

**[2012-10-01 19:29:00](#)**

*Order Only: Agam Japra*

I have convinced Agam Japra's parents to release him to Moddey Dhoo, on one condition. His father is a muggle healer here at the camp (what they call a 'doctor'), and they insisted that the boy be vaccinated, using the traditional muggle method. I believe it involves sticking needles in the arm. I confess I am rather hazy on how this method works but the father was quite insistent.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)**

Once I heard his story, I could see his point. It seems that little Agam had two older sisters, and they lost them both in the measles epidemic of '95.' The parents are quite bitter about this, particularly the father, saying that the deaths were totally unnecessary; if only they had been vaccinated, they would have survived. Of course, since they lost their two older children, it was even more of a wrench to give up Agam. But they are willing to make the sacrifice in hopes that he might have a better life.

Poppy, this is the sort of thing I would have asked Norma Brownmiller about, were she still alive, but alas, of course that is no longer an option. Do you know anything, or do any of your contacts know anything about vaccine stocks?



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 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-10-02 00:59:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Sticking needles in his arm!?

It sounds positively barbaric!



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-10-02 03:05:19](#)**  
(no subject)

That is precisely the word for it, Molly. Barbaric!

And, Arthur. No, I've no idea whether any Muggle medicinals are stored anywhere. Or if they were, whether they'd be in fit for use after all this time.

I'm certainly not going to jab bits of metal into a body and squirt

who knows what inside.

A filthy practice.

In any case, it's quite unnecessary to worry. I see to it that Stephen has what's needed to keep all the Sanctuary's children protected from those diseases that are allowed to run amok in the camp populations.

The child will be perfectly safe with our magical 'vaccine'. And no need for a needle jab.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-10-02 03:13:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

You're not suggesting the child is ill and could be carrying an active ailment into the Sanctuary, are you?

If so, we should tell Frank he'll need to spend a bit more time in his quarantine chamber



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-10-02 04:16:32](#)**

*(no subject)*

No, no, not at all, Poppy. But I gather that the custom was that Muggle children used to receive vaccines at specific intervals. He wrote out the programme that a 'properly vaccinated' child should follow. He's most concerned about measles, of course, but also mentioned mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, and a few others.

He is a muggle doctor, as I said, and he knows what he is talking about, concerning the diseases that have caused the most trouble in the camps.

**2012-10-01 20:16:00**

*Private Message to Professors Sprout and Siz*



 **alt\_cedric**

Valerie just came to me about Chelsea's behaviour today. She's been busy all day, incapable of sitting down to do anything other than coursework or eating a meal as quickly as possible. She says she 'has to be up and doing something all the time.

Like cleaning or straightening or organizing' While we were discussing this she dusted all of the pictures in the common room. Just now she stumbled a bit and sat down down hard into a chair. After a moment she said 'I can sit down now!' with this note of wonder in her voice.

I'm not sure if I should be sending her to the Matron to be checked or just seeing how she feels tomorrow.

---



 **alt\_pomona** at **2012-10-02 00:32:46**  
(no subject)

Goodness. That seems odd. For her, especially. I wouldn't describe her as lazy or anything of the kind, but she's always struck me as the slow and measured type rather than perpetual motion, as it were.

Can you ask her a few more questions, perhaps? When it began, for example? And what changed when she felt she could stop?

Aurora, do you have ideas? (Oh, dear. You're up in office hours, aren't you? This will keep until 9 if you're busy.)



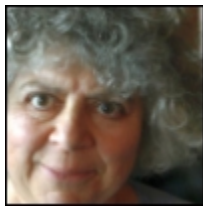
 **alt\_cedric** at **2012-10-02 01:09:32**  
(no subject)

Talking about what happened today. She says she got, ate breakfast and felt normal. She had her meeting with Madam Umbridge and says that she asked for their versions of events but couldn't believe that 'such a good upright boy as Mister Strangleweale would ever behave like that and they must have provoked him' She finished with some injunctions against idle hands. Herbology after that and she says she didn't notice anything during class. She says there was a game

of Exploding Snap between then and lunch she'd been planning to play in but she felt 'restless' and decided to do all of her assignments for tomorrow instead.

Lunch is when she really started to feel odd. She ate much more quickly than normal and rushed back to the common room to start on her assignments for Wednesday in the half an hour she had before History of Magic. She took three feet of notes there and felt 'fidgety' all throughout class. Charms was fine, but afterwards she raced back to her dorm and organized all of her cloths (she even colour coded her socks) She again ate dinner very quickly and rushed back to the common room which she was cleaning between then and shortly after 8.

She stumbled and landed in a chair. I was with her by this point and she got this peculiar look on her face and and 'I don't have to be up and doing things!'



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 01:19:43](#)  
(no subject)

Goodness. But she seems all right now? If she doesn't, you should take her to Poppy immediately. But if she says the - what do we call it, restlessness - has passed, perhaps not drag her out again

tonight.

Do tell her to tell you or one of the prefects immediately if she feels strange again? Do you need me to come down? Or Aurora, if I can roust her? I don't know what your other plans for the evening might be.

I just - this isn't quite like the usual round of things. And I didn't notice anything too out of the ordinary this morning. Let me think through? And if you need one of us, I've my charm out and handy.

Just - did she say if she saw anyone near her with wand out?



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-02 01:30:40](#)  
(no subject)

What she can recollect is that Madam Umbridge had her wand out but she didn't notice her cast a spell. She was just using it for emphasis. Everyone in charms class, obviously. There was some silliness at lunch but that was first and second years making 'sparks, flames and fart noises from the boys'

She seems okay at the moment. I've passed along the standard 'talk to a Prefect if you feel funny' for all the good it ever does. I've suggested if she feels at all odd tomorrow that she should go to the Matron after breakfast and before Defence.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 01:44:10](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, goodness. Sorry for not responding sooner - Cedric, I heard the notification spell go, but I could not get Bletchley to stop talking. (For a good twenty minutes past office hours, too.)

Right. Very odd. Indeed. And Pomona, you're right it's not like her. You remember that conversation I had with her last week? Cedric, without breaching confidence, it was about her worrying she wasn't doing enough to keep up. And we had a long talk about steadiness being as much use as speed. (Insert your parable of choice here, really.)

Cedric - I agree with Pomona that there's no need to drag her out tonight if she's feeling less odd, but perhaps she should see Poppy in the morning just to be on the safe side. I'll let Raz know she might be late and why. And I can tell already it's going to stay cloudy - tell her to go to bed and not worry about her practical session tonight? I can catch her up easily one afternoon this week.

There's something tickling at the back of my mind, but I can't pin it down.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-02 02:07:24](#)  
(no subject)

I'll send her up to bed and ask her to talk to the Matron in the morning. Thanks for letting Professor Raz know. I'll also make sure to check in on her at breakfast.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:12:35](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks for your care. Look - do you mind if I chat privately with Pomona here. And do let me know if there's anything else odd. I'll be up and all.

(Wandering down to catch Raz in a few.)



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-02 02:13:21](#)  
(no subject)

Of course that's fine.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-02 02:29:11](#)  
(no subject)

Justin just pulled me aside and said that Starling was behaving the same, cleaning and scrubbing things in the corridors.

Starling was the other student involved in the incident yesterday and called down to talk to Umbridge this morning.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:30:44](#)  
(no subject)

Wait, what?

That is ...

Thank you, Cedric. Well done, truly. Look, let us talk a tad, and keep an eye out?



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-02 02:33:13](#)  
(no subject)

Of course Professor.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:40:53](#)  
*Private message to Pomona*


Look, this is worrying me. You don't think...

I don't care for dear darling Dolores. One bit. But I also don't want to let my own biases run away with me. And yet.

It wasn't you. Not Binns. Not Acton. Not anything any of their classmates might do. I suppose it could be one of the NEWT students but who else would target both Chelsea and Starling?

And today, after a meeting where her wand was out? She's - look, she's not one of those people who always has it at hand, you know? Not like some of us.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 02:57:28](#)  
*Re: Private message to Pomona*

No, you're quite right.

Right. I'll stop down before breakfast, talk to Chelsea. And I'll have a word with Rolanda at breakfast, see what her thoughts are. (Better me than you, even if you'd be there, and I know you won't be.)

The larger matter's worrying, mind you. Did - when she took over, was there any discussion about discipline? Or were you not included in that? What you could do, as one of their teachers, suddenly seems far more clear and well defined to me, in contrast.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 03:25:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Pomona*

To be honest, that two weeks is more than a little bit of a blur. (Well, both the shock of them replacing me, and the worry about getting permission to marry.)

Let me think. And thumb through my notes. Right. I know she was off for meetings with the oversight board at least twice in there, but of course I've absolutely no idea what they discussed. Or if they've even talked about what discipline she's allowed.

When - actually, now I think about that, it was quite far back, under the previous board. It came up briefly in the investigation, but they dropped it in favour of other lines of questioning fairly quickly. It wouldn't surprise me if they'd implied she could take a fairly free hand in regards to encouraging obedience and discipline but...

They *must* have discussed it with Minerva, surely?

I did stop down for a quick word with Raz, so please assure Chelsea he'll understand if she's late. And let me know if I can help - don't worry about waking me if you need another warm body. I do have to be in New London tomorrow afternoon - appointments I really can't miss - but I could come back for supper if you need.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 03:11:06](#)

*(no subject)*

Right, Diggory - would you ask Chelsea to come have breakfast in my office? That way we can talk more privately. I'll walk her up to Poppy myself.

And as Aurora says, thank you. Nicely handled.





 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-10-02 03:21:39](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Certainly Professor. She's gone to bed at this point I'll catch her on the way to breakfast.

**2012-10-01 21:03:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Hullo, all,

I say, something's going on....Did any of you lot hear whether there was anything more about those first-years who were involved in the scuffle yesterday?

Because I just got back to the Hufflepuff Common Room, what, and there's a small knot of Prefects (including Diggory) looking after Chelsea Abbott.

Sally-Anne, you've not heard there's anything wrong? Abbott looks well exhausted. Ought I to ask Susan, do you think?

-Justin



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2012-10-02 01:19:29**

*(no subject)*

I don't know much about Chelsea Abbott, except that something happened between her and Marlon Strangeweale and Judith Starling during yesterday's YPL activities?

Remy says that everyone's rolling their eyes because Marlon's been in the common room all night moaning about a head injury, even though the Matron has already treated him. So I'm guessing it was some kind of fight or duel. Maybe Chelsea has injuries, too?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-10-02 01:25:27**

*(no subject)*

Well, that's just it; she's not at all injured. I heard from Stebbins about Strangeweale's injury; he was having a go at Abbott and Starling, from the sounds of it, and slipped on the floor where they'd been

mopping.

So it's entirely his own fault if he got hurt, what?

But he was fine within a few minutes of Matron's care and she wasn't harmed at all. Only I know Stebbins had said that Madam Umbridge did tell Abbott and Starling to come see her this morning.

Hang on, I see Sue.

-Justin

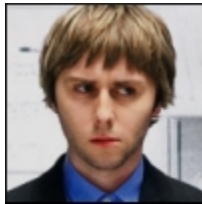


 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-02 01:52:13](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, it might be someone else's fault if you look at why people were mopping in the first place. But yes, he was probably asking for it.

So Chelsea was dusting and fluffing all day? That does sound odd.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 01:59:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Indeed, but let us say that it serves him right, in any case.

And yes, she was apparently seized by an attack of industry, I suppose. She told Dunstan and Diggory that she couldn't sit still, that it felt as if she had to be productive.

Not that Abbott's lazy, what, but I can't quite imagine her taking it into her head to straighten the entire sett.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:01:18](#)

*(no subject)*

Is Madam Umbridge allowed to give students punishments?

I hadn't really wondered about it until just now, but, it sounds to me as if Chelsea might have been placed under Imperius.



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-10-02 02:05:26**  
(no subject)

Surely she can't, can she?

And certainly not the Imperius. On a student?

It's not as if she's a teacher, what? Even if she is the former Minister for Magic.

-J




 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-02 02:09:54**  
(no subject)

Well, it not might be Imperius exactly, but something like it. If you want someone to actually do something with no questions asked, then you use Imperius in a way so that they don't even realise they're doing it, or they don't mind one bit. But Imperius can also be cast so that they person knows that they're doing something that they don't want to do, or that goes against their will. That's the type of Imperius that's used for punishment.

She's not a teacher but, you know, she might think she's as important as one. Maybe even more important.



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-10-02 02:31:16**  
*Private Message to Hydra*

Is that what she did? When she tried to 'help' you not fancy sweets? And your fear of heights?

I

I've a feeling I'm going to get through a great deal of homework trying not to think about that tonight.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-02 04:05:00](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Yes.

I wish I hadn't said anything to Ron. How daft not to realise that his parents would never -

Well, it's just embarrassing, is all.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 04:12:56](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Don't apologise.

And I know you think people pity you, Dux, but that's not what it is. We can all see that you're not a shrinking flower (and I hate that in part it's because your mother's so well horrid).

It's just that it's difficult to imagine parents who could routinely believe that no matter the provocation, it's preferable to cast an Imperius variant than to find some other way to convince children to obey. But of course, you've nothing to compare.

It doesn't even seem all that uncommon. You've said Draco's had it, and Nott, I shouldn't wonder. And who knows who else. Crabbe and Goyle, most likely.

And it doesn't make me hate your mother any the less, what?

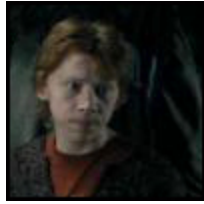
Oh, dash it.


Right.

Well, that's Arithmancy done. And Herbology. I think if I read History of Magic I shall actually be able to fall asleep. Perhaps.

Sweet dreams, dear heart,

-J



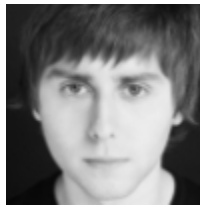
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:07:46](#)  
(no subject)


Imperius as a punishment?

That's-

Yeah, never mind. I know exactly what it's like, and it's rubbish.

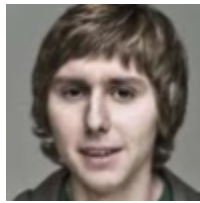
But Madam Umbridge isn't a teacher. I don't think she can do that. Milland can't, I know.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 02:08:31](#)  
(no subject)

Quite right, Ron.

-J



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 02:10:48](#)  
(no subject)

Ought I to tell Diggory, do you think?

Do you think it happened to Starling, as well?

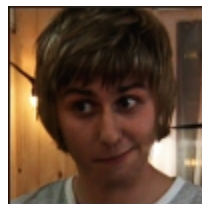
-J



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 02:11:52](#)  
(no subject)

Miserable old bat.

I think you should tell Diggory.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 02:14:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well. We're not certain, though, are we, Sally-Anne?

I hardly think Diggory will appreciate being given accusations about a member of staff, even if we've got a

fair suspicion.

Ron, Neville, Evelyn--apart from her being well knackered, what, did Starling say or do anything similar to Abbott's behaviour?

-J



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-10-02 02:19:43](#)**  
(no subject)

You don't have to say 'Madam Umbridge cast Imperius on Starling and Abbott,' you could just tell him what Evelyn said about Starling and the rest and surely he could piece it together on his own.

Or you could say that you think SOMEONE cast Imperius on her and you're quite worried and upset because who would do such a thing? And let him work out on his own it was Umbridge.

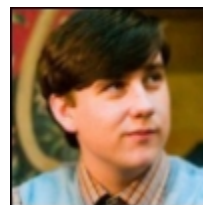


 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-02 02:24:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't have to mention either Madam Umbridge or the Imperius, at all, in point of fact.

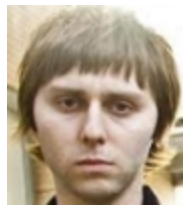
I simply told him that Starling was acting much the same as Abbott. He'll work out the rest. At least, I assume so by the look on his face, what?

-J



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-02 02:26:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that should do it.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 03:18:12](#)  
(no subject)

And yes, she bally well is, what?

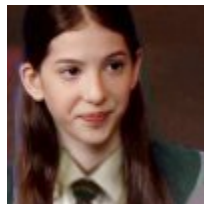
-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:11:50](#)  
(no subject)

Your parents used Imperius on you?

That rather surprises me. But it is awful, isn't it?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 02:13:55](#)  
(no subject)

It wasn't his parents, it was his brother. At least if we're talking about the same time.

I seriously can't even begin to imagine Mrs Weasley casting Imperius on anyone. I'm not sure she COULD. She might badger them relentlessly until they said 'alright! fine! whatever you say!' though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 02:16:04](#)  
(no subject)

I should've said -- it was Percy, not Fred or George. (Or Charlie or Bill. Ron has rather a lot of brothers.)




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-02 02:17:06](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I see.

Yes, he does have a lot of brothers.





 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:18:40](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. It wasn't my parents. It was my brother, Percy. When he was Head Boy.


And then there was the time Patil hexed me to have to write everyone who put anything in the journals all day on my birthday. That was like Imperius, too. And it wasn't just embarrassing, it was really bloody dangerous, because I ended up having to write stuff to people like Director Selwyn and Mr and Mrs Malfoy and your mum. And that wasn't-good.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-02 02:23:59](#)  
(no subject)

I remember that. I stayed up til midnight to make sure it'd worn off.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:30:16](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

I remember that part, too.

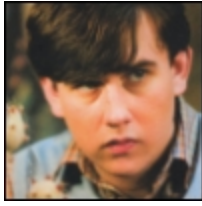
Thanks.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-02 02:51:58](#)  
(no subject)

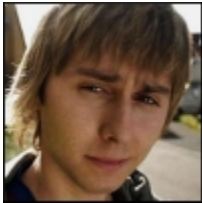
I'd do it again, tuna brain.

After hexing the snot out of Padma Patil first, of course.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-02 01:24:19](#)  
(no subject)

Evelyn said something to me about it--she's not the type to carry tales, but she was pretty indignant about it. Evelyn says the whole thing was started by Strangeweale and Featherstone, but apparently Madam Umbridge singled out Chelsea Abbott and Judith Starling. Why? Is Abbott all upset about it now then?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 01:32:11](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Neville,

Yes, I had all that from Stebbins, too. Apparently she told Starling and Abbott to come see her this morning to tell her more of what happened. (I can hardly think why, when the incident was over and done with yesterday, what?)


But that's not it. She's not upset. She looks relieved. Exhausted but relieved. And the others look concerned about her.

Sue says that Abbott dusted all the shelves in the Common Room earlier. And she was fluffing the sofa cushions. And Blessfield just told us that Abbott offered to share her notes from History of Magic - three rolls of them.

Who takes that many notes in History of Magic, what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:02:20](#)  
(no subject)

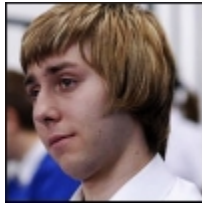
Yeah, Starling came in from the library a bit ago, and she could barely manage the portrait hole. Looked done in. Or like she was going to faint or something. Towler and Kirke and Hooper took the mickey a bit, but she didn't seem put out.

She's not down here now, though.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-02 02:17:08](#)  
(no subject)

Maddie Myrtens said that Judith was cleaning up their dormitory room like a House Elf, scrubbing at things, and folding clothing, and re-organizing her trunk. And that she was smiling and humming the whole time.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 02:19:48](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Evelyn. That's enough for me, what?

I'll tell Diggory I overheard something in corridors by the library. It's close enough to Gryffindor

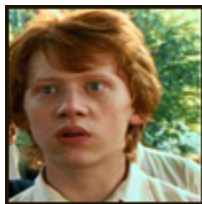
Tower.


-Justin



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-02 02:18:37](#)  
(no subject)

And she kept saying, 'oh, dear, I've ever so much to do,' in a funny little voice.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:20:05](#)  
(no subject)

Sounds daft.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-02 02:21:30](#)  
(no subject)

They were being awful bullies about it. I wish I hadn't been working further down the hall. Otherwise I would've

I don't know what I would've done.


Something.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 02:24:56](#)  
(no subject)

If you had, you'd probably have wound up spending the day scrubbing doorknobs with Starling and Abbott.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 02:26:41](#)  
(no subject)

I say, fair point, Sally-Anne.

-J

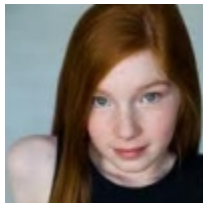


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:29:10](#)  
(no subject)

What were they doing?

Are people bothering Starling all the time, then?

Have you got to know her much? Seems pretty quiet.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-02 02:47:04](#)  
(no subject)

She's pretty good friends with Maddie and Alexa Bawsley. Arcturus Fellsworthy and Morgana Featherstone aren't very nice to either Judith or Alexa. But they aren't nice to lots of people.

Judith's quiet, but she's sweet enough. She's learning to knit. And she was very homesick during the first two weeks of school.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-02 01:51:23](#)  
(no subject)

You know, speaking of Sue....

I know we talked a while back about adding her to the lock. Is everyone still in favour? If so, ought I to talk to her or Neville, or might it work to tell her at one of your Teatimes, Pansy?

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 02:03:15](#)  
(no subject)

Sure.

Were we waiting for some reason? Or just no one's talked to her yet?

Nev. You might be the one to do it. D'you think?



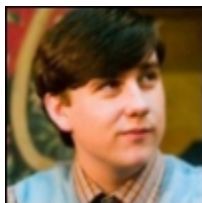
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-02 02:06:17](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I would be happy to do it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-02 02:24:32](#)  
(no subject)

Let me know if you want company, Nev.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-02 03:05:18](#)  
(no subject)

Sure. I'll see if I can set up a time to talk with her and let you know.

**2012-10-01 22:40:00**

*Private Message to Linus Moon*

Dear Journal,

I am going to pretend I am writing to somebody.

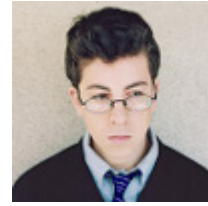
My name is Linus Moon, and I am a student at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And everybody thinks I am some sort of boring swot. Honestly, I'm not, though. I read wizarding history and the adventures of great wizards of old, and my heart swells up with the urge to join them. I wish I could have been born in the time when the witches and wizards of England kept the Spanish Armada from attacking our shores, or back in the days of Merlin's glorious magic, or something.

Instead I have to do my Arithmancy homework.

I know it's been a long time since I wrote in you. Thank you for listening, Journal. It's not like anybody else does. Not really.

Yours faithfully,

Linus Moon



 [alt\\_linus](#)

**2012-10-02 07:39:00**

*Announcement: Demonstration of the Arts, Saturday, 6th October*

Thanks to Professor Lestrangle's generous assistance, I am pleased to announce he and I will be offering a demonstration of practical field-style use of both the Arts and their Defence. We will be holding this demonstration this Saturday (6th October) in the unused amphitheatre classroom on the fifth floor, east corridor.



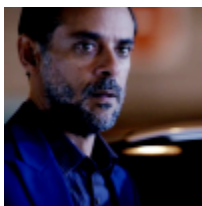
 [alt\\_antonin](#)  
 [alt\\_antonin](#)

For safety's sake, no late arrivals will be permitted, and the doors will be closed precisely at 2PM. If you wish to attend, please plan on arriving with five or ten minutes to spare. There will be a brief safety lecture before the demonstration, and then Professor Lestrangle and I will duel, under battlefield accords. We are both quite looking forward to showing you all the breadth and variety of how the spells and techniques we are teaching can be used in varying situations.

Attendance will be required of all students taking my NEWT-level classes, as we will be discussing the fight in class next week, and is optional for any other student. Professor Lestrangle feels attendance would be highly advisable for his own NEWT-level students as well.

When making your decision as to whether to attend, please be aware that "field-style" does mean formal duelling accords are not in effect, and there is the potential for some of our younger students to find the experience unsettling. Once the demonstration begins, safety considerations will make it impossible for anyone to leave the classroom entirely, though students who are distressed will have the option to step briefly into the classroom's antechamber to compose themselves.

I would also like to thank Professor Sinistra for offering to serve as our faculty assistant in upholding audience safety guidelines.



---

 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-10-02 11:45:07**

*Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout*

Poppy, Pomona --

Just a quick note to reassure, lest the above strike foreboding into your heart: Razzer and I are old hands at making a fight look impressive without risking any permanent damage, and we'll have several of our comrades on hand to patch us up afterwards if we can't manage it ourselves. For the children, meanwhile, we will be tucking them away behind the strongest magic-blocking wards I know -- proven capable of blocking anything short of the Killing Curse, which we will of course not be using -- and Aurora will also be on hand to keep the children away from the barrier to ensure it stays unbroken.

I've also, as mentioned above, given some consideration to the children's emotional state -- having been caught up on recent history from several sources, I will do my best to remain sensitive to past traumas. Safety considerations and the classroom's configuration do, unfortunately, prevent us from allowing the children to leave the classroom entirely mid-duel if they find watching stirs up bad memories, but Aurora also will be tasked with watching for signs of distress and directing anyone having unexpected trouble to step away for a moment. (I will also do my best to make certain anyone who avails himself of the opportunity will not be in for any teasing from his fellows -- within my hearing, at very least.) I'll also be asking Miss Pennifold and Mr Diggory to keep an eye out for their schoolmates afterward.

Do let me know if either of you have additional concerns I might help alleviate.

With regard,  
Antonin



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-10-02 13:28:58**

*Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout*

I appreciate the warning, Antonin. I will ready extra measures of Calming Quaff and Dreamless Sleep in anticipation.

You've spoken with your Healers, I trust? I shouldn't be surprised if one or more of them wished to be on hand. Given that you may be altering the course of your recovery with this activity, and their study of you should take that into account.





 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 15:14:45](#)

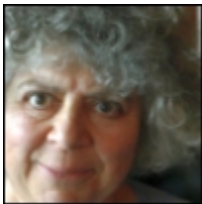
*Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Poppy,

Rest assured, I've cleared it with my team ahead of time -- Rizzer and I did agree on the details last week, but waited to announce until after I was able to speak with the experts. We are not telling the children -- let them think it entirely spontaneous -- but he and I have agreed to barricade off entire categories of spells and tactics that would run risk of more serious injury to one or both of us. Healer Kosta agrees that with those limitations in place, the worst damage I am likely to incur is tripping over my own two feet! (I am serious; he advised I fight in something other than robes lest my legs once more fail to obey me at a critical junction.)

You should be receiving the latest round of paperwork shortly, by the by -- we have altered my formulary yet again. Thus far no unpleasant side effects have manifested, at least.

With regard,  
Antonin



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 14:52:41](#)

*Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout*

Antonin -

Thank you for your attention to student reaction, given the apparent necessity of the demonstration. And I am glad Aurora will be there: she does have a deft hand with students in need. Just - oh, goodness. I am not suggesting for a moment she's not mistress of her own will, but I have no idea what she's told you about her own experiences ~~last spring~~.

I admit, as a friend, and someone who's known her since she was 11, I've a little concern that watching her Raz in such a demonstration might shake her more than she realises now.

I will not be attending myself - truly, not my idea of a pleasant afternoon - but I've already heard some of the chatter. And if you do

need an extra hand afterwards, or Aurora does, I'll be quite available.



**alt\_antonin at 2012-10-02 15:50:35**

*Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout*

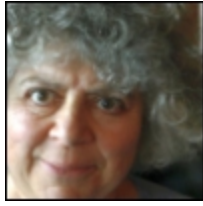
Pomona,


Allow me to take a leaf from your House's playbook and speak plainly and honestly: if you are concerned for Aurora's wellbeing in light of her experiences in this past year, we three have spoken about it extensively, and though she is wary, we do not believe it will be an issue.

In the world Aurora is poised to enter as Rizzer's wife, and given the considerations involved and the example of recent history, the chances she will be in a position to be forced to watch Raz in action against someone less charitably disposed are, alas, considerable. We thought it best that she have an opportunity to see, in advance, that he is more than capable, and against someone whom she can trust to have Rizzer's best interests in mind. We are hoping that, with the added benefit of the students' needs to distract her if necessary, will help to quiet the unformed fears at the back of her mind should they be preyed upon in future.

I cannot claim anywhere near such a long friendship with her as you can, but she has become dear to me quite quickly indeed. As Rizzer is my sworn brother, so is she poised to become my sister; beyond that, she is a delight in and of herself. I recognise you've excellent reason for wariness (and I am pleased to find Aurora in possession of such a fierce advocate) but please believe me: I would not cause her needless distress for all the world.

With regard,  
Antonin



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 16:20:09](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey and Pomona Sprout*

Well. Thank you for that. And for the thought and attention you've clearly put into all of your arrangements.

Aurora has spoken quite highly of you in terms of your attention to detail, so I should not be surprised, but after the past few years, one learns not to take anything for granted.

I do also appreciate the plain honesty, as well. It is a refreshing change compared to some here, to be provided with the necessary information in advance of a problem.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 11:50:25](#)  
*Private Message to Minerva McGonagall*

Minerva,

I may have mentioned, but Barty and Rod, and possibly Lucius if he can make the time, will be joining us for lunch on Saturday, and also to observe -- I thought to ask Barty to set the warding, and also to assist Aurora in making sure none of the students breach it.

Afterwards, presuming there to be (touch wood!) no disasters to clean up, we plan a first cleanup expedition into Alecto's former demesne -- mostly for amusement, one confesses. We would love to have you join us if your duties permit.

Affectionately,  
T



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 11:55:14](#)  
*Private Message to Melinda Pennifold*

Miss Pennifold,

If at all possible, please plan on staying a few minutes after class Friday afternoon. I'd like you and Mr Diggory (if he plans to attend) to assist Professor Sinistra during the

demonstration on Saturday, in the event any students are overly distressed by the experience.

Meanwhile -- I forgot to ask after our session yesterday morning -- have you had the chance to read that section in *Origen de las Artes de Sangre* that I referred you to last Friday? And if so, did it help to answer your question about blood bonds further? (If it did not -- see if one of your classmates with the translation you are not using can lend you their copy; Gavarró i Berdugo's translation is slightly better connotatively, while Saumarez's translation is slightly better denotatively, and switching from one to the other may prove enlightening if you're stuck on a particularly subtle point of comprehension; I prefer connotative faithfulness in translation myself, but different people achieve understanding in different ways.) If not, do let me know before class on Friday -- looking over my lecture notes for the day, I believe I can squeeze in ten minutes to point you all to a few additional works for further research until we reach the more detailed unit on blood magic later in the year. (You are entirely correct that it logically belongs sooner, but alas. If only the bookstore would get the Wierus in stock.)

With regard,  
Professor Dolohov



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 12:00:12](#)

*Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

Mr Diggory,


I do not know if you are planning to attend Saturday's demonstration, but if you are, please stop by my office sometime on Friday afternoon after 4PM and before supper. I'd like you and Miss Pennifold to assist Professor Sinistra during the demonstration if necessary, in the event any students are overly distressed by the experience, and I'd particularly like you to be on the lookout for the students of your House afterward in case there is any delayed reaction; Professor Sprout has impressed upon me the importance of taking care with your fellows, due to past trauma. I do not expect those who would be most troubled by the prospect of two of their teachers in outright battle to choose to attend, but nonetheless I would like to be prepared.

Miss Pennifold will be required to be present, so if you are not planning to attend, you needn't fear we will be left shorthanded;

after the other week, however, I am being overly cautious in arranging for resources on hand if necessary.

With regard,  
Professor Dolohov




 **alt\_cedric** at **2012-10-02 14:25:26**  
*Re: Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

I am certainly planning to attend! I'm in Professor Raz's NEWT class and greatly looking forward to the demonstration.

I want to thank you for your consideration of those most effected by recent events.

Short of some emergency I should be able to stop by on Friday.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-02 15:09:26**  
*Re: Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

Mr Diggory,

Professors Sinistra and Sprout have been most helpful in letting me know what might come too close to old wounds, yes. I hope that in time the students all able to come to trust that I've your best interests at heart -- though of course I do understand it will take time.

Thank you for your willingness to assist -- I will not keep you overlong on Friday (and let us hope there is indeed no emergency to pre-empt the appointment, as we have had more than enough of that already this year), but I do wish to cover the basics of what to expect with you and Miss Pennifold so you are prepared in the event of any misfortune. You will not be expected to maintain discipline during the demonstration, as I've made alternate arrangements for that, but your help in looking out for your fellow students will be much appreciated.

With regard,  
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-02 12:04:19](#)**

*Private Message to Horace Slughorn*

Horace,

To follow up from our conversation of last night -- I will come down Thursday evening after supper to brew the potion I'll need for the magic-blocking wards on Saturday, if that's all right with you. The potion really is quite simple to brew (the difficult part of the warding is in the spellwork; the potion is used to establish the boundary) so I should not need more than two hours or so of brewing time -- mostly it is that I do not have a proper stone cauldron and thus need to borrow yours!

If you are still curious about the pieces of *seshaw* I have learned from my mother -- of which, I must disclaim, this really is not a very impressive specimen -- I would welcome your company as I work, though truly, I would hate to be a burden upon your time and resources.

With regard,  
Antonin



 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2012-10-02 15:54:15](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Horace Slughorn*

Antonin,

Not at all, my boy. My laboratory is at your disposal. I should be quite interested to see the process. The precision of Potioneering is an art with fascinating variations from tradition to tradition--as I'm sure you know--and the minor modifications that accompany the receipts can make up a lifetime's study.

Of course, it's far too complex to address even at NEWT level (and as you also know, it's the sort of thing which, if done ignorantly or poorly, can have disastrous consequences).



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 12:18:56](#)

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

Lapushka,

Did I mention enough times how lovely it was to have so much time with you this weekend? And see, I have conjured sufficient excuse for you to come visit that you needn't wait until next month's Healers' visit for us to repeat the pleasure. (I shall leave it to you to think up the excuse for November.)

Thank you as well for your offer to do the actual casting -- I would not want to try to duel Raz immediately after raising those wards, nor make him do the same to me (although it might be an effective handicap!) and I doubt anyone on staff could learn the invocations to my satisfaction in time. (Which reminds me: your pronunciation has flourished since last I heard you cast -- not that it was lacking before, but by now I swear you sound like a native speaker! The children will no doubt be impressed; you make the most complex bits look effortless.)

Wondering if darling Dolores will be smart enough to spot the message we are sending,

T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-02 13:50:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

I wouldn't miss it.

Seeing you has left me more jealous than ever of your charges. Trust they appreciate their good fortune. Guarantee they'll be held rapt by your display of power.

Amused, though, by the concern for their sensibilities. Thought you were, perhaps, exaggerating with your tales this weekend. Revising that impression now. Understand your need for diplomacy with the staff, but what, honestly, have they been about up there? Are we raising a generation of kittens and lapdogs? Coddling a creche full of crybabies and bleeding hearts is not going to produce the strong followers Our Lord requires.

Interested to hear what you think Dolores Umbridge imagines her role to be.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 15:36:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

Truly, *medvezhonok*, if the Carrows were not dead I would likely savage them myself. I am tempted to dig up Amycus's grave just to piss on his corpse, as is. You would not believe the extent to which these children have been provided with the worst and most vivid examples of the savagery to which badly-disciplined practitioners of our Art can descend; the past two weeks of individual discussions with each of the fourth and fifth years have left me wondering if we've lost an entire generation. I am madly revising my curriculum left and right to ease them into the true glory of the Arts slowly, in the hopes that they can come in time to see the Carrows as aberration, not inevitability.

My methods would be entirely different were there not years of history standing in my way -- of course they have had other exemplars of Our Lord's faithful, but none of those so immediate, nor so frequently reinforced, as the day-to-day example provided at the front of the classroom. For the most of those without benefit of outside instruction, if they are not cowed into terror by the thought of becoming the Carrows' worst example over time, they have gone entirely in the other direction and taken Amycus's grossest failings as gospel writ. (For instance, I have had to refuse Theodore Nott's son's admission into my practical class; I would not trust the boy with wand extended while my back is turned. And there are several students in my NEWT classes I will need to keep a careful eye upon, and perhaps sit down for some home truths shortly; that is at least partially the motive for this demonstration.)

There are bright spots, do not get me wrong -- I have my eye on at least half a dozen who could likely be groomed into our company in future should Our Lord desire to expand our ranks -- and I am confident I will be able to turn the tide with enough effort and enough care, but I must establish myself as a stable adult presence who can be trusted to react consistently, predictably, and with an even hand before I can even hope to begin the process, lest they see me as heir to Alecto and Amycus's legacy. Half of the children have been conditioned into being as wary of anyone bearing Our Lord's mark as a whipped dog is of its master -- it's enough to lead a man to drink.

(About those bright spots, though -- remind me to tell you a tale



about a pair of socks, and their wholly delightful crafter, who is definitely one upon whom I have my eye, though not for our fellowship. You will laugh; I could barely keep a straight and authoritarian face.)

I haven't the faintest idea what darling Dolores might be about, but I've heard quite a bit of buzzing from the students about her methods. I am hoping a sufficient show of strength will be enough to convince her that Razzar's and my coalition is not worth bothering with. If I were not being pulled in a dozen directions at once...

And speaking of, must finish the rest of my correspondence and eat before the third-years arrive. (I was dubious about scheduling class through lunchtime, but must admit, the informality involved is actually working well; it is difficult for the children to continue looking at me as a distant and unapproachable figure when I am passing out treats and sharing my coffee.)

Also -- you've nothing to be jealous of, you know. I cannot imagine a world in which you are not my foremost and dearest.

Eternally yours,  
T



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-10-02 12:29:27](#)**  
(no subject)

That'll be brilliant, Professor. I can't wait to see it. I have a feeling you're going to have a very full room.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-02 12:33:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I do hope so, Mr Marvolo. It's been some time since Razzar Professor Lestrangle and I have had the chance to match wands for pedagogical purposes; I hope that you all will enjoy the spectacle.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 12:46:29](#)

*Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*


Dominic --

It occurs to me that this weekend's spectacle is precisely the sort of thing you might enjoy, both in your capacity on the Board of Governors (to reassure any panicked parents afterwards that all possible precautions were taken) and in your role as one of our brotherhood. (Barty and Rod will be here as well, and Lucius may if he can free the time; we will be amusing ourselves afterward by defanging some of the Carrows' leftovers.)

If you've the afternoon free, do stop up if the thought intrigues.

With regard,  
Antosha



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2012-10-02 17:00:45](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*

If I hadn't had the afternoon free, I'd have cancelled my prior obligations. This promises to be an absolutely fascinating afternoon.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 18:33:31](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dominic Selwyn*


I certainly hope we will not disappoint! At very least we will be able to give the children a show; at best it will help me to underscore a point or two I am attempting to hammer home with my NEWT classes. (It has been an exceedingly long term thus far, and we are only a month in.)

I shall look forward to your company, and will most appreciate the assistance with the cleanup expedition afterwards -- I have felt quite guilty for allowing it to go so long, particularly when I did assure Minerva I would take care of it and she needn't worry, but I have rather spent the month being pulled in a dozen directions! (One hopes bribing you all with your choice of the spoils will compensate you for your efforts, even if the prospect of an afternoon telling outrageous lies in congenial company did not

appeal.)

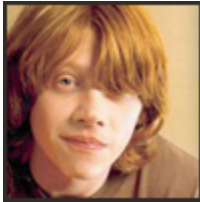
Until Saturday,  
Antosha




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 13:15:11](#)  
(no subject)

Too wiz for wands!

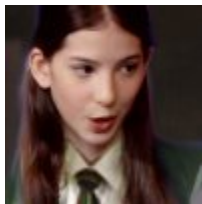
I mean, no rules duelling? That sounds dead brilliant, sir. I can't wait.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-02 13:21:44](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I mean to say compare this to Slumbridge's snorefest Saturday. Bet we don't have to sing nursery songs this week! No history lectures. Really, she's as bad as Binns, innit. Only she knows if you aren't paying attention.


Maybe they'll let us try some of what they show us, even. If they don't kill each other, I mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 16:56:58](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

She's worse then Binns. Every now and then Binns actually tells the truth about History -- they'd sack him if they thought anyone was paying attention.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-02 17:24:52](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

And I agree, I think this will be really interesting.




 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-02 15:02:20](#)**  
(no subject)

As I told Mr Marvolo above, I do hope you will all enjoy yourselves, and that the example of what can be done with the Arts in the hands of experienced practitioners will serve as an inspiration for you in your studies throughout the year. (Not that battle is the only use of the Arts, nor indeed the only one I will be teaching, but it does have the benefit of being nicely dramatic.)

I hope to have several other, more participatory, surprises for you and your classmates throughout the year as well, although I will keep quiet about those lest they not come to fruition! In the meantime, I trust Professor Lestrangle and I will be able to give you a merry afternoon's entertainment.




 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-02 21:18:43](#)**  
*I solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

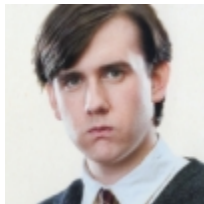
'A merry afternoon's entertainment'?


Right, I'm sure it'll be all laughs.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-10-02 21:20:06](#)**  
*Re: I solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

You'll be watching carefully, I'm sure. And taking notes.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-02 21:20:17](#)**  
*Re: I solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good*

Count on it.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at [2012-10-02 16:14:56](#)

*Private message to Antonin Dolohov*

Antonin -

I'm sure that will be most interesting for a certain segment of our students to observe, yes. And I do suppose Aurora did feel it necessary to volunteer herself, considering. So kind of you to find a situation that allows her to play to her strengths.

Now, does this mean I might still have a chance to prevail on your assistance for the CCF activity in November in some greater format? You'd been so clear that you were focusing your attentions at the beginning of the year, but this does suggest you might be settling in properly.

I am also very glad to see someone here setting such clear expectations of behaviour. Perhaps it is coming in with fresh eyes, but I have been finding discipline lamentably lax here, all things considered. The number of students out after curfew, even with what are apparently permitted excuses, or the amount of misbehaviour when they should be focusing on their schoolwork. Any thoughts you had on that would be most welcome - especially should you feel comfortable raising the issue in staff meetings where I cannot.

Now, I won't be attending - I've some obligations already scheduled - but I do look forward to hearing *all* about it at a meal afterwards.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-02 18:20:56](#)

*Re: Private message to Antonin Dolohov*

Dolores,

It's truly a pity you won't be able to attend, but of course I'm certain there will be plenty of tales to share afterwards.

Our demonstration, meanwhile, may seem extracurricular but is actually in service to several points I am attempting to make with my classes; I do not have as much time spare as it might appear, particularly given the addition of three extra hours of instruction to my week! Still, one does like to be collegial whenever possible. Do remind me later in the month and I shall see what I might be able to

do.

Must confess I have not noticed any particularly lax discipline, meanwhile; with a few exceptions, all of which I have been quite firm about, I have found the children quite eager to please. Perhaps you are looking towards the wrong indicators, or expecting identical reactions from a wide range of temperaments? One must tailor one's approach to one's audience, after all.

In service,  
Antonin

**[2012-10-02 08:48:00](#)**

*Private message to Harry and Blaise*

Do you reckon that Professor Dolohov's and Rizzer's demonstration will be a true duel where one of them will be declared the winner?



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Because if so, it might be the sort of thing worth placing a gentleman's bet on. I can think of a number of others who'd be interested, as well.

But I don't want to be the one who organises the whole thing. Too bad Avery's gone, he'd be perfect. What about Montague? I'd peg him for game. Or might it be a venture that you're interested in, Blaise?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **[2012-10-02 18:13:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Not sure. I don't think they'll have a referee. It might just be one of those last one standing sorts of things. Maybe until one yields?

Anyways, I'm sure it'll be brilliant. And that both of them are well matched. I mean, Dolohov is more experienced and taught Raz a lot, but he's got a recent injury, and Raz has had a few years to pick up some extra tricks.

Montague might be up for it, yeah.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **[2012-10-03 00:54:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Yield, I think. They're both close enough mates that they don't really want to see each other hurt, I reckon.

I think they know it would be dull and over too quickly if they weren't well matched, which makes it hard to know who to bet on. I feel like they're both the sort of people who want to come across as less dangerous and skillful than they really are, which makes it even harder. Still, I'm guessing more people will bet on Raz because they've known him better and longer.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-02 18:14:49](#)

*Private Message to Draco*

Only it won't be like the Faire was, I mean.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-03 00:54:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Why do you say that? I mean, of course it won't be anything like the Faire.

Why, do you think it will remind some people of it?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-03 01:07:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Thinking about the winner being the last one standing made me think of it, is all.

You're right. Of course it won't be.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-03 01:15:23](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I mean, yeah, now that you mention it, we've had a lot of things we were looking forward to go wrong when we least expected it.

You could bring it up with Raz, I'm sure he'd understand, right?

Nothing went wrong at the Yule Ball, so there is that: not everything ends up going pear-shaped.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-03 01:35:01](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Yeah.

Okay.

And I know it'll be different. Because we can trust them, yeah? I



mean, trust that they'll stop. And keep it safe.

Because they're really skilled, you know? And clever. Which means they can control that sort of thing a lot better than the Carrows ever could.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-03 01:53:47](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Hey, you know, this is reminding me of something I used to do when I was younger and more anxious about things... What I would do is focus on worst possible scenario that my imagination could conjure up, and then really study it to see if it were plausible or not.

So, if we took that route, what could possibly go wrong?

1 - It's all a trick that Umbridge is pulling just to get Raz and Dolohov to kill each other off so that she can be in charge of Hogwarts completely, re-decorating everything so that it's pink and fuzzy and throws up hairballs.

No, can't be that: if she wanted to get rid of them she could just drive them mental by talking at them until they decided to chunk themselves into the lake and make a dramatic exit from this mortal coil as squid food.

2 - Dolohov is actually Sinbad, Snape, or some other old bloke who's unnaturally obsessed with you - in disguise, of course - and has some plan to render Raz hospitalised (again) and then flee away with you on a mental Hippogriff.

Also not likely to happen, but if it does, have fun and don't forget to write.

3 - Dolohov is possessed by the ghosts of the Carrows and they will take their revenge during the demonstration.

Don't think so: Dolohov is far too good at coming across as an actual human for that to be the case. Plus, we'd have smelled something fetid and rotten by now.

4 - Your Father's going to show up and join in the fight so that

things take a most serious turn.

I don't think it's likely - I really don't. And if by chance it did happen.. I think Raz and Dolohov would know what to do. Plus, when's the last time your Father just "dropped by" the Castle? Every time he shows up it's a big production, right?

So yeah, I think we'll be okay.



 **alt\_harry at 2012-10-03 02:12:57**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

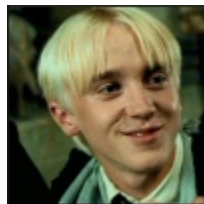
5 - Their wands are actually designed to explode if they fight one another because they both made an Unbreakable Vow that they'd rather die than marry, and this is Raz's way of going out with a bang.

A suicide pact doesn't really seem like Raz's style. And he seems pretty happy about the getting married part.

6 - This is part of an elaborate plan to assassinate Madame Hooch, because she once said something mean about Dolohov's hair.

If he wanted to assassinate her, I think he'd be more subtle than that.

Yeah. We will. And you're right. it does help.

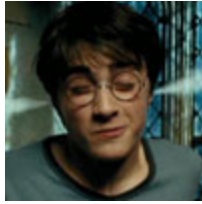
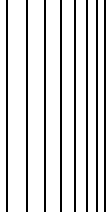



 **alt\_draco at 2012-10-03 02:17:33**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Hooch said something rude about Dolohov's hair?

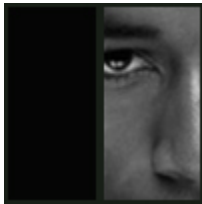
I mean, it's not Malfoy hair, but it's pretty good, all things considered.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-10-03 02:24:28](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Well, maybe she was just jealous. You know how people can get.



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2012-10-03 03:57:27](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'd do it, but I talked to Montague and now he thinks it's his idea. Which is actually much better all the way around. If there's some quarrel over the outcome or the odds, it's his lookout not ours.

**2012-10-02 10:09:00**

*Tuesday*

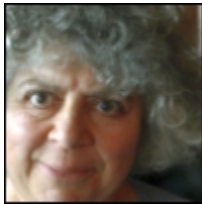
Just a quick note - sett prefects, I'd like to have a word.



 **alt\_pomona**

There's no one time that's at all good today (goodness, your schedules!), so I'll stop by just before supper and just after 9 tonight, and catch the couple of you that won't serve well elsewhere. It should be quick, just if you miss seeing me, do check in with Diggory or one of the others as shortly after that as you can?

---



 **alt\_pomona** at **2012-10-02 14:14:48**

*Private message to Rolanda Hooch*

Rolanda -

I'm sure your own have already spoken with you, but you might just want to ask Judith Starling to stop up and see Poppy when she gets a chance. I gather from some of my own house that she was exhibiting similar symptoms to our Chelsea Abbott yesterday, and you know how Poppy likes to be on top of anything that might come back to be a problem.

I'm about to message both Horace and Septima as well, but would you be free this evening after supper briefly? I'd like to discuss something - related to the above. Shouldn't take too long to decide the next step.

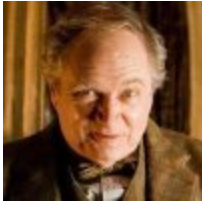


 **alt\_pomona** at **2012-10-02 14:20:04**

*Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Septima, Horace -

There's a matter I'd like to discuss with both of you and Rolanda briefly tonight. Could we find a quarter hour just after supper? I think we'll either have a next step by then or clearly need to find more time later.

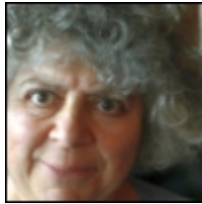


 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2012-10-02 17:09:32](#)**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Pomona,

I've my office hours this evening but I'd be happy to meet briefly, if it's urgent.



 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-10-02 17:15:19](#)**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Urgent enough I'd at least like to arrange time for a longer conversation in the next day or so.

Do you happen to know - was Dolores given any guidance on discipline and our usual practices here? You've had a few more conversations with her than I have, I believe.

Thank you, Horace. I appreciate the time.



 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2012-10-02 17:52:19](#)**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Discipline?

Dear me, no. I should have thought the counsellors would be able to--but then, ah, of course. Aurora was a Professor as well and could arrange further remedial action if necessary.

I take it there's been an occurrence? I heard about Mr Strangeweale's mishap, of course, but he's fine; it was just an accident, as I understand it. What could have happened between then and now, I wonder?



 **[alt\\_pomona](#) at 2012-10-02 17:59:23**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Quite. It does seem as if a little discussion for clarity might be in order. I'd very much value your thoughts on how to approach that - as well as Septima's and Rolanda's - though. Unified front, and all, for the good of the students.

As to the situation - it is related to that matter, yes. And it's not just the matter of appropriate discipline, but the manner and communication about it to the relevant heads of house.

Goodness, I'm getting tangled. Better to talk it all out once, perhaps.

Both of Septima and Rolanda say they'll be free just after supper, but we'll keep it brief, I promise. Just enough to share my observations, and make some decisions on next steps.



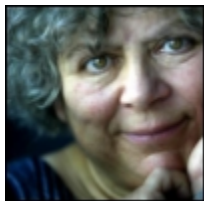
 **[alt\\_horace](#) at 2012-10-02 18:05:19**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Well, I look forward to the explanation, of course.

Granted, if Madam Umbridge believes she requires the ability to discipline the students.... Well, it's not as if Mr Milland has no similar capacity.

I'm sure there's an available compromise. Until this evening, then.



 **[alt\\_pomona](#) at 2012-10-02 18:10:04**

*Re: Private message to Septima Vector and Horace Slughorn*

Thank you, yes.

And it's not that I don't think some allowance for discipline must be made. Rather that I think it'd be good if

we were all on the same page about the process. (And in particular, communication to the heads of the house.)

But as I say, easier if we all talk first, and go from there.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 14:30:23](#)

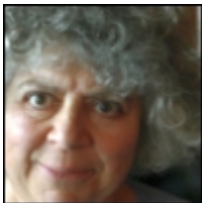
*Private message to Poppy*

Poppy, dear -

I assume you didn't find anything out of the ordinary? I am working on talking to the other heads of house, but I admit, I'm at a loss about what to actually say. One does not like to make false accusations, but at the same time, this is worrying.

There's also - that announcement from Antonin this morning. (I will comment there shortly, as well.) I can only assume that Aurora's known and agreed, but you don't think she's in over her head there? I am just thinking back to last spring. And that Antonin's asking her for favours is ... Blast.

And to expose students to it. It's not that I can't somewhat see the reasoning - better to see such things in a controlled setting, anyway. But I yearn so for the days when we could focus on peaceful arts.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-10-02 16:56:10](#)

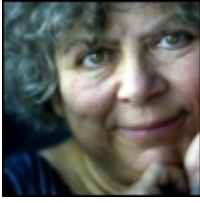
*Re: Private message to Poppy*

Blast it, must Dolohov be so accursedly reasonable? It would be much easier if he were not, in so many ways. Nothing for it but to be handy Saturday afternoon, and see what comes of it. (And if Aurora has problems, whether she'll talk to her Raz or us or - well, no one - I've not the faintest idea.)

Dolores looked rather smug at lunch, don't you think? But I did catch Diggory, and he'll be on the lookout for anything else odd. I did not mention my own suspicions to him - it is not kind to put so much weight on student shoulders - but he's bright enough to read between the lines, I suspect.

If you find yourself with an empty ward, let me know, and I'll come up for a spot of tea? I want to stop by the sett at half-five, but I'm

free at four. I could use a round of friendly conversation by this point. (Is it really only Tuesday?)



 **alt\_pomona** at **2012-10-02 14:43:09**

*Private message to Aurora Sinistra*

Just to catch you up, Auri. I took Chelsea Abbott up to Poppy this morning, but I'm assuming she's all right. (And you should see her shortly, yes?)

First, don't trouble yourself coming back too early tonight. I know how you enjoy your supper with friends in town. But if you'd stop by the sett just before 9, we can have a quick talk with the prefects who are handy, and then chat a little ourselves after? I plan to have a word with the other heads of house after supper, so I may have more thoughts by then.

(And I do want to hear about your appointments, even if we don't manage time tonight!)

I'll catch Diggory at lunch (gracious, I had no idea his schedule was quite that horrendous on Tuesdays - Quidditch practice straight into your Raz's NEWT session, this week).

On that note - I'm unlikely to attend Saturday (truly not my sort of thing) but if you need a shoulder after, you do know where to find me. And I admit it does ease my worries to know our students will have someone there with their best interests at heart. ~~Just, I do~~  
worry

Do enjoy your afternoon, dear.



**2012-10-02 13:27:00**

*Private Message to Cedric Diggory and Melinda Pennifold*

Just wanted to let you both know that I talked with the other Ravenclaw Prefects and we're all planning to go on Saturday, so if Professor Dolohov needs any help with crowd control or anything, we're all available for it.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Oh, also, I told Dames if he really wanted to switch patrol on Wednesday I could do it, since we've got Astronomy that night. (In fact, it might not be a bad idea to ask 5th-years to regularly take Wednesdays, since that's our Astronomy night and we've got to stay up, anyway.)



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 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-10-02 17:46:23**  
(no subject)

Thank you for letting us know. I will be there as well.

I'll change the schedule and I'll talk to Melinda about Wednesdays going forward. Thank you for the suggestion.

**[2012-10-02 16:56:00](#)**

*Upcoming meteors*

First, a reminder to our fifth, sixth, and seventh years that the first of our observing opportunities for meteor showers - the Draconids - is coming up this weekend.

Depending on the weather, you should have the opportunity either Sunday or Monday not too long after sunset. I'll be up on the tower after supper both nights until around 9 for those who wish to observe.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)**

(Again, you're expected to do some brief observations across at least two of the three upcoming meteor showers, weather reasonably permitting. Consult your notes or come by office hours if you are still confused about my expectations. You will in all cases want to work with a partner - it makes things much easier - and doing so is required if you're out of your dorms outside of curfew.)

Looking ahead, I will not be available on Saturday, the 20th, but the Orionids should - if the weather holds - be most visible between midnight and dawn on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd. Those who wish to stay up on Friday night are welcome to come up the tower at midnight if the weather's clear (though my 3rd years will be working on a different assignment.) Pre-dawn viewing, you are on your own, but I am glad to arrange permissions as needed.

And second, just a reminder on my office hours - you all know I'm glad to be available. However, I do generally plan to be done at 9pm, and often have some other tasks calling my attention. If you have a longer or more complex question, please do come earlier in the session, or arrange a time with me privately. (I do have to have time to do all your marking, after all!)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 21:55:56](#)**

*Private message to Raz*

Love -

Progress! I stopped by Campanella's on my way in - had a question for her, related to Chelsea Abbott last night - and she is delighted to be an attendant. Tallie and I had an immensely productive (and pleasant) planning session. She has two more venues ~~and one I turned down~~ she'd like me to look at next

Tuesday.

But I am immensely reassured about the whole process, really. And she's sorting out our appointments for the 20th, so I don't have to think about them at all. (See? I can so delegate. Sometimes.)

In case you get the urge to go rummaging for spare quills again - I'm going to need to repurpose the large box on my desk for the robe notes, and lock it. (I'm not superstitious about much, but I find I am about you seeing my robes in advance.) I want to sleep on the decision, and see if Narcissa has comments, but I am very pleased, and you think you will be too.

In more amusing news, the Archetype's started carrying things from a new bakery, and I have gotten various bits to bring back with me. There's some I thought Hydra might particularly enjoy, if you have her up to tea in the next few days. And yes, love, things for you - there's an apple tart apparently even better than the one you liked last time and a few other things (Also, some marzipan for Antosha Friday night - they've got some deeply amusing designs.)

Did you manage to work out a possible time for the two of us and Harry? I suddenly have this feeling my calendar is filling up rapidly - between Quidditch and the demonstration on Saturday and us taking a day on the 20th and his YPL obligations and - well, it's a long list, isn't it?

Pomona wants me briefly at 9, but I'll come up by your rooms when I'm done?

Love you.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 22:05:57](#)

*Private message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Narcissa -

You should have an owl very shortly with copies of the design sketches from this afternoon. If you have a chance to glance at them, I'd love your opinion.

I keep coming back to the first Joosh design - there's something about the draping and the idea he has for the back that I find very appealing. I liked his idea for the headpiece, too, though working it

out in practice may take a little doing.

The Fairchild sketches are - I like them, but not for this, somehow, though I can't put my finger on why. But I want to sleep on it, too, before making any final choice. And I'm sure you're likely to spot about six things I'm entirely missing.

Also - Raz and I are planning on being in New London the 20th - partly for appointments with caterers, partly just for a night out together. Anything we should be sure not to miss? Planning to stay overnight at Spence, and come back here sometime on the Sunday.

I do hope your week's going well (and continues to do so).

A.



 **alt\_narcissa at 2012-10-04 02:07:33**

*Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Aurora,

Briefly, as we're at the opera but between acts: I did look at the sketches and I am, like you, quite impressed with Gerard's suggestions. It's not perfect, no, but he does know how to fit and you're right, draping is his strong suit. I'm thoroughly enchanted by his use of the spell in the headpiece; I confess I'd been wondering whether some touch like that would not bring just the hint of the celestial to everything. Moreover I'm sure he can continue to tweak the design to perfection.

I'm not certain Fairchild really understands your figure, dear. Though in truth, something like what he's shown might do in a different context - perhaps in a jewel tone and in different fabric (crushed velvet? Or a light suede, perhaps) - would make the difference. But it's a very heavy design, I think, for a day when one wants to walk on air.

Does that help? I am sorry it's taken me so long to reply; truly this week has been mad beyond belief. I've been imagining all day that it's really Friday (if only!).

Lucius tells me he's visiting this weekend, something about Toshenka wanting a display of skills. My condolences if you are left to see to the handful of them by yourself - but good practice for you, I think, particularly since Tosha and Razzer are perfectly capable of

telling them all to be sensible in your presence! (What will happen after you leave, however ... best not to worry about it. There's a reason they all keep restorative potions on hand!)

There's the signal for the final act. We'll talk soon.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-04 03:21:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Oh, thank you. I'm glad I'm seeing the right things. On the Joosh, yes. There's details in the bodice, and the dip at the back that I want to talk about, in particular. But on the whole, I - my eye keeps coming back to it in the right way, if you know what I mean. Wanting to look like that. Thinking I can make it work the way it should.

And you're quite right about the headpiece, though I had another idea for an appropriately celestial feel, if we can find the right space for it. (It would, apparently, be very simple if I were content with entirely symbolic or cliché representations of the heavens, but of course, that won't satisfy me at all.)

And yes, that is it about the Fairchild. I've no desire to be all 'maiden of the dawning spring' about it (in truth, our choice of date is because I'd rather not wait longer rather than particular affection for the season). But at the same time, the whole thing should fit the time of year. He did mention there was something not that dissimilar - well, different material, neckline, sleeves, and back - in his winter collection. I should see if that might suit some my other coming needs.

As to the demonstration, yes - the entire school's buzzing with it. And I do have plenty to keep me distracted while they find amusements afterwards. I'll admit I'm a little nervous, but Raz and Antosha and I talked it through thoroughly on Friday, and I'm also rather intrigued to see it myself. If that's the word I want.

Thank you, again - especially in so busy a week. And I do hope you enjoyed the last act.

Aurora



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-02 22:17:56](#)

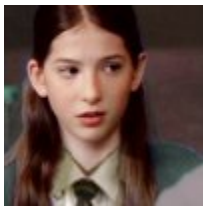
*Private message to Sally-Anne Perks*

Right. I think I've finally got my thoughts together for that conversation I offered - and even if you don't want to go through with it, I *do* now have copies of the books I wanted to get into your hands, and Pansy's and Hydra's. (With some other useful notes that they don't talk about.)

If you don't want to actually talk, swing by office hours and I'll at least hand you the books? (And I swear, they're far more helpful than That Book is.) Let me know?

And about this weekend - Saturday, I mean - if you know anyone who needs a little reassurance, I've been in on them planning, and they truly are taking sensible precautions. Given the general context. And while they've not done this in some years - obviously - it's not new to either of them.

(Oh, and if anyone asks why I'm writing, today's excuse is that I had a question on whether I'd covered something with your class last week, or whether we'd spent too much time on that digression about best practices in using the lunar telescopes to get to the piece on analysing orbits.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-03 01:48:55](#)

*Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks*

Okay.

Maybe next week?



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-03 03:16:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Sally-Anne Perks*

As you will, truly.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-03 00:47:16**

*Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

You seem to have had quite the busy day with various communications - I do hope no one's giving you trouble over your plans? (And do you need another pack of the Jelly Gums yet?)

I did finally finish that first of the Narnia books last night. Conveniently so, as I've picked up some marzipan for us on Friday that may amuse in that context. And I do want to talk about it, please. (Along with various other things on our mutual lists.)

As to the rest of my day, I seem to find myself with options for wedding robes that truly delight me, and progress on a variety of other useful related topics. (I shall not bore you with the details, but I am more and more convinced Tallie was the right choice as planner.) Also three interesting books from Flourish and Blotts - the new Magdalena Wright mystery, a study of Hypatia of Alexandria's teaching notes, and a new history of Renaissance Florence. Nothing new on the trashy fiction shelf that looked at all amusing, alas.

Speaking of music: we've not discussed music, but I mean to pick up a ticket for the Wilton Consort performance in December. If you're at all inclined to early music and chamber orchestra - some singing, but it's about half instrumental - they're really quite good. I've a recording or two to loan if you'd like a listen. (Raz tolerates my tastes here: not his style at all.)

Right. Off to a chat with Pomona, and then Raz, and then to set up for class.

A.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-03 11:29:04**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

My dearest Aurora,

Trouble over my plans? No indeed -- even the most dubious of our fellow staff (Pomona, of course) seems to have finally conceded that Razzer and I know what we're about. (Do reassure her, will you, if you haven't already? She's

fretting over you most intently, so much so that I had to drop into speaking Hufflepuff at her.) The majority of my back-and-forth today was simply gossip, and inviting a few others of our brotherhood along as well.

(And before you raise your eyebrows at me -- I can feel them going up from here -- yes, I do in fact have several reasons for waylaying half a dozen of the Council and dragging them up here this weekend, and would be happy to explain if you can't figure those reasons out. And actually, that does give us an opportunity to start those lessons I promised you on understanding more of our dear company. Let us play a game: add to the agenda on Friday a discussion on what you think my motives in asking them are, and what their motives would be in accepting. I will tell you I have at least three of them, that I am willing to admit to at least!)

I have not run out of jelly gums yet -- there was only the one exchange with darling Dolores, and it ended abruptly enough that I rather think she's the one who could have used them this time. (I do not think she liked being told I did not agree with her that discipline was horribly lax throughout the castle. At very least, she did not reply once I told her she was likely being disappointed because she was expecting the wrong things.) She's trying again to get me involved in her CCF plans. I am continuing to plead overwork, although I suppose I should extend some small olive branch at some point in service towards not utterly shutting doors that might be useful in future. I suppose I should gird my loins (oh, damn that book the children have been passing around, I have lost entire volumes of useful expressions to the phantom sniggering teenager in the back of my mind) and give her just enough attention that she does not realise how useless I find her. You'll have to provide moral support for me, dearest, if I fall on that sword for the good of us all.

I would, meanwhile, be perfectly happy to be bored by the detail of wedding planning, so long as it is interesting to you. (I am content to listen to anyone discussing any topic they feel passionately about. It has led to many intriguing conversations throughout the years, and means I am never shy of cocktail party conversation.) At very least I would be most interested in seeing the designs for your robes.

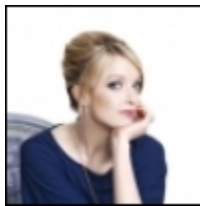
I will also claim the books on Hypatia and the history of Renaissance Florence when you are done with them. And meanwhile, I have finished the next two in *American Witches*, and I think I may have figured out what you are seeing. Or at least what I



think I am seeing. Might I borrow back *Tickling the Salamander* and *Wand's Might* to doublecheck? (I cannot believe I will be willingly rereading them. I owe you dire retribution for getting me hooked.)

As for the concert: I am more fond of choral performance than orchestral performance, and more sacred music than secular, but alas, choral liturgies are quite out of favor these days, from what I am given to understand. Still, although early music is not my primary interest I do still enjoy it. I would love to be your escort if Raz does not plan to attend; do allow the tickets to be my treat, and let me know what seating you prefer.

Anticipating today's amusement of attempting to teach two hours of thirds and fifths how to meditate (send me strength and patience!),  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-03 13:09:07

Re: Private message to Antosha

Antosha -

Let's see, the quick pieces: I'd love your company for the concert (Lucius and Narcissa occasionally go to theirs as well), I will drop off *Tickling the Salamander* and *Wand's Might* by your office when I come down to lunch - and the next two, mind. Along with the ticket details. You're very kind.

(Assigning me things now? But no, I see the point, and I will consider it properly.)

As to wedding planning - I'd much rather mostly talk about other topics, really. Though I will bring the robe sketches on Friday. The planning itself - the details, anyway - is not the interesting part for me as much as managing that many moving pieces, and negotiating the space between social expectation and personal preference. And there, yes, your advice would be invaluable.

Raz's requests are not too much spectacle, and no intrusions if possible. While both very sensible desires (and I am very much in agreement) they do not give one a great deal of positive direction. What will amuse, I suspect, is my growing list of "Really Stupid Wedding Ideas, Why, Oh, Why?"

At any rate, I am vastly reassured by the planner we finally settled on (very sensible and willing to listen), and that Campanella agreed to be one of my attendants last night. (You've not met her, I think - she's in charge of security issues for the YPL work.) My oldest sister is the other, but she is far less use in dealing with either intrusions or certain of your esteemed brotherhood having a bit too much to drink and being difficult.

And it is still a great deal less work (as I keep insisting to Raz) and far less discomfort than herding 50 2nd years around Cornwall and Dartmoor in the rain with bonus attendance from dear Dolores.

On Pomona - she and I did talk, and yes, she's fretting. (She always is, when she drops into calling me Auri like she has the last day). But it's more than that - and related to Dolores and her questions about discipline.

Pomona's never at her best when she's having to convince her fellow heads of house to move on a particular point, and it's made her a little more prickly the last day than one might prefer. She's got good reason, though: Dolores took discipline into her own hands over that matter Sunday. There's now ongoing discussion about whether she ought, and - more to the point - who has the best authority to tell her not to do that again. I am not directly involved, thankfully - but Pomona wanted an ear.

As to your own handling of Dolores, all the moral support you need. She's largely left me alone directly since that last bout, and I'm rather wondering how long it's going to last. But we should add her to the list for Friday's discussion - I got a bit more information out of Campanella last night that may be of use to you.

Right. I should finish up a few things and aim at my classroom for some marking I didn't do last night.

A.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-03 14:32:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Dearest,

I ... had not heard that about Dolores. In light of her appeal to me regarding student discipline, it is

far more concerning; she was, I believe, angling to get me to be her voice in staff meetings (concerning which, we do have one tonight, don't we, or am I all turned 'round again?) on the topic of student discipline. (Believe she thinks that of course one of Our Lord's faithful would fall into step with her notions of discipline, not realising that 'discipline' means something wholly different to many of my intimates than it might to one who came to service in more settled times. It is a concept remarkably difficult to convey to those who did not live it: I could tell you a lifetime's worth of stories and still not scratch the surface.)

With that additional information, however, must confess I see a bit more of a sinister turn to her suggestions. And the question of authority in the other direction is an equally tricky one. I would not for the life of me overstep my boundaries -- it is a troublesomely narrow beam I must walk, being simultaneously juniormost in the hierarchy of the school itself while quite senior outside its walls -- and Minerva is my own sworn sister for this life and beyond; I would not wish to give her even a moment's fear that I might be challenging her authority. Still -- I may sit her down and offer an extra pair of hands. At very least, this weekend should serve as a reminder.

(There; that is as much of a hint as I shall give you on your homework!)

Regarding wedding planning, I do believe I can take one worry off your mind: simply position me in a convenient place and I shall ensure the peace is kept, by any means necessary. Sadly, you are correct that many of our less committed brotherhood give in to their lesser angels when alcohol is involved, but I am well experienced in everything from gentle deflection to outright confrontation in ways that will not spoil the evening for others. Consider it one of my wedding gifts to you! (And remind me to tell you the story of a certain reception in Paris and a pair of young men whose mothers did not raise them suitably for civilised company in the least.)

Bother. Now you've got me thinking about what Dolores might be up to, when I would far prefer to be plotting the weekend's amusements. You are far more in Pomona's good graces than I, and more likely to cadge useful information out of her without setting her on edge: if you hear anything more, tell me, and if you've the chance to drop a word in her ear that I am happy to have words with any of the other heads as necessary, please do.

(In fact I am spending tomorrow evening brewing with Horace, or rather, brewing in Horace's laboratories with Horace likely to be present: if there is a direction in which I may be useful there, do let me know.)

Until lunch,  
T



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-03 18:40:06**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

Our meeting tonight will certainly be interesting. Pomona did say the Heads had some ideas for it, after they talked last night.

I admit I'm feeling stuck. I know full well that anything I say about Dolores will be seen as biased - even when I am truly being right and just and fair. (I think I've been very restrained, considering, but clearly not enough.)

