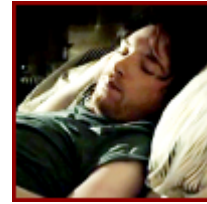


**2012-12-01 04:10:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*



[alt\\_bill](#)

Don't suppose you're awake at this hour by any chance?

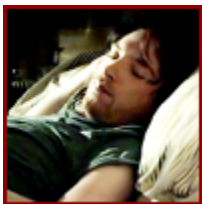
Re8.



[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-01 10:14:58](#)  
(no subject)

Am, actually. I was on major-third shift today, and that runs until 4AM, so I'm puttering around a bit before sleep. What's up?

O-O.



[alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-01 10:17:55](#)  
(no subject)

Just can't sleep.

I suppose it's partly that I'm waiting for the explosion of wrath from the Burrow when Mum gets done feeding the chickens, sits down at the kitchen table with her journal and morning coffee and reads Pomona's entry.

Bg4.




[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-01 10:19:50](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, pull the other one, it's got bells on it. That's not enough to keep you from peaceful slumber. What's really keeping you up?

D5.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-01 10:25:51](#)  
(no subject)

I talked to Dad about it, a few months ago, on another sleepless night. It's just that...

Merlin, Charlie, you have no idea how lucky you are, having Deidre and Em.

Nb8.



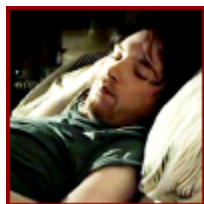
 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-01 10:41:59](#)  
(no subject)


So, is it that what's keeping you up is you keeping up and nobody there to give you a hand, pardon the crudity, or is it a more cerebral sort of loneliness?

I am lucky, don't get me wrong. They're lovely to me, and I appreciate them, quite a bit. But it's not anything like true love, not like Mum and Dad have. Or rather, the two of them have that kind of relationship with each other, and I'm just along for the ride for a while. Doesn't bother me, not in the least -- I'm nowhere near ready to settle down, not with anybody -- but if you're being wistful about my love life, you might be romanticising it a bit.

Pressure of trying to keep your double life as a superspy secret from everyone getting to you a bit?

H3.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-01 10:53:21](#)  
(no subject)

I snorted tea out of my nose when I read that first bit. But, yeah. Some of both. Horny AND lonely. Celibacy sucks. And...

Yeah, I do want what Mum and Dad have. Well, without the chickens and the goats, I suppose. And I am ready to settle down. Or I would be, if the only prospect weren't.

I go out on dates because I'm so frustrated and then I break it off after two or three times, because, well with the Order hanging over my head, what's the point?

Bxf3. (Gah. Wish I could clobber a knight for real. Wish I could clobber something.)



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-01 11:03:12](#)  
(no subject)

Mate, I know you. It's not that the Order's hanging over your head because you're worried about security, because you're twelve times more cautious than Mum and Dad are and they manage to conduct Order business with Lucius sodding Malfoy's private clerk sitting there at the kitchen table. It's that you're too bloody honest at heart, and you couldn't bring yourself to hide such a big part of you from someone you're dating.


You're going to have to get over that, if you want to find someone. Find a girl you like, and don't talk politics at all at first, and if she seems sympathetic over time, then you can recruit her. Hell, I've known Dree and Em for -- what, five years now? And even though I think both of them might be sympathetic, we just don't talk about it. Ever.

Or is there somebody in particular you're pining for?

And I shouldn't be taking advantage of you in this state to play you, you know. It's not fair of me! But, Bxf3.

(And if you want something to clobber, pop up here for the weekend, there's plenty of stuff you could demolish for us.)



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-01 11:14:20](#)  
(no subject)

That's a nice but kind of a funny compliment to give me, considering that I lie ALL THE TIME for my sodding job.

There's someone I've been thinking about, yeah. It wouldn't even have the same secrecy problem, which would certainly be useful, although that's not the only reason, but Merlin, it's complicated. And she doesn't have a clue, and I don't think she'd be interested in the least. At any rate she's never given me a hint of noticing me that way.

