as long as I can steer away from her losing her job as

Minister. Because that would not get me on her good side.

Anyway.

Ron, I don't know what you ought to do. TWO HOURS. At least you're a pureblood so you don't have to worry about knowing your place.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-07 04:12:24](#)**

Private message to Pansy and Hydra

Also, Siz wants to invite all three of us up for tea. Separately or together (but I think she'd prefer together) for a talk about Girl Stuff.

I'm not sure what exactly she wants to cover but it's because none of us exactly have mums handy that we can confide in if we have questions. I can't talk to my real mum, Pansy's mum is busy with her new baby, and Hydra's mum, well.

I think she wants to tell us how to be very, very sure we don't have babies by accident.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-07 04:18:11](#)**

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

Oh.

Well, that sounds like it'd probably be a good thing to learn.

If horribly embarrassing.

But if it's Professor Siz, it'll probably be a lot less than it would be otherwise. So.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-07 04:19:47](#)**

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

I actually do know the rune you use to avoid getting pregnant because my mum showed me. It's what she uses, since she doesn't have a wand.

It doesn't work as well as you'd want, though. (There's a charm I

think boys and men can use? but she didn't want to depend on my father remembering.)

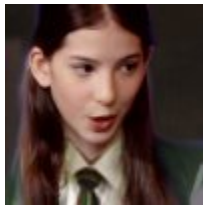
Anyway, yeah. I'd rather learn from Professor Siz than ask Acton.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 04:18:46](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

But you have to have sex to have a baby. Does she think we're all having sex?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 04:20:39](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

No but I think she thinks we might want to eventually. And better we should know before it becomes an issue.



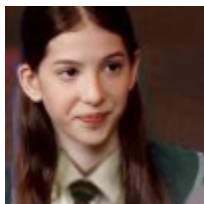
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 04:30:15](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

Well, even if you *want* to, how do you know when it's *okay* to?

I suppose I want to know more about that, than about babies and whatnot.

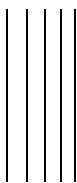
Mummy always said that sex is mostly only good for getting a man to do what you want, and that if a woman treats it like something 'special and precious' then she's bound to be disappointed, in the long run.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-07 04:46:29](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

I think she wanted to talk to us some about that, too.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2012-09-07 04:59:34**

Re: Private message to Pansy and Hydra

Good.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-09-07 04:16:39**

(no subject)

You seem to know Siz much better than I do. I suppose I might make more of an effort, since she's to be my Aunt. I really don't know what to talk to her about, though. She gives you so much advice, and she seems to really care about being fair to everyone...

But she's marrying Rizzer, and he's a Death Eater and he's friends with "Antonin Nikolaevich Dolohov." Sometimes I wonder if he might have even killed Miss Professor Carrow, and maybe even Healer Stint.

And she's not just marrying him, she really, really loves him. Most students like him a lot, too, and I know that Harry trusts him. I suppose I do as well. He's helped me out with lots of things, and even Justin, too.

Figuring out how people add up isn't very simple, as it turns out.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-09-07 05:35:19**

Private Message to Hydra

It's true he did keep our secret that time. But I rather thought that was more out of his affection for you than altruism or fair-mindedness. But he's your uncle, what, and at the time he wasn't even my professor.

I suppose it could have been that he's really, truly in love with Professor Siz, too, what, and that did make him somewhat sympathetic.

But...a murderer? Your uncle? Why should you think he killed Miss Professor Carrow, Dux? Or Stint--he didn't even know that man, did he?

It would be easier if people were simply honest, wouldn't it? 'Hello, I'm Professor Dolohov and I'll be your trained assassin this evening,' what? or 'Hello, my name is Madam Pomfrey and I am a Wand Smuggler, and therefore trustworthy.'

Though come to think of it, most of the professors and staff *do* rather tell one where they stand.

Professor Siz is a bit hard to read, though, isn't she?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 05:44:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Before I left for school, I heard Daddy talking to Mummy, and he was wondering if Razzer had 'got rid of' Stint. And then he added that 'there's plenty who think he had a hand in that cow Carrow's unfortunate end, too.' It was just bits and pieces I was hearing, but still, it did make me wonder.

Professor Siz is -

Sally Anne's just told me that she wants to have a chat with us about sex. With me and Sally Anne and Pansy, I mean.



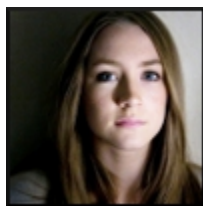
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 05:46:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

WHAT?

Does she...think we're having it?

-J

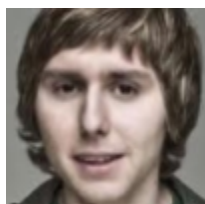


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 05:57:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

That's what I asked. If she thinks any of us girls were having it ~~not me and you~~

She said: "No but I think she thinks we might want to eventually. And better we should know before it becomes an issue."



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 06:02:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Oh, I see.

Well. That's...good, I suppose.

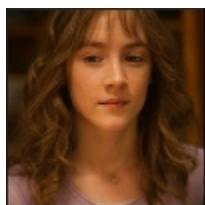
I mean, if you have questions, that is. I suppose better Professor Siz than some.

So long as Professor Raz doesn't decide he'd best do the same and then invite me and your cousin and Ron for a similar chat, what?

Gracious. I thought it was going to be difficult to get rid of the images from Sirius's tale. No fear now.

Try to have sweet dreams, Dux,

-J



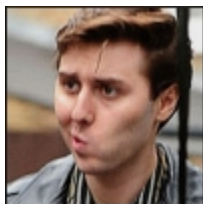
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-07 06:07:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Right now I only have one question.

I don't think males talk about sex amongst themselves until after they've had it, so you ought to be safe there. ~~But you and...why Ron?~~

I'll...try. Goodnight



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-07 05:37:21](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne


I say,

Sorry about sending a private message to Hydra, what? I don't wish you to think I'm being rude.

Only I wanted to ask her something about her uncle and it's somewhat private.

-Justin



 **alt_ron** at **2012-09-07 14:06:14**
(no subject)

Yeah. I don't know what I ought to do, either.

This term so far? Really bloody difficult.

Why does everything have to change all at once?

2012-09-06 22:05:00

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy



Lucius.

Know you wanted a report.

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Malory's useless. Confessing to everything. Says he killed Stint, Fulton, Guy Fawkes, the muggle Queen, and every other name Trunccheon has happened to mention. Stole candy from children and kicked dogs, too. Penderyn reports his brain is boggy. (Technical term, apparently.) Hypothesis: repeated subjection to Imperius, Obliviation, and Confundus.

Malory is the connection between Stint and Fulton, however. We picked up his trail after your third 'meeting'--your daybook was in his pocket when we arrested him. His brief was to follow you and to collect information re. your activities. House in Walthamstow still being processed, but there is a collection of items relating to you. Apparently collected for his employer.


Fulton. Dead since Saturday, as you know. Found by his mother. She connected them. Had seen Malory with F several times. Knew him by name. F had an extensive dossier on you. Stored in his rooms under ward. Photographs. Shop, restaurant, and hotel receipts. Documents of all sorts. Some interesting.

Not much else notable in his inventory. Except. Report on F's finances shows virtually no expenses. Kept account of his Gringott's vault: very few withdrawals, all modest. Suspiciously so. No galleon hoard in flat.

Explanation simple: F's wand revealed no AK, little in the way of offensive or defensive spellwork (not surprised). What was remarkable: continuous reliance on three spells--Imperius, Obliviate, Confundus. Forney confirmed with landlord. No rent payments for three years. Landlord reports F 'was a very nice chap. Quiet. Made no trouble.' Assume further investigation (turned over to IA) will show widespread abuse of magic and authority. Needless to say, no word of that in the press.

Malory's wand shows last spell was AK. But only the one. Nothing else of interest in that report. Expect transfer to Hampstead tomorrow. (Now that Stint can't complain against the quality of our admissions there.)



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-09-07 18:34:48](#)
(no subject)

Barty.

Just getting to this. (Blasted Black. Even if he's losing his touch. Half the communications received between last evening and to-day contain complaint of his desire to conjure Dementors at every turn; the other half express admiration for Toshenka's professionalism in the face of discovering a war criminal.)

Suspect I already know the answer but how ... enthusiastic ... was Truncheon, precisely? There's no chance the fog would clear after several weeks' or months' convalescence at the Vale? Assuming none, what is your theory at this point?

Stint. Fulton. Malory. Which one was pulling the strings and what was the ultimate goal? If Malory, cutting his loose ends? Perhaps the conspiracy had collapsed on itself and it was a case of each one arranging for the other's demise. (Given Stint's conspicuous consumption and Fulton's apparent unobtrusiveness, it's possible. What of Malory's habits, one wonders - what have you found thus far?) Or someone else beyond these three - and does that signify defeat or tactical withdrawal?

And yet. No linkage to Maule *at all*? What of Stint's inventory - Those bespoke shoes and robes he favoured. Find the cobbler and tailor and we may learn more of note about his aspirations. Particularly toward my interests and those of Rizzer's.

Regarding the recovery of Fulton's dossier: Should like to see what he collected at earliest opportunity; naturally he thought he was building some kind of proof to fuel an attack, but for what accusation? And on whose orders?

Disappointing. Vexing, as well. Sure you agree.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-07 21:29:04](#)
(no subject)

Black. Indeed. Needn't tell you what Bella's been like. But there's progress on that front. Solid, definite progress.

Wish I could say that the resources put into Stint, Fulton, and Malory were paying similar fruit.

Truncheon and Penderyn worked with their usual thoroughness. No use hoping for more out of Malory.

Best theory seems to be that Fulton used Malory for rudimentary spying. Skills included rubbish picking, eavesdropping, trailing, and basic surveilling. And photography. Malory also served as Fulton's messenger, carrying information and instructions when Fulton wished to keep his connections secret from the department (e.g., when F provided Stint with your location in Pembroke). It was F that collected your daybook from the drop point. Passed it to Malory. No idea what they thought Malory would get by observing your appointments with Clarriker and Crispin. Interesting he ignored MacMillan.

Moot now.

No links to Maule. None of them have any verifiable connection to him.

Stint's inventory? I have it...

Yes.

Stint's flat:

- expensively appointed
- kept two elves, two muggleborns, two horses and a carriage (who keeps their own carriage?)
- records of standing orders for bespoke robes and shoes
- was carrying significant, but not overwhelming debt.

Was a collector:

- early anatomical models (diagnostic aids)
- bird skeletons
- framed fourteenth-century maps of Italian port cities
- address book for female connections
- haranguing letters from ex-wife (none more recent than two years previous)
- bound volumes containing detailed notes on private cases of a professional nature, apparently billed directly (not through St M's)
- one large case filled with unflattering photographs of Raz Lestrage's intended.

Also half a dozen sheets with notes of conversations
with M.F. (Fulton) and Z.M. (Zyllo Malory).

Agree you should see Fulton's dossier. Your interpretation of the
contents would be useful.

2012-09-07 14:32:00

The first week back

Congratulations, all our first years, on making it through your first week. I promise, it does get easier to figure out how to manage it all.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Now that I've seen how some changes to my schedule have shaken out, I have posted a chart of my office hours in the usual places (my classroom and office doors, and duplicated copies in the house common rooms.)

In short:

- various daytime hours on Monday, Wednesday, Friday when I am not teaching.
- 7 to 9pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- by request at other times.

In the past, I have offered hours - often very relaxed and conversational - on Sunday afternoons. Between changes to the YPL schedule and my own commitments, it makes sense to schedule these week by week. I also expect to be unavailable on most Tuesday afternoons and early evenings and am generally unavailable in the late afternoon. Additions to my regular hours will be announced in class that week, and posted on Mondays.

Advance warning, fifth, sixth, and seventh years, I will be asking you to make some brief (about two hours total) but specific observations and measurements during the Draconids (October 7-8), Orionids (October 20-21), or Leonids (November 16-17). All three include at least one weekend day, and the Draconids are best visible just after sunset, but your actual options will depend on the weather. (Fifth years: we will jointly pick a midnight session to skip in exchange, and I have a thought about evening sessions and bad weather that might please you - we'll discuss next week.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-07 18:49:30**

Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

First, I'm quite looking forward to our planned chat tonight, but I entirely will understand if you've found yourself at the end of the week wanting nothing more than solitude,

a good book, and a great deal of sleep. Simply say the word, and we will try again another time.

On *Peter and Wendy* - having read it, I quite see what you mean, about Raz being cast as Peter, and me as Wendy. Most perceptive of you to spot so on such short acquaintance that the map and the territory are not the same. I do have plenty of comment (took notes, even!), but I will save that for in person. And yet, for all the places that made my hackles rise in the text, and a few places where I had to put it down for a time, there are some really lovely bits, aren't there?

I have also dusted the cobwebs (rather literally, as I've not touched them in years) off my texts on Chinese astronomy and related arithmancy, and I shall come prepared for that discussion as well. (I am not going to haul all the references with me, but at least I can make a start for you.)

Finally, I forgot to ask: did you find the Poole's Jelly Gums of use? I have given in to the inevitable and ordered a case for easy dispersal at need. While I'm grateful that Dolores is currently talking to everyone but me, I do have all the sympathy in the world. (And on that, I have the disconcerting feeling she's merely trying to decide how to make nice and thence make many suggestions or request my help. Probably both.)

Still contemplating my reading
A.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-09-07 20:20:06](#)**

Re: Private message to Antosha

Dearest Aurora,

The Jelly Gums have had quite the workout, yes. (Amused myself by offering her some during out tête-à-tête on Monday. Quite baffled her.)

As to this evening: I am as exhausted and cranky as I feared I might be, but equally in need of a companionable drink and adult company. (The chance to submerge myself in a topic other than my own would likewise be welcome; do bring your manuscript with you.) My quarters, after supper? (Or would that be risking scandal? You've no doubt a better sense than I. But my quarters have the

library.)

Glad you enjoyed the book, and look forward to discussing it. (And others. Do I detect you have read Korzybski? Be still, my beating heart.) It is a relic of another time and another world, indeed -- but an excellent window nonetheless. Children's literature often is, I've found: it says so much, in so few words, about what 'everybody knows'.

I shall be at supper tonight -- working up the energy to haul arse back to my quarters for a soak in the bath first; my 7ths are delightful but exhausting -- save me a seat.

With greatest affection,

A



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-07 20:48:13](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Oh, goodness. The mere thought makes me laugh.
Thank you.

As to your quarters, it will likely not surprise you in the least if I say I have some little experience with avoiding scandal while wandering through the hallways to a professor's private rooms. (And in this case, Raz assures me that he will scarcely take it amiss, which would be my only real worry.)

On the Korzybski - alas, I did not understand as much as I might like, but he was one of the very few Squib authors Alde had much patience for. I might try again, now I'm a little older and perhaps wiser, and especially if I had someone to discuss it with.

I will, indeed, save you a seat, though I believe Pomona may also wish to try and bend my ear.

Contemplating the lens of literature,

A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-08 02:51:49](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

My thanks again for an utterly engrossing evening. (And for sharing your mother's scones; do pass along my compliments. Did I actually remember to tell you about the beignets in New Orleans, or did I only think I should? Either way, I charmed the recipe out of the proprietor of a small café in the wizarding Vieux Carré on one of my stops some years back; I will try to lay hands on it so you can pass it along.)

Your company was delightful, the conversation even more so, and I shall hope the supposed healing effects of laughter will contribute to restoring my vigour even more so than the companionship already has. I shall look quite forward to continuing our discussions on the benefit of generalists (and allow me to once again implore you -- embrace your smugness in your accomplishment! You have not yet even shown me the cause of it and I can already say with certainty smugness is utterly warranted.) As well, I look forward to explaining more of my Art than the brief taste we had time for -- whether you take me up on the offer of equipping your tool-box with some more in-the-moment responses or no, I do so love a good discussion on theory.

I hope you will enjoy Narnia (and, again, you needn't read all seven -- must confess I often skip four and five myself on a reread -- but under no circumstance should *The Magician's Nephew* be read first, no matter what some editions might hold. Believe I mentioned, will repeat: banishment and ritual defilement is too good for them.) Do let me know if you've any trouble with the charm. I shall trust you to keep my secret there!

And now, I am off to attend to the remainder of my correspondence, and then to bed. Where I will no doubt dream of you and Bella trying on clothes together, and wake myself laughing again. (Do share those pamphlets. I haven't laughed that hard in months.)

Fondly yours, in bibliophilic delight,

T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-08 03:30:35](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Truly, a mutual delight. (And I will certainly pass your compliments along. Mum keeps me very well stocked in baked goods, you will find. But I'm sure she'd love the recipe, and if not, my younger sister Tempest would. The coffee was an excellent match indeed.) Raz did wonder how you were, and I have done my best to reassure that you were better at the end of the evening than at the beginning.

Likewise, I look forward to many further conversations. (My best description to Raz, besides "brill", which is generally my highest praise, was "wide-ranging".) And yes, further on at least the theory - if for no other reason than the chance to see you in full passionate teaching mode.

I am also being good and not picking up the new reading. (And yes, obeying instructions about the order.) On the last point there, you do know I'm - well, I am not sure I could lie to Raz if I wanted to. But I don't even try. (Not telling him something, however, I have rather more experience with, at least until it's necessary to discuss.) Just to forewarn. That said, I will have to rummage out the stack Mum sent last spring when I particularly needed distraction, and see what might entertain you particularly.

As to the pamphlets, I will bring some down, though I think perhaps this may be the most hilarious of the lot. But to give you something to amuse, I quote: "Get her to look on you as a younger sister, in need of guidance and gentle assistance. If she has children, offer to be of help to them, even at cost to your own family. Gentle, friendly outings - a tea shop, to try on clothes, a walk through one of New London's parks - may be best, but daring younger women might choose to shop for honeymoon attire or other such amusements together."

The one thing we didn't discuss, I realise, was future plans. Next week with Raz as well, perhaps? (and I will give you two some time alone, unless you manage it elsewhere in the week, as well. It's only fair, after all.) And that will give me time to read about this Narnia, around the marking that is about to descend on my

desk.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-08 03:51:24**

Re: Private message to Antosha

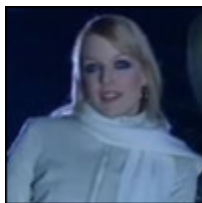
My dearest Aurora,

Of course I do not mean for you to keep secrets from Rizzer. (Suspect he has figured out the trick at some point anyway, or would if he thought hard enough.) It's only that when people see one reading casual literature, they do persist in asking nosy questions, while dusty old tomes are less likely to prompt snoops from dragging one away from one's reading to ask what one is reading. As I'm sure you've noticed.

Also, the image of you and Bella building your trousseau together has prompted quite another fit of the giggles. You are lucky I had put down my tea before reading.

Next week with Raz sounds lovely if he's able to find the time, and he and I have discussed some of our own plans, so your Hufflepuff's soul needn't worry about equity. (Though it is appreciated.) I will prepare some of my very best lies to amuse.

Fondly yours, and wishing you luck with your evening classes,
T



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-08 03:58:30**

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Oh, excellent. One does like to be clear. (Or at least this one does.) And you're quite right that people do persist in asking. Though sometimes, that can be to the good - I've two mystery series I'd not read except for someone asking off-handedly to make conversation. But when one just wants to bury one's nose in a book and ignore the world, better that the book is entirely tedious to everyone else.

I should, perhaps, have warned you, yes. Do forgive?

As to next week, I suspect it is quite possible. (And I'm glad you'd already considered the fairness factor, mind. I would worry otherwise.)

I hear the sound of approaching groans. I nearly forgot it's the 3rd years on Fridays first this year (some twist of the schedule I was not going to ask Septima to swap, even if it truly doesn't conflict with anything else) rather than last year's 5th years. Got five minutes into my prep, before realising I'd already done that this week.

Do rest well, and enjoy the last weekend without too many marking obligations.

A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-08 04:07:32

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora --

Imagine my wincing of shame at mention of Septima and schedules. Am still working on tracking down that apology; do not think I have been imagining the slight chill in the air when we cross paths at table. *Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.*

Let us hope, meanwhile, that your thirds are less trepidatious with you than they have been with me. (It did not help that several of them had been told by someone their schedules were obviously amiss on Tuesday, as they were scheduled through lunch, and so arrived an hour late for class -- hence my post to clarify. I was patient and understanding, a veritable paragon. There was still quivering.)

And fear not -- I've plenty of practise in juggling time spent with dear friends. Believe my flock used to joke about issuing numbers and calling them in turn!

With warmest (if sleepy) affection,
Tosha



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-08 16:15:09](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Pardon for the delayed response - my 7ths had me up on the tower well past 3 and I rather fell into bed when we were all done. But that is why we schedule them for last thing Fridays, so that our mutual enthusiasms do not run smack into the unyielding wall of a 9am class. (Or, as in this case, lunch.)

On the 3rds, remember, I've not only had two years with them, but they are fundamentally convinced that the worst that may happen in my class is a great deal of chilly wind. (And that's entirely the fault of the geography.) I do think they'll settle, once you get a few key students aligned with you.

For the 3rds, Astoria Greengrass, Lakshmi Desai, Brendan Mackrell and Pip Macmillan are all places I'd start. (The first and last have siblings in 5th year - Daphne Greengrass and Ernie Macmillan. And while I'd have expected the 5th years to be especially skittish, due to poor Hannah, you've the advantage of Draco and Harry and other close connections there to smooth things over.) Mind, the Hufflepuffs of all years have been nervous of you, when I've stopped by the common room, but I'll see if I can ease that some this weekend.

As to Septima, I hinted, but might as well say outright. Beyond the schedule, she's far pricklier than her usual this fall. This past exam cycle, her best and brightest arithmancer in decades - a halfblood in fostering - failed all but two of his OWLs, and they snapped his wand last month. She's still feeling the lost potential bitterly, and she's bound and determined it will not happen again. (And he was her house, too, so there are plans for extra study sessions for the Ravenclaws and all.) Tea will go a long way, but compassion and time will help too.

(She is - how does one say this. She is not a particular friend of mine, exactly: our conversations are too entirely focused on our fields and the pragmatic necessities for that. But I admire

her devotion and dedication, her sharp wit, and her ability to actually manage the myriad details that keep this place running. Someone has to, and she does it without much recognition or reward.)

Right. Now to see what to do with myself for the afternoon.
A.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-09 03:29:25](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

No apologies necessary -- I've been quite remiss in my correspondence today myself.

(Allowed myself quite the lie-in, and have been lazing about quarters all day in my dressing-gown, setting the final touches on next week's lessons.)

Before I forget again: in our discussion last night you mentioned your sun-sign as an influence on your personality as much as your House. If you're a Virgo, you've a birthday coming up, yes? Or have I missed it? (Fear not, I shan't fuss, but one does like to acknowledge one's friends on their natal anniversary whenever possible.)

As for the rest -- well. Knowing that about Septima does indeed make certain things fall into place, and I shall tread carefully; thank you. I've lost several of my best-and-brightest over the years to various ills, and it is never a comfortable weight for a teacher to bear -- and I suspect, somehow, that death is an easier fate to accept for one's student than knowing him to be alive but out of reach. Truly a pity. (And it makes the trepidation among several of my OWL students clearer, as well, over and above the past trauma of that poor girl's death. I shall take closer looks at the halfbloods among them, and see which of them might benefit from an offer of some extra tutoring. Once we have built a certain measure of comfort with each other, mind.)

My thanks as well for the suggestions as to which of the third-years are likely to be able to help smooth the way. And please do assure your kits as much as possible. I know very little will ease nerves but time and a pleasant disposition, and

their wariness is certainly understandable -- I shall continue to model every virtue my predecessor lacked and hope the adjustment phase does not last too long.

Fondly, and trusting your afternoon was as pleasant as mine,
Tosha



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-09 04:14:09](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

I certainly cannot blame anyone for a lie-in. (Truly, I would the day had no hours between about four am and noon. Alas, the world does not accomodate me.) Forgive my mood, if you will - I'm waiting for Raz to get back from his patrol of the evening, and we've been finally enjoying a very thoughtful bottled present.

On my birthday, I've not fussed over it much in the past beyond my obligatory appointment with Poppy, though I suspect that may change at least a little this year. (For Raz's, in May, we managed 18 hours by ourselves with no other obligations, and that was quite the treat, but we can scarcely arrange that mid-week.) September 19th, anyway.

On Septima, quite. I've been in sympathy with her since it became clear in February that he was going to be in far over his head. (Did my best to help, but. Never mind.) On the more general, well. That too. Between last May and the one before, we had more than one painful lesson in that. Hannah's ~~murder~~ death, and the Frost Faire gladiatorial games. Both things I suspect no one's laid out clear for you, yet, but I might work up to it, given a few more discussions on simpler topics - Korzybski's theories of semantics, for example.

Better topics. I did have a word with Cedric - Diggory, our Head Boy - and several others. The fact I'd found you very pleasant, and emerged safely from discussion did seem to help, and they'll do what they can to pass the word along. And I do think you're right that another week or three will do a lot, too.

If I might make a suggestion there, I had a thought this

afternoon. It is easy to trust that someone will be pleasant early on, when things are easy. But if you were to let them see you dealing with some frustrating difficulty in a measured, appropriate way, it might go a long way. Especially with the Hufflepuffs, that may soothe them more than words or even time. (We are a tribe who look at actions, more than many other things, I admit.)

As to your last - the afternoon was pleasant, the evening lovely, and I expect that will quite continue. May yours be as pleasant in its own way.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-09 05:04:00**

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

I shall make a note upon my calendar of the day, then, and you may expect at least a slight token!

I've not had the pleasure of our Head Boy's company as yet -- he's not enrolled in my classes, and of course asking the sixth and seventh years to add in a new subject during their preparations for NEWTs would be no true favor. (I do worry the same will prove true for the fifth years, but -- well. We shall see.) Still, thank you most kindly for the defence. And yes, I do suppose a chance to evaluate my responses in adversity as well as the flush of new acquaintance would be more likely to cement a modicum of trust -- once bitten, twice shy, though of course Alecto never bothered with charm in any situation where fear might do.

(I suspect there will be plenty of chances for them to take more of my measure once we move into practical spellwork in class. There is nothing in the world more terrifying than a student who's just accidentally hexed his teacher with something far more powerful than he'd intended; thankfully I am well used to such errors. And of course they'll have plenty of chances to see me struggling with the adversity of a body that refuses to do my bidding -- though, thankfully, Madam Pomfrey was able to offer some small relief, and I was at least able to sleep through the night for the most part.)

I have heard pieces of both events you reference (as well as several others), and of course I've read back some in the journals (now that -- he admits, shamefacedly -- someone has explained to me their use). But I am always grateful for additional perspective: enough information to avoid putting a foot wrongly is often hard to come by.

Though if Korzybski is simpler -- ouch. I would hate to pressure you into revisiting old conundrums.

Wishing you pleasant dreams, whenever you do get the chance to apply yourself to them,
Tosha



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-09 14:34:34](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha, a most pleasant morning to you -

And when, may I inquire, is yours? (Fair is fair, no?)

As to Cedric, of course he's not one of your newts. But he has a great deal of influence with the sett, as is only right. (In your backward reading, I'm sure you've realised by now, but he was the other Hogwarts champion during last year's competition, and handled a deeply complicated situation with a great deal of grace. A number of them - and particularly the more determinedly stubborn - look to him for guidance.)

And isn't the past complicated to talk about? I do appreciate the desire to have enough information to avoid a foot wrong (or both feet, both hands, and one's mouth.) Just that you'll have gathered both topics are more than a little complicated. (And certainly better discussed when I have had less to drink than last night. Though very pleasant that.) But, well. I'd rather, even in the sharper light of morning, that you had more information rather than less. Just let me work up to it, but if there's something you truly need know, please ask.

As to the sleep, I'm glad Poppy was able to be of help. I'm a great trial to her on the subject myself (though, I suspect for

different reasons: an irregular schedule combined with the nearby Dementors two years ago and the rather peculiar stresses of last year has not been a restful combination.) But I try to do better, these days, even if it does mean resorting to Poppy's ministrations.

I did have one more wandering thought - something about what you said, on Friday, about the tendency of many to treat each piece as equal to the rest, as opposed to part of a larger and far more subtle whole. There's the same similarity in my own field, and I suspect more than one other, and I'm wondering if teasing that out explicitly might be of use to you. (Raz also explained your planned demonstration while he was rummaging for boxes for you, which I must say sounds intriguing. And entirely practical.) I am afraid it's rather ill-formed and drowsy, as a thought, but perhaps you can do more with it.

Yours, in a pleasant Sunday morning.

A.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-09 17:11:53**

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

11th November, and I've been told by those who believe in astrology (not I) that Scorpio suits me as much as Virgo suits you. (Had a friend back in school produce my natal chart, once. Apparently I am drawn to people, prefer intellectual debate, like to travel, and am prone to indulging my gregarious nature. Were it not for all the bits about how I am also inclined towards success in love and romance ...)

Divinatory nonsense aside, it being the one subject taught in our fair castle in which I have less than no interest --

I have been thinking a great deal this week about the past, and about received and secret histories (both personal and societal), and about the way things look in the sharper light of relative morning as compared to the way they looked throughout the long dark night of the soul. And the universe does seem to be conspiring to reinforce the thematic

progression with distressing frequency of late. I would not presume to ask you to revisit your own dark nights of the soul, nor ask you to pick your way through a field of uncertain footing solely for my benefit: I do of course have other sources, of longer and closer relationship, upon whom to presume for the detail, once we are able to find worlds enough and time.

Yet I was reminded last night, by a bold young man of my recent acquaintance, that those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it, and (though he did not draw the connection himself) was also reminded that fitting the past into neat little boxes is often impossible no matter what the heart desires: time and history are messy things, unsuited to packing neatly away like books or tea-things. What has gone before shapes us, even when -- perhaps most when -- we try to forget. And -- forgive me my presumption -- from several things you have said and more things you have shied away from, I suspect you to have tangles of your own that you are still trying to sort through (tidying the mental drawers is so much harder in adulthood, is it not?)

No doubt you have your own confidantes and confessors, and may feel our friendship too new to bear much weight of confidence. But I am an excellent listener, and will gladly place those services at your disposal -- and like any confessor, confidentiality is utmost. If you could use an ear, and someone to hold those tangled skeins of thought as you work to unravel them, I am at your service for the asking.

Bah. Philosophical this morning.

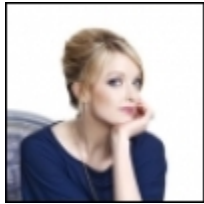
I do believe you're on to something with your idea about parts and wholes, and it's something that certainly bears more thought. (And connected to the former, actually, if one follows the threads far enough back to their source.) The human mind has a lamentable tendency towards black-and-white thinking, does it not? And yet the world is wreathed 'round in shades of grey, and each piece of the whole is, when taken alone, large enough to be a whole of itself. You're right that making that reasoning explicit may prove to be a fertile line of thought for the children (and I wonder if they've ever had it explicitly stated as such?) This week's lessons have already been sorted, but I may place a discussion touching upon the question upon the syllabus for

next week; it dovetails nicely with the choice I will be asking them to make between practical and theoretical study.

(Am happy to provide a private demonstration of this week's party trick, meanwhile, whenever it suits. Though Rizzer's just as capable, and likely nearer to hand!)

Off to spend a quiet afternoon soaking up sunshine with book in hand, and if I am lucky, the book will not wind up reading me. May your Sunday continue to be as pleasant (and the hangover, if you were thus afflicted, quick to ease).

With greatest affection,
T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-09 19:10:21**

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

If you've not figured out that philosophical is not a problem for me by now, you are a far less observant man than I'd thought. (On that note, I have immersed myself rather this summer in the Renaissance neo-Platonists. Ficino, mostly, but various of the other wizards of that set tool. Just to confirm my own interest in the subject.)

Passing by divination, on which I've much the same opinion (though there's some mingling of astronomy and astrology that's regrettably unescapable in my field - see Ficino), let's see. It is not dark nights, as I'd put it (those, I find most comforting, really. But then, I am used to uncertainty when staring into the heart of the universe). But rather, the unruly sun bursting through and forcing one to confront things one might have preferred remain in shadow.

You are quite right there are things I am still untangling. And I've not so many friends, as I pointed out to an old one last year, that I can afford to push them away. There are indeed places I think you might be of some great help, given what you said above about the pains of losing one's students. (Something Raz - well, I hope it is a very long time indeed before he has the experience, but he hasn't yet.) The

Games were hard for me for more than one reason, but the one I've found perhaps hardest to let go of is that two of those who died were students of mine. Pomona did her best by me, but she wasn't there watching, and the context does matter. You, at least, can fill in more of the social dynamics and their implications correctly.

I'll be honest here further, and confirm something else I'm sure you've already spotted - that history has been much on my mind too. Some of my older friends (quite a few, to be honest) have been clear with me that they are none too happy with Raz's past and reputation. It's created distance I wish didn't exist, and yet, one cannot force trust or complex understanding, or the realisation that situation and individual are not one single good or evil, but a complex dance of choices and events. (Much like the stars, that, with the infinite call of gravity and inertia, the interplay of novae and nebulae.)

I gave up any chance I had of the pleasures of simple answers when I admitted how deeply I'd let Raz into my loyalties - but talking about it, well. There's the thing that's hard. And I am still not at all practiced with it (unsurprising: it takes more than a year to gain mastery of anything worth doing.)

As to the rest, no hangover, thank you. (I try to be smarter than that.) Just the pleasant lassitude of an afternoon without much I must do right now, catching up on my astronomy journals and thinking about the implications of the translation you did for me.

Mysteries of the universe, indeed.

A.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-07 19:13:42**

Private message to Raz

Raz, love.

I knew it was going to be hard not to sleep with you regularly after this summer but I hadn't realised just how much. It's not even the more euphemistic pleasures (though those too) - just missing having you there. Good sign for the future, I

suppose, if entirely tedious for the next seven months. I can't wait for tomorrow.

Also, my recent mail, now in the wedding planning edition. Besides the usual lot of letters implying I'm nowhere near good enough for you (ignoring those, truly, but there's two you should look at because they're a little odd), I have:

- Six invitations, one we should discuss. Oh, and Mum's set Dad's 75th birthday party for 18th November. Best chance to introduce you to the extended family we're going to manage. (Plenty of other distractions for the aunts and cousins. And Nana.)

- Seven unsolicited prospectuses (prospecti?) from wedding vendors, mostly dire. (Charmed lovebirds. Far too twee pastel cakes. Two horrific sets of robes. A caterer whose prices make no sense - must ask Temp what they're hiding. Rather pitiful table decorations made from Scottish sea shells. A hall in the back of beyond. Only half-decent one is decoration charms, but I want to see what you think.)

- The latest round of pamphlets from Wizarding Repopulation. The "You are engaged, congratulations!" set is rather a piece of work, with new pamphlets about wedding charms, managing one's relations with in-laws (all I can say, love, is that given your family, it would be more use if I did the exact opposite) and so on. And exhorting me to come for an appointment.

(On family wedding charms: been working up the nerve to discuss something since Mum got me enough detail. We needn't make a decision until much nearer spring.)

- And finally, a note from a "longtime reader" of *In The Soup* drawing my attention to the retraction in this week's issue. (I'd not got that far in my pile yet.) Doesn't say much, just admits they trusted an unreliable source, and rather carefully apologises. Quite curious, actually.

No plans for the weekend other than whatever time you've free for me, and tonight with Antosha. (Though if you want time on your own, there is always research to amuse me.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-08 01:29:42](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

How's Toshenka tonight? He looked well knackered when I caught a glimpse of him this afternoon.

And speaking of, I worry when you say you're not sleeping well. Please feel free to bless my sheets with your presence if you think I can be of any help at all. You did say we needn't be as discrete as last year, yeah?

Other things: I'll pencil in the 18th of November; I'm sure that whatever wedding charms you want will be much the same as what I want; and I can look at the two letters from divs first thing in the morn. For the last, I suppose *Soup* might have had a sudden insight similar to Rod's? Good to know that having a shady reputation has some uses.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-08 02:20:00](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Dearest -

Deeply fascinating. And don't worry, he was notably less worn when we finished than when we started.

Brill conversation - not just the astronomy, but the rest of it. Books. *Peter and Wendy*. Other things we read. I got him laughing too hard to breathe twice. I did end up explaining - briefly - Stint. And Cassie Calderwood. Nothing he'd not have been able to figure out himself given half a chance.

You do realise the temptation, don't you? And that I will take you up on it at least sometimes, annoyances of having my wardrobe and things flights of stairs away and all. This week - well. Partly shifting back to my entirely odd schedule and not having you right at hand. Partly thinking through that book. (But I like thinking, on the whole.) Nothing near as bad as it might be, promise.

On the rest - you're amazingly agreeable, we can talk more, and I'll leave the letters on my desk if you want to come up in the morning before I'm up. As to *Soup*, it rather did sound like that.

It... Look. I'm glad I know. Even if I was so carefully not asking. If

it had been you, it would be so hypocritical of me to complain now, when yes, your reputation has historical teeth.

I don't know. I think mostly I'm having trouble with the fact I'm so glad he's dead.

2012-09-07 16:35:00

Attention First-Year Students

Think twice before eating any sweets generously offered you by older students--particularly if they are presented as study aids, 'brain enhancers', 'sense brighteners', or the like. (It is extremely unlikely that you will find yourself able to memorise the contents of your textbooks by simply glancing at their covers. Nor are you at all likely to acquire the ability to see through the robes of other students.)



 [alernity](#)
 [alt_poppy](#)

I have now administered antidotes to seven students made ill by ingesting owl treats, which, as it happens, contain an ingredient human bodies find difficult to tolerate. Come to me immediately if you believe you may have fallen victim to this so-called joke. Symptoms set in rather quickly, and may include rash, hives, nausea, vomiting, weakness in the extremities, rapid heart beat, difficulty breathing, dizziness, and/or loss of consciousness.

So far there have been no deaths, but that does not mean one ought to take the matter lightly.



 [alt_poppy](#) at **2012-09-07 22:18:28**

Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

I wanted to let you know that this morning's post included a packet of materials from your healers at St Mungo's. I believe that I have all the information I would need in case of emergency.

I hope you've managed this week's challenges without significant setbacks?

Do let me know if you require my assistance.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2012-09-08 02:20:17**

Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

Madam Pomf Poppy --

Glad the information made its way to you -- it took several tries before I could make the clerk I was

speaking to understand what I was asking, so it's good to hear the request did not get garbled along the way.

As to my week -- dreadfully exhausted, but I have been bearing up with fewer awful side effects than I'd feared. The numbness and muscular weakness are the most inconvenient parts (have asked the elves to start serving my coffee and tea in pewter rather than china; grew tired of casting *Reparo* six times a day) -- however, it's neither spreading nor growing more pronounced, so am calling it part and parcel. Caught myself tripping over my tongue more than I have been during lecture today, but I suspect that to be the exhaustion; I did not sleep well Tuesday or Wednesday. (Healer Kosta's mediwitch did warn me of that common side-effect of discontinuing the Nettleforth's Neuralgia potion, which Kosta took me off Wednesday last; don't know if he had a chance to update the records to indicate. I was simply hoping, in vain one supposes, to be spared. Ah, well, it is still better than the falling asleep on the spot the Nettleforth's prompted after dosage.)

Sadly, I suspect most of my maladies are the sort time alone might heal. If you've any suggestions for addressing the difficulty sleeping without interfering with the rest of my formulary, though, I would be most grateful.

Wishing you continued luck in the battle against ill-advised practical jokes,
Antonin



 **alt_poppy at 2012-09-08 03:24:51**

Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

Actually, Antonin, and please don't take this amiss-- I realize what I am going to suggest risks sounding like a quite rude jest--given what you are presently taking, I believe the most effective sleep aid I might safely offer is Eupatoria Pliny's Dry Dreams syrup. Not formulated for this purpose, precisely, and generally intended for younger patients, but the interplay between this in a moderate dose and your other tonics might work a treat.

I'll send an elf with a dose for tonight, should you wish to try it.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-08 03:34:28](#)**

Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

...If you believe it the best option, I am certainly willing to try.

(Am tempted to ask for an unlabelled bottle for the sake of my dignity, but one quickly learns to abandon one's dignity when subject to long-term care. At least in this case I am permitted to keep my own underthings.)

Shall await the elf, and thank you most dubiously,
Antonin



 **[alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-08 16:31:55](#)**

Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

I hope you managed more hours of sleep last night. Do let me know whether you found the Pliny's a help. If not, we may need to look to tisanes of various sorts until they authorise a decrease or change in your other potions.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-09 02:57:15](#)**

Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

My apologies, I am just seeing this -- I spent a quite pleasant day lazing about my quarters and completely ignoring my journal!

A single night's evidence is inconclusive, of course, but I do believe it helped: I woke several times through the night still, but in each case was only awake for ten or fifteen minutes before I was able to fall back asleep, rather than the hour or so I've been tossing and turning all week. Whether the effect was psychosomatic or actual, I can't say, but I will continue its use and let you know if anything untoward happens. (I am quite hoping to be able to avoid adding more potions to accomodate the side effects from the other potions. It's already beastly to remember the schedule as is.)

My thanks for the suggestion, and for the sop to my dignity in

||||| relabelling the bottle,
Antonin



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-07 22:30:44](#)

Private Message to Rolanda Hooch

I was sorry to interrupt your conversation with Dolores Wednesday afternoon. I trust my box included all the triage aids you needed--plasters and gauzes, cleansing wash, chafing cream, joint stabilisers, cramp relaxant. If I forgot anything, do let me know.

I suppose you've been pressed by all and sundry for tours of the pitch, but if you're still willing, I would still very much like to have you show me all that's new out there.

Congratulations on keeping the flying casualties to a minimum this week! Does that mean this crop of first years are more skilled than usual or simply more timid?



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-07 23:07:41](#)

Private Message to Linus Moon

Would you be so good as to stop up sometime this evening or tomorrow morning?

I should like to see whether the ointment I've given you is having the desired effect.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-07 23:10:48](#)

Private Message to Euterpe Bobolis

Have you had any recurrence of the rash that brought you to see me yesterday? Do not hesitate to return if you have any further bother with it.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-07 23:20:37](#)

Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

I hope you are feeling a bit more at ease with the matters we discussed? I have had further opportunity for observation and have a few further thoughts if you wished to stop by over the weekend. If it's not already

a moot point.

Know that you're welcome to come here whenever you wish, whether or not you accept my offer of tutelage. I don't wish to press you to make that decision if you're not yet certain of the other demands on your time, but it does occur to me that it might serve a purpose for you and I to come to a formal arrangement that could then be altered from week to week to accommodate those other constraints.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-08 00:30:43](#)


Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

I'll stop up this weekend to talk about the matters we discussed and also some formal arrangement. Will you find it very frustrating if we set something up and then I have to cancel repeatedly? I'm not sure yet how much time YPL will take this year.

I sought out some additional counsel as well and got some advice that I think will be useful.

Thank you.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-08 02:40:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

It's kind of you to be concerned, my dear, but the truth is that at my age and in my profession--and after the summer I've had--it's difficult to imagine that anything you might do or omit could seriously test my patience. Truly, I wouldn't have offered such a thing if it would have put you at risk of annoying me.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-07 23:28:14](#)

Private Message to Anne Cadwallader

Miss Cadwallader,

This morning's post brought a note from your father, requesting that I examine your shoulder to see if there is any residual pain or restriction in movement. He is most concerned that it not impair your abilities on the Quidditch pitch.

Stop up, please, at your earliest convenience.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-07 23:29:32](#)**

Private Message to Horace Slughorn

I've got a fresh pot of unguent for you. It might be more discreet if you would come up and collect it than if I were to bring it along to a meal.

[2012-09-08 00:05:00](#)

Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Suspect you may not see this before morning but it's the first chance I have had to pick up our conversation.



 [alt_lucius](#)

Well. If we were *not* beset before that ill-considered account of your work, Toshenska, we certainly saw the floodgates open to-day. Luckily, at least half of the correspondence (through me, at any rate) defended the necessity of young Clarkson's execution. Ironically, Black may have helped cement your reputation as a kindly, thoughtful soul. (Fret not: Those who know better shall say nothing to contradict.)

Were you much pestered by any of it? *Prophet* wanted to run a feature to remind people of the quick restoration of order after the Ministry fell to us; recommended that downplaying the entire re-appearance of Black would be preferable. You may have seen a small item on it this evening (to the effect that this account tells of a traitor meeting a painless end in complete solitude with the innocent well removed from the scene. What could be more patriotic? And the usual reminder that Black's posts are, of course, 'forgeries').

Apart from that disruption, you survived your first week, I surmise? Know that it is still early days, but would suspect you of slipping if you did not already have opinions on at least a few potential additions to your coterie. Remember to let Horace have his pick of the litter, as well. But have you begun to identify the possibly useful, the tantalisingly challenging and the mere chaff?

Confess had not until you mentioned it had any desire to claim to anything in either Carrow's possession. However, since you brought it up in your last, have increased in avarice - particularly for her collection of potions texts. Artefacts, of course, but if Rodolphus joins you there is little chance they will divide evenly. And then there is the question of her guilt in Tony's death. One wonders if she kept anything to confirm it.

To answer your query about that: Yes, Pansy is my goddaughter. Not surprised at her performance. Asking questions or cutting to the heart of a debate has never been a particular difficulty of hers. In fact at one point, despaired of her ever developing the discretion to curb her curiosity and wait to ask her questions during an appropriate

moment! Pleased to hear her reform continues to influence her in a positive direction. (Still not sure whether to thank Narcissa or blame her for devising that particular solution. True, it brought home lessons Pansy needed to learn; on the other hand, believe it sealed her attachment to your unfortunate prodigal.)

Still reading trash and passing it off as dire scholastic tomes? Toshenka, perhaps the next time someone accuses you of ruthless and macabre acts of carnage, we could share your current bookshelf as the counter-argument!



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-08 05:05:54](#)
(no subject)

Lyoushka --

Have retired to bed, but not yet asleep; insomnia apparently a well-known side effect of discontinuing one of my potions. (Madame Pomfrey suggested an innovative, if slightly injurious to one's dignity, solution; at this point, would be prepared to stand on my head and whistle Celestina Warbeck songs at Court in exchange for eight straight hours of blessed sleep, so I'll give it a try.)

There have been some looks and some whispers, hastily stifled when I indicate my awareness of them, but nothing overt. My official position, should anyone be bold enough to enquire, is that one mustn't read trash; it rots the mind. (No further comments from you on that front, thank you very much, little brother.) Privately, am gaining a belated sympathy for Bella's eternal quest -- I would message her to say so, but suspect I'd merely get my head bitten off for my trouble -- and will volunteer my wand in its service in a heartbeat, should the need arise.

Haven't the faintest idea what Black might have intended with that little faerie tale, but suspect that whatever it was, it has backfired more than you reference: half my sevenths today were eyeing me with newfound respect. He never was much one for subtlety, though. I do remember that much. Wish Orion had been willing to call me in sooner; I might have been able to turn him back. Ah, well; I shall add him to Clarkson on the list I keep of those I failed to reach. (You were all quite indulgent to let me try, over and above the utility of keeping a channel of disinformation on hand.)

(What was that child's name, do you remember? Should look her up. I do remember having a lovely, albeit brief, conversation, in midst of trying to convince Crabbe and -- I can't remember his name, the tall blond one who wasted all my effort by getting himself killed that Hallowe'en because he turned out to not be smart enough to duck -- that no, my way made our point much more strongly.)

You are welcome to any of Alecto's leavings you can pry out of Rod's avaricious hands. I did not see anything I recognised immediately as Tony's, but you would know better than I. And yes, have found his daughter an excellent addition to class thus far. There's a bit of his love for the unknown and unknowable, that's for sure!

I do indeed have the beginnings of my little list (and Horace shall have to fend for himself: if I'm to spend my time teaching I get the pick of the litter and if he doesn't move quickly enough it's his own fault) but after only a week, I can't be certain. I'll be interviewing them all one-on-one over the next few weeks, to get a firmer sense of which ones are worth more cultivation. I've my eye mostly on Draco's year, actually: they're at the right age, and three years with them would be about the minimum necessary in order to impart a good seasoning. We shall see what happens. At very least, I am enjoying myself so far. Let us pray this state continues.

And, as I believe Madam Pomfrey's ridiculous solution is starting to take hold, I shall bid you good night, and wish you sweet dreams of your own.

Kindly and thoughtfully,
T

2012-09-08 11:41:00

*Private Message to Bellatrix Lestrange
and Mafalda Hopkirk*

Bella. Have cleared the last of my obligations.
Am entirely at your disposal.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



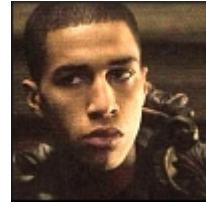
 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-09-09 15:28:02](#)
(no subject)

I'll see you tonight.

[2012-09-08 11:50:00](#)

Start of Term

OWLs year, then. I can't say I find it overly daunting. Rather, it's a challenge, and a welcome one, along with the other responsibilities that come with advancing to the upper forms of the school.



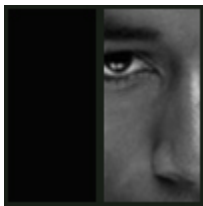
 **[alt_blaise](#)**

It's been most interesting this week, taking the measure of what's different this term--more demanding assignments and a good deal more reading, of course; new emphasis on certain parts of the curriculum; a few staffing changes; more YPL and CCF offerings; and certain definite improvements in our accommodations--all changes for the better.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-09 03:05:33](#)**
(no subject)

I think it'll be interesting to see how different Dark Arts is going to be. I mean, it's pretty different already, and we've just started.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-09-09 18:59:41](#)**
(no subject)

Exactly. More focus on what other practitioners have written about the subject, for one thing. I'm glad for that. And I get the feeling that what we'll learn now will be broader but will go deeper than before.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-09-09 04:59:53](#)**
(no subject)

I think it's definitely going to change for the better, yeah. Madam Umbridge asked me up to meet with her on Friday and we talked for, oh, almost 2 hours. It was all about what the CCF and YPL ought to be doing this year, and even things like ideas for the Sisters in Witchcraft.

There is loads more reading and the assignments are not going to let up, I don't think. You might be better off at not being a counsellor or a Prefect. Those of us doing both are going to be pressed for time, I

think. But the reading's much more *interesting*, this year, and I think the professors are giving us more leeway with our topics. I mean, the Charms one, for example. Did Professor Acton give you the same one? About picking any of the charms with no specific counter-charm and describing at least six charms that would work and why? I mean, two years ago we'd have been told to compare charms she gave us or something much more directed, right?

What else has changed for you lot? Ravenclaw Tower had a new bookcase (which is nift because there was hardly any wallspace last year). Linus was trying to figure out if the wall took over a window or just got a bit bigger. There's the pitch, of course, if you care about Quidditch. Was there something you had in mind?

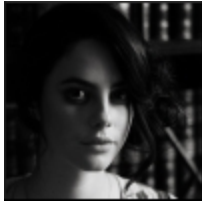


 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-09 19:29:34](#)
(no subject)

I wondered what Madam Umbridge meant to talk about. That's interesting.

I'm pleased to be able to focus on academic work, and I think you're right that there'll be more than enough to take all the time we have. But I feel ready, don't you? I don't need spoon-feeding anymore. Yes, we've the same Charms assignment, and I think it's going to show who takes it seriously, since it's not easy to think of a half-dozen counterspells. I know I had to think creatively about it, but at the same time if one weren't serious, it would be easy to come up with a long list of silly 'counters'. If you picked the vision sharpening charm, someone like that might say that aiming Aguamente at the person's face would be a counter. Or a Hirsute hex if it hit their eyelashes. That would be ridiculous, but you know she'll see parchments full of that sort of rubbish.

Interesting about your bookcases and the wall. We have more room, too, but it's more that everything is rather more comfortable, and simply of better quality this year. I suppose they think we're less likely to damage the furnishings now--and they clearly know we're capable of appreciating fine fabrics and graceful design.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-09-09 15:24:07](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry I didn't reply to this last night, Blaise! Draco and I came to a vey diplomatic solution and decided that it wasn't necessary for both of us to be on-duty and ready for prefecting on a Saturday night - so we'll be swapping, and last night was my turn. (Of course, in case of emergency either of us would be available!)

Anyway, I agree that the changes seem to be mostly for the good, though I do wish there were more time for the Arts. I think it would be splendid if we could do a school play every year, for example! If the preparation is too much work, then maybe a sort of follies showcase, with short skits and songs and dancing... Perhaps I even ought suggest it to Madam Umbridge. What do you think, would there be school-wide interest for such a thing?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-09 15:42:46](#)**
(no subject)

I know that I'd be interested, Daphs. I think it'd be worth talking to her about it.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:14:49](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for your support, Pansy. I shall definitely propose it!



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-09-09 19:34:34](#)**
(no subject)

No worries.

How is that going, then? Rounds and answering everyone's questions and chivvying the firsties to keep up?

I think a revue is a brilliant idea, and I hope you will propose it.

Say. If you've finished your essays and want a break from reading, we could go out to the lake for a bit. While the weather holds.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:18:27](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, it's all going really well, though I've noticed that the ~~older~~ prefects - well, that's best described in person, I think. Only I *do* wish I could be there for Queenie during her first few weeks of settling in. Not that I don't trust Bones and MacMillan to do a perfectly serviceable job, I'd just feel more at ease if I knew she was here in Slytherin with us.

Getting some fresh air sounds brilliant. Shall I find you in the common room?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:29:32](#)**
(no subject)

Common room. Ready when you are.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2012-09-09 21:56:48](#)**
(no subject)

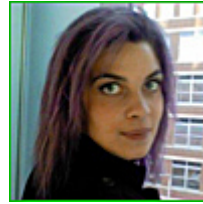
Well, the pitch certainly shows the improvements! Don't know if you've been down there already but Diggory held an open flying session this afternoon and it's wizard.

(Fleet used to say that the reason they pile on loads of work in the OWLs year is to keep us from having too much time for other things. He didn't mean Quidditch, though, eh?)

2012-09-08 12:39:00

Order Only


Just want to say that I was entirely serious when I offered to help make those contacts in the camps and to do as many of the baby visits as I'm able.



 **alt_nymphadora**

We can count on Ellie for so much now, I really think I could get away when that's needed.



 **alt_alice** at **2012-09-09 15:49:42**
(no subject)

Tonks, love, I wanted to reply before this got away from me.

Yes, that would be incredibly helpful. I think the next step is to get entry -- Arthur, Bill, I'm assuming you're working on papers for the camps Ridley listed in addition to the babies? Knowing Ridley, it'd be better to take advantage sooner rather than later, only so that we can make sure that those contacts don't mysteriously disappear.

I also think if we're to make contact with people in the camps, that the names provided to us by Ridley are a start, but we ought to also consider making some of our own.

We've already got several people we've been talking to for years who know that we've got their best interests at heart -- the parents of the children we're keeping at Moddey Dhoo. Now I know they're civilians, and are less likely to be in a position of leadership within the camps, but they'd be good sources of information and perhaps might be able to get us in touch with Muggle and Muggleborn leaders in the camps that they know and trust. After all, they'd be much more likely to know about the inner workings of the camp than we would.

So that's another thing to think over as well.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-10 01:36:24](#)
(no subject)

Alice, I think your suggestion is an excellent one. Bill and I will put our heads together on that and try to come up with a list of the parents who would make the most sense to approach on this, given their proximity to Ridley's contacts. We can combine two tasks into one by approaching them during the usual followup visits to the parents. We try to schedule those yearly, and I'm afraid we're running behind on those.

Also, Dora: the two of us have been discussing the looming issue of a possible polyjuice shortage. Bill is hoping to have the bonafides for the visits to Ridley's people by Wednesday at the latest. He already has the parchment work for all five of the baby extractions. Now that the Players' time is freed up, we think they should concentrate on the babies, with Kingsley and I taking turns to go along and do the talking. With luck we'll have all of the babies delivered to Moddey Dhoo by the end of the week, barring any snags.

Dora, we think that the visits to Ridley's people may have the most potential to be dangerous. Merlin knows what she's told them by now, and we don't know how most of these individuals will react, at least at first, as we start to get in touch with them (which is why Alice's suggestion is a such a good one: it would certainly help if we found others who could smooth the way). Therefore, our representatives will have to be well disguised, which means I want something a little more comprehensive than the combination of makeup and theatrical glamours that the Players usually use. Yet we don't have enough polyjuice for two to use to do twenty-five visits. That's where you come in.