I did get some more information out of Campanella last night - very much not for public conversation tonight, though. I will talk it through with Raz and with you, but I need a little to mull it over. Add it to our list for a week Friday? Raz has his own thoughts - and worries - on the matter, and I'm coming more and more to agree with him. (I also want to see if I can get some more out of Mum before that conversation - treading carefully there, because the last thing I want to do is make things difficult for her.)

As to the challenge of authority - quite. Though I'm sure you'll manage well there. I had gathered, yes, that your demonstration might have that as one of its goals. (You do also realise it'd be easier if I knew who you'd invited - not that I can't make some informed guesses, and use my own sources of information.)

On the wedding - that would be a very great relief, yes, please. Part of me lives in fear that various of Raz's friends might find it an excellent time to torment him in entirely the wrong way. I've some ideas on how to manage the chance of overindulgence, but I anticipate a great deal of careful explanation to various vendors and to Tallie about why I'm making certain choices.

(And I will certainly ask for the story.)

As to Pomona, absolutely, I will pass on what I hear. Even if I do sometimes feel like an owl, triangulating data. (Pomona and Poppy talk far more freely to me, Hooch to Raz, and you to your own sources, and so on.)

A.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-03 21:18:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Dearest,

Ugh. I thought today would never end, and tomorrow is no doubt going to be even longer.

(Remind me to amuse before the staff meeting by doing my impression of the fifth-year Gryffindor/Hufflepuff class and their first encounter with meditation. I am lucky I could keep a straight face myself.)

And yes, your hands are tied even more so than mine are -- anything past "cordial ignoring" would be read as sour grapes. And Razzer's contributions, should he choose to offer them, read as defence of "his woman". (You may imagine the face I am making to even write that.)

I believe I will sit down with Minerva, sometime this weekend, and make it explicitly clear to her that I stand at the ready. With luck, tonight's meeting will turn in the direction we'd like it to without too much steering required and the matter left done and dusted, but we shall see. (And yes: triangulation of data and information is an excellent way to stay *au courant*, and a good way to exert influence as well; it has always been a particular skill of mine and I see the hallmarks of it in you as well. It occurs to me that between we three, we do nearly cover the entire staff, in spheres of influence! Something to think about, though let us devoutly hope it will not be necessary.)

I would, mind you, quite enjoy the chance to meet your mother at some point in future -- to thank her for the biscuits, if nothing else! (Which reminds me: I must dig up that recipe for her. Do not let me forget again.) And your friend sounds quite the useful contact, in addition to her friendship.

The guest-list for this weekend, meanwhile, is likely one you have already pieced together from my messaging: Rod, of course, and I believe I've already mentioned having pressed Barty into service for the more showy bits of spellcasting required. (The wards we will be using are not native to your magical tradition, and the actual spellwork is complicated, fussy, and demanding; I've no doubt I could teach you well enough, were you interested in learning, but not in what time we have, and I would not wish to try with many of our fellow staff.) To that number, add Lucius, if he is able to win free of his other commitments, and Dominic Selwyn as well -- I do not know him as well as the others, he being a later addition to our company, but I thought his presence on the Board of Governors would make him a useful resource, in the event of future parental vapours. (To say nothing of the fact the man has an excellent mind, and a library I quite covet.)

Right. Time for me to get moving, lest I sit here all night. I shall see you in a few, my dear.

Affectionately,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-04 00:38:34](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

Goodness, I feel much better now. I hoped we might end up in agreement, but that was easier than I thought it might be. Though, if the four heads are pointed the same direction, it gets far easier, given the weight of history three of the four have with the school. Rolanda is an oddity, mind you - I still wish we had more Gryffindor staff, really. Now to hope that Dolores sees reason without too much difficulty.

You do have a point about the triangulation, too but there are gaps. Acton (though, I suspect you could have her ear for the asking). Cordelia. And Brutka's still mysterious, though pleasant enough and far far better than his predecessor. But he doesn't share much of himself. (Actually, you might have a try there, if you were so inclined. Swap stories of life outside the

Protectorate and all.)

On Dolores, quite. And I am beginning to wonder if I need to back off on cordial ignoring, to something more like polite tolerance. I'd have to grit my teeth rather a lot but if we were talking, it might give me that much more to pass on to students who might make good use of the information to prepare themselves for her plans. (Campanella - and a few other sources - are assisting, but there's things they don't hear.) Whether I can manage it, though, is an entirely different question.

And you're quite right on Raz: him saying much is even worse. But as much as some part of me - well, swoons is not too strong - whenever he clearly wants to offer, one of the things I love most about him is his ability to step back and let me handle things when that's best, hard as that is for him.

On Mum - we'll have to see if we can find some excuse before the wedding. Mind you, both she and Dad are homebodies. Even I don't see them that often. (And right now, she's busy plotting Dad's 75th birthday in November. Pity Raz, there. He's finally going to have to meet my aunts and cousins, and they're rather much. The uncles are rather more relaxing, thankfully.)

As to this weekend: that gives me enough to work with. I knew about Rod, of course, from Raz, and I'd guessed at Barty and Dominic. (The first two I am still on very cautious footing with, and I've only met Dominic a couple of times.) But yes, an excellent choice if you want someone to reassure parents, and especially if Lucius can't get free.

And thank you for that compliment as to my potential skill. (Before you launch into the predictable lecture on valuing my skill, I am. My strength is not with my wand, and I know it. I do suspect I will find the process deeply interesting, though, just given what you mentioned last week.)

Right. Marking. Really.  
A.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-10-04 13:09:11

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Dearest,

Yes, I feel much better now after last night. (And it's always entertaining to see Horace in full-on appeal-to-tradition mode. So very amusing, and hard to argue with.) At least we have that settled, and it should give us all some breathing room. (And I feel better twice over, as apparently the latest change to my potions has overcome the insomnia and I am finally catching up. I was out like a candle the minute I returned to my quarters last night, and I've only just woken: the first time I've slept past dawn all term. Good morning!)

You're going to make me make nice with Acton, aren't you. (As the only remaining possibility among the three of us.) And yes, I do find Brutka pleasant enough; I suppose I should make an effort there. (And, you know, if you've in need of more Gryffindor staff: he might not be one, but he is at least not distracted by allegiance to a different House.)

"Cautious footing" is a lovely euphemism, my dear! Rod is generally easy enough -- give him an interesting conversation and make no references to his home life in the least -- while Barty can be trickier; there are many outside and uncontrollable factors that can influence what sort of reception one will have with him. Trust me to stand you in good stead with him over time, however. As for Dominic, I don't know him very well either, but have found him eminently personable thus far.

As to the potential compliment -- my saying so was less due to having seen your skill with wand, and more with having seen the development of your recording process, actually. The process of imposing your will upon the anchor-stone is extremely like the wrestling with the universe (...often to two falls out of three) that certain of the oldest pieces of the magic I have learned from my mother -- which this is -- involve. (I have a forty-five minute or so long tirade about my theories regarding the inhibition of instinctive wild magic in children and the forcing of it into named and patterned spellwork, but I'll save delivering it for a time when we're all a bit less on



edge, as it milks some sacred cows.)

Do not subject yourself to Dolores, at least not yet: I will bite my tongue and at least try to be cordial, and we can see whether she's willing to believe me on her side enough to show off her plans.

(I may need the extra bag of jelly gums first, though.)

Still somewhat sleepily,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-04 14:21:58](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

That is excellent news on your insomnia (though I envy you the sleep: I am always short Wednesday nights. Hence why my schedule for Thursdays includes a two hour slot for a nap.)

And yes. You are the only option for Acton. Raz can't, I can't (though at least she's speaking to me again when needed; there was quite a while when she'd just sniff and go the other direction.) And while Pomona's cordial enough with her, not enough so for triangulation purposes.

On Brutka - quite true he's not got the traditional allegiances to get in the way. It is tricky for Rolanda, though, not to be suspected of showing favouritism on the pitch. And I've caught a few comments from Acton and Cordelia about why she's a Head of House (which is, simply, that we needed a Gryffindor, and she was the option.) Welcome to our tight little nest of intrigue and power-struggles.

Honestly, I mostly ignore them. Pomona does an excellent job, has done so for decades - and besides, we're rather more all "chip in and help out." I do, Mina does. Dolores - well, I'm glad she's not got *that* particular idea in her head.

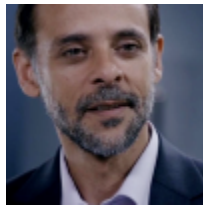
As to - well. I suspect it is easier not to refer to Rod's homelife (even just by implication) if one is not planning to marry his brother. But yes, he and I have had a few pleasant

conversations on the parts of his work he'll talk about. As to Barty, thank you. You're right that it's complicated, and it's one of Raz's friendships I'm most wary of interfering with. More than I already have, that is. (The simple fact of my relationship with Raz does ripple through other things, and we both know it.)

On the more enjoyable discussions of theory - well, that will be something to pick up. I do admit I'm more than a little intrigued. There is always more to learn, is there not?

Right. Now to get myself read for the day's round of teaching. My 7ths are still nervous about their research projects, no matter how often I tell them that the point of the exercise is to teach them the general process. I hope they'll do something new and adding to the knowledge of the world, but I don't assume they'll manage it.

A.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-04 18:23:29**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Dearest,

Am happy to exert myself with Brutka and Acton, though Lucius has just suggested, disturbingly enough, that the woman may have her eye on me in a, shall we say, less intellectual direction. (I never do see these things, even when they are staring me in the face.) I flatly refuse to seduce her for the good of the school. Unless it becomes necessary, in which case I demand hazard pay.

As to Barty -- well, 'complex' is nowhere near a rich enough word to describe him, but he is my own dear beloved. The trick to him, inasmuch as there is a trick, is to recognise that he finds people on the whole utterly tedious, and work from there!

And yes, there is never a shortage of interesting things to learn. For which I give eternal thanks. I am attempting to instill the same love of research in my NEWTs -- we should confer, and see if there is any room for overlap. (Less so than there will be with Rizzer's coterie, but still.)

Still sleepily yours, though the Gryffindors do wake one up a bit,  
T



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-04 19:15:20**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

I am reminded of a conversation with Raz - also about Acton, actually - where he reminded me that he was not, in fact, perfect. (In that case, I was commenting that his sense of tactics seemed to have rather deserted him when dealing with her.) You may also want to bear in mind that her mother's the Chief Healer at St. Mungo's, when considering how to handle her.

There's a way I have all the sympathy in the world for her, actually (though her taste varies between the excellent - Raz, you - and the "well, variety makes the world go round" of Dawlish and Milland.) She's got to be getting even more pressure than I was to marry and have children, and the prospects living here are never what one might call varied. (Other topics you might use as an opening for Brutka: I think she tried at him briefly, and he set her down very neatly, but I'm not sure what he actually did.)

But that does not mean you should encourage her, either. And for that, I have a remedy. When the rumours about Raz and I started circulating late last fall, my eldest sister sent me a book that - well, it's horrible, but it's an excellent specimen of its kind, and in this case, quite useful to you. There's a number of them out, but this is *The Rules of Play: The Successful Witch in Boardroom and Bed* and it lays out most clearly the 'rules', as it were, for attracting and keeping a wizard's attention. Apparently, they work for some people - not as well for Acton as she wishes, but it'll give you an idea of her methods, and what to avoid. With numbered points and instructive sidebars for the searching witch.

(Frankly, if I'd been inclined to such a thing, I can only say that doing the exact opposite would generally have worked better on Raz, but we have relied on friendship, respect, and

honest affection. And a few other things besides. Odd of us, I know.)

On the research - actually, two of my newts are interested in locational magic research, and there's some overlap with your field (and Raz's) around warding and defence. We should indeed talk, once I get them to narrow down their actual interests a little more. (The rest of mine, I think, are settling on either historical topics or observational ones, but we'll see: they get their final proposals to me in two weeks or so.)

Naptime for me, now. I'll bring the book down to supper.  
A.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-04 21:51:05**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Dearest,

Locational magic and its uses in warding sounds fascinating, and I do indeed plan on spending quite a bit of time on wards in all their fascinating intricacies later in the year -- one of the books on the NEWT booklist is entirely on the topic, and of course I've dozens of others to lend out as needed. Locational magic in general is not my speciality, and I know very little on the interplay of warding with astronomy beyond the necessary -- I'm quite familiar with the arithmantic calculation end, but have always left the astronomy up to the experts -- but could no doubt swot up if necessary to supervise.

I have not yet given them details on the research papers I will be requiring of them by end of year, only mentioned that I will be requiring them, but several conversations today have made me think that perhaps an interdisciplinary approach might be for the better. Too late to set up anything formal for this year, of course (though if any of them suggest it I will certainly encourage), but I will make a note to bring up the topic at a staff meeting in future. (Hopefully one that is less fraught than last night's!)

The book you mention, meanwhile, sounds utterly ghastly, but knowledge of its dictates would no doubt provide a useful

defence in future. Only, do be sure to charm it before you deliver it: my reputation could survive being caught with that pre-teen trash we have been swapping, but I shudder to think what the gossip would make of me being caught with that one!

"Friendship, respect, and honest affection" seem quite the solid foundation for a marriage to me, meanwhile, though I am so far from being an expert it is laughable; the best marriages I have observed have been built on similar. And obviously, it is working well in your case! (No one has yet dared to mention marriage and reproduction in my direction, thankfully. I am waiting for my pamphlets: they will no doubt make excellent kindling.)

Time to start the slog down to supper, then to dine and dash back up -- if I were not making such the effort to be more sociable, today would be an excellent candidate for hiding away through meals. If you see me beseeching Brutka with pleading eyes, you may imagine I am taking your quite sensible suggestion. (And then, of course, it's more interviews, then to the dungeons for me -- whatever possessed me to schedule my time in Horace's labs for Thursday evening, after even more one-on-ones? Am beginning to think we should campaign for Thursdays to be eliminated from the week. At least I will be able to sleep in Saturday morning; it might be sensible for us to cut tomorrow night's discussion somewhat short, though of course that's easier said than done.)

Exhaustedly yours,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-05 00:41:52](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Antosha -

Thursdays are not my favourite either. (If I am utterly rigorous about going to bed as quickly as I can on Wednesday, I manage six and a half hours sleep. Last night, it was about five. Hence the firmly scheduled nap in Thursday afternoons.)

On the locational magics - that part's no problem, truly. I'm quite at home with both the relevant astronomy and arithmancy. (Glad to help you dust the cobwebs of course - and remind me tomorrow, there's a Dolores-related story there.) I understand the wardings themselves are much as you'd expect, just that you need to slot in the correct information (or you find yourself protecting a cottage in the Orkney Islands rather than your rooms here, as it were).

Raz and I discussed a few of them last year, when we were working up something better than the mess I'd been throwing together catch-as-catch-can for the wards on my rooms and tower. (Cassie Calderwood was rather an educational experience, really.) We decided against it, because interactions with the castle magics are entirely unpredictable.

The idea of interdisciplinary work has some merit. There are bits of it, of course - most of my astronomy newts are also Septima's, for example, because the two subjects go together very well, and in fact it's quite hard to do theoretical astronomy without the arithmancy. And Pomona's and Horace's students often cross over in research. A more formal approach, though, might at least make an intriguing conversation.

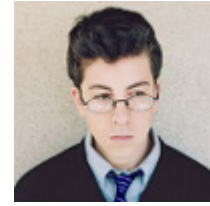
Do enjoy the book for what it is. As if I'd bring it down uncharmed! I scarcely want people to think I read the thing, never mind you. (Honestly, though, the assumptions about what I must have done to get Raz interested - and keep him interested are... well, some people have very limited views of the world, is all I can say.)

As to tomorrow: I must stay up regardless, but do send me away whenever you feel you need. I for one will feel even better about Saturday knowing both of you are starting at your best.

A.

**2012-10-02 22:33:00**

*Private Message to Linus Moon*



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Dear Journal,

Noble Arts Theoretical class was brilliant today. Professor Dolohov is leading us through the history of European attitudes on the Dark Arts, and he asked us lots of questions. My head was buzzing, and after I did my first pass through the reading in Intra Profundis, I went to the library for some nice soothing history. I've been working my way through the shelves, and have got to the Greek War for Independence, which you'd think Binns would cover but noooo. Anywiz, I grabbed this book The Siege of Corinth but it turned out to be poetry. But it has some interesting bits about the art of war, so I am reading it anyway. The author is a George Gordon, Lord Byron, and he does seem to be able to make history come alive. Differently to Professor Dolohov, though.

Thanks for listening, Journal.

Yours faithfully,  
Linus Moon.

**2012-10-03 09:38:00**

*A bit of a show*



 [alt\\_daphne](#)

I don't know about the rest of the houses, but here in Slytherin everyone is positively bubbling with excitement over Saturday's demonstration! I find that there's nothing that re-aligns one's purpose and sense of industry like a little entertainment. "Give a boy or girl something diverting to look forward to, and then smile at their gratitude" was a saying I grew up hearing from my Grandmother, and it's one I've held as my own ever since.

(Younger students should, of course, remember that our Professors are skilled professionals, and that anyone who attempts to emulate their performance either in advance or after the demonstration will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action.)

But in all seriousness, this is precisely why things like Quidditch Matches, Hogsmeade Visits, Plays, Balls, and Feasts are such long-standing traditions at Hogwarts. For a student to really be taught the ways of the world, they must be taught to enjoy and manage the pleasures, just as surely as they must be taught to manage the tasks. I have a feeling that there may even be some adults and professors reading who know exactly what I mean and even agree with me, at least a little!

Though I will admit that it's true we don't often get a Ball at Hogwarts. Nevertheless, there's usually at least one massive, school-wide event for everyone to rally 'round!

Oh, and quickly: thank you to everyone who wished me Happy Birthday yesterday. We had a little celebration in the common room and managed to sneak Queenie in so she could have her pick of the tarts. My Mother sent me the most wonderful set of winter robes, perfect for the upcoming season, and I must say that they might be even more *adult* than my Yule Ball robes. It's hard to believe I'm sixteen years old! I think that shall take a while to sink in...

---





 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-03 16:12:15](#)**

*Private message to Astoria Greengrass*

Don't you EVER do that again. My belongings are not *your* belongings, even if they happen to be sitting out in a box in the common room. What if you had dropped plum tart on the fabric, or stepped on the train? What if...? I'll tell you what if: all your hair would be cut off and flushed down the loo, that's what!

I suppose I'll just have to start putting protective charms on my clothing and jewelry to keep you from trying it on and swanning about like a Princess. Very *nasty* protective charms.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-03 16:22:12](#)**

*Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

Diggory,

I don't know if you've become much acquainted with her yet, but my youngest sister, Queenie, is a first year in your house. She's very small, with very long, very dark hair, rosy cheeks, and big blue eyes - she looks just like a little doll. Well, last night we let her into the common room because it was my birthday. I started to take her back to Hufflepuff well before curfew, but she seemed very reluctant to return and said that she wanted to sleep in Slytherin, with me.

Of course I didn't let her stay, but I did ask her what she was so upset about and she said that she didn't want to be punished like Chelsea was. I'm not sure what she was on about, but she said that this Chelsea girl couldn't stop cleaning and re-arranging things?

I just wondered if you knew anything about it. Maybe Queenie was confused and it wasn't really a punishment at all, but firsties playing some kind of game?

Sincerely,  
*Daphne G. Greengrass*



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-03 20:52:30](#)

*Re: Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

Greengrass,

I'm very sorry that your sister was so upset. I'll make sure one of our Prefects check on her this evening after the meeting.

Yes there was an incident. Chelsea Abbott and Judith Starling were involved. They appear to have been compelled to clean. I have no more definite details that I can share now. I'll give the most basic review of what we know right now at the Prefects' meeting. I know it's being discussed at the staff meeting tonight. Hopefully after that I'll have some more information. I'll pass what people need to know on to everyone on the Prefect team.

Thanks for letting me know,  
CD



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-04 00:55:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Cedric Diggory*

CD,

Thanks for explaining the situation to the rest of the Prefects tonight. I was mostly asking out of personal interest in my sister's well-being. It's hard, being the oldest and being a Prefect but feeling like I ought to trust you lot in Hufflepuff to take care of her - which I'm sure you will! It's just a matter of getting her to see people like Bones, MacMillan, and yourself as people she can go to when she's frightened or confused. Queenie's not so bold as I am, you see, and she's *definitely* not as bold as Astoria.

Oh, this question might sound peculiar, but: do you happen to have any talent or interest in singing, acting, or dancing? I'm taking a bit of an informal survey, you see, the reasons for which I hope to reveal soon!

-Daphne



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2012-10-03 16:30:48**

*Private message to Padma*

Padma,

I think you've secured Madam Umbridge's favour by now, so let me ask you: how might I suggest to her that the school stage a Musical and Theatre Revue some time this year? It's something I brought up with Blaise at the start of the term, and he thought it was a brilliant idea, too. Only I've the distinct impression that Madam Umbridge doesn't approve of the Arts - she certainly cut me off rather quickly when I tried to bring the topic up during our meeting a few weeks ago. But surely there must be a way to convince her that it's a worthwhile activity?

-Daphs



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2012-10-03 16:52:28**

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Ooh, that's a good idea, Daphs. (Happy birthday again, by the way, and did you like the little change purse? It's just a bitty thing, of course, but well useful since it'll always give you the correct change. Only if you've already got enough in there, ha!)

I think, with Madam Umbridge, the key would be showing her how it could be done but wouldn't have to add to her own work, or detract from her plans, you know? Like, if you told her that you've already lined up a stage manager and a place, and wanted to talk to her about scheduling the performance so it doesn't interfere with anything already planned, that sort of thing.

Then she might not necessarily see the harm, even if she doesn't want to be bothered with it on her own. You know?



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2012-10-03 17:12:56**


*Re: Private message to Padma*

I adore it - it's the most clever thing! And speaking of correct change, I can't wait for our first Hogsmeade trip, how about you? Thank you again for remembering me!

Well, I didn't imagine she would know anything about organising such an event, so I'd already planned on doing it myself. I think the trick is to do it in such a way that she doesn't look upon me as utterly presumptuous, or going over her head, or anything like that.

It might also help if I have other students rallying behind the idea... can I count on you for that? I know Lizzie and Samantha will, and Pansy and Draco and Blaise...oh, and maybe even Harry, too, if I can get him to stop talking about Quidditch for five minutes.



 **alt\_padma** at [2012-10-03 17:19:33](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

Well, that's just it, if we go to her early on and talk about it as an *enhancement* to the programme then it's different from a load of students all pushing against her.

Oh, what if we organised around a *theme*? Like, celebrating the Headmistress for her years of teaching or something? Isn't it her 50th anniversary as a teacher? I think it is. That's loads of time and really, it ought to be recognised.

I could talk to Professor Vector about it if you like. She's bound to like the idea. Carpenter, too, she positively drools over anything artistic.

And you could get Susan Bones on board; she'll bring the other badgers 'round if you want them.



 **alt\_daphne** at [2012-10-03 17:29:29](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*


Is it really her 50th anniversary? I'm fairly sure that Professor Slughorn has been here even longer, by at least ten or so years... if it's also his 60th anniversary we could make the Revue in honour of them both, with emphasis on the Headmistress, of course.

You're right about Professor Carpenter - she doesn't know it, but

I've always seen Divination as "acting" class, because really, it's all about putting on the best performance. I even told Professor Dolohov about this and he found it terribly amusing. I think he would be in support of the Revue idea, actually, but he's new so his support might not count for so much as getting in the Heads of House. Then again, he's awfully important to the Lord Protector, and so is Professor Raz.

Do you suppose Lav or Parvati might talk to Hooch? I don't know her well at all and she's so... *gruff*.



 **alt\_padma** at [2012-10-03 18:14:08](#)

*Re: Private message to Padma*

If it's not it's got to be something like that, anyway. Mum said when we started Hogwarts that Professor McGonagall had a Personal Tragedy that left her teaching, or something, so she didn't start right out of school like Professor Siz, but it's been forever, anyway.

And yes, Professor Slughorn even taught Professor Dolohov, so he's been here even longer than the Headmistress. We could certainly include all the Heads of House, too, if we look up when they came here. Or anyone who's got more than 30 years (though that would also include Binns, technically).

I'm sure Lav would be happy to talk to Madam Hooch. Really, she's only that gruff on the outside. Pav says if you get to know her she's really quite, er, well, tolerant.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2012-10-03 19:35:38](#)

*(no subject)*

I think we've got to do some serious research about the best way to do your hair so that it shows off the back of the robes to best effect. And the colours! I love the way they shifted around when you moved. They're just made for dancing. And of course, you look absolutely beautiful in them.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-04 00:58:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I know! I've already started looking through my magazines - there's one up-do, with lots of tiny little braids and plaits, that's just exquisite. The model who's wearing the style is fair-haired, though, and I wonder if it would look quite so lovely on dark hair. Hmm, I wonder how I would look as a blond?

Oh, right, Millie already did that.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-04 01:42:34](#)  
(no subject)

Hm. Perhaps if we worked in very subtle colours, just to lighten a bit here and there, that might work. Or we could be bolder -- perhaps very thin ribbons braided in might do the same sort of thing.

**2012-10-03 12:12:00**

*I Solemnly Swear I am Up to No Good*  
*- Private Message to Evelyn & Harry*



Evelyn, thank you so much for the American Witches book!!

 **alt\_hermione**

I don't think I ever would have read it on my own, I mean it isn't like Harry reads girls' books, only it was so good, I only just got around to reading it and I just gulped it down. Isn't Mercy such a cow?! And isn't Todd just lovely?? Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in America and for Muggleborns be able to go to school with everyone else? And to not have to wear robes? Imagine just getting to wear trousers and boots and things. Like a ball every day, only more comfortable!

Can you lend me the next one? I could ask Harry to get it from you so nobody knew it was me.



 **alt\_evelyn** at **2012-10-03 19:30:26**  
(no subject)

Oh!

I'm so glad you liked them. I wasn't sure if you would or not.

I think Todd is my favourite person who doesn't actually exist. And I wish very much that he did. I think it'd be wonderful to be from Montana, like Junie is, because then I could have my own horse, and ride around on the prairie and camp under the stars for weeks at a time with my father. I like camping. I'm not sure how good I'd be at roping cattle, though.

I'd bet the real witches and wizards from America must think we're terribly odd. I mean, with our robes and things.

Would you go to America, if you could? I mean for real? Because you could go to school there, and I think

I'm sorry. That's prying.

I'll get you the second one. It's brilliant. They find a Sasquatch and name it Hairball.



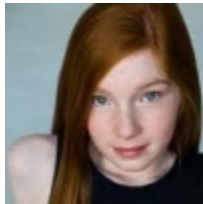
 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-10-03 20:40:38](#)


*(no subject)*

Oh wonderful!!!

Only, Harry might be a bit cross about having to act like he's reading a 'girls book.'

Just so you know.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-03 20:48:27](#)

*(no subject)*

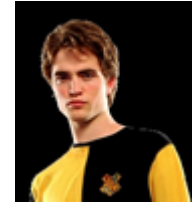
I suppose that'd make things a bit of a hassle for you, yes.

It's mine to give away, I mean, it's not borrowed from a friend or the library or anything, so I don't mind if you want to change the cover so it looks like something else with dripping blood and axes and eyeballs or whatever he'd prefer he give the impression of liking instead.



**[2012-10-03 12:53:00](#)**

*Private Message to Professors Sprout and Siz*



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)**

I have students asking me about what happened to Chelsea and Starling. I'm not sure what to tell them. Have we definitely found out what happened? Should I stick to 'it's being investigated' for now? I have a suspicion that I know what happened, but am very reluctant to tell other students what that suspicion is for a variety of reasons, chiefly not wanting to spread rumours about an adult.

I'll pass whatever we decide on to Melinda as well.

---



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-03 18:08:20](#)**

*(no subject)*

Your reluctance to share details about adults in the building is very sensible: do keep with that line of thought and action, please.

More generally, you might say that we're aware of the concerns and we'll be discussing it in our staff meeting tonight. I expect we'll have a slightly more useful answer for you after that. At least I hope so.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-10-03 20:16:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

Of course. I hope to hear more tonight or tomorrow morning. Dashing this off over rushed dinner.

Thanks



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-04 00:41:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

Right. Don't pass this along until you get official confirmation from the Headmistress or Professor Vector (you should have that sometime tomorrow), but the basic gist is "There was some confusion about the appropriate approach to disciplinary matters, and we have now resolved the confusion."

The part they likely won't add, but you should spread quietly, is that we'd appreciate the prefects keeping an eye out and reporting anything that seems to be odd. But we expect and assume it won't be necessary.

Were there any other questions you had from the Prefects meeting? We got rather distracted by the above, and rather flew through the rest of our agenda as a result.

**2012-10-03 21:20:00**

*Private Message to Virgil Crispin*

Your message's timing could not have been better. Cannot abide *Madama Butterfly* but it's one of Narcissa's favourites (though will say it is diverting to see the interpretation of a muggleborn Butterfly). Perfect excuse to step outside to the bar.



 **alt\_lucius**

Yes, see no reason to cancel lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup> (my apologies, again, for last month). But in advance of our meeting, would be most grateful if you could look into the deed history and provenance on several addresses obtained from Miss Blishwick - she continues to be an excellent source of information, if nothing yet has led to concrete evidence against Maule. Am forwarding an owl with the pertinent locations.

Regarding Saturday's invitation from Fleet, unfortunately, have had additional conflict arise and must decline. Do your best to assure him it is as much business as pleasure. Could send Weasley if you think some representation necessary, however, trust you to provide much better account of my absence than his presence would bring about.

Speaking of Weasley, you may wish to counsel him on his current ... domestic arrangement. He has been somewhat distracted by it of late. Confess that I had my doubts, for all that I supported his removal from that hovel his parents call a home. New London agrees with him; his particular living arrangements, I fear, may not. Have not wished to pry, as you know I pride myself on allowing him, as you, freedom to make decisions fitting an adult who needs no one to tell him what is best. However, the question of balance is, always, one we must wrestle at all times.

Pleased you found the introduction to Glozeman useful. He is a particular friend of Glendower's (the elder); see if you can parlay the one to bring you near the other. While the son is an utter fool, the father has ... protections ... which may prove valuable in time. (And of course, anything they can be brought to say about Strangeweale or Caldwell - particularly as it relates to whatever Dolores' plans are - would be most appreciated.)

By the way. Heard from Ned that you have been by his desk more than once to see if Barty has given him extra tickets to Puddlemere that he

can't use; don't know if I mentioned that Cuthbert continues to send tickets on a regular basis and Weasley has little interest. Feel free to contact him if you're of a mind to go and Ned is not forthcoming.

As for Antonin Nikolaevich, rest assured, when the opportunity arises, shall arrange introduction. His time in New London is currently extremely limited, but even if there is no prior engagement which affords the occasion, he'll naturally attend our Christmas party, so it will come about, sooner or later.

Trust otherwise you are keeping well and look forward to seeing you, particularly since last month's meeting was irretrievably jostled.

**2012-10-03 21:47:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

tonks and me have been going to the camps and making contact with the people on ridley's list. tonks, you add in if I miss anything, yeah?



 [alt\\_frank](#)

we've got the pass code Ridley got us, but once we've made contact, we're setting up our own. inimicus inimici mei amicus meus est. tonks came up with that chestnut. works, especially if we're going to be wearing new faces every time.

first meeting was linda toulson in hertfordshire. got her on her own easily enough, and gave her a wand as a symbol of good will. it's a costly symbol, but I think it'll ultimately be worth our while. she was suspicious of it, which was expected, but she accepted it and was a lot friendlier after she'd had the chance to test it out. she's a filing clerk, which means she could help funnel people out at solstice and lose the paperwork. so we're going to keep in touch with her.

second visit was to mitchell aldton in harlow. we found out that he moved from the hospital to payroll staff, and since we were talking up about how we were there to talk about medical records, it really didn't work to hike across camp and draw too much attention to him. so we're coming back to him. since our papers worked for the rest of the essex district, we went over to maldon. we gave the Flocktons an update about Heather and asked them if they could pass along a few trustworthy muggle and muggle born leaders in the camp we could talk to. sam gave us a few, and we managed to track down a muggle woman named daniella reid. couldn't talk for long, because she was working and was nervous, but she seemed receptive enough.

next we tried tracking down lorena elliott in manchester. she was downright hostile. I was getting ridley flashbacks with her. she took the wand, but was obviously suspicious of it and everything we said, and wouldn't give us anything useful in return. gave her the password, told her we'd be back, that was the best we could do.

---



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-04 04:21:32](#)  
(no subject)

You've covered it, I think.

And too right about Elliott in Manchester. We're going to try again on Sunday. Give her time to try the wand and think back over what we said. And talk us over with whatever Dogstar mates she's got, if she's the kind to consult, which- I think she might not be, if you know what I mean. She seemed like the type who keeps her own counsel.

It doesn't seem like we made much progress, but I had a good feeling about Daniella Reid. We'll follow up with her, and with the rest on Flockton's list.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-04 12:08:04](#)  
(no subject)

It sounds like you are off to a good, solid start, Frank and Dora. That's really excellent to hear.

Kingsley is going to try for the last baby on Minerva's list today.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-04 15:57:56](#)  
(no subject)

good.

anyone had a chance to check the book recently, see if any more have cropped up?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-10-05 04:27:36](#)  
(no subject)

An excellent question. I shall put it to Minerva tomorrow.

**[2012-10-03 22:30:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Classes have been going well so far. I mean, they're harder than they were last term, but that's sort of expected. I think that once we have to start studying for OWLs on top of everything, though, it'll be a lot harder. At least I haven't started studying yet. But anyways. I think this is going to be a busy year. In a good way, though.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)**

The first Quidditch club meeting went well. It was good to see everyone again. We talked about tryouts and things, and came up with our charts for the upcoming professional season. I really think the Falcons will do well this time around. I'm signed up to help out with the YPL exercise session tomorrow, so that should be fun. And Saturday will be brilliant. I'm really looking forward to it.

Has anyone had a chance to finish their essays about colour change for Charms? I just want to make sure I haven't fouled up the bit about changing the colours back. And it's ace to show colour changes in the ink on our essays, but I don't think my purple looks right. It's pretty much just blue. I think. Maybe it's just the parchment or something.



---

 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-04 03:30:43](#)**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Colour changes are tricky, aren't they? It took me ages to get a proper purple - or orange, though I usually want that one much less often. There's a twist to wand movement that often takes a while to feel natural. (Ask me tonight, though, and I can show you quickly if you want. Or anyone else who's having trouble. Or if you're getting a strong green, you could work from that to the purple.)

And look - did Raz get a chance to ask you? Assuming Saturday goes the way they've planned, he and I thought you might like a little time without any particular plans on Sunday.

I suspect a fly might not be the best choice (besides Saturday's exertions, I don't know that the weather's going to be that pleasant), but I'm up for you and Raz attempting to explain Quidditch to me further - I was looking at some of his older games, and I admit I'm still confused in more than a few places.



 **alt\_harry** at **2012-10-04 03:47:09**

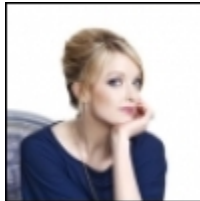
*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

I never thought of starting from green. Green is easy. I'll try that.

So like a tea or something? Yeah, that'd be okay, I guess. If you don't have other things going on. I mean, if everything goes the way it should. And it will.

Anyways.

We could use Raz's model to play out part of the games, which could be fun to set up. Sort of like watching it live.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-04 03:55:52**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Tea, conversation. And some very nice baked things, assuming Raz doesn't eat them all before then.

And yes - I thought the model might be fun. And honestly, I find it much easier to figure out what's going on when I can see it, and stop it and ask questions. I still get entirely lost at game speed.

As to Saturday, you're right. It will go just fine. (I should know: I heard them talk through the planning.) And as I've been firmly told, they've done this before, and they know what they're doing. I just keep reminding myself of that, and that I trust both of them to be as good as they really are at what they're doing.



 **alt\_harry** at **2012-10-04 04:05:15**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Okay. I'll plan on Sunday then.





 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-04 04:06:36**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Excellent.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2012-10-04 05:05:29**

*(no subject)*

If you need help with colour change, I'd be happy to help. Most girls are already proficient on it, if they've been playing around even a little bit with charming their hair and makeup.

I can at last tell you if your ink is blue, purple, indigo, aubergine, violet, or amethyst!

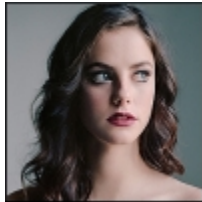


 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2012-10-04 15:57:12**

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Daphs.

...Aren't those all just purple?



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2012-10-04 16:13:48**

*(no subject)*

In a sense: they're all different shades of purple.

**[2012-10-03 23:24:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good: Private Message to Neville Longbottom*



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

I can't get to sleep, Pete. I've been trying, but I just can't.

I've got my meeting tomorrow. And I know we've already talked about it, but I keep going through in my head how it'll go, and I keep thinking he'll see right through me and just *know* everything. Or I'll get so nervous that I'll clam up and not say anything at all. Which would be bad.

And we might have the boggart in Defence tomorrow. I'm pretty sure about it, at least. There was a rumour. I'm just nervous, I guess. I know we practised this summer, with mum and dad, and I got it then. I just wish I didn't have both things on the same exact day is all.

Hermione Granger liked her present, though. So there's something I can be glad for.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **[2012-10-04 03:53:58](#)**  
(no subject)

It'll be okay, Lindy, I promise. If it helps, from everything I've heard, Professor Dolohov is bending over backwards as hard as he can to make sure he doesn't scare anybody. I mean, it wouldn't do HIM a bit of good if he comes across mad like the Carrows so everyone goes scarpering off, frightened of his shadow, would it?

Remember what Dad says: stick the truth as much as you can, and you don't have to worry about being tripped over telling lies. He's gonna expect you to be nervous. It might even be good to admit it.

As for the boggart, same thing. Everyone else is going to be nervous, too, but YOU'VE got an advantage. You've actually faced one before.

I'm sorry that you might have to do both on the same day. That...well, as Parkinson would put it, that blows chunks.

(Don't tell Gran I said so!)



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-04 03:57:58](#)  
(no subject)

Shan't.

And yes, it does.

I suppose that makes sense, that he expects everyone to be nervous and all, but I also know that I *ought* to be, especially after what mum and dad said, and Sirius Black too. Even if he is trying not to look scary, I know he actually *is*. Or at least he *can* be.

I think I'm thinking too much about all of it.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-04 04:04:10](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not gonna tell you NOT to think. That would be lunacy. But I suppose the opposite trap to fall into would be to overthink.

If you get flustered, fall back on that occlumency exercise I taught: count your breaths.

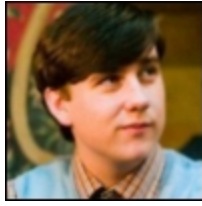
(Huh, the ironic thing is, if he notices what you're doing he'd approve of it. And he'd tell you it's a Noble Arts exercise. I ran across it in the textbook.)



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-04 04:10:34](#)  
(no subject)

Is it really? I thought dad told you to study it. He wouldn't if it was, would he?

I'd really rather he not think I was trying to hide things. I think I'll just say I'm nervous at the start, and that way if I get all weird, he'll be expecting it.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-04 04:27:50](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think occlumency is dark, no. It's sort of like a shielding spell, in my mind. But I do think legilimancy usually is, if it's using your will to override someone else's, violating a boundary.

Sort of like the imperius curse.

Anyway, controlling the breath is important in all sorts of things, especially stuff that takes concentration, like singing or exercise. Stands to reason it would be part of the foundation of learning occlumency, as well as all this Dark Arts stuff.

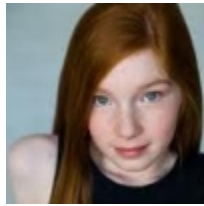
Anyhow. Like I said, keep it simple.

I was right nervous when I went in. But it turned out a lot easier than I was afraid it would be. Let me know how it goes, okay?



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-04 04:29:10](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-04 19:17:24](#)  
(no subject)

The boggart went well. I got your broken wand to turn into one of the rubber chicken ones very quickly, and boggart you looked so surprised that everyone laughed. It was still so weird to

see you as a boggart.

No-one's asked yet why that's my boggart, but other people had really weird ones, so I don't think it stuck out. Shelly Iskanderian's was an enormous bloody eyeball, and she was so scared of it she couldn't think of a way to make it funny. It was *really* gross.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 21:17:38](#)**  
(no subject)

An eyeball?

Yeah, that's really weird.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 21:18:21](#)**  
(no subject)

And I'm glad it went well.

What about Professor Dolohov?

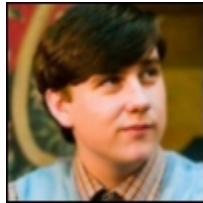


 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-10-04 21:34:10](#)**  
(no subject)

That's at half past six. So less than an hour. I was going to go there after I ate something.

Could you walk me to his office?

I think I'd like that.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 22:50:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course, Lindy.

**2012-10-04 12:03:00**

*Private Message to Toshenka and Razzer*

Have made appropriate excuses for Saturday. Narcissa still committed to her ... something. WI, I think. Not that she is normally eager for their programmes but it had to do with her involvement in the planning (I try not to know too much about such things). Not sure where she derives the tolerance, frankly. At any rate, she will be sorry to miss you but asked me to make her apologies.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Tosha, understand from entirely different sources that you are already leading merry hell among students and staff alike. Not surprising, considering the examples they've had to date. Had quite the time convincing Theo to give you the benefit of the doubt, before stirring up the Governors to think you are exercising professorial privilege to the detriment of his son. (More likely that you're the only source of discipline the boy's likely to get, and none too soon. Theo has always been ... difficult to appease, as you know. Have him becalmed for the time being, however.)

Also understand from Ned you've been making free with your library. Careful, *bratishka*; recall that these children have limited capacity to separate external fact from exotic fiction, even if they know they are reading the latter. (Currently am embroiled in just such a debate concerning publication of the latest in a popular but troublesome trilogy whose author - well. Her gift for analogy is matched only by her penchant for predictability. Likely will recommend allowing production to proceed but anticipate another rash of illicit reading to rival the sudden upsurge of interest in the other (ridiculous) *Intra Profundis*.) Suffice it to say: You are no doubt already recognising the challenges of controlling a large group of pupils at once, all of whom would far rather be practising the techniques described in your tatty romance novels than in their dry meditation books! The last thing they need are 'manuals' on every form of phantasy imaginable.

Speaking of hormones, have you had occasion yet to rebuff the attentions of Professor Acton? Razzer, do point out to him her various attempts so he can be sure not to give the poor witch false hope.

Looking forward to Saturday, both the demonstration and the expedition afterward.

---



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-04 18:14:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Little brother,

Acton? Surely you don't mean to suggest that --

Oh. Oh dear. That does make a few things make slightly more sense. (Why do I never notice these things until someone points them out to me?) (Don't answer that, darling. Either of you.)

I did send Theo an owl, but, well; I suspect few parents are willing to hear news that their offspring is in need of a firm hand. I can of course justify every step of the decision (a student unwilling or unable to follow basic safety precautions when I have been quite clear as to their necessity is a risk I am unwilling to accept, for preservation of my own skin if nothing else!) but I am actually quite relieved the boy gave me the excuse. He is powerful enough, one supposes, but completely lacking in judgement. I have been downright explicit to him: if he convinces me that he is able to exercise self-discipline, I will be willing to entertain his petition to switch tracks at the beginning of next term. We have spoken about my expectations, and I believe I have adequately communicated them; thank you for your efforts with Theo as well. I will make extra effort to be both charming and professorial when next I see him.

I have, fear not, been adequately sensitive to the political implications of my lending-library -- that is to say, the less orthodox literature is tucked safely away in my bedroom, not my office or my sitting-room, and I will not lend it to anyone who has not demonstrated the capacity to avoid the rhetorical traps it holds. For the most part I am handing out a variety of volumes that explain the Arts in greater depth, or provide a window of insight into other disciplines they are studying. (I have noticed a woeful lack of interdisciplinary work, though truly I can't blame the more competent of my colleagues too much, given that others have been ... well, I've sung that chorus enough in the past month to both of you. Which reminds me, Rizzer, we should talk about coordinating for the children who are taking NEWTs in both our subjects.)

Am very pleased you will be able to make it on Saturday (though

please do tell Narcissa we will be devastated to miss the pleasure of her company). And thank you for your willingness to attend -- this is one part of my extended efforts to show the children as many exemplars as possible of varied, disciplined models of Our Lord's faithful, to counteract ... well. You know as well as I what I am working to counter.

Until Saturday,  
T



 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-10-04 18:38:53](#)  
(no subject)

Toshenka I fail to see how you can take note of the merest shadow of thought that crosses the face of one under your diplomatic scrutiny and yet you have not recognised the overtures of 'Action' Acton. It is the one blind spot you have rarely overcome. No fear: She is used to disappointment. (Though in the case of our Rizzer, understand that manifested later.)

Theo will also get used to his dismay. Confident he can see the wisdom of your methods although at present the words 'upstart' and 'emigre' are still somewhat too frequent in his discourse. But then we all know that he has always been easy to take offence and slow to forgive. Perhaps if you make strides with the boy as you hope, the transformation will serve your point better than anything else. And if not - Scotch works, though I don't recommend an abundance in his case.

Narcissa bitterly regrets that she cannot disentangle, as well, *shyel'ma*. Rest assured she shall demand more time of you at the next available opportunity. Though truth be told, she was not much enthused by the idea of picking through Alecto's nest and decided best to leave us to our macabre pursuits. (Though she did say you 'promised' to go with her to one of her interminable faires or pageants or whatever it is she finds she cannot turn down. Better you than I, *bratishka*. I'll let you know the next time the opera house turns out Puccini, as well.)





 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-10-04 18:55:34](#)  
(no subject)

It isn't as though I'm morally opposed, mind you.  
Just, argh.


Meanwhile, am happy to serve as Narcissa's escort whenever the prospect of another ribbon cutting or country fair seems beyond the pale, dearest. (Presuming I am not otherwise occupied, of course, which does seem to be the case more so than not.) Her commentary is always delightful (and both of us have only improved our ability to make catty remarks without being seen to move our lips) and you know I always enjoy meeting people -- despite so many of them being barely worth their air, there is always the intriguing prospect of an exception. Or, at very least, someone who only needs a bit of flattery and fifteen minutes of earnest attention to prove a usable resource in future -- all of which I can provide in my sleep, and probably have.

I do not doubt I will be able to impress upon Theo's boy the importance of discipline -- the question is whether I will be able to convince him that my way is the best route to it. Still, it is worth a try. (As I have said many times in the past few weeks. First sort complete, and I've half a dozen at least who should pay dividends in future, over and above the obvious such as your Dragon and Mr Marvolo. Am beginning to think I shall need to convince Gus to lend me some arcane artefact that will allow me to be in three places at once to do them all justice!) Will give Theo's ego a bit of stroking when next opportunity affords -- though, truly, calling me an upstart? Ha. How quickly they forget.

And speaking of effort, here come the Ravenclaw fifths. Wish me strength and courage, dear one.

Professorially,  
T



 **alt\_rabastan** at [2012-10-05 02:36:06](#)  
(no subject)

Hey, there was no one warning me when I encountered Acton the first time! Have some sympathy, Lucius mate. I was used to a constant flow of beauties, then found myself wandering the

desert. Who wouldn't stop to drink from the first oasis? Even if it turned out to be a bit...brackish.

Toshenka, there's a sweet bird or two in Hogsmeade I can introduce you to, if the fancy strikes- or the need to escape.




 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-05 03:28:23](#)  
(no subject)

That's quite all right, dearest. No need to trouble yourself on my behalf. At all. Period.

Really. I assure you.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 04:16:22](#)  
(no subject)

As you like. Just remember I've picked a winner here and there, too.




 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-05 04:30:17](#)  
(no subject)

You certainly have! I had always figured you would find someone to settle down with eventually, but I could not have imagined someone so well suited for you as Aurora is, and you for her. Have I said recently how wonderful it is to see you so happy? Because it is, more so than I could possibly say. Watching the two of you together is enough to lift the spirits of anyone.

Sappily,  
T



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 05:22:36](#)  
(no subject)

You figured that, did you? Well, I reckon you're probably the only one!  
And you have my thanks for that, as well.

**2012-10-04 15:36:00**

*I Solemnly Swear I Am Up to No Good:  
Secrets*



 [alt\\_susan](#)

Hello everyone,

Neville and Pansy told me all about you last night and I...I don't know quite what to say, except that I'm awfully honoured that you've trusted me with it.

I've got to say, when you *both* wanted to take a walk round the lake, I suspected something was in the cauldron, but nothing like *this*. It's bloody amazing is what it is.

So here are my secrets--I hope they're enough.

First of all, my parents don't support the Lord Protector--they raised us on the original Beedle stories, and loads of Muggle literature, and told us all about how things used to be different, as soon as we were old enough to understand them, and to understand that we absolutely could not tell other people ever.

And they told us the real story about my Great-Aunt Amelia--that she was loyal to Dumbledore and especially to the rule of the law and no one person being in charge of things. I think Dad sometimes feels like she should have put the family (and Aunt Mina) first, but he always says that she did what she felt was right in an incredibly difficult situation.

They've never actually done anything officially against the government, except teach us, but even so, Mum could lose her job at the very least if anyone found out. The Ministry probably couldn't do anything to Dad directly, but they could probably lean on the Cannons' owner to sack him or get Mr Bagman to ban him from the pitch. I don't know if it would be enough to get us put into fostering, but it might. I'm sure that's a big part of why Mum and Dad've never risked anything more; well, and they don't approve of violence like those awful Dogstar people.

And if that's not enough of a secret, here's one more:

I found out this summer that my Great-Aunt Amelia and my Aunt Mina were more than just good friends who shared a flat--they were

Daughters of Artemis. Sapphists.

I had a long talk with Aunt Mina--it explained so much, and not just about them. About me.

I mean to say...I'm pretty sure I fancy girls.

And boys, too, yeah.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-04 19:50:43](#)

(no subject)

Hello, Sue,

I say, I wondered what you were doing taking so many notes in History of Magic! Now I know, what?

I'm well glad we've got you on the lock, though. I rather suspected you were the right sort--not that it's obvious to anyone who'd make trouble for you, please don't misunderstand me that way. Zach clearly thinks highly of you and your family and I've never heard a breath of anything from anyone else, what. But one can tell that you don't rush to judge, if you follow me.

You'll no doubt want to read back in the journals like I did, I should think, but it can be rather a lot to absorb. Find me in the sett if you want to talk about...anything. I say, it's quite good to have another badger here, though.

-Justin



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-04 20:01:08](#)

(no subject)

Ha! It's good to have at least one lesson where we can do pretty much whatever we like.

Thanks, Justin! I have a feeling I've *loads* to catch up on--it's like finding a secret world inside a nutshell, or something like that.

And yes, it'll be good to talk about this with someone else in the sett--I do love it here and can't imagine being any other house, but sometimes I feel guilty about wanting something--more? different? I

don't know.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 20:04:48](#)**  
(no subject)

It was a good talk.

I'm glad you're in.



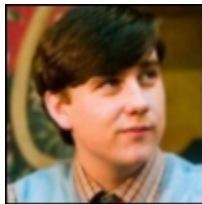
 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 20:05:00](#)**  
(no subject)

And...whoa.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-10-04 20:06:26](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad too...Whoa??




 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-04 22:02:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry. I just meant, yeah, I'm sure that this'll be good enough. For a secret.

And welcome again to the Lock.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-10-05 14:38:10](#)**  
(no subject)

'm not mad, just twitting you a bit!

I can still do that, right?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-04 20:57:44](#)  
(no subject)

Welcome to the lock, Sue. I'm glad you could be a part of it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-04 21:01:32](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and now that you're on this thing and I know we can talk properly without having to worry, I can finally share my record collection with you.

Including the ones I'm not supposed to have.

Have you ever heard of Pink Floyd? or The Doors?




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-05 14:40:08](#)  
(no subject)

Oooh, brilliant! I know there are lots of serious things to think about, but...records!

And no, I can't say I have--I get the impression my mum and dad were always pretty sober types, even when they were young.

Not so much into music and things--though Mum still has some by this bloke called Cliff Richards, that I always thought were a bit sippy.



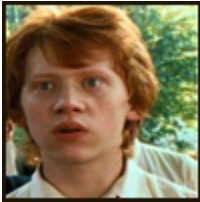
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-05 18:08:56](#)  
(no subject)


I think you'll really like them. If you've got free time this weekend, we could listen to some of them if you'd like.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:14:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Sounds brill!



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-05 02:58:37](#)**  
(no subject)

Hi, Sue.

Um. Glad you're here. Really.

And, uh, you didn't actually have to tell us all you did. I mean. Professor Grubby-Plank? Really, I'm glad I didn't see this before I had Creatures today.

You're not just having us on, are you?




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-10-05 14:42:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Ron! Don't make me come over to Gryffindor and, I dunno, turn your hair green or something!

I promise, I'm not having you on. I've seen, y'know, letters and things. Love letters.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-05 14:57:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Could you make it Cannons orange or Gryff red?

I mean, GREEN isn't my favourite, yeah?

And you can stop now. Right? I don't want to know what any of my teachers gets up to. I mean, including Professor Raz and Professor Siz, which it seems everywitch wants to chat about all the bloody time. It's just, ughhly, y'know? So I don't really care about Professor G-P, but I don't want know about, either.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-05 15:09:58](#)  
(no subject)

The unfavouriteness (is that a word?)--that's the point, yeah!


She *is* my Aunt and all and I won't have anyone slagging her...but yes, I know, it's a bit like thinking about my mum and dad, and...stopping now.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-05 18:10:12](#)  
(no subject)

I think you made up a brand new word, tuna lips. Ughhly. It works. I like it.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-05 23:19:27](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm clever like that.

And it's useful for a tonne of things, don't you think?

That Charms essay we've got. The diagram we're meant to draw of the inside of a Porlock's mouth. Tonight's supper. Umbridge.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-10-05 03:01:17](#)  
(no subject)

Glad to have you joining us.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-05 14:44:35](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad to see you here too! It's good that several of us have Teatime in common, isn't it?



That way no one'll be too suspicious of us talking, I hope.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-05 03:53:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Hello, Susan.

I'm glad that Justin will have other Hufflepuffs here, now.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-10-05 14:45:58](#)**  
(no subject)

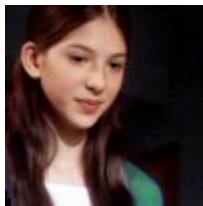
Hello, Hydra.

Feels a bit odd, not calling you Lestrangle, but if this isn't a reason to use given names, I don't know what is.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-05 15:02:55](#)**  
(no subject)

You can call me Lestrangle if it feels better? I'm the newest here, after Evelyn and you. The boys must feel well-outnumbered by now. Do you suppose girls are more likely to be rebellious than boys are? Sometimes I do wonder.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-10-05 18:01:00](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it's more that we're likely to share secrets, and so it's easier to guess whether a girl would be safe to bring on.

And welcome, Susan.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-06 01:29:42](#)  
(no subject)

I was thinking something sort of similar--that adults don't think of girls as being rebellious, so we can get away with so much more.

Well, in certain areas. There are definitely some where girls get away with less.

Thanks again!

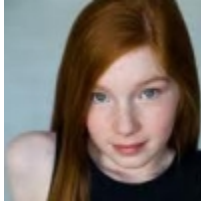


 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-06 01:26:55](#)  
(no subject)

No, I like it!

We probably should keep to surnames for awhile outside--but like I said to Luna, at least we've got

Teatime as an excuse if we slip up.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-05 18:21:17](#)  
(no subject)


Hello, Susan Bones. I've only just joined myself.

It's a bit odd to have a prefect on here.

Odd in a good way.

Anyways, hello and welcome.

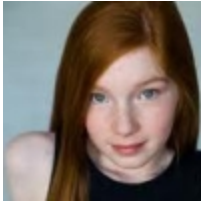


 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-06 01:31:31](#)  
(no subject)

That's true! I hadn't thought of it that way.

Oh, I hope my brother's not being a nuisance--if he is, it's his way of trying to help, but feel free to tell him to

bog off.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-06 02:03:22](#)  
(no subject)

He can be a little loud sometimes, but he's nice.  
And he doesn't tease. Not in a mean way. So I don't  
mind.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-06 02:27:59](#)  
(no subject)

Well, good--otherwise I would have to go throttle him  
in a friendly, sisterly way.

**2012-10-04 23:33:00**

*Private Message to Pav and Lines*

Daphs and I have been talking more about her musical idea. Lines, do you think Karo would be willing to help a bit, even if she is planning her wedding and all?



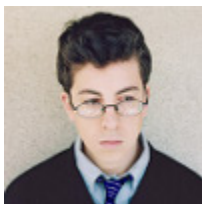
 [alt\\_padma](#)


And Pav, Daphs asked if you'd speak to Madam Hooch about backing us up if she goes to Madam Umbridge about making it part of the YPL's activity for the year. Like the play only Madam Umbridge wouldn't have to lift her wand about it. I told her you and Lav could take care of Hooch.

Lines, I know you're excited for Saturday but we do need to think about History Club for Monday. Maybe something from the 19th Century when the conclaves of West Indian wizards took over the old Whitechapel area of New London? Or maybe you have other ideas.

(And I know you think the Omnioculars are a good idea so you'll be able to see their wandwork but honestly, we'll be indoors. You'll look like an idiot if you bring them. Seriously.)

Oh, Pav, incidentally, I checked with Gambol and Japes and they'll send us the seeds and candles and everything for Navratri next week. Gupta says he's got a few idols his parents sent with him, too. Rohani says she'll arrange for the space to be kept clear for the week, so we can leave it set up and don't have to clear it every night.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at **2012-10-05 06:59:48**  
(no subject)

The West Indian wizards of Whitechapel sound just the thing, Padma. I'll search the library for a street map of London from the nineteenth century. I think Madame Pince showed me some old guides for travelers when I was doing a report on historical wizarding tourism economics. Maps of that sort are too fragile to bring to History Club, but if I find one she'll probably let me do duplication and enlargement charms on it, which is better because then we can levitate it and everyone can see it at once and it will be absolutely SNITCH.



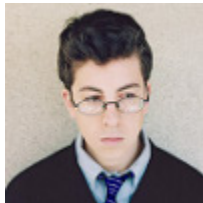
 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-05 14:28:01](#)**  
(no subject)


That would be nift, Lines.

Only this time, could you leave off the spells that make it turquoise? It was pretty but really hard to read. Just a normal map would be great.

Oh, and did you see that Weasely's devising some sort of scorecard for tomorrow's demonstration? I'm sure you could give him loads of pointers on what to include. If you wanted to help, that is.

I'll be in the Corner this afternoon but come by after your Creatures lesson and we can talk more about Monday.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-06 01:47:24](#)**  
(no subject)

No turquoise. Right-o, then.

I'm afraid Karo bit my head off recently when I tried to engage her in casual conversation about wedding customs among wizards of the eighteenth century, and she's not speaking to me at the moment.

**2012-10-05 00:17:00**

*Private Message to Hermione Granger*

Sinbad wrote back today.

I don't know.

He says that he expects we'd all have to take classes with Dolohov no matter what, but that I ought to be careful because Dark Arts can change people, and he said 'any spell with the intent to harm is dangerous,' which is rubbish because I've got to try to

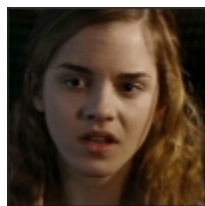
I'm supposed to

If I've got to try and kill him, that's a pretty big intent to harm, isn't it? So yeah. It's going to be dangerous, and I'm going to have to learn everything I can to even have a chance.

Anyways. He said I ought to use a pensieve, to get out my memory of what happened after the third task so we could sort it out better next time he visited. He thought Professor Brutka might have one.



 [alt\\_harry](#)



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2012-10-05 20:49:18**

*(no subject)*

Well I don't know.

Some people seem like Dolohov a lot, I think, and he's better than most of them, isn't he? But then you think, oh, well, I *like* him, and that must mean what he's doing is alright. Which isn't always true, is it?

But he's a teacher and you know that you're supposed to always like teachers. Even Umbridge. I'm glad I'm not a student so I don't have to ever talk to her.

Did you ask Mr Milland about the Pensieve idea? Or should I? He knows a lot about memories and brains and that kind of thing. And he could tell me—see, I have a thought about the Pensieve, and it might be a good idea or not. I'll tell you later, in person. It could really help with studying.



 **alt\_harry** at [2012-10-05 21:24:02](#)  
(no subject)

I think it goes the other way, too, though. Like assuming that what he's doing isn't alright. And that's what Sirius is doing. I think.

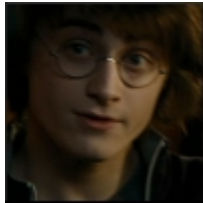
And the Carrows were rubbish. Draco keeps going on about how careful we have to be about Umbridge, though. And I can sort of see how she'd be someone to keep an eye on. Even though it's really hard to try and pretend to be interested in what she's saying and all that ridiculous marching and singing.

I could. We both could. And sure, we could talk later.



 **alt\_hermione** at [2012-10-05 22:25:45](#)  
(no subject)

She's rather a big pink pincushion isn't she?



 **alt\_harry** at [2012-10-05 22:33:32](#)  
(no subject)

She is the pinkest thing I think I've ever seen.

And I sort of want to stick pins in her.

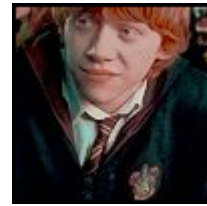
So yes.

**2012-10-05 09:05:00**

*Tomorrow*

So, right.

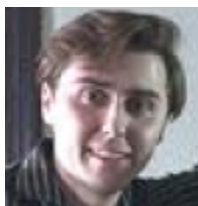
I was making up a tally thinger for tomorrow. Just messing about, really, trying to put things in categories like we've been discussing in lessons, and all. But Towler says I should duplicate them and offer them to other people so we can all tally up the hits scored in the exhibition.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

I reckon it'll help me remember what happened, too- for after when we talk it through. And I came up with a nift little spell that rearranges the card so I can see the order things happened in or see categories of spell used or separate out defence from attacks. That'll help with looking for patterns and strategies, and, y'know, looking to see if each of them's got particular sequences they use or fallback protections or whatev.

Anywiz, if anyone wants one, let me know, and I'll be sure to bring enough tomorrow.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-10-05 14:30:41**

*(no subject)*

Hullo, Ron,

That sounds capitol, old man. I'll have one, if you've enough to spare.

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-10-05 14:33:46**

*(no subject)*

Right. Got you down for one.

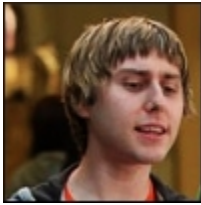





 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-05 20:05:19](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, that's very kind of you, mate.

-Justin




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-05 20:06:42](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I say, what did Malfoy want to tell you privately? He wasn't taking the mick, what?

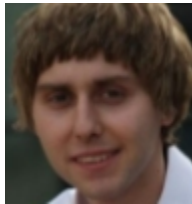
-Justin




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-05 23:23:40](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No. He was taking the piss out in the open when he said he'd just use mine and not waste time making his own.

The PM was about wagering. There's a pool on who'll win tomorrow. If you want in, you need to talk to Montague. Only, they don't want any of the teachers to hear about it.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-06 03:47:44](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Is that how you took it? I thought he was rather complimentary, what, if a bit back-handed about it.

Then again, Hydra and Sally-Anne are always telling me Hufflepuffs think too well of people when they're simply using one to do the work for them.

How many did you wind up making, then? And do you plan to place a wager?

-Justin




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-05 14:30:49](#)  
(no subject)

Weasley, bring one for me and Harry, if you don't mind.


I was tossing around the idea of doing something similar, but hadn't the time for it. Was going to see about drawing one up late tonight, but yours sounds about like what I was envisioning, so might as well save myself the trouble, yeah?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-05 14:36:23](#)  
(no subject)


Sure, yeah.



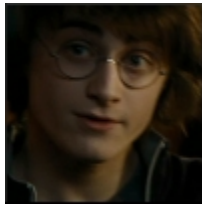
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-05 14:55:46](#)  
*Private message to Weasley*

Also, don't mention this around the staff, but there's a pool going on - Montague's the one you want to talk to. Let anyone else know who might be interested. Minimum bet is 10 sickles.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-05 16:43:31](#)  
*Re: Private message to Weasley*

Yeah, all right. We'll keep it out of earshot, but I've told Towler, so he'll be sure anyone that'd want to get in on the pool will hear about it.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-05 18:06:20](#)  
(no subject)

Ace. Thanks.

And congratulations, for getting on the team.

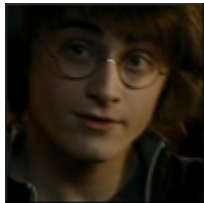


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-05 23:25:55](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, mate.

Yeah, I might come along to the Quidditch club now, if that's still okay.


Tomorrow's going to be something, I reckon. Who do you think will come out on top?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-06 00:29:50](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know. I mean, that's part of what'll make it exciting, yeah? And none of us have really seen Professor Dolohov in action. So that'll be really ace.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-06 00:34:04](#)  
(no subject)

Exactly.

Should be dead interesting!




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-06 00:32:15](#)  
*Private Message to Ron Weasley*

I'm betting on Raz, though.

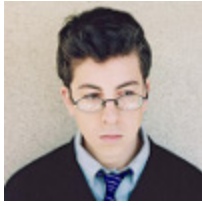
And yeah, of course it's okay for you to come.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-06 00:34:42](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Ron Weasley*

Thought you might!


And, thanks. Guess I will.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-05 18:43:53](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd like one please.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-05 23:30:02](#)**  
(no subject)


It's yours. See you there, then!



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-05 21:23:01](#)**  
(no subject)

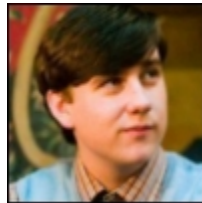
I could use one, Ron. Thanks.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-06 00:32:45](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I'll get it to you tonight if you're around.

I wondered, really, whether you'd want to go. You are, then, I guess?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-06 13:38:53](#)**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

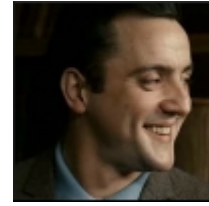
Well, I do want to learn how to be able to defend myself. So. Yeah.

**2012-10-05 09:18:00**

*Tomorrow*

Hope to see all of you at the Demonstration between Professor Dolohov and myself tomorrow- my NEWT level students, in particular, are advised to attend, and I think those of you who regularly come 'round to duelling club will find it worthwhile as well.

Mind, this is no ordinary duel, but to repeat what's already been said, a demonstration of the variety and depth available through study of Arts and Defence. In the future, Professor Dolohov and I will likely devise other ways of showing you how each of our respective fields compliment the other's.



 **alt\_rabastan**

I also want to echo the seriousness of Professor Dolohov's words on safety and discomfort. Students who find themselves overwhelmed during the demonstration will have the antechamber as a retreat, but if any of the younger students find themselves too anxious to attend, do know that you won't be penalised for remaining in your common rooms.

That said, we're also aiming to have a bit of fun with this, and I think most of you will conclude the afternoon with the feeling that it was well-spent.

After today's lessons, I'll be holed up in my quarters until tomorrow. If anyone was hoping to have a chat about their boggart or their essay on trap and curse detection, try to catch me at lunch, or else it'll have to wait until after the weekend.



 **alt\_rabastan** at **2012-10-05 15:49:36**

*Private message to Rory*

Hallo, love. I've asked the elves to bring up a light supper at 6 or so, and then I'll take a few hours after to clear my head. My aim is to be in bed by ten, and you're free to join me when you're able, if you'd like- though it'll be just as I said, with nothing going on between the sheets except for sleep.

Hopefully this message will put some of those second and third years at ease. The third years are already feeling jumpy and it's all down to those boggarts. Blast- had I known we'd be doing this demonstration,

I wouldn't have put them on the schedule until later in the month. Oh well, it can't be helped now.

-R.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-05 16:32:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Rory*

Take the time you need. Besides, I'll be spending the evening distracting your opponent, anyway. (More seriously, I'll be giving him plenty of time to rest too. One must be utterly fair, after all.)

I don't think I'll try for tonight - it's likely to be late, and I'd hate to wake you accidentally. Tomorrow, though, after all goes well (and it will) is another question.

Did you realise it's a year since that first night for us tomorrow? I hadn't until I suddenly looked at the date. (That's what comes of being utterly vague with people about what got us together when, I suppose.) There's something that feels.. very fitting, in Barty coming tomorrow. What a difference a year makes, anyway.

On the 2nds and 3rds - no, I've heard some of it too. Did what I could in my class this morning (and will for the Hufflepuff and Slytherin thirds this afternoon, too.) I'll keep working on it. Going to be nice and visibly "No, really, I am absolutely at ease with this" in public as much as I can at supper, too.

For Harry, on Sunday, I put in another order with the Archetype, so we've a nice selection. (That's why I'm not at lunch, actually - they promised they'd pass it through the floo up here as soon as they had it ready.) That way, if we get Draco as well, there'll be plenty, and if not, well, I'm sure between your appetite and Harry's we'll manage somehow.

Your Rory.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 15:52:23](#)

*Private message to Toshenka*

OI, YOU THERE.

Better get ready.

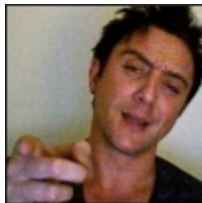
(How are your verbal rubbishing skills these days? Might be a good way to lighten up the room while we're putting up the wards. Some of these kids are wound tighter than a new snitch.)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-05 16:11:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Toshenka*

Dearest, I can take anything you can dish out and more. First person to get the darlings to crack up buys the drinks?



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 16:16:31](#)

*Re: Private message to Toshenka*

You're on.

Better count your galleons now- you'll be needing them for the drinks.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-05 16:19:16](#)

*Re: Private message to Toshenka*

Your faith in your own abilities is charming. It's good to have confidence, one supposes. Keeps one from succumbing to despair in the face of one's betters...



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 16:21:49](#)

*Re: Private message to Toshenka*

Especially when they're only better at being older and grayer.

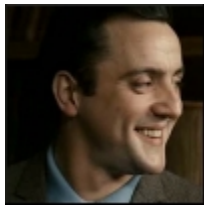


 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-05 16:36:24](#)**

*Re: Private message to Toshenska*

Oi. You and yours were responsible for half those grey hairs, don't mock them. They're battle scars!

Speaking of battle, what do you say to both of us doing this in exercise gear rather than teaching robes or battle dress? My Healer suggested I not risk tangling myself up in complex robes, and I think "two of our familiar teachers, in exercise clothing" is far less frightening than "two of Our Lord's chosen, in their Council robes and ready for war". And I do have training gear properly spelled for defence -- not that I'd be willing to trust on the battlefield proper, but it isn't as though you could possibly be that much of a risk to me anyway...

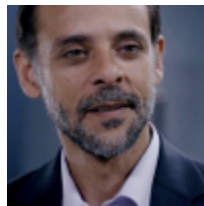


 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-10-05 17:03:35](#)**

*Re: Private message to Toshenska*

Sure, I'll forego the robes.