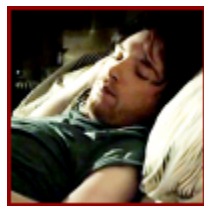
But I've noticed her.


It's Dora.

Bugger. Maybe I should just chuck it all, run away to Sherwood myself and find someone there.

As for taking advantage of me...ha. You wish. At least I know enough to take out one of your knights, knowing your playing style.

Nbd7.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-01 11:17:13](#)  
(no subject)

And for fuck's sake, for once I'm telling YOU, keep it to yourself. Don't tell Mum or Dad. I don't want Mum leaning on me, getting all hopeful.

Go on. Tell me I'm a fool.





 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-01 11:28:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oi, when have I ever told Mum or Dad something you told me in confidence? All right, there was that time when I was eight and you were ten and you were planning on running away for an adventure, but I still hold that was justified.


You're not a fool, but "complicated" is a good word for that, yeah. I mean, don't get me wrong, she's a great girl, but I think right now she's looking to figure out who Tonks is, on her own two feet, instead of looking for something serious and committed with somebody else. (And there's a free hint for getting on with her: she hasn't made a big deal about it to anyone, but I've noticed she's been calling herself Tonks lately, not Dora anymore, and I think it's to honor her father. Might want to switch.)

Have you ever said anything to her about it? Or asked her on a date, or even just out for coffee or dinner? She might still say no, but at least then you'd know.

She did offer to stand you a drink for your birthday, yeah? Take her up on it and see. But for Merlin's sake, don't make it a big thing like you're asking her to spend the rest of her life with you. Men are supposed to be the ones who need to get tricked into commitment, but in my experience, witches are twice as wary of any wizard who seems to be overly invested right at first.

G4.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-01 11:38:28](#)  
(no subject)

I've talked with her when I've gone round for a Friday night beer, but I've been guarding myself, trying to not let a single clue out. Which means I haven't said anything to hint to

her, no.

Because it's complicated.

I guess I'll try. It's difficult, because--well, it's crazy, but as long as I don't float the idea, I can still keep that tiny hope, you know?

But I know Dad says hopes are useless if you never act on them.

H6, and I think that's it for me for the night. I'm finally getting sleepy for real.

(And Charlie? Thanks.)



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-01 12:40:00](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Here's where I get philosophical, and then I'm off to bed myself.

Don't think I ever told you this, since it was during that year or two I was trying to pretend I wasn't related to any of you lot, but back at Hogwarts I had this massive thing for Lila Sathingford. Walking-into-walls-because-I-was-too-busy-looking-at-her levels. And I thought there was no way she'd ever be interested in me, so I never said anything, and she dated other people and I dated other people and she got married right out of school and they're very happy together.

Ran into her, oh, a year later or so, right after she'd announced they were expecting their first, and I bought her a cup of tea and we talked about all the people we'd known, and she kissed my cheek as we were saying our goodbyes and confessed she'd always had a bit of a thing for me in school and was surprised I'd never noticed.

I'd already decided life was too short to muck around with pining from afar, but that settled it for certain. So now if I'm attracted to somebody, I'll put it out there right up front, and that way everybody knows the score and we can be grownups about it. Most of the time, I get the I'm-very-flattered-but, I parry with oh-well-a-guy's-gotta-try, and we can get on with being friends. Sometimes she (or he, yeah, but that's usually more complicated to try to negotiate

around) returns the interest, but is looking for something way more serious than I am, and we agree that our expectations aren't right for each other. But every lover I've had came about because I said something outright, right up front, instead of letting it build up until something exploded and a bunch of people got hurt.

And that sounds a bit horrible, like I'm bouncing from mattress to mattress, which I'm not, really. (For one thing, I don't have the time!) But it's why Mum's never been able to tell my friends from my lovers: everyone I've ever been with has been a lark for fun, or a friend good enough to get naked and silly with, and the few serious relationships I've had have all started that way too. I'm not saying you should try that too -- I don't think you're the type for it. And I know what you mean about hoping sometimes being better than knowing. But if you're interested in Tonks, don't let her be your Lila Sathingford, yeah?