I think it would be a good policy for you to alter your appearance entirely each time. Would you be willing to concentrate on those? We won't send you in alone: I think Frank would be the best one to go with you. But your metamorphagus ability will help logistics and stretch our polyjuice supply quite a lot.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-10 01:49:23](#)
(no subject)

sounds like a plan, yeah.

tonks, if that works out for you, we can take off once the papers are sorted. I agree with al -- sooner the better on that one.

arthur, man, if there are any parents in the camps we're going to be going to already for Ridley's contacts, you let us know and we can hit two bludgers with one bat, swing by and talk to them while we're there.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-10 01:50:46](#)
(no subject)

I'll check the list, and send you a patronus, Frank. Thanks.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-10 02:46:30](#)
(no subject)

All right. I'm ready for whatever is needed.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-10 01:52:51](#)
(no subject)

Bill, I received the parchment work all right. Emmeline and I will start with Tabitha Dixon in the morning.

2012-09-08 13:17:00

Order Only: Moony or Dora

Could either of you make sure the Floo is clear?

Mr Padfoot and the Professor would like to sneak off to the park and we don't want to frighten any customers - or Ellie - on our way through.



 [alt_sirius](#)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-08 17:30:45](#)

(no subject)

Ellie and I are just going down to uncrate a few things in the cellar.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-08 17:33:19](#)

(no subject)

And I should have said. It's been slow this morning. No customers at the moment, so your way is clear.

2012-09-08 14:13:00

*Private Message to Reethi Singh and
Philander Catchlove*



 [alt_lana](#)

Well. There's that, then.

I've just got word from Auror Desai that she'll be accepting me for my Internship year. You know I'd applied to him for it.

I suppose you'll say I'm better off. Maybe you're right, but I can't help thinking I failed to impress. And I don't know what I could have done better.

Of course, the timing for the wedding couldn't have been worse. And I've been so frustrated with all the little things that have gone wrong since as a result of the binding magic. I had no idea how much that would muck about with my equilibrium while casting. Ugh. And Montague's making a meal of it while we were sitting watch out in Wales was NOT a help. Bastard. ~~If it turns out he's got a 'yes' out of~~

I've been reading everything I can get my hands on about bindings and shifts in individual magical patterns. Have you come across anything about that? It wasn't anywhere in the pamphlets, you can be sure!

Anywiz. Have you got your assignments, then? Hope you're pleased with them, at least.

[2012-09-08 15:59:00](#)

Private Message to Dad and Mum

Hi, Dad, Mum.

I know I could send an owl, but then I'd have to find some parchment, and, yeah, no idea what I've done with the stationery box again. Somewhere in my trunk--same place half my socks get off to, I reckon. (I think the twins might've put a false bottom charm on my trunk, actually. Mum, do you know if there is such a thing? Cause, honestly, stuff gets lost in there all the time. I mean, just, poof! and it's gone.)



 [alt_ron](#)

So, yeah. I've got loads of hours in lessons. More than ever. And people are already going mental about it being OWLs this year. I'm not fussed, though. I mean there's months and months before then, and anywiz, I've done better since Professor Carrow got repl Professor Brutka took over teaching Transfig.

I mean the only thing I might really fluff is Dark Arts (or, y'know, Noble Arts--that's what they're calling it now). Not sure how I'll get through an OWL for that, but, well-

Anywiz.

Have you heard anything from Charlie? Are we going to visit him at the preserve again at Christmas this year? It'd be really nift if we could.

Well. Hope things at home are all right since we left you with all the chores. Guess the gnomes are glad we're gone!

Your favourite son,
Ronald



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-09 18:51:31](#)
(no subject)

Hello, son, good to hear from you, and thanks for giving us a brief report on how the beginning of school is going for you. Yes, I've heard from a couple of different sources that Professor Brutka is a very good Transfiguration teacher, so that situation can only be a win. What do you think of the newest member on staff, Professor Dolohov?

I would be very curious to get your and Ginny's impressions.

I detected some hints from Fred and George that you may be thinking of going out for Quidditch this year. What positions are open? You'd prefer to play Keeper if there's an opening, right? Is there one this year? Well, if you do give it a try, I certainly wish you the best, son. Goodness knows with all the games of pickup Quidditch you've played with your brothers and Ginny, it would stand to reason that you would have just as much experience as any other hopeful candidates. If you do try for it, I wish you the best with all my heart. I plan to keep up my custom and proudly wear my old Gryffindor jersey on game days (even if your Mum keeps telling me it's only fit for the rag bag.)

We did hear from Charlie, just yesterday in fact. He's sporting a nasty burn on the back of his right hand, he says, but he's as happy as a salamander in a kiln because they've managed to nurse back from her injuries that Hebridean Black he's been fussing over (the one that was in that skirmish with two Welsh greens a couple of months ago). She's managed to mate and has a new clutch of eggs. Your mum has been moaning to me privately that the only grandchildren she can expect from Charlie will probably be dragons. He does seem more preoccupied with them than with his own species, and of course, there are perilously few opportunities for him to date on the Reserve. I don't think any plans have been made for Christmas yet, but I think that Charlie would prefer to join us at the Burrow, if it'll be allowed (and doesn't leave them short-staffed). I think he should be able to tell us one way or another in about a month.

I saw a couple of gnomes scurrying around amongst the cabbages this morning when I went out to lock up the goats. They're certainly getting bold again (the gnomes, I mean; the goats are ALWAYS bold), now that you, Fred, George and Ginny aren't around to spin them around and chuck them over the fence.

Good to hear from you, son. Love from,
Dad




 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-09 18:54:49](#)
(no subject)

I'd be happy to send you more socks, Ron. How many more pairs do you think you need? I have just finished a stack of them and can send them off with Errol. The yarn's light, so the package won't be too heavy for him (and I'll include a package of shortbread, so you'll know I miss you, too! Do share a bit of it with the others.)

Love,
Mum



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-09 20:57:08](#)
(no subject)

Well I mostly need one of each pair I've got! So, um. Yeah, it'd be great if you sent some. Maybe there's a charm to keep them together so I wouldn't keep losing half the pair?

Shortbread would be wizard! Thanks, Mum!




 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-10 16:25:16](#)
(no subject)

Try tapping the sock with your wand and saying 'Invenio geminos.' The other sock should fly out to meet it, almost like a summoning charm. It will usually only work if the lost sock is in the room.

Come to think of it, there's no reason that you can't use 'Accio sock.' Or I suppose you should use 'Accio lost sock' or 'Accio my sock.' Otherwise you might find yourself being pelted by all your roommates' dirty laundry!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-09 20:53:52](#)
(no subject)

Too soon to say about Professor Dolohov. Did you know he's Russian? So people are calling him all sorts of mad things instead of just Professor Dolohov. And everyone's got a different idea about

what's proper or what he wants us to call him. I don't even know. But in our lesson last week, he made things really interesting. I mean, he asked questions and then let people answer, and he really listened to what we said, and asked us other questions about what we meant or if what we said was true, then what would that mean if something different happened or in another situation or whatever. It just- I didn't expect it to be so interesting.

About Quidditch, yeah. We need a Chaser and Keeper. But I don't know about going out. Thanks for saying, but I don't know.

Yeah, your Gryffindor jersey is really vintage, Dad. Glad you'll be wearing it. D'you think you might come for a match?

I guess it'll be all right if we're home for Christmas. Only, it would be wizard to go to the preserve again. I think I'll write him, maybe, and see if I could come sometime. Like the twins did, y'know?

Maybe you should try tossing the gnomes in with the goats and see what happens! Or, yeah. Maybe not.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-10 16:26:07](#)
(no subject)

Hmm. Do keep me apprised of what goes on in that class. I'm very interested, I assure you.

Charlie would doubtless be very happy to hear from you.

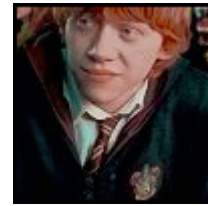
Gnomes in the goat pen? Oh, my, what an alarming mental picture that creates...

[2012-09-08 16:25:00](#)

One Week Down. How Many To Go?

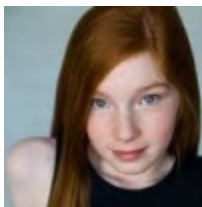
So, yeah.

Did anyone know what the yellow stuff was at lunch?
Not sure what the elves are doing down there this
year, but it makes me almost miss the Turnip Tuna
Surprise.



 [alt_ron](#)

Who's up for chess tonight?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-09 04:32:13](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I knew I wouldn't last long if you used all your pawns.

Good match, Ron Weasley.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-09 18:41:57](#)

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

You've got good instincts, and you're already better
than most, so don't put yourself down.

And it was fun! Play me again today?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-09 18:54:59](#)

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

Okay.

You're right. It was fun.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-09 15:27:23](#)


(no subject)

It was nothing more than mashed yellow squash.

... I thought your family kept a vegetable garden?

Mind, I'm not entirely certain what they mashed the squash *with*.



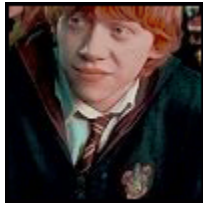
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-09 18:45:30](#)**
(no subject)


Well, exactly. We do have a garden, so I know squashes shouldn't taste of old shoes.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:23:37](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe that's what they mashed it with.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:33:35](#)**
(no subject)


Tasted like, didn't it?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:24:37](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, hey, our first meeting is next week.
You planning on coming?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:32:52](#)**
(no subject)

Er, the flying club, you mean?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-09 20:48:26](#)**
(no subject)

Quidditch. Yeah.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-09 20:50:38](#)
(no subject)

I thought you were thinking about
you know

you really should.

And even if you don't, you could still come to meetings.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-09 21:02:45](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

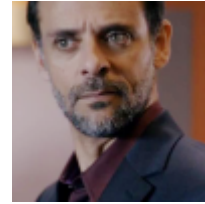
I haven't decided, really.

But thanks.

[2012-09-08 23:40:00](#)

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Mr Weasley --



 [alt_antonin](#)

First, allow me to say I am quite touched by your comment of the other day in my defence. I do not wish to give the impression I am not grateful for it: indeed I am, the more so for its unexpectedness. That having been said -- your Gryffindor boldness and valor is perhaps best applied elsewhere. Black Whomever is using Black's journal is clearly beyond shame, and public excoriation is a tool best saved for situations and individuals who have not renounced the benefit of the social contract that binds us all. There is a Russian proverb that applies: «в до́ме повéшенного не говорят о верёвке» (roughly rendered, "don't talk about rope in the house of a hanged man") -- some things may be wholly true, but best not spoken. Dignified silence is often the best retort, and while it is always possible to choose to speak after a period of silence, the reverse is rarely true.

(Too, I have never pretended to wholly clean hands. The fable in question was full of maudlin emotion and sensationalist slant, designed to cast me in the worst possible light for some unknown reason, but I have certainly been servant to Our Lord's vision for long enough that anyone determined enough could no doubt assemble a list of my supposed sins enough to fill a whole book of such tales. There is a grain of truth behind the glut of lies: it was a war, and we the warriors. My brothers and I once shared a dream that our actions might allow our children and our children's children to grow to adulthood as strong, proud wizards and witches, able to take pride in their magical heritage without ever having to contemplate the same dreadful choices. Seeing the results of that effort in you and yours has been a delight for so many reasons.)

I do not mean to make mock of the strength of your conviction: it is rewarding to see, more so than you might imagine. I only mean to suggest that perhaps those convictions might best be expressed elsewhere. Subtlety is not a young man's art (and I've tales and tales from my own youth of my temper getting the better of my common sense that you may be able to tempt me into telling someday!) but it is never too early to begin learning to channel one's anger into concrete action -- and though it is not a common technique among those of the Lion's den, the ability to keep pleasant or silent until exacting

payment for an offence is likewise well worth cultivating, and will serve you in good stead.

To happier topics, and so that the entirety of my note is not an old man's meanderings: I hope this message finds you well. My first week of teaching has gone better than I'd feared, though of course it will take time for them to begin to trust I've their best interests at heart. Returning to Hogwarts has been quite the delight; I have such fond memories of my student days.

I did discover in reviewing recent Hogwarts history that you had been too modest to mention you were Head Boy of your year! I'm certainly not surprised by the discovery -- not only does my old friend have a tendency to hire excellence, our conversations thus far have made your academic gifts quite apparent -- but please allow me to extend my belated congratulations.

I am pleased my loan of my elf's services came at a felicitous time -- setting up housekeeping when one is just beginning one's journey into adulthood is a daunting task indeed. (About as much as returning home after so long living out of trunks and hotel rooms and hired apartments -- I have packed-up boxes I've likely been toting around longer than you've been alive!) If you'll permit me another piece of unsolicited advice: boxes of books make excellent furniture *in extremis* if you can't figure out where else to put them, although it is wise to catalog the contents first to avoid the trouble of shifting everything aside and only then finding the desired volume is not there after all.

With regard,
Antonin Dolohov



 [alt_percy](#) at [2012-09-09 05:31:26](#)
(no subject)

Mr Antonin Nikolaevich:

I am gratified that at least the *spirit* of my defence was appreciated. I also appreciate your tact in kindly pointing out, however, that the hastiness of my words undercut their effectiveness. Mr Malfoy, who has been labouring for a while to teach this Gryffindor a modicum of subtlety, has already pointed this out to me, I assure you. I do have a temper, I'm afraid (the famous Weasley temper, shared by my parents and all my siblings. In our weaker

moments, we blame our shared heritage of red hair.) It is a young man's tendency, as you note, and I will continue to work at it.

While I understand that my reaction seemed excessive, perhaps it will seem more proportionate if I point out that I wasn't simply reacting to just this most recent screed. That renegade journal (or whoever is posing behind it) has been spewing its disgusting bile for months now. I suppose my outburst was the accumulated frustration of reading this as just the latest example of every sort of intemperate accusation.

Yes, I suppose I should have trusted more in the utility of dignified silence (my brother Bill, who worked in the Communications department before switching to his current position as Mr Rosier's aide, has often given me lectures on the proper use of press and public statements). After all, *you* do not need to be defended by the likes of *me*. Yet it did irk me that no one else was speaking up for you publicly.

Because I do realise that you have doubtless been forced to do difficult things, in times of war, in our Lord's service. I respect you all the more for admitting it. I share your hope that as the Protectorate grows stronger, those awful times will recede into the past. Yet those times cannot remain in the past if we who are young (brash and imperfect as we are) refuse to learn from those who kept the faith with Our Lord during those difficult times and coped with making those sometimes brutal choices.

In that spirit, I hope you will be pleased to hear that I have been avidly working my way through the books you kindly gave me. I confess I find some of the exercises in *Mastery Over Self* exceedingly puzzling, but I am persevering.

I do find myself becoming nostalgic, at this time of year, for the halls of Hogwarts. I am sure the new Head Boy will do well; Diggory always seemed to me to be a good sort, very confident with his spellwork. I trust the teaching is going well. I gather from the chatter on the journals from the students that they are finding it a vast improvement. (But I'm sure that is hardly a surprise to you, given the unfortunate nature of the previous instructor!)

Thank you for your note.
I remain, etcetera,

Percy Weasley



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-09 06:04:45](#)
(no subject)

Mr Weasley --

I should have known that of course my old friend would have taken the chance to caution you, and held my tongue (quill?) at the lessoning. You've my apologies if I seemed to be repaying your defence poorly: truly, I was touched to read it. And of course, I haven't been here to weigh the effects of those months of frustration, so forgive me once more: of course the accumulated effect is more enraging than a single message can be.

Do not apologise for standing my champion, either, nor downplay your valour in doing so. I will gladly appreciate an honest sentiment from any corner.

Your point regarding our recent history, meanwhile, is excellently made, and one I will confess I had not thought about. There is a tendency, one supposes, for those of us who fought the war to wish for the next generation to cherish the peace and security we won, but perhaps we go too far from time to time in seeking not to disturb that sense of peace. It is tempting to say that the world is different now, and the days of those brutal choices are behind us -- yet of course that would be wishful thinking of the utmost degree, and you are quite correct in reminding me so. Do please repeat the reminder in future if you feel I forget once more -- and should you ever wish a more personal view of those struggles, I could be persuaded to provide.

To happier matters: certainly you can't mean to suggest Korovin's exercises make no sense. (That is teasing, I assure you. The work is notorious; I cannot count the number of times I've had to promise a student there is value in following its dictates.) It will be several months at minimum before you begin to see its utility, or its relationship to the Noble Arts -- but once you reach that happy point, all will fall into place. The Arts answer best to the hands of those who hold no illusions about themselves, no matter how flattering or not the picture thus painted might be; the whole of Korovin's exercises are designed to lead you to those realisations, even should an individual exercise be less applicable.

Still, if you feel you are stuck, do not hesitate to write to me: I will be happy to tutor. There is a limit to how far reading can take

anyone in learning the Arts, and I would hate for you to struggle for weeks on something I could clear up for you more quickly.

And please -- do call me Antonin. If I'm to be a resource for you in future, formality will only stand in the way.

With regard,
Antonin

2012-09-09 18:45:00

Open Flying

Thanks, Diggory! It was ace. Great idea, before we all have too much homework and the Quidditch sides take up all the pitch time.



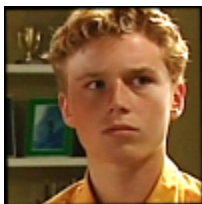
 [alt_zacharias](#)


Sue, you were looking well natural up there this afternoon. Still going for the side? I think Diggory mentioned he was planning for more reserve members, too, since we've so many open spots. (Well, we would do, wouldn't we, since we hadn't replaced anyone last year and we've got two years of people to replace now!)

For all returning students, Hufflepuff *will* be holding its usual fantasy Quidditch drafts next weekend. (I know some of you lot were wondering, but Hephastus Bobolis got the board from his brother, so yes, it's on.) If you want to get into the pool, come and see me or Heph Bobolis sometime this week. (Cost is still 6 Sickles per entrant 2nd-years and up, 3 sickles for first-years. Professors: one Galleon.)

Oh, and F-F, thanks for the loan of that book. Really helpful.

Weasley, good thing the elves didn't take your critique of last night's meal to heart! It wasn't half bad, that roast.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2012-09-09 23:18:33**
Private Message to Susan Bones

Sue,

Just wanted to let you know I heard Kelly Drumgoole say she's trying for Chaser, so, look sharp if you're still thinking about it.

I'd talked to Jordan last year about learning the commentating but looking at the slate I was actually thinking I might have a fair chance for Beater. What do you think?



 [alt_susan](#) at [2012-09-10 01:44:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Susan Bones

I think you'd be dead funny as a commentator, but if Beater's what you really want, you should definitely have a go!

I *do* want to try out for Chaser still--I'm not sure I've got the speed for it, but there's only one way to find out, really. And all that CCF conditioning ought to help!



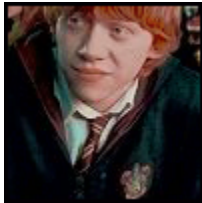
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-09 23:22:56](#)

(no subject)

Smith,

Quite welcome, old man. And good luck.

-F-F



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-10 02:51:20](#)

(no subject)

Maybe it just took someone speaking up for the elves to decide they should do a bit better.

2012-09-09 21:13:00

Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

So how are you liking Care of Magical Creatures?
Saw you playing chess with Ron. Did you have
time to finish your essay?



 **alt_neville**

And Arithmancy! Well, better you than me. I'm
not much good in Divination, but I bet numbers
would make me just look hopelessly thick. Well, thicker than usual, I
mean. Is it as much fun as you hoped it would be?



 **alt_evelyn** at **2012-09-10 02:28:43**
(no subject)

Nine inches on the proper care of Nifflers, finished
before dinner yesterday. Did you know that Nifflers
enjoy eating truffles? They also eat sparkly pebbles
sometimes, which can't be good for them.

Arithmancy's a lot like chess, really, so I don't mind it. It's sort of like
solving puzzles, which I like well enough.

And you're not thick, Nev. You're just brilliant at things that don't
involve numbers, is all.



 **alt_neville** at **2012-09-10 02:44:03**
(no subject)

Truffles meaning the chocolate confections? Or
those underground mushrooms that the French are
supposed to be mad for?

It's funny that Ron doesn't take Arithmancy. He's really good at
chess.

Well, the field of Arithmancy can limp along without me. I plan to
leave my mark in Herbology instead. It's funny: numbers don't
bother me when I'm calculating proportions in soil mixes or the
number of seeds to be sown per square foot.

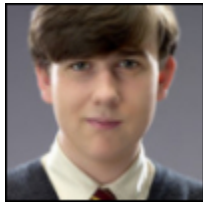


 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-10 02:49:30](#)
(no subject)

I'm fairly sure it's the mushroom-thing, not the chocolate-thing.

Maybe you're better at it because it's numbers with a point. Like you're using it for something that you like.

He is awfully good at it, isn't he?




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-10 02:58:41](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, he is. He says his Dad taught him. He can pretty much wipe the board with me most of the time, although I don't mind playing with him, because he doesn't gloat, and he's always willing to coach me. And I am getting better.

We had an interesting talk the other night, comparing strategies in chess versus Quidditch. Hadn't thought about it that way before.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-10 19:44:23](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I'm working on my Dark Arts essay. I've got class tomorrow.

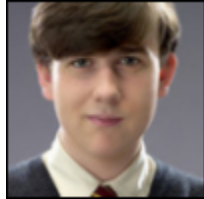
Friday was awful. I didn't want to look at him, because every time I did, I saw a dead man holding a cup of tea in the back of my head. I wonder if he noticed. He seems like the sort of person who notices things. And he wasn't smiling nearly as much as he had on our first lesson.

When do you meet with him? By yourself, I mean? Are you scared?

It got easier with Professor Lestrage. I mean, when I first started, you remember how afraid of him I was.

But Katrina says Professor Dolohov doesn't treat half-bloods any

differently in her class. And he hasn't in ours either. So maybe he won't treat us differently either. I know what mum and dad said, that we can't trust it even if he does, but maybe it'll be like it was with Professor LeStrange. Maybe it'll get easier.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-11 02:55:55](#)

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

I know what you mean, Lindy, about not wanting to look at him. If it helps any, I'm sure he knows that everyone was looking at him squinty-eyed after that article came out, so he wasn't likely to notice us any more than anyone else.

But we have to figure out how to act normal as possible around him. We have to. Mum and Dad are counting on us to do it. And yeah, it might get easier, with practice. This Lock should help, too. That's one thing I've found, using it the past couple of years. If you have one place you can vent and be honest, it helps if you have to put on a false front for everyone else.

It's funny: I wrote my essay for his class. Tried to make it sound as bland and boring as possible. I'd be happiest if he doesn't pay much attention to me. When I was done, I added an extra line at the bottom of parchment, 'This is all lies.' Then I cut that line off and I burned it.

Childish, I suppose, but it somehow makes me feel a lot better about turning the essay in. Maybe I'll do that every time.



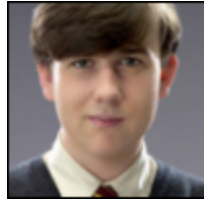
 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-11 03:03:04](#)


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

It isn't childish at all, Pete. At least I don't think so.

And you're right about the lock. Just saying 'mum and dad' as easy as anything, without having to worry, that's wonderful. Truly wonderful.

I'll try to act normal. As best I can.

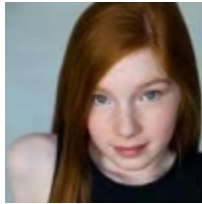


 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-11 03:13:29](#)**

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

As long as you know you don't have to 'act' around me.

Not ever.



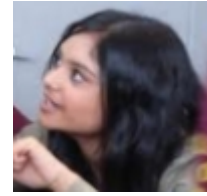
 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-09-11 03:18:19](#)**

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

Good. Same goes for you, you know.

2012-09-09 21:40:00

Private Message to Seamus and Lav



Listen, Seamus,

I forgot all about History Club tomorrow! I'm just so used to them being on Wednesdays that I was thinking we had until then. I completely forgot we moved them to Mondays so we could go to Prefects' meetings. Can you lead tomorrow's or should we skip a week?

 [alt_padma](#)

I talked to Madam Umbridge about the problem with Binns and I think she really understands it. I think, anyway. She said she'd look into making sure that we've got more resources, and maybe even send someone from the Ghost Liaison office to see if they can't get through to Professor Binns. (I didn't want to suggest that she should just get rid of him but honestly, if she can't figure that out on her own then I don't know how she ever became Minister back in the day!)

Also, did Chadwick come and talk to either of you? I told him he should. He saw Fellsworthy starting in on Starling Friday evening but he didn't think he was supposed to say anything because it was the weekend. Lav, you might want to pull Starling aside and ask her what happened.

So far I think being a Prefect is pretty brilliant. Except when the firsties think they've seen silverfish in their bath. Ew.



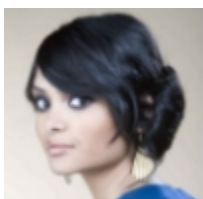
 [alt_seamus](#) at **2012-09-10 02:11:10**
(no subject)

I haven't prepared, either. I think we'll have to skip a week although I suppose I could wing it and talk about Irish history or something easy.

Madam Umbridge hasn't even scheduled a meeting with me yet but that's good to hear about Binns. I can't understand why they keep him, he puts everyone to sleep AND he's completely unreliable.

Chadwick hasn't come to me. What kind of complete eejit thinks you aren't supposed to report infractions to Prefects on WEEKENDS?

Being a Prefect is pretty wiz, yeah. I reckon the girls' Prefect Bathroom is even better than the boys' and ours is ACE.



 **alt_padma** at [2012-09-10 02:19:28](#)
(no subject)

Well, let's skip. There's just so much to do this year! I promise I'll be ready next week.

She'll get to you, I'm sure. There's loads of us! But I remember someone saying that they tried to sack Binns once already and he just didn't understand he was being told to go away. But maybe with Madam Umbridge actually *here* something can be done? I dunno.

And I dunno what's wrong with Chadwick, either, it's like he's not been through a whole year of school already. Actually, I think he might have just been making that up because he didn't want to grass on Fellsworthy. But I knew you and Lav needed to know that all that's starting up again. And I had *hoped* that Chadwick would be a man about it instead of a girl's blouse. Guess not.

I wonder if I ought to tell Draco and Daphne to look out for Hedigan stirring up that whole crowd again? Or do you think they'll take that as interfering in their House?

Our bathroom is definitely utterly nift. But do you have a horrible time slot to use yours? Ravenclaw's prefects are on our rota for 6-7 AM (and only an *hour*, I'm not sure how I'll get ready in time in the mornings!) and again from 8-9 PM. Who takes a bath at 8:00?

But ours does have pretty nift bubble baths. You?




 **alt_seamus** at [2012-09-10 04:06:54](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, we have bubble baths, too.

It probably wouldn't hurt to drop a note to Daphne and Draco -- I mean, would you be offended if Daphne let you know about something that was brewing in Ravenclaw House? Prefects are supposed to work together across Houses, after all.

I'd think Madam Umbridge might be a match for Binns, actually. She seems pretty stubborn when she sets her mind to something. Look what happened between her and Professor Sinistra, right?



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2012-09-10 18:32:46](#)
(no subject)

Thanks for the tip, Padma!

I nabbed Starling after breakfast--she says it was all a silly misunderstanding, so I think I'll let it go for now.

What do we do about the ones who are still crying for their mums?

Bawsley, especially, seems to be a complete watering pot.

2012-09-09 22:49:00

Private Message to Claire Clearwater

Mum,

Saw that you tried to Floo while we were out. Sunday nights, remember? Another command performance for his mum.



 [alt_penelope](#)

And no, don't worry, he knows why we don't ever have supper with you and Dad. It's okay.

Mrs W really is a good cook. I did ask her tonight for the recipe for her casseroles (even though you know how I feel about casseroles!) and that seemed to make her light up a bit. Only I wish that they didn't *expect* us every week! And particularly as it seems like she's always got a thousand little chores for Percy to do when we're there. Like milking the goats. The man's working for the third most important wizard in the Protectorate and his mother makes him milk *goats* on his day off, for Merlin's sake!

Well, I know he doesn't mind doing it. It's one of the things that makes him so good. But still, I wish sometimes that the 'family tradition' didn't come with so much baggage.

But it's okay. It really is. I told you before I just love his brother Bill and his dad's an all right sort. If a bit hen-pecked, maybe, though he obviously really loves Mrs W. (That's not a comment on you and Dad, either.)

And don't make a big deal about the message from Antonin Dolohov. Percy explained that he's an old family friend of Mr Malfoy's so he took an interest, since Percy's been so helpful and Mr Malfoy told Professor Dolohov so. He's the one who sent his elf that afternoon, I told you. Oh, Mum, having that elf here was so *wonderful* - we didn't even know where to start! and then it seemed like we had masses we could have asked it for. Of course, it's ever so much more efficient than a mudblood but if ours will be even half as much help it'll be amazing. I'm hoping by this time next year we can manage it.

But the one thing Professor Dolohov did I kinda wish he hadn't done was give Perce this book. It's got meditations (he's read a few aloud to me) and he's spending a few minutes on them every night (like right now) and they're sort of annoying. He said that Professor Dolohov said

that they'll get better. (But that they get worse first.)

Everything else is fine. Working hard - both of us - but it's okay. And the job's going well. Mr Powell's working on a big project this month, so I have some good opportunities to show him how much I've learned of his systems and the cross-checking spells and the charting cantrips he's been teaching me.

If Dad's going round the pub on Friday, why don't you come here and see the flat?

2012-09-10 15:02:00

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Perce,

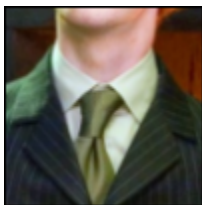
Remember that I'm working late most nights this week, so you're on your own. Better yet, you could have a takeaway waiting for me when I get in!



 **alt_penelope**

Mum says she might come Friday. Is that all right? See if Bill wants a boys' night or something. Or maybe you and he could go get drinks after with some of his Ministry mates.

Love you, see you later.



 **alt_percy** at **2012-09-11 01:52:06**
(no subject)

Blast. I didn't see this until now: I had to work late myself and I was too busy to *breathe* all day, much less check my journal. I just got home.

Takeaway it is. It'll probably still be warm by the time you get home.

(We really are spending too much money on takeaway. Have to watch that.)

No problem with me if you want to spend some time with your mum on Friday. I'll check with Bill to see if he's free; that's a good idea.

2012-09-10 17:32:00

ORDER ONLY

We received a rather sweet Ms Tabitha Dixon a few hours ago -- what large brown eyes! She seemed quite taken with you, Kingsley. She fussed for quite a while after you left, and then got terribly confused when she saw Victor for the first time and mistook him for you.



 [alt_alice](#)

Our clean up efforts at Moddey are slow but steady. The most necessary buildings have been patched and cleaned, and we're anxiously waiting to see if our late re-planting of beans, potatoes, carrots, and squash will take. It's only a small crop, as our seed store was nearly used up with our summer planting efforts, but it's worth a try. Two greenhouses are in fair shape after a Herculean effort by Regina, Steve, and Richard, and the fluxweed seedlings appear to be thriving. Our newly built dormitory structure -- still a shell, really -- is the next thing we're tackling, along with The Hopeful, which is in need of (mercifully few) repairs.

Our lost crops and animal stock is worrisome, and we shan't know the true effects of it until winter, but we've already been making efforts to keep a closer eye on consumption of non-perishables and have also begun fishing more to add to our weekly supplies. We'll be depending on the winter solstice run to help us out, though.

Mellisandra continues to work on her wand making efforts -- Albus's Phoenix feathers and the supplies from the twins have been taken full advantage of, and she plans to have another three wands done by October, bringing her total to six. We've no end of wood, but other core supplies are always needed. Remus, love, she's willing to try werewolf whiskers, and Fred and George, anything you can discreetly and safely track down would also be appreciated. Walden, if you run into any magical creatures in your part of the woods, please do send them our way.

That's all the news I can think of at the moment.



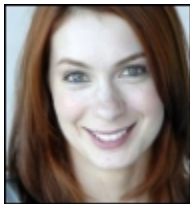
 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2012-09-10 23:20:00**


Private Message to Allie

How's our Professor, Allie?

Good idea, asking Walden to look out for creatures. Might be a better use of his time than ferrying between Davidson and Turner, or whatever he's been doing with himself.

I'll make sure to get hold of Aleks so we'll get a good shipment for everyone before the worst of the weather.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-09-11 01:23:35**

Re: Private Message to Allie

Better, I think.

He's talking, which is always a good sign.

I was so proud of him when he spoke his mind to Severus. Because it meant he felt safe enough that he could disagree, if that makes sense.

And who knows? He's said before he feels sometimes as if he doesn't deserve us, because of the things he's done. Perhaps he'll be able to see that we're not perfect. That we've had to make hard compromises. Maybe that'll help.

Arabella's already started her list of priorities. I'll pass them along.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2012-09-11 01:29:11**

(no subject)

Oh, and before I forget. Charlie, dearest, Mellisandra wanted to pass along that your very fortuitous find of dragon heartstring has also proven very valuable, and is being taken full advantage of as well. Naturally, we don't expect you'll get another opportunity any time soon, but if you do get the chance and can be discreet about it, she'd welcome further supplies.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-11 02:10:19](#)**
(no subject)

I was certainly impressed with how far along you'd got with the repairs when I visited. Though, of course, it was still clear how very much damaged you'd suffered--and how long it might take to set things entirely to rights again.


I will put together a parcel for Stephen of things he'll need for the new arrivals. I know he was a bit concerned about having enough of certain ingredients for brewing, and we will do our best to supply things as they're needed.

How our is Will? I'm much afraid that this year's excessive damp and the openness of the accommodations there may have conspired against him. Has the potion I left improved the sound of his breathing? If it has, then I will cease moaning about my ill-spent summer, as I wouldn't have known to brew that particular remedy if I'd not spent the fortnight in Seathwaite.

Speaking of my summer rambles, in unpacking things here, I realised that I left you without giving Mellisandra the strands of Kelpie mane that I collected for her in Moray Firth. I'll include those tomorrow in my parcel for Stephen.

My best to you all.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-11 02:21:31](#)**
(no subject)

That'd be lovely, Poppy. I'll make sure to tell Mellisandra and Stephen.

And yes, we've got a lot of work left to do. The memorial garden has been sorely neglected in light of all the other things we've had to take care of, for one, and there's still no end of minor repairs that keep cropping up. But we're managing.

Will sounds a good bit better as well -- he hasn't been wheezing when he runs around nearly as much as he had been, and he's been sleeping very solidly through the night.



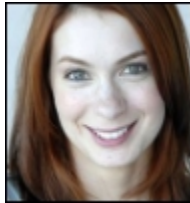
 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-11 03:04:19](#)

Private Message to Alice and Frank Longbottom

Alice, thank you again for the welcome you showed me at a time when you were all stretched in every direction at once.

I've no idea how I'd have got through my interview with MLE if the two of you hadn't taken me in hand and explained what I could expect. As it was, I needn't have worried so much, but I think if you'd not talked me through the possibilities, I wouldn't have trusted that I was truly not the focus of their enquiry when the questions turned as they did.

I trust our next time together will be under happier circumstances all around.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-11 03:30:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank Longbottom

You've no idea how much easier we all breathe each time you've been by to give us your seal of approval. I'm just glad we were able to return the favour this time around.

Here's hoping this term is less of a trial for you, dear heart, because you most certainly deserve it.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-11 03:31:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank Longbottom

ta, poppy. glad to know it helped.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-11 03:28:23](#)

(no subject)

I've made arrangements with Kingsley for us to go together to try for Neal Smullen tomorrow.

Glad to hear that Mellisandra is making progress with the wands.
Excellent news.

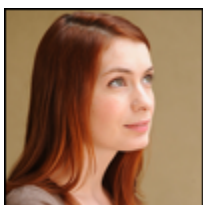


 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-11 03:37:33](#)

Private message to Alice Longbottom

I checked the syllabus to see the ingredient lists for some of the upcoming N.E.W.T.s potions. I think I can liberate at least a few unicorn tail hairs for you, around the middle of October. I'll send them along as soon as I do.

(Shh, don't tell Professor McGonagall.)



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-11 03:40:29](#)

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

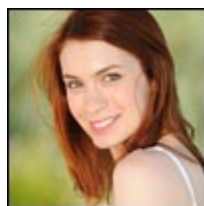
Carefully, Fred. Only if you're absolutely sure it wouldn't be missed, or linked back to you if it was.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-11 03:43:05](#)

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

Understood. And don't worry: we're experts at that sort of thing.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-11 03:46:47](#)

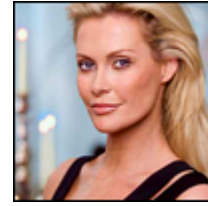
Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

I would expect no less.

And I know Molly would go into fits if she knew you set foot inside the Forbidden Forest again. So remember -- keep it safe and discreet.

2012-09-10 21:50:00

(no subject)



 [alt_narcissa](#)

There's a sudden bite to the air today, already.

It's as well that our card party meets at yours on Wednesday, Diana; I'm expecting Mr Cooper tomorrow afternoon to check his installation before the rains start in earnest. I'm sure we'll only have another scant week or 2 of pleasant weather and then it will be time to bed the summer gardens for the winter ones.

Speaking of cards, in a way, Aurora, I ran across the names of two engravers whose work might interest you. I'll send them along. (As for the other kind, my dear, I'm sure by next summer we'll have you playing Spite and Malice with the best of us. It does take practice for the strategy to become second-nature.)

Antosha, love, I've taken the liberty of helping you keep current. Since we can't meet for a regular chat to catch up on all the happenings of the world outside Hogwarts, you can look forward to a weekly dose from other sources. (It's only fair, since you doubtless were the one to blame for Barty's addiction. I'm surprised you hadn't already taken care of the matter yourself, Toshenka dear.) Expect the first owls within the week. And no, this is not an early birthday present.

Draco, we received your letter. I think Prefecture agrees with you, son, since you've already remembered to write twice! Don't worry. I shan't take it amiss if your Prefect and YPL duties, classes and Quidditch schedule mean that this early attention to your correspondence crosses from an overabundance to a deficit as the term continues.

Our own social calendar has quite overrun itself and once again, we shall likely see no more than a handful of weekends without some gathering or other. I've a flurry of owls to send with our acceptances - and our regrets, of course. And a few notes below.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-09-11 02:04:12**

Private Message to Pandora Baddock

Pandora, do I hear that congratulations just might (finally!) be in order? Or has Ari still not made up his mind to his helplessness in the matter?

Tell me if you want Lucius to say anything particular to him tomorrow at tea. I've every expectation that his objections are not things you can easily overcome, dear, but Lucius has the advantage there over either of us.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-09-11 02:08:15**

Private Message to Maisie Fudge

Maisie,

It's sweet of your daughter to ask, but you know my husband's position on taking godsons, or allowing namesakes, is quite firm.

No, I'm sure he'd be flattered but it's absolutely against his policy to accept. He would far prefer that sort of thing to be kept within family bloodlines, or if you must, advise your daughter and her husband to use Marvolo or a similarly appropriate name.

Of course, privately, what they name their child is entirely up to them. But I did not say so, my dear.

Yours, etc.,

Narcissa C B Malfoy



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-09-11 02:26:11**

Private Message to Hydra

Hydra, dear,

I'm so sorry we did not get the chance to go shopping together before you returned. I expect your mother would not approve but I went ahead and ordered a few things I am sure you will need. (I did notice when you joined us in Pembroke, dear, that everything seems to be a bit short. And a little tight

through the shoulders?) I'm sure Mrs Baylock saw to your school robes but you'll want for Hogsmeade trips and such. You ought to get the parcels this week, once they're completed.

Your mother also mentioned what she's terming your 'Harry project.' Now, dear. I know you're quite fond of Harry - we all are, of course - but my own advice to you is not to force the issue. Some young men do take their time about it, and often the girl who is right at hand is not as obvious to them as the one who seems unreachable. But more than that, it doesn't take much to see that you've no interest in him, apart from friend or perhaps a sort of older brother. I watched closely in Pembroke, do you see.

But there ought to be someone who's suitable. Have you had your eye on anyone for yourself, dear?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-11 02:29:52](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Narcissa -

Thank you, I'm sure that'll be a help. As I'm sure you knew I would, I'm coming to agree with the necessity of finding a planner I can work with. I think I'm finally there - turns out sorting which bits Raz and I care most about helped a great deal, and we got time for more conversation about that this weekend.

I've managed to keep Tuesday afternoons free in my schedule again, so I thought I might set up a few initial appointments (perhaps next week, perhaps the week after) and see if I can find out if one of the names suggested to me is the right fit.

Whatever happens with that, if you're free, I'd love to see you for lunch or tea or supper (I needn't be back at school until about ten at night). And there's the matter of robes, too. I've been looking at design books, and I think I've a rough idea, but I'm quite sure you can untangle me with a few choice sentences. (And that does seem one of the more enjoyable parts of the process, so far, so if you're at all interested, I'd love to share the amusement.)

Beyond that, I'm quite looking forward to the year. The first years are still a mystery, but endearing in their newness, the seventh years are all bravado and certainty. And while the fifth years are showing -

except for a few like Draco, who are thriving - the early signs of exam nerves combined with the new YPL expectations - I'm sure they'll do wonderfully as well.

I've also, I should say, found Antosha to be a wonderful addition to the school - we had a lovely conversation last Friday about a number of topics. And he's quite taken the attention and interest of much of the school.

Aurora



 [alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-09-11 02:55:08

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

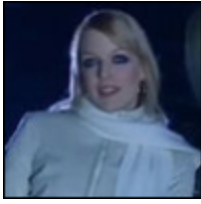
Well, I am glad you're coming to see reason on the subject of a planner, at least. Just because they make their living on galas does not mean there are none out there who can show restraint!

As for robes, that is without a doubt the part everyone seems to find the most thrilling (and sometimes the most nerve-wracking, I warn you). I'd be honoured to go along. Have you thought of inviting one of your sisters? Were you thinking of Young & Miller for racked wedding robes?(I'm sure you're well aware that what looks perfect in a photograph or sketch often disappoints in the wearing.) Or were you looking in the books to inform your own design?

Perhaps I would recommend booking a fitting at Young & Miller since they'll have all the samples. If you do find something you adore then well and good, but if not, at least it would give you confirmation of what you want in a design. Then Revati or Hyperion or whomever's designs appeal to you best could take your specifications and put them to work.

Yes, each new year does offer its new sets of challenges and surprises, doesn't it? For us it's as if all the parents are merely waiting for their children to return to school before the season truly starts.

You'll be pleased to know Toshenka has spoken well of you already to Lucius (and to me). It sounds as if you, he and Raz shall have quite the social circle of your own, before long!



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-11 03:27:35](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

It's not restraint I'm so worried about as common sense, but yes. But I do think it should be possible to solve, somehow.

On the robes, I'd had that idea - you're so right that things often look so completely different on. I have guesses, of course, but it'd be so much easier to do with actual comparisons. I'll see about an appointment with Young & Miller, and let you know?

(As to my sisters: Diane and I have quite the different set of clothing tastes, so that requires a little careful handling. I'll admit here that it'd be much easier there if you were along: she's quite a devotee of your various commentary. Sage admits herself entirely confused by formal clothing, and Tempest's schedule is horrid, so really it's Diane and Mum who are my best choices. And Mum will think everything looks stunning, I suspect, which is pleasant but not at all helpful.)

I need to take myself up the tower in a moment, but I'll be in touch about some times and options.

And yes, indeed, on a pleasant little social circle - I'm quite looking forward to after supper conversation with both of them Friday night. Most fascinating to listen to. (And a delight to see Raz with someone who's known him that long - it's not that often I get the chance, you know.)



 **alt_crouch_jr** at [2012-09-11 02:40:46](#)

(no subject)

Yes, agreed. The change of season, and with it a shift in duties, is most welcome.

Cooper's installation isn't already falling to ruin, is it? I wonder if he's doing better with domestic maintenance. Saw the 2 of them at Mackrell's over the weekend, and thought he looked a bit shopworn.

As for cards. Professor Sinistra is welcome to have my place as the one you trounce at Spite and Malice.

And for keeping current. Which titles did you send him? (But I doubt we've overlapped.)

Is the Quidditch schedule available yet? May go along this year on the Puddlemere scouting visits. Assuming other duties don't prevent it.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-11 03:02:16](#)
(no subject)

I've great faith in Aurora's promise at cards. She counts them; I've noticed.

The installation is fine. But there were high winds in that recent storm and one of the wings now has a bend where it oughtn't have. So a little maintenance is in order.

(*Whirl*, for one. I forget the other. Not nearly as extensive a subscription array as yours.)

I'm sure the schedule's available; we've only Draco's matches on our agenda, of course.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-11 03:16:10](#)
(no subject)

(Not *Witch Weekly*? I sent *Rogue*, *W-itched*, and, so he can be prepared before Bobolis starts pressing for a feature, *Londinarium*. And one other I'd do better not to mention.)



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-11 03:29:23](#)
(no subject)

Ah. No, then, we've not overlapped. I thought of *Londinarium* but chose *Cut Above* in the end. So you see, we were coming from opposite ends of the spectrum.

There were others I considered, but - well, surely he'll have renewed *Word Has It* on his own? (Toshenka, if you're reading, do let us know if we're revealing secrets that might damage your

fearsome reputation with your young charges.)



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-11 09:14:05](#)
(no subject)

Bah, a fearsome reputation is overrated, though if too many of them start coming into my open hours to borrow my magazines instead of the books for the assigned reading, I may have to have words with you later, milaya.

And thank you -- I hadn't had the chance to even think about figuring out which were still worth taking, which had sprung up in my absence, and which had gone to seed, actually. Your devotion to my extracurricular enrichment is deeply appreciated. (Did you throw in *Witch Weekly*, actually? Doubt I'll have time for social events, this season at least, but the well-bred warlock should always be capable of discussing fashion over the interval at the opera, as Ummi always took pains to remind me. Are jewel tones "in" this season?)



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-11 09:14:25](#)
(no subject)

Whatever else you've learned from me, little hare, you've certainly learned how to build a sense of dread. I mean anticipation! Yes, anticipation, that's surely it.

2012-09-11 13:59:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr.

Stopped with Ned to return the Fulton file; he said you had closed out the case. (Also that you're for Ipswich the rest of the day.)



 **alt_lucius**

Probably best for all concerned. Though it is still curious how Fulton managed to obtain the guest registers from Elysian and Ouroboros when he was a member of neither. Potential exposure there for others, as well. (Lunching with Glendower the elder on Thursday and will suggest he talk to Weber about strengthening the spells on Ouroboros' books. Will speak to Oswyn to-day, if I see him.)

As to the rest, well. You yourself said he'd been thorough. Though anyone who'd look at a photograph of Millingham-Kennilworthy and consider it of as much interest as one of, say, Yaxley's daughter, is clearly casting a net wider than the Channel.

At any rate, you're right to close it at this point. Nothing more to do except wait for Maule to tip his hand again.

Certain Bella was grateful to have you back on board (much higher priority, anyway). Claudius said she'd had a breakthrough (and Rodolphus had indicated something similar when we were in Pembroke) and requested additional wandpower. None too soon, particularly if you can silence him before his next screed.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2012-09-11 21:01:23**
(no subject)

Shifted the case to Laverty for any loose ends, so Pennifold was almost correct: it's been shelved rather than officially closed.

Quite.

Indeed.

Dammit.

Agreed.

2012-09-11 18:24:00

Order Only: Neal Smullen

I met with Neal's mother, and came back this evening to speak with his father, too, after his work shift was over. Neal's mother is a seamstress, and his father works in a gravel quarry.

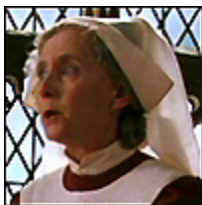



 **alt_arthur**

They're willing to consider letting us take Neal, but on one condition: they want his brothers to be told, too. Neal has two older brothers, aged ten and fourteen, and the mother, especially, is very firm that she doesn't want to have to pretend to them that the boy has died. I warned them that if the boy manifests his magic and the authorities find out before we come back, the decision may be taken out of all of our hands. That made her waver, but in the end, she stuck to her position. But on the other hand, if we tell the boys, and they let the information slip, then all of the children and adults at the sanctuary, as well as those of the Order who work to shelter them, could come under great peril. Are children that age able to keep the secret, no matter what?

Well? Are we willing to do this?

I do suspect that there are other parents of children at Moddey Dhoo who have ended up telling siblings some of what is going on, after we have taken the babies and left. I've had hints of this when I've done the yearly follow up visits. Yet we have not yet had a whiff that the authorities suspect anything, and after all, the knowledge that the sanctuary exists is protected by the fidelius spell. I suppose the greatest danger may be to me and perhaps Bill, as well as the rest of us who do camp visits.



 **alt_poppy** at **2012-09-12 03:50:54**
(no subject)

Could the parents be persuaded to tell their older children something short of the full truth? Something general enough that it would not implicate us or unleash a full-scale MLE search for the Sanctuary if the children failed to keep the secret? They could be told that the baby was sent away with good people who will take care of it. And, if needed, there could be a hint that there was something wrong with the child (to explain why the other children were not also taken). If

put just right, if it were later repeated by the children, a camp enforcer might be most likely to leap to the assumption that the child was spirited away by wizards who wished to use it in Dark rituals.

Or. Have you considered making the bargain as the parents have proposed it, but then placing a mild confundus on the other two children so that they will not remember the details correctly? It's a dodgy solution, and I do not propose confunding the parents by any means, but if all other ideas fail, perhaps that would make the situation a bit safer for you and for all of us.



 **alt_kingsley** at [2012-09-12 13:23:42](#)
(no subject)

We don't want anyone repeating anything to anybody that would give the slightest hint that a child was being taken away that survived. If there is any chance the boy's brothers would repeat any story to anyone else, then they shouldn't be told at all.

As for the confundus, I'd prefer not to try that. It *is* dodgy and a confused story might cause more problems than silence.

Arthur, as in the case of Puneet's parents, perhaps they'll get more flexible when the boy manifests his magic. But it would be dangerous to wait.

Come to think of it: perhaps that might be the answer? Tell the brothers that he has manifested his magic and was taken away by the authorities? So they'll know he's alive at least? The parents could tell them they mustn't speak of it, because they don't want to draw further suspicion that they helped the boy steal magic?



 **alt_arthur** at [2012-09-12 13:25:09](#)
(no subject)

My goodness.

Then the brothers will think he's been taken as a muggleborn slave, you mean?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-12 13:25:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes. But they'll know he's alive.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-12 13:27:26](#)
(no subject)

But it's still a lie.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-12 13:30:21](#)
(no subject)


We lie in this business all the time. It's a test of the parents, in a way, one which we require of all the parents, that they lie to keep their children safe, so the children can be raised to claim their magical heritage at Moddey Dhoo. What is more important to them? To give this kid the chance to be free and learn to use a wand? Or to tell their other children the truth? It's a bitter thing we ask of them. But it is necessary.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-12 14:41:52](#)
(no subject)

Well. There's your answer, then. If you cannot tolerate the risk that a child will repeat something, then you cannot tell them. Full stop.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-12 14:22:59](#)
(no subject)

I think we should tell them the truth -- after a fashion. As you noted, plenty of parents told their other children and never asked for a by-your-leave. 'We will raise your brother in secret and keep him safe, but you must pretend to the world that he's dead' -- that leaves out the sanctuary. They don't need to know who Arthur is, or Bill.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2012-09-12 14:49:16](#)**
(no subject)

Actually, for that matter, I'm not sure why Arthur needs to do the telling. He could quite well tell the parents that it is not ours to meddle in how they raise their older children.

Say that they may tell the others what they see fit (as they will do in any case), but underscore that it is up to them to make the proper determination because their lives and the baby's and the lives of those who have reached out to keep him safe all rest on their discretion.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-13 02:19:40](#)**
(no subject)

I am going to go back tomorrow and try again, giving them Terry's message. If it doesn't work, well...I'll use my best judgement.



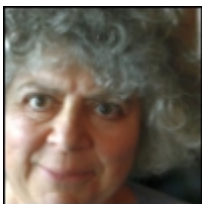
 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2012-09-12 15:06:28](#)**
(no subject)

~~parents know what their children~~

they know what's at stake. their own child would be at risk if it came out.

kingsley has a point

but I think that trust is important too. especially if we're going to be asking parents to help in other ways. I think we should trust that she knows what her children can and cannot handle.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2012-09-12 15:41:41](#)**
(no subject)

This, Frank, yes.

So many children hold so many secrets now. How is this that different? (And I'm not just thinking of young Neville and Evelyn, but so many of our students. In the

camps, with the weight of the consequences so incredibly clear, we can only assume they're better at understanding the risks, not worse.)

Ten is young, mind, but - if they're not told anything that might identify us, safe enough, I think, if the parents insist.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-12 16:55:37](#)
(no subject)

ta, pomona.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-13 01:57:29](#)
(no subject)

~~it's not so much~~

~~parents may~~

bugger



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-13 02:16:36](#)
Private message to Frank Longbottom

Right. I'm just going to come out and say it.

I'm deuced sorry, Frank. I haven't a doubt that confronting this issue is bringing up very raw stuff for you about Neville and Evelyn again. I still feel--oh, hell.

I deeply regret having to turn you down. Thinking it was the right answer, while knowing perfectly well that I was hurting you and Alice and Neville and Evelyn in the process. I hate like poison to have this come up now, when it feels like I'd just managed to convince you to start talking with me again.

It's bloody awful, isn't it? More than anyone else in the Order, you and I are in the same position: we're fathers who love our children, and we want to protect them and guide them right, and we want to tell them the truth. And our duty, our work for the Order keeps getting in the bloody way.

I cannot tell you how much I regret that we ended up on the opposite side of this issue. I freely admit it's easier for me now because I have Bill and Charlie working with me, although, yes, that adds its own set of worries. It may be cold comfort to hear me say this--even infuriating, given that I blocked your petition--but Frank, I promise you that it will be so much better when you can tell them the truth.

I hope I haven't made things worse by saying this. But I've been wanting to get it off my chest for awhile now. I'll just have to trust, for the sake of our long friendship, that you'll listen and at least try to consider what I've said. Even if I'm inept at trying to explain. Bugger.

I will talk to the Smullens again. I hope that Terry's message will help sway them, and if it doesn't...well.

I'll cross that bridge when I get to it.



 [alt_frank](#) at 2012-09-13 03:39:26

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

okay.

yeah, it's bloody hard.

and I didn't mean

I'm not good at this. talking. never have been.

figured it'd be better all around if I did my job and kept my mouth shut because nothing good was going to come out of it. what's done is done, talking about it wasn't going to change anything.

sorry.

you know what I mean.

any road.

didn't mean to shut you down.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-13 03:47:16](#)


Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

and whatever you end up deciding with the smullens

it'll be what you think is the best thing to do.

and that's okay.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-13 03:51:45](#)

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

Thank you.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-13 03:51:17](#)

Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

Talking through the journals isn't the easiest way to communicate, either.

Well, I'll leave it at that, then. Just--I'd be grateful to have my friend Frank Longbottom back. I highly value his expertise and perspective.

Whether he's inclined to talk or not.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-13 03:59:38](#)


Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom

right.

and yeah, you got me.

never left.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2012-09-12 18:22:00](#)**
(no subject)

Mr Weasley,

Could you give the parents a message for me? Tell them about me and how the git was put in charge of me, not naming any names, you know, but just tell them a little of what happened to me.

Tell them that I wanted them to know: I've been a muggleborn slave and a free wizard at the sanctuary both. And I'm begging them to make the right decision for Neal. They have no idea what it's like, how cruelly the Protectorate treat people in their son's position. People like me. I lived it--I barely survived it--but he doesn't have to.

Please tell them that if I could have gone back and advised my own parents, if they had been given a choice, I would have told them to send me away to safety, no question. Even if it meant keeping it from my sister.

If they love him, then please, please let him go.



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-13 02:18:03](#)**
(no subject)

Terry, my boy, it's a very good thought to give them your personal message, and I sincerely hope that it may sway them. I am going to go back and see them tomorrow, and we'll see what happens. Thank you.

[2012-09-12 18:55:00](#)

Private message to Auntie Narcissa



 [alt_hydra](#)

Hello Auntie,

Thank you for asking after me in your last journal entry. I also hoped that we would have time to go shopping, but there's never much time for normal, ordinary things. That's how it seems, anyway.