I'm not sure it'll be that less frightening, though. Have you seen my sculpted biceps and forearms?



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-05 17:11:04](#)**

*Re: Private message to Toshenska*

Must say I haven't given much thought to the state of your biceps, sculpted or no. What are they sculpted out of? Butter? Pastry?

(Mind you, my old hide has only got to be more and more of a scrapbook of the last thirty years of adventure. I'm sure they'll all be inventing wild stories for each of the scars. Should think up some suitably heroic tales for them all in advance.)





 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-05 15:59:32](#)

*Private message to Harry*

Harry old lad. You've not said anything to me but your face betrays you more than you realise. So- don't worry, yeah? It's been a while but Toshenka and I have done this before, and we both trust each other as brothers do.

Actually, I might trust him more than my actual brother? Certainly with this sort of thing.

Rory tells me you'll be with us for Sunday, and that we'll be trying to Explain Quidditch to her. Bring Draco if you think he'd like to come along, or it can be just you, if that's what you want.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-05 18:17:49](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

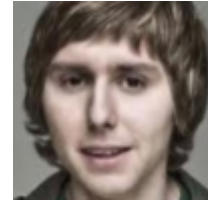
Okay. I won't.

How's your head been?

And I'll see if Draco'd be up for it. Because it sounds like it could be fun. You know, if he doesn't have other plans or anything.

**[2012-10-05 10:31:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Dux*



Hullo, love. How was History?

Defence, after lunch, what. I wonder if he'll go easy since he's got the duel tomorrow?

 **[alt\\_justin](#)**

It's just occurred to me that even if Professor Raz is going to be busy fighting, the other people Professor Dolohov has invited probably include your uncle and maybe even your father. Has he said if he's going to see you tomorrow? I shouldn't wonder if Professor Dolohov asked your mother but do you think she'd attend?

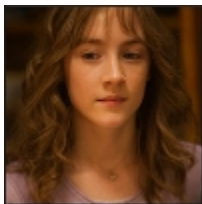
But either way, I suppose there shall be *someone* from the Council, likely to carry news back if we're not careful, what? Best not sit together, then. Don't you think? Dash it.

Perhaps afterward, though? If you're not expected at a jolly old Malfoy tea or anything, we could work on Arithmancy before the YPL exercises.

I've been thinking about my birthday, like you said to do. All I can imagine wanting are silly things, things one can't get here anymore. I'd love a bally old packet of crisps now and then. But that's not a proper gift, what? Just a craving. And anyway, I don't care about presents so much as just being with you. (Though I do need a new jumper but that's not a request, what. I'll look at Gladrag's at the first Hogsmeade visit.) I am rather excited to turn 16, though. And to have someone to celebrate it with me, what?

Love,

-Justin



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-05 16:06:17](#)**  
(no subject)

I had thought of that. Daddy hasn't said anything but he might fancy making it a big surprise. Yet I don't think Mummy will come - she won't acknowledge that other people's work is equal to her own if she can

help it.

We might sit together with Remy between us? Though I suppose if I were sitting far away I might be able to see you better. Bother. In any case, I'll see you later that evening. For Arithmancy.

I don't have much pocket money but I've saved up a little. Cousin Dora might know where one can get crisps, since she runs a shop. I know I've never seen them anywhere, but it doesn't mean they don't exist anywhere in the Protectorate. Still, I'm sure I can think of something better than just crisps.

From,  
Hydra



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-10-05 16:29:52**  
(no subject)


I suppose Remy might sit to one side if he'd be willing. You're right, though, almost next to one another is worse, in a way.

Speaking of Remy, what, Sue's admission on the ISS got me to thinking.... Has Remy ever mentioned to you whether he fancies any girls? It's just that he always wanted to spend time together over the summer and have you noticed how he sometimes wants to walk with me us when I'm walking you to lessons? I've a feeling if I asked him to sit with us he'd be elated.

I can't work out whether it's because he's not taken an interest in anyone yet, what, and doesn't understand why we're together. Or whether I need to have a chat with him of a different sort.

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-05 17:16:39**  
(no subject)

No, he hasn't said anything about anyone in our year, anyway. I've heard him talk about how massive Samantha Montgomery's baps are, but that's a rather common observation, I think. I can't say it ever occurred to me that...

You think he might *fancy* you?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-05 17:29:14](#)  
(no subject)

Well.

Didn't you say that on the quiz last year, he's the one who added his own name to a few categories?

I mean to say, love, I've a fair amount of experience assuring people that I'm not gay. I bally well don't wish to make the same assumption about your cousin but...well, if it's not that then the only thing I can think is that he actually fancies *you*.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-05 18:06:44](#)  
(no subject)

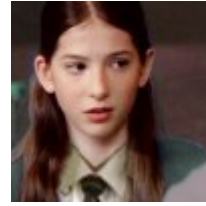
Yes, he added his name to "seriously slutty" and "creepily sexy."

I'm certain he doesn't fancy me. But he may not fancy you, either. Perhaps he's sick of Alfie (one does get sick of him) and would rather think of you as a brother?

From,  
Hydra

**2012-10-05 20:53:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To  
No Good: Occlumency books*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

So I don't know what the rest of you did, but in the Slytherin Dark Arts section today we worked on meditation. One of our books has different meditations and he wants us to work on them for ten minutes every day. The interesting thing was that some of it reminded me of what 'Goyle' said about Occlumency (do you remember that entry? It was years ago now. MLE must have got him, I think, because he only posted a few times.)

Anyway during Professor Dolohov's office hours I went by to ask him what he knew about occlumency and legilimency. And he doesn't actually know a lot but he did know that occlumency practise starts with meditation much like the one he's recommending, and when we ran out of time talking he asked if I'd like to come back after dinner with a friend, to his private quarters where he keeps some of his books.

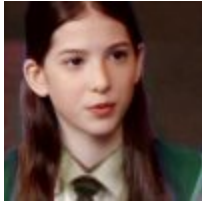
So Pansy and I went. And he loaned us some books on occlumency (and legilimency; I was pretending I was interested in both) and the rest of you would be welcome to have a look. (They're mostly about occlumency.)

He also offered to let us borrow anything else from his library that caught our eye. He has the American Witches books on his shelves, and also some books that I am really pretty sure were written by muggles.

Anyway Neville I know you don't want to spend any extra time with Professor Dolohov but I really think these books would help if you want to learn occlumency. The 'introduction to meditation' in the first chapter of the one he thought was most helpful was almost exactly like what we did in class today.

(He doesn't actually know all that much about either occlumency or legilimency, actually. He's never learned to do either. But he's got loads of books about mind magics generally.)


---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-06 02:36:59](#)  
(no subject)

(It was Slytherin and Ravenclaw, actually. But I don't know what the Huffs or Gryffs or Theoretical people did.)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-06 03:56:23](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

We did the same, only there was rather a lack of concentration. Ernie got the giggles and then it spread.

Are you certain he's got books by Muggles? I suppose having lived abroad so long, he must have got used to reading whatever took his fancy, what? Still that seems...well odd, given how much trouble a few Muggle things bought for Pansy a few years back.

-Justin



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-06 15:02:16](#)  
(no subject)

The reason ~~Lu~~ everyone was so against what I was saying about Muggles was because I wasn't supposed to think those things at all, let alone say them out loud. So I think it scared them. Because I wasn't setting a good example, or, I don't know, because I was surrounded by people constantly telling me how stupid Muggles were and it still didn't make sense to me, and they knew I wasn't believing them. And if *I* wasn't believing them, who would?

I thought back then that because I was pureblooded, because I was close to powerful people, that it gave me more freedom to say what I really thought. But I was very wrong.

I'd imagine he can do pretty much what he wants, though. Because when you're that high up, I guess you don't have to pretend to believe everything, but when you're just learning, you do. Or maybe people can just assume that he's got Muggle things

for a good reason.

In our conversations, he's talked a great deal about books, and I can't be sure, but he's suggested that some of the books he has that wouldn't be otherwise available here, and maybe that included the Muggle ones, were ones he'd want to loan out.

Only I'm not sure he meant the Muggle books too. And I'm also not sure if it'd apply to everyone, or if he just meant me. I don't know if I'll take him up on it or not, but I think I will. If it comes from him, I think it's considered less of a sign of rebellion than if I read them on my own, and it'd be bit of a shared secret, which can be useful.

It's like playing chess, isn't it? Like playing chess all the time, every day, with tonnes and tonnes of people playing against you, so you don't know which moves would work best, and sometimes all you want to do is protect your Queen and keep as many of your pieces on the board as you can.



 **alt\_neville** at **2012-10-06 03:00:59**


*(no subject)*

Oh, wow.

I want to borrow them. I'm...I'm just not sure it's wise. Let me think about it a bit. When do you have to give them back to him, did he say?

(You didn't mention my name to him, I hope.)

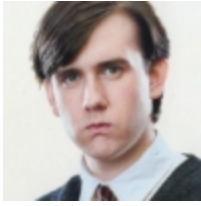


 **alt\_neville** at **2012-10-06 03:01:56**

*(no subject)*

I want to, yeah, it's just that---

Well, it's Professor Dolohov.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-06 03:18:44](#)  
(no subject)


And what are the titles, by the way?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-06 14:12:37](#)  
(no subject)

The one I'm reading right now with the meditations is called 'The Lake and the Mirror.' I'll get the rest of the titles for you in just a minute.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-06 15:22:05](#)  
(no subject)

Okay, here's the whole list.

In addition to 'The Lake and the Mirror' there's one by the same author called 'The Pane of Water.'

The author is someone named Isoroku Sato.

'Within and Without' by Louisa Chumtree, which he said was partly about legilimency.

'The Theory and Practice of Mind Magic' by Girard Morel.

'Magics of the Mind, Magically Simplified!' by David Carter -- this one was written by an American, he said.

'On Occlumency' by Jacob Kilwale -- this isn't exactly a book, it's sort of like the meditation guide Professor Dolohov distributed in class. Someone wrote it and then used a copying spell, like it was for a class or something.

'The Delicate Invasion' by Perseus Brown, this one's mostly about legilimency.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-06 14:10:39](#)  
(no subject)

~~I don't NEED to mention anyone else's name to Professor Dolohov when it's about books~~

Of course I didn't mention your name to him,

Neville.



**2012-10-05 22:02:00**

*I solemnly Swear that I am up to no good:  
Private message to Terry Boot*



 [alt\\_neville](#)


Terry, dunno if you spotted Sally-Anne's message. She has some books on Occlumency she got from Professor Dolohov. I really want to borrow them, but I just don't know if it's a good idea.

For one thing, I wonder if he's likely to have put a trace spell on them so he knows who's looked at them. Do Mum and Dad know if that's the sort of thing he might do?

I don't know if it's worth taking the risk. She didn't mention any of the titles. Don't know if there are any books out there about Occlumency that it would be worth taking the risk. Could you ask Mum and Dad and see what they think? Maybe all the books that are out there on the subject are rubbish anyway?

Nev



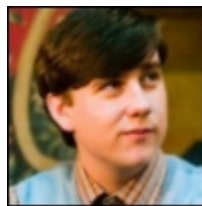
 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-10-06 03:12:30**  
(no subject)

Sure, I'd be happy to ask them for you, Neville, no problem.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-10-06 03:12:39**  
(no subject)


Thanks.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-10-06 03:27:13**  
(no subject)

Oh! And also please tell them that Evelyn had her boggart lesson. And the result was the same as when she practised this summer, and she turned the boggart-me's wand into one of Fred and George's joke wands, and nobody looked weird at her about it or anything. So it went well.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-10-06 03:50:32](#)  
(no subject)

Okay, I have an answer for you already. Here's what your mum replied: you can check 'em for tracking spells. Don't touch them with your skin, but have a bit of cloth in the way, like a handkerchief (make sure it's clean; she said it should be 'freshly laundered').

Run your wand in a cross pattern over the book, both while closed and while open, and each time say 'Periculum Revelio'. That'll tell you if there are any sorts of charms or hexes placed on it. A white glow means there's a non-harmful spell on it. Red means dangerous or troublesome, and if it glows black, Professor Dolohov probably wouldn't be giving it to you in the first place. REALLY bad news. Don't use them if they glow red or have even just a tinge of red. Okay?




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-06 03:52:12](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Thanks a lot, Terry. Now I feel a lot better about borrowing them.


And tell them thank you for me.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-10-06 03:52:22](#)  
(no subject)

Will do.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-10-06 03:59:51](#)  
(no subject)

Your dad says good on Evelyn for her boggart. 'Nicely done.'

As for books, your mum says that two of the ones they used when they were training as Aurors were *The Pane of Water* and *The Lake And The Mirror* by someone called Isoroku Sato. Those would be definitely good for you to read, but only if you can do it 'discreetly.'

**2012-10-05 22:13:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom*




Hi, I have a question for you from Neville:

 [alt\\_terry](#)

He says that one of his friends has borrowed some books about Occlumency from Professor Dolohov. He says he wants to borrow them from her, but he's afraid to do so. Do you have any idea whether Professor Dolohov might put a trace on them, to see if his friend has lent them out to anyone else? (Of course he doesn't want it to get out that he's studying Occlumency, because he doesn't want to let on that he has anything to hide.)

So he asked me to ask you. He doesn't know the titles. Yet. But are there any books on the subject that you know if that would make worth taking the risk?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-10-06 03:30:41**  
(no subject)

Oh, and he also says to tell you that Evelyn had her boggart lesson this week, and it went just like when she practised this summer. It showed itself as Neville getting his wand snapped, and she turned it into one of Fred and George's joke wands. And no one looked at her weird about it or anything. So Neville says it went well.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2012-10-06 03:50:15**  
(no subject)

good.

good to know.

thanks, terry.



 **alt\_frank** at [2012-10-06 03:52:19](#)  
(no subject)

could you tell her that I said nicely done?



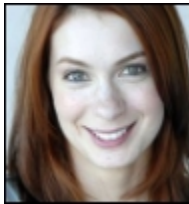
 **alt\_tery** at [2012-10-06 03:54:20](#)  
(no subject)


Sure.



 **alt\_frank** at [2012-10-06 03:54:51](#)  
(no subject)

thanks.




 **alt\_alice** at [2012-10-06 03:40:58](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you for passing that along, Terry, love.

If he wants to test the books for tracking spells, you can tell him that he ought to be careful not to touch the book with bare skin, but ought to use a clean cloth or freshly laundered handkerchief to handle it with.


He can take his wand and run it in a cross pattern over the book, both while closed and while open, and each time say '*Periculum Revelio*'. This will let him know if there are any sorts of charms or hexes placed on the book. It'll glow white if there's non-harmful spells, red if there are spells that could be dangerous or provide trouble to the caster, and if it glows black, well, let's say Professor Dolohov would be quite foolish to loan out materials to his students if they are that dangerous. I believe that's the most straightforward way to test for tracking spells and the like. So he ought to not use the books if they glow red or slightly reddish.



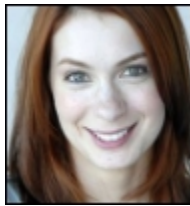
 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:42:11](#)**  
(no subject)


Great. Thanks! I'll tell him.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:53:09](#)**  
(no subject)

He says thanks for passing that along.



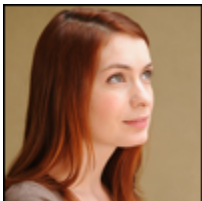
 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:57:00](#)**  
(no subject)


And thanks to you as well, Terry. You've no idea how comforting it is to know that Neville can talk to you about us, and that he can ask us questions that have to be answered right away if need be.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:58:28](#)**  
(no subject)

hear hear



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-10-06 03:47:23](#)**  
(no subject)

And in terms of the books...

Well, there was a two-volume series that were fairly well known to our mentor, Auror Kilwale. When we were training, he had us read The Pane of Water and The Lake And The Mirror, by... oh, Frank, what was his name? Isoroku Sato.

I wish we still had copies to pass along to him. But those books were definitely standards that would be good to pick up, if he can get his hands on them discreetly.



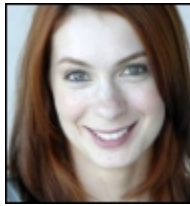
 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-06 03:48:38](#)  
(no subject)


sato's the one, yes.



 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-10-06 03:57:44](#)  
(no subject)


Are they banned titles, then, so reading them could get him into trouble? Or is it just that you don't want anyone to know he's studying it?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-06 04:01:49](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not entirely sure what's banned and what isn't, as goodness knows I haven't had much of a chance to visit bookstores recently. But you mentioned he wanted to keep quiet about it, so discretion would probably be best in any case, even if the books are easily available.



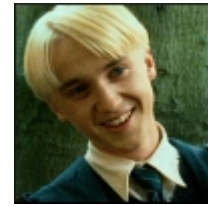
 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-10-06 04:02:46](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Thanks.

**[2012-10-06 13:33:00](#)**

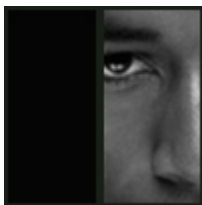
*Hah!*

Anyone catch who started up the "Take to the Sky" chant? *We Take To the Sky and Never Say Die! Oi Oi Oi!* - if you listen to any of the old Falcons matches from the 1970s, you'll hear it. And Professor Dolohov's definitely got the quidditcher's patter down, which is dead impressive, considering he's never walked the Pitch. Anyway, it all makes me wish I'd been born earlier so I could have seen the Razzar in a real professional match, especially that one against the Tornados when--



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Oh, looks like they're putting up the final set of wards. Why do they need stupid Crouch for it I think it'll be starting soon!



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-06 19:49:54](#)

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo*

Keep an eye on Teds, will you?

I wish I were sitting closer because he looks as if he's wanting to test the wards with a spell from this side.

Seriously. Not a good idea, that.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-06 19:59:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo*

I'll do what I can, but as soon as they get started I'm going to be watching the action, I reckon. Hopefully that's what he'll be doing, too.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-06 20:02:31](#)

*(no subject)*

It certainly would have be snitch to watch Professor Raz back in the day!

Though this looks to be it's own master performance.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-06 20:06:45](#)  
(no subject)

I reckon the National Quidditch Library in New London probably has omniocular records of all his matches - wouldn't be nearly as good as being there in person, but it'd be enlightening, just the same.

And yeah, I second that. If they're being this intricate with the wards then it seems they're not planning to hold back at all.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-06 20:03:44](#)  
(no subject)

It's such a change to see our Professors in clothing other than full teaching robes!

I must say, that sleeveless look is rather ~~fetching~~ unusual - I wonder why they don't design more wizarding fashions without sleeves? They certainly take a great deal more liberty with the cut of witches robes these days, so why not wizards?

Anyway, I suppose full sparring cloaks would offer all sorts of additional protections, and they want the demonstration to focus on actual spells, without any help from other accoutrements.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-06 20:09:59](#)  
(no subject)

Blokes wear that kind of gear at the Ouroboros sometimes, for exercises and such.

And yeah, you're probably on to something about getting rid of additional protections. Also, who's to say that a person might not get into a fight or battle when they're coming out of the bath or something? That'd be the perfect place to stage some kind of ambush, actually.





 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-06 20:05:30](#)**  
(no subject)

What is that warding? I've never heard anything like it. Fascinating!



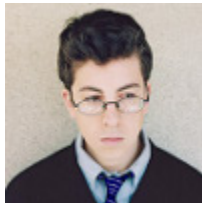
 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-10-06 20:10:42](#)**  
(no subject)


Maybe you should ask Auror Crouch to tell you about it.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-10-06 20:18:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, don't listen to Draco. Naturally Auror Crouch can't be bothered with such questions! But he might've learned it from Professor Dolohov, don't you think? I think I recognise the incantation as being from Asia, perhaps something in Farsi or Arabic?



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-06 20:26:01](#)**  
(no subject)

That's a very good idea, Daphne; thank you! I will ask Professor Dolohov, some time when he's not busy, of course.

Did you see how many illustrious Council members are here??

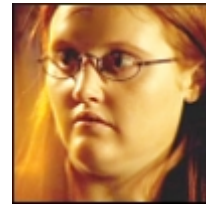
I hope Mr Selwyn doesn't remember me from the play.

**2012-10-06 15:00:00**

***ARE THEY DONE YET??***

I don't know if I can watch anymore!!

It's all so intense and I never know that Professor Rizzer could look so mean and angry!! ~~I wish I knew how to do that!~~




 [alt\\_eloise](#)

I hope they don't really actually hurt each other!! They're supposed to be friends but it really doesn't look like it just now, does it??

---



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2012-10-06 21:07:16**

*(no subject)*

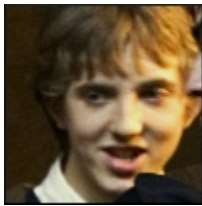
Intense, isn't it?



 [alt\\_eloise](#) at **2012-10-06 21:42:08**

*(no subject)*

Very!! It's just an awful lot for a girl like me to take in, but I'll be alright!!

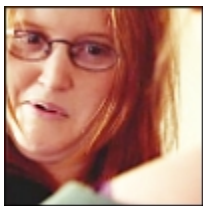


 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2012-10-06 21:11:19**

*(no subject)*

You're not going to faint, are you?

You should step out into the antechamber if you really can't manage, you know? As it is, you're being silly and bothering people.

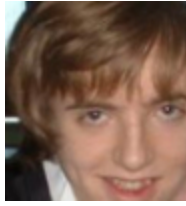


 [alt\\_eloise](#) at **2012-10-06 21:31:52**

*Private message to Ernie*

Actually, I think it's VERY EXCITING!!

But Auntie Cora wouldn't approve, you know.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#) at 2012-10-06 21:37:45**

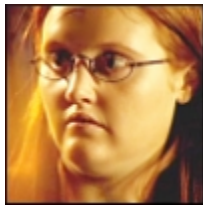
*Re: Private message to Ernie*

Yeah, it is exciting.

Anywiz, your aunt can't see you, so you can stop covering your face every other minute and just watch.

And stop making those squeaking noises. People think you're daft enough as i.

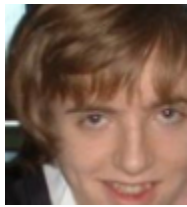
You're making a scene.




 **[alt\\_eloise](#) at 2012-10-06 21:42:53**

*Re: Private message to Ernie*

I don't know what noises you mean, but alright!!



 **[alt\\_ernie](#) at 2012-10-06 23:22:29**

*Re: Private message to Ernie*

El, honestly. You were almost as bad as Moon.

At least you didn't get in Auror Crouch's way, I guess.



 **[alt\\_eloise](#) at 2012-10-06 23:35:16**

*Re: Private message to Ernie*

Sometimes Moon is so funny and daft for a Ravenclaw!! But perhaps he's just quite excitable.

I would never get in Auror Crouch's way, he might kill me.

**[2012-10-06 16:30:00](#)**

Wow. Well.

That was really-

REAL.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

He's okay, isn't he? I mean, at least he's laughing, right? A little bit.

---



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **[2012-10-06 22:02:45](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think so, yes.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **[2012-10-06 22:05:15](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Everyone on the Lord Protector's Council can do this.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2012-10-06 23:18:39](#)**

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

Nearly kill each other, you mean?

Um. Let's just say I wouldn't want to have to fight either of them. Ever.

Or Auror Crouch.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **[2012-10-06 23:32:36](#)**


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

I suppose that is what I mean, in a way.

I mean, I've always been told that they were

skilled, and I've seen it, too, sometimes - but this just really laid it bare, didn't it?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-06 23:36:22](#)

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

Yeah.

Yeah, it really did.



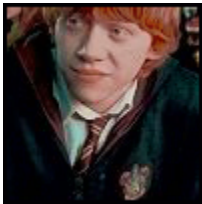
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-06 22:07:44](#)

*(no subject)*

He's definitely smiling now - looks tired, though.  
Razzer does too, a bit.

That was *wicked*.

I completely forgot about my scorecard.

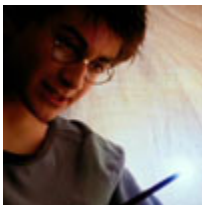


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-06 23:19:18](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

I got some of it, but not nearly all.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-07 03:36:19](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. It was.

**2012-10-06 22:49:00**

*Private Message to Antonin Dolohov and Rabastan Lestrange*



Wanted to be certain that all is well with each of you this evening.

 [alt\\_poppy](#)

I rather hope that you have already dropped off to sleep and are recuperating from your exertions in that most healthful way, but if you have not been able to and if you require anything to ease your way in that direction, do please let me know.



---

 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-10-07 05:28:28**  
(no subject)

Poppy,

Can't speak for Razzler (though he seemed well enough when we parted), but I am fine -- tired, and more than a bit achy, but it is more the ache of pleasant exertion than the misery of having done myself further injury. And yes, I am taking myself away to bed any moment now, I promise, having just nearly fallen asleep in the bath!

Thank you for checking in; one does appreciate the concern.

Warmly,  
Antonin

**2012-10-06 22:57:00**

*Private Message to Linus Moon*

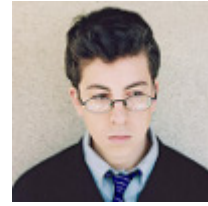
Dear Journal!

This was the most wiz-nift day ever. I was acknowledged by Auror Crouch before the fight. (I think he bruised my shoulder when he clapped me on the back!) The battle was glorious. And Professor Dolohov quoted the great philosophers in three different languages, and there were Council Members, and that amazing warding incantation must have gone for eight solid minutes, and I will never forget today as long as I live.

Honour's eye on daring deeds! I would need to be Byron to describe it properly. The house elves will have to bring me some warm milk if I am ever going to get to sleep.

Most. Wiz. Nift. Day. Ever!

Yours faithfully,  
Linus Moon



 [alt\\_linus](#)

**2012-10-06 23:37:00**

*Private Message to Raz*

You were brilliant.


And you won me two galleons.

See you tomorrow.



 [alt\\_harry](#)



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2012-10-07 04:39:04**

*(no subject)*

Cheers, Harry.

Told you there was nothing to worry about.



**2012-10-07 00:57:00**

*Private Message to Draco and Pansy*

Good to see you both this after-noon. Must admit the social hour before and following did put our other tasks behind, a bit, and returning from those, naturally, found the day's correspondence grown to mountainous proportion. Still have a personal note or two if to-morrow is not to begin already behind.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Trust you both found to-day's (yesterday's, one should say!) educational presentation edifying. Harry looked a bit tense, during the bout. Draco, is he all right? Glad to see you appreciated the display for all it was, and led the others in a properly jovial, but respectful, light.

Antonin Nikolaevich tells me you are both showing great promise, already. Not surprising, but good to hear his professional assessment, nonetheless.

He has his eye on a few others, as well, who were much more ... unexpected. But that is his way.

Be careful, however: He is incorrigible. If you let him he shall ply you with all manner of temptations, suited to your particular interests, in order to bend you to his will. No doubt soon enough he shall supplant even your favourite professors as your tutor of choice.

Speaking of favourites, did not have much of a chance to speak to either of you privately. Wished to ask you: How has the CCF programme been thus far, under Madam Umbridge? (Be honest, both of you; should expect you both might feel any positive comments are disloyal to its previous mentor. Have no fear of your opinions generating unwanted repercussions.)

Well. It is late. Though you shall doubtless not see this before morning, should observe brevity and proceed through my other notes, in order to sleep, as well.

---



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-07 05:38:53](#)  
(no subject)

Good to see you as well, Father. It was a brilliant demonstration, wasn't it? Do the Council Members ever do something similar at Ouroboros? I should like to see it sometime, if so.

I can't imagine how Professor Dolohov would tempt me, since there's nothing I want for that he could possibly deliver. Still, I think I gather your meaning; he seems to have drawn a few to him that I wouldn't have thought susceptible to any shape or form of the Arts.

And I hope Raz can trust him as much as he seems to.

CCF is demanding but I've no major concerns thus far, unless you count the fact that Madam Umbridge insists on calling us "boys and girls" and talking to us as if we're all just out of our nursery cots.

-Draco



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-10-07 06:03:10](#)  
(no subject)

Still awake, son?

Keeping my hours. Not a good sign.

It was an impressive display, yes. And yes, we have similar opportunities, at Ouroboros and the Elysian both - though again, as we told your schoolmates, the point of to-day's demonstration was just that - to *demonstrate*. Your uncle and Antonin both prolonged the fight as long as possible; in the field, of course, one desires the opposite. However, it is a useful skill to spar as they were doing and to improve one's endurance. Perhaps over the Christmas holidays, we might go together on a day and you may see for yourself.

Well, in your case, no, don't imagine that he need do much to entice your interest. I daresay to-day would have been more than enough, if he had not already captured you as a willing pupil! But for Pansy, she ought to take care: He shares her bibliophilic tendencies (as you may remember from previous conversation on the subject of antiquarian bookshops) and thus, I fear, we might well lose her to the call of tomes and monographs hitherto unseen by any of your

generation.

What do you mean, you hope he can be trusted? Is there .... Has there been any question on that point?

As for Madam Umbridge - yes, she can be grating. Having never had children of her own it does not much surprise me that she has no sense of your maturity. But at least the activities in her charge have not suffered for her assumption of the programme? Would advise you both - as you know - to stay in good standing with her. If only because to do otherwise would smack of disrespect. And naturally one would not wish to disdain a former Minister for Magic, hm?




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-07 15:00:46](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, it was clear that this duel wouldn't be at all practical if facing down a real enemy, which is why it was a bit amusing that a number of students seemed to think it was real somehow - real in the sense that they were trying to hurt each other.

As for trust, well, there may not be anything to it, but Professor Dolohov's come on awfully chummy with Professor Siz in an exceptionally short amount of time. Raz doesn't seem bothered, so perhaps they just genuinely hit it off, but you know how it is, with some men turning a blind eye while their wife or girlfriend steps out with one of their best mates, right under their nose.

I've made it clear to Professor Umbridge that I want to provide any assistance I can on her development of the programme, so you've no worries there.



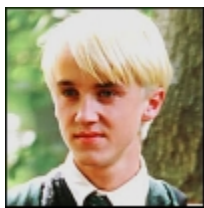
 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-10-07 15:35:28](#)  
*Private Message to Draco*

Indeed. By my count, Rizzer had Antoshenka on the ropes at least a dozen times before giving him a chance to recover and Tosha pressed Rizzer to advantage perhaps another half-dozen above that but they were not holding anything back in terms of speed or force. Apart from refraining from the most damaging spells, of

course. Which ought to be appreciated in itself; there is a muscle-memory that comes from years of experience and it can be just as difficult not to strike the telling hex as it is to land it successfully. In fact, I would have said that half the instances either of them hesitated it was in their need to fight their own instinct.

Jealousy on Rizzer's behalf is entirely unnecessary, son, though am sure he would appreciate the sentiment and the concern. Tosha considers himself wholly married to his work. Admit am not entirely as enchanted with your Astronomy professor as others seem to be but Anotonin Nikolaevich says they have connected on a number of intellectual levels (the researcher in them both, among other things). Too, Tosha has always found Hufflepuffs to be of paramount utility in their willingness to, ah, do one's dirty jobs, as it were. (Agree with him, though not to exclusion. Gryffindors and Ravenclaws can be just as easily pointed toward one's goals and, if convinced of the sincerity of those aims, shall apply themselves tirelessly as well.)

But in any case, those who know him fear no interloper. As for others turning blind eyes, you seemed to be getting on with Weasley well enough, if yesterday was any indication. All's well with Pansy, though, I take it? Are you concerned about anyone else, then? My advice is not to interfere in someone else's affairs, unless one is certain of the circumstances. One cannot know all the reasons witches pay their attentions where they will; and not all of them do it out of malice, caprice or betrayal.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-07 16:06:24](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

So you're saying it's in their instinct to kill each other? Or, rather, the person they're engaged with?

Somehow I don't think that can actually be taught in the classroom.

And I'm not particularly concerned, just very observant. Rizzer is as well, as is evident from yesterday's show, but he did have some kind of fling with Professor Acton a while back so his judgment obviously has its failings.

I'm not worried about Weasley ~~much~~. Did compliment him on the

scorecards he put together for the duel, thinking that it might make him more open to putting together similar for the quidditch teams, now that he's on the Gryffindor side.

In any case, it could be said that the bloke who feigns blindness has all the more opportunity to look around him, if he chooses to do so. Right?



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-10-07 16:46:18](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Well, let us say that one becomes trained and accustomed in life-and-death conditions to patterns of casting that lead naturally from one spell to the next. For example, Professor

Dolohov favours an off-side limb-locking curse to follow the headcold hex, which is always aimed straight-on. Yesterday, he did not follow the hex with the limb-lock, knowing it would have debilitated Razzler too heavily. In the moment it took Tosha to catch himself, Raz was able to regain his composure and press his advantage again.

Observation is essential, correct. An astute point, son.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-07 22:58:02](#)

*(no subject)*

Naturally, Lucius. One wouldn't want to appear disrespectful.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-07 22:55:23](#)

*(no subject)*

It was lovely to see you as well, Lucius. And the duel was so very thrilling! It really was like seeing a work of art.

Adjusting to Madame Umbridge has been interesting. I'll try to be as even-handed as possible; she can be a bit overbearing, but I can see how what she does has all the best *intentions*. The CCF programme she has in mind is certainly ambitious, and all the things she wants us to work on may be ultimately useful, but it's a challenge balancing

the additional requirements on top of studies. I think having someone who isn't a professor in charge certainly gives her much more time to devote to the programme, and it really is a great deal of work, so I think that was needed. I do think that sometimes she forgets we're also in school, though, because as she's not a professor, she's not as aware of the work we have to do outside of the CCF.

I also think that school this term is a great deal more of work for people in my year because of OWLs and the additional course that some of us are having to catch up on, so that's probably colouring a great deal of my concerns.

The younger students do seem quite eager to be involved, and I do think that it's given several of the fifth years and up the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in a way they couldn't otherwise.

He is quite charming, isn't he? I'm glad to hear we've given appropriate impressions so far. You're right, he sorted out my weakness for books right away. I think he has a natural step up just by virtue of the fact that he is not a Carrow, but I've truly enjoyed his class so far. Rest assured, I shall do my best to stay strong in the face of so many lovely volumes (I'd never heard of Edgar Allen Poe before! I'm halfway through the Fall of the House of Usher, and it is delightfully frightening) and witty conversation.

**2012-10-07 01:19:00**

*Private Message to Toshenka and Razzer*

Have either of you been glancing through the children's journals?



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Well played, *bratishka*. Believe the effect you desired has been achieved. In spades.

Raz, forgive the intrusion, but must point out: It may not have occurred to Rodolphus yet but I did see the look on your face when our brother here so-casually mentioned the relationship budding between our niece and Stephen's defector. Confess myself as surprised as you or Rod that our Tosha sees so much in the lad - but then, know better than to doubt his instinct, which has so often led us to valuable compatriots in the past. Good luck, when Rod realises that you've known and not told him before. (And for some time, if I am not mistaken?)

Then again, at least you've reminded him that you are far from an easy target.

(Not that it matters much to me, one way or the other. Particularly if Toshenka believes he can bring the boy under his wing.)

Still chuckling over that remark of - which of your students, Toshenka? A seventh-year by the look of him - that he'd never thought of duels lasting so long. And how we all said almost at once, 'Usually, they don't.' Hope he's not in your NEWTs (and if so, then you are entirely correct that your work has been made manifest. Let it never be said we underestimate your ability to fashion miracles!

Do you think Dominic has quite got over his own shock at the breadth of your casting? Must remember to invite him into one of our sessions at the Elysian. Suspect he's itching now to find out just how he'd stand up in a proper contest of skill.

Almost jealous of you both for seizing the chance to make clear your prowess; but thinking how exhausted you both were, and seeing how much was waiting for my attention on my return, perhaps it was as well to leave you both to the exertion. (Do not take that as either


challenge, or the fear of one, however!)

Blast, but it is late. Expect you both to be sleeping the sleep of the just. Ought to follow your example in that, as in other things.

My thanks again, gentlemen, for a highly amusing day.

---



 **alt\_rabastan** at [2012-10-07 15:35:10](#)  
(no subject)

Don't be jealous- I'm much more exhausted today than yesterday. Yesterday I was too caught up in the flush of victory to notice what my body is all too aware of today.

As to the tale of Hydra and the Young Defector, it's Rod's fault that it turned into such a high drama. They had a shy sort of courtliness going after their date at the Yule Ball, and when the boy tried to kiss her cheek or somesuch, the bracelet Hydra was wearing (you can guess who gifted her with *that*) set off all sorts of alarms and Rod demanded that I go find whoever was molesting his precious daughter and hex him into an early grave.

Well, Hydra was practically hysterical about the whole thing- and you know that she's not prone to the dramatics that seize most other girls, either. It was obvious to me at once that she had a staggering amount of feelings for this Justin kid, and I thought pretty much as you do, Lucius, that to try to dam that up or stop it would only create far bigger problems.

So yeah, I've been covering for Hydra and the boy. Or, more accurately, pretending not to see what was so obviously happening. Not sure how she managed to get around that bracelet, since I still see her wear it, but she obviously found some method for fooling it.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-10-07 15:47:15](#)  
(no subject)

Mordred, is there any creature so pathetic as a pubescent girl in the throes of her first crush?


May have envied your opportunity to show them a thing or two about duelling, Raz, but not in the slightest your position as their teacher.



Am more than ever pleased we had only Draeø boys to raise. Though in the case of my son, that itself is presenting its own challenges, currently.

Has this Fletchley shown any promise in Defence akin to Tosha's observations of him in his own lessons? Given that he freely chose to shift his loyalty to Our Lord, it may be possible that he could suit her, that is of course always assuming her affections are so steadfast as she supposes (which one doubts). He's fostered, surely? To whom, do you know?



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-07 16:56:56](#)  
(no subject)

Boys are just as pathetic, I'm finding. They're just taught to hide it better.

The Beauxbatons curriculum is a bit different from ours, so when he arrived he was lacking instruction in a few specific areas (interrogative resistance, most notably), as was the same with the rest from his school. But he caught up and adjusted with minimum difficulty. He's a bit of a frustrating student, truthfully; has a marked tendency to opt for minimal defensive measures, usually deflection, but one senses he could turn the tables and go on the offensive if he chose- appears he's reluctant to do so, for whatever reason. Essays are typically top-notch, though.

He's fostered with the Jugsons. Part of my extended family, as you know.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-07 17:22:04](#)  
(no subject)

I did not realise until after I'd seen Rod's face that I might have put my foot in it -- truly, knowing Bella's opinions on things, I wouldn't have thought it would have been a problem. *Mea culpa*. I do hope it doesn't cause trouble for the children, particularly given how much work I have ahead of me with Mr Finch-Fletchley.

(And yes, Rizzer, that's exactly it, the reluctance -- under that Hufflepuff exterior is the seed of a cold and ruthless calculation; I

have seen it more than once now, but I believe it frightens him. But in all these years, when have you ever known me to step back from a challenge? You will both remember my theory about Hufflepuffs, after all.)

Meanwhile, Razzar dearest, I hope you're not very worse for wear. I've just woken myself, and I think I will be spending today right here in this bed. (Well, perhaps I will alternate between bed and bath.)

Lyoushka -- I have indeed been reading around, and been quite pleased with the results -- believe they are all thinking in the direction I'd like to put them on. With luck the message will filter out to the other ears I'd like it to reach as well. The seventh-year with the unfortunate question, meanwhile, was a Mr Miles Bletchley. (And yes, the instinctive choral response was well delivered to make the point!) He is, alas, indeed one of my NEWTs, and sadly not even the worst of them. It is not that they are stupid, but they came of age in a far more settled time. And, of course, Alecto's approach to the Noble Arts encouraged them to believe themselves the chosen few right off the bat, with little effort required; I have had my hands full disabusing them of the notion. (Shall be introducing them all to Salazar's Rules in a week or two; that will help.)

Dominic did seem thoughtful, did he not? If you do wind up bringing him along to the Elysian some afternoon, let me know; I will make time. (Though I doubt I will be in shape to join in for quite some time.)

But I meander. ("Again," they say, or possibly, "so what else is new?") Am so very glad you were able to make it yesterday, Lyoushka, and I hope I have not done too much damage to your schedule; I deeply appreciate you taking the time. And Razzar, I owe you one indeed; if there's something I can do to help your students, let me know. We have, I think, done a good day's work among us. Let us hope it will be of use in future.

Lazily,  
T



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-07 18:35:09](#)

*(no subject)*

Knowing Rod, I think you can count on it to cause trouble.

Give us a shout if you ever suspect that my niece is a target of that cold and ruthless calculation. Much as I have no interest in dictating her love life, I would never see her harmed.

As for how I am faring- I've had more energetic Sundays, to be sure. I'm up and about but already looking forward to an early turn in. Good to know you'll still be able to make it all the way to the bath, ha!



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-07 18:40:48](#)

*(no subject)*

No, he clearly worships the ground she walks on -- do not fear there. Another reason I thought Rod already knew, and had given the boy the talk!

And, ha. You with the early turning-in, me having slept in (and in, and in). We're quite a pair.

**[2012-10-07 09:02:00](#)**

*Private message to Pansy*

So Harry's going to be off with Raz today - they're going to talk quidditch and supposedly Siz will be there, too. I was invited along, but if you're free today then I'd rather spend that time with you.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)**

Plus, it might do Harry good to go off with Raz on his own. He's kind of odd and edgy this term; I think my habit of worrying finally rubbed off on him and I'm not sure that's a good thing. Or maybe it's just that he's so used to have something really clear and specific to focus his worries on, like escapees from Azkaban, or Tri-Wizard tournaments, that he doesn't know what to do without them.

Yesterday was wiz, yeah? Too bad I put all my galleons on Dolohov.

---



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-07 22:29:15](#)**  
(no subject)

That sounds lovely, Draco. Let's.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-07 22:31:08](#)**  
(no subject)

And it was, wasn't it? I think both of them were very evenly matched. In the end, it looks like it honestly came down to Raz having more stamina than Dolohov, but both were absolutely brilliant.

I see what you mean about Harry. He does seem a bit more tense lately, doesn't he?

Perhaps he's having some trouble with what happened at the end of term. I know we didn't give him a lot of time to really properly dwell this summer, so perhaps it's catching up with him a bit?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-08 02:41:09](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks for spending the day with me. I guess we could have talked about Harry then, instead of occupying ourselves in other ways. But who needs talking, right?

I mean, I see what you mean about how things from last year might be haunting him, or something. I don't know what can be done, though. Isn't time supposed to be the thing that heals everything?

That's so long as it doesn't make things worse, I guess.

Hey, remind me: is that the first time that Father has ever written us a Private Message? Together I mean.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-08 03:23:07](#)  
(no subject)

I think it's rather nice to take a little time and just be us, without anyone else getting in between. I know it's a bit selfish of me, but I like you all to myself sometimes. After all, you are rather

wonderful.

Maybe we ought to do something like we did this summer to get Harry out of his own head for a little while? He's got that sad look on his face when he thinks no-one's watching him.

And I'm not sure, but I think it might be. Certainly the first time since he's known about us being together.

**2012-10-07 10:16:00**

*Private Message to Cedric*

Was the finale of the duel as brilliant as everyone says?



 [alt\\_susan](#)

I missed the whole latter bit because I was out in the antechamber consoling Thalia West, and tearing a strip off Delia Forney and Kelley Drumgoole for daring her to come with them.

They were well shaken up themselves (well, Delia was, I get the impression Kelley's seen a fair amount of duelling at home) so they listened better than they might have otherwise.

I expected some foolhardy younger ones to get in, but I figured it'd be Gryffindors. Shows what I know.

Third years are the worst! First and second years are still a bit in awe of prefects, mostly, and fourth years aren't, but have the sense to keep their heads down most of the time.

Third years, as far as I can tell, have neither awe nor sense. It occurs to me that we were third years your first year prefecting--I feel like I should apologize on behalf of our whole year!

Please tell me it gets easier at some point.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-10-08 02:14:01**  
(no subject)

Yes the whole thing was snitch! I wish it had been ended by a spell rather than exhaustion and his lingering injury, but it really was wizard.

Do you think that Forney and Drumgoole are properly chastised or does someone else need to have a word?

Every year is different. Fifth and seventh years panic about exams and are supremely stressed. Sixths think they don't have to do anything until they randomly panic about the future. It's also particularly hard for prefects dealing with students older than themselves. (Get me if you ever run into that problem and I'll bludger it out of them) You'd think the fourth and fifth years would be better

but the problem is that when they get a little crazy do something they are better and smarter about it. Much harder to keep their quaffles out of the goal.

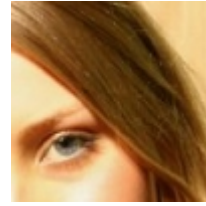
It gets different and you get more experience. You get more used to exercising the authority you have. ~~However, the more you see of the world the more problems you see.~~ If you want to talk about this part more come see me in person. I'm having trouble writing down what needs to be said.

**2012-10-07 10:43:00**

*Last night*

Well, that was quite impressive!

So thrilling to see the Arts on display; I must say I felt a delicious shiver or two myself, even though of course it was all for show.



 **alt\_lavender**

But I imagine Professor Dolohov and Professor Raz could put true fear into any enemy of the Protectorate--I certainly feel safer having them here!



**2012-10-07 16:48:00**

*Tonight*

Just a reminder that I'll be up on the tower from six to half-eight or so for those doing their observations of the Draconids. The weather looks a little iffy, but I think we should have a brief run of clear skies in there. Tomorrow, I'll be up for my usual seven to nine office hours.



 **alt\_sinistra**

7ths years: just a reminder that your final project proposals are due on Thursday. Tonight or tomorrow would be a good time for last questions.

1st years: I've had several questions about your essays. Don't worry: these early assignments are designed to give you a feel for my expectations, and give me a sense of where to focus our attention. We'll be talking further in class about both, and you'll get detailed notes as well.



---

 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-07 21:12:59**

*Private message to Antosha*

Toshenka -

(Taking the more certain form of address for the message for the moment: the journals are mysterious that way. Also, yes, still a little nervous about what others will think there.)

You doing all right today? Sorry not to make it to lunch, but - well. I slept in, and then we had Harry up for tea and conversation for a good bit of the afternoon. (Mostly Quidditch, which I am cheerfully obliging about.) But if you need something, do ask, and I'm glad to help.

As above, will be up on the tower for a while, but otherwise expect to be in Raz's rooms, settling in with a few of the books you lent me. I'm only a few pages into the theory and already have questions. To start, I'd no real idea there were so many different theories on what makes binding charms - and blood ones, in particular - work as they do. Aren't we back to that discussion of intention and forcing the universe to your will and wild magics again, somehow? (And yes, after seeing it yesterday, I would be most interested in learning more

about that warding.)

And I am not forgetting my promise to get the actual data I mentioned to you - I just need to draft it properly into a form that will make sense to someone outside the family, which, well. Not happening today, as I'd rather be down with Raz while I can, and it'd be easier to spread out my notes in my office. There are, in fact, things that distract me from research.

Also have something I think I want to loan you sooner than later - a mystery novel, but I'd need to explain why and the background.

Yours, buried in books  
Auri



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-07 21:49:58**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

My dearest Auri,

Doing well enough, though every muscle in my body is reminding me I am not as young as I used to be. I did not make it to lunch, either; I am lazing about. (And building quite the nest of books in bed with me, fact-checking the lecture for the theoretical classes this week -- we are covering how wizarding thought on the Arts changed in reaction to Christian influence, from the First Council of Nicaea to the Protestant schism, and that's quite a lot of material to shove into a single hour. If only I could rely on Binns to convey the essentials ... ah, but that's a rant for another evening.)

How is Raz feeling? He said a few things earlier in message that made me fret a bit; save your care-taking for that direction, really. I don't need much more than some extra sleep and some heat and gentle stretching.

There is no rush on the data; we are both well swamped with intellectual hares to flush from cover. As for the variety of mechanisms on binding magics -- fascinating, is it not? No one is entirely certain how half the subtleties work; there have been dozens of contradicting interpretations advanced throughout the years, and though half of them have been disproven, the other half are still quite plausible. I like to think those are one of the categories of magic that tap into an older, deeper magic, one more

numinous than the settled and tamed forms we practise more regularly. Would be happy to discuss at future date. (And, yes, teach you about the warding as well -- impressive, isn't it? Much of my mother's magic reads so to Western eyes. And is responsible for my touch of mysticism, one supposes, as the line between 'prayer' and 'magic' is much more blurred.)

My love to Rizzer, and thanks once again to you both for your help in making my point,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-07 22:25:41](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Toshenka -

There's nothing like lazing in bed with books, is there? (Though - are you the sort of person who does lecture notes? I'd love to skim them. What I know about that era of history could fit into a small pamphlet. Or, I suppose, more excuse for you to send me away with bags of books. Not a complaint, in the least.)

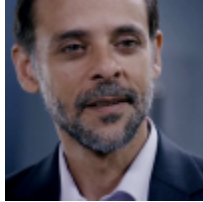
As to Raz. Last night, the thrill of the thing carried him - us - through. Today, well. He's been quietly not admitting to a headache coming on, but I'll be down again in a few hours to check and be handy. (Also, frankly, I'd rather not sleep alone tonight.)

You are, frankly, a more amiable target for my care-taking than he is, and I know full well nagging at him won't help. Nor will hovering, fretting, fussing, or asking him to be forthcoming. We manage - and truly, this isn't as bad as it might be, from external observation, before *you* worry. He's being sensible about it. And we did have a quiet but pleasant afternoon before that, so that's good. (Though, clearly, I should buy into a part share of that bakery: I fully expect to be placing a regular order now.)

I'm finding the arguments about the theories almost as fascinating as the theories themselves. Part of me just wants to read more, and the other part wants to cross-reference who's relying on whom, and who's agreeing with what, and who's using which theories to support their theories. It's all rather glorious condensed knowledge, isn't it?

I do think you're on to something - well, you usually are - with the more numinous magic. You do hear the stories, from time to time, of people whose bindings affect them in unexpected ways, both good and bad. And I admit, without the examples of my family in front of me, I'd be more nervous about that.

Auri



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-07 23:10:10](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

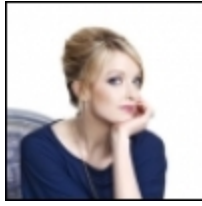
Dearest,

My lecture notes thus far have been a collection of disorganised scribbles, with mysterious and cryptic notes-to-self in the margins, but I have been meaning to be more diligent; in developing the broad outlines of the theoretical class's trajectory it has occurred to me there are the seeds of an excellent reference text in there. (As though I need more projects!) At very least I will deliver you the lecture whenever you'd like; with you I can no doubt move faster than I can with the little darlings. And, yes, my library is yours. (Though it may take you longer to learn my organisational methods than it will take you to read the books; my filing system is, as I believe I mentioned, idiosyncratic.)

And yes, the ways and ways in which bindings (of all sorts, not just marriage-bonds) can spill over and influence one have never failed to fascinate me. I do not mean to elbow into your research project, mind you, but would love the chance to contribute. The more I think about it, the more I think I have a few other texts on hand that might contain useful information -- there is something nagging at me that I cannot place my finger on, but when I've a spare afternoon I will toss the library and see if I can find it.

Meanwhile, for the headaches -- has he (or you) tried massaging the spot just behind the ears where skull meets neck? And how are you, dearest?

Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-07 23:35:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Toshenka -

Well, you needed something to occupy your summer, surely? (Actually, so will I, I suppose, given that it will no longer be filled with YPL work. I'm entirely not sure what to do with myself, and my current project will only carry me so far. This, however, is why one goes to one's guild meetings and looks interested at upcoming project proposals. Though on the other hand, I don't want to be away that long pleasant as the country Guild Hall is.)

More seriously, I'd love to hear the lecture. It's rather a gap in my own sense of history: I'm good through the Greeks and Romans, and later Egypt - well Alexandria at its height, mostly - but then there's rather a gap until about the 1200s. And you needn't ask twice if I'm interested in your books: I will soak up all of your system I can.

I'm meeting with Poppy - and maybe Irma - on Wednesday, and I'll see about finessing some further conversation. At the very least, I'd love to consult with you separately: they are both very good at their fields (and Irma is very much a generalist when it comes to scope of knowledge, if not practice.) But more eyes are more useful, really.

As to Raz - that would involve him admitting when he has a headache, which is usually the difficult part. (A good half the time, he ducks me seeing him at all, in the hopes I won't spot it. Not that that's not fairly easy with our schedules as they are, much of the week.) But if he's still awake when I come back down (I make it about even odds he won't be), I'll see what he thinks about a backrub.

Me? Well.

Poppy asked. And I had no idea what to tell her. Well enough. I woke up, about three in the morning, and was awake until near dawn. (This is what I can tell, when I've the right projection overhead.) Not bad, not nightmares or anything. Just thinking.

A.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-08 00:16:36](#)**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

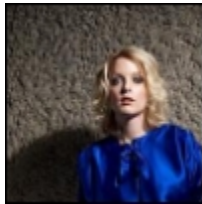
Dearest,

I note that was not, precisely, an answer. Any particular sort of thought, or just the sort that occupies one at three in the morning? (You needn't answer if it's the sort of thing that needs a bit more thinking upon before maturing, of course. Or if it's best held private.)

As for the rest -- I am at your disposal. And yes, I suppose I do need something to occupy my summer -- though I had assumed Our Lord would have some task to occupy me. We shall see!

And Mr Marvolo has messaged me asking about our tactics, so I shall go be professorial.

Yours,  
T



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-08 00:47:26](#)**

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Tosha -

Fixed stars. I... No, better to talk through it a bit.

Let me frame it this way. Imagine a hypothetical trashy romance novel, if you will. Certain known character types. Dashing - and skillful - her gentleman, somewhat battered from previous wars. A woman past the first bloom of springtime youth, apparently cut from the 'clever and bookish' heroine mold. Various secondary characters: siblings and friends and that cast of faces designed to allow the author to share some necessary piece of plot.

He and she fall - through chances of fate and choice - into each other's spheres. There are the usual challenges, the ups and downs. Some do not think her worthy of him. Some think he has not settled from the rakish behaviour of his past. It changes friendships, some, for both of them.

And then, one day, there is a duel. (I suppose this must be one of those Napoleonic era romances. Surely not medieval.) She watches. And she is taken, all of a sudden, with a sense of this gentleman that is both a surprise and not a surprise. Seeing him in a new light, as it were, that fierceness and sureness and what is hiding beneath the surface.

Something far older, far more primal - well, that is the nature of good romance novels, even the trashy ones. To play with the layers of human interaction and reveal and obscure them in turn. To illuminate desire and choice and action, all at once.

It is not a bad thing, this discovery. And it is not even unexpected by our heroine - well, she reads romance novels, and she knows enough of the reality that seeds them. (For she truly is no young and inexperienced maiden.) But it is a thing to think about, when one finds oneself the morning after the climax of the novel, more sure than ever that the happily ever after is, in fact, a well-rounded goal.

There. Is that explanatory enough without being too indelicate and personal? As I said. Thinking. Though now I think I might have a way to talk about it with Poppy on Wednesday, so thank you. (And on the whole, I would rather find I am living in a romance novel than in most other genres. So I suppose there's that.)

A, thoughtful.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-08 03:16:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Little star,

There; have now provided Mr Marvolo with perhaps more detail than he was expecting in answer to his entirely perceptive and insightful question, tidied up a few more loose ends of correspondence, and am once more at your disposal.

On my mind, as I prepare my lecture on history that must, by its very nature, touch some on what the people of the time believed, and motivated by the central theological question of the age: the first line of the Gospel according to John, as we

have received it handed down to us: ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος.  
Rendered most often in English since the days of King John's translators as "in the beginning was the Word", but the word used in Greek for 'Word' is, to my ear, best rendered not as 'word' but as Story, in Platonic form. After all, what is history but understanding the stories each group of people have told themselves? A little bit of narrative awareness can go quite a long way in one's life. To be human is to be a storytelling animal, searching for meaning and pattern amongst a sea of interconnected events. The question of individual stories is subsumed in the nature of Story, and we are left to try to find meaning in the pages of our lives.

As we are speaking hypothetically and literarily, I suppose the questions we readers (those of us who are so drawn to stories) must ask include whether our heroine is much surprised by her revelations, and whether her realisations are supported by the text. And if they are -- which I believe them to be -- then the nature of Story must dictate they were there all along, and she was simply not conscious of the hallmarks and harbingers she was seeing.

Does that help you, in your deconstruction of the text? It is an ancient enough story, and one that has been told thousands of times before -- but of course, each iteration has the capacity to be young again, and new.

Philosophically,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-08 04:12:20](#)

*Re: Private message to Antosha*

Toshenka -

Goodness. That... Yes. (And before you ask, Raz has been asleep some time, I have been curled up on his couch reading your books, and I am going to go join him once I finish this. You should find your rest as well, if you have not already: this is certainly no crisis, and can keep. Promise. Do please, tell me if I ever presume too much on your time or energy.)

Is this not why working in the original tongue is so powerful?



That one loses - well, in my set of symbols and metaphors, I talk about how we lose sight of the cosmos, if we look only at a piece of it, through a lens.

And I mean that very much in the original Greek sense of the word: I've a lengthy lecture of my own on that topic. That our universe is a vast complicated toy - a thing of sheer delight - we can examine, a model of order and connection that meet and dance in all manner of amazing ways. That it lives and breathes and changes, and is not static and locked and stagnant. Look only at the pieces, and nothing makes sense. Ahem. I will stop now, or I'll be here all night.

That question of meaning, too. I am beginning to come to a theory of weddings as stories people tell about their lives, and the expectations of stories that other people want to see from one. (Ask me again in, oh, six months to the day, and I expect it will be a far better developed thesis.)

Back to our hypothetical novel, I think. You are quite right that each iteration has the chance to be new again. But the deconstruction I am struggling with - heroine watches masterful gentleman and her love and interest is expanded - is a struggle not for what is revealed about him, but what it reveals to the heroine about herself. (Apparently, Our Author has been setting up the denouement adequately and placing hints of what will come sufficiently through the text. All hail The Sensible Author.)

In short, our heroine is surprised that she - having been the bookish and clever type - was quite as moved by the display of prowess as she was. Not upset in the slightest, mind you. Pleased. Delighted. Reassured, even, in some ways. But with rather a sense of .. oh, back to my thesis about stories and weddings. People want to make one into symbols that suit their own stories, and this one is rather a cliché.

And so our heroine finds herself remarkably contented - for yes, delighted and pleased, and the gentleman is very fine indeed. But also a tad discombobulated. It will settle eventually, I am sure, but it - back to our conversation about the point at which one can or cannot avoid thinking about things - raises new thoughts that cannot readily be ignored. Pieces of one's own cosmos to which insufficient study has been given.

Though this conversation has helped rather a lot, so thank you. Your willing companion in philosophy,  
A.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-07 21:26:45**


*Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Just wanted to check in. Sorry I haven't made it down for meals - everything's fine, really.

We had a couple of brief bobbles while it was going on - but nothing that seemed like it needed much more than a few deep breaths and some reassurance or I'd have written earlier. And some conversation after, up in my office, but much the same.

Poppy: tea, sometime this week? Monday or Wednesday, between three and supper? I don't know if Irma's had time to dig through her archives yet, but talking with both of you about that is also on my list of things to schedule. Tosha's lent me some fascinating reading - related - though I've only dipped my toe in so far.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-10-07 21:49:41**

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Yes, tea! Of course. Let's say Wednesday, shall we?

Unless. I can't tell from your message, but it almost seems as if something might have gone amiss? I'm certainly available to lend an ear if that would help. No need to wait until Wednesday, particularly if that's to be with Irma, as well.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-07 22:05:28**

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Amisss? Lots of thinking, really. Nothing I really want to talk about.

Wednesday's fine. Can you ask if Irma's free? If she's not, time with you would be lovely. Always is.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-10-07 22:59:12**

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

All right. Yes, of course, I'll have a word with Irma.

Be well, dear.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-07 21:40:40**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Good there? I hope practice went well.

I enjoyed this afternoon. Definitely up for doing that again, with or without Draco, if you like.

(And tell me sometime which of the pastries you liked most? For future occasions.)



 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2012-10-07 23:02:02**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Good. It did. We're still adjusting to our new members, but they all look solid on a broom.

And yeah, the pumpkin ones were definitely good.  
And the cinnamon ones too.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-07 23:10:11**

*Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo*

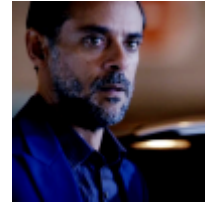
Good to know. And I am looking forward to the match.

~~Don't worry, please.~~

**2012-10-07 18:04:00**

*(no subject)*

My thanks once again to Professor LeStrange for his capable help with our demonstration yesterday (and, to those students who were backing me in our match, I must apologise for disappointing!) And, of course, thanks go as well to Auror Crouch for his able assistance with the practicalities of warding, and to Councilmembers Malfoy, LeStrange, and Selwyn for joining us for the afternoon, and for lending their insight and experience to the post-battle discussion.



 **alt\_antonin**

Students, if you have further questions that you do not wish to hold for class this week -- I know I always think of five things I should have asked once a discussion breaks up! -- I am happy to answer.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-07 22:24:56**

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

My little hare,

An excellent day's work, wouldn't you say? And you were all so obliging in not mocking my infirmities after. (Speaking of: yes, you were right, I did strain something in my ribcage trying to abort that one sequence before instinct led me to cause more damage than I'd intended. But before you worry, I have taped things up and am taking it easy today.)

I missed the final disposition in the confusion of leave-taking -- did you or Rod prevail in the battle over that cursed bracelet? We did manage to get further than I thought we might.

Eternally yours,

T



 **alt\_harry** at **2012-10-07 23:53:15**

*Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Antonin Nikolaevich;

Thank you for the demonstration. I really appreciated seeing it.

When Raz Professor Raz hit you with a punching hex, I noticed you did something with your wand that didn't look like a block or shield. It looked like you sort of turned it around and used it back on him instead of stopping it or deflecting it. I've never really seen that sort of move before, and I was wondering what it was and if you could tell me more about it.

Also, there was one point where you looked like you were holding back. After casting the headcold hex. What were you planning to cast?

And did it hurt to hold back? I mean, during the whole thing. To keep control like that. I mean, I know it took a lot of concentration.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-08 01:03:44**

*Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Mr Marvolo,

Excellently spotted, on several fronts. Five points to Slytherin.

To answer your inquires in order: the percussive hex is one of the rare hexes that functions as both discrete spell unit and as, hm. "Wave of energy" is perhaps the best way to describe it (this is best explained in person, with visual aids; I will happily do so if this explanation does not serve). The standard counter to the hex is to shield against the force, of course, and that is easy enough to do, but if one is quick enough and can concentrate well enough, it is possible to take the energy that is being directed at you and transmute it into power for one's own return, while dispersing (and earthing) any of the energy you are not using to power your own spell.

There are a limited number of hexes that can be powered by such transmuted energy, and it is devilishly difficult timing -- it is not something I would dare to try with any opponent whose timing I was uncertain of, nor in battle with multiple opponents (as it does leave one's defenses open for a split second -- not, usually, long enough for a single opponent to take advantage, but still unwise if fighting several people at once). But in a situation such as this it can be a powerful tactic. You will note I used that energy to power a blood-chilling curse -- I do not know if you are familiar with that

spell, but successful casting of it generally requires you to be within arm's length of your opponent. With the transmuted power from Raz's percussive hex, I was able to send the blood-chilling curse much further than I otherwise would have -- an opponent who did not know about the transmutation potential would not necessarily think to shield against some of the arm's-length curses when halfway across the room, and you can often gain an advantage in that way.

The most common use of this technique in battle, actually, is when you are fighting an opponent at the side of someone with whom you have trained extensively. Say that you and Mr Malfoy had trained together long enough to become intimately familiar with each others' techniques and abilities: he might give you some pre-arranged signal and cast the percussive hex towards you, not your opponent, allowing you to absorb, transmute, and use the power he had provided to fuel your next attack on your mutual enemy. (And that is, indeed, how I knew Raz's timing well enough to be willing to risk it; several of us have drilled the technique in past.)

I am pleased you noticed my slight hesitation after casting the headcold hex (though slightly chagrined it was that obvious!) -- as you develop your own repertoire of spellcraft, you will find yourself fitting together certain building-blocks of spells that seem to flow naturally for you, and that is one of them for me. I do favor a combination of the headcold hex leading into a variation on a limb-locking curse, and have practised it often enough that my muscle-memory often propels my body along the process of casting, before my conscious mind catches up with it. I was half a heartbeat away from casting when I saw Raz was not quite ready to block, and had to pull myself up short. (I would be happy to demonstrate the motions at some point to show you why I feel they flow together well; it is not a common choice, but the two spells together fit well with my strengths. Your own preferences will take time to develop.)

It is indeed difficult to hold back in such a demonstration -- we are all, I sometimes fear, far too overtrained, and years (and years, and years!) of drilling have writ the patterns into bone and muscle. There is a reason neither Razzer nor I would dare such a no-holds-barred, extensive spectacle with anyone with whom we were not intimately familiar; it is only the fact that we fought together for so long, both in teaching and in Our Lord your Father's service, that makes it possible for us to trust each other so deeply. (I can think of very few people with whom I would risk such a thing, most of whom were present yesterday.)

It is not inherently painful to do so, though one does risk injury, physical or magical, when one must override one's instinct. For instance, if one catches oneself after one has begun preparing one's next hex but before one casts it, it is possible to be caught in a sort of magical backwash, like the way water and sand get drawn into a wave that is about to crest. There are ways to usefully channel magical energy in such a situation, but often it is simpler to cast a similar, but more easily countered, hex or curse with the power one has begun to prepare.

As the year progresses, we will touch upon the question of how to best handle aborted spells without injury, and I would not be surprised if Raz goes into the question in more detail in your work with him in Defence: the two subjects are very closely connected, and I am quite pleased that Defence is being taught by someone with whom I am so familiar. I believe there will be many opportunities for us to work together throughout the year.

I know that Raz has been working with you on matters of your protection (and he is quite complimentary of your achievements there) -- if any of this inspires you to learn more I would be happy to provide you with more information, or at very least several references. Though Rizzer is more than qualified as your tutor, of course, and many of these techniques are best learned from someone with whom you have already built trust!

With regard,  
Antonin Nikolaevich



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-08 01:27:41](#)

*Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Antonin Nikolaevich;

Thank you for explaining. Professor Raz is a really great teacher, and it means a lot that he'd say that to you about me. I can see what you mean about how it's important to train with someone you trust. I know that he learned a lot from you, and trusts you.

The transmutation ~~stuff~~ technique sounds really interesting. I think I'd like to read more about it, if you've got any books to recommend. I'll definitely ask Professor Raz about working on it

with him. And I'll have to think more about combinations, too, and try to sort out what would work best for me. Maybe we could talk about your take on it sometime. I look forward to learning more about this sort of thing in both your classes too.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-10-08 01:47:05**

*Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Mr Marvolo,

You could do far worse for a teacher than Raz, indeed! He is not only a powerful and flexible wizard, but also excellent at conveying the essentials in a variety of forms and formats. I'm quite pleased you've been able to rely on him as a resource.

I will have a look through my library and see what references I can turn up for you -- I may not be able to do so by your class tomorrow, as I'm scurrying to put the final touches on the lecture for this week's theoretical class, but I will definitely be able to do so by Friday. I would be happy to discuss in person, as well -- you may stop by my open hours whenever you've the time and inclination, or if you'd like, I do have lunch in my office most days when I am not teaching straight through and would be happy to have you join me.

With regard,  
Antonin



 **[alt\\_selwyn](#) at 2012-10-08 01:40:15**

*Private message to Toshenska*

Thank you for a delightful and fascinating afternoon. I trust you're recovering well?



 **[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-10-08 01:54:46**

*Re: Private message to Toshenska*

Dominic --

Quite well, thank you, though my assorted aches and pains today are reminding me I am nowhere near as young as I used to be!



I am so very glad you could join us -- it was lovely to get the chance to know you a bit better, and I am most appreciative of your contributions to the discussion afterwards. (And your kindness towards some of our more, shall we say, exciteable students.) I'll be certain to let you know the next time we're plotting a similar event!

Warmly,  
T



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-08 01:45:36](#)

*Private message to Professor Dolohov*

This was a really interesting demonstration, thank you again!

The thing that made me the most curious was the ward you had Auror Crouch put up beforehand. What was the language he was using when he cast the spell? What is in the potion? Also, what would have happened if someone had cast a spell towards it from our side of the barrier?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-08 02:34:40](#)

*Re: Private message to Professor Dolohov*

Miss Perks, I am somehow not surprised that you are the first to ask me about the warding in more detail! (The topic is fascinating in greater depth; I will make the now-familiar invitation for you to stop in and discuss to further extent. By now, perhaps you should consider yourself to have a standing invitation.)

The language of the incantation is Arabic in its classical form, dating back to the sixth century or so (and still surviving, in many ways, in the wizarding dialects; Arabic is a highly dialecticised language, and most contemporary Muggle variants are very near mutually unintelligible, but the wizarding dialect is quite close to the classical form -- much like if wizarding English were still the language of *Beowulf*.) And even that is a translation of an earlier incantation, from ancient Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs. I learnt it from my mother, who could trace her heritage back to the Middle Kingdom; I could write out a translation of the incantation for you if you were curious. The potion, meanwhile, is nothing ornate: frankincense, myrrh, cypress, cotton fibers, and crushed

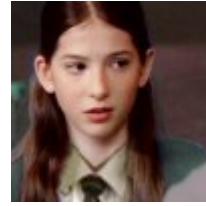
beetle shells, in a base of honey and wine, with the brewer's blood to bind it all together.

If any of you had cast a spell towards the barrier it would have been absorbed just the same as the few stray curses sent your way were absorbed -- the barrier "eats" magic in both directions. It is easily punctured if physically crossed, which is why the adults in the audience were tasked with making certain none of you came too close and why it is not at all useful in battle -- but for a demonstration such as this, it is quite handy. (It, or something similar, is often used, for instance, by magical researchers who wish to isolate themselves and their work from their surroundings, in the event of disaster.)

If you would like, stay after class tomorrow afternoon and I will hold forth in greater depth!

**2012-10-07 20:45:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I looked at the list of books Professor Dolohov lent me and Pansy and I realised I skipped two of the books.

1. 'Spiritus Solutus' which is from the 1600s and it talks about occlumency and legilimency and also resisting Imperius and other compulsion magics.
2. 'The Journal of Neuromantical Research, Volume LVII, January 1992' which is American, actually and apparently over in America they have wizards who use MUGGLE TECHNOLOGY to learn more about magic which is ... I don't understand half of what they're saying but it sounds SO UTTERLY FASCINATING. They talk about 'fMRI films' and I guess (I'm not sure) it's some sort of camera that uses both machinery and magic together to TAKE PICTURES OF YOUR BRAIN WHILE IT'S THINKING and they took pictures of someone's brain while he was doing occlumency and someone else's brain while he was doing legilimency and they talked about what they saw and I completely couldn't understand it. I mean it was word after word that I've never even seen before and they aren't in the dictionaries in the library, I went and looked this afternoon.

Anyway.