She might say no. I'll be honest with you, mate: I think she'd probably say no. Every time we've talked about our personal lives, everything she's said makes me think she's not interested in anything serious, and might not be interested in anything at all. (Not that we've ever talked about you in particular, just talked about things in general.) And there are even more complicated bits I can't tell you, that come from conversations in confidence that I won't repeat, because she's my friend. But Dad's right. No matter how complicated it is.


Have a drink with her. See how it goes. Listen to what she says, have a real conversation with her and not with your picture of her, and when the moment feels right, say something like, "I know your life's complicated right now, but I like you a lot and I'd like to get to know you better. Can I take you out to dinner one night we're both free?"

If she says no, or doesn't seem enthusiastic about the idea, just smile and say, "No, of course I understand, just thought I'd ask," then change the subject immediately back to something she was talking about a few minutes ago and don't act any differently for the rest of the conversation. (Then you can go home and kick things after, and figure out what to do from there.) And if she says yes, well, there you go, yeah? And you let her set the pace from there.

And don't worry: I won't say anything to Mum and Dad, or to Tonks herself, even. But don't keep torturing yourself with what-ifs. It's not fair for anybody involved -- it's not fair to you to be constantly tormenting yourself with possibilities and holding her up as some imagined ideal no other woman will ever be able to meet, and it's not fair to her for you to have that ideal in your head when you talk to her and you're the only one who knows.

And you're welcome, and I'll repeat the favour anytime, since you've certainly listened to me enough over the years. Hope you're asleep by now, and I'm not far behind you. But first, let me send the second bishop in to help the pawns with that catapult they're still working on: Be3.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-01 20:35:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Awake again, and reading this. You make a persuasive case, little brother. I think I will take a deep breath and take your advice.


Lila Sathingford, huh? You hid it well; I never knew. (And ouch.) I can see why you'd draw that life lesson/conclusion subsequently about *carpe diem*.

But then, I suppose you've always been better at doing that than me. Which is why you have a career as a dragon handler versus me sitting behind a desk at the Ministry.

But bloody hell, I am a Gryffindor. After all, why else did you give me that scrimshaw dragon tooth with the Gryffindor crest?

a5.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-01 15:29:42](#)**  
(no subject)

And there goes Mum.

Right on schedule.

**2012-12-01 11:33:00**

*(no subject)*

After lunch. Meet by the lake. (Saturday)



 **alt\_galleon**

**2012-12-01 11:57:00**

*Private Message to Draco*

So.

The next Hogsmeade is ages away. And we don't have open flying for another week.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

And I might be over thinking things, but I sort of didn't do anything with Honoria after the Yule Ball, and I think she thought I didn't want to do anything anymore ever, and I had a good time last weekend with the match and all and I don't want Katie to think I'm ignoring her or something but I can't think of anything we can do except studying.

But maybe you and Pans and me and her can do something? I mean, Pans can be really friendly, and knows a lot of Gryffindors, so I don't think it'd be too weird, only would she think it was really serious if I asked her to do something like that? Katie, I mean?

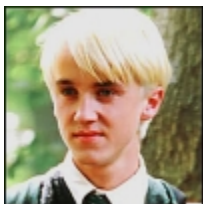
I don't know.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-12-01 18:29:59**  
(no subject)

Also. Do you think we should go? To the lake?

I think we ought to. Just to see how things are.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2012-12-01 20:10:08**  
(no subject)

Sure, we can do something. Do you just mean studying, though? Or listening to music, something like that? Pansy likes showing off her collection.

Who knows how girls think, or how they read into things. I reckon she'll either think you're being really serious, or not serious enough. But if you over think it you'll just drive yourself mad.

And yeah, I reckon we should go, just to see who's there. And what they want. I guess it's not Granger because if it were, you'd know.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-01 21:26:35](#)  
*(no subject)*

Not studying. Maybe listening to music. And playing cards. Or something.

You're right. She'll take it how she takes it. I guess I'm just sort of nervous, is all.

Okay.

**[2012-12-01 21:46:00](#)**

*Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*



Poppy -

I do hate to bother you on a Saturday evening, but really, you've assured us ever so many times that you'd rather hear about something sooner, while it's a small problem, and I'm taking you at your word.