Thank you, though, for sending me some things you picked out yourself. I'm sure that I'll love them.

About Harry, I'm not forcing the issue at all. I think he knows he can talk to me if he wants to, but you know he'll always talk to Draco first if it's for advice. Of course, it's awkward all the way round because talking at all, for both of us, means thinking about Mummy's strong feelings on the matter. It's not nearly so uncomfortable as it once was, now that we both know that neither of us are taking it too seriously.

I don't know about other boys. Most of them would be fearful of getting on Mummy's bad side, I should think, to say nothing of Daddy's, too. It would take a special sort not to mind.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_narcissa](#) at **[2012-09-13 14:43:53](#)**
(no subject)

Well, far be it from me to suggest that you take your mother lightly, dear, but it does sound as if you and Harry have decided to be sensible about the matter. As for her disappointment, you know as well as anyone that her standards are ... difficult to meet.

That's not to say that things might not change between you - it's been known to happen. But I suspected as much when you were together, albeit briefly, last month.

As for other boys, you're quite right that it would take a brave lad not to concern himself with either of your parents. But I wasn't asking whether they are interested in *you*, dear. I'm sure there are any number of young wizards who have taken a second look, the way you're filling out. It's not as if I haven't heard about last year's

episodes with the hexes you learned for protection!

My question is whether *you* have an interest in any of *them*. In my experience that tends to confuse the issues greatly.

Well. Just in case, dear, I'm sending you a book that your grandmother sent to me when I was just about your age. No doubt your father thinks you'll remain unspoiled until you produce him a grandson, but trust your Aunt Narcissa, it's far better to know what to expect and understand that there are a vast array of choices, feelings and options for a witch at this stage of ... development.

[2012-09-12 21:21:00](#)

Noble Arts this year is shaping up to be brilliant



 **[alt_seamus](#)**

So today, Professor Dolohov showed us this fascinating spell that lets you use your own blood to lock a box so it can't be opened. It doesn't just work on boxes -- you can also do it with an envelope, for instance. But the material has to have once been something living (like wood).

I've been wondering this evening if it works on fibres -- wool, cotton, silk, linen. Cotton comes from a cotton plant, so surely that would work. Wool comes from a sheep, and sheep are alive but I'm not sure if the wool is? And silk comes from silkworms but I don't quite know how they make it so I'm even less sure about that. I suppose I could test it out on a sock, but I'm not sure how a sock even would lock, and I don't particularly want to get blood on my socks. I think I have a little wool pouch somewhere in my trunk, if I can find it (it's a pouch for my omnioculars) so I can test that out later.

He let us try it ourselves and taught us the incantation. (You only got to try it if you volunteered, but lots of people did. I suppose I don't blame the ones who didn't, because you DID have to use some of your blood, although he taught us a spell for that, you didn't have to jab yourself with a knife or anything.)

Professor Dolohov prefers the term Noble Arts but he does use the term 'Dark Arts' quite a bit in class, since that's what we're all used to. Anyway, it was dead interesting. The Slytherins and Ravenclaws will get to learn the box spell on Friday, I think. What was your double-period class like? Ours isn't until tomorrow. (I guess it's the Slytherins and Hufflepuffs who had it earlier in the week?)

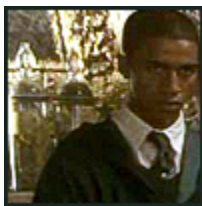


 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-09-13 03:00:12](#)**
(no subject)

That does sound brill! I wonder if we bring our own things, he'll let us try the spell on that instead of the same box. Did anyone ask him if everyone who volunteered could then open the same box, because that doesn't seem like it's all that strong a protection, if all you have to do is cast the same spell and then you can open it.

(But I do want to try it on something of mine, too. I've got a nifty music box that has a secret drawer in it. Would that do?)

Our double-hour is tomorrow, too. I did my *Intra Profundis* section on weather magic, because I think it's interesting how no one really bothers anymore, on account of how it usually means you'll just get more of what you don't want later. (Like, if you make it sunny because you don't want rain, it'll work but next week you'll get a small storm system right over your house.) But back then everyone thought it was a terrible thing and caused earthquakes and all.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-13 03:06:06](#)
(no subject)

We had our Double Session on Monday. It was about the *Intra Profundis* assignment, and was really very interesting. He asked us to say which section we'd written on and to defend what we'd said about whether that type of magic would now be considered 'Dark' and by which definitions. He really didn't seem to mind which definitions we used, either. Only that we could explain our choices and the logical conclusions one ought to draw if starting with those assumptions.

I don't think I've ever been asked to think as ... fully as that. He's really rather amazing, don't you think?

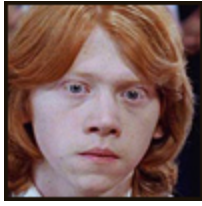


 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-13 13:57:30](#)
(no subject)

I noticed that in our first lessons, too--he doesn't seem satisfied with just one answer. He'll ask more and more questions, like he really wants you to think about why you said what you said.

Off to Charms. Somehow even though she assigned us that essay, I don't think Professor Acton will probe quite so much.

What section of *Intra Profundis* did you pick?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-13 03:14:43](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah.

Now I can think of loads of other questions I should have asked him instead of just the one I did.

Like are there any counter-spells I can use to keep Finnigan from using *Obfirmo Sanguine* on something of mine.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-13 03:33:51](#)

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

I think I may remember something in one of my Dad's books. Vaguely.

Won't be able to look it up until I'm home for the Christmas hols, though.

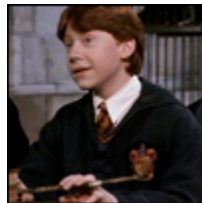


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-13 03:44:17](#)

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

Ask him in a private message. He'll give you House points -- I think he gives points every time anyone asks a question about anything -- and he'll probably give you some useful suggestions.

I mean, you might not want to specifically say Finnigan, but I'm sure it's not news to Professor Dolohov that students hex each other. Or play nasty tricks like using this sort of spell on stuff that isn't theirs.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-13 04:47:53](#)

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

That's a good idea, actually. I'll do it.

D'you know I got House Points for asking him a question during the lesson, too. I asked whether if you did this spell with your blood and then someone took the object, whether they could use it to cast spells that would target you, because it'd got your blood signature wound into it.

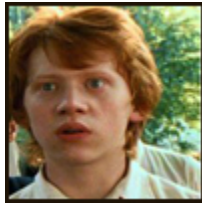



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-13 04:54:08](#)

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

Oh, that's a good question!

What did he say?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-13 05:19:32](#)

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

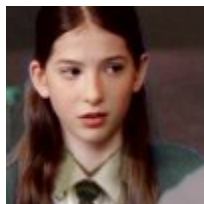
Well. He said It was a good question and showed excellent reasoning skills, and he said it was good I was thinking about self-protection.

And then he said there's not much risk of this spell being turned against you because the magic gets directed inward on the object, and because it's just meant to make the object recognise you as its owner.

And then he said it's also not very risky because it only takes a little of your blood. But get this. He said someone could do as much against you by using your hair if you don't vanish it out of your hairbrush in the mornings, or if you cut yourself a little and bleed on your robes. He said that happens to everyone all the time, so if you wanted to collect someone's blood for a Dark charm, you could just lift it off their robes.

Do you vanish your hair out of your comb and brush?

Um. He did promise he'd tell us if he's ever teaching us anything that could be really dangerous to us. So we'd know before we did it.

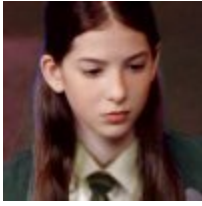


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-13 05:22:38](#)

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

I don't vanish my hair.

Maybe I should start.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-13 03:47:40](#)

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

And I might have some suggestions of my own once I've actually had the lesson.

I've USED this sort of blood magic, you know. We put Terry's blood in his bracelet, and Hermione's in hers, to keep them from getting lost. I've done the same magic on some things of mine I was worried about losing. I've never thought of it as Dark Arts, actually.

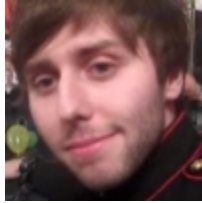


 [alt_terry](#) at [2012-09-13 03:58:43](#)

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

Ugh. I hadn't either. But I guess it seemed so benign compared to the sorts of things the git was doing to me all the time.

Well...doesn't mean I'm going to stop using the bracelet.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-13 14:05:42](#)

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

Hullo, Sally-Anne.

Meant to reply last evening when I saw Ron's first but my Arithmancy for today took longer than expected, what?

But I say, that's rather the point Professor Dolohov was making--that it's not a particularly Dark spell at all. I wonder if he'll tell your class what he told us, that it doesn't require any particular skill or affinity for Dark Arts to do this one, just blood and the incantation. And the right sort of object to use, what.

I still didn't volunteer, though. I wonder if that's a mistake. He did seem to want to question the translation I had done, quite a bit. I had to pull out the original just to make sure I got it right. (Which I thought rather odd, his interest in that. The translation in the concordance was bally well terrible so I thought mine couldn't be any worse!)

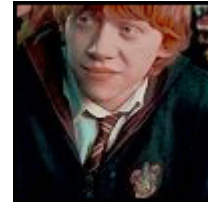
| Luna, Dux, you'll have to tell us how your lesson goes.

| -Justin

2012-09-12 23:48:00

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Sir, I was wondering whether there are any spells a person could use to keep someone else from casting a blood lock on an object. For instance, if I had something that I wouldn't want to lock, but it would be really annoying if someone else came along and charmed it closed. Is there anything I could do to keep them from locking it to themselves?



 [alt_ron](#)

Sorry if that sounds like making up stuff to worry about. Only, I've got brothers who do things like that all the time because they think it's a laugh. I could totally see them locking me out of my room that way. Because you could do, couldn't you? With a wooden door and doorframe.

So, yeah. Sorry to bother you. Just, it was interesting today, and got me thinking, I guess.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2012-09-13 18:18:39**

(no subject)

My apologies, Mr Weasley; I did not see this message before today's class ended, or I would have answered it then. Do feel free to bring questions such as this up in class, particularly since our lunchtime class together will necessarily be slightly more informal; of course, I'm equally happy to answer via journal.

You could possibly lock someone out of a room if the door and doorframe were all wood, as well as all the walls that made up the room, but it is very rare these days that doors alone don't have metal hinges, much less the walls themselves. Even a single nail driven into the wall would likely cause the magic to fail. (I say 'likely' because the boundaries and requirements of this particular spell are somewhat nonspecific, and rely a great deal on how both you and the magic think of "boundaries" and "edges". We will discuss many of those questions later in the year, though I promise I will not make you sit through all the lessons on philosophy my own teacher made me work through! But the Arts are ever mutable, and different people will often get different results based on how they conceptualise the world around them.)

Too, the spell I taught you does not scale well at all: in the case of a room, the protection of the lock would spread out over the entire volume of the room, and the small amount of power you put behind it would be much easier to break if spread over such a large area. For protecting a room, a house, or any large area, you would want wards, not this lock. Wards are much more complex, and take much greater time and care to set up and cast, but they are far more stable. (We will be studying warding in NEWT-level classes; however, if you're interested in knowing more now, I do have some introductory texts I could lend you, as long as you gave me your word that you would not try any of its exercises without my supervision.)

The more "yours" a particular item is, meanwhile, the more likely it is that the spell will fail if someone else tries to claim it and lock it. The reason I had to borrow a box from Professor Lestrangle's stores was because all the ones I had have been mine for so long I would not have been able to lift ownership enough to allow you all to try the spell if you wanted! (There is a way to sever ownership for magical purposes -- just giving something to someone often is not enough, depending on the degree of ownership -- but it, too, is slightly more complex, and deals with the extremely messy question of intent. It is how I was able to transfer 'ownership' for purposes of demonstration before class, however.) If someone tries to use the blood-lock on an object that they do not have some form of claim upon, and that belongs to and is claimed by another, it is likely to fail -- your dorm-mates almost certainly would not be able to claim your trunk and lock it, for instance, unless they were able to establish some form of ownership over it.

But if you wish to ease your mind, there is indeed a way you can establish a stronger magical claim over your possessions if you do not have a strong emotional attachment to them: using the spell I taught you to draw your blood, lift one drop of your blood to the surface of your finger and touch it to the underside (it must be the underside, bottom, or place where the thing rests against a surface when it is set down) of the object. Take your wand and tap the top of the object three times in equal intervals; as your wand touches the object, each time, repeat *Res mea*. This establishes a very basic "ownership" claim over the object: that claim is relatively weak, and can be broken in many ways, including by making a sincere and wholly-meant gift of the object to someone else, but it will ensure most attempts to exert ownership over the object by another will fail.

Another five points to Gryffindor, for your thoughtfulness and interest. And do allow me to say, I have been quite impressed thus far

by your critical reasoning skills. From what I have seen so far, you have the knack -- quite rare in the population at large, in my experience -- of taking a fact, and from there seeing many of its practical implications that others would wholly miss. I would like to encourage you to continue asking whatever question comes to mind throughout the year: from what I have seen thus far, they are certain to be useful and relevant.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov

2012-09-13 14:18:00

Class followup

I have seen several of our Gryffindor and Hufflepuff fifth-year students discussing the locking spell we covered in lecture on Wednesday, and several of our Slytherin and Ravenclaw students looking forward to the lesson on Friday (at which, yes, we will cover the same spell). I have not wished to intrude in your discussions: however, if you have any questions that were not covered in class, feel free to ask them. I will happily answer, though my schedule today is such that I may not be able to answer questions in advance of tomorrow's Slytherin/Ravenclaw lecture.



 **alt_antonin**



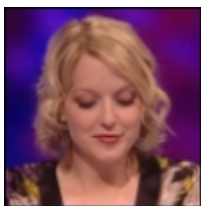
 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-13 18:21:38**

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

My dearest Aurora,

My apologies again for dropping our previous line of discussion (and for absence at supper since Monday -- I have not been avoiding you, I swear, simply exhausted). Are we still on for tomorrow night? (Please, tell me yes; I could desperately use a few hours of discussion without having to explain every. last. little. detail of things I thought were self-evident. Ah, well, if nothing else they force me to examine my own premises more fiercely before I speak!)

Fondly, and off now to poke holes in Ravenclaw logic,
Tosha



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-13 19:15:12**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Antosha -

How could I refuse, when you ask so nicely for my company? (And don't feel guilty over Tuesday, at least: I've the afternoon entirely free, and it's my chance to go to New London, plan a wedding, and see friends or my parents for supper.)

More seriously, I am looking forward to an evening together. (My students - well, I don't expect independent logic and analysis out of them until the NEWT years. Different field. But I do have some bits from this week's essays that may make you laugh. Or despair.)

I will admit, though, I've not yet had a chance to settle into *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, though you'll likely approve of the reason. My youngest sister either loves me or hates me, still can't quite decide which. She handed me a stack of books on Tuesday - 10 of them - promising me the dozen or so more that are out as soon as she tracks them down.

I got 50 pages in yesterday before class and then could barely put the first one down - they're total trash, spun sugar for the brain. Set at the Salem Institute of Magic, all school dramas and feuds. (They're written here, so I'm sure you'll have plenty of commentary about what they get wrong about life there, too.) I inhaled the rest of the first after class last night in the bath, and really, you must give it a try. I'll bring it down with me Friday, unless you think you'll make supper tonight.

(Also, I saw the comments about gossip magazines: do you want my copies of the ones your esteemed friends are not sending when I'm done? I usually take them down to either Poppy or the Hufflepuff common room otherwise. I take *Witch Weekly*, *Night Owl*, *Dish!*, *Whirl*, and *In The Soup* at the moment. And yes, still the last. Better to know the worst, really.)

On the other line of discussion - I do want to pick it up again, please. But at the same time, it's scarcely urgent: it's kept six months already, after all. (And it is a conversation that, perhaps, I'd rather Raz weren't around for initially. It - at the time, it was rather difficult, and the aftermath was the one big fight we've had. I'd rather not worry him more than need be.)

Right. Naptime for me. (Wednesdays are my always-short night.) And then office hours and marking the first year essays (I hope they're better than the other section) mixed with the 7th years to give me hope.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-14 01:25:18**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

My dearest Aurora,

Laughter at the little darlings' essays would be much appreciated. I'm proceeding rapidly apace through my marking, and -- Well. I take your point about the logic and analysis. I hadn't expected the sort of reasoning I am used to, but it is clear we have a great deal of work to do. Am beginning to wonder if I should assign them some emergency Aristotle to sharpen up their logic skills. And there is some utter confusion going on in the comments below that I still haven't sorted out ...

The books, meanwhile, sound delightfully distracting. I do tend to ridiculous romances for brainless distraction, but if you can't put them down, I will eagerly give them a try. As I'm sure you noticed, I took supper in my quarters, but do bring them along tomorrow night. And yes, please do pass along any of the gossip magazines you've read -- I'm not certain which ones Barty and Narcissa have chosen for me, but I suppose I will find out in time! (I mistrust Barty's sense of humor when he affects such helpfulness...) Would particularly appreciate *Witch Weekly*, even though I get odd looks when seen reading it in public. (One of the reasons I took to using the disguise charm.)

To the other: if you feel it is not urgent, I will bow to your sense of scheduling, of course. And it's a difficult topic to discuss at the best of times. But allow me to urge you, if I might: sometimes it is when one feels the most reluctance to revisit a topic that one has the most need.

At your disposal, in this as in all things,

T



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-14 03:14:28**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Antosha,

My apologies, the stars were particularly brilliant tonight, and I was squeezing in every moment on the tower I could. (I will spare you the rhapsodies, but really, best clear night we've had in months, and the Milky Way was glorious.

I basked.) The thought of “emergency Aristotle”, though, entirely delights me.

Let me pause to read below, before I continue. Oh, Antosha - I assume Narcissa cleared it up for you? I’m sorry, I’m sitting here laughing till I cry. (Not at you, I rush to assure, but at the situation.) I... and of all people, Miss Lovegood. Oh, goodness. (I have not read it, mind you, but Temp was telling me all about it over tea on Tuesday. Quite the rage with various circles of witches - both those who enjoy mocking it and those who like the dalliance with things they’d dare not ask their husbands for. It’s rather badly done of its kind, which is why I’ve not read it yet.)

Look, can I help? I don’t think you need worry too much about Miss Lovegood in class, except for her entirely insatiable sense of curiosity. If you would like, send her to me if she’s got questions about the content - or Poppy, for the mechanics. Poppy has anatomical models, so she tells me.

Right, on to happier subjects. I think you will find the series delightfully amusing, and I look forward to discussing it. And I will pack quite the little set of things to hand you tomorrow. Mum’s scones, the back issues of the various magazines, and two delightful little books. (I’m quite sure I’ll finish the second tonight.)

On the rest - you sound remarkably like Raz, there, you know. I promise, next week, when you have me on my own. (And really, at my disposal in all things? On such short acquaintance, sir! But thank you, truly.) It’s just - well. That’s another discussion, entitled “June, after the third task” that we should probably also have. Short version: I try to avoid worrying Raz when it's not actually necessary. It's not very good for him.

Do you need me to come down with an emergency ration of common sense and alcohol? I've three-quarters of an hour before class.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-14 03:28:04**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

My dearest Aurora,

Now that the first flush of mortification has worn off I've almost found the laughter myself, but -- goodness. I'm less concerned with Miss Lovegood -- and actually, now that I'm aware of the source of the confusion, her essay makes a slight bit more sense, although honestly, I haven't the faintest idea how her mind works and I shudder to think at what she will make of the actual reading -- so much as the fact I shall clearly never hear the end of this from Lyoushka and Narcissa. If Barty weighs in the situation will turn utterly hopeless. I am already fearing tomorrow's owl post. It's not common sense and alcohol I'm in need of so much as a gag for Lyoushka and Narcissa...

A quick skim through the pile awaiting marking turned up two others who appear to have suffered the same confusion, or I would have allowed the matter to die a peaceful death. I am the last person in the world to serve as confessor on that particular topic, as well, so I will take you up on your offer and deflect any inquiries in your direction, and hope something else happens quickly to distract everyone's attention as quickly as possible!

(I haven't the faintest idea how I will possibly be able to meet anyone's eyes in class tomorrow.)

As to the rest: yes, next week. Having just had such a *vivid* reminder of the need for discretion myself...

Yours in utter shame,

T



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-14 03:40:05**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Antosha -

Alas, if you hope for me to stand between you and Lucius, Narcissa, *and* Barty, your common sense has gone very far astray indeed. I can be of very little help there, other than a friendly ear when they're done having

their fun. (Raz might be of more help, but you will need to take up your negotiations with him yourself.)

That said, Narcissa's advice to me on matters of this kind does seem to be true: wait a day or two and some other calamity will draw the attention away from one. At least it's Friday tomorrow - by Monday, I'm quite sure you'll no longer be the major topic of conversation.

As to handling it in class, speaking as one who has had her life strewn across magazines, be brisk, to the purpose, and focused. They'll follow you, given a few minutes. Have them start working on something directly, without room for chatter, when they come in. If you get off on the right foot, it'll flow from there.

And I will have further distractions for you tomorrow. Promise.
A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-13 18:25:55](#)

Private Message to Rabastan Lestrangle

Razzer my dear,

Quickly, over lunch: thank you again for the loan of the box; the little darlings were rapt yesterday at my demonstration. Will you be joining Aurora for drinks and discussion tomorrow night? Would love to pick your brain on what other demonstrations you think would catch their attention. (And not, ideally, result in a visit to the hospital wing; I have promised Madam Pomfrey to minimise mayhem, for first term at least.)

Eternally yours,
T



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-13 18:29:14](#)

Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Dearest --

Have only a moment, but thought this would amuse: am teaching the little darlings Balliol's Blood-Lock this week, and you will be pleased to know that though some have shown a certain interest in the details, your record of being the only

student who has ever demanded to unravel the mechanism down to smallest component pieces thus far remains unbroken.

Nostalgic for the "but why does it work that way?",

T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-14 04:02:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Toshenka.

I see your wish has been answered. 'But why does it work that way?'

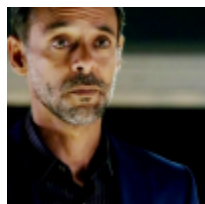
Surprised it took until this week before any of them asked, given what you assigned them.

May I suggest an educational expedition for your students to Pseudonymity?

If I'd guessed you had such an interest, I'd have included you in the gift I've just sent Raz. Will rectify that tomorrow.

Musing on the state to which education has apparently come,

B



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 04:21:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

Clearly I need to echo the admonition I gave Lyoushka: not another word. I can't decide if I'm more mortified or amused. Or both at once.

I fear whatever you've in mind to twit me about this. Bear in mind I've a limited supply of forbearance: are you certain you wish to use it on this?

Suppose I could go imperiate Dolores into doing something horribly scandalous at supper tomorrow to change the topic of gossip.

In utter chagrin,

T

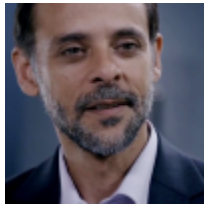


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-14 04:31:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

In that case, no subscription to Sorcerotic for you. Cannot afford to lose both place and favour in one night. (And I assume Raz would share if you wish to ask.)

Will, however, send you the signed copy the publisher sent me. As you might imagine, Sylkie Reville has an admirable hand.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 04:39:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

I am not familiar with the magazine, but the title alone suggests volumes. I appreciate your discretion. Or, at very least, your sense of self-preservation.

And I do suppose after all this fuss, I should at least read the damned thing, shouldn't I?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-14 04:44:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr

As for discretion, I'm assured it will arrive at the school under plain brown wrapper.

Re. Intra P--I doubt you'd find it a hard read.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 00:33:14](#)

(no subject)

Professor Dolohov?

I don't know if you've marked my essay yet, but I'm starting to wonder a bit about my textbook. *Intra Profundis*, I mean.

I know that you said that we should come to the work without too many expectations, but I'm not quite sure how to glean a working definition from the sorts of arts it's talking about.

I was also wondering: are we really supposed to demonstrate this stuff, if we stay in the Practical class?

And do you provide all the tools? Because none of them were on our shopping lists that were sent out at the beginning of the year. I wonder if mine was left out of my envelope or something by mistake.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 00:43:01](#)
(no subject)

I've not yet marked your class's essays yet, Miss Lovegood, but they are next on the stack.


Regarding *Intra Profundis*: My plans are to touch upon each section in turn in lecture throughout the year. Some areas of practise are not suited to classroom demonstration, and some of the magics described in the text have fallen out of favor since it was written, but on the whole it is the best overview I've found of a variety of areas of study in the Arts, and so we will likely cover the bulk of the topics at some point during your studies.

If specialised tools are required, I will of course provide them; however, most of the truly elaborate forms of magic the text discusses are not necessarily appropriate to study in depth until you have more of a grounding in the basics.

Does that answer your question? If not, can you perhaps be more specific about your concerns?

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 00:56:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'm not sure I know quite how to explain it. It's just such a different type of textbook than I've ever used before. I mean, I can see how it's instructional...

I'm just quite surprised to be expected to learn these types of things at Hogwarts.

Don't you think some of the parents will object? Most of them, really.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 01:10:50](#)
(no subject)


The Board of Governors and the Headmistress have received inquiries from parents who are uncertain about the wisdom of requiring you all to study the topic, of course, and I'm well aware there is a great deal of myth and uncertainty surrounding study of the Arts. There are many aspects to the subject, however, and those you or your classmates have learned up until now are but a very narrow cross-section of the whole. With luck, and a bit of application to your studies on your part, you will come to see the popular misconceptions are just that: misconceptions. If properly led, study of the Arts is perfectly safe, and can be wholly illuminating.

If your parents or guardians object to the study, do encourage them to get in touch with me. I've had several highly productive conversations with concerned parents, and was able to reassure them there is nothing to fear.

Is there a particular area of the Arts you are concerned about? If you let me know what section of the text you chose for your reading, I can perhaps ease your trepidation somewhat; I seem to recall that we ran out of time in your class's session on Tuesday and we did not get a chance to discuss your definitions, or the section you chose to investigate further, but I would be happy to discuss it with you now if you feel that would help. (I will pull your essay from the stack as soon as I've a moment and look into it for you.)


Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 **alt_luna** at [2012-09-14 01:17:01](#)
(no subject)

One thing I've wondered is, why the girls only get to do certain things and the boys only get to do other things? That's just one question.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 01:19:21](#)
(no subject)

If we're going to be partnered, will the Hogwarts' protections be sufficient? Because I don't think anyone would want us to have unprotected contact like that.

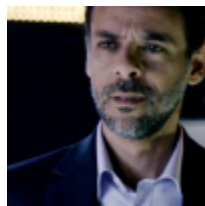
And what about the part about safe words?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 01:20:31](#)
(no subject)

And the whole thing about the clamps.

It sounds very uncomfortable. Unless it enhances the effects?




 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 01:22:19](#)
(no subject)

...Miss Lovegood, I must confess, you have managed to thoroughly confuse me.

If you don't mind, can you please let me know what translation you're using, and which publisher put out the edition? The only possible explanation I can think of is that you have unfortunately been given an extremely inaccurate rendition.

Give me a moment to glance over your essay, as well, and perhaps that will help make things clear.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 01:26:37](#)
(no subject)

Oh, people tell me that I confuse them all the time, sir, so I'm not surprised.

The publisher is Paramour Press, and the translator is Sylkie Reville.




 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 01:30:35](#)
(no subject)

Miss Lovegood, I believe we are dealing with an extremely awkward situation here, although I'm not entirely certain what.

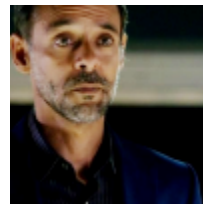
Did the bookstore give you this copy? Are you certain of the title?



 **alt_luna** at [2012-09-14 01:36:13](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, the title is indeed *Intra Profundis*. I have it right here in front of me. This is a very new edition, just released two months ago.

And no, I didn't get it from the bookstore. Mrs Brown (she's my foster mother) had it on her bookshelf. This is her own personal copy. I asked Mr Brown if I could bring it with me to Hogwarts, and he said it would be all right.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 01:55:31](#)
(no subject)

Miss Lovegood, I believe I have discovered the source of your confusion. I cannot apologise profusely enough. You are entirely correct that the book you have read is not appropriate for a Hogwarts education and I deeply regret the circumstance that caused this issue.


It appears I was wholly unaware that a volume had been published with the same name as the title I placed on the booklist. The title I intended for you to read was written by Marcus Julius Calidus in Roman times. The volume you have read is of rather more recent authorship.

Please see me at your earliest convenience and I will provide you with the appropriate text. I recommend you return the volume you currently possess to your foster mother and say no more about the subject. Ever again.

I will return the assignment to you unmarked, and allow you to make it up at a time of your choosing.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2012-09-14 02:07:48](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Oh, I see. Yes, that explains things then, doesn't it?

I'm rather relieved.

I mean, if this really was our textbook, I couldn't imagine what you would ask us to do for extra credit.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-09-14 01:33:09](#)**
Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy


Milaya -- by any chance, do you happen to be reading at the moment?

I seem to find myself in a bit of farce with one of my students above; I'm not certain what but it does appear to be. Well.

Do you recognize the publisher or author at all? (Or should I ask Lyoushka?)

Puzzled,
T



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2012-09-14 01:35:36](#)**
Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Tosha,

No, we're at the opera. Your timing could not be better; it's the interval. And we're considering

leaving but -

Well. At any rate, I've my journal charmed to notify me if one of my dearest is trying to reach me.

Let me read through your journal.



 **alt_narcissa** at **2012-09-14 01:39:42**

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Oh.

Oh.

Oh, dear. Oh, Tosha. I should have -

Oh, but no one would have confused the two, surely?

It's just the sort of thing Nasturtium Brown would read, too.

Toshenka, it so happens that just a few months ago, a rather sordid and highly pornographic, er, 'novel,' for lack of a better word, was published with the name *Intra Profundis*. It seems the inimitably odd Miss Lovegood helped herself to her foster-mother's secret guilty pleasure.

You'll have to supply her with the correct volume. Though I daresay she's just had an entirely different sort of education!



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-14 01:43:56**

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Oh dear.

Oh dear.

And I've just read her essay, too. I haven't the faintest idea how I'll look her in the eye next week. Oh dear.

I'm never going to hear the end of this, am I. What on earth possessed them to use that title?



 **alt_narcissa** at [2012-09-14 01:46:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Really, I think one with your experience could answer that question for yourself.

But you'll be pleased to know that your Lyoushka has seized on this 'emergency' as a perfect excuse to leave this dreadful opera.

I'll leave you to your own opera, shall I?



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 01:57:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Glad to be of service. ...I don't suppose there's any chance of convincing you not to tell Barty about this?

This is not what I had in mind when I was warned about the dangers of the classroom.



 **alt_narcissa** at [2012-09-14 02:01:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Oh, my dear love,

Why do you think your little brother demanded we leave immediately?

Do have another look at Miss Lovegood's comments. And recall that you asked me to look them over.

All Barty needs to do is come and read it for himself.

Now. Where is he this evening ...? Let me see if I can remember



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 02:09:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Little flower, have I mentioned lately how utterly evil you are?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-14 02:17:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

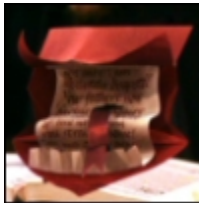
Well, I did not learn from the учитель, but I do my best to keep up with you boys.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-14 02:37:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

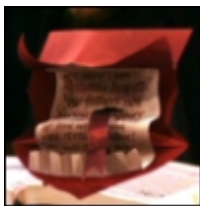
The next time someone accuses me of being a morally bankrupt degenerate I KNOW WHERE I AM POINTING INSTEAD.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-14 01:38:42](#)

ORDER ONLY

WHAT SORT OF BOOKS IS THAT PERVERT HAVING OUR CHILDREN READ????!!



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-14 01:44:32](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Paramour Press? PARAMOUR PRESS!!!




 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-14 01:45:54](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Surely not.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-14 01:46:32](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

"Paramour Press"?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-14 01:47:07](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Let Mum explain.

I'm not going to...



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-14 02:21:54](#)

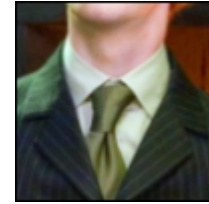
Re: ORDER ONLY

And please, Mum, explain it to him privately.

Somewhere I don't have to read it.

2012-09-13 21:58:00

Private message to Mr Lucius Malfoy



 **alt_percy**

Sir,

I was wondering whether you've seen Professor Dolohov's post tonight. He seems quite embarrassed. Do you think this is something the Governors need to handle, if it's serious enough for it to become a public relations issue?

Are you familiar with the text that was confused?



 **alt_lucius** at **2012-09-14 03:07:11**
(no subject)

Weasley.

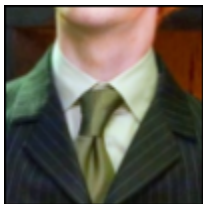
Thank you but no, I believe Antoshenka has the situation well in hand.

I cannot say I have read the text, no, but I understand it to be of the same variety as those *Bewitching* romances for housewitches. Only - more so.

Only a complete fool would have mistaken it for a Roman text on magic, however.

Besides, at this hour, Peakes is already asleep.

The only bright side is that it offered us an excellent excuse to leave Sanditon's so-called 'opera' - dreadful. Absolutely dreadful.



 **alt_percy** at **2012-09-14 03:21:22**
(no subject)

Oh. OH.

Oh, dear. That must be...

Well then. I'm glad to hear you think he can handle the situation.

2012-09-13 22:06:00

Private Message to Luna Lovegood and Octavia Anderson



LOVEGOOD.

How thick can you be? And you turned in an ESSAY about it?


 **alt_padma**

You're a disgrace to the whole House.

Professor Dolohov could get into serious trouble about this. Do you realise that?

Ten points from Ravenclaw. If you know what's good for you you'll send that book back to Mrs Brown before breakfast tomorrow.



 **alt_luna** at **2012-09-14 02:33:36**
(no subject)

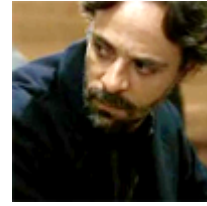
Well, as a matter of fact, I did wonder whether he would get into trouble for assigning something so badly written.

But it seemed impolite to criticise a new Professor's choice of textbook.

[2012-09-13 22:22:00](#)

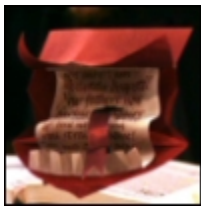
Dark Arts Textbooks

It has been brought to my attention there is some potential for confusion with the fourth through seventh year booklists. The text I have assigned is Marcus Julius Calidus's *Intra Profundis*, a seminal definitive primary text on the Arts, *not* any more recently-published work of similar name.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_antoin](#)

I deeply regret and apologise profusely for the confusion. If you have mistakenly acquired the wrong text, please arrange to replace it with a copy of the correct work as quickly as possible. I will return the essays of anyone who has been victim of this extremely embarrassing mix-up and allow you to make up the work without penalty at your convenience.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-14 02:37:22](#)
ORDER ONLY

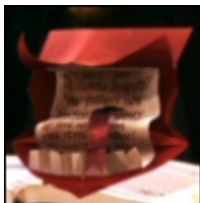
IT SERVES YOU RIGHT, YOU HEARTLESS MURDERING SCUM!


I HOPE YOU DIE OF HUMILIATION!!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-14 02:44:34](#)
Order Only

Obviously we must find a copy of this book immediately!



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-14 02:46:45](#)
Re: Order Only

DON'T YOU DARE!!!




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-14 02:47:33](#)

Re: Order Only

But Mum! It was on the book list and everything! It can open new vistas of knowledge for us!



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-14 02:48:40](#)

Re: Order Only

Boys.

Desist.

You'll give your Mum a coronary...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-14 02:52:21](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Well, that explains it.

Lunes, are you planning on returning that book right away? Because I've got to admit I'm a bit curious to see what the fuss is about.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-14 03:33:47](#)

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

Yeah.

ME TOO.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 03:34:36](#)

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

I'll give it to you at breakfast.

Just don't read it at the table. You might miss your mouth and spill pumpkin juice all down your robes.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2012-09-14 03:35:46](#)

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

Padma Patil told me to send it right back to Mrs Brown, but it's quite a fast read, really.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-14 03:38:01](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private message to Luna Lovegood

Just do me a favour.

Don't let Evelyn see it. All right?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-14 03:37:40](#)

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

Is it really about sex?

'Intra Profundis' means 'Within the Depths' -- which actually DOES sound a bit, um, suggestive.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-14 04:51:58](#)

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

Heh.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-14 04:53:43](#)

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

Has it got pictures? I mean, like diagrams and all?



 **alt_umbridge** at [2012-09-14 02:58:56](#)
(no subject)

Just a teensy question, if I might.

It does seem so very possible for there to be confusion, especially with such a last minute change to the curriculum. And I do hope that the dear students who might be confused will bring the matter to the appropriate people. (Minerva, I do assume that's not changed under your leadership, and that it's still the heads of house or the eldest prefects.)

But - having heard just a smidge about the most recent title from acquaintances, I might add that if any students are concerned about their reading, I know that Madam Pomfrey is ready to assist with explanations. Well, as are all the staff, I suppose, in their areas of interest.


We are, of course, here to serve.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 03:41:32](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for your assistance, of course, Dolores. I'm certain the confusion will be cleared up quickly.




 **alt_lucius** at [2012-09-14 03:18:11](#)
Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Over your head yet?

Shall I defuse Dolores for you? Or would you rather do it yourself?



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-14 03:37:07](#)
Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Not one word out of you, Lyoushka. NOT ONE MORE WORD. Your timing is, as always, impeccable.

I'm so glad I could provide an evening's amusement. I've no idea how I will possibly stand on my dignity tomorrow.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-09-14 15:54:27](#)**

Private message to Toshenka

T-

Well, that's it. You're truly one of us now. I'll bring something special with me tonight to celebrate.

-R



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-09-14 16:22:05](#)**

Re: Private message to Toshenka

Excellent! You can help me think of something properly evil and plausibly-deniable for revenge on Narcissa.

Waiting to see if any of the little darlings have the nerve to snicker in my classes this afternoon,

T

2012-09-14 12:47:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 **alt_hydra**

How many of you have met with Madam Umbridge by now? I know she's not done with everyone yet, and might not be for another week or so, maybe longer.

I thought she might just not know how to talk to young people, because lots of adults don't. So I wanted to give her a chance before I fully formed a first impression of her, even though I know a lot of you don't care for her.

Anyway, I think you were right not to care for her. She had me in today before lunch, and - she's just horrid. Yes, right. She's horrid.

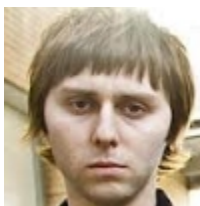


 **alt_hydra at 2012-09-14 18:58:00**

Private message to Justin

Aunt Narcissa replied back and asked me if I liked any boys. I haven't answered because I don't want to lie and say 'no,' but I don't want to tell her too much, either. I feel a bit bad for keeping a secret from her, but that's just how it is.

She's sending me some sort of book about choices, feelings, and options.



 **alt_justin at 2012-09-14 19:37:53**

Re: Private message to Justin

Oh, I say. First your father and uncle, then Professor Siz and now this?

I suppose we ought to be grateful she's taken an interest in your well-being, what? But it's well intolerable the way they all think they know better than we how we feel or what we want. I'll jolly well sort that out for myself, thanks, and you're well capable of doing the same.

You know, Smith asked me about the book JP gave me before he left. The one he brought on how to chat up girls (and never actually

used). It's good for a laugh but I think Smith actually thought it might be helpful. I didn't bother asking who he planned to use for a test. Perhaps this book she's sending you is something like that only for witches, what! I say, if it is we can disregard its advice together.

What was it about Madam Umbridge that made you decide to dislike her? More of this bally old sort of nonsense or something else?

-J



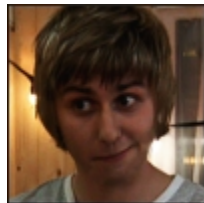
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-14 20:10:14](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I suppose Uncle Raz didn't really ask to be involved, at least.

I hope it's not that book that Luna read by accident. Only I *am* rather wondering about it, now...

And as for Madam Umbridge, you can see what I said to Ron below. I suppose most of what she said was exactly what I was expecting and I'm being a little irrational, but... I just don't like her now.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-14 20:35:13](#)

Re: Private message to Justin

I say, there's a book like the one Luna read in every school. In Beauxbatons it was *La vallée des lutins bleus* and it was frightfully horrid. They're what my mother would call 'bodice-rippers,' what?

Though I suppose some of the lads (and more of the girls, I think) found it very educational, if you follow me. But I'm sure that's not the sort of book your Aunt would send you, even as a jape.

As for Professor Raz, no, he didn't ask to be involved, what, but he did make you promise he wouldn't regret hiding things from your father. I'm not sure how long *he'll* keep silent, love. I mean to say, he only has to decide that we're too attached or that we're moving too quickly, what?

Are you upset because she brought up Tom? Or because she tried

to use you to find out if Professor Siz dislikes her? Or all of it?

I think it's the way she goes about it, as much as anything, what?

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2012-09-14 20:53:11**

Re: Private message to Justin

So, where can I get *La vallée des lutins bleus*?

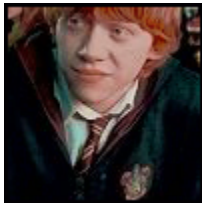
But I'm only joking, of course.

Well, now you have me wondering what could happen that he would regret. I don't think he's very prudish, you know what they say about all the women he's been with... oh, though I do remember that when all those gossip articles came out, just after the engagement was announced, one of them said he had a child out of wedlock when he was a teenager, and that the child was now one of his own students. But then later, they printed a retraction, so I don't know.

Maybe I should talk to Siz. If he hears that I'm confiding in her about you, he might decide everything's alright and he can stop worrying about it (if he even is - he hasn't said anything to make me think that).

I don't like her because of all of it, I suppose.

Also, she doesn't *really* like kittens at all.



 **alt_ron** at **2012-09-14 19:04:50**

(no subject)

What did she say, then? Must have been something to make you say that! I mean to say, you're always so polite about everything.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-14 20:03:45](#)
(no subject)


She talked about the results of my YPL testing, and my marks, and things of that sort. She said that my results showed I have an aptitude in the mental arts, and that it made sense, because it runs in my family, and that I'm good at cooperation and spell-work but that I might want to put a teensy bit more effort into the physical side of things.

She said that my parents were such pillars of the Protectorate, and what did I want to do to follow in their footsteps? I said that I would probably do whatever they decided for me, because they know best. I figured she wouldn't know how to respond to that properly, and I was right.

She said it was so nice to see that I was fully recovered from what happened a few years ago, and it must have been such a challenge for me, but how good it was that I overcame it. That exchange was a little uncomfortable. That is, sometimes people do bring that up, they just haven't lately and I wasn't expecting it.

Oh, and she asked if my Uncle and Professor Siz have said much about the changes she's made. I told her that they hadn't said anything to me, and she then spent our final few minutes together saying that she hoped I would come to her with any concerns, and that she hoped to make some 'special opportunities' available in the future.



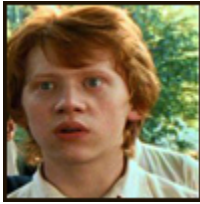
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-14 20:37:54](#)
(no subject)


Ugh. The problem is, she always sounds so *pleasant* and *helpful*. Which just makes it so frustrating, because if she says something awful or flat out wrong, but she says it nicely, and she's saying it because she wants the *best* for you, well, it's difficult to disagree with what she's saying without coming off as horribly rude.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-15 03:29:42](#)
(no subject)

Because it isn't genuinely pleasant. It's more like an acid pop dipped in honey.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-15 02:31:34](#)
(no subject)

Um. What happened a few years ago... you mean with the Chamber of Secrets and all, I guess. But, well- I suppose she could have known about it, but- she really said something about it? I mean, you make it sound as if she meant you'd been mad or something. She really said recovered?

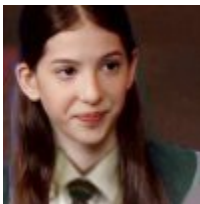
And asking you to repeat things Siz and Raz've said. That's not on, either.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-15 03:26:00](#)
(no subject)

Yes, that's what she meant. I didn't get the impression she knew the specifics, because not many do, but she'd heard things about it. I suppose she did make it sound as if I'd gone mad, or that I'd fallen ill somehow. Though she didn't use those words.

She made it sound as if she was wondering whether they were pleased with the changes. I don't know why she can't ask them herself.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-15 02:59:08](#)
(no subject)

A teensy bit more effort. I can just hear her saying that.

It's so funny, because if Siz wanted to say, 'maybe you could put a little more effort into your physical training' I wouldn't be cross at all but Hembridge? If I were hungry and she

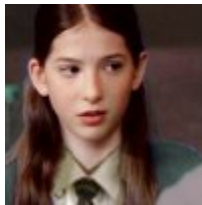
told me to go have my lunch I think it would make me cross.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-15 03:28:04](#)
(no subject)

I suppose I thought someone who loved kittens and animals so much mightn't be so bad?

She told me that she hasn't had a cat in years, though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-15 03:32:16](#)
(no subject)

She hasn't?

She has so many pictures of kittens I would have assumed she had a cat.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-15 03:51:43](#)
(no subject)

She doesn't, she doesn't even like them.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-15 04:34:33](#)
(no subject)

Then why all the kitten plates?!

I mean they actually MEOW. Or mew, anyway.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-15 05:37:34](#)
(no subject)

I'm really not sure.

I guess she just likes plates. That mew.

2012-09-14 18:11:00

Private Message to Professor Raz

When we both have a spare moment after the craziness of the beginning of term, I'd like to talk with you about future opportunities.



 **alt_cedric**

I think you know that I'd like to try to continue with Quidditch but I don't know if I'm really good enough. I'd like discuss whether you think a Quidditch career is realistic. I know there are loads of people currently in the game that would offer opinions, all the scouts and such, but honestly I don't trust them to tell me the truth, just whatever spin would be best for their team.

If Quidditch isn't in my future I need to think hard about what to do after this year and what I can do to make the most of things.

2012-09-14 18:17:00

Private Message to Professor Siz



 [alt_cedric](#)

Siz,

I just messaged Professor Raz asking to discuss my post Hogwarts plans, specifically my Quidditch chances. I should also talk with you about other options if Quidditch isn't in my stars. If we can talk around Astronomy observation tonight that would be great. Of course we also need to discuss my NEWT project as well.

However, that's long term planning. We should also talk about helping our house adjust the the substantial scheduling difficulties thrust so suddenly upon us all between YPL and the Da Noble Arts classes and study sessions. Did you and Professor Sprout get a chance to talk about how to help the sett adjust to the scheduling difficulties? Didn't you have some ideas about the younger years particularly OWL students who hadn't taken any of the classes previously? We may need to work individually with the most overwrought. Has Stebbins said anything to you about having to take Noble Arts yet?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-15 02:25:26**

(no subject)

Cedric -

Sorry, just getting to this - Raz and I were down talking with Professor Dolohov after supper, and I just left them to come do some observing. (Did you see the sky last night? It's just as clear tonight for a wonder, and the Milky Way's like a glowing ribbon. I rather suspect we'll be up here quite late. At least I will.)

Good to think about the long-term projects, but don't worry. I plan to show you some of my own current project - the Ursa Major moving group work - tonight so we can talk about scope and complexity and also look at some very nice novae remnants and the Owl Nebula.

If not tonight on the rest, don't leave until we schedule something? The options in Astronomy itself are - well, there are never that many, and the one I'm sure of will want Runes and strong Arithmancy as well as Charms and Astronomy. But there might be a couple of other options, and I can ask around. (Hypatia, I really am going to make

the Guild night in November after having to miss the last two.)

On the rest - I've done some talking with Pomona, yes, and had a word in her ear at supper about some time on Sunday. (I'll need somewhere else to be during the YPL meeting so I'm not tempted to lurk and ... well, lurk. I'm sure it wouldn't be good for me.)

Talking with Ant - sorry, Professor Dolohov, to you - really, he's trying very hard to be amenable, and he truly does appreciate the challenge for the OWL students in specific. Stebbins looked like he was going to talk to me on Wednesday night, but the 6ths were swarming in and enthusiastic, and he slipped out before I could set up a time with him. Do you think I should force the issue and ask him to come by, or wait? Have you heard much from Midgen yet this year? I suspect I'm still not her favourite person, but I keep wondering if there's something that could help there.

And not least, at all - how are you doing? From over here, things seem to be running smoothly, and I've heard fewer than the usual complaints about the unfairness of the patrol rotas. You and Melinda doing all right working together? I suppose it might help that you had the time this summer to ease into things.

-S



 **alt_cedric** at **2012-09-15 03:39:42**

(no subject)

How is Professor Dolohov doing?

I'll be up the Tower soon. You know I love the crisp clear nights.

We've discussed my short comings before. We'll just have to work around them again. I should be able to do enough Arithmancy if I have enough time to put something together for NEWTs.

I think we should give Stebbins the weekend to come forward and if he doesn't one of us should push the issue on Monday or Tuesday. I haven't heard from Midgen, I'll keep my ears open, and maybe ask Susan Bones if something does come to my attention.

Melinda and I seem to be doing fine. We worked together a good

deal over the summer. The wedding was stressful for her and I covered when it was all too much.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-15 03:55:00**
(no subject)

Right. Inside for a mug of tea before the third years arrive. Do come up early, if you'd like and don't mind lending a hand - they're doing Auriga tonight, but half of them had forgotten how to focus their telescopes last week.

We had a really lovely evening, thanks. (Lots of very amusing stories, anyway.) We could have done a great deal worse for a new DA professor, truly.

As to your shortcomings - haven't I told you lot enough stories about my own issues with Arithmancy? (Not that I'm not good at the parts I use now - practice really does help, but my NEWTs were more nervewracking than I wanted, and I really did need the O.)

On Stebbins and Midgen, sounds good. I don't see the 5ths until Wednesday, so let me know if I need to grab him then? Or before, sometime before supper? And good on Melinda - I thought you might have worked something out, but I admit I was so distracted the last week or two of the CCF weeks you could probably have herded a dragon past my nose and I'd not have done more than blink.

Oh, here they come - I hear the first groans on the stairs. Later.

S.

[2012-09-14 21:38:00](#)

Private Message to Antonin Dolohov



 [alt_poppy](#)

Antonin,

I thought it well to follow up with you about the fact that I have now seen three students who were directed to present me with the quite penetrating questions and concerns they've conceived while completing the (supposed) assignments for your course. (To be fair, all of them have acknowledged it was their own fault they'd given insufficient regard to the discrepancies in author and date of publication between the assigned text and the work they bought instead. Moreover, all of them confess they realised their error quite quickly, yet chose to continue reading.)

While I'm always pleased for the opportunity to educate students about their physical and psychic health, I regret to say that these particular students were rather badly upset by some of the details they've gleaned from Ms Reville's novel.

I've now read it myself, and I must say its mistaken ideas about the human body are lamentable. I doubt even contortionists are capable of certain acts described there, but more than that, I suspect the author has actually had very little in the way of direct experience of the things she attributes to her characters. So, not only are our students having their minds' eyes trained on things they've never before imagined, they are being fed a great load of rubbish about the mechanics, dynamics, sensations, emotions, and consequences of these things.

When you promised you'd do your best to limit the number of casualties you sent me, this was not the sort of damage I imagined.

How are you getting on? I doubt this business was much help with your insomnia. Or is the Pliny's doing for you, after all?



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-15 04:18:44](#)
(no subject)

Poppy,

I do apologise. Profusely. Had I had the *slightest* notion of the potential for confusion inherent in the booklist, I would have been significantly more clear and provided explicit information regarding acceptable translations and editions rather than leaving it to the bookstore's discretion. I believe I shall spend the summer producing a translation of my own and provide that to next year's students rather than requiring them to obtain their own copies!

I have not read the text in question, but several of my nearest and dearest apparently have, and have delighted in gracing me with enough of a synopsis to allow me to piece together the contents. To say that I am mortified is an understatement, although Aurora and Rizzer have spent the evening doing their utmost to help me see the humor in it. I suppose I will be able to laugh at the mixup ... in another year or two. Until that happy day I will only provide my deepest apologies for the additional work it has caused you.

Preserving your discretion, I will not ask whether Miss Lovegood is one of the students who have visited you, but when she consults me for the proper text I will do my best to encourage her to do so if she has not -- I am certainly not an appropriate interlocutor for the topic.

As to my health -- I am, I fear, rapidly approaching the point of convalescence where my mind is more than ready to cast off my body's limitations while my body refuses to oblige. I cannot tell if the Pliny's is helping or if I only think it is (although far be it from me to sneer at a good placebo effect), but I have been keeping a rough journal of my recovery, and comparing this week's sleep with last week's shows that I am sleeping about half an hour more on average when taking it. The largest effect continues to be minimising the amount of time I am staring at the bed-curtains when I wake in the middle of the night. I am still waking every 60 to 90 minutes, but the interval between being able to fall back asleep has shortened to five or ten minutes, at least until morning. I had been hoping to sleep in as much as possible, but apparently my body has decided it wants to be up with the sunrise, despite all prior inclinations.

Still, I do believe it has helped, and thank you again for the

suggestion. It has allowed the insomnia to be replaced atop the most-annoying-complications list by the pins-and-needles sensation of slowly-returning nerve function. (Not an unexpected complication, but annoying nonetheless.) My circulation remains poor, and I've had to resort to wearing gloves in quarters despite keeping the fire built up, but Healer Kosta told me that too was to be expected, and could only be endured. I shudder to think what December might bring, but am practising my warming charms.

(I do not mean to imply you should search for a solution to my many ills -- I am simply taking advantage of a listening ear to complain.)

With regard,
Antonin

2012-09-14 23:24:00

Private Message to Madam Pomfrey

Madam Pomfrey,

Do forgive me writing instead of popping up to the hospital wing, what, but I saw your note to Professor Dolohov and it reminded me that I've been meaning to ask all week, if you happen to have a pot of lip balm or something similar? I say, it's quite dry in the Hufflepuff dormitories and with the wind round the castle's grounds, I find my lips are growing rather chapped.



 [alt_justin](#)

Outside the Protectorate one used to be able to get portable sticks of wax with medication in, or small pots one could carry in one's pocket. I confess I never even thought to look in the Apothecary's for anything like it in Diagon Alley before coming up to school.

If you've nothing of the kind, what, I'm sure I can put something together.

Thanks in advance,

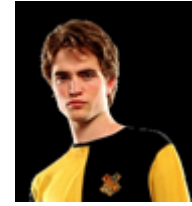
-Justin Finch-Fletchley

2012-09-15 17:43:00

All Hogwarts Students

Welcome to the new year!

As Head Boy I will be communicating more with everyone and using the journals publicly.



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_cedric](#)

Hopefully at this point everyone knows their new adjusted schedules. If you still have questions about when you are supposed to be where for class please go talk to your prefects now. If you are having trouble adjusting, again please talk to your prefects, house head or appropriate professor as soon as possible.

By now new students should be getting used to the moving staircases and trick steps. They do shift on a roughly regular schedule. If you do find yourself lost, most portraits are willing and able to give you directions to your next class. The ghosts are less reliable as some forget that wizards and witches can't walk through walls. Peeves in particular is not to be trusted.


Quidditchers, hopefuls and fans I know that we all look forward to the exciting resumption of the most noble of all wizarding competitions! The house team Captains are meeting this weekend to make sure that the practice schedule is fair and equitable. Additionally if we can make the schedule work there will be at least one Open Flying evening a month. Tryouts for house teams are all before the end of next week. Madam Hooch has asked that everyone be reminded that only those who have the pitch scheduled are supposed to be using the grounds. We all know that the new grounds are impressive. I have worked with her and the prefects to arrange tours during each house's tryouts.

Hufflepuff cete leaders need to come see me so we can discuss sett scheduling, particularly for NEWT and OWL cetes as there will obviously be some adjustments that need to be made.

I know this will be another wonderful year here at Hogwarts in Our Lord's Protectorate!

Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus




 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-15 23:03:33](#)

Private Message to Diggory

Congratulations. You know. For getting Head Boy.

Which day would work best for you Hufflepuff quidditchers for club meetings? Would the first Thursday of the month be okay?