He also had a copy of 'Peter Pan' sitting out. I guess I don't know for sure that's muggle, but my mum told me the story when I was little and I've never met another wizard or witch who's heard it. And the magic in it's really not at all realistic, it's got people flying (not on brooms, I mean) and the children never get any older and someone loses his shadow because a dog grabs it and a girl has to sew it back on with a needle and thread.

It's also a children's book. I'm not sure why he had it? Especially sitting out like that. But he seems to read a LOT and some of it doesn't seem to really fit with the rest, you know?

---



 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-08 14:44:38](#)  
(no subject)

I thought he said that he didn't know much about occlumency and legilimency, so I wonder why he has books on them?

I'd like to know what they saw in the brain research. Mummy tends to use the word "mind" rather than "brain," but when I was growing up she always said that muggles were only capable of using small bits of their mind, and that wizards and witches used every single part of their minds. I suppose she meant it as some explanation for why we can do magic. But I don't believe anything she's ever told me about muggles, not anymore.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2012-10-08 14:56:55](#)  
(no subject)

I think he has books on absolutely everything.

I mean I think if I went to him and said that I had been wondering whether there are ever animagi who transform into aquatic animals and how they manage to learn, and whether they are more likely to turn into fish, or into LARGE fish like sharks, or into things like porpoises or dolphins (which aren't actually fish, you know, they breathe air but they don't have to breathe very often), into squid or octopuses, or if there are ever animagi that turn into really odd things like clams or lobsters... I rather think he'd say 'well, I'm not an animagus myself, but here are a dozen books, including one that's specifically about water-based animagi!'

I mean, he's not a specialist in Ancient Runes but we had a really interesting conversation about runes and the different ways they can be used and how runic magic intersects with blood magic (this was after he showed us that box in class that couldn't be opened if you locked it with your blood) and he loaned me books that time, too.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-08 16:36:10](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

He's reading about brain scans? I say, that's well interesting. I suppose it makes sense that an MRI would show which parts of the brain are engaged in doing magic, what? Leave it to Americans to look at it scientifically.

As for *Peter Pan*, it's very famous among Muggles, especially in America. I've no idea if anyone's tried to claim that Mr Barrie was a wizard, though. I can't imagine that he was.

I went back to look at your list, what. I think I should like to borrow *Within and Without*, if you don't mind.

Oh, and probably a well silly question but: What are the *American Witches* books?

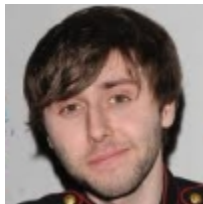
-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-08 23:49:45](#)  
(no subject)

You sound like you might actually understand this. What do you know about brain scans and MRI?

I think it's mostly girls who read the *American Witches* books. It's a whole series about a wizarding school in America, I think, only an awful lot of it is about who wants to snog whom.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-09 00:02:14](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know much about them, what, only that they've got a magnet in them (that's the M in the MRI). It's a long tube and one has to lie bally well still inside it while a doctor takes the picture. As for the brain, I think the idea is that there are electrical impulses when the brain is working and that's what the scanner reads, what? Perhaps if I read the article I could at least explain parts of

it.

But I don't think I'll have the others, what, if that's what they're about. Cheers.

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-09 02:41:43](#)  
(no subject)

They put you in a tube? Isn't that uncomfortable? Or is this the sort of experiment you'd do on people you didn't much like?

What are electrical impulses? I only sort of know what electricity is. (Stretton muggles talk about it sometimes, usually when I'm fixing machinery. A lot of muggle machines ran on it, before. I wouldn't think it would be terribly good for your brain.)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-09 03:21:42](#)  
(no subject)

One lies down on a table, and the table slides into the big tube and then they take the pictures. I don't think it's uncomfortable, except for people who don't fancy enclosed spaces, what? I don't know, I've never had to have one. They're usually used to diagnose people who are ill. In hospitals, what.

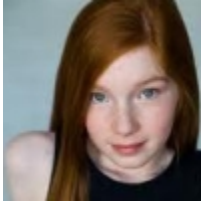
Electricity is.... Dash it all, Sally-Anne! I mean to say, sometimes it's well maddening, figuring out what one is supposed to know as a proper wizard and what one isn't. Electricity is in everything, what? It's in one's body, all the time. One's brain fires something called a synapse, and....

Sorry. I say, I can't remember what a synapse is precisely but it's sort of an electrical shock. And it sparks from one's cells into one's nerves and that's how one is able to move or feel pain or anything, what. More or less, I think. The electricity that runs machinery is the same, only it's loads of amps instead of tiny amounts of it.

I hadn't got that far in biology before starting Beauxbatons. I'm afraid I can't explain it well at all. I suppose now I shall never be

able to do.

-Justin



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-09 02:34:47](#)  
(no subject)

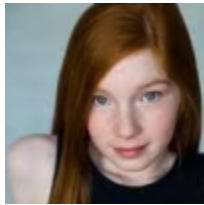
It's also about friendship and going on adventures and

It is fairly popular in our House. With the girls in our House, I mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-09 02:38:58](#)  
(no subject)

Is it any good? None of my dorm-mates read it (or if they do, they're hiding the books) so I don't have anyone to borrow from. Well, other than Professor Dolohov.




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-09 02:55:09](#)  
(no subject)

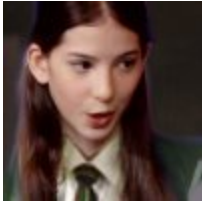
I like it. I mean, sometimes it can be a little silly, but I think they're fun, and whenever I finish one, I always want to know what happens next.

I'm giving my books to Hermione Granger. But if you want to read them, maybe she'd be willing to let you borrow them from her once she's done.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-08 18:53:38](#)  
(no subject)

What do brains look like when they're thinking, I wonder?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-08 23:50:17](#)  
(no subject)

This article seems to think you already know that bit!



**2012-10-08 09:29:00**

*Private message to Duckie*

Duckie,


I am so very sorry that I didn't have time to say more than Hello to you on Saturday. I had planned on bidding you farewell after we completed our scrub of Toshenka's storage, but my good mates thought it best that I depart without seeing you, and "sleep on it," as they say, before approaching you with what is, admittedly, a sensitive matter.



 **alt\_rodolphus**

Now. Is there anything you need to tell me about your relationship with Mr Finch-Fletchley?



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-08 15:52:14**  
(no subject)

You mean Remy's foster brother? No, I don't think so. What would I need to tell you?

From,

Hydra



 **alt\_rodolphus** at **2012-10-08 16:05:39**  
(no subject)

The fact that you are being evasive is troubling. You've never been deliberately withholding with me before.

I've taken the liberty of looking back more closely at your journal entries, and did take note of the way that some of them were addressed. "Dux" and "Effs." That's very clever. The high volume of messages between you would indicate a deep friendship, and indeed, your Professor Antonin acknowledged that there was a romance...of sorts.

I recall last Spring that your bracelet - my Christmas gift to you - alerted me to a potential threat against you. Raz assured me that it was the result of an accidental bump from a loose-handed boy in the stairwell.

Now, is that the truth? Or were you with your "Effs," who, in fear of being found out, encouraged you to convince your Uncle to dissuade me?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-08 16:15:53](#)  
(no subject)

My bracelet has an alert on it? Oh, I didn't know that. I suppose I do remember Razzer asking me if a boy had crossed a line with me, but yes, it was just a misunderstanding. Or, I hope that it was. A boy brushed up against me when I was going up the stairs, but he jumped away quite suddenly - I suppose that was the bracelet doing something, wasn't it?

As for Effs, well, sometimes it was Effie Stevens, and...yes, sometimes Justin and I write to each other. We did go to the Yule Ball together when you gave your permission, so I thought that would also include permission to keep him as a friend. I didn't know he would have to ask for that, too.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2012-10-08 16:24:25](#)  
(no subject)

If he's your friend, then why refer to him as "Remy's foster brother?"

And as to the incident in the stairwell, who was that offending boy? Raz gave me a name, but I've since forgotten it...

You do not need *my* permission to make friends, certainly. But I am still your Father and I would be negligent if I didn't carefully monitor your involvement with those of the opposite sex ~~and intervene if~~

Now, I see no reason why Toshenka would call a childhood friendship a "romance" unless it were exactly that, hmm?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-08 16:31:18](#)  
(no subject)

I assumed that's how you knew him, as the Jugson's fosterling. Because sometimes you don't remember Pansy and Sally Anne's proper names, so maybe you forgot.

I don't know how Raz could have given you a name, because I don't remember him asking me who the boy was. Maybe he made up a name because he wasn't as worried about me as you are, and didn't want to investigate it further?

I suppose Romance probably looks different to everyone, doesn't it? I do let Justin court me a little, but it's just for practice.




 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2012-10-08 16:35:28](#)  
(no subject)

Raz should be more worried - a point that I will impress upon him, all in good time.

What precisely do you mean, "it's just for practice?"



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-08 16:44:51](#)  
(no subject)

Mummy thought that if I wanted to catch Harry's attention one day, and maybe marry him, that I should practise with other boys. She thought it would be a good way to make Harry notice me, or maybe even make him jealous.

It hasn't worked just yet, but if I keep letting Justin carry my books and walk me to class, and buy my butterbeer at Hogsmeade...it can't be such a wicked thing, can it?

I don't know if you saw on Saturday, but I do wear my bracelet.



 **alt\_rodolphus** at [2012-10-08 16:58:32](#)  
(no subject)

"Practising" with the approval of your Mother. I see. She would have you make the boy your pawn so that you could be a queen.

Hydra, I do not believe for one minute that you would be so careless with a boy's heart. You may have convinced your Mother that you're simply abiding by her suggestions, but I believe you stretch them to your own purpose, and your purpose is companionship, and yes, perhaps even romance.

Now, I am not so stubborn as to deny that it is natural for a young girl to have an interest in romance, and being courted. But a boy - his interests are altogether more base. I have reason to believe that they are especially base when he encourages you to carry on without your Father's knowledge and permission.

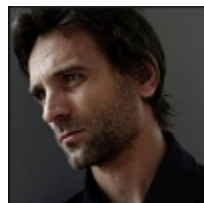


 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-08 17:09:26](#)  
(no subject)

I wasn't trying to hide anything from you, Daddy, and neither was Justin. If we were really hiding, Professor Dolohov wouldn't have noticed us and remarked upon it.

Only I wanted to avoid all of *this*, because I know how protective you can be, and if you knew you might give Justin a fright and then he wouldn't like me anymore.

And if by "base" you mean sex, well, Justin isn't like that. He's very respectful and he would never try to get me to do those sort of things.



 **alt\_rodolphus** at [2012-10-08 17:25:08](#)  
(no subject)

I believe I will be a better judge of Finch-Fletchley's intentions than you.

Meanwhile, I will try to understand that you

apparently do have feelings for him. That's what you are finally admitting to, is it not?

I confess that this whole exchange has left me sad and weary, mostly at the realisation that you no longer confide in me as you once did. They say that it is an inevitable part of parenthood. Perhaps I thought I could hold it off forever. Appears it isn't so.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-08 17:28:23](#)**

*(no subject)*

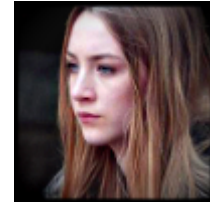
Well.

I am sorry, Daddy.

From,  
Hydra

**[2012-10-08 11:17:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Justin*



Sirius was right about not trusting Professor Dolohov. I think I hate him.

 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Be careful when you get to Dark Arts.

From,  
Hydra

---



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **[2012-10-08 22:57:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

Feeling better? I'm well glad I knew where to look for you this afternoon. Also that I've got that free hour between Charms and Dark Arts, what?

Well, I say, love, what now? What do you think your father will do?  
~~Apart from kill me~~

You're right, what, it was well intolerable to be in the same room with Professor Dolohov. I simply kept my eyes on my parchment and took notes the whole lesson. I couldn't stand to look up at him. Why on earth do you suppose he bothered to say anything?

Being in the first row in *both* his lessons is dashed inconvenient.

-Justin



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **[2012-10-09 01:10:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

Justin, I'm sorry. It was rash of me to write this just before you had your lesson. I was just upset. Well, you saw.

By the time we finished writing he didn't seem furious, just disappointed because I was keeping secrets from him. But he did make it sound as if your intentions - as if any boy's intentions - couldn't possibly be good. So I don't know what he will do, and I'm not sure I ought to ask. He still assumes the bracelet is working, I

think, so there's that.

I suppose I don't really hate Professor Dolohov, but I am cross with him. Perhaps he didn't have ill intentions, but then, now I'll always wonder if he did. I just don't see why he couldn't have minded his own business.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-09 01:35:11](#)  
(no subject)

It was right to write to me. You needed someone to talk to and that's rather my job, what? I'm glad you told me.

You said he said he'd be the judge of my intentions. Perhaps you're right and he thinks the bracelet will 'alert' him again if we you I try anything we oughtn't do. I hope so.

I've just come back to the Common Room but I could tell them I want to go see the Matron if you like.

I'd be less cross with Professor Dolohov if he didn't insist on trying to make everyone like him so much, I think. I can see it's well useful for him to give Sally-Anne all sorts of books but I'm bally well suspicious of all the Muggle things he has. I'm not sure what he's playing at.

If Sally-Anne starts going to his social hours I wonder what else he'll tell her.

-Justin



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-09 01:47:51](#)  
(no subject)

He thinks the bracelet is working, or perhaps he plans to ask Raz more questions, and maybe Professor Dolohov, too. He might well ask *you* about your intentions directly. I hope he doesn't, though. I suppose we ought to take it as a good sign that he didn't tear the castle apart looking for you on Saturday, or

anything like that.

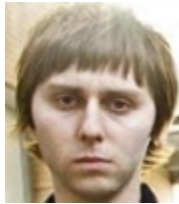
I don't know. If we sneak out and get caught, then we'll be in even more trouble.

But we never get caught, so I don't know. Well, except for at Kings Cross.

You think he's trying to suss out people's true feelings on muggles and muggleborns by offering up books and things? I suppose that's possible. But then again, he's interacted with them a good deal more than most people in the Protectorate. And I expect these were Muggles who live free, instead of in camps or at the Jugsons.

I don't know what to make of him, either.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-09 03:08:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, when we've been caught, it's not mattered. Your uncle did tell your father that lie about someone brushing you on the staircase, what?

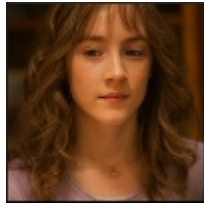
But I suppose you're right. It would be foolish to get caught now, of all times.


I'm not sure whether he's trying to catch people admitting they support Muggles or whether he's truly liberal in his own attitudes. Most Muggles are free, Dux. I expect he probably did spend some time interacting, what, but at the same time wizards in other countries are bally well hidden from Muggles unless they don't wish to be. So he could easily have gone all over and never had anything to do with them if he'd preferred. It's well disturbing, though, to work so hard at not sounding like I've lived a Muggle up until a few years ago, only to have him acting like Muggle contraband is as tempting as that awful book everyone's still passing round.

No, I don't know, either. I'm not going to his little social hours, though, what!



-J



 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-09 03:18:11](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose it's best if you don't engage much with him on the topic of muggles, just to be safe. Or, if you do, you ought to pretend to be just as daft about them as I am. It might be a good way to draw out what he actually thinks about them, really.

We won't risk it but it won't stop me wishing I could see you. I wish we were in the same House, so I could imagine if you were this many or that many feet away, and in what direction. Also how you might look at your desk, with your brow all furrowed as you studied your journal.

Well, tomorrow isn't so far away, at least.

Love,  
Hydra



 **alt\_justin** at [2012-10-09 03:33:23](#)  
(no subject)

Dash it, now I've gone and been cross with Sally-Anne for asking about Muggle things. And it's nothing to do with her at all.

I love you, too. And I wish we could bally well be together, all the time. ~~Especially when you need~~ I know we've always said we'll probably not be allowed to stay together, what, that sooner or later ~~your mother~~ someone would make us stop. Now that's all I can think about, and what would happen if your father decided we could never see each other again. I find I can't quite reconcile to it.

If we were in the same House then everything would be different. We could slip down to the Common Room or find someplace and stay together all night and then go back to our rooms in the morning and no one need ever know it.

No. Tomorrow's not far. But it's not tonight, either.

I guess we ought to try to sleep, what?

Sweet dreams, love.

Your own

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-09 03:45:53**  
*(no subject)*

Mummy and Daddy might try to make me do a lot of things, sooner or later. But I won't think about that now. There are better things to be thinking of.

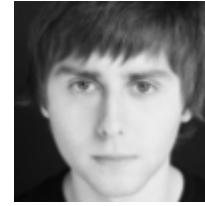
Don't fret about Sally Anne; it can't much be helped, I don't think. She's a forgiving sort, anyway.

See you tomorrow.

Goodnight,  
Hydra

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

*Private Message to Janus and Camille Jugson*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Dear Mr and Mrs Jugson,

Thank you very much for the parcel that arrived this morning; it's most thoughtful of you to send the jumper as I had just been thinking I needed to look for one. I'm quite fond of the colour, too, Mrs Jugson.

Mr Jugson, I'm rather embarrassed to have to write to you on another matter. You see, I have been corresponding with Flourish and Blotts on the subject of the textbooks for Professor Dolohov's lessons that were unavailable at the beginning of term. The assistant, Mr Chau, has been quite helpful providing a selection of the necessary texts. Unfortunately, I received an owl from him this morning as well, informing me that they attempted to draw payment from my Gringott's account on Friday and were turned down for insufficient funds.

Sir, I'm sure there's some clerical error or mistake on the part of the bank, naturally. We had agreed that the allotment should be transferred into that account by the first day of business of each month; that should have been last Monday. If you'd be so kind as to contact Gringott's and ensure that the transfer is completed, I would appreciate it. I shall look forward to your post or owl informing me that I may authorise payment to the bookshop.

Remy and Alfie send their love. We're all quite fine and so far as I know, their lessons are going well, as are mine.

Thank you again for your kindness.

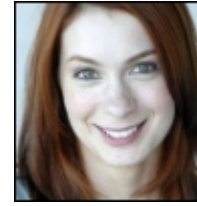
Regards,

-Justin Finch-Fletchley

**2012-10-08 23:07:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

Emmaline, Kingsley's kipping the night here. He was fairly exhausted when he arrived with Sarah Brown, and we convinced him he'd be better off Apparating after a night's sleep and breakfast.



 [alt\\_alice](#)

Morgan Griffiths is settling right in. I think the fact we have other Muggles here, including a few who are close to her own age has helped immensely. She's already gotten to know Patty and Lisa quite well, and Candace has immediately taken her under her wing and has been showing her the ropes in the nursery. I think she'll be a useful addition there.


Arthur, I've been talking to Stephen about Agram Japra. He's said that he can send off a list of all the standard diagnostics and potions that are standard for the infants at Moddey, and if Agram's parents are still insistent, he'd be willing and able to administer the traditional Muggle vaccines. They'd have to be shipped in from France -- some of them must be kept cold and expire if they've reached a certain age, so we most likely wouldn't find any medicines that were still useful here. He's had to work with needles and things while in the camps, so he'd be able to administer it properly. He'll say as much in the note he's sending off.

Other than that, there's not much news to report. We're back to our normal schedule now that most everything has been repaired and cleaned, and we're hoping that our hasty second summer planting will produce some crops before the first frost. At the very least, we'll plant our fall and winter crops more aggressively than usual, which should balance out some of our losses from summer, and Victor and Danny have been getting quite good at fishing to supplement our animal stock.

That's all for now, as I really ought to turn in for the night.



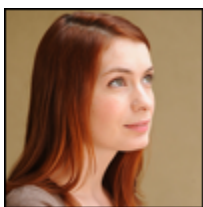
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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-10-10 01:08:13**  
*Private Message to Alice*

I still say sticking needles in children is a ridiculous way to protect them.

Did Dudley get his note? I wrote back to Harry but I'm

not sure how much good it's doing. Merlin, I'm rubbish at this sort of thing.



 **alt\_alice** at [2012-10-10 02:53:53](#)

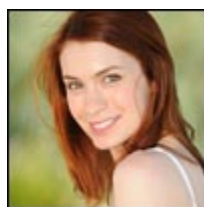
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

He did. He must have read it a dozen times by now, and has been sorting through some things with our Terry's help.

I don't think he quite knows how to react. He knows who Harry is through rumour, and he is still processing the idea that he's related to the adopted son of the Lord Protector himself. He's angry, confused, and eager, all at the same time.

Did you see the note, love? Did you see how he signed his name?

I think Harry has quite a lot on his mind these days. And you're doing the best you can. He's still turning to you for advice, which is something.



 **alt\_alice** at [2012-10-10 02:57:13](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

According to Terry, they've been going on lots of long walks lately while Dudley thinks things over. They tend to play a lot of fetch, with Terry as the Professor.

And Dudley's planning to reply, at least from what Terry tells me. He might need some help writing it, though; he finds writing to be a challenge.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-10-10 03:03:58](#)

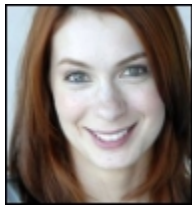
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

After being berated by young people half my age, I didn't dare look at a note that wasn't addressed to me, so no, I didn't see how he signed. Why?

He's turning to loads of people for advice, seems like. What concerns me is whether he'll stop when he hears the advice he's hoping to hear. And what will happen if that advice isn't coming

from me.

I dunno; maybe next time they start writing to me I really will hand the letters off to the lot of you to answer. Or maybe we'll switch off: You answer Parkinson, I'll answer Neville and Frank can answer Harry.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-10 03:13:02](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Oh, I don't think I'm quite fond enough of Ms Parkinson for that. So you're stuck with her, unless you can twist dear Remus's arm.

Dudley was a bit confused and asked me about it, which is why I know. He signed it as Harry Potter, Sirius.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-10 03:25:34](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Did he?

Really.

That's

Merlin.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-10 03:31:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

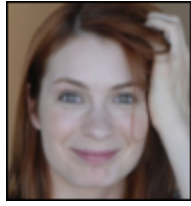
Really.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-10 03:27:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

And I bet Remus would write. Or maybe Dora. They've helped before, after all.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-10 03:32:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Well, now that they know about the wand smugglers, there's certainly a precedent. Although you might get some whinging for passing them off to someone who is not Sirius

Black Himself.

**2012-10-10 10:33:00**

*Upcoming notes*

**Boys and girls:**

Just a reminder that we will be meeting again on Sunday. We do have invited guests, so I will expect you to be particularly attentive to details of dress and deportment, and to be most attentive to each presentation. Please gather as a large group promptly at 2 in the afternoon, and we will be thereafter splitting you into four groups. You will spend three-quarters of an hour with each presenter.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#)

**Counsellors:** Please come half an hour early to make sure the rooms we are using are arranged appropriately and help with our attendance taking.

**Other notes:** Several of you will also receive notes for further brief appointments with me in the next few days. I do look forward to your prompt attention.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at **2012-10-10 14:50:19**

*Private message to Marston Strangeweale and Latimer Caldwell*

Gentlemen -

More than one thing of interest at the moment. Shall we meet early next week to discuss further?

First, on Thursday, I had the most tedious talking to from Septima, on matters of discipline. Strongly cautioned not to take matters into my own hands beyond the entirely limited range described to me. Given the current state of affairs, I naturally agreed, but I do wish to discuss it further. A note to follow this is, as you might guess, also a step in what I hope will be new directions for the school.

On that note, I have also had a chance for a word with a few students about that demonstration on Saturday. It has the students worked up in an entirely unproductive way. I had prior plans I'd not change for that kind of reckless demonstration of - what does one call it, brute force? But I gather from what I've heard thus far that it impressed students in all the wrong sorts of ways, with flash and show rather than sober discipline and reason. I'd be most curious about what



your connections might have to share.

I admit, even knowing some of the goals for the CCF, I had rather hoped we were past the time when that kind of too-physical response was praised and lauded as much as I've heard the last few days. There is a time for action, yes, but there is also a time for shared collaborative effort and carefully planned progress, and we could do with more examples of the latter.

I do think it's most dangerous for students to become too attached, as it were, to a particular staff member, and that demonstrations like Saturday's only make that easier. Of course, there are times that attachment is entirely desirable, as those in Our Lord's service all know too well. But one wishes the attachment to be to Our Lord himself, not to his followers.

And there, while I should say that students have been careful not to say so, it is clear that Professor Sinistra had acquired quite the loyal following of her own. I am working, as I may, to disassemble that, or at the very least, direct student energies to other goals. (Without, naturally, affecting her actual teaching: there is little to complain of there. And while Astronomy is a core subject, it is scarcely a particularly politically delicate one, and regardless not worth much attention.) I anticipate that easy enough to handle, especially as she accumulates other distractions of her own.

I await - and appreciate - your thoughts,  
Dolores



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at [2012-10-10 15:14:27](#)

*Private message to Josiah Peakes*

Sir,

I know you've a number of other considerations and demands on your attention, but I wondered if we might schedule a meeting in the next week or two. I know how deeply attentive you have been to matters at Hogwarts in your role as Chair of the Board of Governors. I do hope that my fresh perspective - and as an outside observer, not someone whose loyalties must be divided between staff commitments and students - might be of interest to you.

I'd be glad to arrange a visit in New London, and at your

convenience. I'd also particularly welcome the chance to discuss your foster son, and learn if I might be of assistance in directing his energies, goals, and opportunities in a way that serve your plans for him.

In service,  
Dolores Umbridge



**alt\_umbridge** at **2012-10-10 15:50:35**

*Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

Good morning -

I do hope you enjoyed your visit on Saturday - so sorry that other plans had me away from the school for the day.

Listening to the dear children chatter since, though, I am wondering if I might have a word. I know you're a good friend of Antonin's. I certainly appreciate his motivations in wanting to demonstrate the full potency of the Arts and wands at Our Lord's service.

But you - as a governor of the school, never mind a parent - should be aware that the demonstration is not quite having the hoped-for effect. And surely, I thought, you could approach him with a tad more delicacy than I can.

Poor Aurora is so star-struck - as are so many of our students - that she simply doesn't know how to advise him, and well, Rabastan suffers from having being Antonin's student in the past. Always so hard to shift to a new relationship with one's former teachers, I've found.

In particular, I'm concerned that his goals may sooner than later run counter to the balanced, measured, progressive training the CCF is seeking to offer. I am just so terribly worried that students will become reckless, trying to show the same skill and delight in wand work - in fact, we're seeing some hints of that already, as their enthusiasms lead them astray. And all the complexities of mistaking style for substance, looking to display skills they have not yet achieved through hard work.

I just *know* he'll listen to your advice on the best course for the school. Whatever our disagreements in the past, I have always

appreciated your dedication and commitment to doing what is necessary for the good of Our Lord's realm.

Dolores



 **alt\_lucius at 2012-10-10 21:36:28**

*Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

Dolores,

Such a shame we were deprived of the pleasure of your company.

Pray accept my excuses for taking several hours to reply to such a simple inquiry. In future should you require a response more promptly, feel free to direct your comments in a separate post to me or to my clerk; he only alerted me to this message as part of his daily sweep for journal entries bearing my name. (As to the timing, surprised you have so quickly lost track of the Ministry's monthly schedule: Was deep in the intricacies of the Wizengamot Executive Session when you apparently committed this to parchment. But then routines are very much a product of one's environment, are they not? Sure that you have adjusted to the hours kept by the other members of staff.)

But on to the matter at hand. Regarding the motives you ascribe, it is true that Antonin Nikolaevich had a few ulterior aims when he proposed the exercise and particularly in extending his invitation to myself and the other Councilwizards present. Had you been there, you should have seen for yourself that primary among his goals was to demonstrate the precautions one must take to put on such a display in safety; a secondary purpose was to assure his charges and yours that when used properly, the Noble Arts turn one into neither monster nor menace. Indeed, the discussion afterward was ideally suited to spark the students' admiration, rather than their fear. Though that seems to be the crux of your dilemma, from the sound of it.

Bereft of you as we were, you were not there to hear Professor Dolohov *expressly forbid* any experimentation of the sort you describe. Indeed, both he and Professor Lestrangle have made it perfectly plain to any and all of their students that attempts to emulate their performance will meet their teachers' great displeasure. Should not need to explain to a woman of your

knowledge the sincerity of Antonin's threat: A threat which their actions of the after-noon's demonstration ought to have made undesirable in the extreme.

But thank you, Dolores, for bringing the matter to my attention. Children being what they are, no doubt some one or two are either so awestruck as to have forgotten their instructions or so foolish as to believe those directions need not apply. It would not shock me to learn that Antonin Nikolaevich is already aware of the 'hints' to which you allude. Rest assured that he knows enough to reinforce his prohibition and to remind his students to observe Hogwarts' rules regarding duelling without proper supervision, casting spells in the corridors or otherwise convening in ways that are proscribed by their teachers and other caretakers.

On the other hand, have no particular objection to students who carry the inspiration of the event as a spur to apply themselves *in their lessons* or in ways that break no school rules. Enthusiasm in teenagers at least conveys that one has their attention, which you no doubt agree can be nearly impossible to capture in the best of circumstances.

In either case, believe the school already had a hierarchy in place for just this sort of course correction, if and when it becomes necessary. Have those methods already failed to reach Professor Dolohov? Find it difficult to believe that in the three days since he and Rizzer duelled, every attempt to nip the students' indiscretion in the bud, as it were, has been exhausted. Suggest, Dolores, that you work within the structure you have been given, before involving the Governors. Two of us were there, after all.

But do let me know if you are unable to obtain the results you crave and if not, who stands in your way. Shall of course be happy to provide whatever reasonable assistance is necessary in that case.

Yours most earnestly,

Lucius S. Malfoy, &c.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at [2012-10-11 01:53:48](#)

*Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

Thank you, of course, for a better way to reach you for an urgent question. Naturally, while this is important, it equally, I am sure, is not the most urgent matter in either of our days. And in fact, apologies for my own delay - I've been meeting with some of the younger students, now I've worked through the CCF corps and counsellors, and that's taken much of my evening.

And you are quite right that it's amazing how quickly the old habits of schedule drop away - but then, I suppose, when in Rome, one follows the local clock.

Now, I am very glad to hear the precautions you mention, and the warnings to the students. I admit my own sources did not emphasise their presence to quite that degree. And I have had quite the reminder and review from Septima Vector, recently, about the traditional methods of ensuring student discipline.

It is not, really, that I think students will run riot in the hallways, precisely - I suppose some will, and will be dealt with. But instead, and this is why I came to you, the larger question of discipline. I would bring it up in a staff meeting, but the staff have been quite clear that as I am not teaching in the same capacity, it would be both unnecessary and apparently tedious for me. And at the moment, I do not wish to press that issue.

However, I do wonder if a great many things about the manner of the school might not deserve new attention. I gather that the current system - house points, detentions from the head of house or appropriate staff member, and so forth - has been in place for decades, more or less without change. And for many students, I admit, it appears to work quite adequately. Some never get in any kind of mischief, some it dissuades (or the pressure from their peers dissuades).

But as I've been here, I've heard more and more stories that concern me: abseiling off towers, that matter with the potions ring a few years ago, that matter with Cassandra Calderwood last year. And I begin to wonder if some truly complete review of the school, methods, and curriculum might not be worthwhile.

Looking at what records I've access to here - which admittedly are only one piece of the conversation - I see that while there were certainly substantial changes once Our Lord reclaimed the Ministry for proper-minded wizardry, other parts of the school (the budgetary assumptions, discipline methods, even some details of food and student care) have not had close review. Or perhaps they have, by the Board, whose records I naturally do not have access to. And of course, outside of the expectations of the O.W.L. and N.E.W.T. examinations, staff set their own curricula, and vary widely in rigor, practicality, and coordination with other staff teaching related topics.

As you can see, it is not that I have any great immediate complaint. Only that I wonder how we might do far better by our future if we had a more streamlined, efficient, and disciplined environment for their learning. I do stand ready to be of service, if I might assist in such a review, even simply gathering information and materials for your consideration.

Yours, in shared service,  
Dolores



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-10-11 03:02:20](#)

*Re: Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

If you wish to wring the blood of Galleons from Hogwarts' budget of stone, Dolores, by all means, be our guest.

You'll recall that the Matron has been through extensive review and as a parent whose children have all come under her care at some time or other during their schooling, there can be no complaint of her professionalism or skills.

As for the disciplinary methods, surely Horace has held forth on the age-old traditions. Certainly they have been more lax at times (in my day, for example, when the head of the school had a softer attitude) but for the most part things have not changed since long before that. If you think back to your own experiences at Hogwarts, am sure you appreciate the ... balance of permissiveness with regulation.

Food remains a challenge, of course. There again, would invite

you and your knowledge of the camp agricultural efforts to provide ingenuity in the face of short supply.



**alt\_umbridge** at **2012-10-10 16:10:49**

*Private message to Agnesta Bottle and Caprina Pearce*

Such a pleasure to see you both on Saturday - and Rupi as always, has her uses, I suppose. No, that's unkind of me. She's been so loyal and willing to help through the years, just one does tire a little of her endless stories and insistences.

Now, Aggie, always just *so* interesting to hear the details of your family. Quite a different thing there. And Rina, that luncheon you arranged was so delicate. I cannot begin to tell you how tiring the school food is. The house-elves do a good enough job, I suppose, given the numbers, but it is - even at the staff table - far heavier than I'd prefer. Quite the challenge.

I did truly miss meeting with you all in September, but of course with the start of the school year, I could scarcely be away. I do think I can arrange for November. There's one of those Quidditch matches here on the 3rd, so I shall particularly welcome the chance to be away from the chaos, I'm sure. I suppose the little dears do need something to engage them outside of classes, but really, the fussing about the effect of some of my plans on their practice schedule. Well, I went on long enough Saturday, I'm sure. No need to retread old ground.

Now, Aggie, do remember to let me know what your son-in-law can share, and Rina, your daughter and her husband. I'm most interested.

Oh, goodness. Lunch, already. Must dash, there's someone I want to catch. Do enjoy your visit to Bath, Aggie. Such a treat for you, really. You could use a little relaxation, surely.

D.

**2012-10-10 11:13:00**

*Private Message to Linus*

'Details of dress and deportment' means you, Lines. I can't believe you tore the sleeves off your robes.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

It's well ridiculous and everyone's talking about it.

You're a prefect, not a firstie! It's all very well to find Professor D impressive--we all do--but for Lakshmi's sake, try to act with a little decorum?

And I don't care if Professor Sprout thought it was because we're repotting Giant Mingweals and you didn't want to get their dust on your robes.



**2012-10-10 16:03:00**

*Private Message to Bellatrix Lestrange*


Saw Clark clinging to your sleeve this noon.

He had something to report?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 01:03:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Mmm. More request than report. He thinks I might be moved to put his name in Hopkirk's ear for Pale's position. Seems the noise over at Wards and Borders is getting louder by the day, and now's the time for calling in favours.

I struggle to remember the last time I granted a favour.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 01:16:40](#)

*(no subject)*

If Pale ends up hexed from behind by her own, it's her fault she gave them opportunity.

Haven't seen anything to make me think Clark would serve our interests better, though.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 01:30:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Too true.

The best that can be said of Clark is "adequate," I think. I have no idea what gave him the notion that he could sway me to his cause. Told him I would consider it, though I have little intention of doing as much. Simply thought it might be diverting to see whether it emboldens him or not.



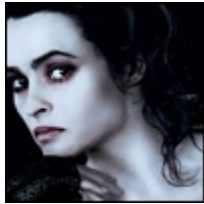
 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 02:11:42](#)  
(no subject)

Sporting of you.

Wish our own hunt were as engaging. Just saw Braithwaite. Says he's 14 and 1 on the week.

Sector 28.

Followed a lead up there, but thinks it was rubbish. Says he's sold near everything in his handcart, though, from rat poison to cursed cauldrons. And collected a few new informants. If they don't slip his tag.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 02:24:49](#)  
(no subject)

I'll see that Hopkirk has us re-stocked by morning.

I had hoped Sector 28 would yield better results. Seems an ideal sort of hideaway spot, hm? Though perhaps not for someone so fond of ready ears.

Feeling restless, Barty? I did warn you that we were still in the intel stages. Or is it Saturday's little show that's on your mind? Almost sorry I missed it. Suppose it's good to know that Rabastan hasn't turned himself into a pudding yet, so busy teaching small ones how to swish and flick, or lounging on his back counting stars.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 03:19:17](#)  
(no subject)

S28 may still yield. He can't have scratched more than the surface. Sounds as if he stuck close to Walthamstow.

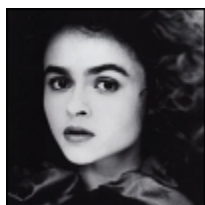
Saturday, yes. Haven't been able to lose the taste of it yet. A bit taut still.

As for Raz. Could definitely use some regular challenge. Wouldn't have stood a chance against him if Toshenka hadn't

still been so limited. Should very much like to see them repeat in a month or so.

Waiting my day, as well.

Ouroboros tomorrow? After Hopkirk and Yaxley's afternoon briefing. Having you to look forward to might keep me from hexing Nashe when he puts his eleventh or twelfth asinine question.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 03:28:26](#)  
(no subject)

Raz has limits of his own to worry about, or so I've gleaned. Not that it's ever an excuse. Fight till you fall apart or don't at all.

Ouroboros - was going to say it myself. Have a venture for afterward if the blood's still warm.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 03:31:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh?



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 03:38:43](#)  
(no subject)

There's so many places in New London for a poor, helpless woman to run into trouble, don't you agree?

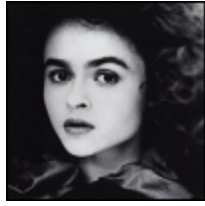


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 03:42:57](#)  
(no subject)

...

Quite.

Which of us did you have in mind for that role?



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 03:54:06](#)  
(no subject)

I know, we're both so unsuited to it.

I've got quite good at playing it, but you might enjoy it more than you expect.

But if dropping the guise of masculine authority doesn't appeal, there's always other game to be had.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-11 03:59:45](#)  
(no subject)

Hm. A challenge?

You're on.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-11 04:06:05](#)  
(no subject)

Good.

**2012-10-10 20:57:00**

*Order Only: Agam Japra's parents and their decision*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

It took several attempts, but I managed to meet with both of them again, and I delivered Stephen's letter, explaining what steps we would have to take to meet their condition that Agam be vaccinated. (This conversation at times was rather laborious, since Dr Japra had to translate some of the more technical medical points for Agam's mother, who is not entirely fluent in English.) Dr Japra, the father, was obviously reassured that we had someone associated with our group who obviously knows what he is talking about, medically.

I explained that while we would certainly try to use the muggle method to vaccinate Agam, it might mean a delay, as we might need to smuggle the vaccine from France, and we could not be as sure that he would be protected as well and as quickly as if we used the potions that all wizards use. And after all, I pointed out gently, what was the real object here? That we adhere to muggle methods at all costs, or that we make sure he is protected from disease? After all, Agam, is a wizard. By releasing their son to us, they have to understand that he will be entering a wizard's world and will grow up doing things rather differently than the ways to which they are accustomed. But we are committing to seeing that he will be safe; that is, after all, why we are trying to keep him out of the hands of the Protectorate authorities in the first place (I tactfully did not mention that, technically speaking, I am a Protectorate authority.)

Dr Japra, I think, as a man of science, is a logical man, and this argument did strike him as persuasive. I did suggest that I could bring a copy of Agam's medical records when I did my yearly visits, and that seemed to all but tip them over the decision point. Yet I could see that they were still hesitating, and so I asked if there was anything else that needed to be addressed to convince them.

Mrs Japra spoke then, rather tearfully, saying that it was just difficult to give up their last child, when they had lost the other two. To never see him, not to be able to be with him during a child's personal milestones...well, you can imagine. I explained about the magical sketch that we prepare for parents, and how it would give them a glimpse of Agam as he grows.

Dr Japra grasped his wife's hand as I spoke and seemed quite overcome for a moment. 'That would help,' he said. 'If I had something like that, of my two little girls, I mean--' He drew out his handkerchief and honked his nose as his wife bowed her head on his shoulder and wept.

I looked away to give them a moment to collect themselves, and that's when I spied the picture, over to one side, mounted above a table. A black and white unmoving Muggle photograph of two little girls, about two and four, I think. The younger one had her head leaning on her older sister's shoulder, just as Mrs Japra's head was leaning on her husband's. I went over and took it down off the wall and brought it back over to my seat. 'This isn't a permanent spell. It will last about ten minutes. I could perhaps show you....'

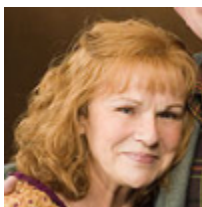
Perhaps I would have second-guessed my own impulse if I had thought about it more, but I took out my wand and tapped the photograph as I tilted it for them to see. In a minute, the girls aged about twenty years, hair lengthening, their snub baby features smoothing out, blossoming into lovely young women with the same laughing, tender crooked smiles.


'Oh,' sighed Mrs Japra with a catch in her throat as she looked at the photograph hungrily.

Dr Japra made a sound that seemed to be forced out past a very large lump in his throat. I placed the photograph gently into his shaking hands and tiptoed out of the room.

They remained in there for ten minutes, and I didn't hear a sound. I wondered if I had just made a horrible mistake.

And then they came out and put Agam into my arms to take away with me.




 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2012-10-11 02:54:23**

*Private message to Arthur Weasley*

You dear, dear man.

I do love you so much.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-11 02:54:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley*

Will you be home soon, Arthur?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-11 02:57:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley*

Soon, Mollywobbles.

I hope you don't mind if I linger a bit in the nursery, just to see that the boy is happy before I leave.

This one...this one was just particularly hard.

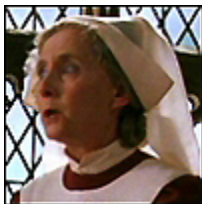


 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-11 03:00:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Arthur Weasley*

Of course, dear. I'll keep dinner warm for you.

Oh, and do ask Victor for his larder inventory list before you leave. I asked him to prepare it, so I could check to see if there's any chance that the barter network can help fill in any gaps.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-10-11 03:27:53](#)

*(no subject)*

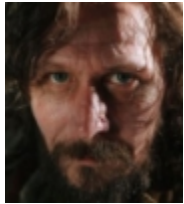
Arthur, are you saying that the Japras are still insisting on the Muggle preventatives? And that Stephen is not to give the child the regular course of childhood potions until ... when? How long must we

delay?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-11 11:50:51](#)  
(no subject)

Dr Japra has given me a list of the vaccination programme that muggle children follow, i.e., the age at which they receive each shot for each specific disease. He says that he would prefer the muggle method, but he agrees that disease protection is more important. Therefore, if we have to vary from the schedule by more than a month for each shot if supplies of muggle vaccine are more problematic or unobtainable, we have their permission to substitute the wizarding potion.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-11 15:08:43](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Allie, I hope you've considered refrigeration methods. I don't know much about the ~~potions~~ serums this Japra's talking about but I'm fairly certain they can't be allowed to freeze, either.

Get me the list, Arthur, and I'll get it to Aleks.

And ... thank you, Arthur. I know that was a difficult thing to do.



**2012-10-10 21:03:00**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

So.

Wow.

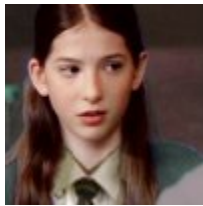
I mean... that was really interesting.

And useful!

And I now know more now about Professor Siz than I ever thought I would.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-10-11 01:07:28**

*(no subject)*

I think I know more about Professor Siz than I really wanted to know.

She also seemed ... weirdly enthusiastic about the idea of us getting it on with some boy. You know? And then we asked her Hydra's question and she was all, 'well, if you're going to marry some bloke whose family does virginity-detection charms at the wedding you might now want to have actual SEX with anybody...'

But the book is really useful. And the charm in the book. And the potion. I think I'm pretty sure I know how to not get pregnant, anyway.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-10-11 01:11:45**

*(no subject)*

Yeah. I know.

It was weird, but it was also sort of nice to know that it was okay with somebody.

And the not getting pregnant thing is definitely good. Even though it would be terribly awkward to see Madame Pomfrey for potions and things, getting pregnant would be more awkward.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 01:15:09](#)  
(no subject)

Well, and the potion wouldn't be all that hard to brew. Although if we asked Professor Slughorn for fennel and some time to brew without telling him what we were making HE'D TOTALLY KNOW.

I'm not sure I really know what boys will actually expect from me, though. Other than, 'whips and leather and all that business from Profundis is optional.'



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 01:19:02](#)  
(no subject)

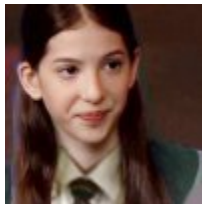
He would, wouldn't he?


Optional, or, you know, not. It just all sounded so uncomfortable and sort of sad. Maybe I'm just not getting why getting hit by someone would ever be fun. Ever.

It certainly wasn't for Daphs.

But I do like the book she gave us. Especially the section on what you can do besides just, you know, *intercourse*.

Does it ever stop being so horribly awkward to talk about, I wonder?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:05:31](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm not sure Professor Siz realises how EMBARRASSING it would be to talk about this sort of thing when you're a teenager.

Since she was 22, after all (wasn't that what she said? twenty-two? Although that was for properly losing her virginity so she might have got it on with another girl first.)

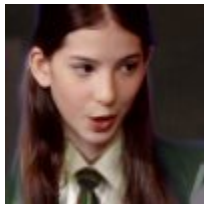


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 02:06:24](#)  
(no subject)

...I was too busy blushing to pay attention to the specifics on that one. But she was older, yes.

I know the article that was printed over hols said that she'd been with boys and girls. So that wasn't too surprising, I don't guess. Which is probably why she up and told us, because it was already out there.

I wonder what it feels like to like both. I'm fairly sure I don't like girls the same way I do boys. But it must get terribly confusing if you do, sorting out who you like, I mean. And what you like. Because what I like about boys are their *muscles*, and the way they smell, and how they move, and how strong and solid they can be, and girls just don't have any of that.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:08:46](#)  
(no subject)

That article said ALL SORTS OF THINGS and I hope it wasn't ALL true.

As far as girls go, Milli's solid enough!

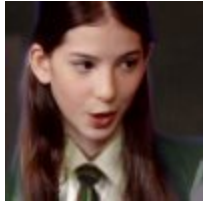


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 02:20:57](#)  
(no subject)

But her solidness doesn't make me go weak at the knees or want to snog her. She just... is.

And on the other side of things, Vince and Greg don't smell good at all. Ever. Even when they try.

I doubt it was all true. But we know for sure that part of it was now.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:25:49](#)  
(no subject)

I'm going to try hard not to think about whether the rest is true. Because you know if SOME of it was true...

NOT THINKING ABOUT IT NOT NOT NOT.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 02:29:31](#)  
(no subject)

I will join you in not thinking.



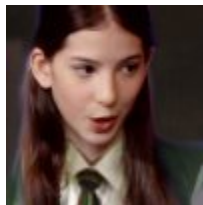
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:26:24](#)  
(no subject)

And I think Vince and Greg want to smell nasty. If they didn't, wouldn't they bathe more often?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 02:28:16](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe their noses have just given up working, and they are simply and blissfully unaware?

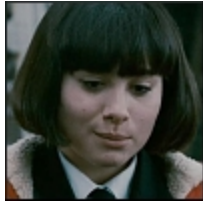


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:32:38](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps we could persuade some friendly male professor to invite them by to give them a TALK about IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BOYS.

Such as, 'shower daily, lads.'

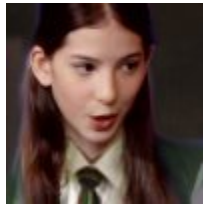
I wonder if there's a 'hygiene compulsion' spell? Professor Dolohov wouldn't approve of us experimenting with this sort of thing out of class, but it would be for a GOOD CAUSE.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-11 02:38:14](#)  
(no subject)

Or we could convince Hembrige that a section on cleanliness should be added to CCF. I'm sure she'd just *love* that.

Maybe she'd start checking behind our ears and the backs of our hands every day, just to make sure we didn't miss any teensy spots.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-11 02:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

Now I'm trying to decide if it would be worth having Hembridge looking behind my ears, if it would at least force Vince and Greg to bathe regularly.

I don't think so.

ALMOST, but not quite.

**2012-10-10 22:36:00**

*Private Message to Draco*

Son,

No need to reply unless you feel like it. Am giving someone a lesson in patience.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

However, occurred to me that we have not discussed your mother's birthday. You may be sure that this year's anniversary is giving her more difficulty than she would care to admit. More than her usual reluctance, that is. Hope whatever you have been considering is discreet.

Believe that I have found the solution on my part, though timing is, always, an issue. Your upcoming match is 3<sup>rd</sup> November, which is just possible on the heels of Our Lord's birthday celebrations but perilously close to Bonfire Night, which the last few years has been tumultuous.

Have decided, therefore, that the following week-end we shall visit Castle Rushen on the Isle of Man. Telling you mainly because my goal shall be to minimise our distraction on the trip, to the point of forgoing journal communication (if at all possible, limiting it to no more than an hour a day or so if not possible to leave it aside altogether).

That by itself is hardly remarkable as we have tended to take time alone, if not at her birthday or mine, then certainly on our anniversary. Expect she will decide I am being unoriginal, which is part of the plan. For the secluded week-end is merely the backdrop to present her with her real gift, which is a 20-ft brigantine to sail us back to Lancaster, where she'll winter (unless your mother wishes to sail her elsewhere). But confess that I have been unable to hit upon the right name for the vessel. Had thought of the *Amaryllis*, the *Cassiopeia*, even the *Regulus* but of course that is not a name to be used lightly. Suppose the best option is to leave her unchristened and let your mother do the honours.

On another topic entirely, you have not heard any rumblings of students taking it into their heads to attempt anything like Rizzer's and Antosha's display on Saturday? Do discourage it; you know as well as anyone how dangerous it could be without the proper

precautions.


Well. It's been long enough now to answer her. Except to say that I hope you are otherwise well and should you wish to discuss any topic at all, know that I am, as always, at your service.

Forgive the intrusion from your affectionate

Father

---



 **alt\_draco** at [2012-10-11 02:55:01](#)  
(no subject)

Who's the lesson for, then? Crouch?

Not that I'm expecting an answer; consider it rhetorical.

I figured that this birthday would be a trial. Have a rather inoffensive gift in mind so that it doesn't seem like some milestone event. Sounds like a spiffing holiday, in any case. I'll try to refrain from my usual habit of bombarding you with messages - unless emergency strikes, of course.

She might like to name the brigantine, I suppose. But giving it the right name might be a more memorable gesture.

What about *The Leonis*?

Saturday's display...well, there's been rumblings from Teddy and Vince, yeah. But they're always on about doing something mad, so there isn't much new there.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-10-11 03:21:03](#)  
(no subject)

Rhetorically, then, it could be for someone who still expects her whims to be met on her own timetable. And someone who is meddling in areas that are not

her concern.

No matter.


Indeed - and much effort has been given over this month already to

diverting the tokens and remembrances which others desire to give your mother, but which you and I know would only upset. Not that she dislikes the attention, of course - only the reason for it. But you have gained an appreciation for her sensitivity, which is gratifying to see. At least, you are kinder to her than you were to me for a much lesser milestone. Do you recall the basket of items you and Harry assembled the year I turned 35? Still think Ari assisted you, though he flatly denies it to this day.

*The Leonis* - good thought, son. A strong possibility. Or the *Cygna*. Shall continue to think on it.

Ah. Had heard some rumour of an undesirable reaction to the demonstration. Good. So long as it has no basis in reality, shall cease to worry about taking preemptive action.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-10-11 03:36:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Still haven't found a use for that colour-change denture creme, Father? It'll come...it'll come.

Mrs Poddington is monitoring her Owl post to weed out all the the well-meaning messages, I hope?

Yes, *Cygna*'s a good option, too.

And as to the last, I'll keep an eye and ear out for such an "undesirable reaction," but can't say I've heard anything out of the ordinary just yet.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2012-10-11 03:43:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, no fear, son, Ari's already received it back again.

Yes, Mariposa knows to set them aside and answer without bothering your mother with them. (Talk about a lesson learnt the hard way! Not a mistake Mrs Poddington will ever make again, one trusts.)



Right. It's quite late for you, isn't it? I've a few more notes to pen but you've no need to keep me company if you're tired.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-11 03:47:09](#)

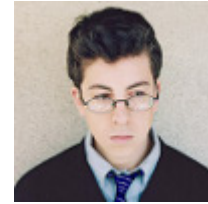
*(no subject)*

I'm keeping your hours, remember?

But I am tired, so I'm off to bed. Goodnight,  
Father.

**2012-10-11 00:27:00**

*Private Message to Linus Moon*



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Dear Journal,

All is ashes and dungbombs.

The only one who truly understands what I'm feeling is Byron, and he's dead. Although I'm not the only suffering spirit in the Ravenclaw Common Room lately.

Tearing the sleeves from my robes did not turn out as I had hoped. She did not see the expression of my noble spirit, fired by the example of our Professors in their glorious duel. (Note to self: exercise needed to improve biceps.) Still, even if she censures me, I shall bear up bravely and work twice as hard to be worthy in her eyes.

“Though more than Hope can claim,  
Could Friendship less require?”

Nevertheless I think I'll put the sleeves back in. Astronomy required more attention to warming charms than I anticipated, and it's hard to keep one's dignity with one's schoolmates giggling at one. Still, I cut a noble figure up on the tower tonight, like a windblown hero. And even if she made fun of me earlier, at least she noticed me. Right?

I wonder if Byron had days like this when he was a student.

“And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meets in her aspect and her eyes”

Right. Onward.

Faithfully yours,  
Linus Moon

**2012-10-11 21:59:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

we've got another set of trips planned for the weekend with ridley's contacts. we'll let everyone know how it goes.



 [alt\\_frank](#)

kingsley, arthur, I've been thinking that now that we've got the current group of babies safe and sound, maybe you lot could work on visiting the moddey families and getting contacts from them while we continue to work ridley's contacts. we'll help pick up the slack once we get to the end of our list.

another thing I've been thinking on is ways to get in contact with everyone once we've established contact. going from camp to camp and talking with everyone one at a time takes time and energy, and if we'd need to get word out, it'd be damn hard to do it quickly, seeing as most of them don't have journals or wands. we might get them journals that are linked to ours, maybe -- bill, could we do something like that? that might work for the muggle born in the camps, but some of our contacts will be muggles and won't be able to use journals.



---

 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **2012-10-12 02:45:43**

*(no subject)*

Every time we add to our crop of babies, the task of keeping up with the yearly follow up visits, grows, too. And if we start developing contacts between Ridley's people and our people...

Yes. I think we need to think if there are any other methods that we can use to exchange information, once those connections have been made.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2012-10-12 02:48:10**

*(no subject)*

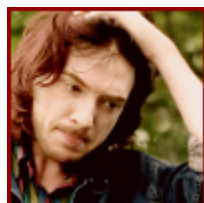
Agreed. The Players are willing to help, of course. And of course the more we can coordinate with Davidson's people, or even Beth's network, the better.


But of course, there are additional security risks, the more people we involve.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-12 02:48:52](#)  
(no subject)

Plus the burden of coordinating information.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-12 02:50:49](#)  
(no subject)

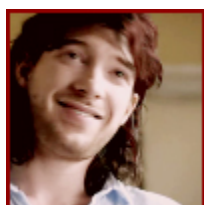
Merlin, yes. A lot of our information is cached with my analysts, and as we add contacts, the connections we have to analyse will go up exponentially.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-12 02:52:59](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you came up with the Order lock, and we came up with our own lock, too.

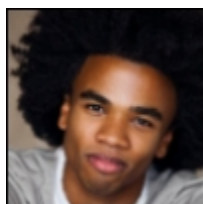
Maybe if we put our heads together, the three of us could come up with some other methods? Even for exchanging information with muggles?




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-12 02:54:11](#)  
(no subject)

It's possible.


I've developed a whole new level of respect for your ingenuity.



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-12 02:55:16](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe it doesn't have to be an entirely new method.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-10-12 02:57:11](#)**  
(no subject)

we've got our lock, maybe we could up with a new one they could use.


still wouldn't help the muggles, but it's a start.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-12 03:00:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you have something in mind?



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2012-10-12 03:01:26](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, what are your criteria? For a communication method, I mean?



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2012-10-12 03:02:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Something that hopefully doesn't involve needing to use lots of polyjuice.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-12 03:03:56](#)**  
(no subject)

That muggles can use to send messages. And receive them.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-10-12 03:08:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, that can be used without tying it to one of us, specifically.

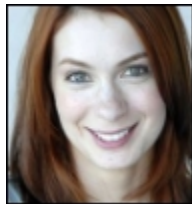
And a method that any of us can use,


substituting one for another, if needed in a pinch. That's one awkward thing about my role in the department: my job gives me an in, where we need it, yet I always have the Ministry at my shoulder.



 **alt\_frank** at [2012-10-12 03:10:02](#)  
(no subject)

agreed.



 **alt\_alice** at [2012-10-12 03:06:19](#)  
(no subject)

Ideally, something that would be fast.


I've certainly grown accustomed to the journals, and I know we depend on them quite a bit because we can get word to someone just as fast as we can write. No more waiting for owls, like the old days.



 **alt\_frank** at [2012-10-12 03:06:54](#)  
(no subject)

safe. something that wouldn't compromise our contacts.




 **alt\_bill** at [2012-10-12 03:11:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, exactly. If it's in written form, it would have to be somehow totally secure, whether coded like the journals or ... I dunno.

Oh. And that leaves nothing behind when we're done with the communication method, that could be used against us. If it's an object, something that can't be separated from us, or lost, or compromised.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-10-12 03:15:03](#)  
(no subject)

Something that you can use if you're in a hurry, or about to be caught. Something that doesn't take a lot of effort to be set up. And the enemy can't tell that you're using.



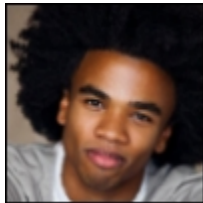
 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-12 03:24:23](#)  
(no subject)


so in other words, something that probably doesn't exist.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-12 03:28:37](#)  
(no subject)


Hey, don't be such a pessimist! Inventing new things, now that's our specialty!



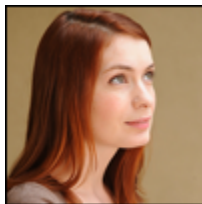
 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-12 03:31:01](#)  
(no subject)


I'll put heads together with you, and we'll see what we can come up with.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-12 03:31:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'll give it some serious thought, too.



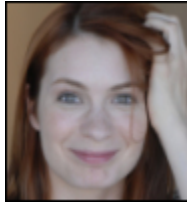
 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-12 02:58:29](#)  
(no subject)


From what little I know, Ridley uses a House Elf to communicate with her people, doesn't she?



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-10-12 04:22:59](#)**  
(no subject)

and a magpie.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-10-12 04:24:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, of course. We mustn't forget the magpie.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-12 12:08:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry, all, didn't see this last night. There was an unruly crowd at the garden. On a Thursday - who knew?

I'm only beating myself like a house-elf that we didn't think of something like this sooner. Of course we need better methods to send out a signal. Patronus won't work since there's no way to keep it secret or hold the message until the recipient is alone.

But if we're talking about communicating with a range of contacts, wizard and muggle, then what sorts of non-magical methods do we have?

I'm not an expert in the camp protocols but don't they occasionally get the chance to listen to broadcasts? There was the attempt to use a philharmonic concert as a signal, couple of years back. It would have to be in code, of course, if it's going out over an unsecured channel.

No, I suppose that wouldn't work. We'd need a way to transmit and they'd need a way to pick it up. Too complex.

Well. We could turn Death Eaters' magic against them. Some variant of the Protean charm? Not that I'm suggesting a hidden tattoo or anything, but ... perhaps an innocent-looking token they could carry. Like the rings you give to parents, Arthur, only something that could bear a brief message and then fade. Perhaps too brief, though, if the



token's small enough to avoid notice.

Mordred. Perhaps *this* is why we didn't think of this sort of thing sooner.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-10-12 13:40:11](#)**  
(no subject)

sorry mate

I'll try to think less next time

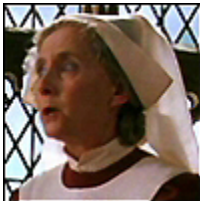


 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-12 13:54:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, well. It's far afield from a magical trained magpie, of course.

But we do have a house-elf.

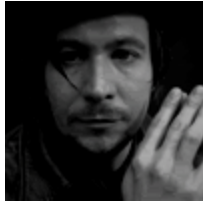
I just don't think he can be trusted with this sort of thing.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-10-12 13:48:12](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm only reading this now, as well, and there are lots of ideas being batted about here. I think your idea of a ring is a rather good one if what we want is to be able to send a signal, a one-way message from us to them. Begin now! or We're here! or All's lost! Run for your lives! It might be as simple as an enamel on the band that would change colour as a signal.

If we want something muggles can use in return or to communicate amongst themselves, then we'd need something entirely different... and I'd wager they're better equipped to imagine what that could be or how it might work than we are. Dependent on magic, as we are.



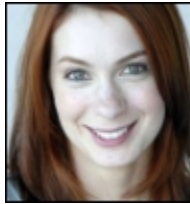
 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-12 13:52:55](#)**  
(no subject)


A magical mood ring with different colours for different signals? It's a thought.

They'd have to remember the code, of course.

But you're right, it's the two-way communication that's really the trouble. And asking a muggle is a good start, Poppy.

Frank, Alice, what do you say to taking a polling of the adult Muggles at Moddey?



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-10-12 13:53:52](#)**  
(no subject)

I was just thinking the same thing, love.

We'll bring it up in our meeting tonight.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-12 14:06:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Too right, going in person to deliver messages in the camps is too slow and too likely to get scuppered by inconveniences that just can't be planned out or avoided. We've hit those unplanned snags as often as we've had things go right.

And the fact that we're using different disguises each time makes things ticklish when we've got to go back to the same place again. I'm worrying about that a bit when we go back to Manchester to talk to Lorena Elliott again. We've the passcode, but it would be a help if we were able to send a signal that we were to be expected. I think taking her by surprise set her on edge, and she's a suspicious sort by nature, so it was almost sure to go the way it did.

**2012-10-12 08:23:00**

*(no subject)*

There is nothing quite like a ride in pre-dawn when there's a hint of frost in the air. The countryside is pristine, save the hoof-prints of one's horse; the rising sun suddenly hits the dew and a thousand crystals burst into light. The Manor in early morning has a dignity of which I never tire.



 **alt\_narcissa**

But this is the last morning for a while when I shall be able to avail myself of the view. We're opening Kensington this afternoon and shall stay through Our Lord's birthday celebrations at month's end. The autumn festival season does have a way of blurring indiscriminately into the holiday season and already both the WI and the St Mungo's Auxiliary are looking for their gala committees. I've a thought or two but I haven't yet worked out whether they'll serve better for our own Christmas party or for something more philanthropic.

Since we shall be in New London for the better part of 3 weeks, though, have at least decided to take advantage of the proximity to begin (or complete) Christmas shopping, robe design and selection for several upcoming events, redo the private wing at Kensington and of course, manage our social calendar for the season. (And Mr Cooper, yes, please, if you wish to come and fuss over the gardens, next week will do nicely.)

Toshenka, remind me of your next New London foray? If all goes well, we plan to come up for Draco and Harry's Quidditch match in early November but I believe you'll be here before then? Let us know what you've a mood to do and I shall make sure we are free.

Ned, we would be happy to accept your invitation for supper. It would be lovely to spend more time with you and Lana, particularly before the crush of the holidays.



---

 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-12 14:06:18**  
*(no subject)*

Milaya,

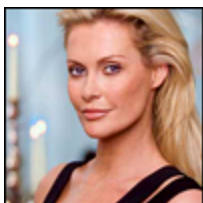
St M's wants me the last Saturday of every month, so 27th October for the next weekend in New London -- I

would take the whole week for certain, but the children are so behind that I shall simply say, I will wait to see what Our Lord's wishes are for the celebrations and then make my plans from there.

Perhaps dinner that Saturday, if there are no events I should not miss? (I desperately need someone to keep my calendar for me.) I will place myself in your capable hands as to where we should dine.

Hoping your weekend is peaceful,

T

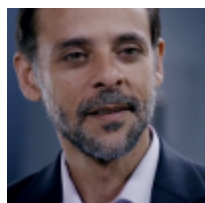


 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2012-10-12 14:53:35](#)

*Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Supper ought to do nicely. Know that Lucius has been keen to get your opinion of the improvements to the Ouroboros since your last visit but if last month was any indication, I suspect a quiet evening would be more to your taste.

Unless you care to go out for a bit of entertainment? Athena's singing that night and Lucius has refused to sit through it. We could leave him to his own devices and whisper to each other all the latest news.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-12 15:04:44](#)

*Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich*

Milaya miya,

You know my fondness for choral work, whether operatic or unaccompanied. As long as the performance isn't one of the *Merlin Cycle*, which I have vowed never to sit through again. (What *is* it about that second aria that attracts sopranos with more volume than talent? It has entirely soured me on the whole cycle no matter how well rendered it is.)

Barring calamity, I would be delighted to escort you.

Hoping I have not just jinxed us by mentioning calamity,

T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-12 14:56:29](#)  
(no subject)

London has its own rewards. Certain that Kensington will charm you once you're there.

Should have you tell me what to do with Marlborough after you finish your apartments at K. So much space wasted. I use three of its rooms. Four, if you count the sparring floor in the mews. And will see even less of the place in the season ahead. Thank you for the reminder. 'The crush of the holidays.' Yes.

Have been taking inspiration from Toshenka's demonstration. Doubling my time in training. Allowing Bellatrix to find and root out the weaknesses. Feel invigorated. Eager for action. (Of whatever sort you desire, Toshenka. Say when.)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-12 15:17:23](#)  
(no subject)

Darling, if you mean to challenge me, you'd wipe the floor with me without even breaking a sweat -- I'm still recovering, a week later! Perhaps after Christmas.

Let me see what I'll be up to next month with the children, though, and I may press you into service for demonstration. And if you've any ideas of your own, do let me know.

Decrepitly,  
T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-12 17:48:26](#)  
(no subject)

Not taken in by your excuses, Toshenka. But do put me off until you feel entirely ready. Meantime, I will work the harder so I will not disappoint.

As ever.  
B



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2012-10-12 15:23:48](#)  
(no subject)

Truly, it's a shame that Marlborough has so much to offer and no one to grace it on a regular basis. I'd be pleased to give it an assessing eye. But I feel the same about Kensington, since it is so large for just the few of us who generally stay. It's only that the gardens are so lovely and the halls are perfect for the extensive entertaining that makes it worth maintaining. Though it is convenient to have a residence in town for those times when travel back and forth to the Manor is simply too much to ask.

I'm glad to hear you have been well and throwing yourself into healthy exertion. For myself, I have always maintained that there are no short-cuts to keeping one's vigour in full bloom, nor any wonder-cures to stem the inevitable (if maddening) effect of age, save the disciplines of diet and exercise. And even then it seems, no one is immune.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-12 16:52:37](#)  
(no subject)

That's it. Living in town is practical. Keeping up a tremendous pile of brick, marble, paint and parquet is not. For me, at least, lack-grace that I am.

You, however, are grace personified. I know no one less touched by time than you, Narcissa. Feel sure all the wizards of Our Lord's realm agree. And all the witches envy it.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2012-10-12 18:45:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well, your gift for flattery is in no need of exercise! But there are a number of witches who, I am sure, could attest to exactly how time is taking its toll.

Nonetheless, dear, I do appreciate the sentiment.



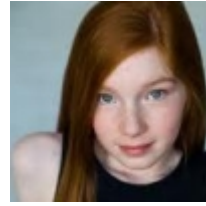
 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-10-12 22:01:44](#)  
(no subject)

On them, perhaps.

I'll think of other ways to prove my point if you continue to doubt.

**2012-10-12 19:48:00**

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



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

I have left the next six books of American Witches in the place Neville told me about where people sometimes leave you things. I hope I did it correctly. I changed the covers so that Harry wouldn't get cross. I'm reading the eighth book right now, and once I'm done, I'll put it there too. Wand's Might is

Well, I'll let you read it for yourself. But it's really good.

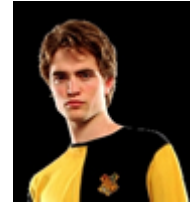
-Evelyn



**2012-10-12 20:38:00**

*Private Message to Cho*

We really need to get together and talk sometime this weekend.



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

I haven't been a very good boyfriend recently. I know I withdrew this summer rather than talk to you or really anyone about what happened at the end of last year. Since being at school it's been really hard to find time to be together with all of our various responsibilities.

I feel like the future is battering at me like a rogue bludger and I don't have beaters keeping it off me. The end of school is coming up and I know what I want to do (Quidditch obviously), but don't know if I'll be recruited. I keep having other ideas, building magical stuff with custom enchanting, medi-wizardry planning to try and work for a Quidditch team, and others. But it's all stuff that take either a pile of galleons with a huge chance of failure if you don't start with patronage (and you know that's not coming from my family) or years more training. So I really don't know what I'll do with myself if I don't get recruited.

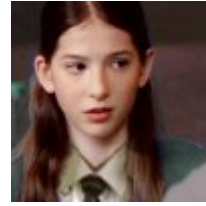
There are so many expectations that others pile on me, being my parents' eldest son, being Head Boy, being Quidditch Captain and of course having been a Triwizard Champion with its ... complications. All that makes my prospects really difficult, particularly if people think I haven't lived up to expectations. I know being made Head Boy means that many of the important people who might have taken offence haven't actually done so, but I'm so afraid that whatever I choose to try and do with my life someone will decide they don't like me or the choices I've made and whatever prospects I've managed to build will vanish overnight.

With all of this I don't think it's right for me to drag someone else along with me on the sputtering broom of my future. I wish I could write all this better and make you understand. We really need to sit down, soon, maybe Saturday afternoon, and talk about about us and where we go from here.

Cedric

**2012-10-13 13:48:00**

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



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I've been thinking more about that conversation with Professor Siz, and I read some of the book she gave us.

Do you think she'd get in trouble if people knew the sorts of things she talked with us about?

The thing is she doesn't exactly treat me like a student, not all the time. You know, she paid me last year to help her with organising and cleaning and so on -- Padma says I'm her pet and she's not far wrong. I KNOW Professor Siz likes me better than Padma and I can tell I'm one of her favourites and I've definitely encouraged her to keep me as a favourite, too. Because for Merlin's sake what sort of Slytherin would I be if I didn't? Besides, I like her.

But it means that some of the time she treats me as a friend who just happens to be very, very young and a student at the school where she teaches.

Anyway. I think we'd probably better not send anyone else to talk to her, other than MAYBE Susan because of the business of liking both girls and boys. But if we do we'll have to let Susan know she has to keep it a secret, even if Siz doesn't tell her to.

The thing is she's not like Professor Dolohov, who has all these powerful friends and is on the Council and so on and so forth. She has enemies, too. Not just Hembridge, either, I mean look what happened with Stint. He's dead NOW but do you get the feeling from her stories that she's not very good at spotting enemies before they become a problem? She's such a Hufflepuff in some ways, you know?

Anyway. It wouldn't be hard for one of those enemies she's never noticed she has to make a real cake out of any of this. I put a charm on my copy of 'Wise Witch, Wise Woman' so hopefully no one will notice it even if they look in my trunk.

---



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-13 19:37:54](#)  
(no subject)

I can't really tell if she likes me very much. I think she's trying to because she's marrying my Uncle, and that's why she invited me to come along for the talk.

But what do you mean by "the sorts of things she talked with us about"?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-13 19:46:55](#)  
(no subject)


Well, she was trying to make things mostly hypothetical and not too personal but she was pretty specific with a lot of her answers, you know?

Like she told us she was twenty-two when she had sex for the first time, and she told us which contraceptive charm she uses. ~~And she told us that she and Raz~~ Also when I asked her what sorts of things boys EXPECT she said that we had mouths and hands and bodies and the things people often think of as 'sex' are just a tiny subset of the things people can do together and enjoy.

Hydra I think she does like you. But she doesn't want to try to put you in the position of having to treat her like an aunt instead of a teacher, unless you WANT to, if that makes sense. If you want to keep your distance she wants to be respectful of that.

But she wanted you to have a copy of the book, too, so.



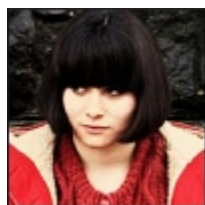
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-13 19:57:14](#)  
(no subject)

Twenty-two? That's so old!

And now I won't be able to stop myself from wondering about every other Professor, and how old they were... Yes, that's really not the sort of thing a teacher ought to share, but I suppose she was just giving you an honest answer.

Mummy always talks about what men expect, not just with sex but with everything. But what I've heard her say the most is that they expect you to be their whore in the bedroom, and their Mother almost everywhere else.

I already have an Aunt and I have a cousin, too. She was my Professor first and I can't seem to think of her any other way, which is why it's also hard to do the reverse and think of Raz as my Professor sometimes.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-13 23:44:32](#)**  
(no subject)


It is, isn't it?

And I can see how it'd be hard to think of Professor Raz as a Professor when he's been an Uncle first.

I wonder. About what your mum thinks men expect. Because

I understand if it'd be weird. For me to talk about Draco, I mean. Like That. But it's not that way with him. He respects me, and I respect him. And he wants someone he can talk to, who he can trust, but it's not just me listening and trusting, it goes both ways. At least that's what it feels like. I think it'd be awful if it was the other way.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-14 00:10:34](#)**  
(no subject)

It would be weird if you talked to me about Draco, is that what you mean?

I suppose it's just that it's hard to imagine Draco listening to someone, and talking to them.

I mean, of course I know that he listens in lessons, because if he didn't he wouldn't have such high marks. And I know that he listens to Professors and can say the things that they want to hear, or else he wouldn't be a Prefect and a YPL counsellor.

I know he listens to Harry, too.

What I mean is that I can't much imagine him confiding in someone. He hasn't much with me, but I suppose I haven't much with him, either. When we talk it's about family things, or school. Sometimes he'll talk to me about Harry, and sometimes he'll even talk about the Lord Protector, but I can tell he's thinking more than he's actually saying.

I'm glad he listens and talks to you, though.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-13 23:47:38](#)**

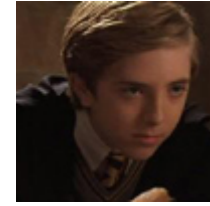
*(no subject)*

I agree. I mean, I wasn't about to spread around what she said, when it came to personal things especially, but you're right that we ought not tell people they can talk to her about sex stuff. Just in case they don't feel

the same way.

**[2012-10-14 08:16:00](#)**

*Private Message to Zach Smith and Sue Bones*



 [alt\\_ernie](#)

Wizard party yesterday, mate. Good on you, having a birthday just when we needed an excuse to ask the elves to lay out a spread!

Shame Ced was in such a mood, though. What do you reckon?



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2012-10-14 13:27:58](#)  
(no subject)

Didn't you hear? Chang broke up with him yesterday. Way I heard it was he'd sent her that PM, right, and she told him to stick his broom you-know-where.

Ern, you coming out this evening? Begy, Summerby and Bobolis were thinking of taking a turn round the castle. Think we'll ask Whitby to come, too. Lad needs a better influence than those second-years he's been hanging 'round.

I tell you, hearing that our Ced can get thrown over by a bird almost makes girls not worth it. Almost.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2012-10-14 13:49:32](#)  
(no subject)

Thought that might be it. Dropping her in a PM, though. That's cold.

It doesn't seem like something Ced would do, actually. So, I reckon you're right and it was Chang that dropped him. Poor bloke. No wonder he was glumbumbled.

Not all girls are like that. I mean to say, Chang's dead good looking and all, but she's not got much else going on. Not exactly a brilliant personality or anything. I suppose she must get good marks, but I always thought she was just a bit stuck on herself.

Say. You were having a bit of chat with Robins, weren't you, yesterday? Something you want to tell us, mate?

And sure, I'll come out for the flying. Haven't got on my broom since summer, though. I'll trim her up this morning.



 **alt\_zacharias** at **2012-10-14 14:04:48**  
(no subject)

He didn't say what his PM said. Just that they broke up, and I heard that when he was trying to get together, *she* told him to go take a long flight without a broom, if you know what I mean.

And yeah, I dunno. I guess he liked that they could talk about Quidditch and that. I dunno what else you're really supposed to talk to girls about. Demelza's not much of a talker, either, but what she has to say is well interesting!

Flying's not what I was talking about, Ern, but we'll talk about that later.



 **alt\_susan** at **2012-10-15 03:12:09**  
(no subject)

Well, I for one definitely don't need details about Robins', er, conversation.

Glad you had a good time, though.

**[2012-10-14 09:06:00](#)**

*Hufflepuffs*

I'll bring the rest of my birthday cake down to the common room after open flying. I think it'll be short today, on account of the rain, and YPL.



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)**


(Cedric, you're still going, though, right?)

It was a pretty good birthday, I guess. Thanks, Mum and Dad, for the cake and everything. I might not be able to write proper notes for a bit. It's a busy day today and school has been really demanding. But I do appreciate my presents, everyone.

So far, sixteen is really nift.



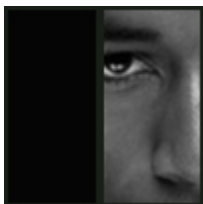
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 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-14 13:44:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sorry we couldn't come, Zach. I had planned to be there but you know, today's the first night of *Navratri*, and we'd been planning to put together the planting pots today, but then with YPL this afternoon, it had to be yesterday, so we'll be able to do it quickly after supper.

But happy birthday, anyway and thanks for having invited so many Ravenclaws.



 **[alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-14 19:50:37](#)**

*(no subject)*

You were planning to celebrate with Smith yesterday, but there's a religious ritual tonight, and the only time you could prepare was the exact time of Smith's party? Because the fact we have YPL this afternoon was a complete and total surprise you were entirely unprepared for.

I'd have thought Prefects should be able to manage their time better.





 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-14 19:58:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Since you're not a Prefect, you obviously don't know how much time it takes to *be* a Prefect.

Anyway, why should you be so upset? You're the one who got to go to a party, from what I hear. Must have been quite the occasion to get you to leave Slytherin for it.



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2012-10-14 20:51:43](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh, clearly.

Though there were some Prefects who managed to come by the party and show Smith what they think of him. There were others who couldn't be bothered. Seems simple to me.

And it was a spiffing party. Cake and music and a few of us dancing. And some snogging, even.

But I'm sure it took ever so long to plant your pots.




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-14 21:09:01](#)**  
*Private Message to Zabini*

Yes, I'm so sure you told Smith exactly what you think of him.

Some things are more important than cake and dancing. Or are you the sort who enjoys watching while others snog?




 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2012-10-14 21:12:29](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Zabini*

You think I wasn't snogging anyone?

Just because you wouldn't have been.

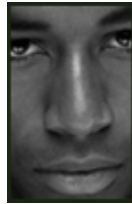


 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-15 02:10:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Zabini*

As if anyone would snog you.

I thought Daphs said you went just 'for laughs'--  
or were you actually meeting someone there,  
after all?



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-15 02:16:06](#)

*Re: Private Message to Zabini*

If you'd been there, you'd know. Wouldn't you?

As it is, you'll just have to wonder.

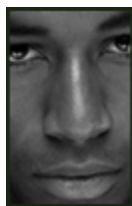


 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-14 22:07:26](#)

*Private message to Blaise*

Well now that you're tearing into Padma I almost  
feel badly for not showing up myself! Only it was  
my Saturday for minding things in the common  
room - that's why Draco went to the party instead  
of me.

So it's true, then, that Demelza snogged Smith? That must have  
been a pleasant gift for him - for us all, really, if it means he  
won't be so immature about the opposite sex anymore!



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-15 02:17:45](#)

*Re: Private message to Blaise*

Nah. You didn't really miss much. It wasn't anything  
special.

Just amusing to get under Patil's skin.

Robins, though. No idea what she was thinking, but it definitely  
made Smith's day.



 **alt\_daphne** at **2012-10-14 18:55:23**  
*(no subject)*

Happy Birthday, Zach!

And yes, sixteen has its advantages, doesn't it?

**2012-10-14 10:46:00**

*Happy Late Birthday, Zach!*

I can't believe I forgot on the actual day--I'm blaming the butterbeer!

Thanks for a great party, mate.



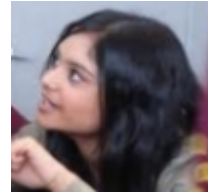
 **alt\_susan**

**2012-10-14 11:30:00**

*Private Message to Lavender and Daphne*

I figure you're not likely to be flying today.

I've just been sitting with Marietta and Cho. Cho's a wreck, too. Can you imagine being broken up with over journals?



 [alt\\_padma](#)

I warned that that Davies will probably come sniffing; he's just the type to try to nose in on someone getting over a breakup. I don't know if she'll listen, though.

Maybe finding someone to snog silly is just what she needs, anyway.

Did either of you go to Zach's party yesterday? Most of Ravenclaw didn't go because Diggory had just officially told Cho it was over and she came back just when we were about to leave. So we stayed with her.

But Lakshmi, I hope she's not going to stay this upset for long. It can't be good for her to make him think he meant that much.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2012-10-14 16:09:41**  
(no subject)

So it's true what they're saying, that he broke up with her through the journals? I have to say that I'm rather surprised - Diggory always struck me as more gracious and well-mannered than that! How awful for

Cho, though.

No, I didn't go to Smith's party. Blaise went ("for a laugh," he said), but I couldn't imagine a party hosted by Smith as having much to offer females - excepting, perhaps, the sturdy, quidditching types.

Do you think we have enough of the other staff behind the idea of a Revue to propose it to Madam Umbridge sometime this week? Professor Carpenter is well excited about the idea and said that she'll help out, and the rest that I've talked to seem fine with it, even if they didn't volunteer to be involved.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-14 16:24:26](#)  
(no subject)

Well. She said he said 'We need to talk' in the journals. So she already knew when she got there and when she asked if he was ending things he said yes.

Who do you reckon will go for him next? Because someone certainly will, even if it's completely crass to do it after he treated Cho like that.

Blaise Zabini went? Oh. Well, that must have been...interesting. I heard there were a few girls there, actually. Besides Sue, of course.

Yes, I think maybe after this afternoon's programme we could see what she says? Who else have you talked to?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-14 17:19:41](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well that's not really the same as actually being thrown over through the journals proper.

I'm sure some Hufflepuff will think it her duty to soothe his spirit! Maybe Valerie or Lettice?

I don't think Zach's soirée was terribly interesting, and I didn't get the impression from Blaise that I missed much. But then, Blaise isn't the type to issue praise lightly, is he?

I spoke with Professor Slughorn, of course, and he was quite encouraging, I think. Professor Grubbly-Plank seemed so, as well - possibly enthusiastic, even. Bones is her niece, you know, and she fancies herself something of a singer. Professor Dolohov described himself to me as a deep appreciator of the Arts, and Professor Lestrage said it's fine by him so long as it won't require seeing a student portray him on stage this time 'round. Oh, and I think I might be able to wheedle Professor Acton into helping out if I flatter her enough.



 **alt\_padma** at [2012-10-14 17:34:36](#)  
(no subject)

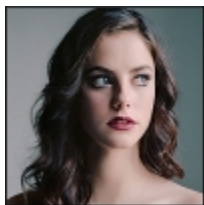
You should hear what he said in his message; it was just about as good as. Of course, I heard from Midgen that *he's* going about saying that Chang dumped *him*. Which--anyone who's seen her can tell that's not what happened.

Sometimes I don't know why anyone bothers with them. Boys, I mean.

No, I wouldn't have thought it would be all that interesting. Until Midgen said she saw Robins decide that Zach needed his first proper snog. Not that I'd have wanted to witness it, of course, but it must have been amusing to have been there. Do you reckon he'll go all sappy now? Or get even more insufferable than before?

Well, if you're not against giving Bones a solo if she wants one, then that could work. I don't think there's a real need for anyone to portray anyone real, do you? I mean, it's more of a concert than a proper play with a story. Unless you've something else in mind? I think we ought to tell Madam Umbridge about Professors Slughorn and Grubbly-Plank and Acton but not Professor Dolohov or Lestrage. Maybe.

Unless maybe it seems like she'll want to do whatever Professor Dolohov's behind doing.



 **alt\_daphne** at [2012-10-14 18:27:53](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you know how it goes - Diggory is so *fair* and so Hufflepuffey that people have difficulty imagining him breaking a girl's heart.

Robbins didn't even wait until they were in private to snog him? How uncouth. I expect he'll be exceedingly proud of himself, never mind that practically everyone else has beaten him to it already. Well, everyone who's not a Hufflepuff, anyway. I suppose he might be the first of his dorm-mates?

There will be songs and skits and dances, but it's not a play, no;

and any characters we portray will be classic ones from famous productions, I think.

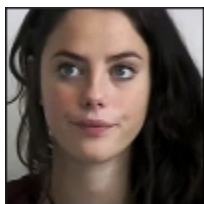
And Professors Dolohov and Lestrage ought to have the most influence, since they're council members, but it doesn't seem as if Madam Umbridge much liked their demonstration, so... perhaps we should refrain from mentioning them specifically and say something like "the other professors support the idea as well?"



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-14 18:54:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, maybe Zach's the first of his dorm-mates who's not from France! But yeah, I can't quite imagine snogging MacMillan or Summers, can you? Certainly not Hopkins!

And that sounds right about Professors Dolohov and Lestrage. Yeah, it's weird she's not as friendly with them as you'd think, isn't it? It must be hard to have been someone so powerful and now just being someone who had to get permission to give a proper detention.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-10-14 19:19:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, right. Isn't it funny how I still think of F-F as a Beauxbatons' student even though I see him in his Hufflepuff robes almost every day? I suppose Midgen might've laid one on Summers when she was chasing him around last year... oh, and you know, I wouldn't be surprised if F-F hasn't done a bit more than just snog Hydra. Though I'm quite certain that no one else suspects that besides me.

I might feel more sorry for Madam Umbridge if she had shown even a smidgen of interest when I discussed the Revue with her. You can just tell she has no use at all for music, dancing, or anything that's even the least bit artistic or diverting. I



suppose that's because she's not pretty at all, and probably never was.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-14 19:54:48](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose Hydra could get away with going further if she wanted to do. I dunno, I think he may be the best-looking of the Hufflepuffs in our year but--I just can't see what she sees in him. He's well polite but sort of boring. But maybe for someone in her position boring is just what she wants. Or maybe she figures he won't be hard to put off when she marries Marvolo.

I guess most people would be less interested in something if they're no good at it. I know I can't sing worth a knut but I don't mind other people doing it if they do it well.

Oh, I meant to say, I'll ask Professor Vector about it tomorrow. I'm sure she'll be able to help.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-14 21:00:59](#)  
(no subject)

Well, Hydra's also polite but a little boring. I mean, she's dainty and pretty but she mostly doesn't try to stand out. So if it weren't for the fact that some odd things have happened to her, and that she can be a bit odd herself, she'd really be rather ordinary. Anyway, lately I think ordinary -even boring - is probably undervalued.

I've just thought that Slytherin house is rather peculiar in that we seem to have both the best looking boys and the absolute worst! There's really not a lot of in-between, is there?

Do let me know what Professor Vector says!



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-14 20:59:48](#)**  
(no subject)

By the way, did you see that Pucey, Montague and Higgs all removed the sleeves from their robes?

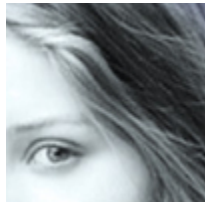
It was ridiculous when Lines did it but on the three of them it's well intriguing.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-10-14 21:37:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, it may be intriguing on Pucey and Higgs, but Alfred's my cousin, remember! And believe me, if you'd had to listen to him blech after holiday suppers as many times as I have you'd not think him quite so fit.

But yes, I see what you mean. Adrian's arms are almost as impressive as Professor Rizzer's, don't you think?



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2012-10-15 02:37:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Mmmm, yes!



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2012-10-15 02:36:37](#)**  
(no subject)

That revue idea sounds well exciting! It'll be nice to have something other than Quidditch to get everyone talking about.

I mean, some Quidditch boys are quite fit--though I'm starting to agree with you, Padma, that they're all cads--but there's only so much chatter about flying practice and Snitches and Wronski whathaveyous a girl can take!

**2012-10-14 12:28:00**

*Private message to Nymphadora Tonks-Ponds*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Hello, Cousin Dora,

Thank you for answering my Owl.

About the first part: Professor Dolohov has made the subject more interesting, I think, but also more demanding. And it's more complex in the sense that he's shown there's more to the Dark Arts than power and brutality, which is what Miss Professor Carrow focused on. But even if he teaches the subject well I'm not sure that I like him.

Remember what I said about how people are starting to notice that Justin matters to me? Well, he's one of the reasons why. He told Daddy about us, and while I'm not in trouble exactly I just know that Daddy doesn't like it one bit.

I'm sorry if I made you feel old by asking you about the other things. I asked you because you're *not* old. Even if you're married and have a baby, I thought you might better remember what it was like to be my age.

Anyway, your answers gave me a lot to think about. What you said about mistakes not mattering as much as people think, especially. Because, really, how much *can* they matter? Why do people make the whole subject into such a life or death thing when everyone ends up doing it, eventually? Or almost everyone, anyway. All the talking and discussing and deciding and researching... it won't make something feel right if it doesn't feel right, and it won't make something feel wrong if it doesn't feel wrong. If that makes sense.

I still have more things to think about but this helps, very much.

And I really do hope that I can see you and Bea and Junius over the hols. They're still so far away, aren't they? Can you try to encourage Bea to keep her shelf-rearranging habits going until then? I shouldn't want to miss that!

From,  
Hydra

---



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2012-10-14 20:39:06**  
(no subject)

Well. I wouldn't like that either if a professor tattled my private business. There were adults who used to tell Mrs Crouch they'd seen me and set her off on lecturing me. Mostly she wanted me to know I was never going to find a decent wizard to marry me since I was such a sorry case.

And, you see, that worked out better than either of us thought, in the end.

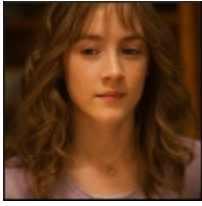
I made loads of mistakes--or that's what Mrs Crouch would have called them--if she'd known, which mostly she didn't. And I did some things that I wished I hadn't the next day, or for a month or two or a year afterwards. But none of those matter at all now. So that's what I mean about mistakes. Most of the things you might do like that don't matter too much later on, but they could leave you feeling embarrassed or make things awkward for a while, so you just have to try to think through what it might cost you to do something you want to do, and then decide whether it's worth it.

There are surely some things you could do that would change your life. Like if you ran off and got married. Or if you had a baby. I don't recommend either of those until you've finished school at least. Because either of those things would mean leaving school early, and you should really not do that. Even if you don't care very much for some of your courses and some of your teachers, you should stay in school.

I don't think you're thinking of that, by the way. It just seemed I ought to say it. See? I am getting old!

So, about Justin, though... you're really feeling serious about him, then. Is he the sort of bloke you can talk to about how you feel and about what you do together? Or is it the sort of relationship where you just do a lot of snogging and really like it a lot, but don't talk about it ever?

You don't have to tell me anything you'd rather not. I just wonder what sort of decision it is you're making--one you're deciding together or one you're deciding on your own.



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-14 22:00:10**  
(no subject)

Mrs Crouch doesn't sound very maternal, but it could always be worse, you know. ~~Do you remember your real~~

And I like school, even if the teachers don't mind their own business very well. I wouldn't want to leave before I was finished, and even if something happened, like getting pregnant, I don't know if I would have to leave school. It's hard to say. Someone died because of me - maybe even two someones - and they didn't make me leave afterward. Anyway, it's not worth wondering and worrying about because nothing like that will happen if I can help it.

Justin and I talk about everything. I mean, things that I couldn't say to anyone else, ever, and he's told me everything about himself, as well. One time we were trying to converse in French and I was doing a poor job of it (as usual), and he said "I'll have to be in charge of teaching our kids French, what." Sometimes we both say little things like that, like we're thinking of being married and having children one day, but then I think we also expect that my parents will probably try to put a stop to all this, eventually. Neither of us are quite ready to talk about what we'll do if that ever happens.

But yes, we talk about snogging and things, too. I suppose I'm the one who makes the decisions, when it comes down to it.

From,  
Hydra



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2012-10-14 22:18:09**  
(no subject)

You're right. It could have been worse. But at the time it seemed bad enough, I suppose.

I see why you'd like to keep everything about Justin secret from your mother and father. Do you think they both know now? Or just your father? Is it as bad having him know as it would be having your mother find out?

I never had a boyfriend that was as serious about me as Justin

seems to be about you. It's really nice that you can talk like that. Really, Junius was the first person I was able to talk about most everything with. Before that, I really only trusted a few girlfriends, and not with everything. I guess I just kept myself private mostly.

I'm glad you're able to make the decisions. Do you mean that if you don't both agree, you wouldn't expect the one who didn't want to do something to go ahead with it? What do you think should matter about those decisions? I mean, are you thinking about when and where? Or whether?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-14 22:44:22](#)  
(no subject)

Well if she was much like her son, I can't see her being the sort of Mother a person would want. Especially if you were used to my Aunt - to your real Mother, I mean.

Mummy knew about Justin long before Daddy did. She doesn't mind it, though she thinks of it more as practise leading up to the day that Harry Marvolo somehow notices me. I think if, in a few years, say, I said that I didn't want to marry Harry and I wanted to marry Justin instead, she would start to mind a lot more.

Daddy just doesn't want me to be involved with any boys at all. But if it were Harry, he wouldn't be able to fuss about it.

I keep to myself, too. The only person before Justin that I was able to talk to ended up not being who I thought he was, and he betrayed me, besides. I'm surprised I was even able to trust someone again.

Yes, when I said I make the decisions, I suppose I mean that I set the pace? But we both want to agree on what's happening, of course. And ~~when~~ if we ever have sex, I don't think I want it to be at school. At least not for the first time. I know that much, at least.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-15 22:48:20](#)  
(no subject)

I was nine when my mum died. And I was sent to live with the Crouches. I was the very first person sent into fostering, did you know? I don't know what that's like for kids now, but at first it was especially odd. No one quite knew what to make of me. Except they all knew I was the daughter of famous traitors. And halfblood.

None of that helped make me a success with Mrs Crouch. Or anyone else, for that matter. Especially Farty.

Sorry. I probably shouldn't tell you what I call him! Do you know him at all? He's as awful as you think. Worse, probably.

As for your mother, it's lucky she's taking the long view. I can't imagine it would be nice to fight her over what you want. I hope it doesn't come to that. At least you've got time to figure out a plan. And to figure out what you really want. Because that could change. I'm not saying it will, but... people do change over time. Some of them.


Your father's a different story. He's just being a good father. I mean, I realise he's got a few more spells and tools in his power than some fathers, but he's not really so different from the rest of them. Junius says he plans to keep Bea locked up in her room away from all the boys until she's thirty. I've no idea what he thinks he can do about her when she goes off to school, but you see what I mean.

I think you're being careful. It's all right to keep private and only trust people who really earn your respect. I'm sure it is hard to trust at all after you've felt betrayed. I can tell you're being careful, too, about what you do with your heart. And with the rest of yourself. I trust you to make a good decision about what to do. I think you're ready to decide and keep on deciding what's right for yourself with Justin and with anyone else you might have to decide about.

I didn't actually think ahead about my first time ever. It's nice that you have someone special to plan with. And since you do, I

think it's a good idea to try to plan so it can be a really nice memory.



 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-16 02:03:36](#)  
(no subject)

When I came to Hogwarts all people really knew about me was that I was the daughter of a famous someone, too. It's odd to think that so many different types of people can all come from the same family, isn't it?

I hadn't heard you were the first in fostering, no. This is actually the first time I've thought about how the practice is rather new, in the scheme of things. Justin's in fostering with the Jugsons (who I'm related to on Daddy's side), but his situation is a bit different since he's not actually a Halfblood. I think it would be hard to be little and have to live away from your family - for most people anyway. Justin might not see his Mother again, and I know that's hard for him.

And Auror Crouch - I have to see him all the time. He's one of the few colleagues that Mummy seems to speak highly of, and Daddy's friends with him, too. Have you ever seen the things he writes to Auntie Narcissa? He's almost nice to her! He doesn't really speak to me, though, and I'm glad of it. You know who *really* seems to hate him, though? Our cousin Draco. I bet that might surprise you.

You're right, people do change over time. When I look at the things I said and thought just a few years ago, I can hardly believe it. But just the same, I know how I feel right now, and I'm sure of that. I know Daddy's just trying to do the right thing but he won't change how I feel.

Thank you for saying that you trust me, it means an awful lot.

From,  
Hydra





 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-16 03:22:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Our family has a bit of everything in it, wouldn't you say? All the extremes and some in the middle. I think you and I might be some of the middle ones, actually. And Bea.

How is Justin managing with the Jugsons? It must have been a difficult decision he made not to go back to France. That's where his mother is, yes? Or is she somewhere else and he just went off to Beauxbatons? I expect they take people from all over Europe. Maybe from other places, too. I'm not sure. But it was France, wasn't it, for him?

My mother used to sing me songs in French. I think they had a French nanny or a tutor or something when she was small.

I hadn't thought of that in ages!

I'm sorry you have to spend time with Auror Grouch. You should come visit us whenever he's going to be visiting your mum. What does Cousin Draco have against him? That is surprising. I think Mr Malfoy has taken him up as a younger colleague same as your mother. From what I can tell. Maybe Draco feels he takes up too much of his father's attention?

I hope that if we change in time, you and I, it will only be to get better acquainted and closer connected. I hope all goes well for you and Justin. Let me know, will you?

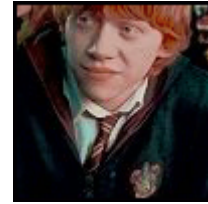
We'll be in touch about the holidays, too. For certain.

**[2012-10-14 15:53:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Well. That was actually interesting.

Who'd've figured four people who work in 'magical infrastructure' could make you want to know more about what they do?



 [alt\\_ron](#)

That Mr Mason's got a wicked sense of humour. Calling himself the Minister for Chimney Sweeping.

Had you ever heard of anyone getting sucked out one of the system vents and ending up in Milton Keynes? Funny you'd always wind up the same place. Mind you, from what I've heard, that's not anywhere anyone'd want to get stranded.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-14 22:31:05](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it was, wasn't it? I thought the most interesting part was hearing about charmwork and runework that goes into the foundations of buildings, but the floor network was pretty nift, too.

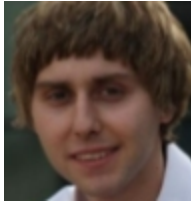
Maybe YPL won't be as bad this year as I'd thought. Although it was Professor Siz who set this up, not Hembridge.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-15 02:31:09](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I don't think Frumpbridge would've come up with such interesting people to come. Do you?

Speaking of her. Did you see Mr Mason and Mr Wachsman (Waxman? was that his name? the one who designed all the charmwork for the pitch here and for the stadium for the World Cup match?) Anywiz, did you see the two of them trade a Look when Umbridge got up and made us all sing? I had to look somewhere else or I'd've fallen out laughing.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-15 01:57:00](#)  
(no subject)


Hullo, Ron,

I say, it was well interesting, wasn't it? And that Miss Blishwick, talking about how they determine where and when to use muggle labourers. And deciding which projects have priority, what?

(I suppose it doesn't hurt that she's also quite attractive. Did you happen to see Donovan and Whitacre? I say, I think their mouths were about to come unhinged, the way they babbled at her afterward.)

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-15 02:38:04](#)  
(no subject)

Heh. Yeah, Donovan was making a complete eejit of himself, wasn't he? And Whitacre was practically drooling on her.

Course, she really was worth looking at!

**[2012-10-14 17:35:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Caught Ellie levitating dishrags while polishing the beer glasses today.



Even when they start late, they do catch on quickly.

 [alt\\_lupin](#)

(She thought I'd be cross, though; that's less good. I mean, we're the ones who gave her the wand, and we're the ones who've given her lessons, and yet she apologised, like she thought maybe she was ONLY supposed to use that wand during her OFFICIAL lessons.)

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 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-14 22:41:48](#)

*Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

I was thinking about Hydra today, probably because of that owl -- I was meaning to send her a hamper of sweets at some point this year. Anything fun we ought to add, do you think?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-14 22:42:30](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

What owl?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-14 22:43:10](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

She owled Dora.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-14 22:56:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Is that why you wrote her a Private Message, Dora?

What now, her mother's asked her to find out if we've got any unicorn blood she can drink?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-14 22:59:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

No. She just decided owls take too long. She's the one sent me the PM, and it was just answering me back.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-14 22:46:59](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Oh, yes. She owled me this week.

Said she'd like to visit again during Christmas hols. Told me a few things about school. She doesn't seem to like either Madam Umbridge or Professor Dolohov very much.

Still likes Justin quite a lot, though.

In case you were wondering.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-14 22:50:30](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Well, at least some of them are listening to the warnings about Dolohov.

I don't know what Justin's thinking. She seems a sweet enough girl, but talk about the worst potential mother-in-law in wizarding history...



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-14 22:58:13](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Well. I don't think she means to get married yet. And, well. He's a bloke. Do you think that's what he's thinking about?

I wish I knew, actually. What his idea about Hydra is. Because ~~then I'd know whether I ought to be tel~~



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-14 22:59:56](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Good point. Though she's got to be the worst mother-of-a-girl-you're-snogging in wizarding history, too.

Justin writes to Sirius; Sirius could ask him what his intentions are.



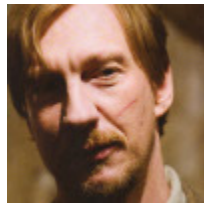
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-14 23:05:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

I could do. But don't you think that's a little too convenient?

I mean to say, she writes to our Dora and then they exchange a few PMs about how much she fancies Justin. Then a few days later I write to *him* asking how much he fancies *her*?

I could easily say that I saw the PM subject lines, but if I were Justin I'd begin to suspect that Sirius Black has a way to read Dora Ponds' letters.




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-14 23:06:28](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Mmm. Good point.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-14 23:09:14](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

How much *does* she say she fancies him, anyway?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-14 23:53:33](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Well, you've heard her talk about him before-- she's over the moon about him. As much now as when she came to visit, so it's not going away with time.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-14 23:58:16](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

I'm more disappointed than ever I had to hide when they came but it would have been a disaster if Justin had seen me.

Although .... I know we're not supposed to speculate as to who's in which circles, but when the twins said members of our Auxiliary were there - you don't think Hydra's among them, do you?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-15 00:06:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Well. Do you think Justin's one of them? I mean, I know there were some of them here for that tea appreciation club, but Hydra was the one who arranged it, so she wouldn't have had to be one of them to have wanted to invite, say, Sally Anne Perks. That would just be overlap in who they know. But if he's part of it, well.

If he's part of it, I'd guess she is, too.

~~That would explain something she said, actually.~~



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-15 00:11:33](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

He's mentioned Perks as one of his better mates, actually. I'm fairly certain (though he's never said) that he's part of the group that helped our Terry and is friendly with

Hermione. And I'm absolutely certain that Perks is in that group, as well.

I can't imagine they'd be foolish enough to share all their secrets with Bellatrix's daughter. No matter how sweet she seems.

Then again, if they're really this much in love .... And they *are* teenagers, after all. They all think they're invulnerable.

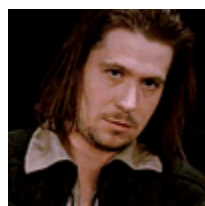



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-15 00:20:43](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

That's, well-

I don't know that she thinks she's invulnerable. She's pretty realistic about her mother, actually, though she's got a strategy to keep Bellatrix from making her drop Justin for now, at least.

But if Justin's in our auxiliary. She is, too. I don't think he keeps that sort of secret from her.

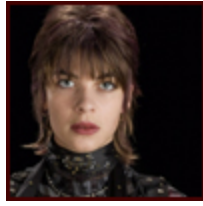


 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-15 00:24:35](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

No, what I mean is that they all think no harm will come from sharing each other's secrets. That if person A trusts person B, then there's no reason Person C shouldn't find B trustworthy, either.

So yeah, I think you're right and he's spilled everything to her. Including that he's really a Muggleborn. Which is fine as far as her sincerity goes. But what about when she decides to tell her other best friend, who just happens not to be as charitable as she thinks?





 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-15 00:32:32](#)


*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

If that's what you're worried about, I don't think you need to be. I think Justin's the only friend she trusts like that.

And me, maybe.

If I stop giving away all her secrets to blokes who don't think as much of her as they ought.



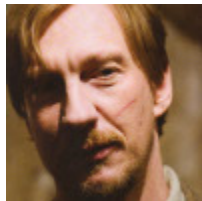
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-15 00:40:32](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Hah bloody hah.

I'm sure she's a lovely kid or Justin wouldn't be so stricken, either.

But that's a far cry from saying that every member of their little club is completely unflappable. People tell secrets for all sorts of reasons - some of which turn out to be trivial.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-15 00:49:52](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

This is why I try to spend as little time as possible thinking about the Juniors.

It's not as if we can do anything about it.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-15 00:54:05](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Well, you're certainly a comfort, puppy. Ta.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-10-15 01:05:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

This conversation always eventually heads down the same path.

'What if they tell Hydra? What if they tell Pansy? What if they tell Draco? What if they tell Gregory Goyle and Vincent Crabbe? What if they skywrite in fireworks shot off the Astronomy tower that they think Molly Weasley smuggles wands for muggleborns?'

So far, whomever they've told has kept their secrets, so whatever they're doing to decide that people are trustworthy seems to have worked so far. And since we can't stop them from telling whomever they choose, I try not to think about it.

I have to admit that part of me likes the idea of Hydra in our auxiliary. One in the eye for her mother, at least, to have a daughter who's willing to sign on to the idea that muggleborns should have wands.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-15 01:51:55](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

Right now I'm a bit more worried about 'What if Rodolphus up and kills Justin for touching his baby girl?' but yes, I know what you mean.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-14 22:53:49](#)

*Re: Private message to Dora and Padfoot*

She likes sweets.

Toffees, I think. Chocolates. And the biscuits with the nice sugar topping.

I have a few things I might pull together and add. Girl things. I'll wrap them up and get them to you before you send it off.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-14 22:44:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe she thought you'd be cross she wasn't polishing glasses!

We could teach her a polishing spell next. Or you could. I'd just break a pile of glasses if I tried that.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-14 22:45:39](#)**  
(no subject)

We'll add it to Wednesday's lesson. Terry won't mind, will you, Terry?



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-10-14 22:46:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll give it a go. I wouldn't say I'm exactly brilliant at polishing spells, but things turn out smudged rather than smashed into bits...

**[2012-10-15 10:52:00](#)**

*Private message to Penelope Clearwater*

Penny:

When clearing out the cold box early this morning before leaving for work, I found four spoiled containers of take-away curry. If you're going to order take-away, please check for leftovers, first.




 [alt\\_percy](#)

(We really must stop ordering take-away so often. Have you seen the latest Gringotts statement?)

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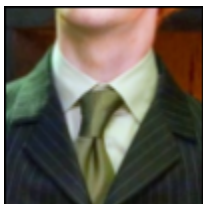


 [alt\\_penelope](#) at **[2012-10-15 16:11:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I thought you were going to start taking those with you as sack lunches. You said you didn't mind. I hadn't realised they'd gone off in the meantime.

I can't bring them in and eat at my desk; the last time, the curry sauce spilled on my parchment and I lost two days' work. But I suppose if you're not going to use them I could start. I'll just have to take a proper break to eat. Which means getting home even later. Which probably means more takeaway, unless you're willing to cook when you get home.

Why can't we just make sure that we use up the leftover cartons by no later than Thursday each week?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **[2012-10-16 00:27:40](#)**  
(no subject)

I can't commit to getting dinner on the table, you know that, due to the vagaries of my schedule and Mr Malfoy's demands. Tonight being a case in point. (I had thought I was going to get out by 7:00 pm, but

no such luck.)

We should at least mark the dates on the outside of the cartons so we know when we ordered them. Better yet would be to avoid ordering them at all and just pulling something together quickly when we get home, whoever gets home first.

I know, I know. You're getting sick of scrambled eggs and beans on toast, and so am I.



 [alt\\_penelope](#) at [2012-10-16 02:25:50](#)  
(no subject)

I know, but if you're working late anyway, there's no reason not to take the leftovers with you, either.

When we do go out and get fresh groceries, they tend to go bad, too, because you're working late and I don't want to cook up something just to have half of it sit waiting. ~~I'm not your moth~~ It's just as wasteful, it its way.

**2012-10-15 20:53:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*



 [alt\\_lee](#)

I'm ready to try another expedition in the Forbidden Forest for unicorn tail hair. What do you say we try again this Saturday morning, early? The compass Point Me spell works pretty good, and with the Everlasting Twine tied to a branch on the outskirts, we'll find our way back easily enough. There's another area I want to try, further west from where we scouted last. I noticed some Fairyfew underfoot, and unicorns are supposed to like eating it, don't they? So maybe we'll find some caught on the bushes there.

The Sneezing Sweets need to be fine-tuned a bit. Problem is, they're almost too effective: the antidote doesn't work quite as well, and I just about sneezed my head off for a day afterward. Can we get more of a short-term effect? More like the Nosebleed Nougat. Also, I was wondering: could the active ingredients in the Sneezing Sweets be put into an aerosol form, so it could be sprayed at your opponent (after you dose yourself with the antidote first of course). I keep thinking about what happened at the Order safe house when Ridley escaped. She might have made a clean getaway entirely if she could have made EVERYONE go into a sneezing fit, and not just Emmeline Vance.

Fred, I can meet you for brewing for R&D on Thursday night, but ingredients are gonna be a problem. I think Sluggo'll be suspicious if I tell him I'm out of half my potions kit yet again.

I keep saying it. We need a backer.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at **2012-10-17 00:08:01**  
(no subject)

We're game for the Forbidden Forest on Saturday. (DON'T TELL MUM!) Bring your leftover toast along and we can throw the crusts to the acromantula.

Read a passage in Circe Circuitous' *Anima Animals: Unicorns, Mermaids, Sphinxes and Others of that Feminine ilk* that suggests that unicorns shed more tail hairs during the dark of the moon.

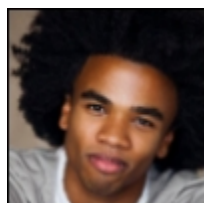
(Could be rubbish. A lot of the rest of the book certainly is.)


I like the idea of a backer, but that still comes back to the same old problem: lack of pockets loaded with jingling Galleons among our social cohort.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:12:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yep. Of course, we're doing this for the Order, but it's awkward, isn't it, since every Galleon we get from them is taking food out of some little kid's mouth.



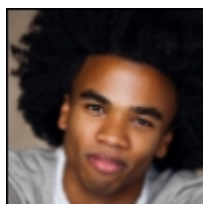
 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-17 00:12:46](#)  
(no subject)


How d'ye mean?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:15:09](#)  
(no subject)

The food stores at Sanctuary are low, Terry said in his last letter. Because they lost a large part of the crop with that storm. The adults are trying to hide it from the kids, acting as if everything's normal. But Terry was looking over the store room, and he figures they're really going to have to stretch things to get through the winter,



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-17 00:19:57](#)  
(no subject)

Your mum can help though, right? With her barter network?



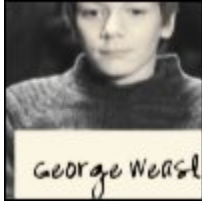
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:20:08](#)  
(no subject)

Probably, yeah.



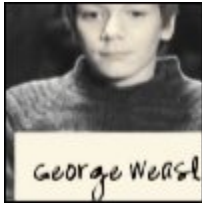
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:10:00](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, Thursday night's good, but yeah, I'm running out of stuff, too. Have nicked a bit too much from Sluggo's stores to do it very easily for the rest of the term.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:19:01](#)  
(no subject)


I like that idea on the Sneezing Sweets, by the way. Bet we could do it, yeah.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:22:23](#)  
(no subject)

About a backer...yeah. What if we did a formal business plan, and approached some people. Sell shares.



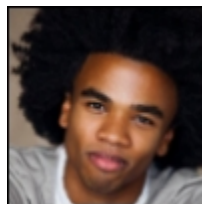
 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-17 00:23:20](#)  
(no subject)


What? You're mental! Sell shares in what?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:23:58](#)  
(no subject)

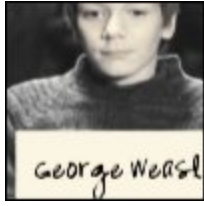
Weasley Wizard Whizbangs, of course.



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-17 00:25:35](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, that'll go over real well the first time one of these products used by the Order and then gets picked up by MLE.

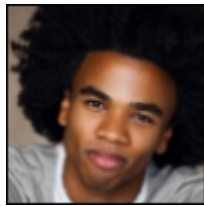





 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:28:27](#)  
(no subject)

But why should they? Lots of the things we're developing isn't stuff that can necessarily be traced back to us, right? Like if we do manage to turn the Sneezing Sweets into an aerosol weapon. What, do you think the next time an auror sneezes he's gonna figure, 'By Jove, the chaps behind Weasley Wizard Whizbangs must be behind all this!'

It's just like Laszlo's: a legitimate business gets used a front for Order operations, right?



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-10-17 00:29:51](#)  
(no subject)

Well...

Have to think about that a bit.

Anyway, if you're right, that still leaves the question: who do we know who could front something like this?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-17 00:31:01](#)  
(no subject)

We'll have to keep working on that little detail.

**[2012-10-15 22:03:00](#)**

*Private Message to Sarah Yaxley*

Friday was great, didn't you think? The Rookery's the perfect place for a late meal on a wet night. And it was good to see the two of you. Though... how is it really going between you? I couldn't entirely tell.



 [alt\\_lana](#)

I mean, I know Montague's working a lot right now and probably can't talk about any of it. So. Let's have lunch this week and you can tell me if he's worth the trouble.

Speaking of which. Vani's dropped Higgs, hasn't she? Or is she just not telling me? I know she thinks he's the best she's likely to do, but that's so untrue.

I suppose we'll have to set her up with someone.

Actually, it could be rather a lot of fun to have a party where everyone could wind up with someone else just for the one night. No obligations, no pressure, just to try something new on for size. (As it were!)

I wish I thought I could get polyjuice for it, because that would be an amazing way to keep anyone from knowing whom they're with. There's no way, though. Unless we just wanted to have a night out at Pseudonymity, but that crosses the line into vulgarity, rather. I don't know. Maybe I'm just being prudish, and I must say that when I was working the Dogstar op, it was the most broadening thing I'd ever done to embed as a married wizard. I mean, that was truly something. But I can't imagine wanting to do anything like that with, well... with someone who hires out.

But for a party, we could get everyone a pair of those Spectaculars that make everything look completely strange. I had a pair when I was small, and I remember I was really frightened because I couldn't recognise Abueloberto and Abuelita even though I could hear them talking to me. Even their voices didn't sound right while I was wearing those spectacles. And, of course, we could easily charm our voices so they couldn't be clues to who we are!

What do you think? It could be really brilliant. And then we'll just be sure there are loads of single wizards--and witches, but this is for Vani--as well as couples, and we'll have music and drinks and. Where

should we have it, though? Some place with lots of private nooks and cloakrooms. Ooh. I wonder if we could book the Argyle building? We could get Monteith to close for the evening, except to us, and we could- oh! Do you remember what it says on the outside of that place? It's called Liberty's. That would be utterly perfect for this sort of party. It's all about taking liberties. That's exactly what I mean it to be.

I'm going to make a few calls.

Meet me for lunch on Wednesday, yes? And we'll plan it all out.

**2012-10-15 23:06:00**

*Homework*

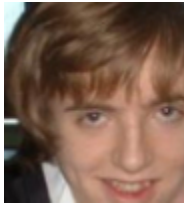
I'm over halfway through my Transfiguration essay but I say, I'm not at all sure how I shall be able to go to Duelling Club tomorrow, there's so much left to do.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

And with a Charms exam at the end of next week, I think we ought to get our revising group together. What do you say, Ron, old chap? Sally-Anne? Ernie and Sue? We might meet in the library for the books Professor Acton mentioned, what, with additional information on silence and noise-related charms. Anyone else interested?

-Justin

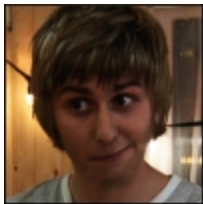


 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2012-10-16 03:08:58**

*(no subject)*

I'm in.

I know what you're saying about everything piling up just now.



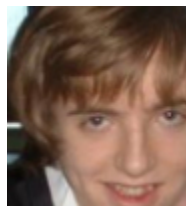
 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-10-16 03:12:16**

*(no subject)*

Ernie,

Indeed. It's only going to get worse, what? I think Wednesday ought to be good. Perhaps after your Prefects' meeting?

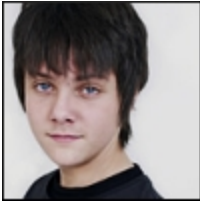
-Justin



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at **2012-10-16 03:42:07**

*(no subject)*

After the Prefect's meeting is excellent. Thanks, mate. You can start before we get there if you want. Sue and I can come along as soon as we're out.



 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2012-10-16 03:09:56](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd like to come, if that's all right.

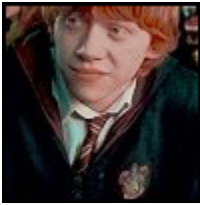



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-16 03:11:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Michael,

Yes, of course, old man! Shall we say Wednesday evening?

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-16 03:39:39](#)**  
(no subject)

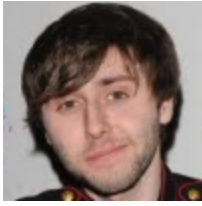
Yeah, that's not a bad idea.

Have you noticed that the Charms assignments are longer and more dull the more interesting and useful the actual spells get? It's mad. I'd rather do anything that read that textbook. I mean, honestly, I keep pulling out Professor Dolohov's books and reading those instead, even when I'm all caught up with that. Most interesting books we've got, those.

Transfiguration's not bad, but this essay is really a bit of a nightmare. I've hardly started. Just not sure where to begin.

But it would be a shame to miss Duelling, so I'm going to see if I can't work around that.

Wednesday's a good time for revising group, though. So, yeah. Count on me being there.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-16 03:41:24](#)  
(no subject)


Ron,

You're reading your Dark Arts textbooks? Twice?

Who are you, mate, and what have you done with Ron Weasley, what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-16 03:50:27](#)  
(no subject)

Heh.

I know. Only, everything else is annoying. I can't believe I didn't drop Divination when I had the chance. Really, I don't know what my dreams mean, but I'm pretty sure they're not going to tell me anything very brilliant about my future. More like, they're all about what I had for supper, yeah?




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-16 21:07:04](#)  
(no subject)

'S truth! I love Charms and that text manages to make the subject as dull as possible.

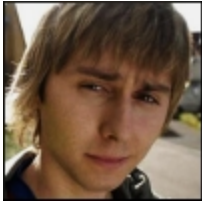
Anyway, Justin, group revising sounds like just the thing, if we can keep from distracting ourselves too much!



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-16 03:46:57](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Don't go making some kind of revision plans for Thursday night, now. There's going to be a party and things.

From,  
Hydra



 **[alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-10-16 03:48:37**

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

Dux,

I thought it was going to be you and me on Thursday, what?

No fear, though, we'll revise on Wednesday.

Did your Cousin Dora have anything good to tell you? How's little Bea?

-J



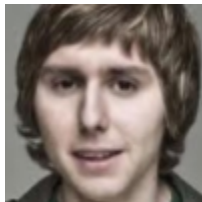
 **[alt\\_hydra](#) at 2012-10-16 04:00:46**

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

Well you should have a proper party with friends and school-mates first, too.

She had lots of good things to tell me, actually. We talked about her family a bit, and how she felt about being fostered. And then we were talking about how our family has all kinds of extremes, as far as having a mix of both blood traitors and council member-types in it, and I almost wondered if she was trying to tell me something... but then she said that she thought the two of us weren't extreme, we were both in the middle. So I suppose not.

It sounds as if Bea has grown a lot since we had our Tea Appreciation.



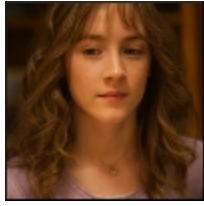
 **[alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-10-16 04:17:10**

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

I'm glad you've got her to talk to, then. She's well reasonable and very nice, what's more. You need more people like the Pondsers, love.

Perhaps we could meet there again over holidays?

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-16 04:22:03](#)

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

I think I'm invited, and I think she knows that I'd like to bring you along, too.

So hopefully we can manage it.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-16 04:31:44](#)

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

Well, if you can manage it, I'm sure I shall be able to do. Splendid: I quite liked their little shop. It was well charming. Perhaps this time I'll meet their dog, too, what?

It's so late, Dux. I've got to finish this Transfiguration before class tomorrow. I shall be up for a while longer but I've got to put the journal aside, I think, and take another pass at these last few paragraphs.

Sweet dreams.

-J



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-16 04:44:45](#)

*(no subject)*

I'll be there.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-16 15:23:48](#)

*(no subject)*

Capitol!

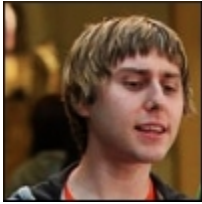
-Justin





 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-10-17 00:16:35](#)**  
(no subject)

You wouldn't mind another Gryffindor, would you?  
Because I'd like to come.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-17 02:36:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Neville,  
Of course, old chap! By all means, come along.

-Justin

**2012-10-16 21:22:00**

*Private Message to Cedric Diggory*



 [alt\\_harry](#)

I'm sorry about Cho Chang. I mean, for it not working out and all. I heard some people talking about it the other day and that can't be fun. For anyone. Being talked about like that. I guess it sort of comes with the territory, yeah? Being Head Boy and all. And, you know, a champion.

Only

Look, the people I heard, what they were talking about was all that stuff from last term about how you weren't really supposed to have been chosen. And that Cho really wanted

Not like I'd do that. I mean, that just wouldn't be on. But it's like they think we're fighting or competing for the same thing still, and we aren't. At least I don't think we are. And it's ridiculous because the cup picked you. We both know that, and I've tried as best I can to spread rumours and make sure people know why my name came out too without

you know

making some people angry about it. And we also both know who really won. It's not like it helps or changes things though.

I'm sorry for that too, you know.

And today at lunch someone looked over at me and said really loudly, 'here comes the real champion,' and I'm sick of it, and I bet you're sicker, and I don't know how to fix it except for maybe showing people we aren't fighting. Or something. Because it is stupid, and you've got enough to sort out with everything else and anyways I guess I thought I'd just write you so you'd know what people were saying. And, you know, to see what I could do. Maybe.

---



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-10-17 02:50:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Breakups aren't fun. Our breakup had nothing to do with you. There's a lot of stuff going on in my life that helped me muck it up. Among many, many other things, it had a bit to do with the Triwizard and therefore you, but not you personally. It's over, it hurts for now. We'll probably both eventually be better for it. Even if Davies is getting to snog her in the aftermath.

In the world we live in, we both know why we can't talk publicly about what went on during the Triwizard. Or correct the hideous rumours. You know what really happened. I know what really happened. Our honour will have to be satisfied with that. There are after effects of the Triwizard for my future that scare me like a bludger I can't see.

In terms of showing people we aren't fighting, I actually have an idea. I've got something I'm working on for the Halloween Feast that I might be able to involve you in. It should be a great deal of fun both in the set up and at the Feast. Let me check with the other people I want to work with but I'm pretty sure it'll work and we can pull you in if you want on the production and without a doubt the presentation part. It'll be a smashing good time if we can get it right.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-10-17 03:03:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay.

I can do that, yeah. Sounds like it might be fun. And maybe it'll make people less stupid.

What do you mean about the Triwizard after effects?



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-17 03:29:54](#)  
(no subject)

Everybody and I mean everybody knows my face and name. Several witches and wizards I'd never met said things last time I was in New London, both good and bad.

National exposure's great, whether I end up being able to play Quidditch or doing something else. However, I was set up in opposition to you. You're Harry Marvolo, heir to the Protectorate and I opposed you. At some point someone's going to decide that I'm a political liability and whatever I'm trying to do professionally will get crushed. Just like my 'chances' in the Triwizard.

I don't blame you. I know it wasn't your choice. But that's what some other very connected people are going to think. Some ladder climber's going to think 'hey I can impress Harry by hurting Diggory' because they are idiots and don't actually know what you want. But I still end up hurt.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-17 03:38:28](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Okay.

I guess we're just going to have to make sure that those ladder climbers know that hurting you would hack me off. Because you don't hurt Harry Marvolo's mates if you want to impress him. Right? And this Halloween thing could be a way to start showing it.

I mean. That we get on. You know. Put on a good show.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-17 03:48:40](#)  
(no subject)

I'll get back to you later this week if things are looking good. I don't know how you are at fiddling with construction charms and potions but another set of eyes can be good. And there will be plenty

opportunities to use the results, if things turn out the way I hope.

Yes I'm being evasive. I'll fill you in soon enough.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-17 03:51:27](#)  
(no subject)

Fair enough.

I'll try my best.

**2012-10-17 10:58:00**

*A few upcoming reminders*



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

**2nd years:** I'm seeing some persistent difficulties and confusions in the chartwork the Gryffindors and Slytherins turned in on Monday. Hufflepuffs and Ravenclaws: please do the best you can with the assignment due Friday, but come to the midnight session Thursday night prepared to discuss your questions and turn your work in (since there's no real time for you to any more work on it before our lecture Friday morning.)

I won't count this assignment toward your end of term marks as long as you make a good faith effort at it. We'll sort the confusion out and try again with the next one.

**Meteors:** The Orionids peak this Saturday for those who need to do observing. I'll have the tower open Thursday evening until midnight class, Sunday evening until curfew and Monday evening until midnight class. If you'd like to be on the permission lists to be out after curfew, please let me know which day as soon as possible.

I have other commitments between supper and class on Friday night, and on Saturday, but several of my 7th years have kindly offered to open up the top of the tower until curfew if the weather's clear. They'll post a note in the usual places if it isn't.

**One schedule change:** Due to the quarterly Astronomy guild meeting, I will not have office hours on Monday, the 29th. I will instead be available Tuesday afternoon (the 30th) from 1-3, and again from 7-9.

**6th, and 7th years:** Related to the above, this meeting is an excellent time for me to start talking to other astronomers about summer internships and upcoming positions. If you're potentially interested, do talk to me by the 28th so I'm up to date on your likely availability and interests, and can remind myself of your other NEWT subjects.

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 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-17 15:23:57](#)

*Private message to Raz*

Love - running through my accounts to prep for holiday expenses reminds me to ask you about a few things. You needn't answer now, this is just in hopes I remember them when we do have a chance to talk.

Money. Complicated, really. (For me, anyway. I know, I know.)

1) Do you want to go in with me and the rest of my siblings on our present to Dad, or would that feel too odd? Truly your choice: either would be fine by the rest of us. Storm's working on a new desk and filing cabinet for his study: the rest of us are chipping in for materials, a comfortable desk chair, maybe a new side chair, and a few other things.

Mum insists he isn't expecting presents, but, well. Dad. And we love him and want to remind him of that fact.

2) I had a very brief conversation yesterday with Tamsin Overby - she runs the Archetype - about whether I would consider buying into a share of the owning collective. It'd be out of my savings and I'm all right with the number she named, but I ~~sort of feel like~~ I want to talk it through with you. Obviously, not going to make any sort of decision without looking at the details thoroughly. (I am Dad's daughter.)

3) Toshenka nudged me a few weeks ago to consider licensing the projection process: I haven't followed up, but I keep coming back to thinking about it.

Otherwise - you thought about what you want to do Saturday night and Sunday? Much more pleasant subject, that! (Mostly, I care about what robes I should pack - whatever we do together will be lovely.) We're all set for the actual appointments Saturday, too.

Won't be at lunch, but I'll see you at supper and the staff meeting. I'm going to need to peel off up here after, though - the 2nd years have gotten totally turned around, and I want to spread the charts out and see if I can track down all the seeds of the problem. You're welcome to come up if you want, though.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-18 18:46:34](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Love, quick note from something that came up, chatting to Poppy.

Apparently, Irma's found an interesting reference to a chastity charm that backfired badly (cast on a female student, by her parents, without her consent), which lead to some rather troubling results (they couldn't be even a foot apart, had to leave school entirely.) I'll get more of the details out of Irma, anyway.

I mention for the obvious reasons, in case you need a little persuasion for your brother about the complexities of some kinds of interactions with the castle magics.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-17 15:35:15](#)

*Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Poppy -

I've had another note from the Wizarding Repopulation Office, urging me to come in - do you think we'd have time to go through their intake form together before next Tuesday? (I can't schedule them the week after, and I'm afraid if I put it off too much longer, they'll take to bothering Raz too. No reason to give them the excuse. Plus, I start running into other necessary appointments and errands for the holidays.)

Raz and I are gone Saturday into Sunday, but I could come by and see you Friday between 3 and supper again. Or Monday, same time.

The form's a rather ghastly 15 pages, and I'd love your help being as unhelpful with details as I can manage. Looking through, I think I've got everything I need to answer it.

On a mostly more cheerful note, I'd like to talk through more of what Irma found, too - still thinking about bits of it. Curious, really, the history of married couples in the castle. (And that long string of women leaving once they got married. Almost makes me understand why people assume I will.)

Also curious how few actually raised children here, though clearly it's possible - and maybe even desirable, given that couple in the



18th century. Did she mention if she'd tracked down information on any of the odder rumours? I've not had a chance to catch up with her in private this week. I've a few questions for Tosha about the theory, but we didn't get to that last week: it's on my list for this Friday.

Won't be at lunch - I'm trying to sort through my mail and some other necessary things - but will be at supper.



 **alt\_poppy at 2012-10-18 16:56:48**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Friday afternoon would be fine. I look forward to the challenge of circumventing that form. Honestly. You hardly need bureaucratic intrusions on top of the general nosiness of extended families, friends, colleagues, and the vulture press masquerading as the 'the public interest'.

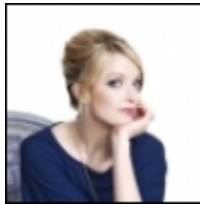
Irma popped in here last evening--which is only one of the reasons I'm writing you this morning instead of last night, but that's a wholly other tale--and we got to talking over the marital mysteries of the castle (as you do). She's been reading further in the early correspondence archives, attempting to follow up that line in GG's letter to SS agreeing something about their instructions to the stone cutters and the rune carver. She's surer than ever there was an explicit bias against marriage woven in at the foundations. One wonders whether they conferred with RR and HH on this point or whether this particular business was a gentlewizards' agreement worked without the women's input. Irma hasn't yet found anything in HH's archive to document her contributions to the warding, but she says she has no doubt that House tradition is correct on that point.

In any case, Irma's found another three or four references in SS's or GG's hand, none of them robustly explicit, however, and she's not turned up anything like a complete description of the foundational magic. I suspect she's quite right that it was never committed to parchment. And, of course, we know that the castle's magic has been modified over the years--sometimes deliberately rewoven or overwritten, and sometimes merely jiggered, bolloxed, or patched.

We hit on an hypothesis last night that married couples cohabiting here may produce something like an allergic reaction in the castle's blanket magic.

You'll understand how that metaphor occurred to us, of course, and it may or may not be a helpful way of framing an explanation (or for anticipating what you may experience once you and Rabastan have changed your status).

And, honestly, it may be that we're fussing for no reason and that there will be no particular difficulty with your settling in here after you marry. After all, we saw for ourselves that there were periods when whole families lived in for years, so I should like to think that this old pile of stones is spun round with magic flexible enough to accommodate such things.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-10-18 17:33:50**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

How very curious. (And pardon if I get distracted: I've just set the first years to creating scale models of the planets and moving things around. Far more for them to see some of the difficulties in how we lay these things out, but they do have questions.)

There's - let me break this down. We know Helga had at least one child: family tradition (and varied documents) are very clear on her passing things down to descendants. Slytherin, as well, yes? And there's something about Rowena's daughter attending school, though if I remember right, Dr Deller looked for details for his book a few years ago and didn't have much luck finding out more about her. But you're right, it's most curious, given that, that there's no mention of spouses I can think of, for any of them.

You're quite right, too, that we may be fussing for no particular reason. You know my - well, it's whimsical, but that doesn't mean I'm wrong - thing about the castle helping people it likes? I've certainly seen no reason to think it dislikes my being with Raz, and more than a couple of hints that it approves. If I am not attributing more to a partially sentient structure than I ought.

I admit, I'm almost more intrigued by some of the odder rumours Irma dug up. That one from the 15th century, about that Charms professor and the young woman whose father was so furious, and the professor claiming that some of the magics flat-out forbade bound couples to live there. It makes a lovely ballad, but what a miserable outcome, the poor woman.

Logically, the later examples seem to imply that isn't true, but I suppose we can't say that for sure without knowing what binding charms they used. I keep finding comments about the differences between the blood charms and the non-blood charms, much as I still think I really want the former. I suppose that's another line for future research (and I'll ask Tosha about it tomorrow, too, now I've got a slightly better grasp on the theory and correct terms.)

And all those stories about mistresses and lovers living outside the walls in Hogsmeade, and which of the cottages were traditionally used for the purpose, and so on. Again, makes an interesting story, but I'd not want to live it.

Did Irma say if she'd had any luck tracking down some of the notes our family documents refer to? If she can't lay hands on them, I can ask Chimera. Or see about getting Mum to call on family connections with the Smiths, though that might be a little tedious.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2012-10-18 18:28:24**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

I confess I'm still confounded that there are so few married couples who did live in for any length of time. Fewer than thirty, she thinks? In all this time?

And the founders are not among those. I suppose they were well in age by the time they set about this project. All had staked their claims professionally and established their reputations. Slytherin and Gryffindor, certainly, and Helga Hufflepuff, as well. But you're right, the stories are that Rowena Ravenclaw brought up her daughter here. And that, as you say, is quite the point: none of them had a spouse whose name comes trippingly to the tongue. Salazar and Sophonisba, it is not. Nor Godric and Griselle. Nor... Hm.

I've not read Deller's book. I suppose I ought, but to be frank, it's not something I've been yearning to do. When I finish this long study of Hypatia, perhaps. Though by then, I'll want nothing more challenging than the next of those Magdalena Wright mysteries.

Entertaining that this research of ours is turning up such a lot of titillating stories. Irma had another last evening--about a student,

a young witch, who allowed herself to be seduced by a roguish older lad only to learn that her family had placed her under a surreptitious chastity charm that exceeded its brief by quite a severe degree.

The families involved and the Headmaster all concluded it was a matter of the charm's having been amplified by some aspect of the castle's magic, but the upshot was the unfortunate young people found themselves joined by a life bond so restrictive they could not ever be parted by so much as a foot of space. Of course, they were forced to leave school since there was no provision for students to live under such conditions, and no one wished to trip the charm by forcing them to attend their separate lessons or sleep in separate dormitories or... well, the requirements of the spell were rather more compromising than that and were quite beyond the scope of the school's accommodations.

I suppose someone probably has written a novel with that pretext, or I'd be tempted myself.

Oh. No, Irma didn't mention one way or the other about her research into your family's traditional rites. I feel certain she'd have said if her search had come to naught, so perhaps she's still tracking those questions. I'll ask if I see her later, but I shouldn't think it worth pestering your family yet. You will need to call on them for so many other favours in the months ahead.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-18 18:42:58](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

I'm rather puzzled, too. Rather an elite company, that, when you come down to it.

And you're quite right on the Founders. Now I think about it, there's very little comment on any of their personal lives. Their connections with the other Founders, of course (there's a shelf or more of titles on the various combinations of friendships). Their professional lives. Their magics.

As to Deller's book, I have a copy - from when he spoke to the YPL, a few years ago. It's not bad, though there are places, as with that, where one wishes he'd turned his focus a little more intently to parts of his research. He's quite good on the

chronology, and spends near half the book on Salazar's growing disapproval and departure "holding tightly to his principles", which gives you an idea of the rest of his thesis.

(On your other reading: I've not started the Wright yet, but plan to bring it with me this weekend. And I'm near done with the Hypatia. I'd no idea you were reading it too, but I'm quite loving it, and the details on her teaching methods are, of course, a particular interest. I've dipped my nose into *Who Rules Florence Must Be Strong*, which looks fascinating, but I want something lighter before I dive into it. Wright first.)

That chastity charm bit sounds.. well. I'll have to ask Irma for the details on that one. I've heard, from time to time, of parents trying such things, and it might be nice to have evidence of why it's a poor idea. You're right it'd make a fascinating novel (and I don't think I've seen anything quite like it.)

I admit I'm still hoping that she'll dig out more details about the Bythseas, that couple who were here in the 1700s. (50 years teaching together!) Whatever they did seemed to work right, but it's not a family name I recognise at all, which - well, maybe that's something to put both my Auntie Gera and Chimera onto, since Gera does family history work, and Chimera does near any other topic.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-17 15:44:31](#)

*Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Cedric -

Just wanted to check in. (I do hear gossip, you know.)  
You all right there?

I know your question about budget for the feast decorations made it into the staff agenda for tonight, though really, no idea how the conversation will go. Professor Vector's been very cautious with funding decisions this year.

And thanks for volunteering for Friday and Saturday - but seriously, if you need the time elsewhere, we'll cover it other ways. Not that I expect there to be problems: it's really just opening things up, closing down at curfew, and letting people count meteors.

Friday, I'll be in the castle, just have some research and related topics to talk through with Professor Dolohov, but if there's a real problem, I'll come up. Saturday, Professor Vector's said she'd be available, if you need a staff member for some reason.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-17 17:30:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

I'm fine. Breakups are hard and you know that rumours about me these days can take a particularly unkind turn easily. However, I really am fine, I'll get over it.

Glad to hear about the money/supplies. I'll be talking with a couple partners soon, probably tonight.

I'll be using the tower for extra study time. I need to do some more work on my next Herbology essay and I think I've got all the books so I'll lug them up and just write when people don't need me.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-17 17:40:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Right. Not even going to try and give advice, but if you need space away from other people, just ask?

And for the evenings - I can't leave the office open for you all, but I'll make sure the elves have some hot tea handy in the anteroom, so people can warm up when they need to. (Though, really, no one should have to be out that long, and if you older years can't manage warming charms by now, we're all doing something wrong.)

Actually, on your project - do you need space to work? I'd have to adjust the wards a bit (so I'd need to know who you're working with, and get a promise you'd be there yourself), but I could let you have some space in one of the astronomy tower storerooms for a week or two easily enough. There's a couple of old tables in the one just under my classroom.

And that way, you'd not have to worry other people could get in when you weren't there, or have to spend half your time setting up and cleaning up each time you worked on it.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-17 17:51:07](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

I think that would be great if we could use one of those rooms. I'll be asking the potential partners later today. If they say yes I'll let you know tonight or tomorrow.

I don't think we'll be doing anything that would need protective containment wards. Unless we want to keep the cloth warded against outside influences before we finish it, but that's easy enough to do with temporary wards.

Thanks for the offer of space and the tea against the cold!



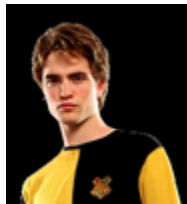
 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-17 17:54:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Excellent.

And I wasn't thinking containment wards - though if you decide you need them and want a hand, I'm glad to help - but my own locking ones. (Well. We've been through the discussion of why I ward the tower these days. No point revisiting the unpleasant history.)

On the space and tea, well. No need to send Madam Pomfrey unnecessary work. For all sorts of reasons.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-18 12:18:49](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

I invited Fred and George Weasley. Harry and I have been talking and we think it would be good for the two of us to be seen publicly working together in a friendly fashion. As we discussed plans, both Lee Jordan and Pansy Parkinson were added into the group. More than I had been planning on but it should be an interesting group to work with.

Harry didn't say but I guess his mudblood should also be included.

Thank you again for the room and bringing it to the staff.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-18 14:08:52**

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Right. That's rather a nice group, there.

I had a look at the room last night, and cleared some things into the corners: you've several good size tables to work with, a few old chairs, and there's an old blackboard in there, too. (If you all are up for it, an hour helping me rearrange it when you're done would be lovely - it'd be easier to sort through things with more than one wand available.)

On the wards, I was planning to use handwriting samples to set them, but I'd need something from Harry's Granger. (Just her name, in her own handwriting, is enough. I won't see him in class till next week, so do you want to ask him to send her up with something this evening?)

On the rest, let me just wake up a tad more, and then I'll go up to the classroom and dig out handwriting for the rest of you. We've class at 11 anyway, so can you come up beforehand, and I'll set everything up and show you how they work? Or we can take a couple of minutes before going down to lunch.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-18 02:07:57**

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Right - on the supplies, it took a bit to work through the mechanics, and the various options.

We'd rather you didn't sell the outcome, but asking for donations would be a lovely thing. What we're glad to do is put up a reasonable sum for supplies, and to give you access to the school stores in moderation if you need some trial materials. (That said, don't deplete the stock of anything beyond the marked reorder levels without telling the appropriate person, and - well, all the rarer things are locked up anyway, but you can ask if there's something specific you'd like to try.)

For quantity, once you figure out what you want, Professor Vector's



willing to arrange an order with our usual suppliers and handle the transfer of galleons. If she gives you money, she'll expect a fully detailed accounting. Talk to her when you're ready, either way.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **2012-10-17 15:59:23**

*Private message to Tallie Powell*

Tallie -

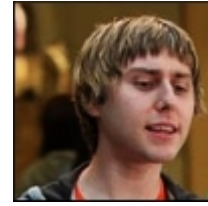
Just confirming that we're all set for Saturday. We'll meet you at 1 at the Guildhall, and Temp's confirmed she'll meet us at 2 at the Festal Board, and we'll go from there. Thanks again for arranging the second visit to the Guildhall - I just know Raz will feel more comfortable if he's looked at the security implications for himself. And it's by far my favourite of the lot.