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2012-09-15 23:54:09](#)

Re: Private Message to Diggory

That sounds like it may work. However, I'll discuss it with the Pucey and the captains at the meeting. We'll make sure it gets scheduled monthly.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-15 23:55:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Diggory

Okay.

Thanks.

2012-09-15 19:03:00

Private Message to Pucey

Hey.

I'm really looking forward to this season. I think it'll be ace. And I think we've got a really good chance of winning, too.



 [alt_harry](#)

But before we have tryouts, I need to say something about Bletchley.

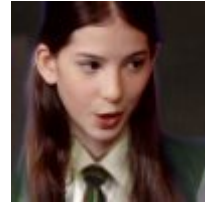
Especially after what happened with Bole last term.

You're the captain, and whatever you decide is fine. But he's got a bad reputation. And I know it's more than just talk. I just think too much of that sort of thing might, you know, reflect badly on the team. So, I don't know, maybe it'd be good to think about whether it'd be worth it before bringing him off the bench. Like I said, though, up to you.

2012-09-16 09:59:00

Private message to Pansy

So, you know that book of Luna's. Intra Profundis-but-not-the-one-for-class.



When I read it I thought it was sort of clever the way it talked about the man's 'wand' and you had to work out from context whether it was his WAND wand or, you know, his bits.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Only now every time I hear a professor say 'stop fiddling with your wand during my lecture, just put it down!' I start to giggle.

The 'broomstick' parts are even worse -- there aren't as many of those in the book but you know right now with Quidditch starting up again the boys are talking about their broomsticks ALL THE TIME. My broomstick is faster and better than yours! Yeah, well, it's not all about the speed; it's about manoeuvrability, too. What can you DO with your broomstick? A good part of broomstick performance is the maintenance -- have you been polishing your broomstick?

I almost choked on my dinner last night while they were going on. Are you having this problem or is it just me?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-16 16:42:51**

(no subject)

Hah! You're certainly not the only one. Someone mentioned the other day that the Potions classrooms were getting "a bit damp," and all I could think of was "her moist cave of wonders". It's ridiculous. It really

truly is.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-16 16:47:21**

(no subject)

I'd never realised how dirty the word 'throb' was.

I always thought of it as something injuries did. Not, you know...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-16 17:38:48](#)
(no subject)

What about 'turgid'? I had to look that one up. It just sounds gross.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-16 21:59:00](#)
(no subject)

Merlin. How many times can one say 'teensy'?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 01:21:21](#)
(no subject)

Next time we should count.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 01:22:02](#)
(no subject)

Or we could have a contest and try to get her to say it even more often!

That might make the meeting a bit more interesting, at least.

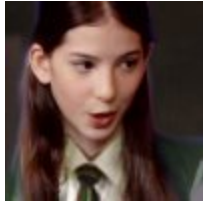


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 01:24:22](#)
(no subject)

Ooooooh.

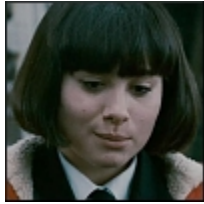
I like that.

We could give points. And have a prize at the end.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 01:25:46](#)
(no subject)

The prize I want is not having to go to the next meeting!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 01:29:46](#)
(no subject)

Hem hem. That might be a teensy bit difficult.
But I can manage chocolate.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 01:46:41](#)
(no subject)

So who don't we tell about the contest?
I mean, besides the cow and finicky.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 01:49:07](#)
(no subject)

Parvati because she'd tell Padma and Lav
because she'd tell Parvati (which is a shame
because she'd enjoy the game).

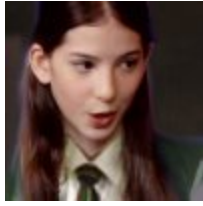
Dean Thomas because he's got an even bigger stick up his arse than Finnigan.

I don't know about Blaise. What do you think?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 01:54:08](#)
(no subject)

He'd probably be amused, as long as it wasn't obvious what we were doing and we didn't disrupt the meeting. And if Daphne was on board too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 01:56:11](#)
(no subject)

We might not want to tell Milli. She's got all the subtlety of an average Gryffindor. Or a rampaging hippogryff.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 02:13:05](#)
(no subject)

True. She was awfully indiscreet in Dark Arts this week.

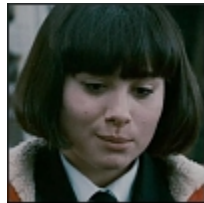
Oooh.

We should give out extra points if someone can get Hembridge to say 'throb.' I think that should make for an automatic win.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 02:15:23](#)
(no subject)

Maybe we could have a couple of words like that. Or phrases, like 'polish your wand.'



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 02:31:00](#)
(no subject)

Hah! Definitely.

And 'swollen.' Or 'swelling.'



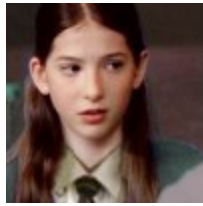
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 02:53:22](#)
(no subject)

'Romp.'

'Spunk.'

'Wink.' (Because it sounds a little like wank.)

'Ride.'



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 02:53:38](#)
(no subject)

Maybe spunk's going too far...

Double points if she uses 'spunky' to describe someone present.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 02:56:14](#)
(no subject)

'Spunky' would be far easier.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-17 03:00:50](#)
(no subject)

And still funny!

We should have some words that aren't dirty, just funny or random. Like giraffe. Or -- I don't know. Maybe we should ask Ron and Justin if they have any ideas.

2012-09-16 13:36:00

*Private Message to Lavender Brown and
Seamus Finnigan*



 **alt_padma**

Lav,

I tried to get your mother's copy of that book from Loony but she said she didn't have it any longer.

I hope that means she sent it back to your house.

But meanwhile, did you know that a bunch of the Ravenclaw Thirds were passing 'round a copy? I caught them with it last night in the library.

~~Chapter Four~~ was

You two might want to look out for something similar in your tower.

Have you had your interviews with Madam Umbridge yet? And when are you seeing Professor Dolohov?

[2012-09-16 17:45:00](#)

YPL Meetings

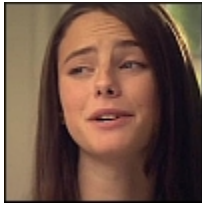
Well.

I'm sure glad to know that my W.A.N.D. should be always at the ready to serve, right?



 [alt_zacharias](#)

Anyone else feel the *driving need* to succeed?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-16 22:29:15](#)
(no subject)

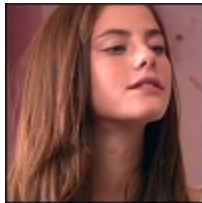
Been *expanding* your horizons, Smith?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 22:38:31](#)
(no subject)

I think it's important for a *growing* young wizard to be prepared, Daphs.

Why? Do you have any suggestions for improving our daily exercises?



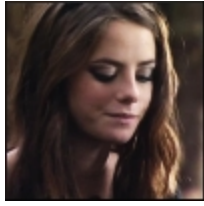
 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-16 22:47:15](#)
(no subject)

When trekking, steer clear of the *hills*, as I'm fairly certain you're the sort to end up quite lost.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 22:50:49](#)
(no subject)

Hah, I've heard that the next set of challenges won't be in the hills, they'll be in the damp recesses by the shore. Before it gets too frozen, that is.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-16 22:54:59](#)
(no subject)

You illustrate my point all too well.

The meeting was long interesting, though. And we have sashes! I've always wanted a sash, for one reason or another, and now at least I have one.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 22:56:58](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, our sashes. They might turn out dead useful for loads of things.

C'mon, Daphs, what do you say? Shall we join together and temper our connections like Madam Umbridge says?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2012-09-16 23:04:43](#)
(no subject)

I'm afraid not. As persuasive as "C'mon Daphs" is, I've got other things to do.


But you have fun connecting with your sash, Zacharias.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-16 23:06:38](#)
(no subject)

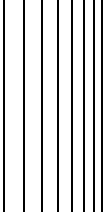
Well, looks like someone's bursting with dedication.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 23:08:42](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yeah, our heads are positively swelling with all sort of fresh new ideas.


What about you? Any new forms of exercise you want to try out?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-16 23:13:31](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I already have a very satisfactory regimen, thank you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-16 23:03:52](#)
(no subject)

So. You've read that W.A.N.D. book, then?

I mean, it sounded sort of dull to me.




 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 23:05:48](#)
(no subject)

Sure, Weasley, I've read the important parts.

Like Chapter Four.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-16 23:11:26](#)
(no subject)

What's in chapter four?



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 23:12:57](#)
Private Message to Ron Weasley

Steady on, Weasley. You don't want Umbridge to think you haven't read her book, do you?

It's not the W.A.N.D. book with a fourth chapter that's interesting, mate.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2012-09-16 23:18:16**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Well, she just said we should read it. It's not like it was an assignment for today or anything.

Though, I grant you, I wouldn't be surprised if she does start assigning reading. On top of everything else. Marching before breakfast? Is she daft?

Wait, though. You're talking about that book? You mean, you've read that thing? Is it, y'know- ?



 **[alt_zacharias](#) at 2012-09-16 23:21:07**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

It's well ridiculous, is what it is. And the marching.

But all the girls are reading that thing. Still there are pages that are good for a laugh. Here's what you do, get yourself a copy and read page 78.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2012-09-16 23:28:54**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Have you got a copy, then?

I mean to say, I don't fancy asking any of the girls here if they'd give me theirs.



 **[alt_zacharias](#) at 2012-09-16 23:31:15**

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Yeah, there are a couple copies floating 'round.

Check with Sloper. I bet he's got one, or if not he'll know where to get it.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2012-09-16 23:31:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

And don't worry about the marching. Ced'll sort it out.

Or maybe Marvolo.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-16 23:38:26](#)


Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Yeah. It was good he said something to her.

She looked like she'd got a vinegar Bertie Botts, too, when he told her we have

Astronomy on Wednesday nights.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2012-09-16 23:49:06](#)

(no subject)

Zach,

Come to the common room. I need to speak to you.

2012-09-16 18:33:00

Our first YPL gathering



 [alt_umbridge](#)

Dear children: Thank you so much for your attention and diligence during our meeting. I am just looking forward so much to what we will accomplish together this year. You all looked so smart and trim in your new sashes, and I know you're all just yearning to fill them up with badges and honours.

Now, remember that we will be meeting again in a fortnight, and I will have something new for you to do, and an exciting announcement! Won't that be fun for everyone? Do remember that if you have any teensy questions about the programme at all, you know just where to find me. I'm so enjoying my conversations with our counsellors and CCF corps, and I look forward to having more time to speak to each and every one of you after that.

Remember as well that you all will be expected to say the new YPL pledge at that meeting. Again, it is:

By my wand, I swear to always strive my best,
use my magic only in service to our realm,
and keep myself ever strong, ready, and able to respond to Our Lord's call.

Those who did not attend: Now, I do understand that some may have mistakenly felt that the available opportunities weren't for them. I do hope to make it clear that the YPL can offer something to everyone so that together we may make our Protectorate the very best that it can possibly be.

To see your bright and shining faces as you join together and temper the connections of hard work and accomplishment is such a joy! And likewise, I know that in a few years, when you are all walking out into the world, you will want the connections, references, and opportunities that the YPL can open to you. If you did not come this week, stop by my office for your sash, and I'll hope - even expect! - to see each and every first through fifth year next time.

Parents: I just know you will be bursting with pride as your children develop their skills, learn discipline, and show their mettle. I do encourage you, in your little notes to your children, to ask all about

what they've learned. After all, our goal with the YPL is to be a source of improvement and growth not just for our young boys and girls, but for all the Protectorate.

Especially if you still have little ones at home, the skills, talents, and topics we discuss will be a wonderful guide for your own discussions around the supper table, and will give your youngest ones a hint of what they can aspire to. My office is glad to provide some materials for home discussion on request. Anything, to be of help.



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-16 23:00:24**

Private message to Latimer Caldwell and Marston Strangeweale

Gentlemen -

I'm providing a fuller report by owl to you both (and of course Whitacre), but thought you might appreciate a short note in advance. Today went quite smoothly, all things considered - such a shock for some of them, though to work under tighter discipline than has apparently been the case. I'll give them a meeting or two to settle, and then take stronger action as needed. I have also been finding the meetings with individual students most interesting.

Miss Padma Patil turned out to be an excellent early subject - most agreeable when answering questions about her likes and dislikes, and with a number of detailed suggestions. Not all of them are possible just yet - or desirable, perhaps - but an excellent start. Curious the differences between her and her sister, mind, that one is so successful and the other far less driven.

Others, though, I found more puzzling - Miss Lestrangle, for example. Her answers were, of course, entirely proper, but reviewing my notes, they were also not as informative as I might prefer. On the other hand, there are perhaps more useful avenues to begin with, and we could come back to her and those like her.

I have quite a few other notes, as I said, and of course I've a number of meetings yet to document. Now, I do think another meeting would be best, before the next YPL session. Perhaps the middle of next week (the 26th?) That would give me time to get through almost all the planned sessions with our CCF corps and counsellors.

Yours in service,
Dolores



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-16 23:29:45**

Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Aurora, dear -

I half wondered if we might see you this afternoon, but apparently not. I do hope you made good use of your time, however you spent it. As you weren't there, though, I do have a teensy question.

As you may have heard, part of our revised plans for this year involves making sure our students stay absolutely fit. I'm sure Rabastan will appreciate it - Rolanda was telling me that a number of his classes rely on that sort of thing. Now, I'd looked at scheduling some sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7am, and then Sunday mornings at 8.

But I understand from a comment - young Mr Marvolo, so polite - that the fifth years have a midnight astronomy session with you on Wednesday nights, and so they're rarely in bed before half past one? Goodness, I had no idea you taught so late. Surely there must be some better solution, that would allow you and your students to not need to be up at all hours, and would let them do their part to be the greatest possible help to the programme. Do have a word with Septima or Minerva, or whoever needs, and I'll be glad to back you up.

Do let me know when we can start our little morning sessions properly, hmm?
Dolores



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-17 01:33:19**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Dolores -

So glad to hear you appreciate some of the schedule challenges our students face. There are excellent reasons that we offer astronomy's practical sessions at midnight - and have done so for far more than a century, I might add. While it does have some temporary inconveniences, I can confirm that

generations of teachers, students, and heads of the school have recognised both the importance of astronomy to the overall programme, and the reasons for scheduling it as we do.

Now, I know it's been a long time since your own astronomy classes, but I'm quite sure that Alcor Bobbin, my predecessor, must have given you the same lecture he gave to my class. In short that while we can see the brightest stars really quite easily, that much of what we study involves fainter stars or further ones - or even objects like galaxies, nebulae, or other objects that can only be seen in the darkest possible environs.

Today, sunset was about 7:25pm, and the sky appears to be dark to most untrained eyes not long after 8. But in fact, due to the angle of the earth's axis, our latitude, and the movement of the sun, it is not truly dark - dark enough for us to do the detailed work required for OWLs and NEWTs - until hours later. More than half the year, we have a quite narrow window of opportunity for that work.

Likewise, we must have clear skies to do our best observing, and it takes time for the cloudy patterns, fog, and mist that often roll through at dusk to clear. While I usually have a good idea by curfew whether we will be outside or not that evening (drawing, of course, on my extensive experience studying and working here), it is often much less certain earlier in the day.

And finally there are some details - far too trivial for you to bother with, it not being your field - about how some of the calculations and observations we learn to take for ritual magic purposes (some of the greater locational magics, for example) must be done at precisely midnight for standardisation reasons. Thus, looking at the stars as they are at a consistent point in time each evening helps our students take these skills and apply them to their later lives in the most practical way possible.

Now, I'm glad to say that I'd already considered the particular challenges facing our fifth years at the moment. This week, I offered that on nights where it is clearly going to be cloudy, we could hold our evening session at 9pm, instead of midnight. However, I don't know whether that will be the case for any given day until at least supertime. And, of course, it is only through the development of my projections project - again, I won't trouble you with the details, but my astronomy colleagues do consider it most innovative - that I can take this step without entirely derailing student learning for the week.

I do hope that's all clear. If not, you know I love to discuss my chosen field, and would gladly explain further to you, if you really wish to immerse yourself in the complexities (though it does involve a little intermediate Arithmancy, I admit.) While I simply can't accomodate your request - and certainly would not ask Septima for a further change at this point - I'm sure you can find some other solution for the fifth years.

ad beneficio doctrinam as my mentor used to say.

A.



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-17 02:30:30**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Aurora, dear -

I didn't mean to imply in the slightest that you weren't doing what you thought was best for students. Just that sometimes, a little external perspective, unfettered by habit, can be such a freeing thing.

Now, a word of advice, if I might, dear. I know it's been a terribly difficult time for you lately, the changes in your position, and all the new social considerations. Did you read *The Transfiguration of Stress*? (Quercus Edmonds, such a clever man, you know.) If you don't have a copy, I really do recommend it, and would be glad to loan you one.

At any rate, he points out, ever so clearly, that even the happiest of changes is still quite stressful, so I've no doubt you're feeling the teensiest bit ... oh, wistful about bidding farewell to your carefree days and entering the state of married bliss. I can quite understand why you would react so negatively to a teensy request to change one little thing for our dear students' benefit, dear. Think nothing of it.

And of course, I understand that your long-term future here may not be the most immediate consideration on your mind. Certainly dear Rabastan is well-set-up enough to make sure his dear wife will never want for anything. We will all certainly understand dear, if you wish to cling to tradition during what may turn out to be your last year of teaching.

But, back to our tricky little problem. I am sorry you don't feel you're able to give - even just a little - to help us balance the needs of all. After all, I suppose we do all have those days when we fall a little short of the ideals we strive for in serving our glorious Protectorate. You mustn't feel badly, Aurora, dear.

Now, take a little time, do at least speak to Minerva and Septima before you decline so precipitously. And my door is always open to you. Well, of course, it's open to all my dear colleagues here at Hogwarts, but I have a special place in my heart for a sister in Hufflepuff who is clearly trying her best to do the absolute utmost she can in service to our shared ideals.

Together - and with just a little cooperation - we can do far more than we could individually, and I'm sure I can count on your help and compromise in the future. Do tell me it's so.

Dolores



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-09-17 14:41:09**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Dolores -

I quite agree, this is not a topic for precipitous action. I hope you don't mind my sleeping on it, but taking a little time did give me a few ideas. Of course, I'll have a word with Minerva, but alas, the planet's axial tilt is not under either of our control, and I am as bound as any other professor by the expectations of the OWL and NEWT examiners.

That said, I did have a few ideas if they're of use. I know that Dark Arts classes are running later than usual this year, but surely there's an afternoon or two where you might schedule a session before supper? There is something of a challenge with the Quidditch practices (especially in the midwinter and the short days) but of course the Quidditch teams manage their own fitness regimens as well.

I know early morning activities have been tried a few times in the past, and they've rarely been successful, even without my class as a consideration. The chill in the winter does make it particularly hard to make it out of a warm bed, but more than

that, I understand from Poppy that there are specific (good) reasons teenagers prefer to sleep as late as they can in the morning. I do think you'd see a far more enthusiastic response in the late afternoon. (And so many of them want to burn off some energy after a long day of sitting in classes by then, too.)

If I might suggest, you could ask the CCF students to arrange several gathering times on their own. They know best how their fellow students might respond, and it would save you having to be the unpopular voice while you're building a rapport with the students. More than that, it would give them some very real and practical experience encouraging and directing others toward a goal.

As to the rest, thank you, but Campanella gifted me with a copy of the Edmonds book last spring, and I try to put it to use where I can. And I do appreciate where your worry for my future comes from, truly, but please don't spend your time and energy there. I assure you Raz and I are entirely in agreement, and we've talked to Minerva about our plans. While I recognise circumstances may eventually combine to lead me in some other direction, I do intend to continue teaching as long as possible.

Aurora



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-16 23:36:48](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

D'you know what I really hate?

The way she talks to us as if we're three years old.
What a ridiculous old bat.

I thought she'd never let us out of there ever today.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-16 23:56:36](#)

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

If she keeps talking to us like children, maybe we'll act like them. You know, doing whatever she asks without question.

Well, that might just be the sort of child I was, anyway.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-17 00:11:02](#)

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

Hullo,

I say, I thought you'd be disappointed you're not a Gryffindor. You could have had a pink sash, what?

Did you hear most of the fourth trying not to snicker when she was talking about wand readiness? And about finding the small things one can do to fill the odd moments in the day when there's not enough time for a larger task?

I hope she listens to Marvolo, though, what, about our Astronomy lessons. And meeting twice a month? We shall *have* to use every waking moment, at this rate!

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-17 02:02:16](#)

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

I wouldn't make a very good Gryffindor, even if I got to wear pink out of it.

I think it's a bit strange that everyone's gone a bit silly over that book. I mean, Mummy was always very frank about things of that sort, no matter how much Daddy protested. She always made it sound ~~almost~~ - well, very not-mysterious, if you see what I mean.

Anyway, I wish people would stop talking about it. Especially if they're going to be so charmless about it, like Zacharias Smith.

I hope so, too. This is still Hogwarts, after all. It isn't the YPL Institute.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-17 02:04:38](#)

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

Smith's problem is that he doesn't think before he speaks. Also I believe he's only just discovered that he fancies someone and it's rather gone to

his head.

He asked me for advice, in point of fact. I hadn't the first idea what to say to him because 'Be yourself' didn't seem the best thing to offer, what?

Anyway. He's all right. He's simply never had to look over his shoulder, if you follow me.

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-17 02:12:21](#)

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

Who does Smith fancy? I hope it isn't Daphne, because I'm pretty sure she finds him really ridiculous.

He might as well be himself, though, since everyone more or less knows what he's like by now. But that doesn't mean that someone out there might not find him...quaint, somehow.

He is all right. But he is charmless.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-17 02:24:29](#)

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

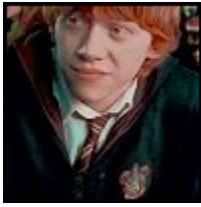
I say, I've no idea and I've been reluctant to ask, as he's wanted to know things about us and I don't wish to open that particular door, what?

I let him look through that book JP gave me before he left. Not that I think it should help him greatly but I thought it could hardly hurt. But I don't think it's Daphne, what, or he wouldn't have been so quick to fence with her.

I gather Diggory called him on the carpet for starting all those cracks. I don't well look forward to the dormitory tonight. But at least there are a number of us, though he tends not to have much to do with Hopkins, Summers or Stebbins.

I've my meetings with Madam Umbridge *and* Professor Dolohov this week. I say, I've no idea what to expect from either of them.

-J



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-17 01:15:05](#)

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

Yeah. We weren't really like that as children.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-17 02:02:39](#)

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

I rather thought you weren't.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-17 02:19:39](#)

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

Heh.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-19 00:55:25](#)

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

I was going to ask if she always does that.

From the sounds of the way people are complaining, she does.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-17 03:09:40](#)

Private message to Minerva McGonagall

Minerva -

Sorry to trouble you this late at night, but it occurs to me that you and I would do well to sit down in the next few days, and talk through a few of my plans in more depth than we've had time for so far. I do have a number of appointments with students scheduled, but if you let me know some times you're available, I'd be glad to stop by your office.

I did try to have a word with Aurora this evening, about whether there's any flexibility in her evening teaching times, but she's most insistent she can't budge. I did wonder if perhaps you might be able to help with that Gordian knot, or if it's truly as necessary as she implies.

I do look forward to our conversation.
Dolores

2012-09-16 20:32:00

Private Message for Toshenka

How are you? Not letting them wear you down?

What's your topic for this week? Still thrashing out definitions and principles, I expect.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Have been thinking. It's obvious you're in your element there. Even with that business this week.

Glad for that.

That will never be my role. Mentoring a flock. Don't have your ability to finesse the line between challenge and encouragement. Fail entirely at the latter.

It's as well to recognise one's own weaknesses. Better, doubtless, to overcome them, but not always possible.

Not possible in this case.

For me.

Yours, nonetheless,
B



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2012-09-17 03:51:54**

(no subject)

Oh, my dearest.

I am reminded of a campfire in backwater Dorset and a midnight conversation with a young man of my acquaintance, fresh from school and aflame with the desire to remake the world in its best possible image. If you'll indulge me a moment in nostalgia, think back to that evening: do you remember the moment when you asked me what I felt the most valuable lesson in the Arts you could learn was? I do not know what you were expecting me to offer -- perhaps some arcane magic or powerful spell

-- but I can still remember the look upon your face when I told you the most powerful magic I had ever studied was the art of self-examination. Dubiousness warring with a need to believe, an instinctive grasp of the implications -- and the small dawning realisation that the worst challenges and the greatest rewards, for the remainder of your life, would arise not from the battles we would soon be fighting with our enemies, but the battles you would fight within yourself.

I have been thinking of those conversations, and the others that followed, this past few weeks, while watching Dolores Umbridge parrot her incessant noise about preparing the children to serve our Protectorate in whatever way they're suited. Her version is drenched in those ridiculously shallow self-help platitudes best suited for the feeble masses, but it does not change the underlying truth. We cannot be that which we are not, and when we try, we court failure. It is only when we understand and embrace ourselves and our natures that we may become our best and truest selves. And likewise, it is when we turn our eyes to that which we are not and covet those things we can never be, berating ourselves for our failures rather than nurturing our talents and inclinations, that we risk becoming twisted shadows of ourselves.

Which is a very longwinded and maudlin way of saying: do not fault yourself for a perceived weakness that is no true weakness, only a question of temperament and preference. Your gifts, and they are prodigious, lie elsewhere. And, my dearest of children, you must never allow yourself to forget the lessons of the Arts: self-challenge is necessary for growth, but self-acceptance is necessary for power and mastery.

I will be in town not this weekend but next; come unburden yourself to me and I will remind you of all the ways in which you have ever been the most promising of my flock. If the measure of a teacher is found in the quality of the students he produces, I will be well judged indeed.

(Topics this week, meanwhile, are hexes, curses, and jinxes, in most basic of principle, leading up to next week's "watch them tie themselves in knots to try to articulate the differences". I will be meeting with each of them individually to discuss their educational future -- and to see which of them might prove entertaining throughout the year. No doubt will have some amusing classroom stories, as well: we will be playing hex-the-teacher to see whose lingering tender sensibilities I might be able to overcome.)

Eternally yours, in whollest measure and fullest understanding,
T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-17 04:15:37](#)
(no subject)

I'll grant your proposition that my skills and inclinations are elsewhere than teaching.

Auror Trainee Sandoval-Pennifold would tell you the same, I'm certain. Though she thought she was currying favour by pouting over my refusal to carry her forward to an Intern year. No idea why she bothered with the drama. It would have been miserable on both sides.

Happily, am free of that drag now and digging into Bella's business. Feel myself again for the first time in months.

Look forward to hearing what answers they conjure to explain curse nomenclature and categorisation



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-17 04:41:57](#)
(no subject)

And. I do remember Dorset. On the cusp of war. Wanting to be of use.

Still thrill to that. Feel most alive when all is at stake.

I know myself perfectly in the instant before the first curse flies.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-17 05:20:21](#)
(no subject)

That is one of your greatest gifts: your skill at the hunt, your wholehearted rapture and transport in battle. The sight of you on the field remains one of the natural wonders of the world, you know. (And when I've recovered enough that you would not crush me in three sallies at most, I will demand an afternoon of you; I would not be

in the least surprised to find you have surpassed my skill at duelling by now.)

Your trainee, no doubt, could see that skill -- you do rather shine with it -- and wished to learn from it (at most charitable interpretation), or (at least charitable) to bask in your reflected glory. It does, at least, speak to her sense in noticing, though not her discretion in pressing for more than you were willing to offer. If she's at all worth her salt she will find someone else to mentor her and rise to the occasion in future; if not, you will be well shut of her. (If you're curious as to which, meanwhile, steer her my way at one of the social events Narcissa will no doubt insist on my presence at, and I will proffer my opinions. Not that I will likely have any time to tutor outside my obligation to the students, mind you, but my knack for taking the measure of someone's future utility has not yet deserted me.)

I would be most surprised if she were the first to importune you in such fashion over the years I was gone: it is human nature to be drawn to the best and brightest. There is a reason I defended my claim to the teaching of you so fiercely against all comers, after all. I would have happily renounced the rest of your cohort and walked off whistling in exchange for that brilliant boy sitting beside me by the campfire and dreaming so fiercely of the days we find ourselves living now.

Eternally yours, son of my heart,

T

2012-09-16 23:04:00

Order Only: Hello from Grimmauld

As you all know, we'd been waiting for the right opportunity to reveal the truth to Ellie. Bill, Kingsley, you remember Remus mentioned it to you the last time you were at Laszlo's Unlimited, that we thought we were getting close.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Well, we sat her down this afternoon. Or rather, 'Junius' and Dora did, with a shot of firewhiskey and the news that they had a shock for her.

They told her that they're part of an organisation that helps to rescue Muggleborn children out of the camps (though not about the Order in detail). She took the shot and as Remus was pouring another for her, she said, 'I've a secret for you, then. Your friend Beth asked me to help her months ago. I've been passing coded messages for her network to some of the other mudbloods who come in to the shop.'

Remus drank the shot and before he could pour another, Dora took a hit from the bottle. I decided I'd like a drop myself, so I changed and asked to be allowed to catch up. (Though actually, Ellie got one ahead at that point.)

'Sirius Black?' she stammered. 'Your bloody dog is bloody Sirius Bloody Black?'

We quickly assured her that anything she'd said or done in front of 'Sinbad' was of no consequence to us. We also, er, clarified the realities of our domestic arrangements.

And we offered to bring her over here to 12 GP to acquaint herself with the place. (Kreacher couldn't be more pleased.) Alice, thanks for the note you gave us for her the last time you were here.

Ideally, she'll be willing to stay on her own in Doughty Conduit while we all bunk here at night. That way the house will look occupied and she'll be on hand to alert us if someone should need to come back after hours. But she'll (finally) have her own bed that's not a pallet in the cellar. Tonight it's the third guest bed on the 3rd floor. Tomorrow ... we'll see.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-17 03:30:00](#)
(no subject)

She took it all awfully well.

I expect it helped she had her own secret from us. Not that we're all that pleased to find Beth had dealt with Ellie behind our backs. In fact, I like that less the more I think of it.

Is there anything left in that bottle? Where've you got off to with it?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-17 03:32:17](#)
(no subject)

Ta, we're in the library. Plenty left.

I don't like it but then Beth's always had her own way to go about things. It makes a certain amount of sense, from her point of view.

It's not as if we've told her about our other activities.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-17 03:42:16](#)
(no subject)

Well, and notice that Ellie's not asked us if this is the last of our secrets.

She really is a good egg.

Of course, what could top Sirius BLOODY Black is your bleedin DOG?!

I think she felt about like you lot did when you found out Dumbledore's been right here in the country and none of you knew it.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-17 03:44:56](#)
(no subject)

I think she thought I was a bit of a Peeping Tom. Had to assure her that I always averted my eyes when necessary.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-17 11:00:36](#)
(no subject)

True enough. At least Dumbledore hadn't been seeing you in your night shirt every day with hair uncombed and your face not washed.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-17 03:40:51](#)
(no subject)

I don't care for it either. It makes me trust Beth rather less even as I trust Ellie more.

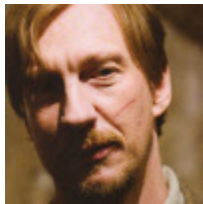
At least we don't have to live with Beth.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-17 03:48:27](#)
(no subject)

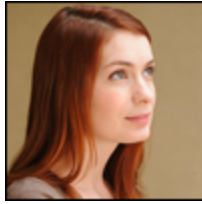
She was the one who suggested you get Ellie, yes? Perhaps that was why.

But yes, that is a bit of a setback.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2012-09-17 03:50:25](#)
(no subject)


Yes, she was the one who convinced us to get Ellie, and I'm sure you're right that's why.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-17 03:53:54](#)**
(no subject)

I can see why she'd trust a muggleborn to be more likely to help, and keep quiet about it.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-17 03:44:36](#)**
(no subject)

I'm very glad to hear it. It'll be awfully nice to not have to worry about her when I come to visit next.

And I do think you all went about it in the best way you could -- and that you certainly waited until you had enough of a sense about her to let her in.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-09-17 03:58:53](#)**
(no subject)

Ha. When you come next, she's going to want to know what kind of shape-shifter you are.

There was a moment there tonight where you could see her doing the calculation. 'Right. So that's two metamorphs, one werewolf, and an animagus? What's next? The bloke who delivers the beer's a vampire, I suppose?'



 **[alt_arthur](#)** at **[2012-09-18 01:53:14](#)**
(no subject)

I'm relieved that it seemed to go as well as could be expected.

Please keep us apprised of any other developments.

2012-09-17 09:06:00

Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black



 **alt_nymphadora**

Did you know Ellie's down the cellars checking inventory on household items? Said she's seeing what we need to reorder--even though we just did all that last week.

She's a bit on edge. Nearly jumped out of her skin when she saw me. And a bit damp round the edges, I think, too. Stuck her handkerchief up her sleeve so I wouldn't see.

I expect it all seems a lot more uncertain to her this morning. Last night it was just a shock, but now she's thinking through ... all of it. But I got the feeling she might be ready to talk again if one of you tried after a bit. I'd have stayed down there, but I'm knackered.

Sorry.




 **alt_sirius** at **2012-09-17 15:15:05**
(no subject)

Right.

Maybe she'd rather talk to Sinbad? Since she's been talking to him all along.

I'll just, er. Yeah.



 **alt_lupin** at **2012-09-17 16:17:36**
(no subject)

Ergh.

Maybe I should go. At least she's known for months I'm a werewolf.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-17 16:20:33](#)**
(no subject)

Pup, any time you're willing to go deal with a weeping witch, I'm not going to stand in your way.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2012-09-17 16:29:06](#)**
(no subject)

You did that on purpose, didn't you?

I'm on my way.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-17 16:31:19](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't do anything. You're the one who volunteered!

[2012-09-17 12:45:00](#)

Private message to Rory

Couldn't make it to breakfast this morning- didn't trust myself not to stuff Dolores' head into a very full jug of pumpkin juice.



 **[alt_rabastan](#)**

Not that I'm going to do anything of the sort. But until I can muster up my usual sort of careless ease and charm, I'll be trying to dodge her.

The thing that keeps nagging at me is where does all that nerve and confidence come from? She operates as if she fully expects everyone to bend to her will, so long as it's all presented as "helpful suggestions." Is she really so massively stupid that she expects no friction from anyone?

There's another possibility beyond that, but I'll not mention it here.

Anyroad, Cedric's asked me about meeting privately to discuss quidditch career options. See no reason to dissuade him except to stress that he ought to see it as temporary- nobody keeps their youthful skills sharp forever, even if they can manage to avoid injury. There's those blokes that think they can fly until their hair turns white- they're the ones who get into their 40s and end up hanging around at Quality Quidditch Supplies, trying to peddle off their autograph for a couple of galleons because there's nothing else they're much good for.

Blast. I might need some of those wine gums, unless Toshenka's nicked them all.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-09-17 19:34:06](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, love. Don't blame you for trying to dodge her, mind. She's scarcely my first choice for mealtime conversation even without this. (And I'm sorry I'm abandoning you tomorrow, but between the planner interviews and seeing Gilly, there's no way I'll be back for supper. See you after duelling club?)

She did spend - what, ten years? - with people far more likely to say "Yes, Minister" than arguing, mind. That's got to warp her view of the

world. But I do see what you mean about the nerve and confidence, because.. well. (Not that she's the smartest person I've met, though.)

But I had a thought, this morning. Part of it with me is - look, you know people who play status games? This is the Hufflepuff version. Sickly sweet, and all about one-upping who can be most helpful and productive, and subtle as the squid. You've not met Auntie Alphecca and my cousin Cally yet, or you'd have seen mistresses of the art. I'm just horribly out of practice with someone who isn't family (and family do play by different rules).

She hasn't been like that with Pomona, mind, or I think Poppy (though I'll ask when I get a chance.) It's that I'm so clearly younger and in need of guidance. Or however she's putting it, inside her head. Waiting to see if what I tried this morning is going to get me anywhere. (The quick solution would be submitting to her collected wisdom, but you understand why that's distasteful.)

Do you think Cedric has a serious chance? I do agree with having something in mind for after, of course. And he and I'll talk a bit more about that, too. As to the Jelly Gums, there's a reason I ordered a full case. I'll bring you some at supper, or you can stop up.



 **alt_rabastan** at **2012-09-18 01:27:36**
(no subject)

(After duelling, yes.)

Oh, right, *Madam Minister*. She didn't get nearly so much obedience as she thinks, believe me. Certain people, rather than arguing with her directly, learned to bypass her meddling altogether. Why do what someone asks of you when you can *convince them* to ask for something different?

That's how some saw it, anyway.

While I'm certain that you can out-puff her any day of the week, if you'd like me to, I will sweetly inform her that your future husband is quite alright with you teaching for however long it pleases. Though perhaps that's best saved for when she inevitably picks up the topic with me.

He does. Harry skews things around here, but Cedric's in fact an excellent seeker, and I could see him getting signed on as second

pick, at least - maybe ever as a starter, for a team that's in a re-building phase. There's a lot of turnover with seekers, you see, as they tend to have the shortest careers. Speed and agility is goes first in a player, and both are crucial to that position (all positions, really, but seeker especially). Plus, they're the most likely to have bludgers pummeled at their heads and limbs.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-18 01:41:26](#)

(no subject)

(I rather figured you wouldn't turn that down, somehow.)

Mmm. *That* kind of convincing, you mean?

Might explain some of what Mum and Dad told me. (They never had much to do with her directly, mind you, but they've both been there long enough to get plenty of gossip. Though I do need to ask Mum more about who she's talking to in Education - or rather, if it's anyone besides Caldwell himself. *That* bit has been nagging at me today since you brought up your thoughts.)

As to sweetly informing her - do I get to watch? (Antosha, too, I suspect, would deeply appreciate the opportunity.) More seriously, let's hold that for a little. I still haven't heard back from her from this morning, and I think that's a good sign. Maybe.


As to Cedric - oh, good. You know I don't really know what I'm looking at yet. Not enough, anyway, and of course, it's been a year since I've seen him play. You'll have to point out the fine points when we watch this year. I just - he's one of those I really want to succeed, y'know? Even if that list gets longer every year.

2012-09-17 17:20:00

Private Message to Cedric Diggory and Ernie MacMillan



I say, Diggory, or Ernie if you're not too far yet,


Hopkins had rather a bad time of it in class today.  [alt_justin](#)
Nothing dire but I expect he's going to need assistance getting back to the sett. And perhaps he'll not wish for supper, what? I don't think he'll need the hospital wing, just perhaps a cool cloth and a lie-down.

Also, Stebbins. Professor Dolohov held him behind. I'm sure he'll be all right, but he rather panicked when he had to cast a spell and - well, he couldn't do it at all. He was dashed upset and it was right as the bell rang, in the bargain.

I couldn't look after them both, what, and the others seem to have scattered. We're in the lavatory closest to Professor Dolohov's classroom.

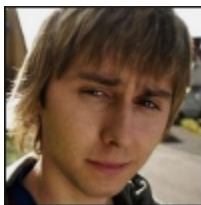
-F-F



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2012-09-17 21:30:14**
(no subject)

I'll come back, sorry!

I thought Wayne just needed to have a pee.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-17 21:35:30**
(no subject)

Cheers.

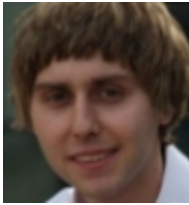
Mostly I think he's embarrassed at sicking up. But it's understandable, given everything, what?

-J



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2012-09-17 21:34:22](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you Justin. I'm on my way down. I'll have a word with Professor Dolohov and we'll make sure they both get where they need to go.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-17 21:35:46](#)**
(no subject)

Not at all.

-J

2012-09-17 17:32:00

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra



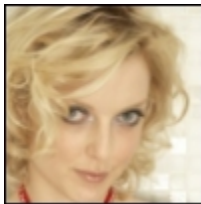
alt_antonin

Aurora my dear,

If you've a moment free -- can you drop by my office and collect Mr Stebbins? No injury, do not worry -- he simply became overwrought during class and I'm afraid I overdid the Calming Draught in his tea a bit; I wouldn't trust him to make his way back unsupervised and I think he could perhaps use a soothing adult presence.

Mr Hopkins had a bit of difficulty in class today as well, but I believe Mr Finch-Fletchley collected him while I was occupied with Mr Stebbins.

Never a dull moment,
T



alt_sinistra at **2012-09-17 21:39:32**
(no subject)

Oh, goodness. We should have had a word before this, and I'm even more sorry I didn't catch him at lunch today. Add "1992-1993 school year" to our list of discussion topics, please.

I'll be right there shortly: I was down in the sett, but there's nothing the Prefects can't handle here right now.

A.



alt_sinistra at **2012-09-17 23:35:54**
(no subject)

Antosha -

Right. One student, delivered to the sett, soothed, and a late supper for him requested from the house elves. One fiance somewhat reassured. (He's still fuming about last night, and worrying about the implications.) I had a word with Pomona, when I made it up at the very tail of supper, but if you could give her

more details, she'd appreciate it.

Now, you. Anything I can lend a hand with? I do owe you for managing to make me laugh last night.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at [2012-09-18 02:13:55](#)

(no subject)

My dearest Aurora,

You are, as ever, a wonder. I must confess I hadn't expected anywhere near that strong a reaction; suspect it was cumulative effect of the many small things that can go wrong in such an exercise. (Mr Nott attempted a hex that was not on the acceptable list and needed to be spoken to quite firmly; several students including Mr Hopkins could not undo their own hexes (that being why I limited the little darlings to things the target could reliably counter) and Mr Hopkins panicked, fearing retribution; several of them hesitated considerably before being willing to hex me at all.) I will be more careful to encourage the Gryffindors and Ravenclaws when we get to them on Thursday, and to let them know I am prepared for the various disasters that might happen and they needn't fear a Cruciatus just for bodging up the counter-hex.

I am well, or as well as I can be after an afternoon of serving as target dummy (some of the little darlings are entirely too good; Mr Crabbe, Miss Bulstrode, and Mr Finch-Fletchley in particular) and an evening of heart-to-hearts, which I did not intend to go as long as they did, but of course the afternoon's disruption would have pushed things back even had I not utterly lost track of time with several of them. (Mr Finch-Fletchley has just now departed my office, for instance -- quite a pleasant conversation, though one is left with the frustrating feeling one has failed to reach something in him. Ah, well: after this afternoon's *sturm und drang*, I would be surprised if he had been too eager for the discussion. A pity, though; I believe he is one of the ones with the knack.)

Am glad, meanwhile, I could provide a bit of laughter in the midst of what seems to have been an utterly trying evening. (And I do hope the cordial was to your tastes.) I would offer help in restraining Razzler, except I am afraid my sympathies lie entirely with him. Pity

I can't persuade her to serve as the demonstration dummy for class. You didn't mention: what book was it that you were wishing destruction upon?

Off to gird my loins for the trip from office to quarters -- though you would never catch me using that phrase in front of the little dears after THIS week --

T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-18 02:52:38](#)

(no subject)

Antosha, dear -

If what it takes to be a wonder is a remarkably small amount of work, all things considered, well.

We should talk about calibration. I do notice you have not precisely answered my question. (I did say Raz had given me a certain amount of experience there, yes? And I have my own, when Poppy asks me that kind of thing.) Glad to come down, and free for the next hour or so, if that would help.

Anyway - someone did fill you in on our Mr Finch-Fletchley's background, yes? I admit I'm a little surprised he took to your field so well. He does give one that sense, though - not inappropriately, really, as he's effectively on his own in an entire foreign country, in many ways. I do like what I've seen of him, mind.

As to Raz and the matter of Dolores, well. I thought as much. I suggested to him earlier this evening, when he offered to be sweetly clear to her about... you know, there's no way out of this sentence. (Because it's not like he's allowing me, or letting me, or anything like that. We don't work like that, whatever she thinks.) Let me try again.

She was very snippy about "Oh, you may not want to continue teaching, dear", and Raz, of course, is happy to let me do as I will there, barring a directive from Our Lord. And is equally glad to make that clear to her. I pointed out that I'd want to watch, and you would too. We'll see what he says. (The idea does offer quite a lot of pleasant diversion, mind.)

Anyway, the book. Last February, Quercus Edmonds came out with this book called *The Transfiguration of Stress* and during the bad

parts of the spring - yes, we'll talk Friday - everyone but everyone kept asking if I'd read it. Campanella (Wright, the Auror on the YPL committee and now a good friend) went out over one of our meeting days, and came back with a copy, and the note "Now you can tell people you have it, and will put it to good use - even if that's fantasising about hitting them over the head with it." (I do love her.)

Turns out, it's the perfect width for shoring up one of my storage shelves, so I could say in perfect truth to Dolores last night that I did find it useful. But it's horrid, really, all about shaping your stress into something of use to the Protectorate. Last thing I needed then, or need now.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-18 10:57:51](#)

(no subject)

My dearest Aurora,

It isn't so much the amount of work as the direction in which the work is applied. I am of course predisposed to look kindly upon anyone who makes my life easier, of course (isn't everyone?) but those who willingly spend their time to clean up my messes and then claim it to be nothing of importance earn even more appreciation. (And are likely Hufflepuffs.) I do appreciate it.

And appreciate your devious mind, of course, and that of your friend -- your knack for lying with the truth (even if not truth whole and entire) is quite a tidy skill to have, and being a student of the art myself, I must admire. I have not had the dubious pleasure of reading the text in question, but it sounds appalling. (And I am somehow not surprised in the least that darling Dolores speaks so highly of it. Was speaking with Barty last night and in passing, described her style as "drenched in those ridiculously shallow self-help platitudes best suited for the feeble masses". Seven or eight years ago, I spent six months in America whilst attending a series of increasingly-dire and tedious conferences and summits; the temporary clerk I engaged taught me a game, apparently popular in their meetings, for coping with people of that sort. It is called "Buzzword Bingo", and I will teach it to you and Raz at earliest opportunity.)

But as I said to you in my note of the other night: you are worth

three dozen of her, if not more. And I say once more, I will remind you of that however often I must. And remember, if you will, that you do have powerful allies in your camp: Rizzer is obvious, of course (and yes, I would very much like to be present when he decides to put darling Dolores in her place) but I do not think it vanity to say I have no small influence of my own, and would be more than happy to exert it on your behalf. Simply say the word, my little star, and I will be at your disposal. (I do not mean to usurp your or Rizzer's prerogative in the least, mind you. But there are certain things you jointly might be unwilling to consider -- because of their implications regarding the dynamic of your relationship -- that might be less fraught if coming from a long-time familial friend with a well-known history of meddling in his friends' affairs.)

You are quite right, meanwhile, to call me out on my refusal to answer your question. To ease your mind: I finished my reply to you, dragged my sorry carcass back to quarters, and promptly fell face-down upon my bed within three minutes of achieving their threshold, still clad in everything but my boots. Having slept a solid seven hours, I am much restored, though I dread how exhausted I will be after Thursday's classes: the fifths are the only year I am playing hex-the-teacher with this week, but I have Gryffindor and Ravenclaw back-to-back with but an hour's break between. May be quite grateful for the couch in the office by end of day!

And yes: please add discussion of Mr Finch-Fletchley to our agenda for Friday (which, I note, appears to be accreting more and more pieces as the week goes by) as I'd be dreadfully curious about whatever observations you could make of him. I do not think he *believes* himself to have the knack for my subject, nor do I think that fact sits entirely easily upon the shoulders of his Hufflepuff's scruples, but I am fortunate enough to occasionally hear a small voice speaking to me when evaluating a student, telling me that this one has untapped potential to varying degree. With our Mr Finch-Fletchley, it is not so much a small voice as a loud clamor, and our one-on-one conversation only reinforced the notion. I do not know if I will be able to unlock his reserve, but it would be criminal of me not to try.

Hoping that Tuesday is not as eventful as the days that preceded it have turned out to be,

T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-18 17:07:50](#)
(no subject)

Antosha -

Now, how I am supposed to answer that? Effort on behalf of students is something I rarely begrudge, and clearly you were in no position to deal with some of it, nor the right person. I have found that this kind of effort, done early, saves trouble down the road.

Buzzword Bingo sounds most intriguing. As to the rest of that - I am, in truth, a horrible liar, and learned (the more so over the past few years and the YPL work) that yet, there are times when true honesty does not serve. The cludge of partial truth is the result, though I admit I get good enough results with it now when I need to.

I do appreciate the offer of help, and you are right that there may be a time that another voice, from a different place of leverage, may be most useful. I admit that I am very slow sometimes - far too slow, Raz might argue - to take action, and I am still undecided who has the right of it. (Both Cassie Calderwood and Facinorous Stint brought the matter into sharp relief, shall we say.) Some of that is indeed the angle of action, not just its speed, so I appreciate having more options.

(Something further to talk about down the road, perhaps, but you will understand that much of my calculation in those two instances was needing to balance what he could do for me, versus what it would mean if we were to separate and I were on my own again without the echo of his reputation around my every move. The engagement's eased much of that - and losing the YPL - but it is still at the back of my mind.)

I am glad to hear you took care of yourself appropriately, and I do approve of the couch in one's office. (I have a cozy day bed in mine, but of course, I sometimes do very late night observation work and nap between segments.) As to Mr Finch-Fletchley: most curious, but yes, we will talk further. He's been of particular interest to me, for more than one reason.

Right. On to my Tuesday, which involves initial meetings with three separate wedding planners, in the hope that one of them

might be tolerable. I am not looking forward to it much.

A.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 00:41:15](#)
(no subject)

Antosha -

One quick note. I am returned from New London with some possibly amusing stories. (Though, we've other better topics for Friday, really.)

But also a stack of books my sister Tempest rounded up. She got all the currently available *American Witches* - another 20 - and says the next one's due out in two weeks. She's glad to pick them up and send them on, as she's currently spending her break between lunch rush and supper haunting bookstores anyway. (She's a sous chef, at the moment.)

In eternal amusement,

A.

2012-09-17 18:03:00

I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Well, that was interesting.

Ron, Nev, you've probably already heard, but Dolohov had us hex him, and then counter hex.



 [alt_pansy](#)

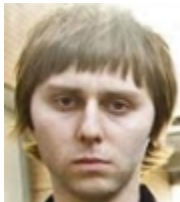
I did a fairly easy one, only because I was nervous about remembering the proper counter-hex, which is good, because Hopkins fouled up his counter-hex, and sort of panicked when it wouldn't work. And Stebbins couldn't manage it at all.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-17 22:09:10**

Private Message to Justin

All right, then?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-17 22:48:53**

Re: Private Message to Justin

Hallo, Pansy.

Yes, I'm quite all right. Why?

How is Nott? I say, he looked white as a sheet after Professor Dolohov whispered to him.

-J



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-18 01:13:42**

Re: Private Message to Justin

Okay. You just looked sort of

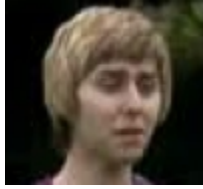
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is all.

And Teddy thinks he knows everything there is to know about Dark Arts, and was probably expecting to get rewarded. I say he

deserves to be put in his place.

He'll be fine.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-18 02:46:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin

Was I? I mean to say, did I?

I suppose I was just concentrating, what?

I've just come from his office. It was...a long talk.

At least Wayne and Bobby are both feeling better.

-J

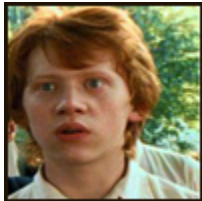


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-18 02:56:14](#)

Re: Private Message to Justin

Oh. Okay. ~~What did you~~

I'm glad to hear.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-17 22:12:19](#)

(no subject)

Wow. Uh.

Either Professor Dolohov is a complete nutter, or he's dead strong. I mean, he's already hurt. How many hexes can he take before he falls over?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-17 22:15:49](#)

(no subject)

Well, most of them were only on for a second. But yeah.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-17 22:14:56](#)**
(no subject)


So. Did anyone throw anything really powerful?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-17 22:16:28](#)**
(no subject)

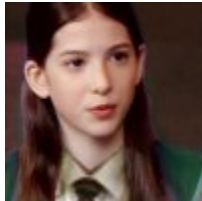
Dolohov didn't let Teddy cast his. He blocked that one. And Vince's looked like it hurt.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-17 22:21:16](#)**
(no subject)

Whoa. What'd Nott try?

And everything about Crabbe hurts. Even just to look at him. But no surprise he's turned out to be strong with wicked hexes. Wand's just like an extra fist to him, innit?



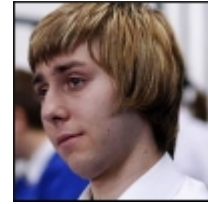
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-18 00:26:43](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think anyone knows what Teddy tried except for him, and Professor Dolohov.

We were supposed to announce the hex before we cast it, but Teddy didn't.

2012-09-17 20:23:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Dux



 [alt_justin](#)

Hello,

Have Sally-Anne and Pansy told you about the lesson yet?

I don't

My interview's tonight.

I say, I'm not sure why I can't follow my own advice, what, and simply treat it like any other lesson or any other professor.

Today in class, though....

It was like the time with Toubon. After the Yule Ball. And I'm certain he saw it, too.

Dash it.

He's far too persuasive, what, and *perceptive* for my tastes. Say what you like about Miss Professor Carrow but she should have been much easier to fool.

Perhaps he'll be so exhausted from the lessons and everyone else's interviews that he'll postpone, what?

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2012-09-18 01:33:36**

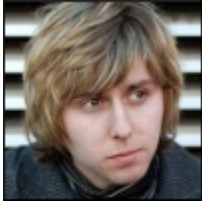
(no subject)

You mean that you hurt him? I thought that was the point of the assignment, from what I read in Pansy's post, anyway.

Or, you mean that it didn't bother

Well. Why do you think it happened? Toubon had been at you for years, trying to provoke you. You've only just met Professor Dolohov.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-18 02:15:05](#)
(no subject)

I do think I hurt him, or at least that I happened to pick a spell that caused him more discomfort than some of the others. That wasn't my intention, though, what, and it wasn't quite what I meant.

I wish I could explain the feeling. It's like ... everything slows down and there's nothing else in the whole world except me and my opponent. It's not happened since that night, either, even when I've practised at Duelling Club.

Luckily, we didn't talk about that this evening. A great deal else, what, but not about that. Small mercies, I suppose.

I've just got back to the dormitories and checked on Stebbins and Hopkins. They're both all right. Just heartily mortified.

I wish I could see you. I wish we weren't in different common rooms tonight.

-J

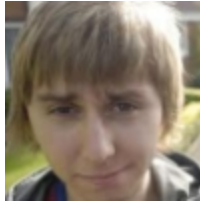


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-18 02:30:14](#)
(no subject)

You're scaring me. I don't often see you so shaken.I wish I could be there for you, too.

Do you want me to sneak out? I could say I'm going to the Matron for something and meet you somewhere.

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at [2012-09-18 02:40:48](#)
(no subject)

Ye

No, don't be silly, Dux. I shall be quite all right.

He's just disconcerting, that's all. I was right, he's the type who'll use any argument he thinks expedient just to make a point. It's got me twisted round, what?

It's curious, though. He talked about God. I know Patil's talked about her religion a bit and I know that there are some people who go to church, but he sounded like he's actually studied theology. It--I thought it had to be a trick, what?


That's what was bothering me, I see it now. I thought that he must have been trying to trick me into showing myself something other than loyal, other than a model citizen of the Protectorate.

Well, that and, as I said, that he was most intent on convincing me that I'd be excellent at the Dark Arts.

After this afternoon's lesson, that's jolly well unwelcome to hear, what?

-J



 **alt_hydra** at [2012-09-18 02:54:45](#)
(no subject)

Are you certain? You don't have me convinced.

Why would he try to trick you, Justin? He's no reason to think you anything but loyal - far from it, seeing as you've chosen the Protectorate over France. Maybe he really does just believe in God or Gods.

And maybe you would be excellent at the Dark Arts. It doesn't have to mean anything. My being an Occlumens doesn't make me like my Mother, does it? He'll probably think me inclined toward excellence in the Dark Arts, too, and if he doesn't I'll be surprised.

No one can make you someone you're not. I know that, I don't just think it or believe it.

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-18 03:13:46](#)**
(no subject)

I shan't pretend I wouldn't like to sneak out and see you. Very much. But it does seem a foolish thing to do when--you're right. I'm jumping at shadows, what?