We're still thinking about your idea of Spence for the actual ceremony: there are some practical concerns (security on the day, but also having people coming and going to prepare.) And you're right we could always use one of the Guildhall spaces if we decided we'd rather, though the Great Hall seems far too big, and one of the Crypts would mean resetting it for the evening. We can talk more about that on Saturday, anyway.

And while we've got all three of us handy, we should talk through the contract notes for vendors one more time - Raz had a couple of thoughts on the privacy clauses in particular.

**2012-10-17 12:07:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Dux*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Did you notice that Professor Sinistra's offered permission to be out past curfew tomorrow night?

I know you've got something planned, what. I wonder if it might be useful to go do an hour's observation in exchange for permission to be out later.

What do you think?

-Justin



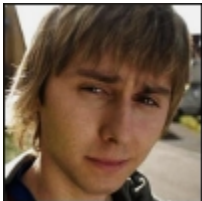
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2012-10-17 16:18:16**

*(no subject)*

Oh! All right, we could do.

Do you think she'll be suspicious at all, do you? I really don't want her asking either of us questions...

From,  
Hydra



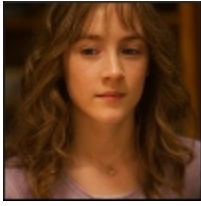
 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-10-17 16:36:07**

*(no subject)*

I think she'd suspect if we asked permission and then didn't show up, what, but if we go for a bit--well, we'll get our homework done, for one, and then we can leave and no one needs to know how late we arrived back.

Unless you'd rather not risk it?

-J



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-17 16:52:30](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know if it's really all that much of a risk, not so long as we show up for a bit, and then not so long as we stay in the hidden stairwell after. No one's ever found us there yet.

Who knows, even if she guessed what we were up to, Professor Siz might not care!

From,  
Hydra



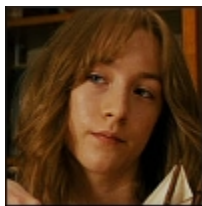
 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-17 17:03:44](#)**  
(no subject)


Wouldn't care? Because she didn't say anything over the summer, you mean?

I think professors are supposed to take an interest in students breaking curfew to snog, what?

What makes you think she'd let us get away with it, Dux? Not that I think we ought to flaunt it, mind, but are you saying she's favouring you because of your uncle? Or something else?

-J



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-17 17:08:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, there is that, but that's not why I thought it.

Only I wasn't there, so I can't say for sure, but remember that I told you Siz wanted to have a chat with Sally Anne, Pansy, and me about sex and boys?

Well, she had the chat. I didn't go, but Sally Anne and Pansy told me some of what she said, and I've also looked through the book she recommended. It all seems...rather encouraging? I mean, coming from a Professor.

From,  
Hydra



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-17 17:20:10](#)**  
(no subject)

She recommended a book? I didn't know wizards had anything like that, what! I mean to say, Muggles have all sorts of--references, what, and resources for adolescents who want to know more about, er, well--

I say, I can't think about this in lessons, what? Even if it's only History of Magic it's--well, it's not exactly calming.


Perhaps I'll do more of Professor Dolohov's meditations.

At least it's Creatures next, which means a nice walk in the crisp air. I say, just the thing. ~~If I dare stand up~~

See you afterward?

-J



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-17 17:30:47](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, and Auntie Narcissa sent me one as well. Professor Siz's is much more detailed. There are even pic--

Sorry! I probably shouldn't describe it further, should I?

Yes, Creatures, with the crisp air and the smell of animal droppings and mouldy hay and things.

There, does that help?

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-17 17:52:51](#)  
(no subject)

It's good to know I may count on you, Dux, to bring us round to unappetising subjects. I shall show you just how grateful I am at five-past-four, too.

It's interesting, what, that that makes two adults who've been on the whole more encouraging than not.

What about the book from your Aunt ~~N~~ Mrs Malfoy? It's probably one of those preachy sorts that only says not to do anything until one's married. Did she send it just now? I hope that doesn't mean your father's told her to discourage you or some other type of meddling.

I think it's well odd how adults never seem to understand how it feels, especially since it's not as if they've not been through it, or something like it. It's intolerable this business of telling us not to follow our instincts when that's all anyone can do, what!

So I suppose it counts for something that you've two people, anyway, telling you to be sensible about things.

Does that--I mean to say, that's not to put any pressure on you, love. I'm well content with things as they are. Well. Mostly. It's difficult to stop sometimes but--it's also wise, I suppose. I say, I'm not putting that into words well at all. Five-past-four: Say you'll meet.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-17 18:02:56](#)  
(no subject)

Auntie Narcissa sent the book a while ago, in case I had an interest in other boys besides Harry (no, she didn't ask about you, but she could tell on holiday that I wasn't pining for Harry, and I think she wondered if there was someone else). It's not as preachy as I would have thought, though there's some silly bits about family lines and blood status. The overall

message does seem to be that purity is ideal, but if it's not possible, here's some advice for you, and so forth.

I think a few adults might remember how it feels. I think Dora does.

And of course I'll meet.

From,  
Hydra

**2012-10-17 15:39:00**

*Private Message to Seamus*

Where are you revising today? Because if I have to sit and listen to Davies go on any longer about how terrible Diggory was to Chang I may just vom.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

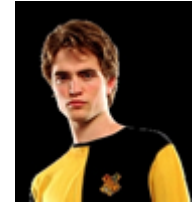
He brought her round the Corner again this afternoon. And she's *still* telling anyone who'll listen that Diggory dumped her by journal and he's only thinking about his career and she's 'holding him back' according to what he told her and UGH.

I liked Chang much better when she wasn't such a watering pot. And *Davies* has been playing the supportive 'friend'--as if he's interested in her as a 'friend'! I hope she knows he's going to dump her too, as soon as something else catches his eye.

Anyway. I just can't go back to the Corner after Prefects' meeting. Where do you reckon we can meet instead?

**2012-10-17 16:34:00**

*Private Message to Fred and George Weasley*



 **alt\_cedric**

So Halloween Feast.

I'd like to do something interesting and novel for this Feast and am looking for some partners to work with on preparation. I'm hoping we will have access to some of the school supplies, I've asked Professor Siz to ask at the staff meeting tonight. What I want to do is make masks that serve as magical foundations for illusions. We make the mask so that it takes visual (and if we get it really right audio) illusions. Because we're building a generic foundation they'll last longer than if you just cast it on yourself, but not as long as a custom build *Illusio Persona*. We'll set some of them to be badgers, lions, ravens and snakes and let others set theirs how they want. I think I've got the basic stuff to start with, but it's always so much easier to work on a project when you've got someone else to talk through problems with.

I'm thinking normal sheep wool for the base. I know it would be better to have polar bear fur harvested under the Aurora Borealis but that's so not in the budget for this quantity of cloth. We'll probably need to stitch strands of something magical into the masks to help hold things together, Veela hair or dew soaked spider silk maybe? Then cast the illusion charms and a potion to fix it. There's all sorts of variations that artists use in portraiture and such. I'll owl my mother and she can send me a couple different samples to experiment with. I know she has lots sitting around and has so little time for it these days with the little ones around the house. We'll have to provide the potions with the masks or if we can get away with a commercially available one tell everyone which to use.

I'm coming to you two because I know or can guess just how much of the very creative mischief over the last seven years is yours and I think this would be just your sort of play. What do you say?

~CD



 **alt\_gredforge** at **2012-10-18 01:36:10**  
(no subject)



Hogwarts obviously picked the right Head Boy this year. Interesting idea! And we're quite flattered that you've come to us with it. Yes, we'd be happy to help?. Delighted. Overjoyed. Really.

Sheep wool would work, yes, but it might be smart to have a few cotton ones, too, for people with allergies. How many are you looking to have made? Er, do you have a supplier for the Veela hair? Because we don't, and frankly, we've found that's one item with a large counterfeit market. Fortunately, the spider silk is a lot easier to obtain, especially since there are a lot acromantula webs in the Forbidden Forest; Sluggy usually has a good supply on hand. It can be murder to work with if you don't know the trick, but we know a handy unspooling charm that's great for disentangling and controlling the stuff.

Now as for the potion: we could brew something, but there are commercial ones on the market we could use. *Forsby's Fixative* is one, and *Eglantine Engelbert's Elixir of Elegance*. There may be some used by actors, too. We have somebody we know we can ask about that.

Any samples your mum can send us would be a big help, thanks.



 **alt\_gredforge** at [2012-10-18 01:40:40](#)  
(no subject)

Oh yeah, and one more thing: who's covering the cost? Are the students going to pay for the masks, or is the school? (Uh, we really don't have the Galleons to front you on the supplies.)



 **alt\_cedric** at [2012-10-18 02:37:53](#)  
(no subject)

We have limited access to school supplies for testing. Once we settle on a design I'll be talking to Professor Vector about ordering all the supplies. She'll be keeping an accounting of those receipts. And we've been asked to solicit donations at the Feast for those that enjoyed the entertainment to help defray the school's cost. Not mandatory donations.

We'll be able to fix the prespelled masks and provide one dose of the fixative for those which would like to spell their own.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-18 02:15:59](#)  
(no subject)

I'll owl my mother tomorrow, hopefully we can have some samples to test this weekend. Unless Professor Slughorn has a stash he's willing to share I don't have a reliable source for Veela hair. With the right runic configuration the spider silk should work.

Professor Siz has offered a mostly unused room in the astronomy tower as a workshop for the duration. I'll let her know you two are the people I'm working with so you won't upset her wards.

Would you be willing to let Harry be involved as well? We were talking last night and well it would be good if he and I could work together on a project. He's starting his NEWTS in several subjects and it'll be another set of eyes and hands.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-18 02:23:55](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, we'd be interested in working with him, yeah.

A few more hands might be helpful. We have two other suggestions: Pansy Parkinson. We know her pretty well, because she's good friends with our brother Ron. AND she knows Marvolo well, so that'd help break the ice, yeah?

Also, we'd suggest our friend Lee Jordan. He's worked a lot with us on some of our other projects. That all right with you?



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-18 02:37:27](#)  
(no subject)

Ok. More than I'd been planning on but more people should definitely help when we are mass assembling masks. Once we've got the procedure down I'm sure there are a few others we could ask.

I'm sure Tyche would be up for it. I'll let Harry know and ask Pansy tonight. Then I'll give Professor Siz everyone's names so we can all get through the wards.

How about we meet quickly after your Quidditch practice

tomorrow to check out the room and start planning? We can get to work Saturday afternoon.

We'll be showing proper interhouse cooperation for a big event. Seems you're helping me do my job.



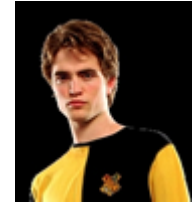
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-18 02:43:41](#)  
*(no subject)*

Regarding that last: I'm sure that'd be a shock pleasure for our brother Percy to hear. Former Head Boy, you know, as he keeps on reminding us.

Sounds good. Let us know whether Marvolo and Parkinson are in.

**2012-10-17 23:13:00**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo and Pansy Parkinson*



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

Harry and Pansy,

I talked with Harry last night about working together on a mystery project. After talking with Fred and George Weasley they also suggested that we add you as well Pansy. So I'm happy to extend the invitation to the two of you to join us and Lee Jordan in making illusion masks for the Halloween Feast. The basic idea is that we create blank masks that can be spelled with various illusions. If it works out right we'll be creating a set of badgers, lions, ravens and snakes, plus whatever else we come up with. There will also be blank masks that people can spell themselves.

We've got a room in the Astronomy tower that Professor Siz has agreed to let us use as a workshop for the project and we have limited access to the school stores for testing purposes.

If this sounds like something you'd like to help with, let me know so I can tell Professor Siz and she can set the wards to let us in. We're hoping to meet after the Gryffindor Quidditch practice for a bit and really get to work Saturday afternoon.

~CD



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-10-18 03:37:43**

*(no subject)*

That's a brilliant idea, Di Cedric. I'd love to be a part of it. Count me in.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-10-18 03:40:53**

*Private Message to Pansy*

So the masks are a secret, but my working on something with Diggory shouldn't be, yeah?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-18 03:42:23](#)

*Re: Private Message to Pansy*

I'm sure people will pick up on it, what with all the PMs you've been slinging back and forth.

But I'll talk it up a bit, if you'd like.

All right, Harry?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-18 03:44:20](#)

*Re: Private Message to Pansy*

Thanks.

And yeah.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-18 03:45:54](#)

*Re: Private Message to Pansy*

Okay, then.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-18 03:39:14](#)

*(no subject)*

Saturday works, yeah.

And you're right, it does sound like it'd be fun.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-18 14:15:57](#)

*(no subject)*

If you want to be able to bring your mudblood, Professor Siz needs a writing sample from her to be able to add her to the wards. Just her name in her own handwriting is fine.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-10-19 01:08:43](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Sure. Thanks.

**2012-10-18 08:58:00**  
*Happy Birthday, Justin!*

Have a spiffing day, mate.



 [alt\\_ernie](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-10-18 14:02:27**

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

Live it large, F-F! Hope it's brilliant.



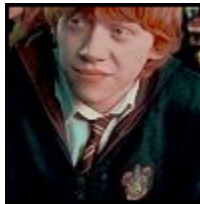
 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-10-18 16:22:58**


*(no subject)*

Thanks, Ron.

I say, I'm told there's a small get-together after supper. Hope you'll come.

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-10-18 17:32:33**

*(no subject)*

Wouldn't miss.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-10-18 18:44:09**

*(no subject)*

Hope we're not chased off by the sleeveless robes brigade again tonight.

Honestly, they didn't have to be so rude about it.




 **[alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-10-18 19:37:16**  
(no subject)

I say, quite right. Though I doubt that shall be the case, what: I understand the proceedings tonight have a teacher's seal of approval, so we've the right to the space if anyone should try to stop us.

But it was easy enough to find somewhere else to revise, at least.

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2012-10-18 20:38:39**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*  
*Private Message to Justin F-F*

Good.


True. It was just their attitude, innit? Treating us like we were firsties with no business wanting a room.

A bunch of nutt NEWTers, that's what they acted like. Completely mad.

Honestly, exams turn normal people into bloody menaces. Even the twins can be like that now sometimes. And it's only October. Think what it'll be like by spring.

You're not going to do your nut over OWLs, are you? I mean, Sally Anne probably will. Lucky she's not already having kittens about revising. Not sure about Pansy.

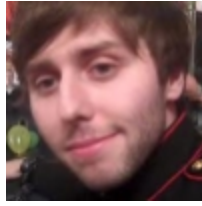


 **[alt\\_terry](#) at 2012-10-18 22:55:02**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I am Up to No Good*

Happy birthday, Justin!

I hope Pig arrived in time all right?





 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 14:49:55](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I am Up to No Good*

Terry,

He did, and thank you. They're smashing.

It's so clever the way you charmed them to hold the sleeve cuffs in their paws. I say, it must have taken a while to carve all that fur!

You've not told us for a while how you're doing, mate. What else are you learning? Have you made more friends where you are?

Do you see Sirius?

-Justin



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2012-10-18 16:21:22](#)

*(no subject)*

Absolutely. It's great to have you in the sett, F-F.



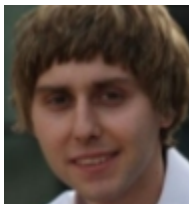
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-18 16:23:58](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Zach.

I'm glad to join the ranks of both the Badgers and the sixteen-year-olds, what!

-Justin



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-18 16:22:04](#)

*(no subject)*

Cheers, Ernie.

So far it's top drawer, what.

-Justin



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-18 16:49:04](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday!



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-18 17:07:57](#)  
(no subject)

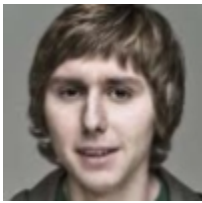
Thanks, Diggory.


-F-F



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-18 17:29:47](#)  
(no subject)

Many happy returns, Justin.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-18 19:34:50](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Pansy.

See you this evening, I hope?

-Justin



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-18 23:56:15](#)  
(no subject)


Of course!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-18 19:58:11](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday!



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-18 20:27:56](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Sally-Anne.

I'm looking forward to this evening. I think our exercise should whet our appetites for cake nicely,

what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-18 22:53:09](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Finch-Fletchley. Somewhere, badgers are dancing in your honour.

Very odd creatures, badgers, really.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 14:55:03](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers, Fred and George.

I say, it was dashed kind of you to come last night. And particularly to leave the canary creams behind, what!

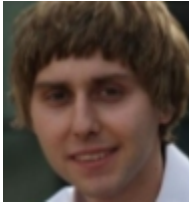
Good to see you both. It's very quiet without you in our revising group. I'm bally well certain we shall all pay for the respite with multiple explosions in the Great Hall when we least expect it.

-Justin



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-18 22:56:23](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday!




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 14:52:04](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Neville.

Glad you came to the party last night, old man.

-Justin



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-10-18 22:58:36](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday!

If you have a cake, be sure to throw a handful of crumbs over your shoulder to keep the Snartfules Queezles at bay! Then you'll have good luck all year long.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 14:51:22](#)  
(no subject)

Luna,

Was the party crumbly enough for you?

Thanks for coming.

Cheers,

-Justin

**2012-10-19 07:45:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Hydra*



Good morning.

I love you. Did you sleep at all last night? I say, I think I finally dropped off round about two.

 **alt\_justin**

But I'm not sorry we stayed out late.

Are you? I mean to say, you don't...regret what happened? What you did?

Because I wasn't...I'd not have minded if you thought--think--it was a mistake. A lovely present, mind, but.... I mean to say, after your talk with your cousin, and the books and things, if you were feeling pressure, then, I well understand. I never want you to do anything you don't bally well want to do, what?

Well. I do love you. And not just because of last night.

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-19 17:09:47**  
(no subject)

I expected you might say something like this today. I slept just fine - after a while, at least - and no, I don't regret anything.

I have been feeling some pressure, but in the opposite way of what you're thinking. I suppose it's because most of what adults say make it sound as if it's wicked for a girl to desire anything at all, or that bad things are sure to happen if she does.

But then I figured out that bad things can be avoided if you decide what you want and don't want ahead of time, and if you can talk about it with the person - well, with you, I mean.

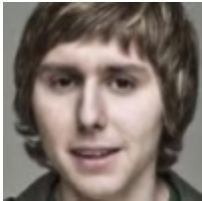
So, just so you know, that's as much as I want to do with you right now. It was a lot more interesting than I expected, really, and I'd like to try again sometime. But I might not want to do that *every* time,


either. ~~Maybe you could~~

...now I'm blushing and really hope you don't read this during your lessons!

Also, I love you too. So much!

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 17:18:24](#)  
(no subject)


Well, I'm glad that it was something you wanted.  
And enjoyed?

But don't worry, I shan't ask for more. One step at a time, what? (Though I say, I'll not object if you want to try that much again. Whenever you like!) And I should hope you're not going round doing that to boys you *don't* love, ha!

I'll say again, too, it was well thoughtful to arrange all the festivities last night. The pastries and so on. Everything was perfect. *You're* perfect.

-J



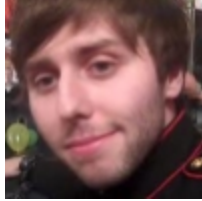
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-19 17:45:14](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't enjoy it like you enjoyed it. But yes. It made me feel sort of proud about it? Perhaps that's a bit strange, but that's the best way I can think to describe it.

I'm glad you enjoyed the party. I wish I had more pocket money so that I could have bought even more macarons, mostly because they were gone so quickly and I only managed to get two for myself. And I'm sure that I saw Remy eat at least six. Oh, and did you hear how he said "bugger that!" when you asked me to dance? I'm starting to think you're right, he does fancy you, and he's cross because he's starting to realise that you and I are doing more than holding hands between lessons.

But it was nice that so many people came. A good amount from every house, even.

From,  
Hydra



 **alt\_justin** at [2012-10-19 17:54:40](#)  
(no subject)

Fair enough. Well, I'll just say I'm glad you're pleased, and leave it at that.

I keep telling you I don't care about pocket money or anything but now that you mention it, Remy did rather make a pig of himself, what? Only I'm quite sure he didn't say anything like that when we danced. Are you sure you're remembering correctly?

But I do think you're right about him fancying me. Before the music started up, he caught me over in the corner by the punch bowl. 'I'm really, really glad you're living with us,' he said, 'but I just want you to know I don't think of you as a brother.' And then he put his hand on my arm, what? It was...well. It was fairly unmistakable.


I told him I agreed, it would be bally well awkward to think so, after such a short time and since I shan't be there much longer. It was as kind as I could think to say.

But I shouldn't want him to start to resent you, what? We shall have to think of some way to help him develop other interests.

Who else do we know who might fancy other blokes?

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-19 18:15:30](#)  
(no subject)

Oh no, I'm sure he said it. Quite loudly, too. Maybe you were concentrating on the music, though.

But did he really say that he doesn't think of you as a brother?

And with his hand on your arm? Oh, no...

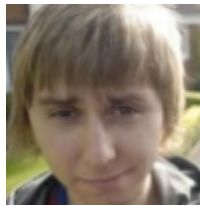
I suppose if I were a boy who fancied other boys, and there was one living with me who was fit, and polite, besides, I might start to hope and imagine that he would fancy me back.

Still, he ought to know by now that you fancy girls, and one in particular.

In last year's quiz, the boys who were "Least Likely to a Marry a Girl" were Terrence Higgs, Duncan Inglebee, Geoff Hooper, and, ah, Harry and Draco.

I don't think Harry and Draco fancy boys, though, and I'm not really sure about the others.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-19 20:17:25](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I didn't hear anything, Dux, but if you say so then maybe he did do.

You think I'm fit?

I think he knows I fancy you, of course, but I think he also might hope that I shall...broaden my horizons, if you follow me.

Hm. I don't know Higgs well at all but Inglebee I met a few times last year, over in Ravenclaw. He doesn't strike me as someone who'd fancy Remy. Anyway, all of them, even Hooper, are a bit too old for him, what?


I'm quite certain Harry and Draco aren't gay. I think Hopkins might be but I'm not sure. What about Nott? (Though I pity anyone who'd go out with him, so perhaps no, either way.) Or Zabini?

I say, Pip MacMillan (Ernie's younger brother), he might be. I know people think François is, but that's the same as thinking I am, just because he spent time in France, what?



-J



 **alt\_hydra** at [2012-10-19 20:43:12](#)  
(no subject)

Now don't play innocent, you know that I do.

Maybe he thinks that you're in denial. What's that saying? "Keeping the Floo closed," I think. Because it would be hard to know who you might approach when nobody says that they're gay. Susan Bones is the first person I've known who's said that she fancies girls.

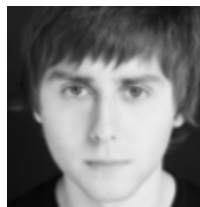
And even that's different. Mummy says that men like the idea of two girls together, so sometimes girls will say that they fancy girls *and* boys just to get male attention. I don't think that's what Susan is doing, though.

Anyway, I don't think Harry, Draco, or Blaise are gay. Teddy's so strange it's hard to say. He used to leave little tarts and cakes by my plate last year, before you started noticing me. I didn't know what to think of it.

I suppose Hopkins might be a possibility. I don't know if I know enough about Pip MacMillan to say either way.

Well, I've written to Remy and told him I want to talk to him. I won't say that I know about him touching your arm, but maybe I can get him to talk about it some other way.

From,  
Hydra



 **alt\_justin** at [2012-10-19 21:02:07](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not, love, I just like to hear you say it, what? I was so sickly when I was little that I don't particularly think of myself as well-turned out. So thank you.

As for Remy, you know him best, I suppose. I'd be inclined to


leave it alone, it's no bother, in particular, and it's not as if I'm going to break down in the face of his overtures, what? But if you think you can have a reasonable conversation and direct his attentions somewhere else, onto someone who might have a chance of returning them, then carry on, sweetheart.

See you after supper, all right? I've got some Arithmancy homework to finish up and then a short assignment for Professor Slughorn but then I've nothing but Runes and Charms. And Defence, of course. And 'Noble' Arts.

And you.

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-10-19 22:07:28**  
(no subject)

I was quite a funny looking child, as well.

You might be fine leaving it alone, but I don't know that I am. I suppose I'm feeling a little taken aback, especially now that I've just spoken with him -

Well, all I said was "is there any special reason why were you so cross when Justin and I were dancing?" And he pretended not to know what I was talking about. He insists that he didn't say a word when we danced and that I'm imagining things. "I wasn't at all cross, don't be absurd," he said, then he claimed he needed to do homework and hurried off to his dorm. And I know for a fact that he never does homework on Friday nights.

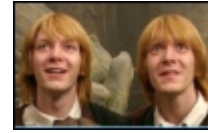
He looked a bit pale, I have to say. I suppose I really took him by surprise. Now I feel a bit sorry for it.

Well, I'm heading down to eat so I'll see you soon.

From,  
Hydra

**2012-10-19 11:46:00**

*Order Only: An interesting project*



 **alt\_gredforge**

We've been approached by the Head Boy, Cedric Diggory, for a little project in anticipation of the Halloween Feast: to make some face masks that can be charmed, i.e., like lions, eagles, badgers and snakes. Thing is, we have some ideas about how a product like this might be of some interest to the Order. We're not talking about something as good as Polyjuice, by any means. But maybe something that'd fool casual observation, in the dark, or as part of a crowd. Diggory's going to help, and he's wicked good with Charms stuff. We said we'd bring in Lee, too.

And get this: Diggory said Marvolo might be inclined to help, too. So it's an opportunity to get to know him a bit better, too.

Kingsley, any advice from the prospective of someone who's done some theatrical work? We're thinking maybe a wool base, then a charm, with a potion fixative.

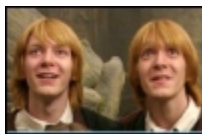


 **alt\_frank** at **2012-10-19 19:38:32**

*(no subject)*

definitely sounds like something worth looking into.

anything that saves on polyjuice is worth it in my book, and maybe some of our contacts at the camps could find some use in them too.



 **alt\_gredforge** at **2012-10-19 20:07:49**

*(no subject)*

Yep, we agree.

At the very least, it'll give us some ideas for further tinkering, and hey, we don't have to turn our best prototypes over for the stated purpose, do we?

We bet the whole thing will make Fu really happy, too. And maybe the Sherwood Band. Although we'll have to be careful how we use 'em, if it's for Order business.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-19 21:07:36](#)  
(no subject)

could muggles use them? might have to test it out to see.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-19 21:21:32](#)  
(no subject)

Don't see why not. The magic will be in the charm and potion that sets the 'face,' but can't think of any reason why anybody can't put them on afterward.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-19 20:12:39](#)  
(no subject)

A very interesting idea, you two. And yeah, it could have applications.

We use stage makeup and glamours, mostly. But I think Dorcas has a book about traditional Japanese stage magic that might be to the point. They do a lot with masks because of the kabuki tradition. Will see if I can dig it out for you.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-19 20:17:29](#)  
(no subject)

Sometimes you two are too bloody clever for your own good.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-19 20:19:10](#)  
(no subject)

We agree!

Pity that Percy doesn't see it that way.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:24:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, well, what Percy doesn't notice about clever things around him, the better for all of us.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:26:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Luckily, it's not an uncommon occurrence.

He wouldn't notice us being clever even if it bit him in the arse.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:26:40](#)**  
(no subject)


Boys!



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:27:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry, Mum.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:30:12](#)**  
*Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

All kidding aside, gents, don't make the mistake of underestimating Percy. He was clever enough to become Head Boy (I know, I know; it's a fact of which he reminds you *ad nauseum*. And he's very eager to please his boss, a fact of which Mum and Dad are painfully aware. I wouldn't put it past him to try to curry favour with the 'right people' by selling out his family.

Let's not give him the opportunity to notice anything amiss. All right?



 **alt\_gredforge** at [2012-10-19 21:31:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

Right.

Well, he's not crossing our paths now, and if he ever has any reason to hear of our little Halloween masks, he'll probably not do any more than to sneer at them.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-10-19 21:32:22](#)

*Re: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

Maybe not. But he would remember them, if he learns about them. And yeah, if the Order uses them later, he's perfectly capable of putting two and two together. So let's not wave them in front of his nose, hmm?



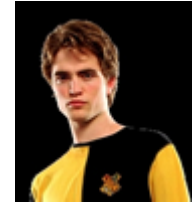
 **alt\_gredforge** at [2012-10-19 21:32:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

Understood.

**2012-10-19 13:21:00**

*Private Message to Fred Weasley and Harry*



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

The owled packaged arrived from my mother. She sent a couple bottles of both *Forsby's Fixative* and *Eglantine Engelbert's Elixir of Elegance*. She also included some others *Pence's Permanent Portraiture* and *Lasting Landscapes*, though she says the last are know for being for their specific specialities. There's a whole line of different potions specializing in different artistic styles which she didn't include since it didn't sound like what we needed. She also sent along her favourite potion recipes for as she put it 'the artist in the field' mostly for sketches and 'the struggling artist' with a note that it has a much shorter duration and incredibly cheap ingredients.

I was checking the stores earlier today for the ingredients we discussed. There are only two spools of spider silk. One was collected under the new moon and the other is rather old. I think we should make a short expedition into the edge of the Forest to collect some fresh. If you are up for it, I'll let Mr Milland know we'll be going into the edge of the forest sometime tomorrow.

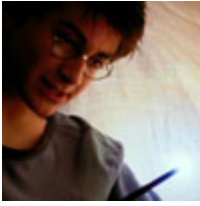
Could you let Lee and Pansy know? Only being able to message two people is awkward.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at **2012-10-19 20:25:30**  
(no subject)

Sounds good. We'll meet you outside the entrance of the Great Hall at 8:00 am. Best to do it early before many are up and about. There are lots of acromantula webs in the Forbidden Forest (um, according to rumour!). We bet a combination summoning/severing charm would get us some.

Will speak with Lee and George. I presume Marvolo will speak with Parkinson.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:06:22](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll pass it along.

We've been around acromantualas before. Pansy and I have, I mean. A couple of years ago. So yeah, it'd probably be best to stick to the edge, just to keep safe and keep people from getting into trouble.

And exploding giant spiders can get messy.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-10-19 21:20:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Re: that last: too right.

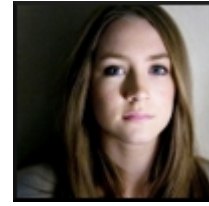


**2012-10-19 14:15:00**

*Private message to Remy*

Remy,

Do you think we might talk sometime today?  
Maybe before supper?



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I suppose there's no use in pretending: I heard what you said when Justin came over to dance with me last night. I've also noticed that, well.. oh I don't know how to write it, exactly. I'd rather do in person.

I'll try to find you in the common room, all right?

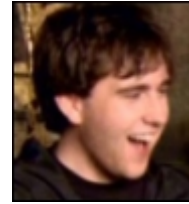
From,  
Hydra

**2012-10-20 13:53:00**

*I'm sure there's a reason*

why Fred and George Weasley were picking bits of spiderwebs out of their hair throughout lunch.

But maybe it's better not to know?



 [alt\\_neville](#)

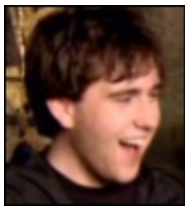



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-20 18:56:41](#)

*(no subject)*

Spiderwebs are essential for making ginger hair silky and manageable.

Surely everyone knows that?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-20 18:57:30](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh.

Well, that explains it!

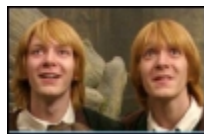


 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-10-20 18:58:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Really?

Does it work on people with other hair colours as well?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-20 18:59:06](#)

*(no subject)*

Feel free to experiment and report back to us!

**2012-10-21 23:41:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Nymphadora and Alice*



 **alt\_sirius**

I've had another letter from Harry. I want to make sure the bits about women are on-target. You're the two who immediately come to mind to make sure I give him advice that shan't result in a hexing.

So, you should both know he's very concerned about the prophecy and that killing Voldemort (if he even can do) will instantaneously turn him into some soul-sucking Dementor (which is rubbish, of course, and I'm telling him so).

But beyond that, he's quite concerned that any girl he asks will feel as if she has to acquiesce to him because of his powerful connections.

There's one girl he mentions in particular. I can't tell from what he says if he's actually interested in *her* but I think I recall that she's the one he asked to the Yule Ball last year. She's apparently just broken up with the Head Boy (so right away, not necessarily a great time to catch her, if she's on the rebound) and Harry says, '*[Cedric's] been under lots of pressure because of being Head Boy and other things, and he told her so, and she got angry and split up with him because of it. How would I ever know that they liked me because of me, and not because of .... how important I'm supposed to be.*'

Right. Here's what I plan to tell him:

*There are ways you can tell if a girl likes you for you and not just your family or your reputation or your Gringotts account. But mostly they have to do with getting to know her and letting her get to know you. In this case, if she couldn't handle dating a boy who has the normal sorts of pressures, Head Boy and so on, I don't think she'd necessarily give you the sort of support you need. But perhaps you're not interested in talking to her, just snogging her.*

*Nothing wrong with that, so long as that's all she's interested in, too.*


*As far as figuring out if you're taking advantage - well, again, I think it's all in how you read the signals she gives you. If she smiles back or if you get the feeling she'd rather be somewhere else. I can't imagine*

*you'd go on spending time with someone who tells you one thing while her attitude is saying something different. So, watch for the signs that she's bored or unhappy. Try a double-date if you think that would help take the pressure off, or go with her and a group of friends so you'll feel more comfortable. (Don't **ask** when she's with a group, mind. Get her alone so she can say no if that's what she wants to say - and tell her that it's okay if she does, no hard feelings.) But even if a girl accepts on the basis of who she thinks you are, that's all right. It means she's getting something she's looking for, too, doesn't it? And I think you'll be able to tell, sooner or later, if that's all there is or if there might be something more meaningful in your, er, relationship.*

He's not liable to get himself slapped or jinxed, following that, is he?

(Oh, and Alice, he asked about Dudley and whether there's a chance he'll reply. All right if I tell him that Duds is working on a response? I want to warn him to be kind since writing is not something that comes easily to his cousin.)



 **alt\_alice** at [2012-10-22 04:16:44](#)  
(no subject)

That all looks like rather sound advice, love. (And I'm very glad he wrote you back. I told you he would.)

Not sure if there's any easy answers to that one, but I do think you've given him something to start with. I can see how he'd be a bit unsure about letting people get to know him. And how he'd be the sort to worry about taking advantage, which is rather sweet, and means he's far less likely to as a result -- and as long as he's upfront about his worries, the right sort of girl could find that endearing.

Dudley's working on his response, yes. He's taking his time with it, and this is the most I've ever seen him think about anything.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-10-22 04:26:46](#)  
(no subject)


Do you mind if I get you to write that to Remus as well? He seems convinced I'll never amount to anything where the title of Agony Uncle is concerned. Or maybe Dora can tell him if she agrees; he'll believe her if she says it.

I hadn't thought that the right sort of girl would like him asking but you're right. Of course, a clever girl would tell him it's gallant and sweet, too.

And yes, anytime Ellie needs to write things it's a fairly involved process. We've been having her copy out sections of the *Standard Book of Spells* as practice for both penmanship and casting.

Since I'm sending owls, I'm also putting together an addendum to the orders for Aleks. Can we tell him about how many people to expect making their way to France on his return trip? It'll help him to know approximately the number of blankets, food for the ship, and other immediate supplies he'll need to leave room for in the hold.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-22 04:35:43](#)  
(no subject)

Dudley's been sitting privately with Jude -- it'd be too insulting to just put him with the seven year olds, but he's been doing their lessons. He's picking up on it rather quickly, though, and now that he's got good reason to, I think he'll be quite motivated to learn as much as he can.

The Hopeful can carry fifteen plus two crew, and we can certainly see if we can find that many people between now and solstice to bring along. Let Frank and I know if it'd be too many.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-22 12:52:06](#)  
(no subject)

Fifteen should be all right, Allie. Thanks.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-22 14:12:10](#)  
(no subject)


Sorry I was too knackered last night to give this proper thought. I'm not much better now, but I have been thinking about what you've said to him here, and while I think it's mostly spot on, I'm a little, well,

bothered... by what you say at the end about the chance a girl might say yes because she wants something out of dating Harry because of who he is.

You're right, I expect, that some girls might do. But. Telling him a girl might and then saying she'd be getting something she wants from it, well, that's hinting it would be all right for him to date her for similar reasons (whatever he might want from a girl that's not based on really liking her as someone special)--that gives him a well convenient way of excusing rather shabby treatment of girls, because in his spot, he's always going to think the girl could be using him, and here you're telling him that's all right because, really, he can use girls right back and it's all fine.

I don't think that's quite how you meant it, but I think it would be better if you left him to make up that bit of special logic on his own. That way, if he turns out to be the sort of bloke who takes advantage and thinks girls are getting what they want from him no matter how he treats them, then all right, but he won't have got the idea for it from Sirius Black.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-22 14:56:51](#)  
(no subject)

I see what you're saying, Dora, but his whole point is that he's afraid to even approach a girl because he's certain that no matter what, she'll not give him an honest answer. My position is that he ought to go ahead and ask and look out for the signs that she's merely putting up with his company rather than enjoying it. And if he perceives that's the case, then he can break things off soon as he figures it out.

I'm not thinking of the girl who lies because she thinks she *has* to lie, so much as the girl who lies because she's setting her cap for him. For the girl who thinks she *has* to lie, that's what all the preceding stuff is about.

I mean to say, I can't tell a bloke to never be the one to initiate anything. All I can do is tell him to look out for signals that she's not as interested as she might be telling him.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-22 15:04:38](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't say anything about telling him not to take initiative.

All I'm just saying is you'd do better not to mention the girls who might be setting their caps for him. He can figure out about them on his own, and he will do. In fact, I expect he already has done.

But you'd do better not to mention them because mentioning them hands him an excuse that boys use way too often for thinking some girls aren't worth worrying what you do to them.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-22 15:18:20](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Well, I don't think that's Harry but yes, that's just the issue. Boys do.

In some ways he's already figured that out, of course. But in some ways that's the problem: he's painting all girls with the same ink, before even trying to find out what they really think of him.

What about adding: *Everything I've said above still applies, though: You've got to treat every girl with respect, no matter what their reasons for going out with you. And if you think there's a problem, for whatever reason, you owe it to her and to yourself to sort it out.*



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-22 15:34:28](#)  
(no subject)

You could do, yes. Talking about respect, though, sounds a bit more like a lecture than the rest of what you said, and the rest of it really is all right.

I was really just thinking you could leave out that bit about girls getting something they want, like this:

But even if a girl accepts on the basis of who she thinks you are, ~~that's all right. It means she's getting something~~

she's looking for, too, doesn't it? And I think you'll be able to tell, sooner or later, if that's all there is or if there might be something more meaningful in your, er, relationship.

That sounds more like you than the other, anywiz.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-22 15:36:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Excellent, Dora. Cheers.



**[2012-10-22 07:54:00](#)**

*A general lull*

Bit of a quiet weekend 'round Slytherin - socially, I mean. Always plenty of homework to be had. I suppose it's owing to that Thursday night party that there were no other parties going on. Cheers for that, Hydra - a good time was had by all. And many happy returns again, Finch-Fletchley.



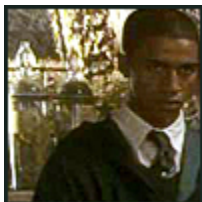
 [alt\\_draco](#)

Say, has anyone had time to write an essay for that YPL contest? You know, the one on the topic of the Lord Protector's Greatest Achievement. I've been so focused on managing quidditch, homework, and Prefect duties that I almost forgot about it entirely. It's a shame, really, because I reckon I'd do a spiff-up job on it if I put quill to parchment. There's so much to say about the Lord Protector's greatness that it's hard to know where to begin, and how to keep it to the length-limit. And then there's the question of just how to put all my thoughts into words... still, I might give it a go if I can make time this week.

Shouldn't be too hard to find a quiet spot, anyway. Some of the NEWT-level students must have found a new place to practise spells and revise, because the group staking out the far end of the common room (like they usually do on Sunday nights) was a bit thinner than usual. Just Samantha and some of the other girls, talking about Charms theory.

Oh, and Teds - you really planning to go 'round with your sleeves hacked off like that? If so, you might want to use a severing charm to get rid of those bits of ragged fabric on the edges. It doesn't really look like a fashion statement so much as the work of a rebel house elf at large in the laundry.

Right then. Who's going to be next to be rid of sleeves?



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **[2012-10-22 16:00:57](#)**

*(no subject)*

It was a bit of all right Thursday night, I agree. I especially enjoyed the French music, Hydra. It's always good to have an excuse for dancing.

If you want someone to read over your essay before you submit it, I'd

be happy to give it a once over. I'd rather thought it was the younger years that was meant for, and hadn't thought it fair to put my oar in. Still, I agree that a contribution from you would raise the standards for the contest and lend distinction to all who enter.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 16:27:13](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't even written it yet, but since Madam Umbridge asked me about it specifically I was giving thought to it - the fact that she brought it up with me at all serves as evidence that it's not just for the younger years, I guess.

No worries, though, I'm sure they've already had plenty of entries come in.

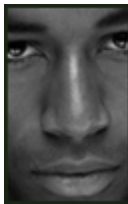



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-10-22 16:41:24](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad you enjoyed it, both you and Draco. Thank you for coming.

From,

Hydra



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-22 16:07:34](#)  
*Private Message to Draco*

Very noblesse oblige of you about that contest. Careful how you make it sound we should all be doing it, though!

Agree it's quieter in the common room. I expect they aren't off writing essays for Umbridge. But if it gives Teds something to do other than sulk, that's all to the good. I rather thought Greg and Vince would take up with them. Do you think they asked and got sent away? Or do they just need one of us to give them the hint?

Wonder if the elves all are down the laundry punishing themselves? That'd be a laugh.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 16:38:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I could give a two knuts for that contest; Umbridge has been after me to submit something so I thought it would be a good idea to at least look as if I'm considering it. Who knows, maybe I'll cobble something together. I can spice it up with some personal narrative about the time Teds and I drew the council-member mark on our arms when we were eleven, then rolled up our sleeves and showed it to the Lord Protector, proud as proud can be.

I suppose that Greg and Vince haven't been admitted to the secret whatever-it-is because their arms, when bared, look like sides of swinging ham. Whatever they're up to, Pucey had better watch the reigns closely. Montage could barely stay up on his broom in practice - he was nursing his side like he'd been kicked by a hippogriff.



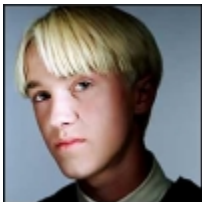
 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2012-10-22 17:04:25](#)

*(no subject)*

I wrote for it and have been wondering how many others did.

I haven't heard too many people talking about it. I suppose that stands to reason, though. Probably no one wanted to talk it up too much, since the chance of winning goes down the more people who enter.

I guess I shouldn't give away what I wrote about if you're not finished with yours. Wasn't the deadline today, though?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 17:11:11](#)

*(no subject)*

That's right, the deadline's today.

I suppose I'll have to write fast. If I decide to do it.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-22 17:26:04](#)  
(no subject)

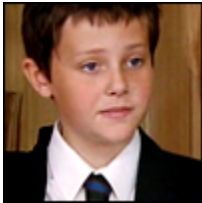
It really was sweet of Lestrage, wasn't it, to put on a spread for F-F. Too bad the dancing hadn't really started when we left for our pre-meteor revising.

On the essays, I did one and so did Lines, I think. And possibly Corner? And a few of the 2nds and 3rds (they came round Ravenclaw Corner asking advice). Hardly any 4ths, though, I don't think.

Are Slytherins really going round without their sleeves? Dames said he was thinking of doing it and I told him it would be the most ridiculous thing to remove his sleeves just as it's getting colder! If they're going to adopt it as fashion, they ought to at least wait until spring, at this point. But then Samuels told Dames that if he does it, he'll start sporting his robes sleeveless, too.

Daft. Summer, perhaps but winter?

You're lucky, though, if you can find quiet places to sit and do your work. The Corner's only getting more crowded, with certain people bringing whomever they like along. I think we're going to have to enforce some guidelines, soon, about people who come there only to hang about and not to actually do homework.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-22 17:30:13](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm copying mine out again. I had to change something I thought of this morning and then it was too long. So I had to ~~write smaller~~ shorten up another section.

But I'll get it in before the end of the day.



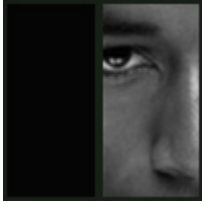
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 18:08:19](#)  
(no subject)

I think Daphs said that she did one, too.

And it's not just Slytherins. McLaggan and Sloper

have got their arms out, and I thought I saw Hooper without sleeves as well, but then when I spotted him again at supper he had the regular long-sleeved robes on again.

Anyway, it'll probably no longer be the fashion once Spring comes around. Plus, it's all about showing masculine virility in the face of the oncoming frost, I reckon. A sort of "I don't give a toss" to the illogic of it. Right?



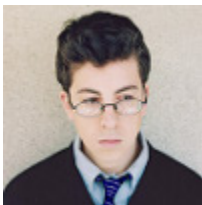
 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2012-10-22 19:15:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

Such a shame you didn't stay. But I suppose the musical selections would have been wasted on you.

You're quite right that it's best to go on if one can't appreciate the nature or quality of an entertainment.

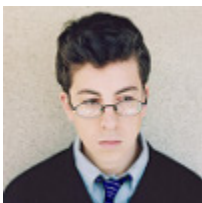
Of course, the mix on the punch improved as the evening went on, so you missed that as well.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-23 04:09:20](#)**

*(no subject)*

Professor Dolohov said something about learning to apply knowledged gleaned in one area to another. Since Professor Sinistra instructed me several times both last year and this that it is not approved form for footnotes to sprout footnotes of their own, I have taken her lessons to heart and duly improved my YPL essay. They were rather challenging edits to make, particularly considering the need to finish them today, but I was ruthless and turned in my essay well before the final minute.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-23 04:09:38](#)**

*(no subject)*

As for sleeves and the lack thereof and those who wear them, or don't wear them as the case may be, they had better be dab hands with warming charms is all I have to say about such matters.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-23 04:11:19](#)  
(no subject)

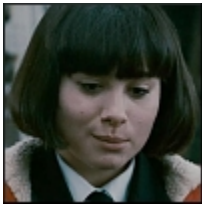
Well, I'm glad you came to your senses about it, Lines!




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-22 17:30:55](#)  
(no subject)

There would be rather a lot of things to choose from, wouldn't there?

If it's not for a specific purpose, and only for the sake of fashion, I think the sleeveless look is rather ridiculous. What will the next silly fashion trend be? Let's anticipate so we can be on the cutting edge. What about berets? Or kilts! I'd bet we could convince at least half a dozen people that kilt wearing is just the *best*.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-22 17:37:55](#)  
*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Has Harry talked to you yet about his ideas regarding Cedric? It's not a half-bad plan, really, to be seen working with him on a project in order to make sure people don't assume they're at each other's throats. And I really do think the masks will go over well if we get the spells right on them.

But it is so very typical of Harry to come up with things to take responsibility for and then stress about them.

I quite enjoyed our quiet Sunday. Although I'm behind on Potions now, thanks to you. You'll just have to help me with revising later. And have it actually involve revising this time.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 19:16:52](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

I mean, on one hand, I feel like if Diggory's a champion then he ought to be able to stand up to a few rumours, right? On the other, I reckon it's something that Harry feels like he can control and

manage a bit, and since so many other things are outside of control, then why not?

Anyway, the masks sound cool. Don't make me a hippogriff one! Maybe a dragon, hey?

Yeah, actual revising might be in order. Those non-revising revision sessions don't leave me with much time or clear headedness to even resume actual revising afterward, when I'm back up in my room. That meditation's coming in useful for lots of reasons, in fact.



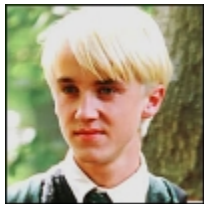
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at 2012-10-22 19:29:26

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

A dragon it is.

And yes, I can see how it's about time he had a bit of a victory that was due to something he did, because he wanted to. On Saturday, when we summoned spider silk and Fred got just absolutely covered in it, he actually looked quite happy.

I'm sure Professor Dolohov would be so pleased you're applying his lessons to other purposes. Only I wouldn't tell him, not after his start of term. ~~You didn't have to~~ That reminds me -- we ought to ask him to tea sometime soon.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at 2012-10-22 19:38:17

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Thank you. You're amazing, you know? Like some kind of brash idiot I didn't even say please. I'm sorry.

I'd also be happy if I saw one of those twins covered in spider silk - it'd help me tell them apart, for once. Ha.

Well, I'm not telling Professor Dolohov about the multiple applications for meditation, either. Though it does make me think about those weekend remedial meditation lessons in a brand new and hilarious light.

Tea, eh? Does that mean you're already wanting new books?



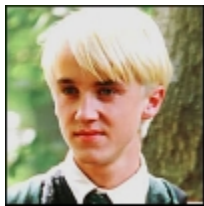
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-22 20:22:19](#)


*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

And you're sweet. Just for that, I'll make sure yours is the only dragon mask we make.

They do tend to blend together, don't they? I don't even think they have a separate journal.

Of course I want more books. And I very much want to hear a brilliant conversation about international politics between my rather clever boyfriend and the current expert on the subject.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 20:40:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Brilliant. Cheers, you.

Don't they both date Angelina Johnson or something, too? Or is that just a rumour I heard? Completely naff mental image, in any case.

I don't know if it'll be a conversation so much as me asking questions and him answering - in that really resplendent, much-detailed way of his. 'Course, if that's the sort of thing you like to listen to, who am I to deny?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-22 22:25:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

But you ask such *clever* questions!

I think just one of them does. But I'm not sure which one. I certainly hope *she* knows.

They really are quite sharp, you know, when it comes to charms and things. I suppose two heads really are better than one in their case.





 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-10-22 18:13:48](#)  
(no subject)

We? There's no way I'm wearing anything that Scottish. I'm an Englishman first, even if I spend most of the year in the Highlands.

I think we'd have to convince Professors Lestrangle and Dolohov to wear them first, anyway. That seems to be the origin of the missing sleeves. Unless you think Moon more responsible for it.

This is all a ploy to get me to show off my legs, isn't it?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-22 18:26:52](#)  
(no subject)

Naturally.

If it'd be less offensive to your English sensibilities, I could have one made with an Ouroboros pattern instead of tartan. I'm sure our Headmistress would thoroughly approve.

I can't say Moon is one of the people I'd label as trend-setting, but one never knows. We shall have to pay close attention to him just in case.

**[2012-10-22 12:35:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am up to No Good: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*



 **[alt\\_neville](#)**

Are you writing this stupid YPL essay? I've tried, several times, but what I've come up with sounds like utter rubbish. It's supposed to make it sound like I'm not a blood-traitor--you know, going on about how the Lord Protector made it possible for us to live by true purebred precepts at last, and rot like that. But it sounds just so, I dunno, stiff. Unconvincing as can be.

Could look it over for me? You're a much better writer than I am. Don't know if I have enough time to start all over yet again if you think I have to begin from scratch. But at least you might be able to talk me through some ideas.

Or tell me if it's utterly hopeless.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-22 18:07:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I am.

I'm trying to remember all the things Mrs Professor Carrow used to say back in the day, and it's giving me a headache.

I think if you pick just one thing and really concentrate on it, that might help. I mean, it's one thing to talk about how great something is, but if you don't have something to back it up, it could sound a bit weak.

I ended up writing mine about New London, and how it's a shining beacon of progress. I was thinking about writing about mudbloods, and how much better we are with them in their proper places, but I kept seeing Hermione Granger and Terry Boot in my head, and I just couldn't make it sound like I meant it at all.

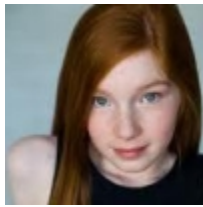
What were you thinking of writing yours on?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-22 18:26:51](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I won't try touching mudbloods as a subject, either. I talked instead about how the Protectorate is built around promoting and rewarding the right sort of people. Purebred, of course, but specifically the ones holding the right sorts of ideas. (Unstated but obvious: people not like my parents.)

I'll never get a job writing propaganda. I'm terrible at it.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-22 18:47:57](#)  
(no subject)

You're not terrible, Pete, it's just hard to write about something utterly ridiculous as if it isn't.

Maybe if you have an example of someone specific who's been doing well that you can aspire to? Like the MacMillans, or the Moons. Didn't Pip Macmillan's family get a new house because they'd had lots of children? You could talk all about what you wanted to do when you grew up.

And now I'm trying to imagine you surrounded by babies, and it's making me smile.

**2012-10-22 21:29:00**

*Watchin'*

Been out makin' merry wiv me mates in the Watch.

Oughta look inter joinin' up wiv a Watch near yer own place, if'n yeh haven't already. Good mates, all!

An' a right good time down the local after a bit o' neighbourly nosin' about, yeah?



 [alt\\_wagstaff](#)

**[2012-10-23 13:52:00](#)**

*Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

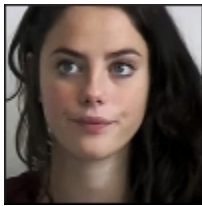
Hi, Daphs, I was wondering if I could borrow some of your books on glamours for a project I'm working on for Halloween? I'd really appreciate it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Also, what's your favourite animal?

---



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-23 18:28:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Do you want the same book I lent to Sally Anne, way back when? It was for some play little Gemma Stretton did. Roberto Gorson's *Creative Theatrical Glamours*. It's the best I've got, but I'll be needing it back after Halloween, if you can manage!

My favourite animal? Hmm. Well, swans are very elegant, but not so much in the face. Cats, on the other hand... Well, nevermind that. It's very typical of most girls, but I've always loved Unicorns. And Abraxans, after that.

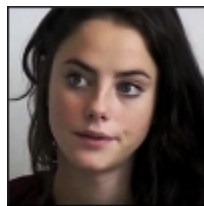


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-23 18:47:33](#)

*(no subject)*

That would be lovely, thank you.

And I'll certainly keep that in mind.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-10-23 23:40:07](#)

*(no subject)*

Sounds fun, whatever it is you're doing. And it's to do with Harry and the Head Boy, Diggory, too. Right?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-24 01:23:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, that's the one. To be honest, it's the sort of project that would probably be better suited to your skills and artistic sensibilities. I'm pretty sure I'm only there because the Weasley twins are heading it up, and they know me and I know Harry, but he doesn't know them.

Once we get the odds and ends sorted out, we may need some more hands to help out, if you'd be interested.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-10-24 02:06:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Are you planning a performance of some kind? Or just making costumes?

I might be able to help, if the timing works with my schedule! Is Draco helping as well?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-10-24 03:52:49](#)**  
(no subject)

He isn't as of now, but might join in if we need it.

We're making masks for the Halloween feast. We're using some really interesting charms so they'll look like different animals, and if we get it right, people will have the ability to customize their masks to what they want too.

We're hoping it'll be a fun surprise, especially for the younger years.

And I don't think we were planning a performance element, but it might be fun to present them with a bit of flair, if you've got any ideas. Depending on how busy you are with other things, that is!

**[2012-10-23 15:32:00](#)**

*A happy arrival*

Congratulations to my sister Diane and her husband Chiron (Haley) - they've a lovely new daughter, Circe, born very early this morning. All involved are glowingly healthy.

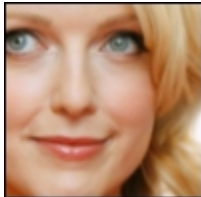


 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)**

They've more information in Chiron's journal. Such a handy thing, and I know it's saving them no end of explaining the basic news over and over again.

Any rate, it was a very great pleasure to get to see all three of them this afternoon.

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 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-23 19:50:16](#)**

*Private message to Andie Haley*

Andie -

Truly, your Mum's absolutely fine and thriving, and little Circe is adorable and also glowingly healthy. Your mum and dad wish you could meet your sister right away, too. But I've got notes from both of them for you, and there'll be photos coming by owl soon. (And no promises, but depending when the Naming is, I might be able to bring you with me.)

I keep telling you not to let the aunts (well, your great-aunts) worry you too much with stories. They're champion fretters - think of it as their hobby. You can find much more interesting ones, I'm sure.

Speaking of, I've a couple of books for you. Two from your Dad, one from me. Look, why not come up to my rooms tomorrow at 4, if you don't have other plans? I can hand over the books and notes, and tell you a bit more about your sister. (I'd say tonight, but I'm not likely to be back much before curfew.)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-23 21:28:04](#)**

*Private message to Raz and Poppy*

The Wizarding Repopulation appointment was bloody awful. But it's done.

(Have to say, Circe's birth was impeccable timing: every time they tried to go down a line of conversation I didn't want to encourage, I fell into raptures about the adorable baby I'd just come from seeing. They had no idea what to do with that - could scarcely complain, given the goal of the office.)

The whole thing was - well, odd. They have such a firm idea, that office, of how things should work. (Honestly, I think they'd be happier if they could just match everyone up themselves, no emotions involved. Lie back and think of the Protectorate.)

But they'd keep falling into what were clearly well-worn scripts - the housing incentives, the stipends, the support for working mothers - and then realise, a good few minutes in, just how poorly those actually fit our situation. I was tempted to poke at that, a bit, but restrained myself.

Anyway, I kept the focus on the arguments we'd all talked through. My schedule - in terms of the testing they want - is miserable, Raz's is even worse. And after that horrible article, was *everyone* in their office, down to the cleaners, willing to sign a binding confidentiality agreement, magically enforced? And then while they were trying to sort through an answer to that, pointed out that Poppy really was best positioned to handle the relevant testing, and wouldn't that just be simpler for everyone?

They finally gave way (though, Poppy, I rather suspect you're up for a very patronising conversation by firechat, telling you how to do your work. Can we make it up to you somehow?) And I got the list of tests they insist on having on file in writing, so we've a record if someone throws a fuss later.

Well enough done, anyway.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-23 21:41:04](#)

*Private message to Raz*

Truly, love, I'm fine. Or will be once I've had supper with far more sensible people and gotten some new conversation to fill my head beyond the WRO platitudes. (And they should be here shortly.)

The weekend - it really helped with today. Both being more settled about some of the planning decisions, but even more having such a



clear reminder of the point of the exercise. (Which is to say: you. Us.) Made it ever so much easier to be patient and say all the right things while getting them around to our view of what to do.

If you don't see me after Duelling Club - well, may lie down for a bit when I get back. It suddenly feels like it's been a very long day, though I'm sure supper will help. But come up, if you like, or let me know to come down for a bit.



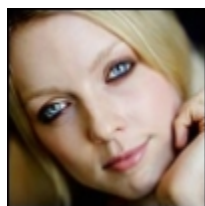
 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-24 00:19:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

They didn't really bring up housing incentives, did they? Spence might not be as roomy as Buckingham, but we'd have to procreate like rabbits for three lifetimes if we ever wanted to make use of all that space. Housing is the last thing we need more of.

Anyway, very happy to hear that you got them to consider Poppy as an alternative. If they put up a fuss, I'll make some noise and insist upon it. All those years of declining and dodging interviews will get some good use again.

It's the newt DC tonight, so who knows how long that will last. A handful of them have been completely useless in class the last few weeks- either nodding off entirely or boiling over with new and strange hostility. No, hostility isn't the right word. Intensity? Not necessarily of the positive sort, in any case. Not yet sure what to make of it.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 00:37:35](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Your lady, mmm? (Which is to say, that's a most pleasing form of reference. Just don't think I've seen you do it in writing before.)

And no, seriously, they got five minutes into the housing incentives, before they realised just how entirely ridiculous they sounded. (I have to admit, holding my laughter took a bit. But it seemed better to let them realise the absurdity themselves rather than risk them going all prickly if I interrupted their set speech.)

The financial incentive speech was worse, somehow. (Though just as silly given you.) Because - well, they'd have helped Mum and Dad, back when, if they'd been around, and I know it. And yet listening to them talk about that it ought to be a *reason* to have children. (Well, they didn't quite come out and say that, but they rather implied it.)

On your newts - that is odd. Anyone in particular? Bletchley's been on edge about something, but he's one of the ones where it's terribly hard for me to tell.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2012-10-24 00:51:54](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Like that, do you? I'll have to remember it.

I'm sure they threw every speech they could think of at you. If we have children, *they* probably get a tidy financial bonus, too.

Bletchley's one of them, as matter of fact. Croaker and Higgs, too. Not sure about the others but there could be something there. All boys, now that I think on it.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 01:02:05](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Please, do.

And - ugh. I hadn't thought of that at all. Wouldn't be surprised if you're right.

Good grief. You'd think people hadn't been having children for millennia or something. Yes, I'm delighted for Diane and for Chiron, but really. Shouldn't we wait until they're grown and of age before we really start talking about pride in the accomplishment?

Hmm. That is curious. (Though, I suppose, things are a bit odd at the moment: people seem to have taken such sides over Cedric and Cho, and it seems to have upset some of the usual patterns.)



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-10-24 00:09:17](#)**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

The baby's adorable? Am I wrong or aren't they a bit red and wrinkly when they're just-born?

Right. I'll have to make an effort to stop saying "Bloody Circe" from here on out. Not that I often do, but for some reason the phrase has got stuck in my head now. What should we Diane and Chiron for gifts? (Don't answer that here love, we can better discuss in person.)

To echo what my lady says: let us make it up to you, Poppy-provided they don't turn right 'round and change their minds.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-24 00:24:37](#)**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

Love, babies are automatically adorable. It's just one of those things. (Though in this case - well, seeing her enough after her birth that all involved were cleaned up and had a chance to sleep and all helps. Orpheo was much more wrinkly.)

As to the name - well, not thinking it through about Andie, they've rather gone for very classic and unimpeachable. I understand it was a choice between Circe and Morgana, and one of Diane's friends just went for the other. Don't worry over much about the swear: Uncle Silvanus has the same problem.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-10-24 00:33:29](#)**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

Are they, then? I suppose it never occurred to me to notice.

I doubt there's very few people who would remember, or at least admit to remembering, that Bella had a blood traitor sister named Andromeda. Beyond that it's a very classic wizarding name indeed.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 00:44:59**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

It is a duty of younger sisters to smile obligingly and soundly admire (and then some) the babies of the elder ones. Or something like that.

(Brothers seem to be far more exempt, beyond a brief "Oh, how very pleasant.")

More seriously, it's an easy way to make Diane happy, costs me nothing, and will make the aunts approve as well. (See? You do rub off on me.)

As to the name - more people worry about those things than you might think. I know it's classic and all, but there's people will assume that a name choice shows your loyalty in all sorts of ways. Even if it's a perfectly good family name (Andie was, in fact, named for an aunt of Chiron's, if I remember right.)

Anyway, this is Diane we're talking about, and she fusses over the oddest things, so ever since, they've been picky.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-10-24 14:41:43**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

Nothing to worry about, my dear. I took your hint and rang their fires this morning first thing to say that I'd heard from you and that I have everything needed for the procedures. I did ask them to send along all of the parchmentwork they require and asked if there were any particular protocols they wished me to observe. (There are quite a number of those, naturally.)

I spoke with Belinda Motter, who is, I'm assured, a Procedures Oversight Designee and, thus, fully authorised to approve arrangements such as ours.

I will let you know as soon as I receive their parcel, so we can arrange a time or times that would suit each of you to submit to my wand and potions.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 15:09:53**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

You are a wonder, Poppy, thank you. And I'm so glad they were reasonable. (May they continue to be!)

I just realised, I didn't give you the names of the two I talked to - a Mrs Phillida George and a Mr Theodore Gellman. Both, by their cards, "Senior Associates" - for the Witches and Wizards divisions, respectively, obviously. She was very prim and so very correct, but I rather got the sense he might be a tad more flexible, if approached the right way. (Also, the sense he might be senior to her within the department: she deferred to him, anyway.)

I somehow fail to be surprised by the amount of parchmentwork - well, given their intake form. Such a lot of bother, really.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-10-24 15:20:30**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

As for the parchmentwork, it would seem they've rather long-range notions about assembling and applying the information they collect.

And it's not merely the questions they've asked you, but also the procedures they were urging, that make me think they intend something rather more extensive than merely encouraging marriage and procreation.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 15:51:17**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Poppy*

Do expand, Poppy? Forewarning seems entirely sensible.

Though - there's something Chiron said, yesterday. Diane's at St Gerard's - well, she would be. But he remembered there being less fussing and testing even just with Demeter than there was with Circe. And it's clearly not that anything's wrong. (Honestly, a more amiable child you could not ask for - and Diane apparently had an extremely easy time of it, all things considered.)

Anyway, he asked at the time, but just got brushed off with a line about standard tests. He didn't pursue it, but he notices that kind of thing, and mentioned it to me. Of course, they've been most pleased by the WRO - they may not use the New London house often, but it means so much to them to have it.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2012-10-24 00:58:05**

*Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

I've been debating whether it would be appropriate to send your sister and niece a small gift, as we met briefly (the sister, of course, not quite your niece at that time).

Do you know yet when her Naming will be held? I'd like to have the gifts arrive before the day, if it's not immediately.



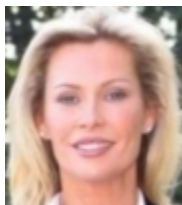
 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 01:09:56**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Oh, Narcissa -

Diane would consider it quite the social coup, as I'm sure you'd already guessed, but she'd also be delighted, I'm sure. Most kind of you to think of it.

When we talked about it today, she wasn't sure about the Naming. Dad's birthday party is November 18th, and of course every other weekend between now and then has something that leaves out some crucial bit of our family or Chiron's. Not for a fortnight, anyway - our family Naming's nothing fancy, but there's a few details that take a little time to arrange.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at 2012-10-24 01:18:11**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Really, so long? Well, it's no particular trouble to send something along, particularly as we're still in New London for another ten days or so.

But I know what you mean about arranging details. Whenever there's a new child or a wedding it's quite a production, isn't it?

And I suspect Bella has already been after Raz to speak to Cornelius on your behalf. Really, when Rigel was born it took the Jugsons almost a month to restore their family tapestry to Bella's standards. (Which is lucky for you, as it hasn't had much time since to go back to mouldering - but of course, Bella likely assumes that they immediately immersed the thing in murtlap essence for storage!)



 **alt\_sinistra at 2012-10-24 01:24:45**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

There's a potion - well, an oil - Mum's side favours for the Naming that's thought to work better if it's had a little time to mingle and set. And one of the things that goes in is the child's hair. (Honestly, that part I don't understand: I was glad enough to give up Potions after my OWLs.)

As to. Tapestries. Right. Raz hasn't mentioned, but I'm sure he'll sort things out.



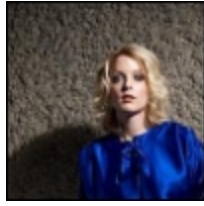
 **alt\_narcissa at 2012-10-24 01:54:10**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Oh, do you mean Lares oil? Yes, my great-grandmother was quite adamant that Mother use it when we were Named. (There's another name for it, I'm forgetting - something Anglo-Saxon, I think. *Cyn*-something? One of those clever phrases with loads of meaning packed into a short compound word, or something like that. Mother and Grandmother simply called it Lares Oil. I'd relate an embarrassing story about Draco but I doubt he'd appreciate me telling tales to his professor!)

I am astonished, Aurora, that you with your penchant for details have not already thought of where and when to view and link your tapestry to Rizzer's! Unless -

Oh. Goodness, I'm so terribly sorry. Perhaps I oughtn't to have said anything at all. But - well, dear, I just assumed, as many generations back as your family can claim - well, that is. You *do* have a family tapestry, I trust?



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 02:17:02](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Cynren-hega, we've always called it. (Progeny of the plant, my uncle says it means.) We do run more to the Saxon than the Roman, really. But yes, the same thing. All about marking the child for the family protections until they're old enough to answer for themselves, and all the other marks of family.

As to the - well. Checking something with Mum, though I don't know when she'll have a chance to get back to me, of course given her past day.

We're so often - informal's not quite the word, though that too. Earth-centered. Mum's far more likely to fuss about the trees and the flowers and the ingredients in the meal than the actual magical objects, as it were. We've always been like that. Not the done thing, really, but it works well enough in the end.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-24 01:44:41](#)

*Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

My dearest Auri,

I must confess to having utterly lost track of your relations. Diane is the one you're on rocky ground with, is she not? Would a small token of appreciation from one of your coworkers (and of course one of Our Lord's Council, but that is best left unsaid) score points for you, or cause more problems than not? I shall leave it up to you.

Attempting to remember the details of your brood,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 02:06:58](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Diane is, yes. (Both rocky, and the one who's my other attendant besides Campanella. Because it's so clearly the necessary and unassailable choice.)

Please don't feel obliged: I suspect even a card would do wonderfully. But if you were inclined, she'd take it as quite



the lovely thing.

Pardon, I'm rather distracted by something Narcissa just asked about. And now trying to figure out how to answer.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-10-24 02:13:20**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

My dearest Auri,

I hope the distraction is not an unpleasant one. Or if so, if there is anything I might do to help, you know you've only to ask.

As for your sister, it isn't much trouble at all. I will be in New London this weekend; I will have my elf root out some suitable gift from the familial storage and send it along. Is there anything traditional in your family I should aim for? (Or avoid?)

Procrastinating my marking,  
T



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 02:47:54**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

Truly, nothing you can do here - I need to hear from my mother, first. Simply - well, no. Dwelling on it won't improve anything.

As to my sister, Circe's the seventh child and fourth daughter, if you're the sort that goes in for that kind of arithmantic attention to baby gifts. More than that, though, I'm sure they've more than plenty of the practical supplies, so .. some kind of keepsake box?

The family runs to fairly simple, at least for daily use, and there's also the question of Circe having things her older siblings don't. (I'm sure you saw my note to Andie - that's my eldest niece - today. I'm sure she's going to be feeling left out, rather, being the only one of the lot here at school and not able to help.)

And protection charms and all - I've always thought those better an intimate family gift, rather than from outsiders, even though a

fair number of them are perfectly appropriate, really. Though we haven't generally run to some of those gifts that are about encouraging the child to show their magic, and that might actually intrigue Diane and Chiron, if you came across something suitable.

Though now, I'm rather amused at the idea of you buying baby toys, so see, you have helped with the other matter.

-A



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-24 03:12:00](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

My dearest Auri,

I am pleased to be of service however the service might be rendered. (Although, I do hate to burst your bubble of pleasant visualization, but I assure you: I wouldn't have the faintest idea where to begin shopping for baby toys. Myself will take care of it for me!)

I believe I can turn up something appropriate. And you needn't worry on your Andie's behalf: it is a family tradition of my own that the birth of a child also warrants some small token to the elder siblings. Refresh my memory -- are there other children in the family? (I do believe I will need a diagram of your relations eventually.)

Meanwhile -- my word, the third-years do produce some interesting leaps of logic, do they not?

Diligently,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 03:24:26](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

Alas for my fantasies, then. (But it got a smile at the time, and that is quite good enough for tonight, really.)

And I should really do a chart for you, shouldn't I? I'm almost done one for Raz, and I'll copy the more relevant bits. (His includes the extended family, in preparation for Dad's party, and I'll spare you that.) Briefly, there's Andie (a 2nd year here, properly Andromeda, but no one calls her that), then Daedalus (joining us here next year), Astraea, Orpheo, Atlantis, Demeter, and now Circe. Near enough two year intervals, mostly, except for Demeter, who's only about 18 months younger than Atlantis.

What have your third years tried now? I'm still trying to figure out a way to untangle my seconds, and the matter of perspective when charting. (Speaking of homework, though, I should tell you I tried that first meditation exercise last night, and made some progress, though I want to try it again before I ask you questions. And that won't be tonight.)

Auri



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-10-24 04:22:09**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

My dearest Auri,

It's not so much a single thing as a pattern of utterly confounding logic. Or the semblance thereof, at least. I am marking the theoretical class's essays on the historical influences of the sixteenth century as they pertained to societal attitudes on the Arts, and while some of them show signs of an insight far beyond their years, others have managed to simply baffle me. I am growing more convinced with every writing assignment that a class session spent on the logical fallacies might pay excellent dividends...

Actually, come to think of it, you've mentioned similar difficulty with your younger students, and to follow up on our Friday discussion of seeing opportunities and reaching for them, perhaps you and I might want to jointly teach an enrichment class, one evening or weekend, on rhetoric and composition. Something to think about, at least.

Mind you, the last thing either of us needs is more projects. (As evidenced by the fact that I am still marking after midnight, and that these are last week's papers besides.)

Drowning in parchment,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-24 13:56:39

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Toshenka -

Oh, goodness. Yes, that's a tangle. (Sorry for not replying last night, but I hoped you were asleep by the time I was done teaching, and I fell into bed about five minutes after I made it to my rooms.)

Look, you realise that most of them don't get much formal instruction at all in more complex forms of writing? I do a fair bit - out of self-defence, honestly, and because there's space in my curriculum with the first years - of teaching them expository writing. But it's far more *lexis* than *logos*

And for rhetoric - actually, I had conversation after conversation with Alde about that, over the years, because it used to be a much larger part of the curriculum, and now we barely mention the word, never mind teach it. She insisted, once she was done clucking about the disgraceful state of the Hogwarts curriculum, on running me through the full set of *progymnasmata* exercises, marking them, and repeating the process until she was satisfied.

She favoured the 1872 edition of Adalmantium Penworthy's *Lepor* (which I understand from a rather buried footnote in one of the other books she gave me - see, you have me diving into my own collection now - derives a bit from a Muggle text, *Lectures on rhetoric and belles lettres* by someone named Blair in the 1700s. I did not draw her attention to that.)

At any rate, you're right neither of us need add to our workload, but we've actually solved most of the wedding issues I care about now, so I hope it'll take a bit less attention. I'd be glad to put something together and do the detail work, if you want to come and ask your usual range of piercing questions (which, as we both know, you can do in your sleep.)

Hypatia - just saw the time. Must run up to teach.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-24 21:10:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Little star,

*Lepor* would be an excellent choice, actually; I was half-thinking Felicitas Black's *Deductions and Inductions* but it might be slightly too advanced for an introductory course, particularly one being taught as enrichment. (It does have the best and most accessible catalog of logical fallacies I've ever found, however, presuming one doesn't wish to go all the way back to Aristotle.)

I will be at supper tonight; we should discuss possibilities. I would hesitate to add any additional marking to my tasklist (I am not yet a full week behind, but only through grace, divine providence, and the curse of insomnia) and such a study would best go forward with exercises being turned in and graded, or at least provided feedback, but you are correct: it is a sadly lacking part of the curriculum. I have asked them to do some basic compare-and-contrast assignments so far and the results I have gotten have been ... erratic. (Mind you, if run as enrichment, I suspect the ones who would opt it would be the ones least in need of it, but *гүчшее враг хорошого* -- 'perfect is the enemy of good', as you would render it.)

Let us continue pondering, and if we can come up with a version that would not require too much additional work, I will take on the task of convincing Septima; I have earned my way back into her good graces and it seems the sort of thing of which she would approve. I am certain our colleagues would have useful things to say as well; perhaps we should raise the question at the next staff meeting.

(As for other holes in the Hogwarts curriculum -- I am still baffled that we do not teach Latin, even as an elective. My father started my brother on it at age five or six, and my brother followed the pattern with me, and although I had a distinct advantage in growing up trilingual -- one more language added into the mix was not much more confusion -- the early start allowed for much more flexible learning. But that's another tirade for another day, and ties neatly into my lecture about methods of magical instruction.)

But enough of that; these assignments will not mark themselves (your extremely helpful marking charm to the contrary) and I should really take half an hour and apply myself to them before supper. I will see you then.

Covered in ink,  
T



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **2012-10-24 23:29:52**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

Sorry we got interrupted at supper, but really, I am entirely the wrong person to even attempt to run interference with Acton. I hate feeling like I'm being unfair to her, and yet, well. I'm not.

Back to far more enticing topics. Let me be practical at you, so we have a plan we can take to the other staff (there isn't one next week, so we've a bit of time to plan, if we don't go the individual consultation route. Dibs on Pomona, Bathsheba, and Mina.)

How long would you want such a programme to last? And how many, in your eyes, most need it? I can think of two ways of managing the workload (and as I write this, I am very much on top of my own work, but I can hear Raz's voice in my head on the topic of taking too much on.)

The first is to take a few students at a time - a dozen, fifteen - and mix those most in need of help with a handful who wish to polish their skills. And then work with them for, oh, six weeks, two months, and then move to the next group. Start with the most dire.

The second option would be to draft some of the older students - sixth years, ideally, since they don't have exams to worry about. Have them handle the routine questions, and whoever is involved from the staff can handle the rest (you know as well as I that at least four-fifths of the marking will be entirely routine.)

As to the rest - well, there, I envy you your family. I didn't learn anything beyond English till Alde took me in hand. (Latin and German, there.) My pre-Hogwarts education ran to very solid reading and writing skills - no surprise there - but nothing too out of the ordinary. We touched on it, Friday, but now I'm wondering - you've such a broad range of interests now, is that something you got as a child? (I was all stars all the time, but that was not a parental idea, just me.) Perhaps there's some other missing piece that might be instructive.

?



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-25 04:21:14](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Dearest,

I do not blame you for abandoning me to Acton's tender mercies. Much. Now that I am aware of her ulterior motives I can at least tailor my approach somewhat to be cordial and pleasant to her enough to earn her support in future matters without giving her too much false hope.

Thinking of your proposed approaches -- I think, rather, that a blend of your two proposed options might be best. (And, it occurs to me, might be a good way of passing off much of the work.) To wit: begin with those of the sixths who volunteer (and any of the sevenths who are not utterly consumed by exam preparation), provide them with a two-month intensive workshop twice or thrice weekly while at the same time writing the curriculum for the younger children, then move on to the younger years and pair each of them with one of the older children as tutor and resource. Then, as we coach the younger students through their lessons, their tutor would be the one to mark their writing, which will allow the older students practice in spotting the common rhetorical fallacies "in the wild", so to speak.

The question thus being how one might persuade the older children to participate -- but I believe I can sweeten the pot there. (Though, I will rely on you to tell me how much of a stipend would be enticing without being utterly ridiculous; I do not have a good sense of relative economics as of yet.)

I'll find a few moments sometime in the upcoming week to drop a word or two in Horace's ear, and enlist his support, he being another professor who assigns long essays and likely equally sick of the common mistakes. (I will note, in utter affection mind you, that his support for the programme is likely to be directly proportional to how little effort he needs to expend on it.) And Minerva of course, but I have been meaning to quietly make myself useful to her for other reasons, and will be making it a point to take tea with her more regularly.

As to your question -- well. I confess myself quite surprised at how much of my personal history came up during conversation Friday, actually. (It is not that I do not trust you, nor that my background is a sore subject -- simply that it is not a topic often relevant, these days.)

But the answer is, as it is to so many other questions of the like, both yes and no. Between my brother and my mother I was expected to carry the weight of two separate traditions, each with their own collection of ancillary disciplines. Taking languages, for instance: in addition to the Russian and Arabic we used interchangeably at home, my brother insisted on Latin and church Slavonic, my mother on hieratic and hieroglyphic Egyptian and Demotic, and they agreed on Coptic and *koinē* Greek. (I can see the face you are making at your journal right now. No, I do not claim fluency in all of them, not anymore. I have not touched Slavonic in twenty years, for instance, and could only muddle through with the help of a dictionary and its similarity to Russian. And I have lost the Coptic entirely, and am on the verge of losing the Greek, though I'm certain they both would come back to me if I went back to using them regularly; I pick up languages rapidly, a blessing in my line of work.)

The breadth of my studious interests, however, definitely arises from the weight of familial expectation. Kolya -- my brother, Nikolai -- was still fairly new to adulthood when my father died, and determined to do my father's memory proud in raising me, and my mother... well, the history there is complicated. Perhaps I will tell you that tale at some future time; it is best not committed to parchment. Between the two of them I was expected to be familiar with many things not taught in school here, and quizzed incessantly on my study. I

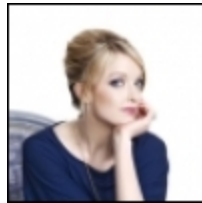


left many of them behind once I was out of their tutelage, and picked up others along the way, but early habits stay with one, do they not?

There, now I've gone entirely too introspective. At least the marking is done up until Monday, now; only two days behind is not as bad as it could be.

Plottingly,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-25 14:39:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

I refuse to take any blame at all for Acton. (Though, perhaps, that can be a mark of whether your tutelage works: if I ever get her truly offering to do me a favour, I will be sure the world is about to end. Dolores, in contrast, would be far easier a target.)

As to your plan - that seems sound enough, except for the part where you expect to find two or three hours a week when you, I, and our prospective students might be free and coherent at the same time. As to enticements - stipends are a great help to some (and yes, I can tell you who, and how much would be reasonable), but not at all a lure to others.

On Horace, well, quite. But better you than me, there, anyway. I'll have a word at least with Pomona. (And, though I suppose it goes without saying, Raz, though it may take me a day or so to frame it so he does not immediately make faces at my workload again. I'll let him make faces at you, instead, since I'm entirely caught up.)

Right. Family. I am, needless to say, utterly in awe. (Though, while I'm here, glad I did ask, on Friday, and you answered. I've kept thinking about it.)

I suppose there are things I learned. Half a dozen handcrafts. (I should show you the spindle, actually, having picked it up for a wedding-related purpose again recently.) More about managing the family orchard and beehives than I quite care


to admit, though I'm entirely hopeless with plants smaller than a tree. A fair bit of cooking, though I almost never get the chance now. More family traditions than I'd have thought. But that is nothing, stacked against your list.

Somehow, I come back to "Was it hard to grow up here?" Are we not back to our conversation about constrained versus wild magic and potential? I admit I had it easier there: my parents worried for years I'd not find a way to support myself that let me do what I wanted, but that's quite a different thing. But I've seen several of my cousins work under the clear load of family expectation, and it - well. Some do better with it than others, and some let it poison everything they touch.

And doesn't that bring us back to your Arts, and self-awareness?

Yours in apparently circular reasoning,  
?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-25 21:09:52](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Dearest,

You must also remember that I have a good twenty years on you, to have collected various bits of learning in. (Exactly twenty years, come to think of it.) When you are my age, your list will be just as long, if not longer; mine was simply piled on my shoulders at an early age. And, honestly, there are times, more than a few, when I think a childhood spent tending trees and spinning yarn without the weight of being thought a standard-bearer for two ancient but fading lines would have been more pleasant.

But, yes, we are back to many of our conversational byways - I suspect, somehow, that if you diagrammed our discussions they would turn out to be one long pathway, detours converging and diverging.

You've confessed before that you find our company baffling, and the society in which we move, but I will confess to you in return that I find the home life you've described as yours just

as utterly alien. It is not that my family was not close, for certain definitions of closeness I suppose, but rather that we were so small, and so united against so many outside factors ... and, actually, now that I find myself writing that, I believe that may be a route into your understanding of our company as a whole. For while my own personal version was complicated by my status as cultural outsider, most of the scions of similarly ancient families who are now the sinews of the Protectorate shared a parallel experience in their own childhoods: for all that social status was theirs, it was a social status contingent on never hinting at many of their true values and interests to those who did not share them, from study of the Arts to belief in the superiority of pureblood culture to dread of the mudblood influence on our world.

And so they (we) closed ranks against all outside threats, to bide their time and make their plans, sharing their knowledge and traditions only among those they knew to be safe. And then ~~the Dark Lord~~ Our Lord rose up among our company and said: you do not need to hide what you are, anymore; you do not need to pass secrets in shadows and deny your deeply-held beliefs out of one side of your mouth for the sake of the crows that come to pick over your carcass; we are wizards, and we will prevail.

And there were those of us who heard that vision and saw in it a world we would fight and die for -- but at deepest, secret heart of the world He and we have built are still the closed ranks of those who knew from earliest age we could trust only those of our own experience, who knew the stakes for which we battled and shared the memory of tucking the lion's share of our selves away from clucking tongues. It is not that my brothers and sisters are unwilling to welcome anyone who did not fight at our side; it is more that like calls to like, and the formative experiences that shaped us all are inscribed deeply into our souls.

I wonder, sometimes, what these children we are teaching will grow up to be, without that refining and reifying fire. Will they be more secure, more capable, able to reach greater heights and do greater things without the spectre of war weighting them down -- or will they lose sight of what we fought and bled and died for, and take it for granted, and thus lose so much of the ground we won for them? Without

that tightly-woven bond of we merry few, we band of brothers, will they have the courage of their convictions or will they slide into the sea of mediocrity that so often follows revolutionary fervor a generation behind?

Bah. You've dragged my mind into the mists of (recent and otherwise) history this week. I would much prefer planning ways in which to inflict additional study on the little darlings than worrying about their political and societal futures. As to that, scheduling indeed will be a problem, but as long as it is not on Thursdays, I am amenable to any time we could find.

And, speaking of Thursdays, I am wrung out completely after mine (and after an afternoon of teaching the Gryffindor and then Ravenclaw fifths how to sharpen their will enough to hold the *Vox similo* spell in the face of distraction, speaking of mental discipline), and will be taking supper in my quarters tonight. With the hopes of an early evening, although I have collected another pile of parchments that need marking from the fifths and sixths today and am now even more behind. A teacher's lot, etc.

Thoughtfully yours,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-25 23:12:55](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

This conversation makes me feel like I've turned the loop - well, here we are, back to senses of home. There's an ancient Troy-town, up on the hill near our home - someone dug it centuries ago, and various people in the area have kept it up. It's at the top of the hill, and I spent a lot of time up there, with my telescope. There's a point at which you turn, and you're at just the right angle to see home and the chimney and the side orchard through the curve of the hill. Two feet any direction, and you're not. Not all of it.

And I know that will make no sense whatsoever, but at least I can show you, sometime.

Which, really, is another piece of it. Raz and I've talked about families - mine is, after all, large and bewildering, and that's before you get past my siblings. But yes, so very different than what you describe, or what Raz has told me. Like turning that corner and seeing, oh, Australia laid out before me.

I can see, reading, how compelling that call could be. Would be. Was, clearly. And yet, we are back, are we not, to choices? Which things do we honour, as we grow, as we teach children? Which things do we reward or encourage? (And which things do we say we reward, but in practice, discourage or demean?) And there, well, we're back to the challenge of the YPL.

And as to like calling to like - there is that. And I am, yes, so very aware, so much of the time, of how fundamentally unlike you and your sworn brothers and sisters I am. Cannot help to be reminded, even when everyone is trying to include me.

But here's the thing - and perhaps it's part of the answer to our other questions, about how we shape the youth. How does one create a world that includes and honours and uses the skills of those like my family? Our students, most of them, who have not the same sense of burning need and honed focus and careful family direction toward that goal? Until you - we, I suppose - manage that, the Protectorate will be less than it could be, surely.

In short, how do we display your choices, you few, in a way that enables we many to choose more - well, usefully. Not just passively, and indirectly, but surely and certainly. An arrow, shot from a bow, not a hazelnut in a well, to mingle childhood stories.

And is what we need more like you and your sworn friends are, or something else entirely? Not different in loyalty, but the book I've started (*Who Rules Florence Must Be Strong*) lays out the point of the challenge of power through generations, and how what serves one era may be the last thing the next needs.

Again, not a topic to be answered in an hour or day, or even measured in years. But one that, I think, needs far more

attention than it's really gotten. Besides, I should not keep you from your marking. (And I am restraining myself from offering advice, but you have only to ask.) ?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-10-26 01:08:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

My dear heart,

You do not throw soft quaffles, do you? Ah, well; the unexamined life is not worth, etc. (And, just to satisfy myself I have not lost the language entirely, I am pleased to say the proverb first leapt to mind in Greek.)

As to the questions you pose -- I must admit a certain amount of charity towards the views you espouse, to an extent, for have we not talked about the concept of waste? (Circles upon circles, paths upon paths, and yes, I would enjoy the chance to see your labyrinth someday.) The lessons of history show us that a society without several paths to glory and worthiness will just as inevitably decline and decay as one that does not lionise valor and emphasise civic responsibility. And yet the question of *civitas* has been asked-and-answered by empire after empire, and we are left with the lessons they imparted after each of them aged and fell to dust: it is when an empire's children begin to dwell more upon the rights imparted to them than on the duties required of them that the empire does not last a generation or two past the sea change.

We are nowhere near that point, I do not think -- but it would serve us well to turn an eye to the question, in building our next generation, and in working out ways for them to serve. For, truly, if they are unable to find a way in which they can turn their talents to useful end, they are not likely to change their inclination, but to turn away from service entirely.

(Is Milton utterly out of favor these days? He must be, given both content and history, and yet -- "The mind is its own place, and in it self / Can make a heav'n of Hell, a Hell of Heav'n. / What matter where, if I be still the same / and what I should be, all but less than he / Whom Thunder hath

made greater? Here at least / We shall be free." I prefer Milton's antagonists; they are more internally consistent. Something which will no doubt surprise you not in the least. And infinitely preferable to the view espoused in his sonnets, understandable though his motives there might be: "they also serve who only stand and wait" is a sentiment I find anathema.)

But I digress. ('Frequently', I hear you saying.)

We must, I suppose, be careful, in the shaping of that which is to be our own empire, neither to repeat the mistakes of generations past nor to define ourselves solely in opposition to them, for taking as our building-blocks the precise opposite of how things were done in the time before us binds us to those theories and philosophies as strongly as though we were still living under their weight. And yet it is natural, is it not, for those who fought for revolution to be eternally vigilant against what must seem like a dangerous softness, a repudiation of the sacrifices they (we) made.

Which does, of course, risk utterly alienating those not of that sterling company, and risk them (you) feeling as though your contributions will never be valued.

It is, as you say, a topic for the ages, not for an evening's debate, or even a week's or a year's. But I am thinking of it.

As to the marking, having applied myself for several uninterrupted hours, I am at least beginning on yesterday's assignments, and hope to make it through today's as well -- as I am losing this weekend to New London, St M's, and the company of old friends and comrades, the two of which shall make up for the unpleasantness of the third. Is there anything I can fetch back for you? (And, damn you, send me the address for your café; I have finished the marzipan you left with me and should send my elf out for more.)

Introspectively,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-26 02:44:43

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

You would not like me near so well if I ducked the hard questions, I am sure. Let me answer your last question first, though, as it illustrates my point.

No. I will not give you the address of my cafe.

With someone else, I would offer some ladylike and polite demurral, but I will not to you.

We talked, on Friday, of how the trust of one's friends is not transitive. And this cafe is a gathering of those who have not always been well-treated by those who wield power in the Protectorate. Not for political reasons, or any action of their own - but because they are women, or have less than perfect ancestors, or have the misfortune to be young and attractive and working for the wrong employer. Told they had not brains or quick wands or savvy enough to walk as equals.

You have power, Toshenka. I state the obvious, but perspective *matters*, and from where you move in the heavens, you cannot see the ebbs and flows of the tides you shape. They, on the other hand, live along the sea, and every storm and flood and shift brings some new risk or worry.

For me to give them business is one thing. And it is a place where, for once, my being neither fish nor fowl can do some useful service. For you to do so changes the orbit of their world - and to send your elf, perhaps more so. And yet, were I to bring you myself, it would be a quite different thing (and yes, at Christmas, I will gladly do so if you like.)

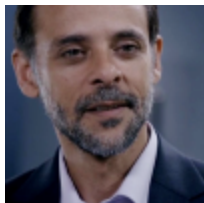
You tell me I have an eye for the patterns of people when I have enough context. Here I am, trusting in your measure of me, and asking you to hold your hand. I will gladly place an order for you, and arrange its delivery - it would not do to deprive you of marzipan. But I ask you, leave them be until I can introduce you in person myself.




(And, on the more pragmatic side, I have been asked if I'd consider buying into a share of the collective, and to suggest you treat them solely as a source of delicious treats might, quite reasonably, bring them to reconsider that idea. Their goals involve more than baked goods.)

More briefly, Milton is, yes, very out of favour these days, though I've heard the name. But to answer your larger question: I am thinking back to the book I lent you, and the books before it. War shapes and changes, fiercely and fast. But those generations who come behind need far more skilled leadership than that of battle, to my way of thinking. Compare and contrast Padgett and St. George as you read, if you will.

You remind me, too, that I've not told you at all of the Wizarding Repopulation Office appointment, though that is much on my mind, in terms of the question of direction of the young. (In brief: I appear to have been successful in my goals.) I hope your visit to your healers goes as tidily. ?



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-10-26 03:56:21](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Dearest,

And here we run headlong into Slytherin subtleties versus Hufflepuff ones. I am laughing at the misunderstanding, truly I am. (A hint, for your future calibrations: to one used to the indirectness common in the house of the serpent, several weeks straight of providing delicious treats is an invitation, or rather a temptation, towards future patronage -- a way of indirectly soliciting the business of one's friends, particularly when one's friends are used to their business being solicited. We would not be so crass as to outright mention the request; subtlety is all.)

But I will bow to your necessities, and your reading of the situation, and leave you to further your goals in peace. (Presuming those goals are not something orthogonal to the goals of the Protectorate, mind you, but that's a given, and neatly loops back to prior discussions once more.)

As to the question of leadership off the battlefield, as well as on it -- I will hold comment until after I've read the book you've lent, of course (and no, I have not yet had the time to begin it, sadly enough) but you have me thinking about the etymology of the word "duke", and the *dux bellorum*, and the difference between *doukes* and *strategoï*, and ... There is an idea there, waiting to be born, if I can only lay my mental hands on it. I will attempt not to startle it before its time.

I am hoping my visit to the Healers goes as well, yes. But even if it does not, I have the opera with Narcissa to comfort me afterwards.

Off to my bed, in hopes I will be more successful in applying myself to sleep than I have been thus far this week,  
T.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-10-26 13:51:24

*Re: Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Toshenka -

*Didicî, magister.*

And among my people, one allows one's friends to give one gifts. At the surface, because the giving is a pleasure to both - I take pleasure in my friend's joy. This is simple, really, any child can delight in it. But beyond that, below the surface, a gift is a sign of trust: that my friend trusts me to know what they will enjoy, without their needing to ask for it. Trusts that the surprise of the gift will be pleasant. Trusts that care and attention and friendship stretch beyond the moments we spend together, into the time spent apart.

(You may now understand why I begin contemplating my holiday gifts in about March. And why I shall measure whether Diane and I have truly made progress by what she gives me this year. And yes, I know that this is entirely puzzling to Raz, and your explanation is most helpful.)

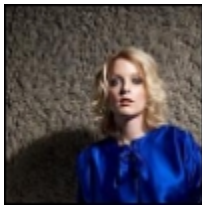
And no, their goals are not orthogonal as that - if they were, I would not have acted so in the first place. (For we are

back to conversations about power, and perception, and seeing many things. And I do try not to be stupid.)

Beyond that, let me see. I am curious about your idea, when you lure it into being. And tonight, I will gladly see you, but I suspect I will slip off and leave you and Raz to conversation earlier than I might: if it holds clear, I want to check some details for an article I'm reviewing for a colleague, and I'd like to have a fully corrected proof for him at Monday's guild meeting. (Oh, yes. I will not be at supper on Monday. Do tell me about the opera at some point?)

I hope you slept well. (And are you bored with your stars? If you would like some other bit of sky to stare at, you have but to ask.)

- A.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-24 01:54:55](#)

*Private message to Mum*

Mum -

I know you're busy with Diane - do get rest, please? (And yes, I know me saying that is a laugh.) I'd not bother you tonight, (and this can wait a day or two, really, but I daren't forget to ask)

Not a question I ever thought I'd care about, but -

Do we actually *have* a family tapestry? I don't think I've ever seen one. Certainly not at Diane's or Storm's weddings. Only, Narcissa just made the assumption that...

You can fill in the rest, I'm sure.



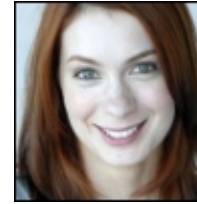
 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-10-25 03:16:44](#)

*(no subject)*

Congratulations on your new niece! Andie's been well excited too.

**[2012-10-23 23:59:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius Black and Arthur Weasley*



 [alt\\_alice](#)

Sirius, love, Dudley's letter to Harry is winging its way to you. He's spent quite a while working on it. I haven't read it, of course, apart from the bits that he sought approval for that were about his current living situation, but he did ask a lot of questions before he sat down to write it -- he was concerned about how much he could say, and whether he could really trust Harry's note at face value, but Terry had some good things to say about Harry (especially how he treated our Hermione), and, of course, the letter came by way of a certain Sirius Black, so I believe he's worked through most of his concerns.

Arthur, the reason I'm also including you on all this is because another thing Dudley talked to me about for the first time was his parents. He believes Vernon Dursley is dead, but he is very uncertain about what happened to his mother, Harry's aunt. This entire time, he's been very quiet about it, and I'd assumed that she'd died, but his writing to Harry has apparently opened the floodgates as it were, and apparently it's still very much up in the air. He was separated from her when he was eight and put to work (eight, Arthur, goodness, my heart hurts), and he believes she was moved to another camp, only he didn't know which one, and hadn't heard from her at all since then.

Could you look further into it, to see if you can find Petunia?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-24 23:24:32](#)  
(no subject)

Alice:

I'm quite mortified that I didn't think to check for Dudley's family members previously. I checked for Terry; why didn't I check for him? At any rate, yes, of course I will do so. I hope that I will find something about his mother. I will let you know.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-25 00:52:44](#)  
(no subject)

Be careful about it, Arthur. She hated our kind before everything started and I'd imagine she hasn't changed her opinions for the better.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-25 02:45:31](#)  
(no subject)

Noted.

But she's certainly had years to come to terms with fact that the power's mostly on our side.

Unfortunately.




 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-25 02:47:25](#)  
(no subject)

Does Dudley remember what camp he was in when he was last with her, by any chance?

I suppose I can check his own record. It's probably a good idea to do so; I imagine his records are still under the Lincoln jurisdiction.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-25 04:52:46](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I simply assumed that he didn't talk because she'd died. I think he needed sitting down and writing that letter in order to open up a bit more to the rest of us, and get up the courage to ask after

her.

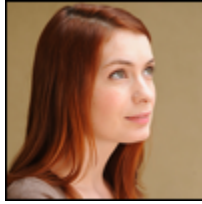
I've asked, and he says he was at Stevenage before he went to Lincoln.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-25 19:36:05](#)**  
(no subject)

If he was at Stevenage then Terrie might have heard of Petunia.

If you wanted me to ask.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-10-26 01:04:27](#)**  
(no subject)

If it wouldn't

Yes, please.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-10-26 02:32:08](#)**  
(no subject)

If she can get us anymore information to help with the search, I'd certainly appreciate it, Sirius.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-25 00:32:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Allie. I'll send it along with a note explaining (again) that Dudley's struggled with it, so not to take anything amiss if it's short or not what Harry's expecting.

As for his parents .... Well, I do feel sorry for the kid but I have to say he's probably right about Vernon. Can't say I ever had the pleasure but from all I've heard about the man, I don't imagine he endeared himself to anyone in charge of relocating them to the camps.

But Petunia's another matter. She's a survivor, all right.

**[2012-10-24 21:42:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: News from the Reserve*

So, Tonks pointed out that if I had time to owl back and forth with her I bloody well (sorry, Mum) had time to write in my journal, and the journal at least would save the poor owl some flying.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)**

Anyway, I've got some wizard news -- we found out today that three of the eggs Maggie, our youngest Welsh Green, laid a few weeks ago are live. (Took us this long to lure Mags out of the cave long enough to check 'em; she picked a really isolated spot on the shore.) So if all goes well, Mum, come April you'll have a few more grand-dragons.

Thing is, there were eight eggs in the clutch. That's not unusual -- usually there's only one or two fertile ones, which is why we're all so excited that Mags has three. And whenever one of our ladies clutches there's a flurry of people sniffing around, because the shells and the albumen of unfertile dragon eggs are used in a few different (rare) potions, but usually the Masters are willing to wait until April for the dragons to give up on them hatching.

Since we found the nest last week, though, there's been a flurry of back-and-forth -- Director Higgs has been in his office on the Floo nonstop, and we've barely even seen him which is weird because usually he'd be right out there with us for news like this, and he told us at dinner tonight to expect visitors next week and he did not look happy. I don't know if it means anything, but -- Dad, Bill, keep an ear out at work, yeah?

Poppy, I haven't been able to lay my hands on any dragon's blood for the infirmary yet -- it's all been spoken for, and it'd be my head to try to divert any. I'm really sorry. You might want to try making another official request through proper channels -- dunno if it'd work or not, but it might work faster than waiting for me to be able to nick some.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-25 02:44:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Good to hear from you, Charlie!

And that's interesting news about the dragonets. And

the eggs. And your visitors. Any idea whom Higgs expects to come in for the event?



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-10-25 02:52:07](#)  
(no subject)

Haven't heard any names, and I've been listening. Well, as much as I can without seeming off, but fortunately we're a nosy lot. One of the other handlers asked whether we should do anything special to get ready for having people, and all Higgs said was, they haven't been here before but we shouldn't worry too much about it.

Which could mean anything.



 **alt\_arthur** at [2012-10-25 03:01:42](#)  
(no subject)

Interesting. I wonder if it has anything to do with the wards again. I mean, I know you've only reported mysterious visitors at the Solstices up until now. But, well, next week *is* Halloween...

I wonder if Dumbledore has any idea. Minerva, it might be worth asking him?



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-10-25 03:14:47](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's why I wanted to ask you and Bill to keep your ears to the ground. I don't know if it's related to Maggie's eggs, or to the wards, or to something else entirely, but I figured you lot would want to know.

If there's anything I can try to find out, just steer me in the right direction, but if you can't find out anything I'll just keep playing helpful Charlie and see if Higgs lets anything slip.





 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-25 03:10:12](#)  
(no subject)

How thrilling!

I'm very happy and excited to hear the news about Maggie (well, for all of you). I don't think she has any use for knitted dragon booties, though...not to mention she'd probably burn them to blackened cinders!

Is she very tetchy, now that's she's clutching?




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-25 03:25:34](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Mum, she's gorgeous. Welsh Greens turn luminous when they're brooding -- it's how we can tell it's time to go searching out the clutch, when they turn up looking all smug and radiant -- and she's a perfect example. (You met her, actually, the first time you lot were up here -- remember, she was the one I said was the first hatchling after I joined staff? Cost me my first singed hair, actually!)

She's been a good enough girl, she has. Bit cranky, but you would be too, if a bunch of people kept coming 'round when you were busy with the job of making babies! And no, I don't think booties would go over well, but if you've some scraps of wool you're not using, send them along. I'm sure she'd appreciate them for the nest she's assembling -- I caught sight of a few robe scraps in there.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-25 03:13:06](#)  
(no subject)

I'll keep an ear out, definitely. Dad and I can talk it over next time we meet for lunch, see if we have any ideas. If you hear the names before the visit, definitely let us know.




 **alt\_bill at 2012-10-25 03:14:01**

*Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Oh yeah, it's my move, isn't it?

Rc1.



 **alt\_charlie at 2012-10-25 03:47:16**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Interesting. I'd ask why you didn't go for castling, there, but I suspect you'd just give me that look and tell me to wait and see.

B6.



 **alt\_bill at 2012-10-25 12:09:04**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I know exactly what look you mean. It's the one that Dad gives me all the time whenever we play.

I'm glad you've unearthed your journal again, you scatterbrain. It's nice not to have to wait several days for a bloody owl to bring me your next move.

cxd5.



 **alt\_charlie at 2012-10-25 19:13:18**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Yes! That look entirely. That's exactly the one I meant.

And you still might have to wait, since we're busy as all hell, but I'll try to remember to check when I've got a few minutes. And I was waiting for you to take that pawn, ha.

exd5.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-10-25 22:08:53**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Oh, don't worry. I have plenty more surprises in store.

Qa4.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-10-25 22:38:08**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Are you really sure you want to do that?

c5.




 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-10-25 23:25:01**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I'll remind you that the same bloke who taught you how to bluff (i.e., Dad) taught me how to do it first. Which means I've been doing it longer than you.

Qc6.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-10-25 23:42:20**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Huh.

Rb8, and if you do what I think you're going to do ...

(Also, doing it longer than me doesn't mean you're doing it better than me.)



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-10-26 00:47:47**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*


I'll grant you that. As would anyone else who's ever watched Percy playing against Ron.

(Which is probably why Percy hardly ever

plays Ron anymore, come to think of it. He does so hate to lose.)

Nxd5.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-26 00:59:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Oi. Yeah, Percy. Percy is ...

You still have lunch with him pretty regularly, don't you? Is he -- Well. I won't ask if he's all right, because I'm sure he'd say that he's fine and completely miss the other meaning. But -- Would it help for me to write him, a bit, do you think? I can lose a few chess games if it'd make him feel less like the whole world's against him.

Oh, and, Bb7.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-26 02:01:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Yeah, I have lunch with him at least once a week, usually. And I see him and Penny on Sunday evenings, of course, when we all come to the Burrow for dinner.

It's--difficult. I mean, he's family, and he always will be. But it's almost as if he's stretching the ties of *family* as thin as he can, just short of making them snap so that he's nothing but a stranger.


He still idolises Malfoy. It worried Dad, and it drives Mum mad. She has the worst time hiding how much she hates hearing him going on and on: *Mr Malfoy always says, Mr Malfoy firmly believes, as I was telling Mr Malfoy...*

Despite working for his idol, I don't think Percy's entirely happy. Malfoy is certainly treating him like a house elf, for one thing, and I'm seeing signs of stress. Percy's also hinted that his budget isn't quite making ends meet. I think being Lucius' assistant makes him aspire to something his salary can't quite match.

You can try writing to him, sure. I don't know if he'll have much interest in journal chess--he's turned me down the last three times I suggested a game--but maybe he'll open up with you about some things he won't discuss with me.

Nxe7+. Ha.



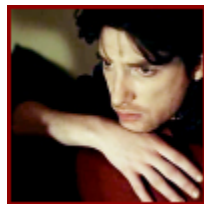
 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-10-26 02:37:13**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Again I say, oi. And Perce is Perce, and Merlin help you if you so much as suggest he's anything less than fully capable and in control. Have to confess I don't know what he sees in that tosser, except of course Perce's always wanted ... oh, I don't know. Halfway between security and power, or maybe not so much power as regard?

If there's anybody who relates to feeling like a bit of an outsider in the Weasley family scrum it's me, but I don't know if he'd let me work around to feeling him out on that. I'll give it a try, though, as soon's I've got a few spare hours to think out my approach.

And speaking of approach, Qxe7.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-10-26 12:19:58**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

It can only help, I think. At any rate, Dad and I would appreciate it if there were another Weasley we trust, giving him little nudges every once in awhile to think about things.

Frankly, we need all the help we can get to counteract that tosser, as you put it, who has his hand firmly planted at Perce's back, urging him on toward the abyss.

Qa4.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-10-26 17:20:01](#)**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Ugh. Today has been uglier than Merlin's sweaty nutsack and it's only lunchtime. (Not that I've managed to get lunch, yet. I'm hiding in the toolshed instead. I can't take another bloody moment of everyone yelling at everyone else over absolutely nothing. I know they say that old wives' tale about dragon moods affecting people is completely impossible, but 'they' never asked a dragonman when they decided.)

Thinking about how to reach out to Perce. It occurs to me it might start us off right if I had something I could ask his advice on, put him in the position of being the expert for once. Can't think of anything that might work, though. You have any ideas?

Also, Rbc8 and I'm starting to get the feeling this is not going to be my game.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-27 00:37:31](#)**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Hmm. That's a tough one. He knows you don't have the least bit of interest in knowing the whereabouts of the best New London restaurants, for example. Nor would he believe you want his advice on how to claw your way up the bureaucracy ladder, and anyway, if you did, it'd seem bloody peculiar to him that you were asking him rather than me.

Nor do I think you should pretend you need an agony aunt for relationship advice. (And no, you know perfectly well I haven't said a thing; he's as clueless as Mum and Dad are about your situation).

I'll ponder the issue, too. Meanwhile, you can ponder your next move. Qa3.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-10-25 03:28:49](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, if nothing else I'll try to nudge my way into being available and helpful while they're here and try to catch names that way -- Higgs still doesn't exactly like me, but he's content to let me do the annoying stuff he doesn't want to. Though, if it's anything like the other times we've had mysterious visitors, they'll be using pseudonyms. But I'll tell you the minute I've got anything!



 **alt\_nymphadora** at [2012-10-25 03:14:51](#)  
(no subject)

So you did find the book after all. It wasn't really lost, was it? (Didn't really believe it was.)

At any rate, this saves my worrying about post owls being eaten by your dragons up there.

What sort of potions use dragon eggs? I mean, are we talking Department of Mysteries? or St Mungo's? or something less official?



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-10-25 03:38:01](#)  
(no subject)

It was lost. I found it under my mattress in the dorms all bunched up with three shirts, a jumper (no, Mum, not one of yours) and five socks.

(Which tells me perhaps I should do my laundry more often.)

I can't remember the whole range of potions involved but I know there are a few different healing potions. I know they're used in some fertility treatments, and I think they're an alternate ingredient in some treatments for certain kinds of organ failure, too. And I think there's a rare treatment for insomnia that uses powdered dragon egg shells. But, yeah, I'm more worried on the Mysteries end, since the albumen is often used in spells having to do with time, and that makes me nervous.

(And I'm horribly late on replying to your last owl, but I did get it -- we've just been swamped up here since it's breeding season.)




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-25 03:49:25](#)

*Private Message to Charlie*

Well, I did wonder. But no worries.

I'm sure there are no end of distractions when everyone's in season.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-25 04:12:39](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Ha. No pun intended, right?

I am sorry, though. I don't want you to think I don't care or anything! Just, yeah, sixteen-hour days, and by the end of it I'm so tired all I can do is fall into bed and sleep like a rock until my alarm charm sounds.

I suppose you could always come visit if you ever need to get away from it all for a few days, although this isn't the best time of year for visitors and I don't know if anybody'd remember that we weren't all that close back in school and wonder how we knew each other now. But if you ever wanted to, you'd be welcome. We're a friendly lot.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-25 05:54:32](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

I'm the last one likely to say you ought to find some way to squeeze more into your schedule or to doubt how knackered you must be by the end of a day.

Let's just say I get that completely.

I fell asleep handing Bea a biscuit this morning. Head down on her tray, snoring.

I'd like to visit Stornoway one day. I think it must be brilliant. But not to worry: I won't be able to make it this season. Frank and I are using every spare half a day, going into the camps to build our connections there. Going again tomorrow, in fact.



Anywiz, I'll be glad for a letter whenever you get time. Or you could write here, now you've found how it's done! But I don't expect you to spend all the time you're awake writing me. I mean, I know I'm not all that.

I'm supposed to be catching a nap before I have to leave for work, so I'm going to close my book now, but I'll catch you again soon, I hope.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-10-25 22:40:56**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Wish I could help with all that, really. I feel like I'm not doing much for the cause tucked away up here when the rest of you lot are having daring adventures. Feels a bit selfish sometimes,

yeah?

How is Miss Bea doing, then?



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at 2012-10-26 03:01:47**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

I think everyone believes there's likely to be a very significant use for our bloke at Stornoway one of these days. If we can only figure out what exactly those dragons and that place have got to do with the Wards.

Miss Bea is using her words. Loudly. And Firmly.

Throwing her whole self into communicating, too, if we don't seem like going along with what she wants. We are fully into the age of the tantrum, and some of us wonder if we will live to see what comes next.

How are you, besides tired?



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-10-26 03:21:45**

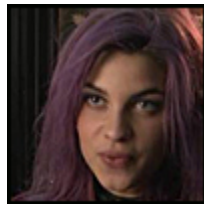
*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Oh, Merlin, the tantrum phase. I firmly believe my love for being outside came from the twins' terrible twos. I could send you a set of the charmed earplugs we use!

And, yeah. I know Professor Dumbledore thinks the dragons and the wards are connected (and I'm still a bit weirded out at how he and I have apparently had long conversations about that) and there's no denying something strange is going on. But still. When you've got Bill and Dad going to work every day and doing things they hate with people they hate just to have a chance of being in the right place at the right time, me lurking up here and doing what I love feels ...

Well. When you land on your feet in a world like this one, makes you feel a bit dirty, I guess.

But, enough of that. I'm doing all right, all things considered. Playing chess with Bill's faster now I've unearthed my journal again, although that might not be to my advantage! He thinks faster than I do. Other than that, we're all running around like headless chickens, and looking forward to the winter lull. I'm thinking of trying to get Greg to teach me his woodcarving charms this winter. I'll be sure to send you my first attempts for you to laugh at.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at 2012-10-26 03:48:13**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Yes, I imagine it must be odd to know you've chosen to have him obliviate you. And more than once, wasn't it? That was, well, not the oddest part of that whole meeting, but one of the odder bits. Hearing what all Dumbledore's got up to that we didn't know, most of us, and that those who did had let him wipe out of their minds.

He really is a daft one, isn't he?

And it's strange to feel like I'm the only one that didn't know him before. Well, Mac didn't either, I suppose, but that's

different. He knew who Dumbledore was and had met him and had a good idea what he was about. Back then.

I was just too young. And I don't think my parents had anything to do with him, really. But the Crouches, well. I certainly grew up hearing things about Dumbledore, only it was Farty shouting at his father for having listened to Albus Dumbledore and having stupidly done Dumbledore's work for him on the Wizengamot before the war and having chosen the losing side to wager on. According to the Grouch, his father should have been sent to Azkaban forever as a traitor because he'd followed Dumbledore--would have been sent there, except Mrs Crouch begged Farty to stop it, and he did. I expect Mr Crouch didn't half wish he was in Azkaban instead, sometimes.

Anywiz. Point is, I'm the only one who really doesn't know what Dumbledore was like before the war. Except that he was someone Farty the Grouch hated, which makes me inclined to like him just for that. Only, everyone else seems... bothered... by how he's changed. And I can't guess at that.

Oh, do send me what you carve if you take it up. I could use the laugh!



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-26 04:24:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Sorry, didn't mean to leave you hanging, but Robert came in just after I wrote my last reply (he's got the bunk next to me) and wanted to talk about something, and I had to put the book down so he wouldn't notice I was writing something he couldn't see.

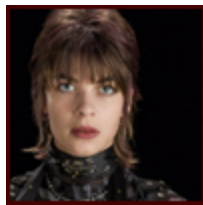
I don't know what I think about Dumbledore, really. Well, of course Mum and Dad believe in him, would follow him anywhere really, and even though they never came out and said it -- not until me and Bill joined up with the Order at least -- we always could tell they were more on his side than not. But the way they talk about him sometimes when they think we're not listening, like they're just waiting for him to come back and wrap things up all nice and neat and then everything will be all right again...

I remember my uncles, a bit, too. Mum's brothers, the ones who were in the Order? And they idolised Dumbledore, it was pretty clear. And if all these people I love and trust think Dumbledore knows what he's doing, even if he's different from how he used to be, then who am I to say otherwise?

And until that meeting I would've said, sure, I'd trust Dumbledore too. But hearing that somebody's been visiting you regularly, having long conversations about Godric-knows-what, and then lifting it out of your head at the end of it -- And it doesn't make me not trust him, because I can see why he'd want me to forget what he was asking about. I'm not utter pants at keeping secrets, I've kept plenty of them long enough, but it's a really small world up here and if he'd found out something that would change how I acted, or how I thought, I can see where I would have asked him to make me not remember. But I don't know. Not for sure.

I might ask Sirius what he thinks about that, actually. If you don't think it would sound weird.

I don't think I said it last time you mentioned, but I'm sorry about your mum and dad. And that you got stuck with a family like the Grouches. There's a lot of things not right about the stuff they've done, but what they did to families really makes me see red. I might not always want to live right on top of mine, but I love them and I don't know what I'd do without them. It's not fair that you had to grow up without yours.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-26 15:03:42](#)


*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Do ask Sirius. You should. I'd be interested to know what he says, actually.

And thanks. About Mum and Dad. I suppose I think it was just as well it was the Crouches who took me in. At least I didn't have to worry much about how much I disliked them. Never felt guilty about that at all. I think it would have been harder almost if they'd tried to make nice.

Only, I wish I'd got some good secrets or embarrassing stories I could tell on Farty, but no such luck.



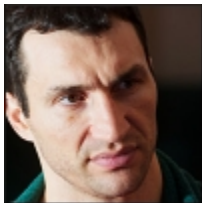
 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-10-26 17:29:23**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

I will, then. Ask Sirius, I mean. Sometime when we're not having the day from hell up here. (Nothing dire, just a whole bunch of little things going wrong, and everyone's on edge and shouting at each other. I hate it when people are on edge and shouting at each other.)

And, yeah. Wouldn't have thought of it that way, but I guess that would be easier on you. Nobody playing Happy Families and expecting you to be sunshine and roses, yeah? Although, yeah, I'd've been disappointed to not get the dirt on Farty, too. You just know a bloke like that's got some really serious skeletons in his closet somewhere.

And -- look, I know it's not the same. Wouldn't try to even suggest it was. But you know my mum and dad think the world of you, right? If you ever need a direction to lean on, I know neither of them would think twice about it.



 **alt\_macnair** at **2012-10-25 03:16:52**

*(no subject)*

Maggie. Bit of odd name for a Welsh Green.

Been meaning to ask: If Ethine's still at your reserve, how's she faring?



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-10-25 03:40:50**

*(no subject)*

She is! And she's thriving -- you should see how big she's got. She's been making eyes at Bartók, one of our adolescent Ridgebacks, this season -- I think she'll be ready for her first clutch next year.

I'll send you a sketch, next chance I get.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-10-25 03:46:19](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers then, it'll be something to look forward to.  
Been awhile.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-25 03:50:50](#)  
(no subject)

While I'm scavenging scales for the Terrible Two, I'll see if I can lay hands on one I know is hers and send that along as well -- they don't watch the disposition of those quite so tightly. Dierdre, up here, makes pendants out of 'em, in fact, since they take protection charms so well. Want me to have her make one for you?



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-10-25 03:53:21](#)  
(no subject)

Might as well. Could be nice.



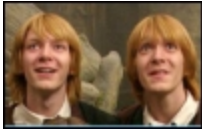
 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-25 04:13:47](#)  
(no subject)

You got it. She's a good girl, really -- doesn't cause us any trouble at all, unlike some of the other Ridgebacks. Guess you did a good job with her!



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-25 03:29:29](#)  
(no subject)


We could use a few more dragon scales, if you could slip some more in the next owl package you send to us. They make excellent testing templates for some of our experiments for Fu on possible materials for reinforced armour.



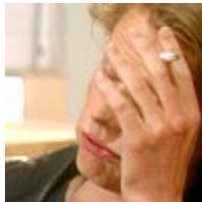
 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-10-25 03:35:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, and dragon bogeys, if you have any way of getting some. For an experimental potion.



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2012-10-25 03:36:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeech. Only you two would ask someone for dragon bogeys.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-10-25 03:42:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I can get you your scales, no problem, but if you want the bogeys, you'll have to come up here and collect them yourselves.

...Actually, on second thought, don't. I'm still hearing about your last visit.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-10-25 03:45:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Ah, well. I'd hoped you might have an opportunity, but I do understand.

Unfortunately, dragon blood is still being channelled exclusively to the Dept of Mysteries. So far as I know, even St M's requests are turned away. Certainly, mine have been efforts in futility.

(So do keep me in mind if the opportunity presents itself. And in the meantime, I shall hope we avoid any truly catastrophic injuries here, which, as you know, cannot be assured in a castle full of hex-, hormone-, and homework-addled adolescents.)



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-10-25 04:02:38](#)  
(no subject)

I'm definitely keeping an eye out, but it's harder than you might think -- I'd have to be the first one to come across an injured dragon without a partner on hand, and from breeding to hatching we usually go about in pairs for safety. I can't be sure of anybody else here, that they wouldn't report me if my count of vials turned up short I mean, and I don't want to risk it. Not without being certain, I mean.

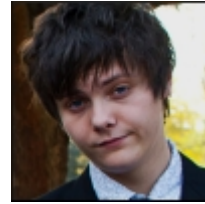
Dierdre's my usual partner, these days, and I don't think she'd turn me in; we're good friends. But I'm still not sure. I'll keep looking for a chance, though -- sometimes around mid-winter I can catch a lucky break.



**2012-10-25 22:35:00**

*Private Message to Perks and F-F*

It's probably a bit late to be asking, but have either of you found a partner for the Noble Arts assignment this week?



 **alt\_michael**

I was thinking, get it over with quickly and then it'll be out of the way for Hogsmeade.

Maybe people could meet up tomorrow night to practise? F-F, you've arranged things like that before and people come when it's your idea, so. Maybe if you think it's a good idea, you could ask about?

Only...Perks, don't take this the wrong way, but.... Well, I think some of us would be more comfortable if Crabbe and Malfoy and Zabini and all weren't there. I just mean, people who are really cracking at casting and don't mind having a bit of fun with it.

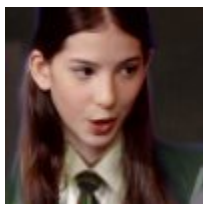
It's just a question of being able to trust they won't do anything besides the spell we're supposed to be using. You know? Or...like when Professor Dolohov would zap people after they cast the hex on him. I don't want any of them deciding to use some nasty spell and then say they were only carrying out a teacher's instructions.

F-F, I figure you understand what I mean, yeah? The way those older French lads used to go after you.

Oh, speaking of which, you've seen what Begy, Page, Higgs, Pucey, Tambllyn and all are up to, right? You know about their meetings after curfew?

What's really interesting is that some of them are even Prefects.

Well, anyway. Tomorrow? What do you think?



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2012-10-26 04:11:45**

*(no subject)*

No worries, I wouldn't practise Dark Arts with either Vince or Greg on a bet. I haven't practised and I don't think Pansy has, either. Sure, we could meet.

Tambllyn and the rest -- are those the Brotherhood of the Sleeveless

Robes? What ARE they up to? There are more than a few in Slytherin but I'm not about to ask.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-26 16:48:02](#)

*(no subject)*

Okay, F-F told me in lessons that he'll meet. (We have lessons together all day on Fridays.)

I'm glad you didn't ask. Tatterson tried to ask Samuels and nearly got his bookbag transfigured into a bundimun for his trouble. I wouldn't want you to get hurt, some of those Slytherin 7th-years are really mean.

Especially when they're on their way to their private Dark Arts Duelling Club.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-26 18:37:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Private Dark Arts Duelling Club? Are you serious?!?

Professor Dolohov will do his nut if he finds out.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-26 18:45:15](#)

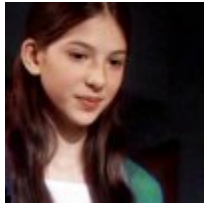
*(no subject)*

Oh, brill. Not that he'll be upset, I mean, of course he will. But I tried that little charm on my journal, the one that lets you know when someone you want to hear from writes to you. And it worked!

Anyway, yeah, I'm pretty sure that's what they're doing. Some of them show up back in the Common Room really really late after curfew and they're all bruised and limping and such. Like they've been in a fight. And then Chambers asked Samuels on Monday if girls could come to their 'mini-Ouroboros' as she called it. And this morning, she's got a cut right over her right eye, hasn't she?

Anyway. So I figure that we'd better not squeal, though, on account of how Tamblyn and Vaisey and some of the others are Prefects. Besides, there are way better ways to spend time.

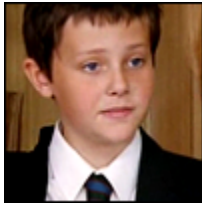
Speaking of which.... Are you walking with anyone down to Hogsmeade?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-26 18:48:25](#)  
*(no subject)*

You mean um Pansy and

No, I'm not.




 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-26 18:52:36](#)  
*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Do you

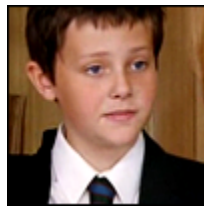
Maybe we could walk together, then? I've got sickles for a Butterbeer, if you like.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-26 18:54:59](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Okay.

Meet you in the entrance hall?



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-26 19:07:09](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

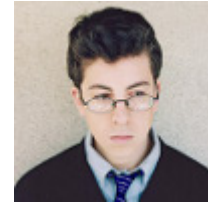
Sounds great.

See you later, too!

**[2012-10-25 23:11:00](#)**

*Private Message to Padma*

Thank you so very much for the sweets. It was so thoughtful of you to share some with me. I hope you had an exceptionally pleasant holiday.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)**

Are you excited about the YPL essay contest? We find out who won this weekend, isn't it? I'm certain Umbridge will appreciate yours, because it was brilliant.

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 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-10-26 13:15:33](#)**  
(no subject)

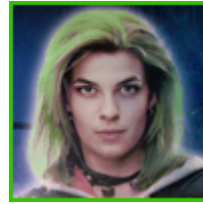
I'm glad you came, Lines. It was good of Gupta and Mukherjee to start things while we were at the Prefects' meeting, too - Rohani was a little worried they wouldn't be able to keep everyone from just grabbing up all the food but they held their own.

Did you notice that Darshana was so happy when you talked to her? I think she's really starting to look like our Aunt Sivarti but Pavs thinks she might put on weight like cousin Nindira. She's pretty for now, though, don't you think?

Oh, the essay. I guess that's right. To be honest I haven't been thinking about it much. There's so much other homework to do! But I appreciate it. I'm sure yours was amazing, too. But I bet the prize will go to a younger student, anyway. It seems like the kind of encouragement they need, right?

**2012-10-26 10:21:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Frank Longbottom*



Frank,

I'm sorry about yesterday. Ugh. I hate that you had to fix my mess there. I mean, honestly, you'd think I could at least have got a decent Confundus right.

 **alt\_nymphadora**

To be honest, I'm worried what could happen if that we hit a situation where we'd need me to be able to do things I just... don't know how to do. It's not just needing more experience. Or confidence. And I know there are things I can do that are useful, but-

I watch you, and I know I've just not got your training. I don't just mean fighting, because we haven't needed that, and if we do, well- I'll either manage or I won't. What I really mean is how you just know what to look for and what to listen for, and how to look round a place before we go in, and how to keep us being noticed while we're poking about.

Only, I know I'm not the sort of partner you're used to counting on. I'd like to learn all of it, if you'd teach me.

Fighting, too.



 **alt\_frank at 2012-10-29 03:50:35**  
*(no subject)*

we fixed it easily enough.

I mean, you've been doing a good job. really. mean it.

sure, there's always more stuff to learn, but you've got a good head on you.

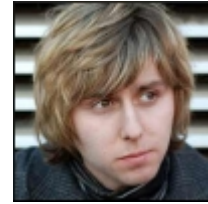
and yeah, we can work on some things too.

maybe you could come to moddey next time you have a few days, we could sort out what needs working on. Al's good at this sort of thing too.

all right, then?

**[2012-10-26 12:06:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*



 **[alt\\_justin](#)**

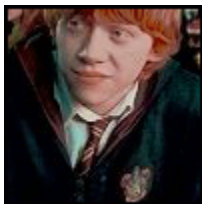
Michael wrote to me and to Sally-Anne last night about assembling a small group of people we trust to practise the ventriloquism spell for Professor Dolohov's class.

First off, I'm willing to meet him this evening, as well as Sally-Anne (and I've told him as much, in Potions this afternoon). But second, It's got me to thinking--again, I'm sorry, what, I know I sound like a broken record--that there ought to be a better way of getting together a small number of people, so that we may arrange other groups like the revising sessions. I say, something larger than the lock but smaller than sending out an open invitation via journal.

Because I well take Michael's point, what, that there are certain persons and certain subjects for which one must take care in agreeing to work together, what? As much as I like Michael, I rather think he's not exactly someone we want to have here, if you follow me. But if we keep on using the lock to tell large groups what's going on, someone's bound to notice, what?

Ron, do you suppose you might ask Fred and George about a clever way to alert a number of people if we wish to meet up? I can only imagine that these little sessions are going to become more frequent.

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-26 16:23:43](#)**

*(no subject)*

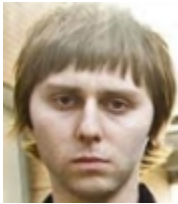
Hang on.

So are you inviting the rest of us to come revise with you and Corner? Or just telling us what you're doing?

Bundy and I worked on it last night, which was a laugh and a half! I mean, it let's you use the other person like a ventriloquist's dummy, yeah? Hilarious!

Anywiz, if you're asking, I'd come tonight, and I expect Bundy would, too.

And sure, I'll talk to the twins, but I don't really see what you mean about it being a problem to use the lock to arrange getting together. I mean, I get that we can't use it to talk to people we haven't included. That's obvious. But what do you mean about people noticing if we use it?



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-26 16:36:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Ron,

Yes, quite right, I'm terribly sorry: Yes, of course, I'm inviting you. And Bundy, if she'd like to come along.

But that's just what I mean: Let's say that we go up to the room we tried to use last Wednesday, what, and those older lads were there again and we jolly well decided to go somewhere else. Well, if you and I were there but not yet anyone else, and if we only had two people to tell each, we could send a PM, what? But to tell *everyone* would be three or four PMs each, do you see?

So, instead, we send a message to this lock. But first off, that doesn't get the message to the people who aren't on it, what (as you said), and second, what happens if someone on our lock is with someone who isn't?


For the sake of argument, let's say that Sally-Anne is with, oh, with Greengrass, when she gets the post telling her to go up to the sixth floor instead of the fourth. Sally-Anne might tell Greengrass that it's a PM, but as the subjects of those are visible, eventually Greengrass might look in her own journal and see that no one whose posts she reads actually sent a PM to Sally-Anne.

Do you see what I mean?

-Justin





 **alt\_ron** at **2012-10-26 22:22:04**  
(no subject)

Sorry. I almost got caught writing earlier.

Yeah. Well, that's always been the problem with the lock, hasn't it? If that happened, Sally Anne would have to tell Greengrass they should go look for us on the sixth floor because someone was just saying the other day that there's a classroom there that would be as good as the one on the fourth. Or something. You've just got to think on your feet to get around those things.

But I get it that if we actually had a bigger group that was a regular thing, it would be great to have a way to communicate with them that's not the lock. Only... well, yeah. I asked the twins, and they're still thinking about it. The thing is anything like that would be dangerous if someone got caught with it. Not as dangerous as having anyone find out about the lock, but still. So we'd still have to think about who'd be included. And you're right. I don't think that would be Corner.



 **alt\_pansy** at **2012-10-26 19:44:19**  
(no subject)

Maybe if we charm a bit of paper so that if one of us writes a message, it shows up on everyone else's paper too?

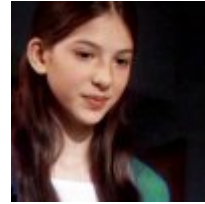
It'd probably be complicated, what with the charms and all, but I'd bet it could be done if Fred and George put their minds to it.

I could talk to them about it, during our next get together.

**2012-10-26 14:15:00**

*Private message to Pansy*

I think Michael Corner just asked me on a date.



I mean he wants me to walk with him to Hogsmeade and said something about going for a butterbeer?

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-10-26 19:42:18**  
(no subject)

Really? That's brilliant.

Did he only ask you, or were there other people that will be coming along too?

Did you say yes?

Does R

Do you like Corner? I mean, what do you think?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-10-26 19:46:56**  
(no subject)

1. Just me.
2. Yes.
3. I hadn't actually thought about it before, I mean he's not bad looking and he's never been horrid to

me so I don't DISlike him. And I can go on a date with him and there might be gossip but it won't be GOSSIP MAGAZINE GOSSIP like when I went to the Yule Ball with Krum.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-10-26 19:55:41**  
(no subject)

I think it's a date, then!

And you're right. He's got a very expressive face. And he seems to be a bit quiet, but that can be

nice.

I know his asking you has made me like him better than I would have, because it shows he has excellent taste.

We'll have to pick out a fun barrette for your hair or something, just to make it special.

**2012-10-26 15:10:00**

*Private Message to Luna*

Luna,

I want to say I am sorry. I have abandoned you when you needed me most. I can see that you are getting along fine without me; yet it feels unnatural to not be in your corner, and to not have you in mine.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Over the past month since we have been back to school, I've looked your way, but you don't notice me anymore. I am sorry for adding to your grief, and not being there to help you through this time you have with the Browns. I hope it's not too late. Can we be friends again? I've really missed your insight in our discussions, and your drawings. I don't think I have laughed as much as I used to either; you always knew just what to say to lift someone's mood.

I've been caught up in my own silly world of stupid pureblood perfection, and the mad ambitions that go along with it. But I was in a situation where I felt I didn't belong anywhere. I now realize that none of that matters. Actually, I understand that what does matter is my family and friends. And for a long time you were more than just a friend to me, you have been my sister.

It is my deepest wish that we can get back to being sisters. I truly hope that you can forgive my recent faults. I love you, Luna and nothing will ever change that. I also want you to know that at the end of the year, I will no longer work for Purest Sparkle. There is no reason in this world that I should have acted the way I have. I want nothing more or less than for us to friends again.

If you would like, let's take a walk around the lake and talk ( I've missed that too).

Let me know.

---



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2012-10-27 01:07:30](#)**  
(no subject)


I saw this earlier this afternoon. Forgive me for not replying earlier. ~~I didn't quite know what to think~~

You're right. I had become quite used to not looking your way anymore. Can you blame me, really? It's been quite a long while since you've spoken to me at all.

Part of me is happy you'd like to be friends again, but part of me is quite used to making my own way now.

I'm willing to start with a walk. And then we'll see. Shall I meet you after breakfast, outside the Great Hall?



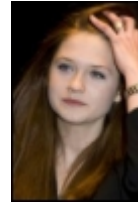
 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2012-10-27 01:43:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Or any other time you name. I'm not sure if you were planning on going to Hogsmeade or anything.

**2012-10-26 16:40:00**

*Private Message to Troy*

So, I will see you tomorrow after breakfast. We haven't had any time together since school started., and I am really looking forward to spending the day with you tomorrow. I will see you then.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Ginny

**2012-10-26 17:05:00**

*Private Message to Conall Drumgoole*

Passed your requisition parchments on to Yaxley and Hopkirk.

Making sure nothing happens on your watch? Or do you have some particular reason to insist on double coverage?

If the latter, I want a briefing.

Tomorrow. Half-eight? Or join me on the sparring floor at half-five.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

**2012-10-26 20:54:00**

*Private message to Cedric Diggory  
and Harry Marvolo*



 [alt\\_gredforge](#)


We have masks.  
We have made masks.  
We are making masks.  
We will be making masks.

We are living and breathing masks in every spare moment of the day. We see them in our sleep, and our dreams about snakes, lions, badgers and eagles are getting downright peculiar (maybe it's the fumes from the potion we're using).

We are nobly refraining from going to Hogsmeade tomorrow to make more masks. You are invited to join us, if you like, for a mask-making party. Lee's coming, and Marvolo, pass the word on to Parkinson, would you? We entice you with the promise of bottles of butterbeer we smuggled back from Hogsmeade the last time we were there. We figure they'll help cut the potion fumes.

Anyway, if you have a chance to show up tomorrow, your help would be welcome. Either way, we're confident we're on track to fill the order on time for the Halloween Feast.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-10-27 02:24:25**

*(no subject)*

I'll be there. I'd already been planning to stay back and work on it, but it's good to know I'll have company.

If we don't get all done tomorrow, I was thinking we should invite some other friends to come by Sunday morning to help make yet more and more of them. I can talk Tyche around for sure and whoever else you'd want to ask.

Ugh let's not talk about dreams. I'm not taking divination! Though I think I can interpret all of my recent ones as being caused by one of three obvious things.





 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-27 02:28:39](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, a work party on Sunday morning is probably a good idea. We should have a good idea by the end of tomorrow afternoon how many more people we'll need for that.

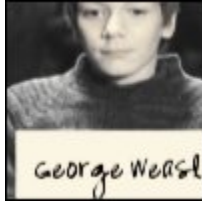
(Yeah, we're not in Divination, either. Load of rubbish, if you ask us.)



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-28 00:23:41](#)  
(no subject)

Today was ace. I mean, I'm tired and all, but it's the good kind of tired.

I was talking to Pans after and she said Daphne Greengrass might help out if we need it, and she's good with illusion charms and glamours.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-28 01:28:32](#)  
(no subject)

Good idea! We certainly still have work to do, and we could use her help. Thanks.

**2012-10-26 23:52:00**

*Private Message to Luna*



 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Forgive me for not responding right away. I hope you get this in time. I know its rather late. I was not sure how to take the bitter truth. I suppose I deserve that. I guess I didn't really think you would welcome me back as if nothing had happened. And no, I don't blame you for ignoring me now. I have done enough of that myself.

As far as you making your own way; when did you ever think you did not? I can remember wanting to protect you, or losing my temper in your defense, but you have always made your own way. You have always had your own opinions, and have stood up for that which you believe in. I can't say the same for most of the kids in our year, myself included. If I were to be a good friend, that should not stop you from making your own choices, if anything I should support them or at the very least respect them.

I am truly sorry if I make you feel ...different about me. But I guess that would only be natural. I would appreciate the walk after breakfast, but I must tell you that I am planning to spend the day with Troy Derwent. If we don't have time for a separate walk before we all go off to Hogsmeade, I hope you don't mind him walking along with us.

Ginny

**2012-10-27 14:28:00**

*Private Message to B Lestrangle*

Have been chasing shadows today for Drumgoole. So far they're only that.

Still. Understand why he's on edge.

What are you hearing?



 **alt\_crouch\_jr**



 **alt\_bellatrix** at **2012-10-27 22:50:36**  
(no subject)


If Drumgoole's so on edge that he can't do his job proper, then he'll end up like Travers. One wonders if that is why he's really on edge.

Or then, was he always one of those who fretted in the days leading up to All Hallows' and bonfire night? I don't recall.

Of course, one never wishes that the peace of our Protectorate be disturbed, particularly on Our Lord's birthday celebration. And yet - it's been almost too long since the last thrilling challenge, hasn't it, Barty? If we can flush out the vermin before they have their chance to gnaw through the walls...

Nothing new to report just yet. All eyes watching for unusual movement, particularly of anything that could be made to go boom.



 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2012-10-27 23:18:10**  
(no subject)

Feel sure that not ending up like Travers is high on Drumgoole's agenda.

Exactly. The thrill. Was rather hoping something would come of the leads today, but nothing more than whispers and echoes.

Could be something to it, though.

Will let you know if I catch a true scent. Trust you'll do same.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at [2012-10-28 03:07:07](#)  
*(no subject)*

You may count on it.

**2012-10-27 14:56:00**

*Private Message to Sarah Yaxley and Reethi Singh*



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Just heard from Monteith, so that's the last of the arrangements made.

Reethi. Re. the Spectaculars and the favours and all, did you ask them to send those to your address or mine? Only, I wouldn't want the parcels going missing from your stoop if you and Philander are both on shift--I expect we'll all be pulling extra hours through Wednesday, don't you? But now we've the girl living in, there's no trouble accepting deliveries at ours any time.

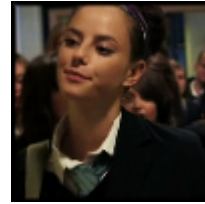
Sarah, your design for the invitation is perfect. So gorgeous-ghastly, that image. So you! I've got them all addressed and ready for the post. Any last additions to the list?

So now we simply have to make certain Vani agrees to come. Without Higgs. Because no one wants to end up snogging him, surely. Ugh. I don't see why he couldn't have kept on with Psyche Bobolis. By now they could be miserably married and popping out sprogs together, instead of poor Fellowes being stuck with her.

And Vani with Higgs. But we're seeing to that.

**2012-10-27 21:38:00**

*Private message to Gerald Krumgold*



 **alt\_daphne**

Gerald,

Brilliant news! I finally had my appointment with Madam Umbridge yesterday, and since I've put so much work into getting the staff's support and going through with the preliminary planning, she's gone ahead and agreed to the Revue. Mind, she doesn't want to be involved in any capacity, I don't think, but that's perfectly fine with me. The pink cow wouldn't know artistic expression if it sicked up hairballs on her shoes!

Now, since I've already sorted it out by owl with Governor Selwyn, I *think* it'll be okay for you to be the director, so long as Professor Carpenter is your co-director. Just so that it's all in keeping with the goals of YPL and the School at large. (You remember what I told you about Governor Selwyn, right? He's the one who got a whole lot of us silly on Sunrise Cordials. Father knows him, too. He's an alright sort, I think, even if you have to mind what you drink around him.) As far as the timeline goes, I was thinking of something like this...

Before Christmas Hols: Casting call; script writing.

During Christmas Hols: Choreography; finalise script.

After Hols: Rehearsals.

Performance: Before Easter Hols (??)

I need to talk with Grandmother about the best song choices. I do wonder about some of them being so very old, though... it might be nift to spice up some of those ancient tunes with some new arrangements. I wonder if Pansy would be interested? Oh, and I need to find out more about what it was actually *like* to be a Hogwarts student one-hundred or something years ago. Only we'll have to be careful and leave out all those bits to do with muggles and mudbloods, of course.

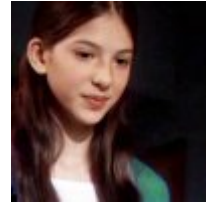
Oh, there's so much to talk about! I should see about arranging a fire chat. I really do wish you had been able to get away to Hogsmeade today, I could have told you all of this in person. And really, the shops in the village *are* provincial, but they're not entirely without charm. I would have had such a grand time, showing you around! Well, don't worry - once you break into directing you won't have to spend every

hour of the day in rehearsals, or giving lessons. It'll be so much better, you'll see!

**2012-10-27 21:56:00**

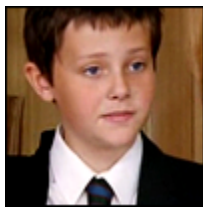
*Private message to Michael Corner*

Thanks for inviting me for butterbeer, it was really fun.



And walking around Hogsmeade after. I was expecting to have sort of a lonely Hogsmeade trip with Pansy staying at Hogwarts to work on her Mystery Project (which is not the secret Dark Arts club) but I had a really good time today.