I suppose I didn't think you lot believed in God. Wizards, I mean, and especially bally old pureblood wizards. (Don't your lot always use Merlin and Paracelsus instead of Saints? Or Christ? Well, I suppose Ron does say 'bloody' rather a lot. But it's not as if he realises what he's saying.)

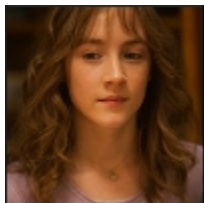
I did turn it back on his own argument and I think that impressed him. He said something about not being able to lose certain frames of reference. Perhaps it's that he's been living in the Muggle world too much, himself.

I'm not sure about whether being excellent at Dark Arts means the same thing to you as it does to me. But you're right that the only person who can make me change is...me.

That's what worries me.

But I've got you to keep me honest, what? You're a marvel. You know that, don't you?

-J



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-09-18 03:25:58](#)**
(no subject)

I would never tell you that you're jumping at shadows when you're upset.

I don't know about everyone else but I don't believe in God. Not based on what I've heard about him (why is

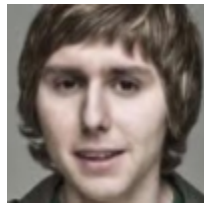
he always a man?) And the Christians hunted down witches and wizards and said magic was evil, so taking that religion too seriously is considered a little odd by most, and I don't think it was even that common before the Protectorate. If you wanted to practise a French religion people would probably just think it part of your culture, like it is with the Patil twins.

Why are you worried? Because change sounds interesting? They say that the Dark Arts are seductive, you know, meaning that they're tempting, not that they're sexy...

Sorry, it's that ridiculous book that everyone's talking about. It makes everything sound scandalous.

I don't know it, but thank you anyway.

Love,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-18 03:43:59](#)
(no subject)

No, it's all right. I think in retrospect I bally well was inventing reasons to be upset, or bally well frightened or...whatever this was.

I shan't let it worry me, what?

And not that it makes a great deal of difference to me, Dux, but as it happens I was raised--well, Church of England, ironically enough. Which wasn't all that easy, in Dijon, but there was a congregation and we went now and then. There's no such thing as a 'French religion,' Dux. Some of them are Catholic and some Protestant. A growing number are Muslim. It's all down to one's family background. So in that sense, yes, it's like the Patils. But as for the witch hunts...well, that was also a very different age, wasn't it? I don't know. I like to believe there's something out there, but doing magic does make that difficult. Do people think Christ was just a particularly talented wizard, then? I've never asked. I haven't really dared, actually.

As for the Dark Arts--I suppose we'd best start calling them the Arts, what, without the 'Dark' as he doesn't--yes. They are

seductive. Professor Dolohov said something about it being a misconception to think that they'll automatically corrupt. But I'm not so sure.

Not Occlumency, I don't think. But things like casting a curse when having a conversation would do...I don't fancy the idea that the Arts make it so much easier to take--short cuts, I suppose one might call them.

But. As we've said already, I don't think there's any particular help for it. So one might as well make the best of it.

I love you very much, Dux.

Sweet dreams,

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-18 04:05:36](#)
(no subject)

I'll try not to worry as well, then.

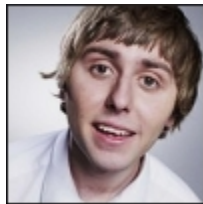
I'm sorry, I really don't know much about religion, and I suppose it's because I grew up hearing about how it was backwards and barbaric and mostly a way for muggles to justify their hatred of magic. I have heard some people say that Jesus must have been a magician, because he transfigured water and food and levitated, and that he was trying to do what he could to make muggles accept magic and see it as something that was a blessing from God. But then I've also heard people say that Jesus is proof that muggles are evil, because even though he helped them, they killed him anyway.

I know that in parts of Scotland they worship the old Celtic Gods, like Robin Goodfellow, and Rhiannon.

Occlumency isn't a bad thing, I know I'm glad I can do it, but I wouldn't much like to be a Legilimens. Then I really would be like Mummy. That's how *she'd* see it, anyway. But at least with being good at the Dark Arts... I mean, Arts, well, you don't have to use them unless you feel you must. There's always a choice.

I love you too. I wish I would have slipped out to see the "Matron."

Love,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at [2012-09-18 15:01:56](#)
(no subject)

Potion's simmering; I can risk checking over my journal as Professor Slughorn's reading, as well.

I feel better this morning, truly.

That makes sense, I suppose, about Jesus. And yes, I know there are some wizards who follow pagan gods. There are Muggles who do, too, you know. I just--didn't wish to disappoint you by revealing that I do consider myself a Christian, more or less. Not much of one, I expect. I mean to say, I've not been to church in ages, probably over three years, but his mentioning God so freely surprised me. ~~And if we were ever to be married~~ It just got me to wondering how many others are quietly Christian but daren't say anything. Also, I shouldn't like you to think less of me for believing in God. Don't fret, I'm not going to advocate any burning at the stake, what! (I say, other kinds of burning bring us back to that bally awful book, don't they?)

It's true, one needn't use the Arts unless one must. Professor Dolohov said something well similar. He said: 'Do you think that possessing a tool means you are obliged to use it in all situations, no matter how suitable the tool is or isn't?' And I said, 'No. But if one means never to use a tool, why own it?' Well, he simply changed his tactic then, so I could tell I'd won that round, what.

~~I suppose what worries me is that I'll find I rather like using~~

Time to stir and add porcupine quills. Shall we take lunch outside? And then I'll walk you to your Charms lesson.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2012-09-18 15:38:20**
(no subject)

What does believing in God do, exactly? Does it make you feel...I don't know - better? That's probably not something you can explain easily in a few words, is it?

Sometimes when Mummy talks about the Lord Protector she sounds like she's talking about God. I suppose that's what I most associate with it.

Lunch outside sounds lovely. See you soon.

From,
Hydra

2012-09-17 21:09:00

Order Only: Neal Smullen again

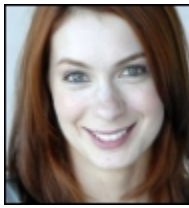
Terry, your message tipped the balance, I think. It was a near thing. The parents let him go, reluctantly, but I've just dropped him off at the sanctuary.




 **alt_arthur**

What they will tell his brothers, well, that will be up to them. I very carefully did not enquire too closely. But I'm quite sure that they understand the critical importance of keeping our secrets.

He's a big boy with a hearty laugh, who delights in stuffing his feet into his mouth at every opportunity. I quite lost my heart to him.



 **alt_alice** at **2012-09-18 02:40:59**
(no subject)

Thank you again, Arthur. We're so glad he's here.




 **alt_sirius** at **2012-09-19 00:00:22**
(no subject)

Yes, sometimes they can latch on to you surprisingly quickly, can't they?

Good work, Arthur.



 **alt_terry** at **2012-09-19 01:17:30**
(no subject)

I stopped by the nursery to see him. He made a good attempt at trying to pull my nose off.

I like him already.

2012-09-17 22:15:00

Private Message to Pomona Sprout



Pomona,

Aurora suggested I write you to brief you on some additional detail regarding this afternoon's class (and I apologise for messaging her, rather than you, to help with the aftermath; I was not thinking entirely clearly or I would have messaged you both, her because I could be sure she would see the message quickly and you as Head of House).

 [alt_antonin](#)

Class today involved the casting and countering of hexes (upon me, not upon each other) from a specified list; most of the children were dubious but willing, particularly after I explained I wanted them to hex me, but there was an unfortunate incident in which Mr Nott, one of the first few students to take his turn, attempted a (rather nasty) hex that was not on the approved list. I was prepared for someone to make a similar attempt -- there always is one who believes himself to be smarter than the teacher and who wants to show off -- and so could block it, after which I emphasised to the class that my classroom restrictions are for their safety and mine, but it did leave several of the children exceedingly shaken.

The problem intensified with Mr Hopkins, whose casting was letter-perfect but who was unable to dispel the effects afterward. (I had expected this to happen as well; it is why I was careful in selecting the acceptable spells to choose ones I could undo "from the inside", as it were.) I had instructed the children in advance not to worry if they were unable to remove the hex, but Mr Hopkins was the first of your House to cast and the first who was wholly unable to counter his own spell, and I believe he feared retribution at a later date even after I was careful to show him there would be no hard feelings.

I had meant to reassure him after class, but was distracted by Mr Stebbins, who was the last to attempt to cast and was entirely unable to achieve satisfactory spellwork. He, too, reacted poorly, and I took him to my office to reassure him (and to offer him tea and Calming Draught, as I feared he would panic himself into a state). Mr Finch-Fletchley saw to Mr Hopkins. (I must also apologise for keeping Mr Finch-Fletchley out so late past curfew tonight; this afternoon's excitement entirely disrupted my schedule for seeing the students one-on-one.)

Aurora has told me something of the issues your House has had with my predecessor and I must confess I had not thought of the past traumas today's lesson might stir up; I apologise. I will be much more careful in future to offer more significant reassurance in advance, and of course by next month those who are least suited to the practise of the Arts will have opted into theoretical study.

Please do ask if you've any questions -- I would be happy to discuss any of this in greater depth. I will likely not be at meals tomorrow, but I have the afternoon free if you'd like to confer. And please accept my compliments for the actions of Mr Finch-Fletchley and Mr Diggory, both of whom were extremely helpful this afternoon.

At your service,
Antonin



alt_pomona at **2012-09-18 03:25:17**
(no subject)

Antonin,

Thank you for that apology. The explanation is a help - I got the basics from Aurora, of course, she's very careful about that kind of thing. But not before I'd gotten an extremely muddled version from at least half my House in your class.

It is very true that your predecessor left her mark. And of course, that her brother, even more so. Aurora mentioned yesterday that she intended to tell you a bit more about Hannah's death, but had given you at least the outline. They are still very skittish, and with excellent reason. Do take that into consideration, please. i'd suggest even more than you think you need.

I will, however, check on Stebbins and Hopkins in the morning, and I appreciate the compliments to both Mr Finch-Fletchley and Mr Diggory (we are rightfully extremely proud of him, mind.)

I do think we had better sit down and chat a bit further - both about my house, and about information best shared in advance of a lesson, at least to start. I teach until 4. 5, perhaps? Or after supper?

In service to our students,
Pomona



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-18 10:00:27](#)
(no subject)

Pomona --

Bother. I was clearly more addled last night than I'd given myself credit for: I had forgot I have scheduled both tomorrow afternoon and tomorrow evening quite tightly with student interviews in the hopes I can get through the entirety of the fifth years in a week's time and minimise the disruptions to everyone's schedules. I can rearrange if necessary -- and I do agree it is clearly quite necessary for me to spend some time with Heads of House to discuss both the students and recent school history in greater depth -- but if you would be willing, might I invite you to dine in my office with me, say around 6pm or so, so we might have a more private discussion than the Great Hall affords?

I recognise this is a great imposition, and I apologise for the temerity in asking; I do not at all mean to imply you should dance attendance upon my schedule and my convenience and I would be willing to adjust the schedule to allow for time with you tomorrow afternoon if the prospect doesn't suit, or to instead schedule time with you for Thursday afternoon or evening (which, due to it being my day from hell, I've kept free of student interviews). The events of yesterday, however, have made it quite clear to me that the conversation is likely best handled sooner rather than later.

I will say to you in confidence that I find myself a bit at sea with some of the children so far. I had steeled myself for wariness and been prepared to spend quite some time in overcoming past bad experiences -- I had of course known Alecto and Amycus for quite some time, and while they were both powerful practitioners of their subject and both could have been suited to mentoring gifted adult apprentices, their style was not necessarily what I would consider effective with children and *en masse*. But though Aurora has painted me the broad outlines of what transpired, I had somehow failed to comprehend the extent of the damage influences upon the childrens' fears.

Our Lord has laid the task of education of His youth upon my shoulders, and I have promised myself to treat it as seriously, and with as much dedication, as any task he has honoured me with in the past. And I have known for years that study of the Arts -- whether in theory or in practise -- is most effective when led by

someone whom the student feels secure, as my subject (more than nearly any other, in all truth) requires an element of trust between student and teacher. I can only hope I have not damaged that fledgeling bond with several of your House too deeply, and throw myself upon your mercy for information I can deploy in service to our shared charges. Aurora has been significant help so far, and generous with both her information and her candour, but it is becoming patently clear a variety of perspectives will be of great benefit.

I also regret that my infirmities have caused me to rely so heavily upon dining in my office or my quarters rather than taking more meals in company -- it is becoming clear I should at very least try to notify you, Horace, Septima, and Rolanda in advance of my plans for the week so that you might spot any potential sources of trouble. I have been meaning to consult more regularly with Razzer so we might coordinate our curricula more closely once I am past the barest introductions. Perhaps it might be wise for me to propose scheduling a brief meeting for us all on Sunday evenings immediately after supper? Though of course this year is beset by a number of scheduling challenges that appear to only be multiplying as time goes on -- I will leave it to your discretion as to whether it would be helpful or simply ~~more~~ tedious twaffle.

If you have the opportunity, meanwhile -- Aurora has mentioned that both you and she prefer a far more hands-on approach with your cubs -- please reassure Mr Hopkins that I bear absolutely no ill-will towards him, and in fact was expecting many more students to have the same difficulty he had. I regret I did not have the opportunity to provide that reassurance to him in person; his visible unease meant I did not wish to call further attention to him in front of the entire class and was intending to hold him back afterwards, but Mr Stebbins proved more in need of my attention. I will repeat the reassurance when I have my interview with him -- scheduled for tomorrow afternoon -- but if you see a moment beforehand, please tell him that he need not fear future retaliation, and that I was in fact quite pleased with his performance.

At your service, and hoping the rest of the week proves more free from incident,
Antonin



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-18 16:53:16](#)
(no subject)

Antonin

Clearly, we should meet sooner than later, and I am most hesitant to put it off longer than today. Your office, six, yes, if that's the best option.

Understand that relatively few in my House have ever taken your subject by choice. There are always some interested, to be sure, and I do hear your protestations that your Arts are not all harmful. Ravenclaws may pursue your Arts out of desire for intellectual mastery, Gryffindors to prove they are a match for anything, and Slytherins may find in it any number of attractions, but for a student in a House that values teamwork and consideration of others, the lure is considerably less.

When you speak to my Hufflepuffs, Antonin, please keep in mind that you are speaking to those who hold Hannah Abbott dear, and remembered, and still very much one of their own. Aurora may have mentioned our own term, *sett*, that is place but even more so people and connection. That sense is painfully difficult for those outside the House to understand, but an inability to acknowledge and account for it will handicap your ability to teach - or learn - from us.

On the Carrows, you must understand that there is not only the reality of their actions to consider (as painful as those are: Hannah's murder, the deliberate placing of students at significant risk, the fits of temper, the matter between Lucius Malfoy and Alecto) but the fact that stories grow in the telling. And then that what most of my students have to go on are stories, comments from a few peers, the advice of their families, and an entirely unknown teacher (other than the whispers of gossip that do not help here at all). And frankly, that Aurora and her Raz clearly enjoy your company simply confuses some of the *sett*, for they are both well-liked and emulated teachers.

I gather from my own extended conversation with Aurora that you and she are talking further on Friday. Clearly you and I will not have time, in the hour or so we have tonight, to cover all the necessary details, but I must advise, in the strongest possible language, that getting a clear review of the major points of, say,

the last five years, will be crucial to avoiding problems for our students. It is clearly overdue. And yes, I do think that meeting regularly with the four Heads - and Rabastan, if you like - will be most important for the foreseeable future.

I did speak briefly to both Mr Hopkins and Mr Stebbins this morning: they are both still shaken, but well enough, all things considered. Do please have extreme care in your conversations and class time with them this week. Of course we badgers look after our own, and most attentively.

Pomona



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-18 18:50:56**
(no subject)

Pomona --

I do appreciate your consideration, and will look forward to conversation with you later tonight.

And yes, it is becoming extremely clear to me that the picture I had built from the information I have heard thus far is wholly inaccurate -- I have avoided pressing any of my colleagues too closely for detail other than barest fact. The more I hear tales of my predecessor from multiple voices, the more I realise I have unconsciously been applying an investigator's correction for the unreliability of witness reports, and the more I realise I should, in fact, be correcting in the other direction to accomodate the tendency of those who have been traumatised to downplay their trauma in the face of a stranger.

Your words of caution are appreciated, and I will heed them as much as I may, and any others you might be willing to share. If it would not cause Septima enough trouble to make her want to curse me into next year, I would actually seek her out to discuss uncoupling the Hufflepuff doubles class from the Slytherin, as armed with more information I can certainly see ways in which it may prove challenging for us all throughout the year; the Slytherin virtues and the Hufflepuff are not as incompatible as snake and lion, but even barring past traumas I would have preferred to pair my snakes with my ravens, as they tend to bring out the better in each other.

I am not wholly unfamiliar with Hufflepuff virtues -- I've long since thought the tendency of outsiders to dismiss your house is nothing more than a lack of imagination and an inability to see the world from multiple perspectives, and of course there's you and Aurora to stand as both excellent example and resource as necessary -- but I will not pretend to a full understanding. I would be most grateful for any insight you can provide, and if you see further instance where my ignorance has the potential to harm your kits, I beg of you, tell me. I am glad Mr Hopkins and Mr Stebbins are as well as they could be, and I promise you, I will have the utmost care with them and with the rest of your charges, this week and beyond.

At your service,
Antonin



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2012-09-18 23:49:48](#)
(no subject)

Antonin -

That was productive, and I do think we made good progress in avoiding other problems of the kind. I'll have a word with Septima and Horace and Rolanda about Sunday at some point tomorrow. I do have to remind myself that it is, what, a month since you knew you were joining us? And in that time you have had to arrange your personal affairs after a long absence, set up a curriculum and books, and learn a great deal about the practical arrangements of the school.

Clearly someone - though in hindsight, I don't know who I'd have suggested - should have made sure there was time to sit down and walk you through the most obvious challenges with students before classes began. I suppose I should apologise for not thinking it through myself, given the particular impact of the last two years on our House. I am glad that Aurora and her Raz have between them begun to make up the lack, but that's really no excuse for not arranging something more substantive and formal earlier.

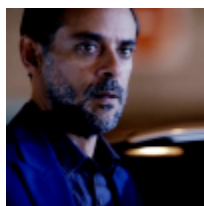
I do think your offer of lunchtime gatherings is worth considering. It is rather revealing what students will share when they are in a small group - I know Aurora's found that with her

office hours, and I find it in the work sessions in my greenhouses.

If you would let me know what else Aurora and you discuss (of relevance to student background, that is) on Friday, I would be glad to make sure we cover it only briefly on Sunday, but of course we'll want to fill any remaining gaps as quickly as possible.

I should also, I realise, clarify one thing. I know that Aurora's had her differences with Dolores, but Auri and I get along most excellently, for all the difference in our interests. While, yes, you should have messaged me to start, I have absolutely no concerns about her stepping in, and I have the fullest possible trust in her decisions, and her ability to bring me up to speed promptly afterwards on anything needed. If you do need a hand, and either of us is not available, Mina Grubbly-Plank is a more recent addition to the staff, and not as well known to all students, but she is also very calm when students need soothing or a friendly hand.

In service to the school,
Pomona



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-19 12:53:43](#)
(no subject)

Pomona --

Productive indeed, and thank you again. (And yes, about a month or thereabouts, though of course I've taught before, and have consequently had a curriculum half-sketched-out for years. Much more one-on-one, however.)

And of course hindsight is the best perspective, but perhaps it shows a way to improve the process for future new staff. The American Department of Magical Affairs has a custom I found quite helpful: new ambassadorial appointees and *chargés d'affaires* are lent a junior member of their staff as attaché for six months to provide precisely those bits of information that "everybody knows" and therefore nobody thinks to tell one. Obviously this is impractical for the school in exact form, since requirements of staff are entirely different and duties are

rather more fixed, but perhaps there might be opportunity to arrange a placement for a particularly clever seventh-year student? One who is not taking the new professor's subject, perhaps, to avoid appearance of impropriety.

(I know I would be more than willing to pay most generous clerk's wages for an hour per day or so of someone sitting down, conquering my filing, and being present to answer those passing questions that do not seem worth bothering someone with, but would be useful to know! Perhaps I will bring it up at tonight's meeting.)

Thank you, as well, for your recommendation of Mina -- we've not spoken more than in passing but I have found her presence quite soothing, and it's good to know she is another resource who can help in a pinch. Though I will hope most fervently the assistance is not needed.

At your service,
Antonin



 **alt_pomona** at **2012-09-19 14:02:16**
(no subject)

Antonin -

There is quite a difference, though - as I am sure you are finding - between working individually and with a small horde. (Or a large horde, for that matter. I still have no idea how Aurora managed the multi-year YPL sessions.)

Your idea does have some pleasing merit, but it's the practicalities that get one, as usual. While obviously students know quite a bit, there are all the details that they are not at all privy too. As you are, I am sure, discovering with our staff meetings.

That said, if your filing could use help, Aurora employed a student to help her with a few things last year, and that's been done from time to time in the more distant past. The trick, of course, is finding someone with the appropriate skills and discretion and the available free time. But do ask tonight and we can see if we could make a few suggestions - one of the

sixth years, perhaps, since they don't have exams on their minds.

Right. Next round of arriving students.
Pomona

2012-09-18 16:29:00

*Order Only Private Message to
Remus Lupin and Alice
Longbottom*




I found two grey hairs just now. Two. I turned them teal. But two! How many will there be by next year?

 **alt_nymphadora**

And there's a new line beside my right eye. I'm sure it wasn't there before.

I hadn't ever thought about getting old, really, but there it is. I expect now I'll spend the rest of my life metamorphing into a younger-looking me.



 **alt_alice** at **2012-09-18 22:30:21**
(no subject)

Many happy returns, darling. Did you get the package?

And I'm sure staying perpetually young has a certain appeal, but I've found that a few lines and grey hairs adds character. Then again, I don't suppose I'd feel the same if I could blink it away!

I hope you have a lovely day, Tonks.




 **alt_nymphadora** at **2012-09-18 22:43:43**
(no subject)

I expect there will be a bit of to do about it at the garden tonight. Songs and terrible jokes, you know. 'Bea' asked Remus to make me a special breakfast this morning!

Your parcel did come! I've never heard of those books before, but I liked the pictures on the title pages. Who ever thought those high-waisted robes were good-looking, though?!

Are they a series, then? Which one comes first?



 **alt_alice** at [2012-09-19 04:52:38](#)
(no subject)

I very much wish I could be there. It sounds like lovely fun.

And there's no particular order. They're just all set in the same general time period. I suppose Persuasion ought to be saved until last -- it has that sort of theme of late love rediscovered -- and I think Sense and Sensibility was written first. I hope you like them.

[2012-09-18 17:21:00](#)

Mid-September

In New London for the afternoon, a combination of errands and catching up with two of my sisters. It is amazing how quickly things fall into place after just a week or two back at school, really - I've been working tidily through my list and plans, and it's so satisfying to see things checked off.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

The weather, alas, not so much - we've had some glorious stargazing weather the last week, but I'm afraid it's the last gasps before the far more uncertain days of the fall and winter.

Temp - thanks again for rounding more of those up. And for the other set of used-book searching, too. Gilly - no worries that you had to cancel, I found other company, but next week? Could do lunch at one.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-18 21:38:52](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy and Arca Sinistra

Narcissa, Mum -

I've arranged an appointment at Young & Miller for half-three next Tuesday. (Sorry, Mum, but it's the the latest slot they had open that worked.) I do hope you both can come - if not, I'll resort to sketches by owl or something. I've already let Diane know, too. The planner meetings were interesting. More once Raz and I've had a chance to talk.

Mum - would love to pick your brain at some point. Dolores Umbridge is trying all the same status and influence games Auntie Alphecca and cousin Cally do. I'm woefully out of practice with people outside of family in that particular mode, and I could use your greater experience. Owl with details soon as I get a chance, and some specific questions. You more than Dad, but I've a couple for him.

In brief, I'm trying to get her to "You show signs of being a potentially competent adult" rather than "Let me run your life for you, dear." (Modest ambitions, I know, but I'll start there.) Currently trying the "Let me make unassailably sensible suggestions that allow you to look good" approach, but I can't quite bring myself to the

flattery that works with Auntie A. I could stand to have more options ready to go, but I can't tell if it should be firm resolve or perky offers of help on my terms or what.

Narcissa, it might amuse you too, mind, but I'm afraid our Hufflepuff bluntness entirely confuses sometimes. (She was rather venomous Sunday, and Raz is still fuming on my behalf.) And Dolores is not the most subtle player I've ever seen, which is less a help than one would think.

Right. One or two more notes, then supper. Mum, much love to the family. Narcissa, I do hope I'll see you next week, but if not, do let me know a good Tuesday afternoon, and I'd love to chat more.

A.



 **[alt_narcissa](#) at 2012-09-18 23:54:48**

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy and Arca Sinistra

Aurora,

I'd be happy to join you and that time ought to be perfect.

Regarding Dolores, I'm trying to recall the sorts of things that worked while she was Minister. Though truth be told I don't think I had nearly the difficulties with her that you're having. But then, in her estimation I was, of course, doing all the proper things, as wife and mother and general rôle model.

I'm sure she'll settle down eventually, dear, though I'm very sorry to hear she's got her claws out. What does Tosha say about it all? I understand you and he are already bosom friends. He's an excellent judge of character and, I think you'll find, a master at interpersonal politics.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-19 00:33:02](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy and Arca Sinistra

Narcissa -

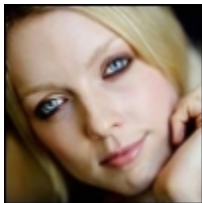
Oh, lovely. I'm so glad it's convenient for you.

I do seem to be having more than the usual run of difficulties with her, yes. Part of that, I suspect, is that it's clear I'm not conforming to her ideal. But I think it's also - well, it's probably no surprise to say that she considers me a threat to her rapport with students. Not that I've said a word directly against her, but then I haven't really had to - her own actions do speak rather clearly.

And there is a certain category of witch who seems convinced that I cannot possibly manage my life without their particular wisdom - there's more than a little of that with Dolores as well. While I'll tolerate it to a degree from my aunts and older cousins (though only so far, mind), I refuse to from her, and that may be a sticking point indeed.

Antosha, well. He and Raz and I talked quite a bit on Friday, but mostly about other topics (amusing embarrassing moments, largely, given the matter with Miss Lovegood last week.) He was rather sympathetic on Sunday, when Dolores messaged, but yesterday was rather filled with a pair of challenges in one of his classes. (Everyone is fine, but it took a bit of sorting out.) He has offered whatever help he can be, and I will take his advice most seriously - we just need more than a handful of minutes to talk it through.

Raz is, well. Restraining himself and avoiding her until he can manage his usual charming face to her again. But I'm sure he'll have ideas once we get a chance to talk. (I'm waiting for him now, actually, but he'll be at duelling club a while yet.)



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-18 21:56:41](#)

Private message to Raz

Raz, love.

Are you sure you trust me to plan this thing without making a hash of it? I'm not sure I do. (On the other

hand, I'm the one with a weekday afternoon free, so I don't know that we've a great deal of choice.) Can I also say how much I already hate the "You've been dreaming of this day all your life, you should have everything you ever wanted." First, I haven't. And second, what I want at the end of the day is you. Everything else is negotiable.

Anyway. One planner all about the most splendid thing, no expense spared, even when it'd be entirely wrong. Most of her pet ideas would give you security nightmares and we don't need that, even if I agreed with her tastes (and I don't - all massive opulence and the wrong symbol sets and all.)

Next one all about her connections and family - but she pushed one of the caterers Temp says we *must* avoid. (She worked in their kitchens briefly.) And all sharp and modern and ... I'm my father's daughter, and I don't trust her accounting methods at all. (I may have worked my way to the necessity of you paying for the thing, but I can't bring myself to spend money stupidly.)

Then the last, who I want if you agree and her references check out. Tallie Powell. She's young - five years younger than me - but she's worked for other planners. Broke off to start her own business this spring. This'd be her first big wedding on her own, but... she listened. Asked really intelligent questions. Thought about us as people, not some fantasy ideal couple. Had really done her research. (Well, she's Chimera's cousin, I'm not surprised by that part.)

Tell you more when I get back tonight. Gilly had to cancel on me, but Sage wants a word, privately. Expect I'll be back by eight or so, and wait in your rooms. (And you're likely to find me in bed in the morning, too, I think.)

Your Rory



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-19 03:52:25](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I mean, I'm not trying to get you to plan it all on your own, but I just don't really have any specific ideas, myself, except 1) Not too much spectacle, if at all possible and 2) No intrusions, if at all possible.

I'd say lets run off and elope but there's too many people who would never forgive me. Your parents, for one. Everyone else, for two.

I'm sure Tallie Powell will be just fine, and sounds like a good match for the two of us. Get the references to me and I'll follow up on them as soon as I can.

Looking forward to spending some quality time with you on your special day tomorrow, love.

-R.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 03:59:07](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

Well, and planning the thing is traditionally the bride's job. (Not that that part matters, but I'm quite aware it's the best chance to set out a little of my own style as a hostess in the best possible circumstance. It'd be stupid to duck the opportunity.)

You are quite right my parents would never forgive us. Or anyone else. Alas. I'll bring the references down. Poppy also suggests (sensibly) asking her to do a full proposal, and making sure it seems in order, which I'll do sometime tomorrow.

And time with you's all I ever ask, you know. Right. Teaching, then I'll be down to your bed, and that will start the day wonderfully. (Do go to sleep, though, and don't wait up for me.)

And you can have all my late afternoon and evening, barring the staff meeting. (Not what I'd pick for my birthday, but duty calls or something. I look forward to Antosha's comments, anyway.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-18 22:23:52](#)

Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Three planners today, not four, because the one Narcissa suggested was all "So sorry, I'm not available for at least a few weeks." Polite brush-off, but I could see what it was.

Anyway. The first was all hearty and .. well. Elaborate office, best of everything, and the grandest plans imaginable. Winged chariots descending from the sky, tulle draped cherubs, out of season flowers

individually charm tinted to match the attendant robes. Daft proposals involving falcons. More than that, I think a number of her suggestions would be security nightmares (and she just brushed past that).

The second one - well, Pomona, do you remember Briony Fleet? She was about a year behind Diane. Not improved by age and all wanting to push her friends and connections. Except that - well, Temp gave me a list of caterers I absolutely must avoid. Among whom were the ones Briony recommended. (Temp has a ranking system of the kitchens most likely to treat their female and muggleborn staff badly, and they're near top of the list.)

Beyond that, there was something off in her approach to accounting - all the language that makes it easier to hide skimming that Dad's taught me. And that was before she got to the bit about product placement. All shiny and modern and sharp, but entirely lacking any sense of history in more than one way.

The last one, though - you might both remember Tallie Powell, left school in 86. She'd been doing event planning for Harrod's, struck off on her own this spring. She's young, and this would be her first big wedding, but - she's the only who made me feel like she'd actually thought about the specifics. Us, as opposed to some generic couple. Yet. She is really young. And it's not as if I really know what I'm doing. And I'm quite sure Narcissa - and various others - will make a meal of it if anything goes wrong.

Poppy: Can I put off my obligatory annual visit to you till Friday? I'm free 3 till supper. And Pomona, thank you again for Sunday. Right. Sage's here. I'll be back tonight, if you need anything, though Raz is expecting me as soon as he's done with duelling club.



alt_poppy at 2012-09-19 03:01:47

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Well, if you were brushed off, it could only have been by someone you would not wish to have hired. A ridiculous way to conduct business.

Not that staging spectacles replete with winged chariots is any less ridiculous, mind. But that's a matter of taste rather than basic business sense.

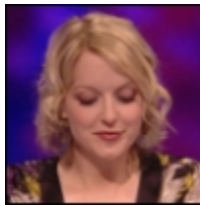
Product placement? What in Merlin's name? In any case, I'd say that following your sister's recommendations with respect to catering is an excellent idea if for no reason other than her direct experience of the matter.

So the last one was Miss Powell? Well! I do remember her. Bless.

I do see your dilemma. It would be lovely to support a young business witch, but perhaps not at the cost of one's peace of mind. I sense, though, that your instinct is to trust her. You might, at least, invite her to make a proper, detailed bid for the job--and see whether it all looks in order?

And, yes, of course, you may shift your visit with me to Friday. Particularly if you'll agree to tea, as well.

By the way, I thought it best to reply first to Dolores first, rather than appear to be conspiring with you on my answer to her query. Not that it would have changed my response a jot or tittle, of course.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 03:06:23](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

I am discovering that 'ridiculous' is perhaps the adjective of choice for wedding-related businesses and their practices. (Really. It will be funny when the thing's done, I'm sure of it.) But no, I quite agree.

On that note, I have an appointment next week to try on robes from the rack, with all sorts of codicils about how anything I picked would need extensive alterations, and so on and so forth. I'm rather treating it more pragmatically: a chance to be more certain of what I want, and then arranging exactly the thing made to specification. (Especially since nine in ten of the robes I've seen so far are far too ornate for my tastes, and the half the remaining ones wouldn't suit me at all.) Narcissa, thankfully, is amused by the errand, and at least if I trust to her advice, I'll look good in the end.

Back to the planners - no, quite. The first two are entirely impossible, I entirely intend to trust Temp's advice on catering.

(She's given me three names so far, and is checking on details for a few others).

But it is Tallie's age that's a concern, yes. And she hasn't nearly the business connections for all the various necessary things (well, everyone else seems to think they're necessary) yet. But I am inclined to trust her, yes.

First, she actually looked at the specifics - had a decent idea of the necessary size of the thing, some recommendations for spaces that would hit the right note (elegant, but not overdone), a way to balance the various obligatory events. She's the only one who recognised the complications of creating an event that might be vaguely comfortable for both some of my family and friends, and Raz's.

But she comes well-recommended too, through an odd connection. You might remember I passed a very pleasant summer with Chimera Powell in 89, when we were doing research together? Tallie's his cousin, and he says she's got his eye for detail and his knack for implication, and I honestly can't think of higher praise than that. (In contrast, what I get out of him about Miss Clearwater, whom he hired as an assistant after she left school, is that she's diligent, and he supposes she's learning quickly enough. Not unhappy, but nowhere near the praise Tallie got.)

Friday it is, and tea, certainly. And thank you for threading that needle with Dolores - both because I want to save the 5ths difficulty, and because I'm hoping it works her round to being a bit more reasonable with me.



 **alt_poppy at 2012-09-19 03:37:43**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Well, it is true that the leisure to laugh at it all is one of the rewards for persevering through the business of wedding planning. But don't wish for the season of anticipation to fly past--or lose all of its unique pleasures by pushing too hard at the details.

At the end, even if every piece of the planning goes awry and every detail falls short, the point is to marry Rabastan and to begin your life together in the presence of people you care about

(and any number of other people you also feel obliged to ask along as spectators). And, yes, if the decorative bits all go pear-shaped, there will be articles in the gossip rags, and people will talk, but you'll be no less married to the wizard you love. And you'll have stories to tell and retell across the years. Particularly the ones at the expense of any of your acquaintance with the bad grace to act sour about petty details.

I'm quite looking forward to it.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-09-19 03:54:52**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, no. And in some ways, it's handy that I can only really fuss at some of the planning on Tuesdays.

You are very right that the point is to be married, and to Raz. (And I said as much to him myself earlier today.) There's just so much idiocy people seem to try and attach to the whole thing, and I gather that's only going to get worse. I intend to fling myself on the twin pillars of family tradition and Raz's preferences. (Raz's preference is that we arrange this thing with minimal misery to both of us. He'd be happy to elope, except that's clearly not possible if we want anyone ever to speak to us again.)

I am going to rely on both of you, you know, to help me keep my good humour, mind you.

Right. Quick note to him, and then I'm teaching.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at 2012-09-19 11:55:50**

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Auri, dear -

Many happy returns to you, and I hope the day treats you wonderfully. I have a little something for your office - we can figure out when I should bring it up later today. So sorry I didn't get a chance to reply last night, but we had the usual round of first year wobbles one expects. (Overwhelmed by the work, and scared

they're going to fail everything miserably, nothing difficult) and it took a while to sort out.

Poppy has, I see, been her exceedingly sensible self. I do remember Briony Fleet, yes, and i must say, that doesn't quite surprise me. She always was one of those girls who wanted to know everyone's family connections so she could make use of them. (And there was always something a little unsavoury about - was that her brother or her cousin - anyway, one of our slightly more distant exam potion mishaps.

(You'd told me about Tempest's list. Is she still doing well, then, at her current place? You'd mentioned she was hopeful.)

I did also have a - well, productive - conversation with Antonin. He promises to ask you further about a number of topics relating to recent history, as we were so short on time. Do let me know if there's things you don't get to, though, as we want to get him up to speed as quickly as we can. And I'd like to discuss him and his class a little further with you when we get a chance, and get your impressions in more detail.

Right. I should wander to breakfast. Do take joy in the day, my dear, and we'll try to keep tonight's meeting short for you. (Well, ourselves, too, but.)



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 15:55:43](#)

Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout

Oh, lovely. I kept meaning to ask, as I do miss having something I'm trying not to kill. (I assume it's a plant.)

And yes, on the wedding plans - Diane sent one of those huge photographic books that illustrates the kind of overblown thing we're quite hoping to avoid. (Large wedding, yes, but surely that needn't mean unending spectacle? Or am I just deluding myself?)

As to Temp - she's doing a lot better, actually. Worked off her feet, mind you, but she's loving the current place and they're treating her well. For a change. (Until she started this cooking thing, I had no idea how many places treated their staff that badly.)

Right. Down for lunch, see you there.
A.



alt_umbridge at **2012-09-19 00:16:27**
Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

Poppy -

I do wonder if you might be able to spare a little time to help both Aurora and I with a question.

We had quite the conversation in the journals with Aurora Sunday night and Monday, but she raised several points I've been thinking over, and I wasn't able to catch you today. She did say that you'd mentioned something to her about our dear students and sleep, and that there were sound reasons that early morning activities had not historically gone over well.

Would you perhaps be willing to expand, here, so I can better understand the issues? And Aurora, I'm asking here of course to make it easier for you to share what you'd been thinking if Poppy has questions.

Dolores



alt_poppy at **2012-09-19 02:32:24**
Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

You ask about our students and sleep... with consideration to morning activities.

It's all quite clear in the research. (e.g., Balastiel, 1990; Strangeweale, 1993) Adolescents timeshift, so whereas at nine years of age, a child will wake earlier than her parents wish and is sleepy by seven or eight o'clock, by age twelve or thirteen, a young person will have begun both waking later and falling asleep later. This is not merely a matter of their interests keeping them engaged longer into the evening; indeed, studies show that it is a quite natural function of the maturing process.

Equally, adolescents require more hours of sleep than children do. Inconveniently so. The upshot is that at the same time that their

internal clocks shift, urging them to stay awake longer past the fall of darkness (and as their academic obligations increase, requiring them complete more hours of homework), their bodies also begin to require more and more rest to enable them to replenish their reserves.

Consequently, it is extremely difficult to wake adolescents in the morning. And if one does demand early morning wakefulness from eleven to seventeen year olds, it is more than likely that one will produce whole classrooms full of dullards, nodding off between sentences of the lectures they are meant to be attending. Worse still, studies of adolescents and accidental injury show a strong correlation between injury and insufficient rest.

I can provide a list of relevant studies if you wish more information.



 **[alt_umbridge](#) at 2012-09-19 02:39:04**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

Indeed. I would be interested in the studies, but I must say your summaries make it sound quite clear. (I presume that's Otto Strangeweale, not Marston, of course, given the area of interest.)

I admit I had not thought through some of the complications of the Hogwarts schedule until the last week or so. It is then your advice, I gather, that early morning gatherings would indeed be quite problematic? And I scarcely want every teacher in the school annoyed at me at once.

Aurora did suggest that late afternoon, between their classes and supper, might be preferable. (I would also be interested on references you may have on that topic, or on the scheduling and amount of exercise designed for optimum fitness.) Is there wisdom in that, or would you have another suggestion?



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2012-09-19 02:59:47**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

Otto Strangeweale, yes. I've had the benefit of more than one seminar with him on various subjects of adolescent health, and he is

recognised, especially, as our leading expert on the issues peculiar to maturing witches.

I believe, in fact, that our school timetable was built around an appreciation for the sleep patterns of young people. The first lesson hour begins at 9 am, and if I'm not mistaken, the older students are generally scheduled later than the youngest ones.

I quite agree with you that afternoons might be a wise and more welcome time to propose additional physical activities. If nothing else, it should encourage healthy appetites for supper even in those most apt to grumble about the fare that comes up from the kitchens.

As for the amount of exercise, there are, of course, issues that arise when still-growing adolescents push themselves too far--broken bones in both sexes, delayed or deferred monthly cycles for witches, stunted growth, elemental imbalances--but surely you're not thinking of instituting an extreme regimen?

I'll send you a packet of items on the subject, and I will be happy to answer any questions as you continue to consider the matter.



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-19 03:11:50**

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

That is most helpful, yes.

On the specifics - had you not heard? Though I suppose you might not. I had hoped to start a series of exercise sessions for our YPL students, lead by our CCF corps (Rolanda's graciously agreed to provide adult supervision when necessary.) Some running, some calisthenics, some flying work.

I do not believe it too extreme - more along the lines of the work the CCF corps were doing this summer, intended to keep them in the best possible fitness. Three times a week, I thought. More would be better, but I am aware of the complaints about the schedule in general, and we could always ease into that later.

It does look like afternoons may be the best choice, but I will think on it a little longer. Not being young myself, I should also take myself to bed, I think. It is a busy morning for me, and I am

sure for you both.

Aurora, do let me know if you have additional comments, when you get a chance.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 13:17:52](#)

Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra and Poppy Pomfrey

Dolores, Poppy -

I'm so glad you could be of help, Poppy - I knew that my faint memories of what you'd told me about sleep cycles had a much more solid form somewhere.

Dolores, I apologise for the delay - I was in New London and then otherwise occupied last night, and by the time I caught up, Poppy had clearly already been far more use than I was going to manage. I do continue to think late afternoon is your best choice, but if you've more interviews today or tomorrow, I'm sure the students would be glad to share their thoughts as well.

I did stop by the WEA office yesterday to drop off a book for Helena, and I understood from a passing reference that some of the YPL files were still giving your staff trouble? Entirely my fault, I'm sure - Felix and I did settle into some patterns I'm sure are obscure to others. My time's largely committed through this week, but I'd be glad to spare an hour or so this weekend to help, if you'd like.

A.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-19 12:14:49](#)

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Happy birthday, my dear. I hope it is a pleasant one.

And yes, damn you, I'll take whichever of those infernal novels you've finished -- how DO they make them so compelling? Objectively speaking, they're awful, and yet I *can't stop reading them* -- and will look forward to hearing the trials and travails of wedding planning. At supper with Pomona last night, it became clear that I should be forcing myself to meals more regularly, at very least to keep the various Heads updated with

what's happening in my classes, so I will be making more of an effort to achieve supper even if lunch is not likely; you can tell me then. (And of course there's the staff meeting tonight; I can teach you the game then, though perhaps after this week's setbacks I should make more of an effort to put my best foot forward and save the delinquency for later in the year. The superstitious fool in me is bracing himself for a third disaster, and hoping that by saying so I haven't just hexed myself; the students are doing that quite enough this week.)

At least my plans for most classes today involve nothing more dangerous than a lecture!

Wishing you blessed with many happy returns of the day,
T



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-09-19 13:34:09](#)**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Antosha -

Thank you. So far, it is lovely. (I will confess to you that I snuck down to Raz's rooms after teaching last night, which does tend to improve my morning remarkably. You will have gathered that mornings are not my strong suit, by now.)

I've five and six for you, and might finish seven by this evening: must see how my marking goes. And yes: they're utterly horrible, and entirely compelling, and I've no idea how. (A comparison of student behaviour there to student behaviour here might make for a fascinating thesis, mind you. There are ways they are so like our students, and yet ways the things are clearly written by people who barely remember their school days.)

As to the staff meeting: annoyingly timed, yes, but Pomona promises to help keep it short. Though I warn you, there'll be some conversation about your classes Monday, I suspect. (Also, I think, the return of the bullying, the implications of the upcoming Quidditch season, various odds and ends about patrol schedules, and so on.)

I am glad Dolores has not prevailed in her desire to attend, or we'd be subject to all sorts of "Just one teensy question" conversations and there for hours. (Speaking of, I am trying new approaches in

Hufflepuff status games, which seem to be bearing some fruit, but Narcissa advised me strongly to fling myself on your diplomatic expertise. More topics for Friday.) What *have* you been telling her about me, anyway?

Right. Few things to set up in my classroom, and then I get to immerse myself comfortably in wrangling the fifth year Slytherins and Hufflepuffs.

(Is one supposed to get a new dose of wisdom on one's birthday? I must say I don't feel much wiser than yesterday.)

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-19 14:10:34**

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

My dearest birthday girl,

As to what I've been telling Narcissa, why, only that I have found you most delightful thus far, and that having you and Rizzer both in residence has made being tucked away in backwater Scotland much more tolerable than it otherwise could be. (Related: may need to cut next Friday with you and Raz somewhat short; I am expected at St M's bright and early Saturday morning for checkup and have promised the rest of the weekend to Barty for a good long wallow. This Friday is still good, however.)

I am expecting to be called on the carpet, yes, and am prepared with my best apologies. Am already preparing alterations to the exercise's introduction on Thursday to quiet some of the fears, and I see the cubs in another few hours for their single hour, at which point I will be most reassuring. And I've floated a few ideas with Pomona on ways to quiet some of the fears long-term, including possibly sacrificing some of my other lunches throughout the week to meet with the little darlings more informally. Though of course I'd hate to burden their schedules further than they're already being presumed upon. It's just one teensy suggestion...

Hem. Hem. (Sorry, sorry, getting it out of my system in private.)

I would be happy to consult on best ways to defang darling Dolores, though I've not quite got the sense of which tactics would bear most fruit with her yet and you've most likely a better idea, if

you've been able to identify her approaches already -- I have thus far been pleading overwork and ill-health to avoid her as much as possible. My sense of her is that she's the type who won't rest until she's put her fingers in every pie around, so my advice would likely be to pick one thing she's stuffing her nose into and breathlessly flatter her into concentrating on that while quietly shuffling everything else out of her way or giving ground on the inconsequential things while standing firm on the rest, but I suspect her approach with you to be quite different from the ones she uses with me, as I am neither young, nor pretty, nor blonde. (Am I missing one of the self-descriptors you used? I refuse to allow the "not a brain in your head" to grace my quill, even in jest.)

(Mind you, it might also be entertaining to react to each of her sallies with a wide-eyed, innocent, "My, that's a wonderful idea! I'll go ask Raz", presuming your dignity could stand it and Raz were willing to play along.)

And yes -- written by people who barely remember their school days, and who have never seen America save on a map. They did at least get a *few* of the details of Old Salem correct, but goodness. (Come to think of it, if I look hard enough I might still have a copy of the travel guide to wizarding enclaves across America that the Department of Magical Affairs prints up, if you'd like to compare fiction with reality.) I did not spend much time with school-age children, but of course you do absorb some details when talking with the adults, and one suspects the author (authors) were aiming for 'mysteriously foreign' and merely hit 'mysteriously strange'. (And of course blood purity is hardly an issue there at all, not the way it is in the books, but when writing for a Protectorate audience, one must be careful to use Protectorate values, one supposes.)

Whups -- Ms Archer has just arrived for my open hours alight with an idea -- must dash.

Until later,
T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-19 15:31:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Antosha -

No worries on Friday next, I'm sure. For this one, the weather forecast looks miserable, which I hate, but does mean I likely needn't be up in my classroom until half-eleven or so. (Good thing, too, looking at my list of topics we should really discuss.)

The Hufflepuffs were somewhat reassured when I saw them just now, but please, do whatever you can there. And Pomona mentioned she found the conversation productive. As to the meeting - the fact you've already sorted things out with Pomona will go a long way, I suspect, and that you've plans for avoiding more of the same. (We staff are, on the whole, relatively tolerant of single incidents of stupidity that don't affect us much. It's the repetition that wears.)

As to Dolores, yes. I'll show you her actual notes from Sunday on Friday, but the problem there was her assuming she had a much better idea about the realities of astronomy practicals than she actually does. I think we've now dissuaded her (Poppy was magnificent last night, in journal comments), and I've offered the olive branch of some limited assistance with the YPL files.

And the problem with her is not so much quite the young, pretty, and blonde problem (that affects men more than women, I've found), but rather "Do let me be your big sister." Which, thank you, no. I've one of those already, and she's quite enough.

(I have not, I think, given you full score on my family. I do love them, but - well, Diane can be illustrated by the book she sent for my birthday, *Unforgettable: The Best of Modern Wizarding Weddings*. Name dropping and all about "the perfect small touches" and the proper social things. Diane's eldest is a second year, this year, so you'll not know her yet. My youngest sister, Tempest, is the one you have to blame for the *American Witches* series, and Sage is an editor for one of the publishers. Three brothers, too: Orion works at the Ministry, Storm is a woodworker - sent me the most lovely jewelry box today. Theo, well, we hope he'll figure himself out sometime very soon now, it's well past time.)

At any rate, if I can get Dolores to move into some other mode than attempted big sister, we will all be much happier. Because I am quite sure I cannot manage wide-eyed innocence with her repeatedly without losing my self-control and breaking into laughter. (Especially if either you or Raz are around. Wicked men you are.)

I would love the travel guide, if you've got it handy, but please don't put yourself out. And I'd wondered, about the blood purity, and assumed that was the case. (There's a bit about that Muggleborn Heather, in the fifth one - *Up Til Dawn* - that .. well, see when you read it. She is rather the butt of everyone's jokes, though.) And the various scruples from *Wand's Might* get entirely dropped - honestly, that was annoying, as I was wondering where Mercy was going with that.

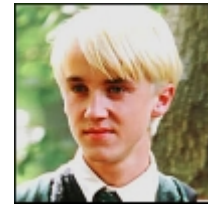
At any rate, later, I'm sure.

A.

[2012-09-18 18:27:00](#)

Nuisances

Lovegood, do us Prefects a favour: the next time you end up with a completely inappropriate book in lieu of the proper text, discuss the unfortunate mishap in private with the Professor. I've just had to confiscate a copy of *Intra Profundis* (the wrong one) from a Firstie. He (and you're lucky I'm not naming names, you-know-who) had the bright idea to tuck the book into his Charms text as a disguise, but it actually ended up being a dead giveaway. When one is reading Charms in the common room, they don't usually have three or four of their mates crowded around, trying to elbow their way in for a closer look. Meanwhile, I've handed the book over to Pennifold; she'll see that it ends up where it ought.



 [alt_draco](#)

While I'm at it, a few of you need to embrace a little thing called the double entendre. And I don't just mean Firsties.

All that said, Dark Arts is going to be brilliant this year. Loads more work all around for most of us, but work of a welcome sort. Thank you for meeting with us individually to consider the various curriculum options, Professor Dolohov.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-19 00:45:26](#)

Private message to Harry

Let me know how your meeting with Dolohov went. Did he advise that you go for practical?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-19 05:23:31](#)

Re: Private message to Harry

Yeah. He did.

I mean, no surprises there. Anyways. Raz really respects him, you know? And I can see why.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-19 00:50:07](#)

Private Message to Draco

Ugh, tell me about it! Someone got the bright idea of duplicating specific pages to make it easier to pass them about.

It's completely daft. And to make matters worse, Lovegood gave her copy away instead of sending it back to Mrs Brown like I told her. Honestly. We've got far more important things to talk about at Prefects' meetings but now we'll have to spend half the time on this utter nonsense.

But Professor Dolohov is pretty brilliant, isn't he? I haven't had my interview yet. How did yours go? (Was it really short or really long? I can't imagine there'd be a between for you! Brocklehurst and Corner weren't talking much about theirs, except that Michael said he came out more confused than when he went in. Fawcett said hers was really quite short.)



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-19 01:01:09](#)


Re: Private Message to Draco

She's entirely too feather-brained for a Ravenclaw.

And yeah, Professor Dolohov is well brilliant. He seemed to assume from the get-go that the Practical was what both my parents and I would prefer. We did talk for quite a while, but it wasn't always about Dark Arts - only I've met him before when on holiday in France, you see, so we did a bit of reminiscing.

Have you heard about what you'll have to do in class on Thursday yet?

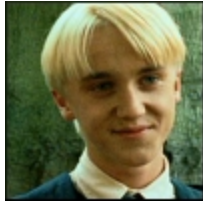


 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-19 01:23:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

You mean the hexing?

Yeah, we heard about it a little. Did Crabbe really almost hex the Professor's arm off? I'm sure Midgen was just exaggerating.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-09-19 02:15:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

No, nothing like that. I mean, he clearly set the Professor back more than some of the others, but he just kept going as if it were nothing. No doubt he's faced down wizards with more skill than

Vince, even if he does happen to be one of the most skilled in our year.

Oh, and Teddy made an idiot of himself by trying a big, impressive hex that wasn't allowed. Professor Dolohov blocked him and he was not happy. Might want to warn any of the more showy Ravenclaws.



 **alt_draco** at [2012-09-19 00:53:49](#)

Private message to Pansy

Did your meeting with Professor Dolohov go well? I have to say that I enjoyed it - we even talked a bit about the time we met briefly while my family was on holiday in France. I also told him about how I accidentally got Brutka his job when I got lost wandering around muggle Paris, hah. He knows loads about international relations so I'll definitely be talking to him more about that to see if it's something I'm really well-suited for.

He said there was no doubt that the Practical track would be the best fit for me, which is what I was hoping for. Even so, I fully plan to look into the theoretical side of things when the opportunity comes up.

~~And speaking of~~ Oh, and by the way, Lucius Lonsdale actually had two copies of *Intra Profundis* out in the common room. I find it utterly disastrous that someone so unsubtle was named after my Father, and I told him as much. Anyway, I gave one copy to Melinda and kept the other. I didn't know if you and Sally Anne had seen it yet, so if you want to take a look, it's all yours.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 05:10:01](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

It did! We were discussing books, and got to talking so long we went past curfew, which is why he had to walk me back. He really *listens*, doesn't he? I found it quite a bit more like a conversation than an interview. And a very pleasant conversation at that.

I told him about Regulus, and Mrs Professor Carrow, and he seems to think that the practical course isn't necessarily out of my reach -- that I could give it a try and see if it'd work. And I'm certainly willing to give it a chance. And I'm not surprised at all that he thought so highly of you.

Sally-Anne and I have thoroughly devoured the book already, and found it all sorts of amusing. We read the best parts out loud, or at least we tried. It's so very over the top, isn't it? And besides, I can think of far less complicated ways to have a bit of fun.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-19 17:04:14](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Definitely easy to talk to, and helpful, too - he even said I'm free to ask him about International Relations and that he'd share his first-hand knowledge with me. And you know, If he's going to make Dark Arts required for everyone then I'm glad he's making it clear that different people are suited to different tracks. We both agreed I'm for Practical. I'm glad that you'll be trying for it, too.

Was Regulus another of his former protégés, then? I gather from the multitude of Private Messages between them that Dolohov's all matey with Barty Grouch, too. That's unfortunate. I fail to see why people I otherwise respect seem not only able to tolerate him, but actually admire him. He's such a rat-faced bastard.

Blaise and I decided that she makes passion sound like a mental condition. Anyway, if you've already read it I'll find someone else who wants it - someone who's not eleven.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 17:19:48](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I'm honestly not sure what *anyone* sees in Grouch.

...And thinking about Grouch while also thinking about Profundis is just making me giggly all over again. Ew. Ew ew ew.

But yes, he said he did mentor Regulus back in the day, and that he also had some stories to tell about my father if I ever wanted to stop by to chat. And I know he must be terribly busy with all his classes and things, and he is important and has many connections, but I really did get the impression that if we were to take him up on his offer of tea in his office once or twice, he wouldn't see it as a bother at all. Maybe we ought to together? I think his perspective on Europe would be just fascinating.

I think that having you and Sally-Anne and Harry around to help will make it easier to take up Practical. Like I said, I'm all for trying, and if it doesn't turn out to fit, I don't think he'd take offence.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 17:34:44](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

And talking about Regulus went far better than I thought.