 **alt\_sally\_anne**



 **alt\_michael** at **2012-10-28 03:04:41**

*(no subject)*

I had fun, too.

I've never been inside The Long Yarn before. Do you think Bitsy might like knitting? I suppose a set of, er, spindles couldn't be too expensive, could it, and some yarn to start off.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2012-10-28 03:12:46**

*(no subject)*

Needles aren't expensive at all. Yarn can be, if you buy really fancy yarn, but it doesn't have to be. I don't know if she'd like it or not, some people find it dead boring. I find it soothing.



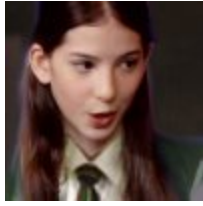
 **alt\_michael** at **2012-10-28 03:22:37**

*(no subject)*

She could use some soothing. Besides, you're right, I should start thinking about presents and all.

Oh, and I can keep an eye on Philip for you, sure.  
Which one is he again?





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-28 03:43:12](#)  
(no subject)

He's thin and sandy-haired and obsessed with Quidditch; I bet that narrows it right down.

He had an accident in Potions class during the second week of September and melted his cauldron; it sounded from the rumours as if he was convinced NO ONE HAD EVER DONE THIS BEFORE EVER and he would NEVER LIVE DOWN THE HUMILIATION. If you missed that particular melodrama, I guess you'll have to have Moon point him out to you. Assuming Moon knows who all the firsties are. He ought to, though, I mean it's sort of his job, isn't it?

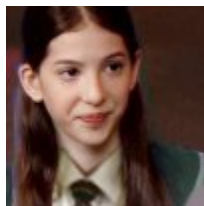


 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-10-28 03:57:40](#)  
(no subject)

Well, in that case, I'll ask Bits, she's sure to know who he is!

Moon knows they're firsties but, well, sometimes I think we're lucky if Moon decides to stop reading long enough to walk the corridors, you know?

I hope you win the essay contest, though. Mine shan't, I don't think. Do the Strettons care much if you do well in school, or not?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-28 04:05:22](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I won't win the essay contest. I thought it would look good if I entered so I did, but I didn't put much effort into it. And no, the Strettons don't much care. Although I've always had good marks so maybe if I'd had bad marks they'd have been cross? But I'm honestly not entirely sure Mrs Stretton even looks at my marks. She doesn't ever mention them. Well, except once when she was yelling at Jeremy.

**[2012-10-28 14:32:00](#)**

*Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

Um. Gin.

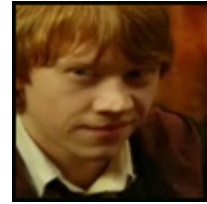
Good practice this morning.

You're lucky though that Angelina didn't see you yesterday trading hexes with a Slytherin. Lip-locker curse?

With Derwent?

Honestly. Not a pretty thing, what you were doing there.

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 **[alt\\_ron](#)**



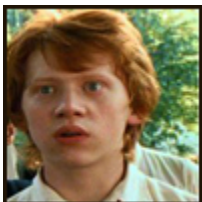
 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2012-10-28 21:39:29](#)**  
(no subject)


Ron,

We were not trading curses. He's fit, what else is one supposed to do when they haven't been able to spend time with their boyfriend? I didn't me to embarrass you. We didn't even think we would be see. It was so crowded in the Three Broomsticks yesterday anyway. I was sure we weren't spotted.

Honestly thought, are you upset with me? And, if you are, is it because you caught your baby sister snogging or because he is Slytherin.

And good job to you today as well. You are doing really well as keeper.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-28 22:05:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Hate to break it to you, Gin, but thinking no one would see you snogging in a crowd is a bit daft. If you snog in the middle of a crowd, that means a whole crowd of people can see you.

It was a bit embarrassing, actually. It looked-

Er, boyfriend

Never mind. He's too old for you is all. And he was totally too all over you. His hand was

Better stick to Quidditch and not worry about blokes for now, yeah?



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-10-29 06:23:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks for looking out for me. I don't think Troy is the kind of person to be too forward. I think I am fine, for now at least. And yeah, I keep focused on Quidditch too.

**2012-10-28 18:59:00**

*YPL essay competition*



A very good afternoon to our boys and girls, their parents, and my other devoted readers.

At our meeting today, we gathered to listen to the lovely tributes our dear students had written to honour “Our Lord’s Greatest Achievement”. It was such a magical moment to hear so many different ideas and viewpoints. And I just know our students will be encouraged to excellence by the eloquence and exhortation of their fellows.

 [alt\\_umbridge](#)

To quote one of our better entries, from Mr Linus Moon, “The indomitable spark of wizarding power was hidden and nurtured until it could finally bloom into the fire of victory. Our Lord's ascension to his rightful place was the culmination of hopes and plans that had been foreshadowed through ages of British wizarding history.”

Some of our most notable essays, worthy of a special mention include:

- the overthrow of the former Ministry (just so interesting to hear a student’s view on that)
- the re-greening of England (“Verdant hills stretch out as far as the eye can see, unblemished and pure.” - Miss Catchlove clearly shows her mother’s gift for poetic language.)
- the ongoing work to establish a stable and secure realm for Wizards in Ireland - such a deep understanding of the issues as presented by Mr Finnigan.
- the critical work of the Wizarding Repopulation Office, through the Population Rewards Scheme and the related reclamation of many stately homes for proper Wizarding use.

But by far the most potent were those that highlighted Our Lord’s great personal achievements. Some of these discussed his Council, and the lasting changes they have brought to the land, serving as examples to all our people, young and old.

But our most wonderful essay came from Miss Padma Patil, as always a true and noble example to her peers and to our younger students of the very best the Protectorate can offer. She wrote elegantly of Our

Lord's mastery of the Noble Arts, but also his unique gifts of perception - particularly his ability to draw the best and brightest to his service while also being most adept at rooting out disloyalty and failure when needed. Extending the discussion, she referenced his deep care for the witches and wizards of the Protectorate, highlighting the wards, the treatment of Muggles, and the steps he took to resolve the great menace of the epidemic of several years ago.

Congratulations, Miss Patil, most beautifully done, you set a high bar for all to aspire to. And we should also note a noble effort by Miss Eustacia Pummell, who will be someone to watch when she grows into her skills.

And congratulations to all our other students who submitted entries, no matter how simple or humble. Measuring yourself against others is the very best way to improve and become your best, brightest, and most useful selves in Our Lord's work.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at [2012-10-28 23:46:04](#)

*Private message to Septima Vector*

Septima -

I did just want to have a word, so that there's absolutely no hint of a misunderstanding between us. I should so hate that, you do such excellent work keeping everything running smoothly. Now, Mr Diggory nodded off just a little today, and you know that in his role as Head Boy, the others look up to him so.

Of course I had a brief word with him, and I gave him a little pin to encourage him to keep his attention where it should be, on honing his focus for Our Lord's work. All very much with his agreement, of course - such an amiable young man when his attention is properly held.

Now, I don't want to step outside the boundaries you made so very clear to me a few weeks ago. But the contracts for behaviour with the YPL counsellors do give me just a smidgen more leeway than they do with most students, as I'm sure you know. So if this little reminder is not sufficient, I do hope I may help him improve further if needed?

At any rate, it is only for his highest good and improvement, and I know you support that.

Dolores



**alt\_umbridge** at [2012-10-29 00:07:39](#)

*Private message to Marston Strangeweale and Latimer Caldwell*

Gentlemen,

I am reminded, looking at my calendar, that we are approaching a most challenging time of year. I do hope all is well for both of you, and that the Ministry continues to take appropriate steps to discourage even the slightest hint of dissent in the camps.

One thing I have learned already from the work with the YPL is how important it is that malleable and vulnerable minds be guarded, burnished, and polished before they harden into uselessness. Truly, that is perhaps the thing I find most frustrating over the past few years, knowing that others may not be nearly as diligent in such matters as I always sought to be. One can hand over authority to others who are skilled and attentive, but doing so when it's so very clear they have other priorities, well. I do worry.

Now, I am forwarding the best essays - the top four from each class, as we heard today - to the office and your attention. As well as a few that were rather disgraceful in terms of their writing and ability to get to anything like a coherent point.

Latimer, perhaps we should have a far more extensive discussion about the village schools again? (You know that that is part of my larger remit, even while I am focused most at the moment on bringing the YPL to where we all know it should be.)

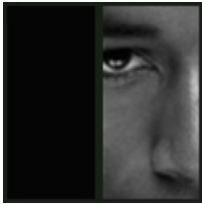
Now, I would like to meet again, perhaps next week or the week after? There is really so much to continue to discuss, and I believe the time is drawing near to move into the next phase of analysis and discussion.

Yours, as always in service,  
Dolores Umbridge



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-29 00:14:52](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you again, Madam Umbridge. It's such an honour and especially when the others were very much deserving, too. I think the most important thing was encouraging so many people to really consider how lucky we are to have a leader as inspiring as Our Lord.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-10-29 01:07:40](#)  
(no subject)

Congratulations. That was impressive.

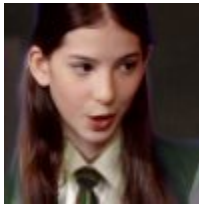
A bit long, mind, but impressive.




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-10-29 01:29:37](#)  
(no subject)

Not as long as Lines' was!

I suppose I could have trimmed down the middle section. Though I did want to make sure the linkages were clear, between Black's Paralysis and the Protector's efforts to keep us safe from muggles, and all that.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-29 00:41:00](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Anyone get a pin? Was it a 'good' pin or a 'bad' pin?

I didn't (either sort).



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 01:04:58](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No. What were they for? I wasn't listening.

I think I finally got that first meditation thinger. Maybe Professor Dolohov won't make me come in for extra practice again. Mind you, that was loads better than this afternoon's snore-fest.

Really? Patil? Like bloody treacle tart. Wanted to sick up from the sweet.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-29 01:28:56](#)

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

I think Padma got a pin for her 'communication skills.' But Sarah Fawcett got one saying 'I will devote myself more to my studies,' I guess her essay wasn't written very well?

I wasn't really listening either (actually, I was practising meditation, I figured I might as well get SOMETHING useful out of the afternoon) but I heard Sarah talking about it in the corridor.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 02:01:36](#)

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

I actually think the second meditation makes total sense. I mean, it's just like flying, almost, the way you feel the centre of yourself and know how balance shifts and all. But the first one... Oi, I'm just not meant to stay still like that with just the concentration bit to hang onto. Toughest thing ever.

Speaking of, Honoria Sandoval got a badge, and not the good kind. I heard her say it was for being twitchy while Umbridge was talking. And, really, who can blame her? Sandoval, I mean. That had to've been the most stupidly boring thing ever today, listening to so many of them. And all the ones that seemed to think the LP's going to read what they wrote. Honestly, they should all hope he doesn't!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-29 02:06:02](#)

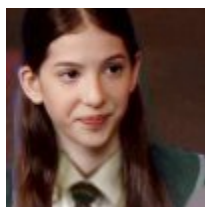
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

I was actually practicing the first meditation, I think Umbridge would've noticed if I'd stood up and so on. But yeah, I agree, the second one's easier. Thinking about nothing about your breath

is hard.



If you can get the trick of it, though -- you'll be able to learn occlumency. At least that's what the books say.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-29 02:07:49](#)

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

And bloody hell, the last thing I want is to have the Lord Protector read my essay.

I turned in the sort of essay that would reassure Umbridge that I was a dull loyal swot she didn't need to worry about, and since she didn't read it AND didn't give me a pin I reckon it worked.



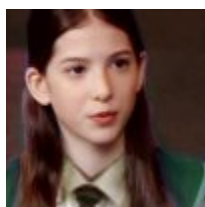
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 02:37:34](#)

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

D'you really think that if you can do that first meditation you'll be able to learn occlumency? Guess I should keep working at it. I mean beyond getting so I don't laugh in the middle or suddenly get itchy somewhere so I can't stay still. That's the worst.

Well, no. Suddenly thinking of something hideous is the worst.

Like Umbridge's ankles. Or- oh, ugh. Now I'm going to totally think about seeing Troy Derwent with his tongue down my sister's throat yesterday. ~~And his~~ Talk about revolting.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-29 05:03:26](#)

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

Well, it's a start? Two of the books that Professor Dolohov leant me, 'The Pane of Water' and 'The Lake and the Mirror,' talk about meditation, and the meditations they start with are pretty much exactly like this one. With breathing, and focusing your attention on that.

Did you want to borrow any of them?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 05:29:10](#)

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

Well, I don't want to take them away from you if you're going to try to teach yourself about occlumency. Are you, really?

It would be dead useful to be able to do it, but I maybe don't need it as much as you? i mean, I can see how you might need it before I would, and I've got all the subjects I can manage, already, though if you wanted to get together to work on stuff like that, then, yeah. Count me in. Just I don't think I'd try teaching myself.



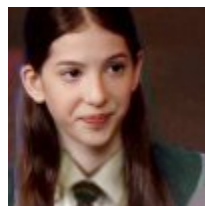
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 14:01:59](#)

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

Hey.

Tell me about Derwent. He's not a Quidditcher. I don't know much about him except he's totally too old for Ginny.

She thinks he's *fit*.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-30 04:16:56](#)

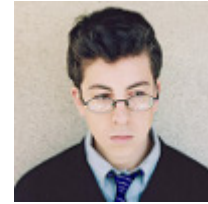
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

He's quiet, he's clever, he's never given me cause to hex him, and he cheers for the Cannons.

**2012-10-28 20:56:00**


*Three cheers for Padma!*

Oh, well done! As always, Ravenclaw Corner shines, and you are its chiefest ornament.



 [alt\\_linus](#)



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2012-10-29 02:03:04**

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Lines! And congratulations to you, too, for having yours read and for your achievement badge.

And also to Seamus, Finch-Fletchley, Pummell, Catchlove, Fitzgibbon, both Drumgooles, Twycross and all the others who received commendations for their efforts.

**2012-10-28 22:50:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

No time for an owl.

IMA.

Soon.

Hallow's Eve?

Bonfire Night?

Something big.

Likely massive collateral damage.

Dublin. Maybe Belfast too.

All I can get from contacts.

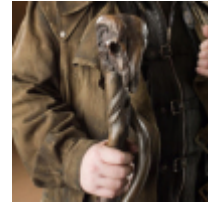
Bloody infuriating.

Damn the muggles for moving too soon, they don't listen.

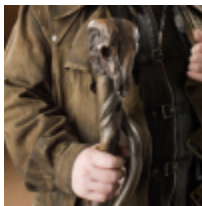
Need some wands I can trust.


Kingsley. Frank. Come up.

Now.



 [alt\\_moody](#)




 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 02:54:57](#)

*(no subject)*

this bloody thing working?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-29 02:57:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, I'm happy to say it is. And I'm glad you remembered the 'Order Only' title to the journal entry, too.

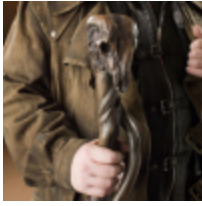


 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-29 02:55:29](#)

*(no subject)*

Merlin.


How big, Moody?



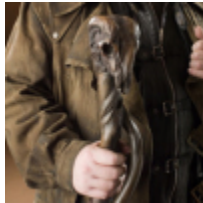
 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 02:56:48](#)  
(no subject)

big.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-29 02:58:39](#)  
(no subject)


Thanks for the specificity.



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:03:29](#)  
(no subject)

I wouldn't be using this bloody security risk if it wasn't.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-29 03:11:33](#)  
(no subject)

There's never been a breach of this lock. There never WILL be a breach, since I set the damn thing up myself.

But I get your point that your willingness to use it now is a sign of how serious the situation is.

Is there anything any of my analysts can do to help? Any intelligence that you need?



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at [2012-10-29 03:16:21](#)  
(no subject)

Likewise, Mad-Eye, although I can't think of any specific help I can provide from my end.

We're quite short on polyjuice, though, I'm  
afraid.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-29 03:23:35](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe we can do something that might help.

We've been making these masks, for the Halloween Feast here at Hogwarts. We've done a few hundred of them in the past week, and the ones we've been doing for the school are a bit crude. But we've been working on adapting a prototype with a lot more finesse. You can charm them to mimic a human face, and you fix them with a potion. Not as good as polyjuice, but they might work good in crowds, or in low visibility situations, like at night.

Kingsley and Frank, we know that we can't get them to you in time for you to take with you. But we could send maybe half dozen to ten of them to, say, the Players. And if the Players end up joining you, they could bring them with them, right?



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-29 03:27:07](#)  
(no subject)

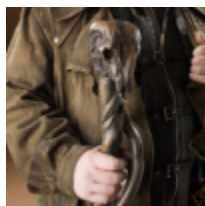
It's worth a shot. Sure, send them along, boys. And thanks.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-10-29 03:28:59](#)  
(no subject)

I'll contribute what Polyjuice we have here.

Of course, you might ask Severus if he's stockpiled enough that he could share any of his.




 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:22:48](#)  
(no subject)

Much as you can about Dublin and Belfast. Security. Any recent change in wards. Movement.

Anything.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-29 03:24:30](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Will get right on it, Mad-Eye.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-29 02:58:49](#)  
(no subject)

right. coming. do you need me to bring anyone else?  
or are small numbers better?



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:02:56](#)  
(no subject)

We might need more once we know more.  
For now, just you two.  
And polyjuice.  
Lots.



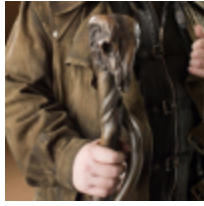
 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-29 03:06:10](#)  
(no subject)

Certainly I'll come. I'll have the rest of the Players  
standing by at the ready in case you call them, too.  
You know they're well-trained, although of course they  
won't know the ground as well as your people do.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-29 03:07:15](#)  
(no subject)

Mad-Eye, what, specifically, are you hoping that we  
can do for you? You say 'wands,' but for what?



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:10:24](#)  
(no subject)

Stop the bloody idiots from blowing up their country.  
Lots of people are going to die.  
And the MLE will kill whoever's left.

It's too soon.  
There's no time.



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:12:26](#)  
(no subject)

But first I need us to find out when and where.



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:12:53](#)  
(no subject)

And how.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-29 03:13:32](#)  
(no subject)

Good heavens.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-29 03:16:09](#)  
(no subject)

Let us know if there's any thing we can send along?  
Or anything we can do.





 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-10-29 03:54:04](#)  
(no subject)

might have to put off that training trip we'd talked about until I get back.

I'll owl you some books to look over in the meantime.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-10-29 05:20:15](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Frank.

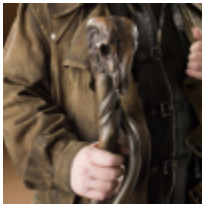
I know I don't have what's needed for this action, but do remember to ask if there's anything we could do that'd be of use. Anything I could do.

And don't go getting your head hexed off, right?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-29 03:21:15](#)  
(no subject)

Moody, what are the chances it can be averted, if it's so big? And will it increase the patrols of the Irish Sea?



 [alt\\_moody](#) at [2012-10-29 03:24:23](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know.  
We've got to try.  
We need to find out more first.  
Most likely.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-10-29 04:15:52](#)  
(no subject)

Bugger, I just saw this.

I can't think of any use I could possibly be from up here, especially since there's no way for me to take time without losing my position entirely, but if there's any way anyone can think of for me to help I'll do it, whatever it is.

Stay safe, all of you.

**2012-10-29 08:52:00**

*Order Only: Thinking out loud*

Be careful, anyone who's going over to help Alastor.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

But I've been thinking .... Ought we perhaps to warn other organisations that something might be brewing in the Belfast cauldron? Davidson or Beth or even our own people here - it's not that I want some massive bomb to go off in Ireland, far from it. But if we can't stop it - if we can't convince the IMA to wait ... shouldn't we see how we can take advantage of the situation?

Think about it. If all the Death Eaters go haring off in response to some massive disruption, or even most of them, then we (or someone) has an opportunity to coordinate another disruption here - perhaps a camp breakout or a demonstration in New London, if we can only get the word out quickly enough.

I don't know if it's a particularly good idea but it seems to me that if their attention is stretched thin, we've a better chance of doing some good and creating some momentum.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2012-10-29 13:28:04**  
(no subject)

Seems to me there's two separate things you're asking, when you really walk around the question and kick its twigs long enough. One, should we pass the word a bit and stir up some disturbances on the home front, and two, do we owe it to the other groups we know of to warn them things might be about to turn ugly?

Well, all right, and three: is there anything we should be doing to protect people here, too, since we know things might be about to turn ugly?



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-10-29 13:39:02](#)**  
(no subject)

And. I mean.

Well. Do we use the chance to cause some ruckus, too, instead of just passing along information? Only, if everybody's looking at Ireland, they might things going on here. And we haven't actually been doing a lot of

It might be a chance. Or you might be right and it might be a bad idea.

I don't know.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-10-29 13:40:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, exactly.

And what responsibility do we then have if we encourage people to take advantage of the opportunity and put themselves at risk?



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-10-29 13:48:10](#)**  
(no subject)


Yeah.

I didn't meet her, but from what you lot have said, I don't think Ridley would be satisfied with camp breakouts and protests in New London if she knew MLE was concentrating on Ireland.

So, if we pass along the information, people might -- will probably -- get hurt. But ... does that automatically make it the wrong thing to do?

Or is that just how they want us all to be thinking?



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-29 20:50:51](#)**  
(no subject)

I would say, yes, as far as Davidson and Beth go, but we should proceed with caution.

I would be even more cautious about alerting Ridley's people.

Perhaps we'll have a better idea in a day or two. I will also put my analyst network on high alert, see if they can come up with some more information which would give us a better idea of which way to jump.


But with as little information as we have now, it's like trying to predict the future by reading clumps of soggy tea leaves.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-10-29 20:51:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Isn't that what you do in Divination?



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-10-29 20:55:49](#)**  
(no subject)

I always sucked at Divination.

I prefer real data.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-29 13:52:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think they've all gone running over there yet. I saw three Council types this morning as I was leaving the Ministry. I saw Farty, coming up from the dungeons with Yaxley. And then I ended up in a lift with Director Selwyn for a couple of stops. None of them seemed to be packing their bags for a trip.

Maybe they don't know yet. Now wouldn't that be interesting! There must be some way we could work this to put egg on their faces.

We could tip off the papers, maybe? Bet they wouldn't like to be surprised with the news that way.

But I expect it might be better if we didn't blast news of it all over, either.

Hm.



 **[alt\\_macnair](#)** at **[2012-10-29 14:54:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

Maybe its best said that we ought to have some plan in place for the next time something happens to conveniently draw MLE away.

Cos it's a bit short notice now.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-10-29 15:07:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, I think at least we could take advantage of it if it happens. I mean if MLE really do look away, we're watching for it, and we know people who are ready with things that would really be helped by a bit of a gap where no one's watching.

Except the Watch, actually. That's a bit of a problem. See, I was thinking about Beth's group, and I know they've got people ready to run whenever they give a signal that they've got a clear route ready. So if there's really some big business in Ireland and the Death Eaters hare off over there and MLE's all of a sudden paying more attention to reports from over there than to what's going on here, then we could run a load of people through the smuggling chain. Except I'd wager that if something big happens, the Watchers'll be all on edge and that could make it harder not easier to get people out.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-10-29 15:14:59](#)  
(no subject)

Smuggling and wotsit is fine. Thought Black might be suggesting something bigger, like a chance to assassinate Voldemort. Cos I'd wager that if and when the next big something happens, he'll be sitting pretty at Buckingham while his loyals march into the fire.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-10-29 15:44:28](#)  
(no subject)

Not an assassination, no, but something to bring the fight to multiple fronts, make them split their focus.

Dora's right about the Watch and its growing popularity.

**2012-10-29 10:23:00**

*I Solemnly Swear that I am Up to No Good - Mood Rings*



I had what I think is maybe a BRILLIANT idea because of something Siri

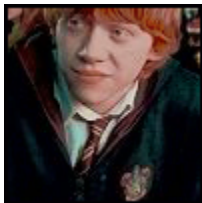
 **alt\_hermione**


A lot of times I can't have my journal out, right? And neither can some other people. And that will only get worse and worse if we make friends with other Mudbloods—some of them can't even have journals, they aren't given them at all. Not that I think we have to do that mind you but if.

And then I realized, if the journals can do it, why can't we come up with a communicator ourselves?

But it's terribly complex magic, the journals, and I don't think any of us could make it. But we could make something little. Like maybe a ring, a mood ring, that changed colours when we were sending messages? Or something else that looked innocent. Like a piece of pocket fluff or a Galleon. Perhaps we could even make it so that we could write messages on there, though not big ones of course, that's too complex. And they wouldn't last forever, not like the journals. But then even if our journals got taken away, or when I was working and couldn't look, or whatever reason, we could still be in contact if there was an emergency.

What do you all think?



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-10-29 14:45:35**  
(no subject)

I thought you weren't writing much anymore. Is that why?

A ring's a good idea, but it could catch someone's eye, y'know, if it suddenly changed colour. And if anyone did notice a bunch of us have them, then they might decide it's a new thing and want to know where to get one themselves. Which would be awkward.

But something you'd keep in your pocket? That's kind of brilliant.






 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-10-29 15:53:22](#)  
(no subject)

Sometimes, yes.

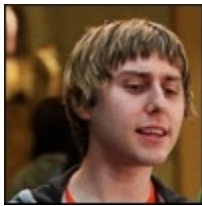
So a coin then, or a little piece of metal, like a charm-bracelet charm? If it was a coin we'd have to remember not to spend it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 16:34:01](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I think the galleon's a better idea.

Hard for us blokes to explain why we'd be keeping a bracelet charm in our pockets, yeah? Not very manly.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-29 15:55:59](#)  
(no subject)

Hermione,

Good to hear from you!


A Galleon, yes. I say, that's positively capitol! There's already printing round the edge, isn't there, which no one would notice if it changed. And if it faded then it could be used over and over and there's far less chance anyone would happen to read it.

Only, I think one should also need a spell that keeps one accidentally spending the particular Galleon, what? Perhaps if it's always slightly warm or slightly cold? Or, I say, Hydra, do you think we could figure out which spell's on your bracelet, the one that made you want to keep wearing it? That would alert one when one's bally well about to hand over the coin one's meant to keep, what?

Perhaps it should change when there's a new message, cold to hot or hot to cold?

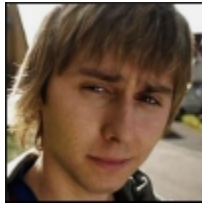
-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 16:32:35](#)  
(no subject)

Might be a problem for you, but I don't actually walk around with loads of galleons in my pockets, so I think I could remember not to spend the charmed one.

Guess that's an advantage to not having gobs of money.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-29 18:47:03](#)  
(no subject)

Ron,

Quite right. And even if one only has one Galleon, it can be dashed difficult not to spend it, what? When one feels the temptation or has a bally good reason? (Mind, one really ought to have that sort of discipline but it does seem there's always something one needs!)

I say, I suppose each of us could use whatever token we'd like, and that no one would think amiss for us to carry. For example, you might choose instead to use a chess piece or a card from an exploding snap deck. I should think that would do just as well, what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-29 19:15:58](#)  
(no subject)

It might be easier to link them all together if they were all made of the same thing.

And I can imagine that if we had a heating charm on all of them, for instance, it might work differently for a playing card than it would for a coin, and it wouldn't do to have one's trousers on fire.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-29 19:24:53](#)  
(no subject)


Pansy,

Well, one shouldn't like one's trousers on fire no matter what the object with the heating charm is, what!

But the point's well taken. I'm bally well not suggesting that the objects should be very much warmer or colder (or different any other way), only enough for one to be able to notice it change when one needs to send an alert.

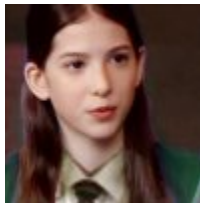
-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 21:38:51](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I think a coin's about the best idea so far.

And, really, I can't think of anything better to do with a galleon, I guess.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-30 02:00:18](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, it will be easier to link them all together if they're the same thing.

A playing card would let us put more words in the message. I mean a galleon isn't big, and if we're constantly squinting at coins that's going to be a little suspicious, too.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-30 02:39:09](#)  
(no subject)

But people normally carry coins in their pockets. Not necessarily playing cards.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-10-30 01:43:29](#)**  
(no subject)

If someone wants to look at my bracelet I don't mind. It was Sally Anne who studied it before.

The galleon and the spell are both good ideas. But I never have much pocket money, either, so I don't think I'd get it mixed up with any other coins. Still, I shouldn't like to make a mistake and spend it, or leave it about where someone might steal it.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-10-30 02:02:22](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think I'd want to try to use a spell like the one on your bracelet. But I DO think I could manage a spell that would make the enchanted galleon feel different, so you knew you shouldn't spend this one.

The nice thing about a galleon is that there's nothing at all suspicious about having a galleon in one's pocket.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-30 02:32:25](#)**  
(no subject)

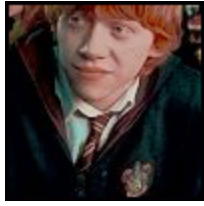
Sally-Anne,


Yes, quite right, whereas one single playing card might be odd, particularly if several people all had them.

And sickles are easier to come by, what, but not as large.

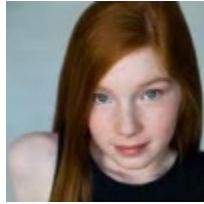
Who else outside our number might we wish to include, if we can get it working?

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-30 02:50:09](#)  
(no subject)


Bundy, for sure.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-10-30 03:27:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yes.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-30 02:54:44](#)  
(no subject)

Fred, George, Lee and Towler.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-30 03:22:18](#)  
(no subject)

Well, it depends on the sort of messages, I guess.

But I'd like to include Harry.  
And Draco.

I'd understand if that wouldn't be possible though.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-29 17:17:19](#)  
(no subject)

That IS brilliant, Hermione!

I like the idea of a galleon, yeah.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-10-29 17:19:01](#)  
(no subject)

And you know what else is also brilliant about it? We could include Lee and Fred and George on it, too.

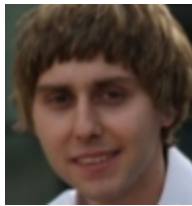


 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-29 17:24:03](#)  
(no subject)

Whoa, that's true.

Why, we could include anyone else we wanted, right? Even if they aren't on this lock. Which might be a good thing, actually: it might be an intermediate step before putting them on this lock. If we're not quite sure it's a good idea yet to let them know all the secrets here, yeah?

And if we put the messages on a galleon...that means Hermione and Terry could send messages to a bunch of people at once, without having to get around those stupid muggleborn restrictions. The messages could be anonymous, couldn't they? Not linked to a journal that identifies the user and all. Which might be safer for Hermione and Terry, too.

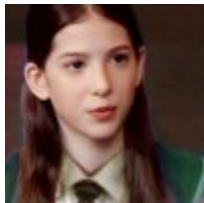


 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-29 18:15:47](#)  
(no subject)

Neville,

Yes, exactly, it's precisely what I think we've needed, what? A way to include some of our acquaintances, such as Michael Corner or Wayne Hopkins or Katrina Bundy, without having to explain everything and bally well trust them to keep our secrets.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-30 02:07:54](#)  
(no subject)

If we let them have galleons then Terry and Hermione will have to keep it secret who they are.

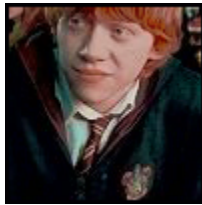
But if -- say -- we have something like a galleon, and anyone who has one of these galleons can put a message on it, it could be like a journal that anyone could write in. So if someone said 'meet at 7 pm in the Astronomy tower' no one would know who it was.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-30 02:57:17](#)  
(no subject)

That could be well confusing.

So. I reckon we'd only use these to send messages that apply to the whole group that's got the coins. Like to set times and places for getting together. Or maybe to warn that something bad's happened. Like to call for help, maybe.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 17:31:20](#)  
(no subject)

Sure. We can. If we figure out the magic that'll make it work.

Which. We haven't yet, so maybe it's not really time yet to celebrate too much.



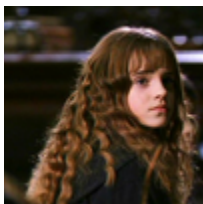
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-10-29 17:33:49](#)  
(no subject)

Hermione?

Um. I think we all think this is a great idea, but is it just an idea or do you already know what kind of magic we could use to make it work?

I can ask the twins about it, too. I mean, they've been trying to think of something we could use for a while. Just. They've been pretty busy.

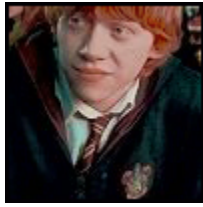
Anywiz, I'll try to catch up with them and see what they say. But if you already know how it should work, that's even better.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-10-29 17:54:58](#)  
(no subject)

I've got some idea. I bet that Sally-Anne and me could make it work—and I'm sure Harry wouldn't mind 'lending me' to her for an afternoon—Sally-Anne, do you think you could?

I'd love to give this to the twins a fait accompli—show them that they aren't the only ones to come up with things!!!



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-10-29 18:06:05](#)  
(no subject)

A fate wot?

Yeah. I agree, that would be great, really. I mean, it would be ace to work something out without needing them to help.

Come to that, I'd sort of like to be in on it. I'm not like the twins for thinking up things out of the blue, but I am good at fiddling around with how to cast things once we know what spell we're working on.

I mean, I don't guess you can just do it in your common room down there in Slytherin or someone will wonder what you're getting up to. So if you've got to go somewhere else, I could meet you.


Well, y'know. If you wanted.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2012-10-30 02:27:24](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe we can meet in the room where we held Hermione's party. Do you think?



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-10-30 02:49:29](#)  
(no subject)

Sure. I could do it anytime outside of lessons except Thursday evening or early morning Saturday.

Or, y'know, during marching practice.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-30 02:27:00](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. Let's do this.

Here's what we need to figure out.

1. How to link the coins. If we're using coins. A playing card might also work (it would hold more words), but it would be a little odder if someone noticed that all these students were carrying around a playing card in their pocket.

2. How to set the messages. Which needs to be possible without a wand AND also anonymous. I think that means it needs to be almost mechanical, which will be a little cumbersome when you set a message. But I'm thinking about the ways that Professor Dolohov showed me that people trace magic to work out who cast it, and the LESS magic is involved in setting each message, the harder it is for anyone to take a coin and find out who's used it to send messages.

Maybe there's a way if you trace each letter with your thumb? The messages will have to be short, anyway. Hmm.

3. We want to make it so you can read back through messages, so if Ron sends one and then five minutes later I send one people will still be able to read Ron's. I mean I don't think they need to save everything anyone has said ever but maybe the last dozen or two dozen messages? Because that way people wouldn't need to pull them out and look at them right away, they could wait until they had some privacy to look through.

You know who would definitely have the books about this sort of thing is Professor Dolohov, and I don't think he'll be suspicious at all. I'll tell him I'm working on holiday gifts.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-10-30 13:16:17](#)  
(no subject)

Is your thumb too big for a Galleon though?  
Maybe it should be a pen. Or a pin.



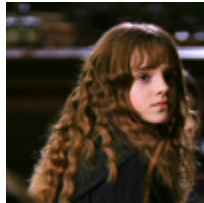
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-10-30 15:51:43](#)  
(no subject)

See, what I'm thinking is that writing with a pen (or a pin) on a galleon would require a fair amount of privacy but if you traced the letters one at a time -- you could use the whole galleon, is what I'm thinking. Hold it against your first two fingers and trace with your thumb, and you could do it with the coin in your pocket, or if that was too hard you could take it out but you still wouldn't need anything but the galleon.

We'd need a way to 'draw' a space between words. Maybe that could be a tap with your finger on the side of the galleon...

I mean we'd need to keep people from running on too long, since a galleon isn't very big. But the magic could just cut them off if the message got too long.

It would be a lot easier to show what I mean than explain in the journals. We should meet.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-10-31 16:41:24](#)  
(no subject)

When would be alright for you today? Harry says he'll lend me to you when-ever, just ask for me. Come up with some really disgusting job please, only don't actually make me do it!!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-10-29 18:05:14](#)  
(no subject)

If we gave it out to other people, people not already under the lock, we'd have to keep quiet that you were a part of it, wouldn't we? Or call you by code names if we wanted to pass messages to you specifically or

something.

**2012-10-29 12:30:00**

*Private Message to Madam Umbridge*

Madam Umbridge,

Thank you for the recognition. I am happy to be an example of a Gryffindor that can live up to the YPL's standards. It is also refreshing to see the changes in the YPL programme. I think that there were some that didn't take the program seriously before. It is nice to have you here, being so devoted to our improvement.



 [alt\\_dean](#)

As I am sure you know, my guardian is Mr Peakes. I mostly communicate to him by owl. Anyway, other than reminding me to remain on my best behaviour, he did ask me to make sure you have all the help you need, that a student is able to provide of course.

But even before his most recent letter, I was thinking about the note you sent. Even though I have not come to talk with you privately since our interview last month, I want you to be aware that I know where my loyalty lies. Since September, I have been thinking about how important it is to have the right core group of students representing our noble realm. With that in mind, I am keeping vigilant and will alert you immediately if anything should arise. If you need any further help, please know that I will not hesitate to offer my service.

I look forward to many more insightful YPL events.

Dean Thomas



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at **2012-10-29 18:45:27**

*(no subject)*

Why, thank you, Mr Thomas.

I did have a chance to speak with your guardian recently. He and I are in increasing agreement about the direction of the programme, and I hope to meet with him again about other matters related to the school curriculum.

As to how you might be of help - well, certainly, being a good example is certainly a fine place to start. Do continue to encourage your peers to attend just as many of the exercise sessions as they

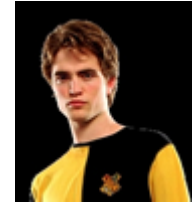
can.

I did also notice that several of the more distressingly bad essays were from your house. Might I ask you to consider what would encourage these students to improve? The spelling was bad enough, but the overall quality of writing is not nearly where it should be in most cases.

And of course, if there's any little thing that shows someone is not taking the programme - or our Lord's goals and priorities seriously - do know you can always come to me.

**2012-10-29 19:34:00**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo and George Weasley*



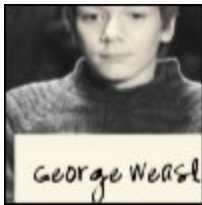
 **alt\_cedric**

Thank Merlin and Morgana all the masks are done.

Thank you all (and pass along to everyone else) for your incredible work.

I've talked to the house elves about getting them distributed tomorrow. I'll be making a schoolwide post once I wake up tomorrow, whenever that may be.

Cheers!



 **alt\_gredforge** at **2012-10-30 02:25:30**  
(no subject)

We learned a lot, and besides, we think this will totally cover us with glory. Thanks for the opportunity, mate!



 **alt\_harry** at **2012-10-30 03:13:56**  
(no subject)

It really was a brilliant idea.

Thanks for asking me to help out. I know Pansy and Draco and Daphs are all dead excited about it too, and the masks really look ace.

**[2012-10-29 22:19:00](#)**

*Astronomy Guild and other details*

Such a pleasure to get to see my astronomy colleagues this evening, as always. Tonight's presentation was a quite fascinating talk on photographic advances with telescopes, some of which seem very promising.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

We also had two quite spirited discussions about some new projects. First - after what I understand are innumerable committee meetings - there's a firm proposal for Guild use of a portion of Tintagel, and they're working on the final details for the telescope installation.

Second, some conversation about what an improved astronomy text might look like - ideally something that would accommodate both student use, and interested adults who wish to review the topic. Students, on that last point, I've been asked to talk to all of you about what would be of particular interest and help. We'll find time in our classes this month to do so, but please think about what you find frustrating and confusing, and on what you find useful or essential.

Mum, thanks again for tea and managing certain details.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-30 02:29:42](#)

*Private message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Narcissa -

I had tea with my mother this afternoon, and she has assured me she's rescued the family tapestry from my aunt's house (My father's oldest sister. Family matriarchies are so complicated sometimes, as really it should have been at my Nana's or my Uncle's if not with Mum.)

I understand from Mum it's not been touched since my youngest brother, Theo, was born (well, there's only one child in the direct Sinistra line since Theo, so I suppose that's not as surprising as it might be. It does need rather a bit of cleaning and tending to, but she's taking it in hand now.

I do hope everything is going well for you, and you enjoyed the opera this weekend - I didn't have a chance to speak with Tosha today, but he'd mentioned he was looking forward to it, and especially to a

chance to catch up with you.

Aurora



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-30 02:49:25](#)**

*Private message to Gilly Chadwick*

Gil -

Sorry we didn't get more time - next week, can you stay late at the Archetype? We can do a last run through the other install notes from '86 that Georg wants. (I'd forgotten you use different abbreviations than I do, but a quick look at my notes makes me think I've got them all still in my head.) And then one of us can drop them off for him.

And no, Dai didn't talk to me - he ducked out when you got snagged by that knot of observers. At least he came. (Do I really need to repeat where I am with that? Still frustrated, still know nothing I do is going to improve things. Still off-balance about it. Eleven weeks, three days, still the same as it was.)

Well. No sense in rambling. But if I show signs of being as cursedly stubborn in the ways that make distance, as Dai's doing, do tell me. Repeatedly. Until I listen.

A.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-10-30 03:07:35](#)**

*Private message to Georg Bright*

Most eminent and esteemed guild master:

Really, warn a woman next time, before you drop two massive projects that affect her into a meeting. Yes, I missed April and July, but unlike some people, I *do* read the minutes. You're making a point, though. And not to me - Carnelian and Donal's crowd, I'm ~~guessing~~ thinking sure. And I think to Leoris and to Hildegard, in their ways.

On the text, you're right that I clearly need to be on the exploratory committee if it's to do anything useful at all. I'm really only free on Tuesday afternoons, and I need advance warning to plan other appointments: will owl tomorrow with specifics once I finish cross-

checking my calendar.

As to who: Cantus, two theorists, two observers, and someone from the telescope makers. (I'd prefer Gilly, but I prefer even more that you spare me Leoris, so balance as you need.) At least one other woman, please. Make Cantus chair the thing, it'll be good for him, and means I can argue points, not enforce fairness.

On the actual details, it's not that I don't agree we could use a new approach - the current text's near twenty years old. But really, do you agree with Carnelian that we should just drop the historical and southern-only constellations entirely? I've thought about reducing the time we spend on them, but they're still a remarkably large piece of the OWL and NEWT exams, and you know I've no control over those.

Though I do have a friendly contact there, if you want to inquire about the process to request review on guild grounds. She'd tell you how best to propose it.

Anyway. I'll owl tomorrow, and do send me the last round of notes on M81 you mentioned back with her, please? On the calibration notes, Gilly or I will drop them off next week once we've both had a chance to dig out our personal notes on the things not in the original writeup. If you'd warned me, you could have had them this week, so it's entirely your own fault.

Clear nights, as always  
A.



**2012-10-30 07:41:00**

*What a nice start to my birthday*

Arthur, my dear man, brought me breakfast in bed today. Toast and eggs and bacon, all cooked just the way I like them, and the Daily Prophet. I feel like a ~~que~~ entirely pampered. Bill popped by to share a cup of coffee before going to work. And Arthur and I will be dining out tonight at a restaurant, thanks to a gift certificate from from Percy and Penny.



 [alt\\_molly](#)

I am quite looking forward to my day.

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 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2012-10-30 12:48:40**  
(no subject)

I hope it stays just as good, Mum.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-10-30 12:50:54**  
(no subject)

I'm sure it will.



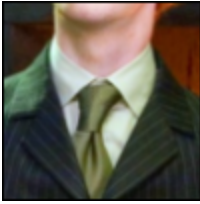
 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at **2012-10-30 12:49:26**  
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Mum! Your birthday present from us is a guaranteed no-explosions day! And a card, because an owl's on its way.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-10-30 12:50:13**  
(no subject)

It came already! It made me laugh so hard! Thank you so much for remembering, my dears.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-10-30 12:51:52](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, good, I'm glad you'll be able to use the gift certificate tonight. I hoped you would. I hope you have a wonderful time.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-30 12:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

Having someone else cook dinner is always a treat. I do appreciate it, so please pass along my thanks again to Penny.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-30 12:55:36](#)  
(no subject)

Having someone else cook dinner is a treat for you? Mum...you can't fool us. You're never happier than when you're in your kitchen.


Still, it was a good idea of Percy's; good show Perce. I've heard good things about Celeste's.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-10-30 19:00:15](#)  
*ORDER ONLY*

Many happy returns, Molly love. I hope my book arrived, and that you have a good day today.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-31 01:58:53](#)  
*Re: ORDER ONLY*

Oh, thank you, Alice. It really was a very lovely day.

Arthur and I are thinking of you tonight, what with Frank gone. I hope the children have a splendid Halloween. (I hope the bushel of apples I sent arrived in time to make the caramel apples. We had a good group from our orchard this year.)



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2012-10-30 22:01:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Mum! A package should arrive for you soon if it hasn't already. I hope you are enjoying yourself today. you really do deserve it.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-10-31 01:57:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, love. It didn't arrive today, but I'll look for it tomorrow.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-11-01 01:43:13](#)**  
(no subject)

The shawl arrived today. Oh, Ginny, it's lovely! And has a subtle charm on it, doesn't it? I noticed the sheen on it seemed to change colour, depending on what it's lying against. I'll be proud to wear it, dear.


Thank you so much.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-10-31 01:56:22](#)**  
*Order Only*


Happy birthday, Mrs Weasley.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-10-31 01:59:06](#)**  
*Re: Order Only*

Thank you, Terry, dear.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-31 03:06:41](#)**  
*Private Message to Mum*

Hope you had a wizard day, Mum.

Do you remember the year I drew you a comic about the ghoul wanting to wish you happy returns? Or the year I drew you a comic about the gnomes all climbing up the trellis

by the kitchen window to sing you their birthday song? Or the year I drew you the one about the chickens laying special birthday eggs for you?

Well, I didn't draw you a comic this year. Sorry.

Do you remember the year I made you a card and got the twins to charm it so it threw glitter and confetti all over you when you opened it? And the glitter got up your nose and into your mouth and a piece got in your eye even and you were laughing and crying and sneezing all at the same time?

I didn't do that this year, either. Even though I could do amazing charms now to make glittery confetti go all over and do nift stuff if I wanted to.

Oh. Do you remember the year I got really ill the morning of your birthday and vommed all day?

Even if that'd happened this year (which it didn't), you wouldn't have had to clean up after me or stay up all night with me. Since I'm at school. So I guess that makes this year better than that one, for sure.

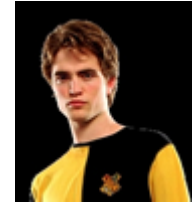
Um. So, yeah. I'd just like you to remembered all those other years when you opened my card today. Cause I know that all it says is Many Happy Returns, but I really mean it. I hope this is the best year ever for you.

Yeah.

Love from your favourite son,  
Ronald

**2012-10-30 11:09:00**

*Our Lord Protector's Birthday Feast  
festivites*



Hello Hogwarts!

As a special treat for tomorrow's feast in celebration of our Lord Protector's birthday, we have produced magical masquerade masks. They have been glamoured to look like your house mascots. However, you may notice that a few are different. These have been specially glamoured as examples of what can be done with these wonderful novelties.

 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_cedric](#)

I would like to thank Pansy Parkinson, Lee Jordan, Fred & George Weasley and Harry Marvolo for all of their hard work and creativity in designing and testing the masks. We also had help from Tyche Jenkins, Draco Malfoy and Daphne Greengrass in the final push to finish them all this weekend. Professor Sinistra provided the workshop that we used over these last two weeks to design and create them.

Professor Vector has asked for voluntary donations to the Feast and Festivities Fund to defray the cost of materials which the school provided. There will be a suitably horrifically enchanted box at the Feast for these donations.

Now let us all have a spooky Halloween while we celebrate our glorious Lord Protector's birthday.

If you wish to try your wand at changing the glamour on your mask, here is the formula to follow. First we do not recommend this for those under fifth year, unless you are experienced at making moving glamours. Hold the mask firmly arms length from you face, staring at the eyes and incant *exturgen personen*. While incanting start with your wand parallel to both the floor and the mask, bring the wand straight down as if wiping a blackboard and finish with a widdershins Elbert's flick.

Then cast your favourite glamour on the mask. We recommend one from the Stanislov or La Fey schools. However, we found the Italian school too temperamental. While maintaining the glamour, soak the mask in a fixative potion. Commercially available potions such as *Forsby's Fixative* and *Eglantine Engelbert's Elixir of Elegance* do the

job. *Pence's Permanent Portraiture* and *Lasting Landscapes* might work for very special masks but are not recommended for general use. The entire line of Black Al's Artistic don't work due to specializing in certain artistic styles. We tinkered with our potion to make it work better on multiple masks.

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 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2012-10-30 16:07:03](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, wow.

Did you really make them for everyone? Goodness. That's loads. Wow.

Thanks, Cedric! And Marvolo! Oh, everyone who worked on them, really.

What happens if someone loses their mask? Or it breaks?



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-30 16:21:20](#)  
(no subject)

You're welcome.

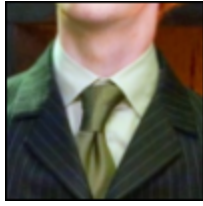
Please try to take good care of them between now and the Feast. If something dire does happen, come talk to me. We made a few extras. A very few extras. We put a huge amount of effort and materials into them, please take care of them.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-30 16:26:36](#)  
(no subject)

We have a limited number of extra masks, so there should be enough for everyone, even in the case of, say, lamentable theoretical toilet accidents.

We've tested them extensively, and we're confident they'll hold up well through the Feast, given normal use. Just don't use 'em for Beater practise.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-10-30 18:00:25](#)

*Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

I'm quite surprised. And impressed. Nice to see you using your ingenuity for a worthy purpose for once. Mum said you two seemed to be turning over a new leaf this year. It certainly shows. Well done!



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-30 18:02:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

Thanks Percy. That means a lot, coming from you.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-30 18:03:01](#)

*Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

A lot of dung, that is. Git.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-30 18:07:09](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

Yeah. We figure they'll particularly impress Fu, our friendly Order camouflage and guerrilla warfare expert. He's the one we really want to sit up and take notice.

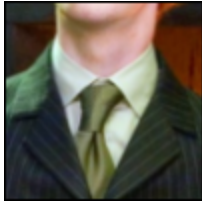
Berk.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-10-30 16:32:47](#)

*(no subject)*

What a fun and festive idea. Thank you to everyone for giving us something so creative for the Feast.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-10-30 16:35:37](#)

*Private message to Cedric Diggory*

What a very original idea. Was it yours? Delighted to see the Head Boy showing such initiative and leadership.

I hope the Halloween Feast will be a big success.



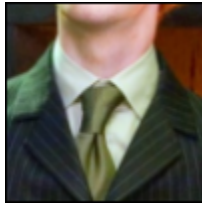
 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-30 16:38:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Thank you!

The original idea was mine, but your brothers and the others were a great help in the planning and execution.

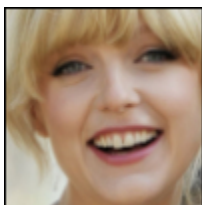
How are you finding life post-Hogwarts?



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-10-30 17:56:39](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

I'm quite enjoying it, and I have had happy luck in terms of my employment. But I do miss dear old Hogwarts, and I find myself becoming quite nostalgic, thinking of the Halloween Feast.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-30 17:06:22](#)

*Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Cedric -

What a lovely thing to find in the basket by my door! I'm right to suspect your hand in the design, yes? (The way it shades from the spinning galaxy to the overlay of the bear - very nicely done indeed.)

And a pleasure to provide the room, really. If any of you want to lend a hand rearranging - oh, sometime next week - I'd not mind an extra wand or two, but there's no rush there.

You doing all right? I've an idea how much time you've put in the past week.





 **alt\_cedric** at [2012-10-30 20:24:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

You're welcome!

Some of the others helped from the artistic angle, but it was mostly my work.

Certainly we'll help sorting stuff out in the room.

I'm fine. Feeling over stressed and easily distracted by other people, but will work it out. Sorry for not replying sooner. Christophanus started talking politics nearly an hour ago and only just managed to extract myself from the conversation.



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-10-30 21:24:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Well, thank you. It's glorious, and I haven't been able to stop grinning at it.

You do know you need only ask if you want somewhere quiet and out of the way. It's not like I've not got enough spaces tucked away that would suit a desk and all. I had rather a long nap this afternoon myself: the Guild meeting last night was lovely, but so many people with so many opinions.



 **alt\_cedric** at [2012-10-31 02:49:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

People just seem to be getting on my nerves. Which is weird since I normally like hanging around others. Every little thing people say seems to be grabbing my attention and holding it.

I meant to go flying this afternoon (yes I know I had practice too, but wanted some alone time and practice isn't that) but just couldn't manage to make it out of the castle, kept having to stop and talk with people.

I may take you up on the room at some point. I could just use the same workshop again.

Thanks for all your support.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-10-31 13:43:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Isn't that the worst, when you just want a little time on your own, and everyone seems to want a piece of you?

(And no, I quite understand about you wanting to go for a fly on your own. Being up on the tower by myself is my version - I stayed up quite a bit past class last night to clear my head.)

And certainly, if you want to keep using that workshop, I'll leave the warding set for you. Not a problem.

I'm sure tonight will be wonderful, too - I think we could all use a bit of a celebration.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-10-30 18:08:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Wizard cool!



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-30 19:26:56](#)

*Private Message to Cedric*

That went over really well.

The people in our House are really pleased, from what I've heard so far.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the upper years will come up with for their masks tomorrow.

Nicely done. And just think, we didn't have to explode any spiders.

And

If you need more money, you know, to make up the difference, just let me and Pansy know.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-10-30 19:56:48](#)

*Re: Private Message to Cedric*

I'm glad it's going over well. I'm also really really glad it's done. I seem to be off balance and out of sorts this week. Hope it's just residual stress from all the extra work and not something else.

I don't think Professor Vector has us on the hook for costs, but we'll see what she says after the donations and looking at supplies whenever she has them checked.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-10-30 20:52:20](#)

*Re: Private Message to Cedric*

Yeah?

We have been putting a lot of work in lately.

I bet it'll be nice to just have fun tomorrow. Maybe that'll help.

You are having fun tomorrow, right? I mean, I know, Head Boy and all, but even you lot get to have fun now and again.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-10-31 01:48:42](#)

*Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Well, we're ready to sleep for a week, but they really did turn out spiffin', didn't they? Thanks loads for giving us the opportunity to work on them--we learned a lot--and keep us in mind for any other little projects you dream up this year, yeah?

**[2012-10-30 13:08:00](#)**

So...

How's everyone gonna enchant their masks for the Feast, d'ye reckon?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)**



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-10-31 17:21:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

I have been essaying to turn mine into a crocodile, in honor of the one Byron kept. It's not going well at all so easily as I'd like, but I shall persevere.



 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2012-10-31 19:07:06](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, you look a bit more like a salamander, Lines.

I think my toucan came out pretty well, though.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-10-31 20:53:19](#)**

*(no subject)*

Hullo, Michael,

Yes, it's quite fine. I'm glad you rethought the owl, though. Did you see what happened to Steve Capper? I say, Pucey, Warrington and Samuels have been trying to flag him down all day to send messages for them.

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-10-31 18:27:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

Got mine to come right during lunch. It took an extra flick on the texturing charm.

Looks just like the ghoul at home now. Well. Like he

looked last time I checked. It's not like I spend loads of time making small talk with him!

What's yours meant to be?



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2012-10-31 19:46:17](#)  
(no subject)

Sue's is a Kneazle. Have you seen it? I think it came out rather well. Meg's is a kitten. I think maybe that's what El's was meant to be, too, but I'm not sure.

And mine's a toad. It was going to be something else, but that went pear-shaped, and in the end it was easiest to make the skin a bit lumpier and the eyes a bit more- well, I think it's a rather good toad, at least.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-10-31 20:55:03](#)  
(no subject)


Ernie,

What was it going to be?

(I think Capper's regretting his choice as well. Not because it doesn't look well, what, but because some of the others seem to be taking the mick.)

-Justin



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2012-10-31 21:11:50](#)  
(no subject)

Mine? Oh. It was going to be giraffe, but I didn't have a picture of one here. I suppose I could have found a picture in the library, but I guess I wasn't that serious about it all. Anywiz, the skin came out wrong and the proportions, rather. I didn't feel like fussing over the colours.

It's fine as a toad.

(Yeah. I saw Pucey trailing after him. In that mask. Not too difficult

|| to guess what sort of messages the Grim Reaper wants to send!)

**2012-10-30 13:10:00**

*Order Only: Ireland*

Anyone heard from Frank, Moody or Kingsley? I haven't. Had a quick word with Dad when I stopped by the Burrow this morning, and he hasn't, either.




 **alt\_bill**

I keep thinking of Halloween tomorrow, and after that, Bonfire Night.

I have chewed my fingernails to the bottom and am working my way down to the first knuckle.

---




 **alt\_alice** at **2012-10-30 23:51:32**  
(no subject)

I haven't heard anything yet either.

Bill, any reason why there's been extra security details around the Isle of Man? Victor and Danny nearly got caught unawares while they were fishing (Merlin knows what we would've done if Richard hadn't been out with them). They appear to be MLE from what I've been able to see from a distance, and they don't appear to be giving too much extra attention to Peel, but it's still making me nervous.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-10-31 01:26:35**  
(no subject)

Gah, no. No idea. I'm glad that they escaped detection.

Let me check on some things tomorrow.

**2012-10-30 16:33:00**

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy and Rabastan Lestrangle*



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

L. Missed you earlier. Apologies. Was pulled away.

I'm for Ipswich. By way of Bfst. And Bella.

Raz. Have your kit ready. In case. T, as well. No time for a separate note.

Will read & respond when/if able.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2012-10-30 22:06:54**

*(no subject)*

Would not have had time, likely, for any other conversation my-self, this morning. Too busy being briefed on the preparations for Bkxm tomorrow (all in hand, it would seem. Ravanche is exceptionally proud of his protégé's efforts in the personage of Wagstaff. He could afford to show his pride less loquaciously).

In any event, Yaxley mentioned the possibility that the vermin might flare in supposed advantage of to-morrow's festivities. Drumgoole's preparations meet with Palace approval, therefore: Simplicity, allowing for immediate action, if necessary.

Polyjuice protocols in place, of course. Nuisance but only sensible. Heard already that DU is croaking her usual song of doom regarding Bonfire Night.

Swift flight, Barty.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2012-10-31 02:08:16**

*(no subject)*

We'll be ready. Take care, B.



**2012-10-30 22:19:00**

*ORDER ONLY*



 [alt\\_frank](#)

right. we're all okay. for the moment. we're being followed, which is to be expected, and moody seems to think it's a good sign. I'm not so sure, but if it reassures them that we're not ministry, that's a start. we've lost them a few times since we've switched up identities, so if we need to shake them, we can.

moody's got lots of connections with muggleborn and expatriate wizards up here, but he's only managed a few surface contacts with the muggle side of things, and all of them have been keeping their mouths shut. the IMA don't tend to trust anyone who carries a wand as a general rule, and from what he's told me, it's a wonder they all work with each other. they keep the catholic muggles and protestant muggles working in separate factions, and those factions have factions too, like ulsters and sinn fein and merlin knows who else, and the leaders of all the different groups come together for meetings in what they call 'the parliament.'

moody knows a person with the irish republican brotherhood who says that she can get us a meeting with her leader. she also has told us that from what she knows, they're waiting for the best opportunity and haven't settled on a precise date, but once they're given orders, can coordinate country wide. so it isn't a matter of dublin or belfast, most likely it's both at once.

we're trying to get in touch with a member of the UVF that is related to one of moody's muggleborn contacts, but he's damn difficult to track down.

we'll let you know once we know more about where they plan on striking, and what we can do to mitigate things. I have a feeling that if they think we're going to try and stop them, it might make things a great deal more difficult for us here, so we're keeping mum on that for the time being. more people right now would spook them right off, but we might need a lot of people in a hurry, so keep a sharp eye out because we know bugger all at this point.

---



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-10-31 02:53:54](#)  
(no subject)

I know I don't need to say, 'Be careful,' because you always are. But I still want to say it.


Be careful, all of you.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-31 02:58:58](#)  
(no subject)

Arthur, Bill, could one of you please send a patronus to Emmeline for me. I assume they're still with Davidson. Let them know we're all right for now, but they should be packed and ready to move at a moment's notice if we decide to have them join us.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-31 03:00:21](#)  
(no subject)

I'll do it, Kingsley.




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-10-31 03:02:24](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks.

Don't nibble your fingers any further, my friend. You have better uses for your knuckles.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-10-31 03:02:47](#)  
(no subject)

Right.

**2012-10-31 10:43:00**

*Private Message to G. A. Penderyn and  
Cadmus Mulciber*



Ipswich666

P. via Man

M. via Stranraer

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Go incognito at check points. Want report on security. Protocol lapses at Holyhead yesterday when Bella came through. Acceptable on my route, but I was expected.

Saw Hopkirk's PM to Pale. Trust you'll find all in trim at border. Notify asap if not.

Arr by 4. Foxe & Scarlett will brief.

Tell Mord we may want him, but not yet. His brief still to ensure quiet report from Bham tonight.

**2012-10-31 16:20:00**

*Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey*



Poppy,

Sending up Mr Crabbe and Miss Bundy. If you would be so kind as to reverse the pustule growth and treat any burns they may have sustained, I would appreciate it.

 [alt\\_horace](#)

Really, one likes to applaud the students for their ingenuity in such projects as Mr Diggory's masks, but on the whole, I do wish he had waited until after lessons today to hand them out. Or that students would listen when we instruct them not to wear masks while preparing potions.

Miss Bundy need not return but do send Mr Crabbe back so he may determine the time of his detention.

Many thanks.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-10-31 20:29:02](#)  
(no subject)

Bless.

Yes, of course, I'll see to them. What was the potion?



 [alt\\_horace](#) at [2012-10-31 21:10:52](#)  
(no subject)

It was a confusing concoction.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-10-31 21:38:20](#)  
(no subject)

Indeed?

I'd say that Mr Crabbe was confused by the recipe, then. Which is fortunate for Miss Bundy, I suppose.

At least she'll be in fit shape to attend tonight's feast.

I expect, however, that she'll be glad to have a mask this evening. She was left with several rather unfortunate marks. They'll fade, but it may take a day or two.

It's as much a shame that she wasn't wearing a mask during your lesson as that Mr Crabbe was. Possibly you should contract with Mr Diggory for a supply of protective masks specifically designed for your purpose.

Without wide-span bat wings, naturally. Or tentacles. Or Veela tresses. Or any of the other drooping protuberances many of them are sporting today.

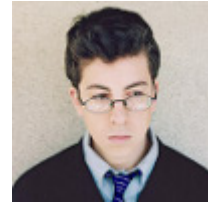
I had an elephant here earlier, whose trunk had wound itself like a constrictor about the wearer's neck. I expect Mr Bletchley may find it difficult to speak this evening. He had rather strained his voice by the time he reached me. Apparently no one heard his appeals for help, strangled as they were.

**2012-10-31 17:10:00**

*Private Message to Loki Dames*

Thank you for trying to help me out. I'm going to leave it as is ~~because it's getting more ridiculous-looking with each attempt to fix it~~ for now. I'll return your notes on glamours tomorrow. ~~If I survive to be~~ When I am a sixth-year student, I'm sure I'll look back on this and laugh.

Again, my thanks for your aid in my time of need.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

**2012-10-31 20:48:00**

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



 [alt\\_tery](#)

This is the first time that I've ever been in a place where there was a holiday, and I felt as though it were for me.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed Halloween and Christmas at Hogwarts. The Great Hall was always decorated so beautifully, and sometimes I even got to eat some of the special food for the Feasts. But I ate it sitting at the git's feet, and I had to serve him same as usual. He usually got drunk on holidays, too, and treated me like shite. All of the festivities were intended for the real students of Hogwarts, the true wizards. Never for mudbloods like Hermione or me. The two of us could give small gifts to each other. And we were allowed to watch, but, no one ever wished us Happy Christmas, or Happy Halloween.

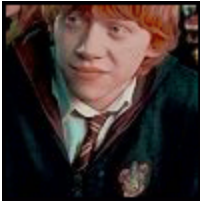
When this lock started, and we started to get to know you better, I don't think you have any idea what it meant for Hermione and me to have friends to exchange Christmas gifts with. It was a glimpse of what being treated like an equal would be like. You gave gifts to us, and we gave gifts to you, and both were thought over carefully and appreciated, and it felt so different to us than the way it had always been up until then. Not so much like a pat on the head you give to a house elf on Boxing Day, but more like an exchange between real friends.


But today, at the place where I'm safe, there was a Halloween party. And it was so much more humble than what happens at Hogwarts, but I loved it because it was meant for kids like me. Instead of carved pumpkins, we had carved turnip lights, and since food's sort of tight, all the turnips will be made into soup tomorrow. But there were games, and there was someone there to tell us our fortunes, and there were caramel apples and it was wonderful.

I would have loved to have seen you all there, too. But I'm sure you're having a grand time at the Feast, and at least I can use this Lock to say this:

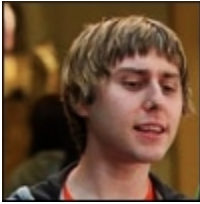
Happy Halloween.

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 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-11-01 04:31:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy Halloween, Terry.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-11-01 13:32:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Terry,

And a Happy All Saint's Day, as well, old chap!

I say, Halloween is certainly not a big celebration in France but you're quite right: Hogwarts is rather festooned for it, what?

I think I should like to see a Halloween where you are, someday. Or better yet, be able to have our own feast somewhere, all together.

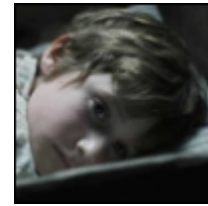
-Justin



**[2012-10-31 21:10:00](#)**

*Order Only*

The party for the children here at Moddey Dhoo was perfect. Dudley and I had the grandest time. He can't stop talking about it, in fact. No wonder: he hasn't had many chances to be at a party like that. In fact, I'm not sure if he ever has. I've been at the Halloween Feasts at Hogwarts, of course. And this was much simpler, of course, but just as special. Because it was meant for people like me.



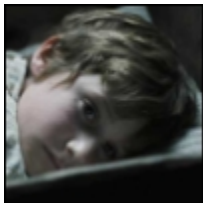
 [alt\\_tery](#)

Thank you.



 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-11-01 02:22:17](#)

*(deleted comment)*



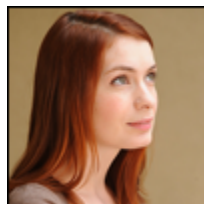
 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-11-01 02:33:39](#)

*Private message to Mrs Longbottom*

I overheard one of the adults mention at the party tonight an old belief about how on Halloween night the veil between the living and the dead is the thinnest it'll be all year, and so that's when the spirits of the dead draw nearest to the living. Do you think that's true?

I don't mind thinking about my mum and my dad and my sister being near me. But this is the first Halloween since he died and...I don't want the git drawing near to me at all.

I wondered...since Mr Longbottom is gone, do you think you would mind some company from the Professor tonight?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-11-01 03:06:46](#)

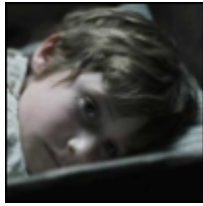
*Re: Private message to Mrs Longbottom*

Hello, love. I'm so glad you enjoyed your Halloween party.

I'm

Well, I suppose I'm holding a bit of a watch tonight. In the garden, with a candle. Frank and I usually set candles out under the Order memorial tree on All Saints, and since he isn't here, well, I suppose I'll be waiting and watching, and I wouldn't mind the company.

If you do get too cold or tired, though, I don't want my own vigil to keep you away from a bed.

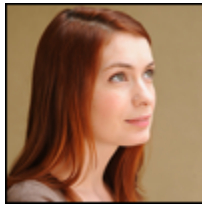


 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-11-01 03:36:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Mrs Longbottom*

That sounds...exactly right to me. Yes. I'll be there.

Thank you.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-11-01 16:13:30](#)

*Re: Private message to Mrs Longbottom*

I hope you aren't too worn out today, love.

And thank you, as well.

**2012-10-31 21:23:00**

*Triumphant Evening*

As always, Our Lord humbles us with His beneficence.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

This evening's address to the populace demonstrated the wonder of Our Lord's plans for us to take our place as the greatest realm in the world - in fact, the only nation of its kind. The example we set shines ever clearer and all the brighter for His undaunted and unfailing leadership. New London's thriving trade is testament to His vision for our future and our growing prosperity and good fortune.

Was personally quite pleased to see the Birdcage Walk so lively. (Even the weather co-operates when Our Lord wishes an outdoor celebration!) The dance platform has been a stroke of genius on the part of the Burdett-Couttses (believe the competitive dancing is still on-going). Thus far only two have fallen from its height but were not, we understand, seriously injured.

Have had our shares from the carts and pedlars as well - recognised one from last winter's Frost Faire and was gratified to learn he has continued to increase his stock.

Our promenade concluded with a return to Buckingham and the festivities here shall likely persevere well into the morning hours, though we may take our leave earlier than that.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2012-11-01 01:48:16**

*Private Message to Archimedes Bobolis*

Arch,

Understand you had some objection to the protocols at the entrance to Buckingham this evening. Sure that you realise no half-measures may be employed when it comes to protecting the Council or other visitors on this occasion, including yourself and the members of your party. While Our Lord's birthday is of course the most festive of celebrations, this time of year, as you know, has often been the source of great unrest.

Expect that the indignity you or Dionysia may have experienced pales in comparison to the knowledge that all who have entered the Palace

this evening have been subject to the same levels of scrutiny - and thus that nothing within the walls of Our Lord's home can possibly bring distress.

If you have any other concerns, I invite you to arrange an interview next week through my clerk. Shall be un-available to-morrow and through the week-end but otherwise at your disposal.

In service to Our Lord and His glorious realm, I remain,

Lucius S. Malfoy, &c.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2012-11-01 03:50:03**

*Order Only*

Well, if the IMA had planned anything to hit Buckingham, it doesn't sound as if they've succeeded. Bugger.

Frank, Kingsley, Moody - watch yourselves, yeah?

**2012-10-31 21:49:00**

*(no subject)*

That was some feast, huh?

Kudos to everyone who changed their masks.  
Seemed like it was a lot of trouble, though, in  
some cases.

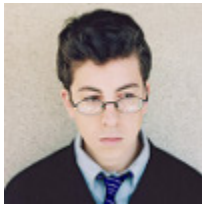


 **alt\_zacharias**

I can't tell, Linus, what was yours meant to be, anyway?

And seriously, Ced, great idea.

---



 **alt\_linus** at **2012-11-01 02:37:47**

*(no subject)*

I had intended to be a crocodile, like the one kept by  
Byron as a pet, but the coloring and shaping became  
a bit tricky. So I, ah, followed the promptings of  
serendipitous art.



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-11-01 04:22:48**

*(no subject)*

Oh.

Huh.

A crocodile. Really?