It was just... well, it was like I was describing something sad that happened to someone I cared about a few years ago, which is certainly true. But I didn't get wobbly after.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-19 01:39:54](#)

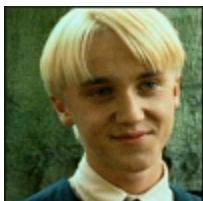
Private Message to Draco Malfoy

You've had a proper look at one of them, haven't you? Must say I rather like the idea of the lover being so in control. It makes perfect sense in a relationship like that with such a gulf between his standing and hers.

He had a proper closet of implements, no? That was ... educational.

But honestly, I couldn't carry on and read the whole thing. So much of it was ridiculous. And. It was so obviously written by a witch. So overblown--the phrases she used! Her soul fluttered? I'm sure something was vibrating, but I doubt it was her soul!

So. Have you heard at all who's been sloughed off into the Theoretical?



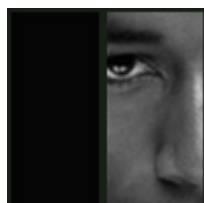
 [alt_draco](#) at **2012-09-19 02:32:24**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Are you going to date a halfblood now to get a taste of it? Of control, I mean - not the halfblood. You know, my Father once advised me to date halfbloods because there would be no-strings-attached and she would have no silly delusions of marrying me one day. I can't say the idea ever appealed to me, though. With such different backgrounds, what would there be to talk about without creating a good deal of awkwardness? There'd be nothing left to do, except -

Yes, I suppose there is that, isn't there?

Fluttering soul sounds like a mental condition, it does. And honestly, this sort of tripe's been written about millions of times, even in the letters column of the skin mags. This one's only popular because it has him doing full body binds on her and spanking her with his wand and whatnot, and everyone's well shocked that a woman author's being so saucy.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2012-09-19 15:01:11**

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I wouldn't rule out that sort of thing. I quite see the wisdom in your father's suggestion. (And I rather doubt he had in mind that you'd be expecting a debating partner or someone to make small talk with.)

But I don't think any of the halfbloods here are likely. Not yet, at any rate. I think that sort of thing makes more sense after leaving school. When we're not all eating in the same hall for every meal.

Yes, I expect you're right about the author. If she'd been called

Randy Reville, it wouldn't have caught nearly so many people's attention.



alt_draco at 2012-09-19 02:11:11

Private message to Madam Dolores Umbridge

Madam Umbridge,

I didn't want to presume, so I left this bit out of my public post, but it did occur to me... might it be you we have to thank for installing Professor Dolohov in our classrooms? This year's brought so many changes that I wondered if this was one that you had a hand in. If so, I think I can speak for both myself and my peers when I say that it's one we're all thankful for.

I'm much looking forward to the prioritisation of YPL at Hogwarts - at long last - and hope that we can meet soon to discuss my role within the programme.

Sincerely,
Draco Malfoy



alt_umbridge at 2012-09-19 02:24:38

Re: Private message to Madam Dolores Umbridge

Young Mr Malfoy -

It's quite a delight to hear someone so appreciative of my little efforts. As to the appointment of Professor Dolohov, I would love to claim some small part. But while I'm familiar with his work abroad - far more than most, of course - I can only commend Our Lord for his choice, not take credit. I do hope he settles in quickly, without further little missteps that can haunt one's first weeks.

As to the YPL, you are on my list for this week. In fact, I'd particularly like your thoughts on the question Mr Marvolo raised, about the difficulties of late-night astronomy sessions and early Thursday opportunities. Tomorrow at 4, in my office? Otherwise, we may need to wait or split our two hours together up.

D. Umbridge



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-19 02:38:37](#)

Re: Private message to Madam Dolores Umbridge

Madam Umbridge,

My mistake, then. You can understand why I drew such conclusions, I'm sure.

I'd be happy to share my thoughts with you on that matter and more, and indeed, I look forward to hearing more about your vision for the programme. 4 o'clock tomorrow it is.

Sincerely,
Draco Malfoy



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-19 02:41:15](#)

Re: Private message to Madam Dolores Umbridge

Excellent. I look forward to your cooperation and influence toward my goals for the year.

Tomorrow, 4, my office it is.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-19 11:56:01](#)

(no subject)

You are quite welcome, Mr Malfoy, and thank you and your classmates for indulging me. I enjoyed our talk, and I'm glad you have been enjoying your classes thus far.

I've turned up the copy of that journal article I could not locate during our talk, by the way -- as I suspected, there was a shelf of journals that did not make it to my office during unpacking, and my back copies of *Relations Internationales* was one of them. If you are still interested and were not simply indulging me, you may stop by my office one afternoon this week and pick it up.

2012-09-18 22:54:00

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




 **alt_sally_anne**

Justin was wondering if we'd planned to do anything for Hermione's birthday. (Which is tomorrow.) I have a gift for her but if we can think of a way to throw her a little party it would be pretty nice. She's been kind of miserable this autumn and maybe it would cheer her up? Only we need a place. Somewhere private. And preferably a little more festive than a classroom, though I suppose that would do in a pinch.

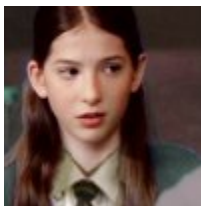
Do you two know of anything? I mean I think Harry would let her go off on her own for a while so it ought to be possible. I was thinking you could ask Fred and George (to come to the party, and also if they know a place to hold it) but also maybe just scout around and see if you find a good spot that's not, you know, already being used by a dozen snogging couples or someone trying to read that other 'Intra Profundis' book where the prefects won't catch them?



 **alt_ron** at **2012-09-19 04:07:30**
(no subject)

Do you think Professor Siz would let us do it in her tower?


What time do you think we should do it?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-09-19 04:09:23**
(no subject)

It would be risky, because she has a staff meeting. Usually she can let you know if anyone's coming up but she won't be around to do that tomorrow evening.

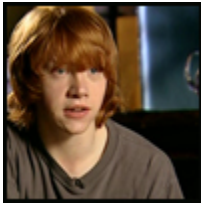



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-19 04:10:52](#)
(no subject)

Well, but if they're all in a staff meeting, that'd mean none of the teachers would bother us.

Guess it wouldn't stop other students.

One of us could keep an eye out, I guess.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-19 04:25:11](#)
(no subject)

Or, y'know. There's this room way up on one of the top floors. I don't mean the attics where there are music parties sometimes, because those are totally places people go off to when they want to- never

mind.

But there's a room that's probably about big enough for this. A little cramped, maybe, but it's all right if we're packed in, right? Just so long as no one barges in and sees Hermione with all of us.

I'll go see if I can find it again, um, after lunch, maybe. Tomorrow's pretty packed for us. For you, too, I expect. I mean this year's schedule is mad, innit?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-19 04:27:55](#)
(no subject)

Believe it or not we have a free period tomorrow before lunch!

FOR MERLIN'S SAKE DON'T TELL HEMBRIDGE. She'll find a way to fill it, if she finds out. (I'm joking. As IF you would talk to Hembridge if you didn't have to. Have you had your lovely two-hour chat with her yet?)



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-19 11:24:15](#)**
(no subject)

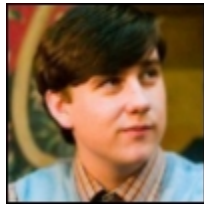
I'll come with you. With two of us, finding it might be faster.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-19 16:21:28](#)**
(no subject)

Okay, Ron told me at breakfast where to go. We thought we had the wrong corridor but we checked one last time and I guess we'd just missed it.

And it's PERFECT. I mean, it's absolutely the perfect size and there's a table and even a music player and some other stuff we might like, and I guess Justin must have mentioned where we were going to the house elves when he asked for a cake because it's even decorated! Brilliant. Let's say about a half hour after dinner, tentatively. I'm going to have to let Hermione know we're doing something for her because otherwise she won't know to ask Harry for some time off.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-19 21:46:14](#)**
(no subject)

Brilliant. We'll be there. And I've told Evelyn, and I know Ron's told Fred and George and Lee.

2012-09-18 23:24:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Pansy



 [alt_justin](#)

Good evening,


I was reading posts about the beginning of last year and I suddenly came across the posts from Hermione's birthday.

I say, it's tomorrow, isn't it?

Ought we to try to do something for her? Or have you two already arranged something I missed?

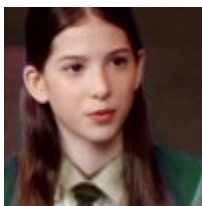
-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-19 03:46:16**
(no subject)

I have a gift for her but I hadn't thought about doing anything in particular for her. Maybe it would cheer her up some if we did.

I wonder if there's a good place to do it? We can't exactly take over the Slytherin Common Room.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-19 04:20:46**
(no subject)

My PM to Ron and Nev was to see if they knew anywhere, and to have them let the Twins know. Ron thinks we should use the Astronomy tower -- which isn't a terrible idea, but it's a staff meeting tomorrow so Siz won't be there. One of the rest of us will have to keep watch. I kind of think somewhere quieter might be better, Siz is awfully hospitable and a LOT of people like using the Astronomy tower for one thing or another.

Justin, you're near the kitchens since you're in Hufflepuff, can you see if the elves will make us a cake tomorrow?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-19 05:11:46](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe we could go to that room she and Terry used to study in?

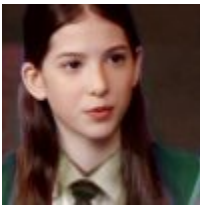
...that might not help her feel particularly better, though.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-19 17:01:45](#)**
(no subject)

We found the room Ron mentioned and it's PERFECT.

Nice work having the house-elves decorate! (Or maybe they were eavesdropping when Pansy and I were talking about it? I think they like Hermione.)



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-19 17:03:51](#)**
(no subject)

Also, we're thinking a half hour after dinner tonight -- can you tell Hydra?



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-19 17:20:12](#)**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Yes, I can, happy to do it, but I have to tell you--I did pop down to the elves this morning but I hardly think they'd already have the cake and room ready, what? Besides, how can you be certain that no one else shall discover the room between now and half-seven?

I mean to say, it's jolly sporting of the house-elves to do all that for her, quite lovely, but--isn't it rather risky of them to assemble it all so early?

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 17:21:33](#)
(no subject)

I think it'll be fine. They're smart enough to know to keep people who don't like her away.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 17:22:25](#)
(no subject)

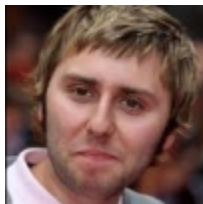
...But maybe you should remind one just in case.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-19 17:22:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh, there's no cake there (I think it would go stale). But it's decorated for a party.

If someone finds it between now and half-seven ... I guess we'll make our excuses and go elsewhere? We can always have Hermione carry the cake and say that's why we brought her along?



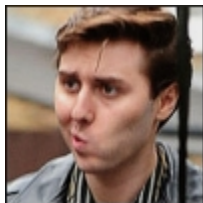
 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-19 17:26:36](#)
(no subject)


Well, I should say it would have done! All right.

I can stop down again after Creatures this afternoon.

I say, it's well clever of them to have done all that, though.

-J



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-19 22:46:24](#)
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

They've done the cake and put in a box for us.

But did you know, when I complimented them on decorating the room, one of the elves--I think she said her name's Bissy--she said they never did, what!

I say, you don't think the castle did it all by itself, what?

-Justin



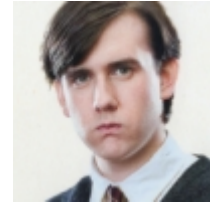
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-19 23:30:57](#)

(no subject)

Hm. Maybe it was Harry? But Sally-Anne and I were fairly discreet...

2012-09-19 06:52:00

I Solemnly Swear That I am Up to No Good: Interview with Professor Dolohov



alt_neville

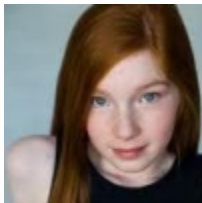
I had my interview with Professor Dolohov last night. It went okay, I guess. It lasted maybe ten or fifteen minutes. He was friendly to me, I was polite to him, and did everything I could to make him believe I wasn't really worth his time.

I told him I want to go into Herbology with an eye toward developing Potions ingredients.

Professor Carrow's name came up, and I said he didn't like me because he always said I was stupid.

I made it clear that I would prefer to be put in the theoretical class. He said it has more reading, and the practical one was 'more fun.' I said I'd think about it.

I've done all the thinking I need to do. It'll be the theoretical class for me. Even if I do have to read an extra bunch of ruddy books.



alt_evelyn at **2012-09-19 13:51:36**

Private Message to Neville

I'm glad your meeting wasn't scary bad.

And it'll be okay, Pete.

Promise.

You want to go for a walk after dinner today?



alt_neville at **2012-09-19 18:22:48**

Re: Private Message to Neville

A walk would be good, but it'll have to be a short one if we're going to go to this gathering for Hermione's birthday. I can talk with you more, so you'll have a little better idea of what to expect when he

interviews you.

I suppose he thought I was pretty dense. I was concentrating on keeping my occlumency shields up. Still have no idea if he has a smidgen of that talent, but I'm not taking any chances.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-19 18:33:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville

A short walk sounds lovely.


What do you think

What would happen if he used it on me?

I know everything you know.

He might not have it. And if he does, he probably wouldn't bother. But I hadn't thought of that.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-19 20:01:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville

Well, I don't have any reason to think he is a legilimens. I bet we would have heard about it if he was. I'm just being cautious. Besides, it was good practice.

I don't mean to make you more nervous. One thing I'll say for him, he goes out of his way to put you at ease. Anyway, we can talk about it tonight.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-19 20:10:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville

I'd like that.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-19 18:38:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville

And I'm invited?

To the party?


I don't have any proper present, but I could give her one of my books. Does she like books? And does she have a place she can keep gifts? A place Harry Marvolo wouldn't find?

I haven't really talked to her before. Even over this. Are you sure she'd want me there? Is everyone else coming too?

I'm sorry.

I guess I'm nervous.



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2012-09-19 19:58:00**

Re: Private Message to Neville

Of course you're invited, Lindy. C'mon, it'll be okay, promise. These are good friends, and Hermione's sweet as can be. You'll like her. And sure, she'd love a book. She can keep it in her secret classroom. We can give her one together, maybe.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2012-09-19 20:05:30**

Re: Private Message to Neville

All right. I can use that stationary Gran gave me to make a card we can both sign.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-09-19 17:48:53**

(no subject)

Hallo, Neville,

Your interview only lasted a quarter of an hour? I say, that's well lucky. I must have been in there for about three times that, what, but it felt ever so much longer. I suppose verbal fencing will create the impression that time is standing still.

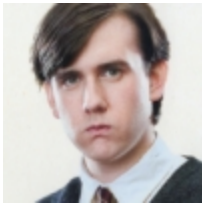
I can only imagine how our chats with Madam Umbridge shall go. I expect it'll be much worse, though; I will say that as dangerous as I think Professor Dolohov can be, at least he treats one like an adult.

I had been thinking of the theoretical class myself but after speaking with him--I've a feeling that not taking the practical section would be

a mistake.

I say, did he seem to push you more in one direction than the other, then? I asked him, specifically, how many people he had recommended take the theory over the spellwork, what. Of course, at that time he'd only conducted ten interviews or so, but he did tell me that he wasn't going to argue as forcibly with everyone about taking the practical lessons. I say, I was actually surprised to hear it.

-Justin




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-19 19:54:57](#)**
(no subject)

I wonder if there might not be a lot more pressure on you to take the practical, yeah, given your status as a recent defector. I guess that really puts you in the spotlight. Me, I come from a bloodtraitor family. They tell themselves that anyone who resisted the Lord Protector must've been stupid, and if they think that about my parents, I'm willing to let them assume it about me. (Never mind that my parents were both aurors, and they only took the best.)


I don't envy you having to deal with Madam Umbridge. She sounds like a nightmare.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-19 20:03:17](#)**
private message to Justin-finch Fletchley

I did hear a little about the last class you had with him. It sounds like you set him back on his heels a bit. You okay?



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-20 12:53:24](#)**
Re: private message to Justin-finch Fletchley

Neville,

Oh, you mean Monday's lesson? Sorry, I didn't mean to ignore you; I hadn't seen this comment last night.

But I'm really quite all right. Thanks for asking. If you're

wondering, Professor Dolohov has been extremely clear that he shan't retaliate against his pupils.


To be honest I think the person who had the worst time of it was Teddy Nott, what? I've no idea what he meant to try but he didn't announce it and--well, as soon as he shouted (I've never heard the spell before, it wasn't Latin and it wasn't Greek, though, what?), Professor Dolohov blocked with all his might. I say, it *was* impressive.

As impressive as our Hermione last night. Did you see that charm she cast? I say, it's well intolerable she has to practise in secret.

I wonder if she might use that same room from time to time. How many people do you think know about it?

-Justin



 [alt_neville](#) at 2012-09-21 01:35:03

Re: private message to Justin-finch Fletchley

Hermione was dead amazing last night. Just think: if the world was run the way it should be, the way it used to be run, she would have been one of my Housemates. It's just rotten that she has to scabble about in secret to learn what she can.

Dunno who might know about the room. I've never heard anyone mention it before.

2012-09-19 11:22:00

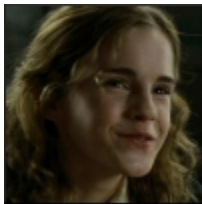
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo



 **alt_sally_anne**

Happy birthday, Hermione!

We're getting you a cake. Do you think Harry will let you take off for a few hours this evening?



 **alt_hermione** at **2012-09-19 17:34:58**
(no subject)

I'm sure he will, especially if it's right after supper.

You don't need to get a cake, though. Harry remembered it was my birthday and brought me some cookies, it was sweet.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-09-19 17:37:19**
(no subject)

Right after supper is perfect.

I'm glad he remembered. You can bring the cookies if you want but we'll still get a cake because a birthday is an excellent excuse for cake.

2012-09-19 12:01:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good: Private message to Luna*




 **alt_sally_anne**

We're going to meet to throw a little birthday party for Hermione tonight, if Hermione can manage some time off. Ron knew of this nift little room, it's by that tapestry of the trolls doing ballet, do you know the one?

Justin's talking to the elves to get a cake.



 **alt_luna** at **2012-09-19 18:02:01**
(no subject)

What a kind and clever idea. Yes, I'll be there certainly.
Let me know the time as soon as it's set.

2012-09-19 13:03:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am up to No Good

Happy birthday, Hermione. I sent Pig with something for you. It's addressed to Sally-Anne, and I reckon she can slip it to you sometime when it's safe.

I'll be thinking of you today.



 [alt_terry](#)

2012-09-19 13:06:00

*Order only: Happy birthday,
Hermione*



 **alt_gredforge**

We'd give you some fireworks to set off, but that might cause too much of a ruckus in the Slytherin Common room. Not to mention setting things on fire, and we don't want Mum getting hacked off at us, now that we're turning over a new leaf and all. But we also have another string bracelet for you, pre-loaded with some of our best charms that we've been developing. Good for getting you out of ticklish situations. We'll explain more when we see you and give it to you.



 **alt_gredforge** at **2012-09-19 18:16:26**

Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo

And hey, Ron told us about the party! We'll be there, and we're bringing Lee, too.



 **alt_frank** at **2012-09-19 23:33:32**

(no subject)

many happy returns, hermione.




 **alt_alice** at **2012-09-19 23:34:50**

(no subject)

Yes indeed, sweet heart, I hope you have a special day.



 **alt_arthur** at **2012-09-20 00:54:10**

(no subject)


The very happiest of birthdays to you, Hermione. We're very pleased and proud to have you as a member of the Order.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-20 03:23:26](#)**
(no subject)

Happy Birthday, Hermione.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2012-09-20 03:44:01](#)**
Private Message to Hermione and Harry

How are you doing, kiddo?

Offer still stands, you know. No pressure, of course.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-09-20 03:24:00](#)**
(no subject)

Wotcher, Hermione!

Did you enjoy your day?

I hope sometime we'll be able to celebrate our birthdays together. Just a day apart. (And a few years, but I won't count that if you don't.)

2012-09-19 20:28:00

Our planned exercise sessions

Dear boys and girls,
After some extensive discussion following Mr Marvolo's thoughtful question last Sunday, I have re-evaluated our schedule for the YPL exercise sessions. (Thank you, Madame Pomfrey, particularly, for providing supporting studies on the very best practices for our young people's health and well-being.)



 [alt_umbridge](#)

YPL participants are all encouraged to attend, and CCF students are expected to attend as many as possible. There will be small rewards for reaching attendance milestones. But more than that you will know you are striving your very best for Our Lord, honing and shaping your body into the best possible tool for his work.

Our new schedule will be 5-6pm on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. I do understand that Thursday overlaps the likely time for Gryffindor Quidditch practices; those affected will be expected at the other two sessions instead.

Thank you to all those who shared your thoughts, in particular Miss Padma Patil, Mr Malfoy, and Mr Marvolo.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at **2012-09-20 01:13:02**
Private message to Rolanda Hooch

Rolanda -

Thanks for stopping by with the details of the meeting - I'm sorry that firechat came through right then. (Really, *that* much time on social pleasantries? Aurora seems rather more actively well-liked than I'd have thought - Septima had some comments on that today. Far more inefficient than any meeting *I'd* choose to run.)

I do wish we could convince Minerva and Septima that I should attend. It really would make things so very much easier. I am sorry that the necessary overlap affects your Quidditch team, but it does reduce the chance of uncomfortable questions about favouritism that might arise.

And just a little note of appreciation. I'm sure I would find it ever so much more difficult to settle into Hogwarts properly without all your help. It's made all the difference to know that someone else feels as strongly as I about supporting Our Lord's work and building the strongest future for our Protectorate.

Chat Monday, again? Or will you be entirely too busy with the first Quidditch practices?
Dolores



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-20 01:47:28**
Private message to Aurora Sinistra

I almost forgot, dear, to wish you a happy birthday, as I didn't get a chance at lunch, and Antonin had your ear at supper. (What *were* you talking about? You do have a most surprising gift for making him laugh.

Quite contrary to his reputation, you know.)

I suppose that explains why you were busy yesterday, and not as available as your usual today. I do hope dear Rabastan treated you well - some lovely bit of jewelry or a trinket, I'm sure? You must be so delighted with his attentions, and him such a hero and so charming. And really quite good with the children - I keep hearing their praise of his demonstrations and teaching as one of their favourite subjects.

I would appreciate your help with those files. As you say, you left them in quite good order, but there are always teensy personal idiosyncracies. (And of course, not being Ministry trained yourself, you'd not know our little ways and standards.) An hour on Sunday - say right after lunch, if you haven't other plans?

And there is one other teensy thing you could do. You might know I've asked Minerva if I might join you all for staff meetings - such a window into the workings of any group, I've found. Would you be willing to chime in with a word of support? Only if you feel it's best, of course. It's clear from several conversations I've had this week that the others do listen to you to a remarkable degree.

I must dash, though. There's some matters to sort out with our upcoming events, and of course I've been ever so busy talking to the dear students this week and last. Naturally, I take most seriously the task entrusted to me of developing the YPL into something truly useful, needed, and most loyal. I'm sure you'll feel the glow of

satisfaction of having helped in the early days, once we have moved forward to the next glorious phase.

D.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-20 14:13:15](#)

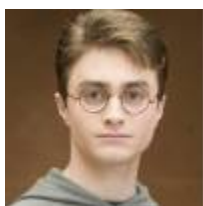
Re: Private message to Aurora Sinistra

Thank you for your kind wishes - it was a lovely day. And Raz was and is very good to me - you're quite right that he's wonderful, and a truly gifted teacher and guide as well.

Sunday would be fine. I did want to stop by the House Quidditch trials (never was a fan in my school days, but it's quite caught my interest). If we do after lunch, I really only could manage an hour or so, but I'm sure that will be plenty to figure out the difficulty.

As to the staff meetings - goodness. I'd not presume on Minerva or Septima on that kind of thing, though of course if they ask my opinion, I'll gladly share it. (As to your observation - well. I still think of myself as very junior faculty, especially compared to Horace or Septima or Bathsheba. They've all vastly more experience for all they're remarkably tolerant of some of my thoughts.)

Right, I should get ready for class. Sunday, just after lunch.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-20 03:12:48](#)

(no subject)

Thanks for changing the schedule, Madame Umbridge.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-20 03:57:30](#)

(no subject)

You are very welcome, Mr Marvolo, and thank you again for having the foresight and consideration for your classmates to bring it up.

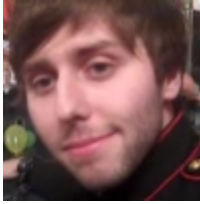


 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-20 03:19:46](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I'm not sure I like the sound of honing and shaping my body into a tool...

Has she been at that book, too?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-20 03:33:14](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Hallo, Ron,

I say, not you as well?

As far as I'm concerned we could never mention that particular book again, what?

I well realise everyone's titillated by the depictions in it but I say, the level of mania over it is reaching the ridiculous. (And what little of the story I've seen is rather stomach-churning.)

Do you suppose she means to start the exercises tomorrow? Or Monday?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-20 03:50:38](#)

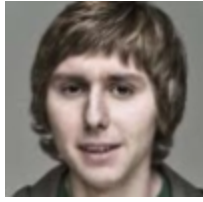
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

What do you mean, me as well?

I haven't read it.

It really is mad, innit? The way everyone's going on about it.

You don't think she does mean tomorrow, do you?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-20 04:00:36](#)

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


Beg pardon, Ron, the way you mentioned it I thought you'd had it waved under your nose. I say, good on you for avoiding it.

It seems one can't use any terms that are remotely suggestive without others going straight to the entendre, what? (Even Hydra just yesterday! I say, it was well amusing for a while but now it's growing quite mad, indeed.)

I've no idea if she does, but provided it's not a mandatory pre-dawn ritual, I must say I don't much care when it begins.

-J



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-20 03:53:03](#)

(no subject)

Oh!

Thanks so much, Madam Umbridge. I mean it's really flattering of you to mention me.

I know everyone's looking forward to establishing a regular exercise regimen here at school, particularly those people who may have let things slide and could use the conditioning. But some of our YPL students here have asked when you'd like it to start? Are you expecting us tomorrow?



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-20 03:59:13](#)

(no subject)

Oh, goodness. I suppose I should have specified.

We'll begin Saturday, that way there'll be a little extra time to explain how things will run. Now, I will want to get together with all of our CCF corps to arrange a rota for who is responsible for which day - or perhaps you can work that out among yourselves?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-20 04:07:12](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure we can figure that out, Madam Umbridge.

When you say 'extra time,' do you mean beforehand? Only because we got the notices in Prefects' meeting, to put up in the common rooms: all the Quidditch tryouts will be held this weekend, too. So I hope they've finished by then or we may have a load of latecomers.



 [alt_umbridge](#) at [2012-09-20 04:10:43](#)
(no subject)

We will just have to muddle through, I suppose - and make sure that those who are not trying out for Quidditch step up and take responsibility. I'm quite sure that there are talented and dedicated students enough to make it work.

Do tell me I can count on you, dear?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-20 04:15:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, of course, Madam Umbridge!

2012-09-19 20:39:00

Private Message to Professor Siz: Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday Professor Siz!

May your next year be full of health, happiness and good stars.

 [alt_cedric](#)

Are you taking the evening off or getting some observations in between the clouds? I know that several planets and Ursa Major are in nice positions tonight.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2012-09-20 03:44:17**
(no subject)

Cedric -

Thank you. Lovely evening, truly. (Plans other than stars, outside of my staff meeting obligation. Though there, Pomona has a few questions for you about the 2nd years and bullying, if you want to gather notes.) Look - you're one of the few people I want to show Raz's present to. You remember that talk we had last year, about underestimation being useful? This is one of those things. Don't share 'round, right?

I'd hinted, this summer, that I'd love some of his own work. And tonight, he gave me a truly lovely arm holster for my wand, with some exceedingly clever crafting work - on the magical side, not just the leatherworking. Besides a range of protection charms (not a surprise there), there's a particularly tidy one that will drop the wand in my hand almost before I think of wanting it.

He came to the idea, he said, after several times this summer where it'd have been reassuring (to both of us, really). If an hour of duelling work would improve your weekend (or your levels of stress), I'd be glad to find a good time - I could use more practice with it.

Did make me think, though - there's a number of skills along that line - Raz's leather work, my brother's woodwork - where there's steady interest and need, but it's more active than desk work. And they're things you can do as a hobby if you do play Quidditch for a while and pick up more thoroughly later. Did you get a chance to catch up to

him about the Quidditch? I forgot to ask him today. Oh, and did Cho catch up to you? She asked if I'd seen you while I was on my way to the staff meeting.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2012-09-20 13:47:59](#)**
(no subject)

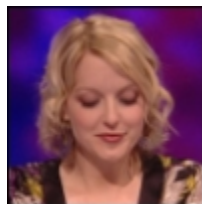
I can tell you had a good time last night.

Of course I won't share that around. The holster sounds brilliant and I would love to see it in action. Just you or invite Professor Raz and call it practice for Dueling club?

I've been thinking about after school stuff. What you're saying goes along with my thinking about something that supports Quidditch, even if I don't make the cut. I should try to talk to some of the broom companies this year or others who make equipment for sport, which could be snitch. I should also talk to the Matron about what I would need to do to be a team doctor. I don't know if I have the right NEWTs, or if they are close enough I could try and see if they would talk to me any for the apprenticeship or whatever.

I haven't had the chance to sit down with Professor Raz yet. I'm sure we'll find the time. I'll try and set something up after next week's class.

Er um I missed Cho yesterday, I'll try to find her soon.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-09-20 14:24:09](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, dear. Not too obvious, I hope, that my evening had been more celebration than work?

Let me talk to Raz, and see what his plans are like. I'm guessing sometime Saturday, given your Sunday will be full of tryouts? (I'll likely even come out and watch - you and Raz have been quite the influence.) Though thinking through, I suspect he'll want to watch the Slytherins, and I'll want to sleep in in the morning, so perhaps getting him as well won't work this week.

Broom companies would be an excellent thing to consider - I'm sure Raz can help with a connection or two there, at least for

someone to talk to. You met Gilly Chadwick last year, right? She's even less interested in Quidditch than I had been, but she does know a few of the broom designers because the research side overlaps with some of her interests. I'll ask her when I see her Tuesday.

Right. I should get ready to face you lot in class, shouldn't I? We're going to get started talking about topics for your year's research, plus there's a couple of articles from the most recent journal I want to divvy up and have you all report on in groups in a week or two. A very interesting one on that royal stars project, one on locational magics and precession, and one on some asteroid observations. It'll give you an idea of what a published report looks like, too.

2012-09-19 22:46:00

Private Message to Hermione Granger

Hi.

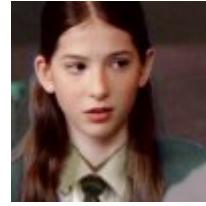
Hope you're having a good birthday.



 [alt_harry](#)

2012-09-19 23:24:00

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



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

So

I've been wondering

That spell we were all messing with this evening at the party, you'd really never done it before?

It's taken me two weeks to really get the hang of that spell. And although I think Transfiguration's my strongest subject I'm certainly not bad at Charms.

I'd never actually seen you use your wand before. I've been so proud of being cleverer than Padma -- or at least AS clever. But if you were a student here -- I mean, if you were allowed to be a proper student, and take exams and have results and all the rest -- we wouldn't even be rivals with you. You'd just leave us both in the dust.

You're really good. ~~I don't know if~~ I mean, you probably don't need me to say this. But you know, when you're in classes you can compare yourself to the others around you (and I do, all the time) and you don't get to learn in classes, with other students, so just in case you'd ever wondered -- you're REALLY good.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2012-09-20 12:43:52](#)
(no subject)

I hadn't ever done it before.

It's kind of strange to be told that, only I've been just doing what I can do, you know, keeping on, I find things really difficult so I have to study very hard, and then, I don't know, it never occurred to me that I might be better than some people at magic. I'm not really any better than Terry, well, at least, I'm better than him at some things but not at everything, but then the Sorting Hat did say he was a Ravenclaw, and that means studying doesn't it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-21 04:41:38](#)
(no subject)

I'd thought about trying to offer to help you, you know, but I think maybe I should be asking you to help me.

There are things you learn from doing magic with other students. Maybe we could meet up again sometime? If I ever have free time that Madame Umbridge isn't filling up with marching or exercise or 'lovely, two-hour long chats' in her hideous office filled with creepy mewling kitten plates, anyway.

2012-09-20 08:03:00

Private Message to Molly Weasley

Mum,

I think I have messed up in a big way, and I have been trying to figure out how to tell you the things that have been on my mind.



 [alt_ginny](#)

When I think about some of the choices I've made about my modelling and my relationships, my behaviour seems so shallow now. I guess I was just trying to be the popular view of what perfect is (and succeed at everything), but that doesn't make me happy. I feel I've isolated myself, become an outsider in my own home, and I am truly sorry. I need your help to get things back to the way they should be. I don't know where to start. I am terribly sorry for the inconveniences that I have placed on the family. I can see the strain in your eyes, Mum, and I don't want that at all! I just want you to be proud of me.

But I know that if I want you to be proud of me, I can't let lies get in the way. Mum...I can't do this anymore! I have been keeping a secret from you and Dad. This spring, I went behind your back and signed a new, year-long contract with Purest Sparkle. I am terribly sorry I did that without consulting you, and I am working on things to try to make it right. Since coming back to school, I have had a chance to review the things that I have done, and I can now see relationships and priorities that need to be fixed. I really don't want you and dad to be disappointed with me, and the way I feel right now, I think that you aren't happy either.

A fortnight ago, I sat down with Professor Sinistra, and asked her some questions to help me figure things out. I also sat down later and made a list for myself. I guess I need to re-prioritise some things. Like family. I have never forgotten the things that you and dad have taught us even though it seems I have embraced other ideas. And I know I don't have time for everything. Since talking with Professor Sinistra, I know that a lot of adults don't balance their lives properly, and I am having a hard time doing that at my age. I also know that I don't agree with all the things I portray in working with the magazine. Therefore, I have written a letter of resignation to Purest Sparkle, and shall no longer be in their employ after the Christmas season.

I don't know how you feel about all this, but I do have some guesses. I want to put my family and friends first, and I don't want to seem out

of touch with you all. I think I can be content with the decisions I am now making. I know what is most important, and I will do what I have to do to hold on to that. Is there anything I can do that would help smooth things over? Will you help me get back on track?

Ginny

(Mum, I also want you to know that a package of socks, hats, scarves, and mittens will follow in the next day or two. Will you send me some more yarn and patterns?)



 **alt_molly** at [2012-09-20 22:19:59](#)
(no subject)

My goodness. Ginny, I hardly know what to say.

Or rather, I do know what to say, except it's about ten different things at once, which is immensely confusing! On the one hand, I'm extremely proud of you for writing to me like this, telling me that you're taking a hard look at some of your choices, and for realising that they're not working. Yes, your father and I have been quite worried about you, and rather upset about the way we've sensed you pulling away. So to read that you're not happy with it, and you'd like to change this is very reassuring. And you're very sensible to realise that you can't do everything! My darling girl, any pressure that you feel to be 'perfect,' as you put it, you put on yourself. Your father and I have never expected that of you, and we never would, I promise.

On the other hand, well, I must confess that when I read your message this morning, I had to put my journal away for a few hours because I couldn't trust myself to write without scorching the pages! I'm referring to the contract, I mean. Ginny, you're a minor! Surely they couldn't accept a legal contract without your father's and my signature, could they?

I want to know how you got around that detail, but I'm almost afraid to ask.

No, I must know: Ginny, did you forge either of our signatures? Because if you did, I'm afraid that it's quite a serious matter. We will have to tell them at the magazine, and they would certainly be within their rights to terminate your position immediately, rather than

having you stay through Christmas. And I'm afraid there will be consequences from our end, too. I will need to talk with your father tonight about this when he gets home. I trust you still have a copy of the contract; your father and I will need to see it.

But dear, I'm still glad you wrote. As angry as I was this afternoon, I can see that it was quite a brave thing for you to do. We will work things out.

Mum



 **alt_ginny** at [2012-09-21 04:01:12](#)
(no subject)

Mum, don't go mad! I suppose... no, I will tell you all. I did not forge your and Dad's signatures. But since I am being truthful, I must admit that it did cross my mind. Several times actually.

When the possibility of a new contract was presented to me in the spring, I was all for it. I was told that I could work thru December under my current contract, and I was asked if you all would be ok with an extension. I told them yes, that you and Dad would be in complete agreement. I really didn't think on it much until the start of the summer holiday. It was at that point that I was presented with a new contract for us to sign; a verbal agreement would not be enough. I signed my part and told them that I would get you all to sign it later. I didn't want to ask you, but at the time it was really important to me that I continue working.

Within the last few weeks, I was asked several times to get in your signed portion as soon as possible. Just before the start of term I was given a deadline of the beginning of October. If I failed to do so I could not work after the end of the year. Honestly Mum, I have had that contract in my bag all summer. I have taken it out several times with the intent of signing it myself and handing it back in. But each time I tried I couldn't go through with it, and it would make me sick. It's just something that I cannot bring myself to do. That's one of the reasons why I talked with Professor Sinistra. I really needed to know when it would be acceptable to give something up.

I could never do something like that. That's why I sent them the

letter of resignation, and because when I really thought about it, that type of attention just didn't make me happy. I'm really sorry Mum.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2012-09-21 12:01:04](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Ginny, dear.

I'm so glad you did the right thing and didn't make a mistake like that. But I'm sorry that you felt you couldn't talk to us about a new contract. Yes, your father and I would have been extremely reluctant, for all the reasons you sensed and yes, I think we would have said 'no.'. I think you've put your finger on it. It's just not good for you, dear, what with the time spent. And I must say, it's not really a publication with a philosophy that your father and I want to support.

Of course, if you had lied and signed our names to it, well, I suppose we would have found out anyway: you could hardly flit off to London for photoshoots without us knowing about it!

But I'm very relieved that you didn't try. I think everyone has to come to a place where they have to decide what's important to them. Parents try to guide their children, but a good parent knows that in the end, the child will make his or her own decisions.

Ginny, I know this has been important to you, but I think you can see for yourself why it doesn't make sense for you to continue. You can be proud of yourself that you gave it a good try. I'm sure you've learned some lessons that are good for you to know.

I'll be sending Errol today with some yarn and a new pattern or two.

2012-09-20 22:40:00

Order Only: Private Message to Dora

Sorry we couldn't do more for you, luv. At least Ellie seemed to enjoy the party. Think she's forgiven me yet for spying on her all this time?



 [alt_sirius](#)

What I want to know is when we'll hear from Arthur about when you can start putting all those costumes and such to use. Ellie had huge fun picking them all out; it'd be a shame if you never got round to working through them all.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-21 03:09:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, we could start fancy dress nights in the garden if nothing comes of the business in the camps.

I thought about asking Arthur about it, but I know he's busy and he's thinking about all the babies first.

Anywiz, it was a brilliant present. And not just all the outfits, either. Poor Bea will never get away with any mischief now her mum's got her own sneakoscope and fib-finder, and a patented pair of eyes for the back of her head! I wished I'd taken those eyes to work with me this morning. I was cleaning cobwebs out of the lift shaft and one of those Unspeakable blokes came up behind me. Almost made me fall in, I was so startled.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-21 03:14:25](#)
(no subject)

Well, you might be able to take care of two errands at a time, if you could find the camp contacts while you're on an infant rescue.

Has work been getting much worse then? Usually you're so knackered after breakfast you're right off to bed. And I'm generally Padfoot all afternoon so ... it's been a while since we've had a proper talk about it.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-21 03:33:58](#)
(no subject)


Well, I could do if I'm asked on any of the baby rescues, but it sounded as if Arthur wanted to manage those with Kingsley and the others. Anywiz, he's not asked me yet for any of them.

It's the usual thing at the job. Everyone's on edge all the time, wondering if someone else is going to nark on them and get them sacked or arrested or cursed or something. And not just us at the bottom rung. I think everyone worries about it. But, of course, there's other reasons it's rough to be us. Like Unspeakables who think it's clever to sneak up on the scutters and scare them to death when they're reaching out over an empty lift shaft.

But it's a job. It's not like I expect it to be wonderful. And I only have to be there half shifts, and I'm home by breakfast. So I shouldn't complain.

Only, I did think it would be more... I thought it'd be more useful, you know? That I'd actually have found something brilliant we could use. But I haven't, have I?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2012-09-21 03:40:55](#)
(no subject)

I'm not sure what we thought you'd find in four hours a morning. Besides, all the incentives they've been throwing at you lot to grass on each other and everyone else in the building, it's not surprising the place is locked up tighter than ever.

What's maddening is that if there were any justice to the world, you'd have been able to go into any department you liked. Circe, the Aurors used to actively recruit witches and wizards with special abilities like metamorphmagery.

Just like the way our Hermione and Terry ought to be taking lessons right alongside the others.

It's not right and it's not changing near quickly enough.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-21 04:33:35](#)
(no subject)

I'd have liked to be an Auror.

I've never said that right out, I don't think. To my mum, yeah. In my head, when I tell her what I've got up to and what I haven't. But not to anyone else.

I took all the exams for it, too--since I knew all about which ones I'd have needed, living with Abstemious Grump. Always going on about Grump, Jr and his twelve outstanding bloody OWLs.

Sorry.

But I'd have loved a chance to be an Auror. If I could have earned my spot. Think I'd have been decent at it.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-21 13:58:02](#)
(no subject)

I've been thinking about all this.

I'd be a lot more useful to the Order if I had trained as an Auror. I mean, I know it's useless wishing. Only, I still could, yeah? I could quit at the Ministry, and Bea and I could go to Moddey Dhoo for a bit and train with Frank and Alice. Help them, too.

Only, I'm not sure Frank would be too keen on that. He doesn't seem to think I'm much to depend on.

And, then, I wouldn't want to run off here. If I really quit the Ministry, there's more we could be doing on our end, especially with Beth growing her business with us.


And I'm not really saying I mean to quit. We'd miss my pay.

So, right.

Nevermind.

Going to sleep now, I think.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-09-21 21:11:19](#)
(no subject)

Now, don't get too far ahead of yourself, Dora. I don't see why you'd have to move to Moddey just to train with Frank and Alice.

And I wouldn't take Frank too much to heart. He can be gruff but I can't think he'd hold any sort of grudge. Didn't he just take you up on the offer to go to the camps?

You should ask them if you could work out a timetable. Maybe early afternoons once you're awake.

Or hang up the Ministry. We've got Arthur and Bill there and perhaps this new mate of the twins'. I know you're disappointed about the lack of effectiveness there. But if you could do us better by training and becoming our head camp infiltrator to supplement Kingsley and his lot, I say that's more important than a few Galleons.

Most important of all - we'd miss you round here. And Bea as well. Visits aren't the same as every day.



 **alt_nymphadora** at [2012-09-21 21:39:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I don't know what I was thinking. It was daft.


Only-

No. It's best to just get on with what's planned. When we get clearance for the first trip into the camps. That's all.

I don't know about Frank. I mean, he's doing it because Arthur wanted him to. I've a feeling he's not especially looking forward to partnering me is all. And too right. I mean, what am I but a clumsy witch with experience as a cleaner and a mum? Well, and as a shopclerk and a waitwitch in a beer garden. He'd probably feel better hiring me to rock babies in the

nursery or to be the dinner lady at Moddey than having me watch his back on a camp infiltration.



 **alt_sirius** at [2012-09-21 23:41:48](#)
(no subject)

Have you talked to Remus about any of this? I mean to say, you sound a bit like him when he's in one of his brown studies. You've only had work experience as a cleaner and whatever but trust me, Dora, you're brilliant at loads of things. You're perceptive and you don't take any nonsense from people. And you've got eyes in the back of your head - not the ones we just gave you, either! - and good reaction times. Okay, you overturn things when you're excited or not thinking. But you fix it quickly enough. You've never once dropped Bea, after all. To say nothing of the fact you're fierce when it comes to shifting the unruly ones out of the garden come closing.

And quite honestly, I think if you'd gone in for it you'd have been a cracking Auror. You know James and I had thought about it, too, but decided we'd rather stay 'unofficial'? Sometimes I wonder if Kingsley and Frank wouldn't take to operations better if I had been one - but then, sometimes I wonder if their methods don't need an outside perspective now and then.

Well, we talked about that last meeting.

But Frank's - got his own troubles. You know, I think having someone to teach might actually help him as much as it would help you, and all the rest of us.

Would it ... would it help if I had a word with him? Or we invited him and Alice for supper to talk it over? If he's not keen to take on a student, he'll tell you easily enough. But I think he'd be chuffed. And Alice is also the best instructor you could hope to have and I *know* she'd take you on even if he grumbled about it. Mind you, I think it'd be better to get attention from them both but if you had to take one, Allie would be happy to do it, I'm sure.

And I mean it when I say I think we could get by without your pay from the Ministry and you could figure out how to spend

time at Moddey or they could come to Grimmauld to train. We can work all that out. All you need to do is decide if it's what you want.

2012-09-21 11:03:00

ORDER ONLY

arthur, bill, how are those papers coming along for the ridley contacts? I know babies have priority, but it'd be nice to get a start on it.



 [alt_frank](#)

tonks, what days work best for you again?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-21 21:45:58](#)

(no subject)

Sorry, Frank. I'd gone to sleep when you wrote. Just up again now.

I could do any day. What's our cover meant to be? Are we going to be inspectors from the ministry? or something else? If it's ministry, we ought to go out in the mornings, don't you think? I get off shift at half-seven, so we could meet up either at Moddey or 12 Grimmauld to sort out our plans, and then go.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-21 23:06:14](#)

(no subject)

right. that time would work for me. long as you won't be too knackered coming off your shift, that is.

we've done ministry inspectors before, yeah. it lets us be pretty mobile within camps, gives us reasons to knock on doors and ask questions, and we can always claim ignorance if we end up somewhere we're not supposed to be.

we also probably ought to sort out what we're going to say. about us, I mean. who we are, what we'd want from them, all that.



 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-22 00:38:01](#)


(no subject)

Ministry inspectors, yes. Bill has about half of the bonafides ready, so you can get started whenever you like. He'll be sending you both a packet. I'm still chasing down some of the locations of the names Ridley gave us, but I should have most of them pinned

down by, oh, say, the middle of next week or so.

I think Kingsley was going to try for one of the babies today, but he hasn't checked in yet. Haven't heard if there are any snags, though, so we'll just wait for his report.



 **alt_frank** at **2012-09-22 01:00:18**
(no subject)

right. okay.

tonks, how about we meet tomorrow morning, work out strategy? then we can plan to go out on sunday or monday for some visits, knock out two or three.



 **alt_nymphadora** at **2012-09-22 03:38:24**
(no subject)

That works for me. I don't work overnight tonight, so I'll have had a good long sleep and be ready for whatever we need to plan in the morning. I could come your way.

Or you could come here and see the trunkful of costumes the boys and Ellie got for me so I can dress properly like a wizard or witch of nearly any height or age or weight or style. It's sort of amazing, really.


I think they might have all played dress up a bit before they gave them over.



 **alt_frank** at **2012-09-22 13:27:19**
(no subject)

I'll come there. we can also check out those specialty items you were talking about.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2012-09-22 01:04:53](#)

Private Message to Tonks

I was thinking we might want to bring something with.

we only have ten to spare, but with the shipment at solstice and melli's work, we might be able to pass along wands to some of them now and follow up with the rest later.

not sure what the rest of the order would think, but might smooth the way to start.

steve suggested bottling up some standard potions for the people we couldn't get wands to right away.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2012-09-22 03:41:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Tonks

That's brilliant.

I wonder- we might have some things here in the 'specialty items department' (things we don't put out on the shelves for the public, if you take my meaning) that would be good to offer. Let me ask Remus and Sirius what they think.

2012-09-21 22:39:00

Watching the tryouts

Went to watch the Gryffindor team tryouts last night. Windy night, which made the conditions a bit challenging. (Gryffindors, I'm sure you're all RELIEVED AS CAN BE that I didn't try for the team. Other Houses, try to contain your disappointment. Of course, Angelina Johnson would never have been mad enough to put me on the roster.)




 [alt_neville](#)

There were a bunch of people trying, for Chaster and for Keeper: Vicki Frobisher, Geoffrey Hooper, . McLaggen And a couple of my roommates did! Ron and Seamus, good luck! (Ron, I had NO IDEA you were going to try!) Angelina seemed to be thinking about reevaluating all the positions: she had several people try for Seeker and Beater, too. Although of course Fred and George Weasley clobbered all comers trying for Beater.

Wonder when the team roster will be posted. Maybe tonight?



 [alt_neville](#) at **2012-09-22 13:58:21**

Private message to Ron Weasley

You need to stop worrying about being a butterfingers and dropping the Quaffle. And ~~hitting your head on the goal post~~ Of course you were nervous; it's expected. But that last save you did, when you stopped Katie Bell's throw, by flipping your broom over? Dead amazing!



 [alt_ron](#) at **2012-09-22 14:07:44**

Re: Private message to Ron Weasley


Thanks, mate.

Too bad that was the last one, though. Don't reckon I'll make the side.

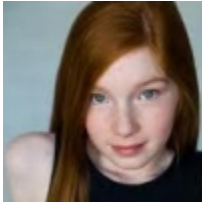
I mean, even Frobisher probably looked better than me.

No idea what happened with McLaggen. He started off really well, and I figured I was out for sure. But, yeah. No idea.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-22 14:08:55](#)**
(no subject)


She said she'd put the list up tonight.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-09-22 14:17:02](#)**
(no subject)

Good luck, Ron Weasley.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-22 14:23:33](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

Oh, say. We probably can't play today. I'm out with the team, and we're meant to watch the other tryouts together.


If you come out, bring an umbrella. It looks like it's going to let loose any minute.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-09-22 14:34:06](#)**
(no subject)

Okay. That sounds like fun. Even if it does end up raining.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2012-09-22 17:51:49](#)**
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*

Lindy...I saw McLaggen land right in front of you, where you were sitting in the stands. Then the next time he went up he was fumbling everything.

You wouldn't happen to know anything about that, would you?




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-22 17:53:18](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*

He deserved it.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-22 17:54:41](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*

Crikey. What did you use?




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-22 17:59:54](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*

*Confundus. And torpeo manus, to make his
hands go a bit numb.*



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-22 18:02:40](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good:
Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*


I think 'he deserved it' is the sort of thinking
they want us to start swallowing in that ruddy
Dark Arts class.

But the thing is, he did deserve it. And neither of us want him
to make the team so he can strut around and have people
admiring him. ~~Especially firstie girls.~~

Is it wrong that I sort of wish I had done it myself?

Dad would probably have set his broom on fire.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-22 18:04:10](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Seriously, though. You probably don't want to make a habit of doing that sort of thing.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-22 18:07:14](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

I won't. As long as he doesn't give me reason to.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-22 18:06:37](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

He would've.

I wanted to take something away from him. Something that he thought was important and special. So he'd know what it was like.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-22 18:13:28](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

He did look stupid up there. And crestfallen afterwards.

He's leaving you alone, isn't he? Because I don't want you hiding it from me if he isn't.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2012-09-22 18:19:02](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

yes.

he's leaving me alone.

I'll tell you if he isn't.

No more secrets. That means you too, you know.



alt_neville at 2012-09-22 18:21:04
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Good.

And yeah, agreed. It goes both ways.



alt_pansy at 2012-09-22 14:57:55
I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

I would've come if I knew you were going out for it.

How did it go, then?



alt_ron at 2012-09-22 15:11:40
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

...

Not really well. I looked a total idiot out there.

Dropped the first quaffle I saved. After I saved it, I mean, but it looked well ridiculous and everyone laughed. Not in a good way. I mean, I wasn't trying to get them to laugh. I was just throwing it back to Angelina.

It was sort of all worse and worse after that.

Ask Nev.



alt_pansy at 2012-09-22 18:11:16
Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

I'm sure it wasn't nearly as bad as you think, fish face.

I mean, you saved it, didn't you? That's the most important thing.

And you know that if people start laughing, they tend to stay laughing, so no wonder it threw you off your game. But that last save does sound brilliant, and I wish I'd been there to see it. I wouldn't have laughed, either. I'd have been too busy cheering.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-22 18:13:27](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Thanks, you.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-22 18:11:52](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Aw, that was partly because some of the people watching were Sly from other Houses, and they would have jeered at everybody. They jeered at McLaggen, when he lunged to guard the wrong goalpost, remember? And they jeered at Ginny when she tried as Seeker, and she was brilliant.

But that last save of yours was wonderful, Ron, honestly it was. Nobody was laughing then. Didn't you hear the cheers?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-22 18:13:57](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good

Thanks for saying, anywiz.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-22 14:39:25](#)

(no subject)

Hullo, Neville,

Ron, you went out for the side? I say, good on you! If you'd said something, I'd have come out to cheer you

on, mate.

I say, ought we to come out and watch the Slytherins? Pansy and Sally-Anne, do you plan to go?


-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-22 14:57:24](#)
(no subject)

Of course! It's so exciting to have Quidditch again after a full year away.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-22 15:13:17](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Yeah. I didn't really want anyone there.

Just as well, too.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-22 15:16:37](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, surely it wasn't as bad as all that, old man?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-22 15:24:26](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

...

Even the ones I saved had people falling out laughing.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2012-09-22 18:20:19](#)
(no subject)

We have great hopes for our ickle Ronnikins. Despite the occasional fumble.

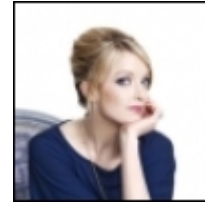
And if Ginny makes it in as Seeker, it'll be like a Weasley family reunion every time we practise.

[2012-09-22 15:34:00](#)

Private message to Antonin Dolohov

Antosha -

Thinking back over last night, you know, I'm very sorry. That was one of the least coherent explanations I could have managed. Some of what we talked about, over the projections, clearly threw me a bit more than I'd realised.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

And of course, we didn't actually get into talking about the meat of some of it: you've the barest bones, now, but not the emotional implications. (I know you can fill in a fair portion of it, of course, but that's not the same as actual discussion.) Kept me thinking, some of last night. (And goodness, realising how much I'd entirely glossed over.)

What I did mean to say, and didn't manage at all (beyond the above), was that if you'd like to pick my brain about any of the students where you're deciding between the theoretical and practical, I'd be glad to help - especially for the fourth and fifth years, I've seen them in YPL settings, and for all those who tried for the CCF, there's all sorts of other metrics and measures. (Some of them far more useful than others, mind.) And I've still got my own personal notes on those, even though I turned all the official ones over to Dolores.

I did think of a couple of other things you might find of use - can I stop by just before supper, or would you rather I send them down with one of the house elves? They include eight and nine of *American Witches* but also a few of my earlier sample projection stones. And something that might help you feel a touch less of the chill.

A.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-09-22 20:05:49](#)**
(no subject)

My dearest Aurora,

To be quite honest, I did not expect coherency from you at first blush, given that the past few years have clearly been a tangle of tangles and you have clearly not been given much chance to process your thoughts on each incident before the

next one came calling. You've given me a start, and a good sense of whose feet I should glue to the floor to demand further answers from; that alone is incredibly valuable. Thank you.

I would like to pick your brain, meanwhile -- the children will be selecting their own course of study, but I may overrule a few of them if I feel their presence in the practical would be too disturbing to the learning of others. (Mr Nott, for instance, is a leading candidate for being remanded to the theoretical class, where hopefully he will learn the theory behind why you do *not* cast curses that not only are not on the approved list, but require a dark-magic-specialist healer's intervention to undo, on your teacher in class, no matter that he has invited you to hex him.) At very least I will want to discuss those in fourth and fifth year who are taking the practical class with no background in the subject to see what methods they might best respond to -- though, the more I learn about prior instruction, the more I realise that is perhaps not as much of a disadvantage as it might otherwise be.

As for the rest -- come down whenever you'd like; I have been picking through your notes on the projection stones all afternoon rather than doing any of the marking I should be doing and I do have a few questions, and possibly a few suggestions, if you had not already tried and discarded the idea. There are also a few techniques my mother taught me, generally unknown in ~~Britain~~ the Protectorate, that might make some portions of the process slightly less exhausting for you, though I can't venture a guess whether they might affect the fidelity of the image.

(I will say it again, having dug more into the details: this is astonishing, and if I ever hear you downplaying it so strongly in my hearing again, I shall hex you so that you are only able to answer compliments on the work with "Thank you very much; I am rather proud of it, yes.")

In researcher's heaven,

T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-22 20:27:11](#)
(no subject)

Antosha -

Still, as someone who seems to repeat the principles

of organised reporting every other minute when I'm class, I do wish I'd given a better account of myself there. Ah, well. Time will mend, and as you point out, a great deal of it *was* pointing you at other people.

On the students, yes. Raz is out watching the Slytherin Quidditch trials (naturally, given Harry's participation), and while I poked my head out, I decided warmth and getting some marking done would be better for me. (And I am definitely staying out of public view while Dolores launches her exercise plans.)

As to Mr Nott - well, yes. There are reasons we didn't accept him for CCF, either. I do rather agree you may have an easier time with the fourth and fifth years without prior practical experience - at least those without parents to guide them at home.

Look, let me finish up this round of marking. I'm almost done with my fourths, and that just leaves me the 2nds and 3rds to do sometime tomorrow. Twenty minutes, maybe thirty? And then I'll come down bearing things for you. (Something for the chill, a couple of the test stones I did, and a few other things. I think I've one or two of the "experiments using different materials" handy here, too.)

As to your last, well. Few enough people think to compliment it, mind. Barring you. I'd certainly be glad to listen to ideas, and I'd love anything that improved the process for the full sky images - they take so long and require such recovery time that they're very hard to do, even though they're extremely useful.

A.

[2012-09-22 19:13:00](#)

Private Message to Aurora Sinistra



I enjoyed our time together yesterday.

Wanted to let you know that readings on the samples I took are all quite normal. On the low end of normal for the blood and hair vitality analyses, which I take to be stress- and sleep-related, but not dire. There are signs, in fact, of improvement there.

 **[alt_poppy](#)**

Aurora, did I guess correctly that you were debating a question about sampling for susceptibility to things related to the nuptial magics? Forgive me if I'm pressing into matters you did not intend, but I had the idea this might have been on your mind, though I thought I'd wait to ask until we'd seen for certain there was nothing more pressing we might need to address.

I'm happy to say that I've not been called upon to patch up any of the would-be Quidditchers today. Nor have I yet heard of any mishaps with tonight's first YPL calisthenics session.

I trust you've had some peace for your marking this afternoon. Or did you brave the weather to see your House trials?



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-09-23 02:52:16](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, Poppy, I did too. Such a relief to be able to talk to someone sensible about the wedding planning - and thanks for the thoughts on the robes. Gives me a bit more confidence to push my preference for simplicity

on Tuesday.

I'm glad to hear there's improvement, too - and I am trying to do better with the sleep, truly. (And I have a relaxing evening planned, once Raz is done with his patrolling.)

As to the afternoon, I poked my head out to the Slytherin trials briefly, but left Raz there watching and went back to my marking, then another hour with ~~Antosh Antonin~~ Antosha, catching up on some things we didn't manage last night. (I think he's now at least got an idea of where the sore spots might lie from the last few years) And he was very complimentary about my projections project.

Startlingly so, actually. I do plan to go watch the Hufflepuff trials tomorrow afternoon. (How could I not?)

On the wedding charms - well, yes. That's at the back of my mind. Front, too. And all the other questions. We talked, last year, about the castle effects, and I find myself more curious there as well (not that I'm interested in trying for children any time soon, but... you do hear the stories about magics interacting, and this place has odder and far more forgotten ones than most places.)

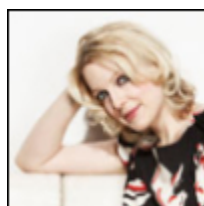


 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-24 00:54:19](#)
(no subject)

I missed your reply here, I'm sorry. I suppose it fell in between last evening's rash of nightmares and today's rashes.

I'm going to have to mention these allergies I'm seeing to the Heads, though I do hate to suggest ailments because then there are always twice or three times as many presenting with nothing more than worry worts (which are, of course, bothersome in their own right, but so entirely unnecessary).

As for the castle's magic, that is a proper matter for mulling over. I'm not sure we'll come to any certainty with respect to it, but I have a few ideas where we might begin looking for what information may exist. I'll have a word with Irma about that.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-24 01:07:02](#)
(no subject)

Oh, goodness. I wondered, rather. I'd heard about some of the nightmares, this afternoon. I really should have thought about the implications myself: had a touch of - deja vu's not quite the right word - when Raz took me to that Falcons match last February. (Is it a first that we've had a set of Quidditch trials without major injury? I didn't see anything amiss at the Hufflepuff trials this afternoon, and you said last night it was quite clear sailing. Just the one bloody nose, and Rolanda put that right immediately.)

Do mention the allergies, if you're seeing that many of them. Who knows, it might help you sort out a pattern, if there is one.

On the magic, quite. There's some old family lore about it, that gives some hints, and Mum's offered to see about her side of the family, where more of that comes from. Perhaps you and I and Irma together might sit down and have a talk?

On the rest of it, what *are* the tests I ought to be considering? I frankly don't trust the Wizard Repopulation Office advice at all, though they sent me a perky reminder note that I could set up an appointment any time at my convenience. (And I suppose I'll have to at some point, just to get them to stop bothering me.) We've a fair bit of family data that suggests that if we use the family binding - which has some complexities, but - we tend to neither miscarry nor have Squibs, and it helps with easy pregnancies. But Raz and I are still discussing the details, and I suspect we might be for a bit yet.



 **alt_poppy** at [2012-09-24 16:05:22](#)
(no subject)

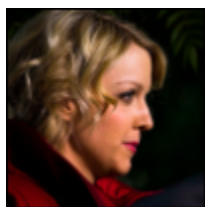
Irma said she'll be happy to help. I rather think she relishes the prospect of digging back in the archives about the building. Of course, it's also true that she's jealous of them, so one needs to tread carefully with her when begging access to the collection, but I think in this case her pleasure in research and her curiosity about the topic--her eyes lit up at the question--will win out and pave our way.

There are a whole host of studies one might do, and a handful that the Ministry insists on (or strongly encourages). I can help you sort out the ones most worth submitting to.

I should think in general, you might wish to do some capatibility screening (for fertility, vigour in conception, magical blending and transference, likelihood of squibbism, etc.) There are ways to anticipate the efficacy of various binding rituals, which I think you might find particularly worth doing--it is sometimes the case that spells woven to encourage fertility have quite the opposite effect simply because of the unique interplay of magic between a couple.

In any case, I cannot advise you strongly enough to resist any solicitation from the WRO to submit to their medistaffers for any physical examinations. Plead the constraints of your duties. We

can do all of the studies they require right here, and no need to give a bureaucrat free reign with your person and magic.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2012-09-24 17:50:59**

(no subject)

Oh, excellent - I didn't get a chance to stop up and see her after lunch, Miles Bletchley had a question. And I had hoped the idea - and the chance to see some of the family notes - might make her amiable about it.

(And I have a few other sources if we need things not here - I half mentioned it to Chimera, when he asked me a question by owl on Friday, and he'd be glad to help out. Also very curious, actually. He's horribly busy at the moment, even with Miss Clearwater's help, but suspects he could work me in, given the lead time. And he does have access to some collections of private papers that would be hard to get to otherwise.)

As to the studies, please, do, let's sit down sometime sooner than later, and figure it out? Mum's promised the final round of notes on the family charms tomorrow. (There's a bit - well, what Raz and I are still wrangling about is that Dad's side of the family has a set that involve a blood bond. On the other hand, there are a whole set of linked family charms that are far easier and more stable and very effective if you do it that way. Given the family data, it's what I'd prefer, but Raz is still mulling over some of the implications.)

As to the WRO - oh, quite. And I hadn't even thought of it that way, the having to give them things. You're quite right that's worth avoiding. I suppose I will have to submit to a lecture, but otherwise, I'll be very clear with them. Perhaps I should arrange an appointment soon, so I can get through the lecture under aegis of "Do tell me what I should consider, and I'll make an appointment once Raz and I have talked it over."

Right. Let me go prep for class. I'll be in New London again tomorrow - do you need anything from there, while I think to ask? I'll have a bit of time for some quick errands before I submit to trying on robes.

2012-09-22 20:39:00

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy and
Barty Crouch, Jr*



Dearests,

After the week I have had, including putting my foot in it at least once and barely avoiding putting my foot in it several times over, I am afraid I must throw myself upon your collective mercies and beg for the extended bout of What The Bloody Hell I've Missed, including but not limited to the details of:

 [alt_antonin](#)

-- what the hell happened to Reg (Miss Padma Patil fed me a story that was more confused than not, with extensive backtracking the moment she realised Reg was one of mine, but from the impression I got, I believe I may have acquired a debt there);

-- a story I have half-heard of you dueling with Alecto, Lyoushka, and more specifics of her and Amycus's decline (as it is proving more relevant than I'd thought);

-- a rather garbled tale of your apparent death and resurrection, Barty, and who the hell would dare to strike against you (you can imagine the fierceness of my reaction when I heard; that is the sort of thing that should have prompted a message, for the record, dear one);

-- the true stories behind Warrington's and Travers's demise -- was not at all surprised to hear Warrington had displeased Our Lord (though must confess, was slightly shocked at the public nature) -- but Mal?

Realise this is undoubtedly opening a box of curses and could be best handled in person, rather than through journal -- Lyoushka, I believe you will be up the castle this week for a Governors' meeting? Would be most appreciative if I could claim a few hours of your time after. And Barty, I will be in New London this weekend, as I've mentioned, and would take it as a kindness if I could lay claim to your Saturday afternoon at very least.

Certain I could come up with some way to show my gratitude,
T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2012-09-23 01:02:18](#)
(no subject)

Wish I could say the reports of my supposed death were whole-cloth fabrications of the scandal sheets, but the truth is rather muddier. Can only claim I was otherwise engaged when I ought to have been sending you reassurances.

It was thoughtless, Toshenka. I'm sorry.

Suppose I didn't realise you'd find it so affecting. Given that you know it false.

Will accept whatever reprimand you see fit to impose. When I see you.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-23 01:30:12](#)
(no subject)

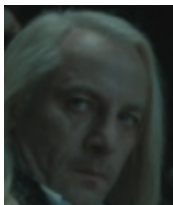
I'm not angry, dearest, truly. It was just a shock to hear; of course I know you to be alive and well now, but --

Well. It made me think about what it would have meant if it had been true. ~~And of course, with Reg, and after last night's talk with Aurora~~

~~A teacher should not outlive his~~

~~I would likely burn worlds to avenge you, you know~~

It shook me to hear, is all. I'm very glad to find you alive and well on the other side of it.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2012-09-23 02:00:46](#)
(no subject)

To fully report and elucidate on all these topics, Tosha, would take much longer than a single evening's discourse!

Interested to know what Miss Patil imparted. Her family were told

some of the necessary details following her brother's unfortunate demise but of course, the reality was more convoluted than they could know (or indeed ought ever to know, in truth). Reg had instruction from Our Lord but exercised ... questionable judgement ... in his choice of sacrifice. (That said, am exceedingly grateful you chose to ask me and Barty directly, and not Narcissa. The wound is still raw at times, despite the length of years since his disappearance. Even this much detail is more than she has ever dared ask, though surely she suspects more than she admits.)

Regarding Alecto, she insinuated to Miss Parkinson that she played a direct rôle in Tony's death, at Leicester. Then at my next visit to the school, she took it into her head to ambush me. Frankly, it was an embarrassment to have been caught out so off-guard. Have a new scar as a reminder but otherwise it was nothing.

For Amycus, in all honesty, one word will likely suffice to explain: Drink.

Barty can tell you his when he is in the mood (roughly, a few days after 31st November).

So far as I am aware, Tosha, Warrington had not crossed Our Lord in any way. The Games were Well. Best save *that* for a conversation over a bottle of the Scotch you keep reminding me that I owe you. Travers, even more so.

Is it Raz who has been attempting to fill in the missing chapters for you, *bratishka*? Should have thought he could give you an accurate accounting of the siblings Carrow and other topics.

(Incidentally, has he also apprised you of the events that centred around Bella and Rod's daughter during her first year?)



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-23 03:40:02**
(no subject)

I've heard some of the details of Miss Lestrangle's travails, but not all. I have her down for some one-on-one time this week (interviewing each of the little darlings to determine which placement they'd be best suited for) -- with luck I will be able to get a better sense of her after that. Though thus far I have found her an exceedingly self-contained young thing -- well, with Bella for a mother, one can

hardly blame her.

I've been collecting bits and scraps of the story from multiple directions, actually. Rizzer's been a help, of course, but there are bits of the story he can't fill in, having apparently been unconscious for large chunks of it. And Minerva -- well. Pomona Sprout has been most helpful in terms of factual detail as it pertains to the school, actually, though of course parsing her version of the story requires removing the overlay of moral outrage. And of course she can't give me the other end of the wand. Still, I would be a fool not to probe you for the detail: you see the interconnections more clearly than anyone else might.

Miss Patil -- I went into each interview asking the students for any prior experiences they've had with the Arts, good and bad. She told me of her brother's death, and that it had been at Regulus's hand, and intimated she had arrived at the conclusion Regulus was one of those for whom practise of the Arts was more damaging than uplifting, or that he had fallen into the same madness his brother had. (She stopped herself quickly when she realised what she was saying; believe I may have given too much of my reaction away, or I might have gotten more useful information out of her.) Am not surprised in the least to hear Reg was operating on orders -- I cannot imagine why he would have done so otherwise -- but if he made poor choices (and he obviously did) ... well. I must take at least some of the blame, I suppose, for that and for his other failures.

I will not mention it to Narcissa, and thank you for the warning.

Regarding the Games: am most interested in that conversation, yes. I can imagine half a dozen possible explanations. Some more ... comforting than others. Am most interested in your thoughts. ~~There has to be a reason for~~

I am exceptionally glad Alecto did not get the better of you.

2012-09-23 12:37:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good



 [alt_justin](#)

Hullo, all,

Sorry I didn't join you for the try-outs yesterday, what? I decided to stay in and do some homework so I'd be able to go support the Badgers today.

We're heading down just after luncheon. (Zach and Bobby are hoping to make the side; they've already gone down to get their kit together.)

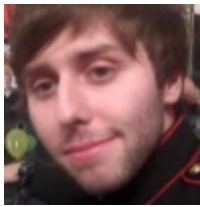
Shall I see any of you there? Or have you made the same decision as mine in reverse?

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-23 16:41:33**
(no subject)

Sue is going to try out this year, isn't she? I definitely want to see her. I'll probably leave after she's done, though.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-23 16:44:57**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, Sue as well! I do hope she makes the side.

Is that how these things go? I've never seen a Quidditch trial. What was the order of procedure yesterday?

Were there any players you think will definitely be added to Slytherin?

-Justin




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-23 16:59:34](#)
(no subject)

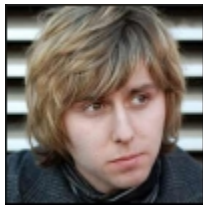
Vince and Greg went out for beaters this year, and they weren't half bad from what I could tell. So they might end up making the team. I was a bit surprised that Pucey made Letchley try out, because he was reserve Keeper last time, but sometimes reserve players are automatically in and sometimes new captains like to shake things up a bit.


It was nice to see Draco and Harry flying again. They really do belong in the air.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-23 17:01:42](#)
(no subject)

And really, it changes from captain to captain. Sometimes they'll just do drills, other times they'll have a mock game to see how people fit, and switch people around as needed. It also depends on how many people are trying for each position, too.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-23 17:06:03](#)
Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne

Oh, I say - have you heard about the Gryffindors' roster?

Ron didn't seem happy with his performance, what? I should hate to ask right out in case his hopes have been dashed, but I admit I'm well curious.

-Justin



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-23 17:12:37](#)
Re: Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne

I haven't, which makes me think that he hasn't got it. Perhaps we'll find out at the Hufflepuff trials? After all, they'll probably have the entire side sitting together.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-23 17:19:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne

Is that traditional? Because if so, I think you can stop worrying we've got condolences to give instead of congratulations, what?

He's sitting in the Gryffindor section with his sister and Fred and George. I didn't think anything of it but do you suppose that means he really *did* make the side?

I say, he was so critical of himself it's not surprising we thought otherwise. Perhaps he was simply far *too* critical, what?

-J



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-23 17:36:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne

Hang on, I just got here.

Well, Johnson is sitting with them and McLaggen is nowhere in sight. I'll wait to cheer until we hear officially, but yes, that's promising.

Good on him.

[2012-09-24 08:08:00](#)

Order only: Bronwyn Gwyneth

I'm in Cardiff, Wales, to bring Bronwyn Griffiths to Moddey Dhoo. And a merry chase I've had of it the past three days, too.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)**


Arthur, the state of records here is appalling. Bronwyn's parents are nowhere to be found, but after three days of hard searching, I found Bronwyn herself. I admit I made a mistake: I asked to see Bronwyn's mother, and was introduced to Morgan Griffiths, so I assumed she was the mother. I launched into my explanation about the Sanctuary and only found out belatedly that she's Bronwyn's fifteen-year old sister.

It turns out that Bronwyn's been left in her care, and Morgan has no idea where her parents are. The girl insists that we take her sister. And it's not as if she's urging this because she's eager to relinquish the responsibility. On the contrary, it's clear that she's bonded to the baby well, and that giving her up will be a wrench. But she has quite an adult head on her shoulders, I'd judge, and she understands the risks that Bronwyn faces if her magic manifests before we come back. I don't like to take her without the parents' permission.

I'm going to devote today to see if I can determine from local records where they've been assigned. But if we can't (and I doubt we will; as I said, the local records seem to be utterly haphazard): what do we do?

These decisions just don't get any easier.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-24 15:10:56](#)**
(no subject)

Goodness. If you can find out, that'd be ideal of course. My first impulse is to take both Bronwyn and Morgan with us. Fifteen and alone in the world. Bless.

I know, if we aren't able to track down the parents right away, they'd have a horrible shock if they were to return and find both children gone, and it'd have been without their permission, but we could... find out a way to leave word in case they were to come back?

Oh dear.

No easy answers on this one.

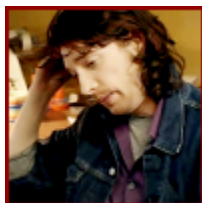



 **alt_arthur** at [2012-09-24 18:04:42](#)
(no subject)

Could you take them both? I confess I hadn't thought of that when I first read Kingsley's message, but that solution would make the whole thing more palatable.

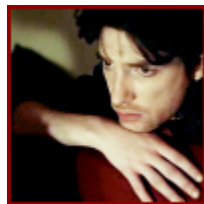
We have had difficulties in Wales with records. I don't know if it's a sort of resistance toward the Protectorate (who can blame them, really) or just incompetence. One advantage is that it might make it that much easier to make both girls disappear.


The real risk is, if we take them and the parents come back and raise a ruckus before we can find them. We don't want to draw official eyes to our activities.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-09-24 18:12:24](#)
(no subject)

If they go looking, they'll come up with smoke. Kingsley's cover persona, 'Joshua Sinclair,' is a one-off, and I'm confident they won't be able to trace anything.



 **alt_bill** at [2012-09-24 18:16:39](#)
(no subject)

If you agree, Dad, and Alice thinks the sanctuary can absorb two new kids, I'd say yeah, take them both. And keep trying to find the parents. And yeah, it's not following our protocol. In this case I say nuts to the protocol.

If the kid's telling the truth about the parents being missing/unavailable, of course. Kingsley?

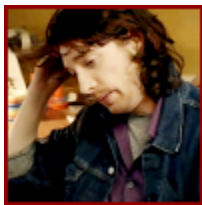



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2012-09-24 18:24:36](#)
(no subject)

I can confirm that neither parent has been seen since shortly after the birth, yes. It's clear that local authorities are indifferent to keeping families together.

Arthur: more research since I wrote this post has led me to hints that one of the parents may have been sent to that game preserve. Not clear which one, or if it was both. Transfer forms are missing and records are a nightmare.

In other words, they might not come back. And/or one or both may already be dead.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2012-09-24 18:25:19](#)
(no subject)

Damn.

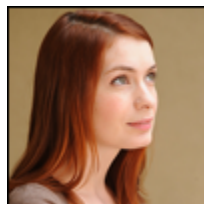
I say take 'em both.




 [alt_arthur](#) at [2012-09-24 18:42:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'd agree, if Alice does, too. And if the older girl agrees to come too, of course. Kingsley, I can send you the parchmentwork for a work requisition transfer for Morgan--she'll just never arrive at her new position.

And yes, I'll keep trying to find the parents. Send me what you've discovered so far, Kingsley.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2012-09-24 18:42:30](#)
(no subject)

Yes. I agree. Let's take both.




 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2012-09-25 18:06:50](#)**
(no subject)

Went back to see the girl this morning. She burst into tears when I made the offer, clearly overcome with joy. We're on our way to the rendez-vous point outside Sanctuary, now.

Alice, I think Morgan might be a good choice for helping in the nursery, and she'll deeply appreciate the chance to be near her sister.



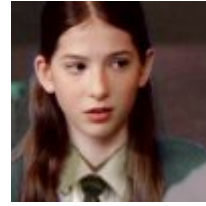
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2012-09-24 18:31:37](#)**
(no subject)

We'll manage.

2012-09-24 08:13:00

Private message to Madam Pomfrey


The potion you gave me yesterday helped me get to sleep easily but I think it gave me nightmares, I had horrible dreams all last night.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

WHY am I dreaming about the Quidditch World Cup NOW? It was over a year ago!



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2012-09-24 15:23:22](#)
(no subject)

I'm very sorry to hear that, my dear.

I know of no evidence that Rest-Easy syrup causes evil dreams, but it is quite true that it is not formulated to prevent dreaming. In fact, I think it possible that by relaxing the body and gentling one to sleep, it may encourage the sleep in which dreams have space to develop.

I think it more likely, don't you, that attending the House trials may have taken you back to thoughts of the world cup and what happened there? I expect that the 'improvements' to our pitch and stands may have prompted your recollections.

I know you prefer to avoid medicinals, so I would very much like you stop up so we might talk a bit about the distress you are feeling and sort out how best to help you avoid any repetition of last night's terrors.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-24 19:22:23](#)
(no subject)

OH

oh

you're probably right about the House trials.

I'll come up today. Wait -- except there's that 'conditioning' business this afternoon. I don't know if I'll have time.

2012-09-24 11:57:00

YPL Rota

I hope the low turnout from Saturday's YPL conditioning was just due to the excitement of seeing Quidditch for the first time in a while, for some of us.



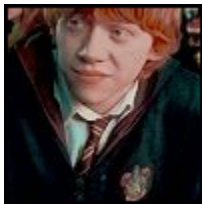
 **alt_padma**


I did want to remind everyone that this afternoon, we're meeting at 5 PM on the grounds, rain or shine.

Also, YPL Counsellors, I sent round a signup to lead the sessions and many of you have already taken up shifts. I know some are awaiting word about their Quidditch practices and whether they'll be needed but if you have heard, one way or the other, and you know your schedule, please get your choices to me and I'll get back to everyone with the final rota. I think if two people lead each time, we'll have loads of opportunities throughout the term without overtaxing anyone.

And remember, CCF, there's a special meeting at 1 PM on Sunday, before the general YPL meeting.


See you there!



 **alt_ron** at **2012-09-24 16:17:21**
(no subject)

Yeah. I can't do Thursdays because of Quidditch. But you can put me down any of the other times.



 **alt_pansy** at **2012-09-24 17:38:51**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I knew it! You sly tuna.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2012-09-24 22:22:33](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Pansy*

Heh.

Yeah. I didn't want to say too much about it, though. I mean, look at how Patil's already wanting to take the piss about all of us being on the squad.

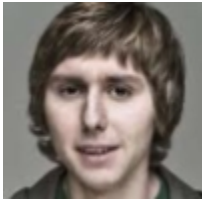


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-25 02:46:05](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Pansy*

Patil can suck an egg.

Congratulations. You earned it, and I can't wait to see you play. We are definitely celebrating this weekend.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-24 18:31:19](#)

(no subject)

Ron,

So you *did* make the side, after all? Excellent show, well done, old man.

Padma, can only YPL counsellors lead the sessions or can anyone?

-Justin

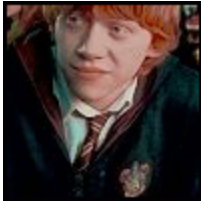



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-24 19:10:42](#)

(no subject)

Oh. I suppose if you're interested it'd be fine.

Good initiative, F-F. Any preferences?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-24 22:22:53](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks, mate.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-09-24 19:09:47](#)**
(no subject)

Johnson let you Congratulations.

I heard Ginny made it on the team, too, didn't she?

I'll see where we need people to help and let you know, Weasley.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2012-09-24 22:24:07](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers.

2012-09-24 20:44:00

Private Message to Cho

Cho,

I'm sorry we weren't able to spend any time together this weekend between all the Quidditch try outs. What do you think of Davies's choices? How big did he make your reserve squad? So many of the younger kids tried out I made ours extra large this year. Can you believe Johnson picked all the Weasleys? I know Charlie was good, but really all of them?



 [alt_cedric](#)

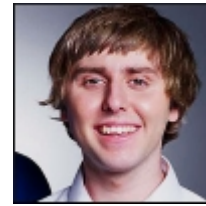
So I'd like to spend time with you tomorrow after Quidditch. I'll meet you at the base of Ravenclaw tower at half seven and we can find somewhere to spend some time together and celebrate.

Love,
CD

2012-09-24 21:40:00

Congratulations, Sue, Bobby and Zach!

I say, jolly well done, all three of you. The side are lucky to have you.



 [alt_justin](#)

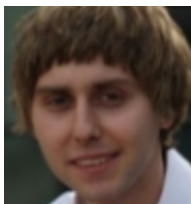
Also to the other new players, in Hufflepuff and all other Houses. I'm quite looking forward to the matches this year. Ron, I said this afternoon but again: Heartiest congratulations, old man.

Oh, Patil, as I said this afternoon, I'd be happy to take any Monday or Thursday, as needed.

So far, the year's going quite well, what? I say, there's loads of homework but that's not unexpected. I suppose the real challenge is balancing all of that with all the other activities. I'm not sure how some take on CCF, YPL, Quidditch, *and* being a Prefect all at once but they seem to manage it.

At any rate, now that we've settled into the routine of the week, it's not so bad. Creatures is a perfectly pleasant way to end the school week and the other lessons promise to be very engaging.

-Justin Finch-Fletchley

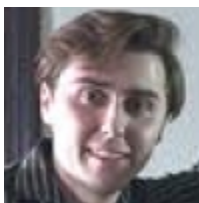


 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-25 02:03:05**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I say, I doubt Zacharias will be quite so chuffed when he realises it means getting out to the pitch at six on a Saturday morning for their practice. (Stebbins has already said it's a disadvantage, what?)

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-25 02:11:50**

Private Message to Dux

Hello,


What I couldn't say in public is that I'm well pleased I only have to worry about lessons, CCF and spending

time with you, what.

Good to see you tonight. And class wasn't half bad, so I think not being able to sleep last night was simply nerves about the whole thing. Entirely unfounded. I'm sure it'll be fine.

-J



 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2012-09-25 18:09:58**

Private message to Justin

Justin, I hope you are settling into this year well. I know you were here last year but I expect that it's a bit different being a Hogwarts student rather than just a visitor. Have you made a decision about taking the practical or theoretical portion of Professor Dolohov's class?

I'm sure the transition can be difficult, just remember the prefects and I are here for support if you need it. Honestly we are here to help, not just catch people sneaking out after curfew for a snog.

I know I've said it before but welcome to the best House at Hogwarts!



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2012-09-26 02:59:34**

Re: Private message to Justin

Diggory,

Yes, thanks. I'm well comfortable among the rest of the House.

I'm sorry for not replying sooner; I was in lessons when you wrote and then I was going to say something at supper but--well, I heard about the accident. I say, I do hope Cadwallader will be all right? Smith said his was mere scrapes, and a wrenched wrist, nothing Matron couldn't put right in an instant. But he thought Anne's injuries were more severe. (She's not back from the hospital wing yet, is she?)

At any rate, as I was saying, I'd made so many friends last year that it's made me feel quite at home to be back as an official student. I shall be sure to say something if ever I should have questions or need assistance.

Cheers,

-J F-F

[2012-09-25 13:24:00](#)

A few quick notes:

Office hours Saturday, 2-5, as well as my usual this week. Do stop by, if you're worrying about your work so far. Or if you just want to chat. (I promise biscuits, tea and tisane, and maybe other treats.)



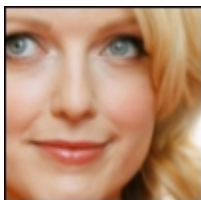
 [alt_sinistra](#)

5th years: I know some of you are worried already about exams. I expect to have all your charts marked by Friday, but so far I'm not seeing any unwelcome surprises - and a few pleasant ones. (Remember you can always arrange to do practice charts, especially as we take a break for a few weeks for other topics.)

7th years: I've had a few questions about the topic list. Again, the list is just to get you thinking. I'm glad to consider any project that can be done and written up in the course of the school year. (Can be practical, theoretical or a mix.) Come talk to me if you're still confused.

All my NEWTs: With the unusually large jump in size of our 2nd year class (especially as they're starting the complications of chart work) I could really use another pair of hands or two during our practical sessions until they're more comfortable with the process. If any of you would be willing to help out, (without shorting yourself on sleep, mind), please talk to me. They meet Thursday nights, or see below.

2nd years who'd like more time and feedback than our hour allows, I'm also looking to set up some additional sessions with the projection stones (or the last hour before curfew, if it's clear) where we can work in smaller groups: please come to class with some times that might work for you.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-25 17:41:32](#)

Private message to Cedric Diggory

Happy birthday - may you have a truly wonderful year. You more than deserve one.

I do have a little something for you, but I didn't get a chance to catch you at lunch. (Chelsea Abbott wanted to talk a little right after their class - she's all right, just needed an ear.) I'm in New London now till sometime after supper (and I hope to catch up with

Raz after duelling club's over) but I'll find you tomorrow if not before.

S.



 **alt_cedric** at [2012-09-25 17:51:25](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

Thank you! I know we've talk about my apprehensions, but I really do have high hopes that this next year will be a winning one! I have plans this evening and won't be able to stop by this evening but could probably come up the tower after lunch and before Defense.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-25 18:02:54](#)

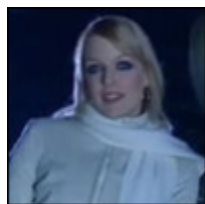
Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

I certainly hope so - you deserve every bit.

As to coming up, don't worry. You're already running around enough (besides, I'll have the 4ths that hour). I'll bring it down to lunch tomorrow, and if I don't catch you, why don't you come up when you're done with Defence? I should be in my office.

And Gilly - who I'm having lunch with - tells me to say she's got some pamphlets about artificing and related jobs with her for me to give you, too. Well, not just you, but you were one we were thinking of particularly.

Do enjoy your plans.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-26 04:15:51](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory


Cedric -

Look, I just heard, when the fourths came up. You all right? Cadwallader going to be all right? (Well, there, I'm sure Poppy's doing everything.)

You know where to find me if you want an ear.

S.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2012-09-26 17:48:43](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

I would like to talk. I'll come up after the Prefects' meeting. I really dropped the Quaffle yesterday and today.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-26 17:58:24](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

Always have an ear for you. (And I will be up here until supper, in case before the meeting works better. Don't want a nap today.)

Private talk, I'm guessing? I expect a few people for office hours, but Rohani's said she'll be there to help, so we can find somewhere handy.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-25 21:46:54](#)

Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Narcissa -

I am so very glad you were there today. Watching you in your element is - well, Antosha was on at me on Friday about recognising and appreciating excellence. I am entirely in awe of your ability to get at what I wanted and couldn't find words for.


Thank you, too, for talking both Mum and Diane out of the piles of tulle and froth. I don't think I'd have managed it on my own. And once we got through the "No, really, try this, some people discover they like it" and the things that were entirely too young for me, it was incredibly helpful to have your comments about what does and doesn't work for my body.

Who do you suggest for further conversations? I'm certainly comfortable working with Revati, and there's something to be said for that. But I do trust your recommendations on how to hit exactly the right note.

I hope Diane wasn't too wearing. (She means well, just it's a bit much sometimes.) And Mum has already said how glad she was you were there. I do think this whole thing - now it's hitting home for her - is a little overwhelming. And much as we love each other and get on well, I've always been a bit of a puzzle to her, so we've never really gone clothes shopping since I was old enough to buy my own.

At any rate - I hope more time to just chat, sometime soon, without my family along. In the meantime, I am entirely appreciative, and I'm sure Raz will be when he sees the end results.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-26 00:07:06](#)

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

Entirely my pleasure, dear. And once we found you an associate who would *listen* we did much better.

Tell your mother I found her charming. And as for your sister, I do understand. After all, I've an elder sister as well.

The trouble with family is that they rarely are able to see past what *they* would select, rather than focusing on your own style and personality, to say nothing of what looks good or not.

As to where to go, since the last two gowns were Joosh and Fairchild, I see no reason not to discuss it with them directly. (Although. I hope you shan't think it indelicate to ask, but the robes you were trying *were* within the budget you told the associates? They didn't just put you in things because I suggested them, regardless of the pricing? I don't wish to pry; I only ask because if you're arranging with Gerard, in particular, but even Fairchild to some extent, and having either of them design you custom robes to order with six months' notice at most Well. I just hope you're prepared to haggle, compromise or otherwise ensure they do not take advantage. On the other hand, I know you require no particular encrustation of lace, crystal or pearl to bring out your own lustre, and the cut, if they do it properly, will say as much or more as any ornamentation to the frock itself.)

Now, I would say that Fairchild is probably more used to working with a fuller figure but Gerard understands the Art Deco period a bit more intuitively. So in truth, it probably would not hurt to ask

each of them to draw up a proposed design and see which one comes closer to the right look.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at 2012-09-26 00:31:32

Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy

You are quite right on family sometimes not being able to see past their own preferences - well, that's the continuing story with me and Diane, really, for all we do love each other and all we've done better the past year or so. And at the same time, I couldn't not invite them to at least the first round. That last one you liked really did get Mum going on a different direction, thankfully, and by the time we finished supper, she was very enthusiastic about something like that.

Right. I'll get on to both Joosh and Fairchild tomorrow, and see if I can arrange to talk to them both next Tuesday. (May I say you made the suggestion to ask them both? I suspect it would help a good deal as a comparative bargaining position. Nothing beyond that, of course - I'd never put words in your mouth.)

As to your very delicate question - I didn't want to go into it while Diane was around, because she's being touchy about it, but I've no problems with your knowing privately.

What we eventually settled - my parents and Raz and I - is that they're paying for my robes, and he's handling near everything else. (And he's being stubborn about not letting me dip into my savings, but if the robes need to go above where I think my parents are comfortable, I'll make up the rest myself.) So in some ways, it costing a bit saves them some face, quietly. But at the same time, I've two younger sisters, and - well, mid-level Ministry salaries are what they are.

I'm quite clear that my robes - well, whatever they are, they're one of the major statements of the wedding. I knew going into this that would likely cost to get right. So - as much as today was a bit uncomfortable in places (I have not spent so long staring at myself in a mirror for at least a decade), it was very worthwhile, and I'm much more confident of having the right thing in the end.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-25 22:23:09](#)

Private message to Raz:

Love -

Waiting for Mum to do something (supposedly) quick at her office before we have supper, and writing things down so I don't forget them later, mostly.

Survived robe shopping. Well, round one - I'm nowhere near done. But Narcissa was vastly helpful in assuring me I was going the right direction and teaching me how to describe what that is, Diane was a reasonable enough version of herself, and Mum sends her love. Don't know if you'll see this in time, but I'll wander by the tail end of duelling club. I could desperately use a hug and seeing my reflection as it is in your eyes rather than a mirror.

I did stop by Tallie Powell's office and have the detailed proposal: it looks excellent to me, and more than that, an efficient and not-entirely-terrifying plan and timeline. Did you ever hear back from that last reference?


Looking at the plan does remind me: we're going to need to sample caterers sometime, and you might actually enjoy that bit. Could we arrange some Saturday in October or November, schedule a visit to several of them and then have a night out, maybe? (Stay over in Spence, even?) October 20/21st or November 17/18th (ending up with us at Dad's birthday party) both look particularly plausible on my calendar and avoid various school events. Temp would need a little time to arrange to get free, and I do want her input.

Had a late lunch with Gilly, and a very interesting chat about some of what Antosha impressed on me about the projection stones. ~~Also the frustrating stubbornness of mutual friends named Dai.~~

Also, we should talk about some of my conversations with Poppy about managing the various pre-marital diagnostic testing the WRO wants to recommend. (She has an idea for making that far less tedious and difficult for both of us. You'll approve, I'm sure.) That can wait till we've more lesiure, just we should be on the same page about what we tell them.

Right. Mum's ready now. Love you. I'll demonstrate how much later.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2012-09-26 02:29:49](#)

Re: Private message to Raz:

About finished up here- students were a bit slower than usual, hope that they're not feeling overworked already.

I'm so sorry that the more tedious bits are falling to you, love. I did hear back from the reference and will look over Tallie's proposal as soon as you show it to me. So long as it meets with your stringent code of organisation and timing, I'm sure it'll do just fine for me.

Caterers, eh? I do like a good nosh (but I do tend to like everything you eat, so you'll have to tell me what's actually nice) and following that with a night out sounds brill, and Spence even better. Cramming it in around your Dad's birthday sounds like it might turn out hectic- would you rather do in October?

Meet up with you in a bit to discuss the rest.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2012-09-26 02:45:24](#)

Re: Private message to Raz:

Oh, sweetheart. First, yes, October, please. (You think I'm going to delay an evening alone with you if I don't have to?)

And the reason for bringing Temp along is to tell me all the things I don't know about the food. But I'd like it to be excellent, and there's no reason not to make use of my baby sister who's working her way up to being a first-rate chef. And she had some thoughts about menu that I think would do nicely. (Besides, the kitchen gossip she can share will amuse you, I'm quite sure.)

The tedious bits - well, my robes are rather the one thing I couldn't delegate even if I wanted to, and we've made progress there. (More next week, but, well. Progress. And Narcissa really was amazingly good.) The rest of it's just lists and keeping track and .. well, if we're good with Tallie, then that'll get easier.

It is still easier than herding fifty-odd students around Cornwall.

I'll come down, mmm? Everything's set up here, so I'm good to slide back up at quarter to midnight.



[alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-26 00:15:27](#)

Private message to Gilly Chadwick

Gil -

The more I think about it, the more *annoyed* I am. Stars, planets, and falling meteors. Look. If Dai isn't ready to talk yet, that's all right. (Well. Not all right, but I'll cope.) But do *not* let him beg you to play messenger. He doesn't get it both ways. That's no fair. To either of us.

And especially not to you. Bloody stupid stubborn Welsh badgers.

Right. Robes. I am pleased to say that it was better than I was afraid it might be other than me trying on any number of horrible options.

Mum thought it should be 'look like a princess from a story-book', and that's not what I want. (Among other things, I would like Raz to be able to get within a couple of feet of me on our wedding day without managing layers of skirts between us.) Narcissa put her foot down about the ballgown and the layers of tulle - and about one of those mermaid gowns. (Does anyone actually look good in those? Doesn't matter, I refuse to wear something I can't move in.) After that, it was sheaths - nearly as bad, just less foolish looking.

But after that, we settled into something a lot more useful. The magic words are apparently 'bias cut' and 'silk', though we didn't find anything like the perfect one yet. Narcissa - well, I'm actually not surprised, it's what I hoped for - but she was wonderful at asking what I liked and didn't in a way I could mostly answer, and then suggesting specific things she knew they had. (Even if it was more than a little uncomfortable to have that kind of scrutiny. I'm all over insecurities tonight - and before you say anything, I know it's stupid. Doesn't make it less true.)

If we don't manage next week in private - I do need to chat with Campanella - two weeks from now? And please send those adjustment charm notes: I'd be glad to have a look and see if I can find some way to simplify the explanation.

[2012-09-25 17:13:00](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

When are you signed up on the exercise thing?

She really does want us to do a lot, doesn't she? I mean, you'd think doing well on OWLs would be more important than marching. And you've got Prefect stuff on top of everything. And we've got the team too. Which will be brilliant. As long as we can practise properly, because it's not like any of us have time-turners this term.



 **[alt_harry](#)**

I think Pucey's going to do fine. As captain, I mean. I like how he ran tryouts.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-09-26 15:28:26](#)**
(no subject)

I'm on for October 1st and then again in early November. And yeah, it is a lot, but OWLs are nothing without the Pride Of The Protectorate, don't you know? Also - I'm as in favour of exercise as anyone, but you'd think Bumbridge might practise what she preaches. Otherwise she's living proof that one can rise all the way to Minister for Magic and still be a dumpy pudding.

Yeah, tryouts were good. Greg and Vince are probably shoe-ins for beater. Who do you think will get keeper? Maybe Symmons or Yordanova...but did you see the look on Bletchley's face? He was not on with having to try out with the rest of them. I even heard him complaining about it to Montague when they were at the sinks Sunday morning. I suppose he thinks Alfred might be able to convince Pucey to put him in. Well, we'll see I guess.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-26 17:10:36](#)**
(no subject)

Vince and Greg really are perfect for it. I mean, they can hit things really hard, and their aim has got a lot better than it used to be.


You can blame Bletchley on me. You know how things got with Bole last year, and the sort of things Bletchley gets up to. He did a

number on Perks. Krum told me. Anyways, I just told Pucey that it might be a good idea to consider not automatically giving him a place without thinking it through first. And he's not good enough a player to hurt us if he doesn't make it on. At the very least, it put a bit of a scare into him, and he deserves it. I don't know whether Pucey'll decide in his favour or not, though.

Maybe we ought to suggest that Bumbridge talk about her own health regimen at our next meeting? I'm sure it'd be informative. I wonder if she eats teensy portions?

I'll try and sign up for the same days. If Bum the Lesser will let me.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-26 17:18:32](#)
(no subject)

Well, Bole was a div, to be sure, but he was a good quidditcher. Are we supposed to just let ourselves be a losing team because someone's an arse off the pitch? Not that we need Bletchley to win...but if we did, I'd prefer to keep him on, myself. I suppose that'll be up to Pucey, but I seriously doubt he'll have the stones to go against your advice.

Teensy portions fifty times a day, from the looks of it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-26 18:05:22](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

Yeah, I guess we'll just have to see.

And if he was so good we couldn't afford to leave him off, I wouldn't have said so. I suppose I'd just have to tell him to stop being an arse, because he'd be making the rest of us look bad.

Which I could do anyways. I guess.

And because he isn't Bole, he wouldn't try to kill me after.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-27 01:11:24](#)
(no subject)

Just mind you don't say anything about Bole and killing around Daphs, because I'm pretty sure she's still jumpy about the whole thing.

And now that I think on it, we ought not inquire about Bumbridge's eating habits (not that I really thought you would). Pretty sure that she's still not terribly thrilled that you pointed out the Astronomy conflict to her. Watching her try to swallow down her displeasure is hilarious, mind, but I've a feeling there's a bitter side to her overwhelming sweetness. The way she's just stepped up and re-arranged everything to her liking is just disturbing - does McGonagall even do anything anymore? And I know the YPL stuff took its toll on Professor Sinistra because it was like having two jobs, but at least she knows what Hogwarts life is like, and what does and doesn't conflict with our schedules.

Anyway, don't start calling me Bum the Lesser if you see me trying to cosy up to her; like I said ages ago, she's someone you want to keep an eye on.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2012-09-27 01:52:55](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't. I'll be careful. And if you did start cosying up, I'd know why. Besides. You don't have a stick up your arse.

Maybe I should've asked Professor Siz to bring it up to her instead.

And I know what you mean. It is a bit mad, how she's just marched right in and taken over. Do you think McGonagall is stepping down or something? Maybe retiring? It'd be awful if she took over. It's like she doesn't think we're at a school or something.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-27 01:54:13](#)**
(no subject)

Do you think I hacked her off?




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:04:04](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe? Not as if there's much she can do about it.

You could always thank her profusely and she might get over it in a hurry.

From things I've heard, McGonagall is a complete lush. Perhaps she's too deep in the bottle to even notice what's going on.



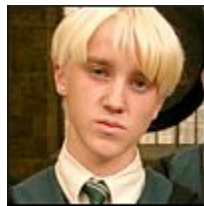
 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:16:21](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah. Okay.

And really?

That's sort of not on. But I'd still rather she was Headmistress than Bumbridge.

Although we have had all sorts of bad things happen since we've started here. That isn't normal, is it? I mean, people getting paralyzed and possessed and attacked by professors and stuff. That can't happen every term.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:19:09](#)**
(no subject)

Did anything bad happen last year?

Yeah, I suppose it did... though most of it wasn't at the school.

Well, I seriously doubt there will ever be a year where nothing bad happens. All you can do is be ready for it when it does.

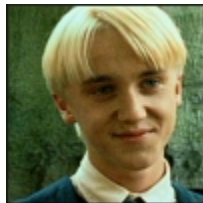


 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:27:32](#)**
(no subject)

I know what you mean.

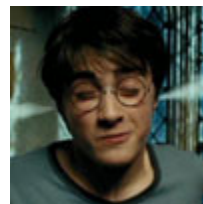
I've been sorting out with Raz what I ought to be learning this year. So I can be ready.

I know we won't have a lot of time with everything, but if you want to learn too, we could work on some stuff together.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:31:28](#)**
(no subject)

I'll come along when my schedule allows it.
Unless I'm busy working on "stuff" with Pansy.

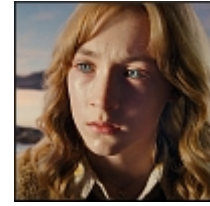


 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2012-09-27 03:12:54](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. Well. Obviously. A man's got to have priorities, after all.

2012-09-25 19:15:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good - Private Message to Justin



Justin,

Oh, I've mucked things up horribly, I'm afraid.

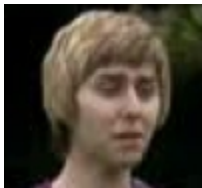
 [alt_hydra](#)

I had my meeting with Professor Dolohov. It went well enough and then I went and said too much.

Now he's saying I'm best suited to Theoretical. Mummy's not going to like it one bit. Daddy won't, either.

I'm not sure what to do, now.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-26 01:36:03**
(no subject)

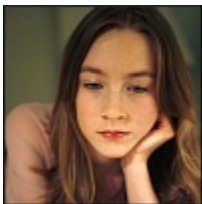
Hydra,


I say, let's not be too hasty. What did he tell you, precisely?

And even if he did say it, you could still sign on for the practical section, couldn't you? He told me that he wasn't going to fuss if people ignored his recommendations.

If you were in the theory and I were in the practical that would be the height of irony, what?

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2012-09-26 01:39:55**
(no subject)

I can still take Practical, yes, and I'm sure that my parents will insist on it. He even said that, that he expected they would not want me in Theoretical. But now he has this impression of me that I'm not suited

for the Practical, and I don't know how I can change that impression.

It's because I said I wouldn't perform curses that hurt animals or other helpless creatures.

I shouldn't have said that, I should have kept quiet. Or maybe I ought to have told him that I was listed "Most Likely to Kill You With Dark Arts."

From,
Hydra



 **alt_justin** at [2012-09-26 01:57:19](#)
(no subject)

I think it's good that you told him you're unwilling to harm creatures that can't fight back, what?

I do think it's troubling if that's really what made him say you're unsuited. He told *me* we'd never be casting spells without the target's consent. But he could well have been exaggerating, what, or perhaps he's stretching his definition of what counts as a sentient target.

I suppose the real question is, which would you rather do, Dux? Theory or practice?

And should you decide to take the practical section, anyway, I think the way to change his idea of you is to show him how bally well effective you can be when you feel it justified.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at [2012-09-26 02:09:22](#)
(no subject)

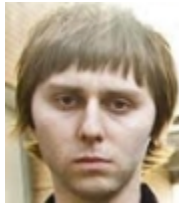
I don't know what else I could have make him think I was unsuited. I told him that I was interested in being an Unspeakable, and that it was something Mummy was interested in me doing, as well. I told him that my best subjects were Runes, Charms, and Defense, and that my first year of Dark Arts was quite easy, because it was mostly things that I had already

learned about from Daddy. I told him that I thought it was an important subject, and that everyone ought to learn it if only for knowledge and defense, and that's when I added the part about animals.

It was after that he said that if I were any other student, he would counsel me toward Theoretical because it was more focused on defense. I never said that I was only interested in the defensive part, but I must have made it sound that way without meaning to.

He didn't really allow me to say anything more after that. He just said he would leave the decision to me, but that if I wanted to take Theoretical he was willing to convince Mummy it was the best option. He must not really remember what Mummy is like, or else he's much more intimidating than he looks...

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-26 02:19:30**

(no subject)

Hm.

I think, perhaps, it's the opposite problem to the one you normally have, what? I mean to say, most people have only heard of your parents and know their reputations and so they don't bother to look at you for yourself, if you follow me. They just assume you're a bally old dark practitioner as well.

But it sounds as if Professor Dolohov listened to what you were saying (he does listen, what, and quite attentively at that) and it seems like he may have seen the way you are--I mean to say, the way you hold yourself and the way you look while you're thinking, the way you touch your hair and all that--and perhaps he saw that while you *can* cast quite dangerous spells, it's counter to your nature, in a way.

I say, I thought when he interviewed me that perhaps he was a Legilimens. I know it oughtn't to matter in your case, what, but perhaps he *does* have spells or other instruments in his office that help him read a person's personality.

Did you eat or drink anything he offered? I didn't. I was too afraid it'd be like the stuff Ron said Director Selwyn gave everyone, to make them prattle on about any old thing. But perhaps he's got a detector of some sort. So one can't hide one's true attitudes toward the dark arts.

I say, that's not very comforting, what? Right, forget I suggested that.

-J



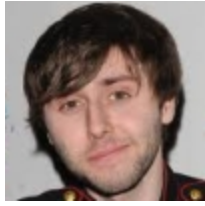
 **alt_hydra** at **2012-09-26 02:39:40**
(no subject)

I don't think he's a Legilimens, I probably would have heard if he was, but he is probably very good at reading people in other ways. I did sense that he might've been trying to keep the atmosphere relaxed during our meeting. He didn't look at my face very often, and he spoke into his teacup more than in my actual direction. I suppose what I mean to say is that he didn't appear to be watching me very closely. But it doesn't mean that he wasn't.

I didn't eat or drink, no. And even if he does have a detector...my true attitude toward the Dark Arts is that I think I should know them. If he has instruments they're not reading me right.

Maybe he thinks I wouldn't be able to hex him if he had the fourth-years do it like he did with your class. I really wouldn't have a problem with that at all, though. He isn't helpless in the least, even if he does like to act as if he's in pain.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-26 02:50:56](#)
(no subject)

Then I think we've found the problem: He's just rubbish at reading people, what?

The first time you have a chance to hex him, he'll realise his mistake was underestimating you. And in overestimating me, he'll realise that soon enough as well.

Or else it was a trick. Terry did say that we're supposed to watch out for him twisting our thinking all round into knots.

At any rate, I think if you think it's important to learn how to cast them, then you ought to take the Practical and hang what he has to say about it.

-J

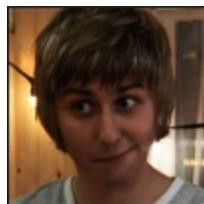


 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-26 02:56:49](#)
(no subject)

If it's a trick, I think it might be one that's meant to make me show him what I'm really all about. Because if I choose Practical, it will say one thing about me, and if I choose Theoretical, it will say something else.

Maybe there's a way to do it so that I don't have to choose at all. So that he doesn't know what I choose, I mean.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-26 03:02:33](#)
(no subject)

What's going on in that head of yours, then, Dux?

-J



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-09-26 03:06:25](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know just yet, but hopefully I will by breakfast. I'll tell you then.

You're birthday's coming up, you know. Have you thought at all about what sort of celebration you'd like?

From,
Hydra



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-26 03:11:02](#)**
(no subject)

My birthday?

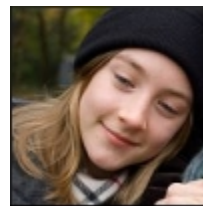
It's not for a month, Dux. I...hadn't thought about it yet. I suppose another party, perhaps in that same little room, with our friends.

Or just time with you, what? That would be even better.

All right, go and be mysterious. Perhaps you'll dream of a solution. It's happened before, what!

Sweet dreams, love.

-J



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2012-09-26 03:13:23](#)**
(no subject)

A month is loads of time if you're Draco or Harry and have all the pocket money you could ever want. I don't, but I'd like to do something special for you just the same. So consider this an early notice to start thinking about it now.

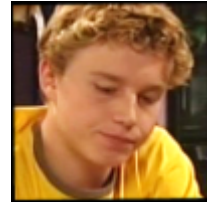
Goodnight!

Love,
Hydra

2012-09-25 19:24:00

Private Message to Sue and Bobby

Well, that wasn't a very majestic start to the season, was it?



 **alt_zacharias**

I'm still waiting for Madam Pomfrey. Cedric's sitting with Anne while the Matron's running all sorts of tests. Says she doesn't want Anne risking a major dislocation.

I didn't think she even had her Apparation Licence yet.

Ha-ha.

So, Stebbins. What'd'you reckon he'll do, Ced? Think he'll give one of us the boot, then?

Merlin. Anne looks paler than the Fat Friar. Mind you, that was a particularly epic crash. If we hadn't been the ones causing it.

I mean, I distinctly heard him say left, didn't you? Lemon. That's left. I swear I heard him say it.

Not going to insist on it right now, though, am I?

So, er. Save me some pudding, yeah? I shouldn't be too long, once Matron gets round to it.

2012-09-26 07:10:00

Private Message to Rabastan Lestrangle



 **alt_antonin**

Razzer my dear,

First off -- I'm on to the fourth years in my one-on-ones, and spoke with your niece yesterday. I found her charming, but frustratingly difficult to get a read on; I was left with the impression that she wanted to want to practise the Arts, but did not actually want to, if that makes any sense. I did tell her that if she were any other student I might advise her into theoretical study, but that familial expectations of course needed to be taken into consideration as well. I do not know which she will choose, nor whether Bella and Rod would even allow her to make that choice, but if you've some time tonight or tomorrow night after dinner, I would be most appreciative if I could pick your brain about the best way to reach Hydra in future; I felt extremely at sea throughout most of our discussion and suspect there are considerations I am not aware of that you may be able to shed some light upon. (Also, if you have a moment to talk with her, please do reiterate to her that whatever choice she feels is best for her, for whatever reason, I will wholeheartedly support it; I tried to convey that but could not tell how much she was believing me.)

To more widely pedagogical matters: now that the first few weeks of class have shaken out and settled down, I'm on to more of the practicalities with my NEWT-level students. They are quite interested and eager to learn, but I've noticed a certain narrow range of thinking (inspired, no doubt, by Alecto's insistence on raw power and on the Cardinals as the *sine qua non* of the subject) that I'd like to train out of them as quickly as possible.

It seems to me the best solution would be a demonstration of all that is possible with the Arts, and the first thing to come to mind was a demonstration fight -- I think I remember running the idea by you last Friday, although I may have just thought I should. Of the "few holds barred" sort, of course, not the more formalised duelling you teach in Duelling Club. (Which reminds me: if you need another instructor for that, I would be happy to serve.) In recognition that we are neither of us as young and hale as we used to be, we should likely place limits on certain classes of spells, but would you be willing? And if you are, do you think your Aurora would be willing to serve as crowd control?

Must confess I've lost track of what additional things darling Dolores

has been adding to the schedule, but perhaps next Saturday afternoon or thereabouts? We can plan on Friday night if you're amenable.

By the by -- Aurora showed me your gift to her -- it is wholly stunning work.

Affectionately,
T



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2012-09-26 16:06:10](#)

(no subject)

Charming? I find that a little doubtful. My niece can be very charming when in the company of people she knows well, but when she's not, she's more apt to be mistaken for a clam.

What exactly gave you the impression that she doesn't truly want to practise the Arts? Bella and Roddy have never shied away from exposing her to them, but I can think of reasons why that would both turn her away and draw her in- to say nothing of the diary that held control over her in her first year.

A demonstration sounds just fine to me, though I am utterly astonished that you've just lumped me in with the "not so young and hale as we used to be." Try to rile my feathers ahead of time so I don't hold back, is that it?

But truly, there will need to be limits. I really ought to avoid another curse to the head at all costs, and not just because it will ruin my hair for the wedding.

-R



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-26 16:40:41](#)

(no subject)

I did indeed find her reticent, but also extremely softspoken and polite, almost deferential, in a way that makes me wince to think of what Bella must think of her. (I am not asking you to share family secrets, mind you. But one can imagine the number of times they've butted heads.) I couldn't quite tell you what made me think her more reluctant than not, except to say it was something in the tone

of her voice, or in the way she held herself, or in the pauses and spaces between what we spoke aloud. It could have been wariness of an unknown factor (namely, yours truly) of course, but -- oh, I couldn't put it into words. I do not doubt she is skilled enough at the things she's learned thus far -- as Rod and Bella's child she could not help but being -- but I got the distinct impression her heart isn't into it. Perhaps she has seen too many cases of what can go wrong over the years.

(And then there's the complication that none of what Alecto was teaching was new to her, and while I will of course be constructing my curriculum to give as broad an overview as possible to the things Alecto did not cover, I worry that -- from the way she was speaking of her last year -- she has learned there is no challenge to the subject beyond what she has already learned at home. Perhaps a year or so studying the deeper bits of theory might kindle more interest, was my thought there.)

Or perhaps I'm imagining it all, and at any rate I'm certain the question will be academic. Though I could definitely use someone with her range of knowledge in my theory class, and it would do nicely to ward off any stigma in choosing theory over practical. Alas.

And of course I mean no offence in description, simply fact. It has been a long decade for us both. Shall we say nothing irreversable and nothing too painful? I'll avoid your head if you avoid anything that could disrupt my nervous system further than it already has been! I suspect you'll wipe the floor with me anyway, but we can at least give the children a bit of a show. (I've just finished an hour of lecture on the classroom-appropriate highlights of two decades in Our Lord's service, so I'm feeling a bit nostalgic.)

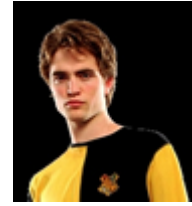
Off to put the finishing touches on my lecture for the thirds, and wishing you a pleasant afternoon with your own classes,

T

2012-09-26 08:33:00

Private Message to Cho

I am so very sorry about last night. There was this horrid mid air collision and Anne's shoulder got hurt again. She had to be rushed to the hospital wing. I was waiting there to make sure she was going to be okay and lost track of the time. I didn't realize what time it was until after eight and I immediately rushed out to try and find you.



 [alt_cedric](#)

I'm so sorry, I was really looking forward to spending time with you and just got caught up in taking care of my team.

Let's get together right after lunch and I'll make it up to you.

2012-09-26 21:50:00

Private Message to Seamus

Still cross about not making the side? Only you've not been your usual. You were really quiet at the Prefects' meeting.



 [alt_padma](#)

Here's something to cheer you up: Why do you suppose Cho Chang was binning a perfectly nice bouquet of flowers just after lunch today?

Three guesses.

First two don't count.

And in other news, I heard that Letchley didn't make it into first string for Slytherin, either. *And* Anne says she's grounded for about four weeks because of that collision with Smith and Stebbins. (She said she'd like to have hexed them both.)

So maybe it's not such a wonderful season to be playing, anyway. With your luck, Stebbins would knock you off your broom at 100 feet up.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2012-09-27 01:57:28**

(no subject)

The Gryffindor side is basically the whole bloody Weasley family. It's embarrassing.

Is Cho Chang cross because Cedric carried Anne Cadwallader up to the Hospital wing yesterday? That seems a bit unfair, she is his teammate. Cadwallader, I mean.

Stebbins needs to pay better attention to what he's doing, it's no joke what happened to Cadwallader. I heard she was going to be grounded for six weeks, though I heard that from Towler, so who knows if it's true.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-27 02:05:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, someone has to be last in the Quidditch Cup.

I think she's *partly* cross about that, yes. I heard they had a date (and Jones said it was Diggory's birthday, too!) and he stood her up to stay with Anne. Anne didn't say one way or the other but I wonder if he stayed up there *just* because she's on his team or if he really would rather have been there than with Chang.

And Anne said four, not six, but maybe she was being hopeful and downplaying it.

Speaking of downplaying, have you seen how tired Professor Dolohov looks by the end of the day? I noticed that he's leaning on his cane loads more on the way out of supper than the way in. I'm not sure all that hexing he's making people do to him is at all wise.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-09-27 02:10:03](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, but I'd rather it not be my House that's last! Maybe it's Ravenclaw's turn for a change.

If he stood her up to stay with Cadwallader I can see why she's cross with him. Did he not trust Madam Pomfrey to do a proper job healing her unless he was there keeping an eye on things? Oh and I'd trust Cadwallader over Towler, it's her shoulder.

Professor Dolohov looks pretty terrible by dinner most days. I hope he doesn't ~~drop dead like Miss~~ overdo things.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-27 02:20:30](#)
(no subject)

I think Chang's daft to be cross if he stayed because Anne's his responsibility as Captain. But she'd be justified if he stayed because he fancies Anne.

But. The thing is that everyone knows she's pretty but she's really got no personality at all. So I could believe Diggory might be bored with her.

I don't think Professor Dolohov likes me much. Did I tell you I realised he must have taught Regulus Black? But I still had to tell him about Sanji. It was really difficult to tell him without saying something that might offend him, you know?

I'm still taking the practical but I just hope he doesn't hold that against me.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2012-09-27 02:31:37](#)
(no subject)

She might not have much personality but everyone seems to think she's really pretty. And she's a Quidditch player, how many girls are Quidditch players?

About Dolohov, though -- he taught Regulus Black, really? You hadn't told me. How did that come up, and Sanji?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-09-27 02:45:05](#)
(no subject)

She's fit. Maybe that's all he's interested in. But I always sort of thought Diggory was a cut above other Quidditchers.

Most of them are only interested in what their sport can get them. And I'm not sorry you're not with that sort.

But Dolohov. Well, it came up because he was asking what experience we'd had with Dark the Noble Arts. And that's about the worst thing that's happened to us and it was because Regulus Black went off his nut. And I tried to explain the way they told us, how Black was just broken in his mind, you know, but obviously that kind of thing shouldn't come from a stranger, and not a student.

So, I dunno. I think I'm going to have to work awfully hard to

impress him. Which was never a problem with Miss Professor Carrow--loads of other things were problems, but not that part.



 **alt_seamus** at [2012-09-27 02:49:10](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

And Black was one of Dolohov's students, once?

Ugh.

Well, you'll impress him the same way you impress all your teachers. By being brilliant. It'll be fine.



 **alt_padma** at [2012-09-27 02:53:55](#)
(no subject)

I think he must have been. Professor Dolohov worked with so many people in the Council and he's such good mates with people like the Malfoys and Professor Raz. I can't imagine that he didn't teach Regulus too. And there was the way he reacted when I started talking about it.

I'm not going to keep reminding him, though, believe me.

~~I still don't really see why everyone liked him so much~~

Anyway. You'll be fine, too. With OWLs, I mean.



 **alt_seamus** at [2012-09-27 02:59:56](#)
(no subject)

I'm not worried. (Much.) I'm pretty sure I'll pass, but I want to do better than just PASSING, you know?

2012-09-26 21:57:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne

Those were so not I love you flowers. Those were I messed up flowers. You could just tell.



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-27 02:01:49**

(no subject)

Well, yesterday was Diggory's birthday, wasn't it?

How do you mess up your OWN birthday?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-27 02:03:13**

(no subject)

I've no idea. All I know is that Cho Chang must be the thickest Ravenclaw I've ever known if she ends up dumping Diggory.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-27 02:06:19**

(no subject)

I know! He's utterly fit AND a good Quidditch player. What more does she want?

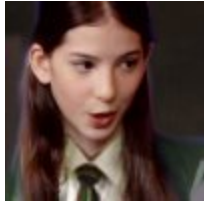


 [alt_pansy](#) at **2012-09-27 02:08:59**

(no subject)

...Apparently an ugly, fat loser who wouldn't think to send flowers.

Too bad Greg's probably going to make our team, otherwise, it'd be a match made in heaven.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 02:14:40](#)
(no subject)

Ha!

Okay, Milli was here just now and said that she was in the Hospital wing yesterday to get a sleeping potion from Madam Pomfrey and Diggory was there all yesterday evening with Anne Cadwallader. Because she crashed during practice, which explains the sling. I guess Zach Smith ran into her? Anyway I bet Diggory had plans with Chang and stood her up.

So I can sort of see why she was cross but you'd think she'd be a little more understanding. If Harry got hurt and Draco went with him to the Hospital wing and missed a date with you, would you throw a tantrum over it? I can't see it.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:22:15](#)
(no subject)

Maybe she was jealous? Of Cadwallander? Which is sort of silly. I mean, they are teammates, so they're bound to spend time together. Getting jealous about that is a waste of energy.

Getting angry because someone was being thoughtful and decent towards someone else is definitely ridiculous.

If anything, she should've gotten *him* flowers, for having to handle a teammate's getting hurt and having his birthday spoiled because of it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:23:30](#)
(no subject)

Or, you know, whatever you get boys instead of flowers.

I've found snogging to be a decent substitute.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 02:26:19](#)
(no subject)

What was it that woman got her lover in that dreadful 'Profundis' book? Some sort of leather harness thing with special enchantments or ... whatever it was.

(I'd go with snogging over the leather whatsit.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:33:29](#)
(no subject)

Whatever it was, it did not sound as if it would be even remotely fun.

Snogging, on the other hand, is.

So yes, we are in rather firm agreement.

...pun intended.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 02:24:17](#)
(no subject)

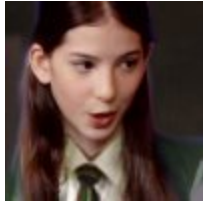
Exactly!

He seems so decent and thoughtful and caring. I would think he'd be a really good boyfriend.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:34:30](#)
(no subject)


Well, maybe he'll be available soon, and you can find out.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:37:48](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not a Quidditch player, a pureblood, or a Ravenclaw, so whatever attracted him to her, I think it's rather unlikely he'd go for me as afters. I think I'm going to have to stick to longing from afar.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:42:39](#)**
(no subject)

It's not that much of a stretch, you know. After all, you did go to the Yule Ball with an international quidditch star. And besides, Hufflepuffs aren't hung up on blood status.

And you're brilliant and sweet and lovely. If I were a boy, I'd date you.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:46:25](#)**
(no subject)

There are Hufflepuffs who are hung up on blood status, look at Zach Smith.

It's too bad you aren't a boy, I bet you'd make a great boyfriend! (But poor Draco. He'd be stuck with Milli.)



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2012-09-27 02:49:33](#)**
(no subject)

Zach is only a Hufflepuff because the other houses wouldn't have him. There's a difference.

(I can just see his face! Oh dear. No amount of leather harnesses could right that wrong.)

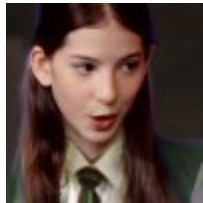


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 03:03:05](#)
(no subject)

Point!

Diggory's clever enough to be a Ravenclaw and brave enough to be a Gryffindor.

Zach Smith... lucky for him, Helga believed in taking everyone.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 02:46:55](#)
(no subject)

But if you were a boy we couldn't be roommates.

Wouldn't be worth it, anyway.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:54:23](#)
(no subject)

I can't wait for our New London flat. It will be so very utterly brilliant. We will throw the best parties, and have fresh flowers every week just because, and go for gloriously long walks and picnics in Kensington.



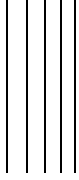
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 03:03:42](#)
(no subject)

I CANNOT WAIT.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-27 02:15:42](#)
(no subject)

Greg certainly qualifies as ugly and fat and I'm not sure he's aware that flowers exist.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-27 02:24:10](#)
(no subject)

That would explain his awful Herbology marks.

2012-09-26 22:18:00

Order Only

Frank,

I'm about to have a lie down before I have to go off to work. Tonight was fearsome in the garden. No idea why, but it was.



 **alt_nymphadora**

Anywiz, before I fall over, I wanted to ask if we're going again tomorrow or Friday? You've got the parchmentwork already for Shroton, right? So that's our next. Or Manchester?

You were brilliant on Sunday, managing that one clerk in order to get Toulson aside and talk to her. Quite the exhibition on how it's done! I was impressed with her, too, mind. She's got ice in her veins, doesn't she? Playing you along until she was well certain you were worth trusting. And she's brilliantly placed to help us, too, if she will do. She could 'lose' people out of the camp files whenever we need her to. So that's one really valuable asset out of Ridley.

Even if that's all we manage to get. And I bet it won't be.



 **alt_frank at 2012-09-27 03:59:06**

(no subject)

manchester's next. let's go friday, and then sunday to shroton. I think the wand really did the trick. she lit up once she'd finished testing it. took a while, though, so we might want to take that into account next time.

and knowing how ridley could get, they'd want to check over any potions or goods we hand over for poison, hexes, tracking spells and the like. paranoid bunch. don't blame them, though.

and yeah, she's a good asset to cultivate. she might even be able to transfer other people in and lose them in the process too.

and you didn't do half bad yourself. you kept her talking, which was important. good work on the pass code too.

2012-09-28 11:36:00

(no subject)

A reminder to all students in fourth and fifth years: today is the deadline to notify me of your decision as to which section of my class you wish to take for the remainder of the year. If you have not already let me know, please do so no later than supper tonight.



 **alternity**
 **alt_antonin**

You can do so in person -- I will be in my office between 4 and 5PM -- or in writing, either through a private message or by writing a note and leaving it in the box I have outside my office door for such a purpose. I will not be available tonight, nor at Hogwarts this weekend, and so the deadline must be firm. (I will, however, be available via private message this weekend for anyone who wishes to discuss matters further.)

Beginning Monday, fourth and fifth year students electing the practical track should continue coming to class as scheduled; students electing the theoretical track should skip the scheduled class sessions and instead come to the single-hour theoretical class. For fifth year students, that is Tuesday at 4PM; for fourth year students, that is Wednesday at 4PM.

Third year students: I will be meeting with you individually this week for our discussion; you will be required to inform me of your decision by this Friday, a week from today, and your year will split beginning Monday next.



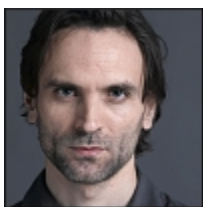
 **alt_bellatrix** at **2012-09-28 16:13:06**

(no subject)

What apt timing, Antosha. I received my daughters weekly Owl but an hour ago.

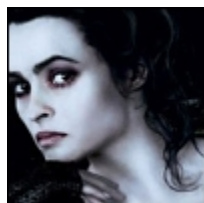
I am very curious to know what could have possibly moved you to suggest that she consider the theoretical study over the practical. She claims ignorance as to your motivations, but she's been known to play the innocent before. If you found something deficient in her, something to suggest inability or unwillingness to commit herself to the full utility of the Arts, then I would appreciate thorough disclosure as to what, exactly, that deficiency is.

Regardless of your reasons, I'm sure that you know the theoretical track is simply not a valid option.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-09-28 16:31:55](#)**
(no subject)

Now, Bella, Toshenka's knowledge of the Arts is such that I've no doubt he would not make such a suggestion without careful consideration. Let us remember that theoretical study shouldn't be diminished or underestimated; if not for that, new and more effective curses would never be developed, hmm?



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2012-09-28 16:32:33](#)**
(no subject)

I think I know a thing or two about new and effective curses, husband.

But Hydra can scarcely wrap her mind around Arithmancy, as is. If you're expecting her to follow in your swotty footsteps, I think you may find her struggling to keep up. Her spellwork, however, has always been adequate.

I suppose this is another instance where you think we ought to take her own desires into consideration, rather than to steer her in the right and proper direction.



 **[alt_rodolphus](#)** at **[2012-09-28 16:32:59](#)**
(no subject)

This is an instance where I think it inappropriate to discuss her academic performance for all to see.

But it so happens that I agree she take the practical course. If she has an interest in theory I will happily supplement her in that area.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-09-28 16:33:16](#)
(no subject)

So we are in agreement.


Good.



 [alt_rodolphus](#) at [2012-09-28 16:33:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes. How wonderful it is.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-29 01:38:19](#)
Private Message to Rodolphus and Bella

I do hope, Bella, that you mean to say you are in agreement with Rodolphus on *both* his points, not just the one that suits you.

We've spoken before about providing your unique parental attentions where any and all might see, dear.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-28 20:53:57](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Dux

I quite agree.

I say, does your mother imagine she improves your life by dragging you on the carpet like that? In front of the whole school? The whole *world*?

Dux. It's intolerable. I say, it's bally well unacceptable.

It's rubbish like this that makes me want to learn everything and anything Professor Dolohov is willing to teach me. So that one day I can make her regret ever rubbishing *you*.

-J



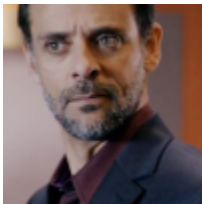
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-28 21:03:56](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Dux*

I knew when I sent my Owl that there would be a reaction. I was planning on it, even.

It's funny how people see things differently. I almost felt happy that she said I was adequate at spellwork.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-28 16:46:35](#)

(no subject)

My dear Bellatrix, I certainly did not mean to suggest there was any fault or flaw in Hydra's character! Her knowledge of, and commitment to, the Arts is quite vast, in fact -- easily one of the most practised of the students I've spoken with so far, and well along her way on that path of self-knowledge so critical to mastering our art. I of course had no doubt that would be the case, given the excellent examples she has had before her throughout her life.

That natural facility and talent, along with her interests for the future, was precisely why I suggested to her that she might wish to consider theoretical study: unlike many of my students, your daughter has had the benefit of tuition from a number of excellent practitioners over the years, and her practical skill is vast, as is her understanding of the basics of the art. I simply thought -- given her freedom to practise in other environments -- the theoretical class might provide an opportunity to strengthen her knowledge of the more esoteric elements of study, which would in turn reinforce her natural facility. Likewise, I had hoped that if her interests lie in that direction, she would be able to serve as an exemplar to her classmates in her dedication to understanding the more difficult topics I will be covering.

You needn't think the theoretical class will be in any way less vigorous -- in many ways, it will be more so, as I intend to take the opportunity to explore a number of subjects in much greater depth without the distraction of practical spellwork. I felt Hydra's plans for her adult life might be better served by electing a course of

study that would afford her a deeper knowledge to build on as she works towards her future career. A chance to dig into the deeper questions that sadly are often shunted aside in the focus on practical spellwork -- which she has so many other chances to exercise -- might produce an even more well-rounded practitioner than she already is.

Too, I fear she might very well be bored witless in the practical section! Very few of her classmates have her experience, and I would be quite surprised if many of the things I plan to teach this year to the practical section will be new to her. I felt the theoretical class might offer her more of a challenge than she has been provided with thus far.

I would be happy to discuss this with you and Rod in person, of course -- I will be in New London this weekend, and would be delighted to sit down with you and catch up over dinner if you should be so inclined. Though of course the question might be academic, if Hydra decides that practical study would serve her future needs more admirably.

Ever in service to Our Lord's vision,
T



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2012-09-28 17:12:08](#)
(no subject)

Antosha, one thing you may observe about my daughter as you become better acquainted with her is her tendency to shy away from all things requiring action and decisiveness. If left unchecked, she's liable to slump over in a passive stupor, leaving her vulnerable to the influence of others - as we saw but a few years ago.

So you see, the practical course is necessary for reasons that go beyond cultivating knowledge. I would be happy to delve further into these reasons when we meet this weekend.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-28 17:42:09**
(no subject)


Of course you and Rod know her best, but I must confess I have noticed no true signs of passivity in Hydra in our acquaintance as of yet. A reserved nature, yes, but a tendency to keep one's own counsel is no true flaw, particularly not when coupled with such a fine and flexible mind as she clearly has inherited from both maternal and paternal lines. In class thus far I have seen her capable of both excellent reasoning ability and decisive -- and incisive -- answers.

There will be ample opportunity, both this year and in future, for students (whether in theoretical or practical study) to participate in extracurricular enrichment activities that will train their ability to think and act under pressure, if they so desire -- I will be happy to provide you both with further information on that, as well; in fact your input and suggestions would be most greatly appreciated -- so you needn't fear in that direction, either! Ask the children: I have not tolerated dereliction yet, and will continue to demand excellence from them all throughout the year.

Shall we say an early supper on Sunday, then, before I return to Hogwarts? I would be happy to host you and Rod at Cottesmore, or if you've a favorite restaurant I would be equally happy to be guided by your superior knowledge of the current options available. (Also, Rod -- I may have a proposal for you for next weekend. Remind me, if I do not remember.)

Ever in service to Our Lord's ideals,
T



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-09-29 03:25:08**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Hydra

Hydra, your mother is SO AWFUL.

WHY does she say things like this where everyone can read them?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-29 20:28:03](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private message to Hydra*

Because she can, I suppose.

From,

Hydra



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-28 17:02:12](#)

Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Miss Lestrangle,

I must apologise for splashing your private business across public fora. I did not, however, wish for your mother's description of you as somehow defective to remain visible to all, unchallenged, when it is indeed far from truth. I did do my best to remain comfortably vague as to the specifics of what we discussed; if I have overstepped I offer you my sincerest apologies.

Regarding that discussion, please allow me to once again reiterate that the choice is entirely yours, and I will be wholly understanding of whichever of your conflicting necessities you feel the need to follow. Should you believe that a year or two of theoretical study now, before your NEWT-level study in the Arts, would serve you better in future, I will do my best to continue standing your champion with your parents (though, hopefully, in a less public fashion). Should you wish to sidestep the battle and save your strength, I shall look forward to seeing you in class on Tuesday.

I will be in my office this afternoon from 4PM to 5PM if you would like to discuss matters further, and would be happy to make myself available to you any evening next week if that timeframe is not convenient.

With regard,
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2012-09-29 20:30:27**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Dear Professor,

I don't think I will need to discuss matters further. It's best if I take the practical course. I'm sorry that the letter to my parents created an inconvenience for you.

From,
Hydra Lestrangle



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-30 02:57:24**

Re: Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Miss Lestrangle,

It is no inconvenience at all. As I told your father yesterday, you are my student, not they; my first obligation is to you, and I am more than willing to defend your right to self-determination as necessary in the future as well. (I would only ask for as much warning as possible to plan my tactics.)

If there is anything else I can do for you, you need but ask.

With regard,
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt_rodolphus](#) at 2012-09-28 18:32:51**

Private message to Toshenka

Toshenka,

I would apologise for my wife - for her presumption, for publicly challenging your methods, and for her tendency to reserve Private Messages for Auror business only - but in the years since you've been gone I've fallen out of the habit of apologising for her. I can only sympathise, instead.

I happen to agree with many of your points about my daughter and how she would benefit from a more well-rounded study of the Arts, but fear that to take the side of the theoretical track would only lead

to greater friction down the road, both for her and for yourself. I also confess that as Hydra's Father, not being present and able to protect her from harm compels me to the practical side. If Raz hadn't been there when Carrow killed that half-blood girl...well, even the threat of Bella's wrath may not have stilled his wand. To say nothing of how I am perturbed by thoughts of lecherous teenage boys who are no doubt beginning to buzz around her...

In any case, I do look forward to seeing you this weekend. I'm afraid that the Missus and I are barely cordial these days, so you may not be in for the most pleasant of evenings. With any luck, she'll not linger long (her service to Our Lord is ever-calling) and we'll have time to catch up, just the two of us.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2012-09-28 20:07:22](#)**

Re: Private message to Toshenka

My dear, Bella will be Bella whether the rest of us apologise for her or no. Rest assured I do not judge you by it. A part of me has quite missed the chance to match wits with her!

I can certainly understand your arguments (and your desire to protect your daughter, though one does get the distinct sense she is already well capable of protecting herself) and do fear the message I imparted to Hydra may have become garbled in the transmission -- I did not so much steer her towards the theoretical track as mention it as an option to consider, with the understanding it might not be a good idea given her, shall we say, somewhat unique considerations. One has always been left with the definite impression Bella would not be satisfied with any daughter short of a miniature version of herself, and perhaps not even that, but one also does not wish to cause too much domestic strife, particularly when it sounds as though you're already quite embroiled in it. (I am sorry for that, and for being even remotely a contributor.)

Still, I do believe the final decision (whatever it might be) must ultimately reside in Hydra's hands alone, in service to her own vision of her future. Not that I doubt your ability to impart the theoretical grounding in any way -- far from it -- but you know as well as I that having several different teachers offering differing approaches is often in the student's best interests, and there are some bits of the deepest theory best learned from someone outside one's close family. I do not doubt Hydra will choose the practical

session, as she seemed fairly puzzled by my suggestion of the theoretical class -- and truly, I do believe she would excel in either option -- but I must insist on her right to make that decision for herself, after taking all her options into consideration. I will warn you, should it become an issue in future, that my obligation to her as my student does currently outweigh my bond to you and Bella as my sworn brother and sister, as eternal and undying as those bonds might be. I have accepted this task of education from Our Lord himself, and I will see it through to the best of my ability and with my best judgement; if that should place me more directly at odds with Bella (or indeed with you, my dearest), I would still go down swinging.

Let us hope it will not come to that -- and truly, I do not think it will. But I would be a poor teacher indeed if I did not advocate for my students above all else save Our Lord's dictates, now that they have been placed in my hands. They have been ill-served by flawed tutelage for too long; they more than deserve a fierce and unstinting proponent for however long I am to have the teaching of them.

In the meantime, and to happier considerations, it will indeed be pleasant to see you this weekend, and I regret it has not been possible until now! As to the proposal: Rizzer has agreed to lend me a hand in providing a demonstration to the NEWT-level students (as well as any others who care to come) of ways in which the Arts can be used that do not involve the Cardinals as first choice and last resort both, in service to the goal of shaking off some of the bad habits darling departed Alecto trained them into.


I haven't told the students yet, but we are tentatively arranging to hold a demonstration fight (of the familiar old sort) next Saturday, and I believe Barty at least will also wish to be present to observe. Care to join us, and make a day of it? I thought to perhaps invite Lucius as well, for lunch at least, and either beforehand or afterwards (assuming no one is occupied in regrowing bones or belching up blood uncontrollably, though we have agreed to place some limits on the scope) perhaps make an expedition into the closet I've designated as holding pen for Alecto's leavings. (Or even, if we're feeling particularly brave -- or particularly bored -- her quarters, which I took two steps into, winced, and warded off entirely until some future date.)

If the thought intrigues, I should have more details for you this weekend.

(Also, I've some books set aside for you -- I found the most amazing little antique shop in New Orleans that had no idea the treasures gathering dust on their shelves.)

Affectionately,
T



 **[alt_neville](#) at 2012-09-28 23:18:37**

Private message to Professor Dolohov

I would like to request to be placed with the theoretical class, sir. Thank you.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-29 02:55:14**

Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

Of course, Mr Longbottom. I shall look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

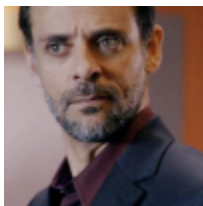
Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt_luna](#) at 2012-09-28 23:31:56**

Private message to Professor Dolohov

Practical, please. I left a longer note in your box.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2012-09-29 02:56:42**


Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

Indeed you did, Miss Lovegood. I haven't the slightest idea what you could have possibly meant by

I shall see you on Wednesday, then.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-09-29 01:46:26](#)

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Professor,

Theoretical is *more* challenging than the Practical? I mean, not that I would eavesdrop on other people's messages (can you eavesdrop on something that's written? Well, I mean, read a message meant for someone else) but you said--I mean, that reply to the Lestranges it was for anyone to see, you didn't make it private. And you said that the Theory is going to be *more* in-depth?

I had put a slip for theory in your box, you see. But if it's going to be harder then maybe I should choose Practical, after all. Should I choose Practical? I think I should choose Practical.

Yes. Please. If that's all right.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-29 03:10:06](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Miss Jones,


Kindly do not think too much of it; I am certain you will understand the concept of tailoring one's message to one's audience, hm?

The two classes will be roughly equal amounts of work, though of different types; the theoretical class will be more self-guided. I will be happy to welcome you into the practical class, however, and should you change your mind, there will be an option for you to change tracks for at least the next several weeks if you should decide you are unsuited to practical study after all.

As you have no prior experience with the Arts, may I suggest you get together with several of your classmates who are in similar position for revision regularly? Please do also stop in for my open hours the minute you find yourself confused or at sea with your studies and I will be more than happy to help. I do hope you and your classmates will learn to think of me as a resource to be called upon over time.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 [alt_megan](#) at [2012-09-29 03:19:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Oh. But can't you just ~~tell~~ me which one

Oh, I see. All right. I guess that would be all right. Coming to your office, I mean. And the revising.

That's a good idea. I'll do that, then.

Thank you, sir.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-29 03:23:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

You are quite welcome, Miss Jones. I will also be holding a series of informal luncheons in my classroom twice a week, beginning in a few weeks, for us all to get to know each other better;

please do consider attending.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov

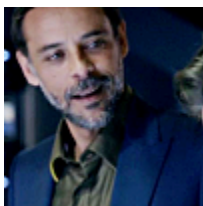


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-29 02:13:19](#)

Private message to Professor Dolohov

Practical, please.

Thank you again for taking those socks off my hands. It's a relief to know they're in the custody of someone who can ensure they don't wind up anywhere they shouldn't be.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-29 03:19:47](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov

Miss Perks,

Had you opted the theoretical I would have been quite surprised indeed! I will very much look forward to your presence in class on Monday, and I hope that after next week's appointments with the thirds are clear from my calendar, you will make it a habit of stopping in for further discussion whenever you've some spare time during my open hours.

I have quite enjoyed our conversations thus far and would very much like to continue them if you are able to find the time -- quite an indulgence on my part, I will admit, especially given how busy your year will no doubt be, but one can already see you will be one of the students who make the experience of teaching worthwhile.

Think nothing more of the socks, meanwhile: I will accept full responsibility for making sure they are sent along to where they ought to go. I will trust my lessons in all the ways in which it is possible to identify an object's creator will prove illuminating to you in future, lest you be tempted to experiment in such fashion again, hm?

Warmly,
Professor Dolohov



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-29 03:19:56](#)

Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

A truly lovely evening as always - I do hope it continued to be for you two after I came up to work on the planetary moon projections. (They came out quite well, I'm glad to say. I've come in for a mug of something warm before we try for class outside.)

I did realise - look, I know I just spent more than an hour companionably leaning against Raz. As you've likely gathered, I'm usually far more restrained. Sign of how relaxed I am with you, really, and it does please him. (It's certainly one of the things I never get enough of.)

And I'm fairly sure you'd have said something - or raised an eyebrow, at least - if it bothered you. But if it does make you uncomfortable, do let me know and I'll refrain. (And yes, I'm quite aware I do it more when I'm nervous. Before you wonder about saying anything.)

Speaking of future topics: I hope to (finally!) finish the first Narnia book this weekend, between my marking. Curious what you think about *Not Our Kind*, and *Melt In Your Mouth* ... they're foolish, and yet there's seeds to make me think, both of them.

Fixed stars. There was something else I was going to mention, but

it's apparently fallen out of my head between the outside of the tower and my desk. Do enjoy your time in New London, barring the necessary Healer appointments. I'd recommend cafes, but my usual is not your style at all.

A.



 **alt_antonin** at **2012-09-29 03:41:18**

Re: Private message to Antosha

My dearest Aurora,

You're a dear to worry, but no. I would far rather you feel comfortable, and express it however your nature directs, than that you fret. And given the topic of discussion tonight, it is no wonder you felt the need.

Truly, little star, if you are at all uncomfortable with the prospect or feel it would call up too many bad memories, I would rather have to find another wand to assist than to risk upsetting your hard-won equilibrium. Rizzer and I are more than capable of putting on a show for hours (oh, all right, I'll be lucky to get through fifteen minutes before needing to yield, but still) without harming each other in the slightest, but the mad animal living in the oldest places of our brains often cannot be spoken to with reason. If you feel there is any chance seeing such a fight will awaken that small savage voice, do cry mercy and I will not say another word. It is eminently likely there will be others of our brethren who are interested in stopping up next weekend to watch me get my arse handed to me; I can press one or more of them into service instead.

(And I do know what you will say, but I at least needed to make the offer.)

I will be leaving the next of that damnable series here in my quarters rather than fetching them along with me this weekend -- Barty, alas, knows the trick of seeing through the book-disguise charm, and although one does need to think to cast the counter on oneself, he has known me for long enough that he tends to do so whenever I am reading anything suitably grim-looking for the pleasure of catching me in my little deception. I will, no doubt, devour them on my return. (There is something lurking at the back of my mind as well about the patterns I am seeing in them so far, yes. But I can't quite put my finger on it yet.)

Let us pray the Healers do not find cause to detain me longer than they absolutely must.

Sleepily,

T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2012-09-29 03:55:08](#)

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

I thought that might be the way of it, but I did want to ask. And you do, yes, already know my answer on the other.

It does unsettle me - I'd not dream of lying to you even if it weren't entirely obvious how I felt. Not just on Raz's behalf or my own either. But at the same time, not watching and knowing it was happening would be such a great deal worse. And should there be a concern about student safety, I suspect I could do far more of use far more quickly - the habit of established trust, as it were.

I'll manage, truly. And I think I need to for more than a few reasons.

On the books: in that case, I'm sorry to have brought them down to tempt and torment you, but at least you will have them to look forward to on Sunday. And I'm now quite curious if you do manage to put your finger on the patterns you see.

Right. I hear footsteps on the stairs, and I should find my cloak and head outside again, and hope the clouds hold off another two hours.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-29 03:43:56](#)

Private Message to Theodore Nott


Mr Nott,

Please come join me in my office on Monday, immediately after lunch; I have a matter I would like to discuss with you. I recognise you have Potions during that time, but I will speak to Professor Slughorn to ensure you are not

penalised for missing the first part of your instruction.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2012-09-29 03:49:41](#)

Private Message to Toshenka

Some things never do change, do they?

My sister has a singularly strange interpretation of what will serve her children best, Tosha. Of course, Hydra is perfectly capable of casting any spell she chooses. It's perfectly clear that's not your reason at all.

But that is not why I'm writing. What time do you expect to be released from your Healers? Lucius and I have a morning engagement as well but we'd be glad to meet you for tea if you've the time or the energy.

He said you two had quite the carouse on Thursday. Not too worse for the bottle today, I hope?

And you must, must tell me how it is that you have taken up so much space in Aurora's heart in so short a time! I daresay Raz may have to call you out before too long - or he would do, if he didn't know you're more likely to help her pick her bridal bouquet than try to supplant him in her bridal bed!

It's too bad you're required at the school so much. I've missed having someone to drag along to village faires and country festivals. (Someone who can comment intelligently on the proceedings, that is!) I don't see how you can get through the weeks without succumbing to total exhaustion, dear. (Lucius says your timetable is utterly gruelling. Is there no way to reduce the burden? I'm sure you've already come up with some ways to free yourself of the most tedious of your tasks.)

Well, tomorrow? Or Sunday, even, if you prefer to brunch. Do let me know, darling.



alt_antonin at 2012-09-29 17:57:24

Re: Private Message to Toshenska

Little flower,

I am free, finally. (The less said about this morning, the better.) Barty will be over any minute, and dinner with Rod and Bella tomorrow night before I head back to school, but brunch tomorrow sounds lovely.

I was none the worse for wear Friday morning; I am Russian. (I am also capable of finding a hangover potion when I need one.) If Lyoushka was not, I can only look innocent.

My schedule is not as bad as it could be (although it will get more so this week as I add another two hours of instruction in, and another hour next week as well, but these are small sacrifices) but yes, I've managed to duck the worst of the tedious bits by looking innocent and pathetic. (I'm not on the schedule for patrol, for instance, and thus far I have resisted the Hogsmeade schedule.) I'll also be tapping one of the sixth-years as clerk for the worst of the paperwork, as soon as I figure out which one of them is worth the trust. But truly, it's not as bad as Lyoushka might have intimated. Most of my day is only sitting down and talking, anyway, and we all know how good I am at talking!

I promise to escort you wherever you'd desire as soon as I am better, as long as it doesn't conflict with classwork. And barring other obligations, I am all yours for the holiday season once term is over. (Which reminds me: please do exert your wiles to make sure I'm invited to anything Razzer and Aurora are? I've some plans that mostly involve introducing her to the circles for whom discussion of deep esoteric things is a sign of affection. Between your social championing and my intellectual championing we should be able to ease her awkwardness a bit; the woman is brilliant, you know. Which should answer your question as to how I've won her heart: I told her so, and made it clear I would keep throwing interesting ideas at her for us to discuss. It helped that I was also quite complimentary about Razzer and I think she likes the way I encourage the students.)

Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow, dear one,

T



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-29 22:40:55](#)

Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Antonin Nikolaevich;

After giving it a great deal of thought, I would like to start in the Practical class. I'm very grateful for your flexibility and understanding, and should I find that the Practical is not going to work for me, I will feel no hesitation in telling you. That being said, I am willing to give it my full effort, and based on our lectures so far, I'm very interested to see what the term holds in store.

I've requested a copy of the Poe from the lending library at New London, and I'm very much looking forward to reading it, especially after it came so highly recommended. I'm quite ignorant of American writers, I'm afraid, and I'd like to change that. I very much enjoyed our conversation the other day, and hope it is the first of many.

Respectfully yours,
Pansy Parkinson



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2012-09-30 03:13:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Miss Parkinson,

Truly, I am glad to hear it. I would not imagine the practical class will be much of an insurmountable hurdle for you, but I would be happy to provide as much outside tutelage as you find necessary. Many of your classmates are also starting the practical class with less background knowledge than you have: I do not doubt you will do wonderfully. I believe you are close friends with both Miss Perks and Mr Malfoy? They will both be excellent resources, and of course you've mentioned Lucius has had at least partial tending of your library thus far; that will also help.

I do hope you will enjoy the Poe -- he is a fascinating character in his own right, and his literary contributions are vast. If you enjoy his work I have several authors I might lend you, more difficult to find in public libraries these days. Several of them I am willing to lend you, should you agree to take care with them; some of them are best not let out of my sight, but I have set up a corner of my

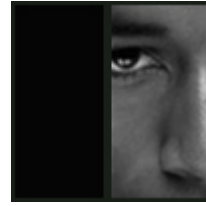
office to serve as a reading nook and would be happy to share it with you whenever we are both free.

I, too, enjoyed our conversation, and do stop by whenever you're ready for those stories of your father I promised you. I see a great deal of him in you.

Regards,
Antonin Nikolaevich

2012-09-29 09:28:00

Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Pansy Parkinson



 **alt_blaise**

I stopped in the library after breakfast to see if I could find that Postilion monograph for the Arithmancy essay. The one that's meant to have a brilliant calculation for figuring triangulations and charting them.

It was right where I reckoned, too. Should have put a stronger 'don't notice' on it if they wanted to keep it to themselves.

I talked Madam Pince round to letting me sign it out, so if you want to have a look, you're welcome.



 **alt_draco** at **2012-09-29 20:32:26**

(no subject)

Who's 'they'? Let me guess: the illustrious Ravenclaw Corner?



 **alt_blaise** at **2012-09-29 20:38:36**

(no subject)

Precisely.

Surprised there haven't been shrieks piercing all the way down here yet. Surely they've figured out it's gone missing by now.

Or maybe they're not as hard-working as they mean us to think.

Anywiz, if they can hide books to hoard them, it's fair game if we find them, don't you think?

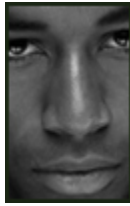


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2012-09-29 22:33:36](#)
(no subject)

I agree. And Madame Pince did let you check it out, so I think it's fair game. I'd like to take a look, yes.

I'll be discreet.


Unless you want it flashed around a little, that is.



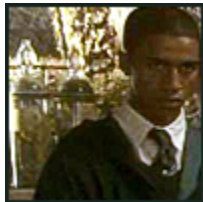
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-30 00:04:29](#)
(no subject)

Tempting. But I think being discreet is better. I have it with me in the common room if you want it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2012-09-29 23:01:01](#)
(no subject)

Of course it's fair game, but brace yourself for someone to make a Wizengamot case about it - sounds as if you already are, anyway.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-09-29 23:52:00](#)
(no subject)

Well, really. What else is one to do of a Saturday?

2012-09-30 09:20:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

To liven up today's meeting, Pansy and I were thinking of running a contest. You get one point every time you can get Delores Umbridge to say 'teensy.'



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Two points:

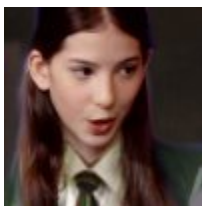
swollen
swelling
romp
spunky
wink
ride

Five points for any of the following:

throb
polish your wand
rampaging hippogryff

Ten points:

if you get her to say something that makes the rest of us hurt ourselves trying not to laugh (but don't get yourself in trouble, that's not the idea here!)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2012-09-30 14:28:10**

(no subject)

Oh and feel free to pass this game along to people outside the lock, so long as you think they won't tattle, or be completely obvious about it.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2012-09-30 14:45:27**

(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

I say, I was just about to write to you about something else, what, but now I've another question: What if she says something on your list without one of *us* being the person to prompt her?


-Justin



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-30 14:48:10](#)**
(no subject)

Well she's certain to say 'teensy' plenty of times. I suppose you get points if you keep count at all.



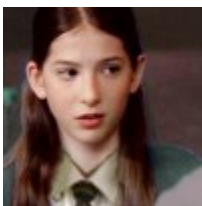
 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2012-09-30 14:49:45](#)**
Private Message to Sally-Anne


Did you happen to notice what Professor Dolohov wrote to the Lestranges about the Theory section being even more demanding, in some ways, than the Practical?

I say, Neville's set on the Theoretical, what, and so's Evelyn. I was thinking perhaps we ought to offer to help with the larger amounts of reading and interpretation he's going to have to do, what? Only I think, unlike other revising, we may have to go careful with him. I'm not sure but I think he might bally well turn stubborn over accepting help. It's not as if it's an innocuous Runes lesson, after all.

What do you think?

-Justin



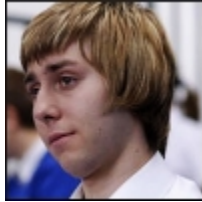
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2012-09-30 14:56:36](#)**
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Yeah, I don't know if I want to talk about Dark Arts with Neville. I'm a little worried that if I try to help him with the readings or the papers he'll conclude I'm totally corrupted and evil just like the Wand

Smugglers warned.

(When really, he's making some of the same arguments I've made for years, like why are some spells 'totally Dark and forbidden!' and some spells 'basically okay' -- the lines are even odder when you know the history of it, and why some things are 'hexes' and some are 'jinxes.')

Honestly I think Neville might prefer to get a really bad mark in Dark Arts. I think he'll feel safer.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-30 15:19:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

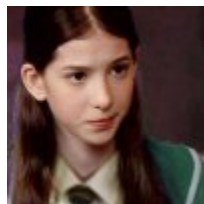
I daresay he'd prefer to sit in lessons and never crack open a book, what, but I hardly think Professor Dolohov shall be satisfied with that, do you?

I do wish sometimes he could take a middle-road approach, make himself less noticeable, what.

I agree that many of Professor Dolohov's points make sense, what, but I'm afraid I see it the other way round, Sally-Anne. It's the spells that people think are 'basically okay' that probably ought to be considered suspect, not that the spells everyone condemns ought to be reconsidered as possibly not altogether bad.

Certainly, it's a tool (as he's fond of saying) and what one does with it is the key. But a knife's purpose is still to cut, what? And a salve's purpose is still to soothe or heal. I think perhaps the real danger is the temptation to say, 'Well, *my* intentions are well honourable, and therefore my use of this spell is, too.'

-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-30 15:40:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

That's true up to a point but if you don't believe that some things are okay because your intentions are good and honourable, you really can't fight anyone ever, you know? It's not as if the Wand

Smugglers are going to be able to defeat the council with salves and lullabies.

Anyway a lot of what we've learned so far isn't Dark at all, like that locking spell.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-30 15:58:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Quite. It's not at all clear-cut or simple, is it?

And it's not as if there's a bright line dividing the two, what, as if all spells up to a certain point are not-dark and all spells beyond it are. Though I daresay it *is* a question of degree.

None of which is going to help Neville, what.

I suppose the best we can do is continue to hold revising groups and encourage him to come. Perhaps I'll have a quiet word with him if there's a good opportunity. I don't wish him to deliberately give anyone reasons to torment him, if we can help.

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2012-09-30 15:05:29](#)

(no subject)

What does the person with the most points win?

Good luck to the rest of you, but I don't think I'll try to get her to say anything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-09-30 15:38:02](#)

(no subject)

The prize is chocolate.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2012-09-30 19:08:49](#)

(no subject)

Now I don't feel nearly as bad that I didn't make it into the CCF. The meetings don't sound like they're as much fun, now that Professor Sinistra is no longer in charge.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2012-09-30 20:19:08](#)
(no subject)

Hello, Neville,

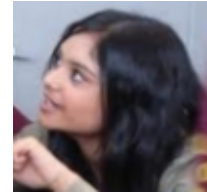
On the other hand, she did just say 'romp,' what?

-Justin

[2012-09-30 10:02:00](#)

Private Message to Zabini

If you wanted to use the Postilion, all you had to do was ask one of us.

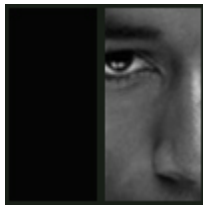


The reason we keep it in the library is so anyone can get to it. I don't know what you said to Madam Pince about it; she knows there are certain books that we keep aside so no one person checks them out.

 **[alt_padma](#)**

And now we've got YPL this afternoon, after losing all day yesterday because you had the pamphlet.

Just bring it back and next time, just come to the library and use it there.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2012-09-30 23:40:09](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry. Didn't see this. I was writing my essay this morning.

This why you were glaring during YPL, then? Thought you were imitating a basilisk.

Did you need to have a look?

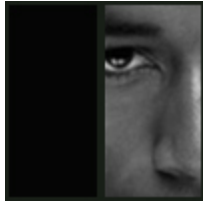


 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-01 00:06:19](#)**
(no subject)

Of course I need it. We all need it, that's the point of leaving it where everyone can get to it! We've got the same assignment as you, Zabini.

And on top of that, Bobolis and Capper need it, too.

We wasted over an hour yesterday looking for it. Lines is well behind on his YPL essay because he kept trying to find it.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2012-10-01 02:18:45](#)
(no subject)

Well. All you had to do was ask one of us.

Don't see why you wasted so much time. Or bothered getting so fussed.

I'll return it to Madam Pince before breakfast. Which is what I promised her, at any rate.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2012-10-01 02:21:25](#)
(no subject)

That's what I told ~~you~~, to ~~ask~~ for it

And ~~you're~~ the one who wasted

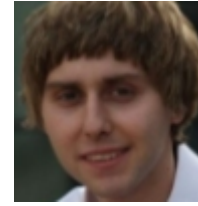
Fine. Thank you.

2012-09-30 11:58:00

Private Message to Adam Chau

Mr Chau,

Thank you for your response to my enquiry regarding the Peverell text for the Hogwarts' Fifth-Year curriculum. I had rather hoped the 1821 translation by Alexander would be back in stock by now. I wonder if, in the interim, there is an alternative edition available?



 [alt_justin](#)

If it would be possible to provide a selection of translations, as well as a concordance or a decent copy of the original Latin version, I'd be happy to pay for my selections and return the others by owl. Whichever way, I'm sure you understand that we're approaching the point in term when our professor shall expect us to have the appropriate texts.

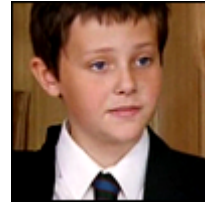
Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Justin Finch-Fletchley

2012-09-30 18:27:00

Private Message to Steve Capper and Sally-Anne Perks



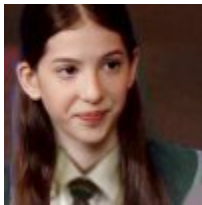
 **alt_michael**

Has anyone heard if Strangeweale's going to be okay?

I wouldn't have thought something as simple as cleaning the castle would have caused such a ruckus. You?

I mean, Evelyn and Chelsea and Norma are just all so quiet, it's hard to imagine *they* had anything to do with starting it.

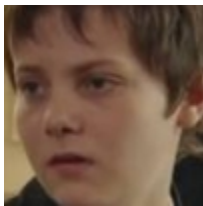
Perks, did Phillip Stretton come talk to you? He's your foster-brother, isn't he? Steve, did you manage to get any sort of sense out of the others? What happened?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2012-10-01 00:18:04**
(no subject)

Yeah, Phillip told me about it. He was pretty sure it was Strangeweale who started it -- he was having a go at Chelsea Abbot and Judith Starling. Or maybe it was Featherstone who started it, because she was the one shrieking the loudest after that it was all Starling's fault. Phillip wasn't sure.

Anyway, Strangeweale got whisked off to the Hospital wing and yeah, everyone thought he would be fine, really.

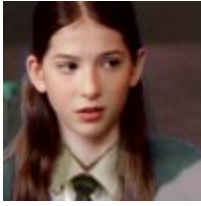


 **alt_michael** at **2012-10-01 00:24:06**
(no subject)

Well, did Phillip tell you that Madam Umbridge told Chelsea and Judith to come see her in the morning to tell her 'their side' of the story?

Chelsea was pretty nervous about it, according to Sue Bones.

So I don't think we've heard the end of it, do you?

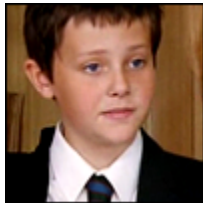


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-10-01 00:28:45](#)
(no subject)

I hadn't heard that bit, no.

You're probably right.

I don't think Madam Umbridge likes half-bloods. Judith's a half-blood and Chelsea's legally pure because of what happened to Hannah, but I'm not sure how seriously anyone takes that.

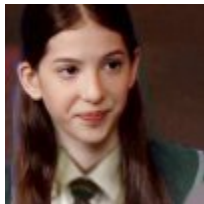


 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-10-01 00:41:31](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if she doesn't like half-bloods or if she just doesn't like kids.

Well, *we're* not kids. But you know what I mean.

And yeah, I can't blame Chelsea for worrying. Even if it wasn't her fault (and I can't really believe it was. Strangeweale and Featherstone and McLaggen? And Warrington? Please).



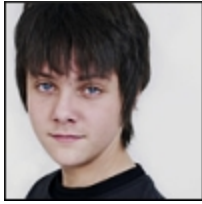
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-10-01 01:22:08](#)
(no subject)

I don't think she likes kids, but I think she likes half-blood kids less.

Siz warned me that when I had my interview to try not to sound 'above my station.' So I tried to get her to talk about herself (Madam Umbridge, I mean) and that sort of worked.

Anyway, there's no way it was Chelsea's fault, she wouldn't have started anything. And Featherstone is horrid, she's one of the ones I caught bullying Caroline Bones this summer during the camping trip. I don't much know Fintan McLaggen but if he's anything like his brother --

Anyway, yeah. I don't think Strangeweale was hurt badly but I expect he'd have deserved it if he had been.



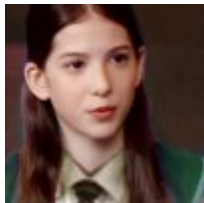
 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-10-01 01:41:23](#)
(no subject)

Whether or not he deserved it, do you think that'll make a difference?

Uh.

Listen. Totally different topic but - you're in Creatures, right? Did you understand the bit Professor Grubbly-Plank asked for on Firecrabs? Something about their shells?

Only I ran out of parchment just at the end of our lesson and I don't remember what she said.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-10-01 01:44:42](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm in Creatures. She wants us to write about Firecrab exoskeletons and what protections they offer (from fire, obviously, but other stuff too), and also what they DON'T protect against.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-10-01 01:49:38](#)
(no subject)

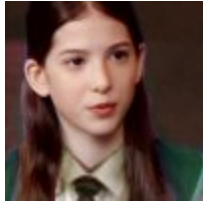
Oh. Okay, great.

Thanks.

I think she said she had a few in the pen down near her shed, too, if we wanted to have a closer look (without getting too close, of course). In the interest of the report, I mean.

Uh.

You wouldn't want to...go down and have a look sometime? I mean, the report's not due until the end of the week, so...we could go tomorrow. Or Tuesday. Or even Wednesday. If you want.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-10-01 01:56:38](#)
(no subject)

Oh, good idea. I don't think I have time to go until Wednesday but don't feel like you need to wait for me.



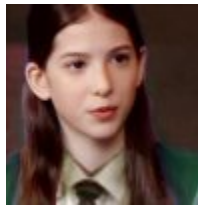
 [alt_michael](#) at [2012-10-01 02:00:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

No, Wednesday's good. Great, in fact.

Wednesday.

After lessons, then?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2012-10-01 02:02:57](#)
(no subject)

Sure, I'll see you then.

2012-09-30 19:24:00

YPL : 30 September



 [alt_umbridge](#)

Dear boys and girls: Thank you again for your presence and attention this afternoon. It was especially lovely to see some new shining faces we'd not seen before. Do feel you can come to me with any questions you might have.

Now, I do want to make very clear that during our YPL time together, I expect the very best possible behaviour from all of you. Even teensy little differences of opinion should be avoided, because they take away from our ability to work together for the good of the school and our glorious Protectorate.

We will meet again in two weeks to welcome guests: engineers working throughout the Protectorate to create new magical buildings, add new points to the Floo Network, and other ever so necessary and important tasks. I do hope you will all find it interesting - this was arranged before I took over leadership, so you may wish to ask Professor Sinistra why she selected this topic and these speakers.

I also remind you all that entries for the essay competition on Our Lord's Greatest Achievement are due to me on October 22nd for full consideration. The winning entries will be read at our meeting on the 28th. And of course, I expect to see you all at the exercise sessions - strong bodies wield strong wands!

Dear parents: Today, we spent some time in patriotic practice of song and marching, but split the rest of our time between a review of Protectorate history, touching on some of the very highest points of Our Lord's rise to power and majesty. We then all chipped in and worked to make the castle even more tidy and beautiful than usual, attending to all those small details.

My staff have also been hard at work on some teensy newsletters and other materials for us to share with all of you at home. We expect to launch the first issue in two weeks, at our next YPL meeting. We expect to send copies home to all parents of YPL students free of charge, but would also be glad to include others on our subscription list for a small fee to cover costs - simply contact my office and they will arrange it.

I will also be in New London on Friday for several appointments. There are just one or two spaces on my schedule, should parents have questions about the programme so far.



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-09-30 23:48:20**

Private message to Marston Strangeweale and Poppy Pomfrey

Marston -

First, please do not worry. There was a teensy mishap today, but I am assured by Madam Pomfrey that all is well. I am copying her here should you have questions.

As you know from my reports, today's session involved first the lecture, then splitting the students into smaller groups to work in various spots around the castle. Your Marlon was in a group where I hoped he would be able to show some leadership and model appropriate behaviour.

Regrettfully, an altercation occurred with two of our first years - most improper of them - and Marlon slipped on a patch of smooth stone. I was not sure at first whether he might have hit his head, so naturally my very first thought was to get him appropriate care. I've just returned from seeing him back to his dormitory from the Hospital Wing. Madam Pomfrey was most thorough indeed.

He also had the chance to tell me what happened - well, ill-discipline and poor parenting will win out apparently. One of the girls is that Hannah Abbott's younger sister, Chelsea. The other is Judith Starling, also a half-blood. Both are coming to speak with me first thing in the morning, and you can be quite sure I will be most clear about my expectations for their behaviour.

Please do let me know any further steps you wish me to take. And I do believe Marlon was intending to write and reassure you himself as soon as he'd completed a few necessary assignments for tomorrow. I will be in New London on Friday, should you wish to discuss further.

Dolores



 **alt_umbridge** at **2012-10-01 00:01:09**

Private message to Rolanda Hooch and Pomona Sprout

Pomona, Rolanda -

I have asked Chelsea Abbott and Judith Starling to come speak to me first thing before breakfast tomorrow morning. As you may have already heard, there was an altercation involving several students, and I would like to hear their own explanations for what happened and their role. I am most glad to say that Poppy checked over Marlon Strangeweale, the boy who was injured, and he will thankfully be fine.

Thank you for your support and assistance in this matter. And should you have further questions, do let me know and we can arrange a suitable time to talk.

Dolores