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

I've had trouble the past few days with my feet and ankles itching, and it's far worse tonight. I'm sure it must be something simple - this week has been entirely irregular after all. Maybe it's the dry winter air, or the cold when I was observing Aurora's evening classes on Wednesday, or something of the kind.

i'm normally just as healthy as anything (and so very careful to maintain a regular schedule, eat and sleep far better than most staff here seem to manage.) These little annoyances are so terribly frustrating.

At any rate, would you have a moment to see me this evening, perhaps, or if not, first thing tomorrow?



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 03:44:40](#)**

*(no subject)*

Of course, you may come up. You might wish to wait half an hour or so, as I've just had two students arrive with rather acute intestinal complaints. I've already settled them in and given them their potions, so things here should be much less exciting twenty or thirty minutes from now. I'm sure the elves will have things tidied up straightaway.

Itching, you say? It could quite well be the cold; our weather, while in no way unseasonable or unexpected, is certainly announcing the approach of winter. This castle's extremes prove difficult for many people. It's higher reaches tend to be drafty and dry, while it's lower areas hold damp and have a tendency to cold mouldering. None of it's kind to the skin. Any of it could be the source of your difficulties.






 **[alt\\_umbridge](#)** at **[2012-12-02 03:52:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you for the warning, yes. I will wait.

You are quite right about the castle. Most unpleasant, really. You would think that the little details like proper heating and removing the damp would have been solved sometime in the last thousand years. Still, I suppose we must all serve where we're called.

I can't think what's caused this, really. So very irritating.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:00:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, and change itself can sometimes cause us difficulties. The differences between Scotland and New London, between this castle and the comforts of home, between old routines and new ones here-- all of those rather abrupt shifts may have accumulated and be causing your system to register its complaints in a physical way now.

But you say the itching has only just begun and there were no earlier signs of anything amiss?



 **[alt\\_umbridge](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:08:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, just recently. I noticed it particularly yesterday and today, and can't imagine it's lasted more than a day or two beyond that.

I've never been prone to such things. Illness, all those supposed 'sensitive skins', have always struck me as the sign of a weak will.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:14:31](#)**  
(no subject)

It sounds as if you come from healthy stock, then!  
No skin troubles that run in the family, then?

I know you've said that you yourself have always been quite healthy, but I really should ask whether there are any remedies or preparations that you take on a regular or occasional basis. (And if the latter, then is there anything you've taken recently that we should consider as a contributing agent?)



 **[alt\\_umbridge](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:23:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Nothing at all like that. As to family history, they both died quite young, but that's merely made me the more determined to attend to the smallest health concern promptly. And of causes quite unrelated here.

And my last Healer's visit, last spring, found everything in excellent working order. Right living, avoiding rich foods, all the best advice.

As to remedies and preparations, nothing beyond a few cosmetic treatments, and nothing I've changed recently. I frankly distrust many of the apothecary potions, always have.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:30:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Quite sensible of you.

Well. So that presumably rules out scent or bath oils, but to be thorough, are you using any creams or unguents to help with dry skin? Anything that might be applied topically should be suspect.



 **[alt\\_umbridge](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:33:04](#)**  
(no subject)

Nothing I've not used for years. And not on my feet, just my hands. Dry skin does catch so on parchment, really.

I can bring the jar up, but it's nothing at all fancy: beeswax and almond oil, rose and lavender. And as I say, I've used it for decades now, with no sign of problem.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 04:56:55](#)**  
(no subject)

You've not had any redness or itching on your hands at all? One wishes that would definitively rule out the ointment, but with dermatological irritations, the point of contact is sometimes not the site where trouble flares. (Mind you, it generally is that simple, but not always.)

Since we're considering the ointment, I must ask whether you blend it yourself.

If one is not the preparer (and sometimes even then) one cannot tell when a preparation may have some substitution in its ingredients, and it's possible that even a change in the type of lavender or in the source of the beeswax could introduce an irritant in a substance you've used for years. And that's not to mention the chance of a contaminant introduced via the processing of the almond oil.

Likely there's nothing I could tell from the jar. If it's an irritant there, it may well be something that is harmless to most users but is provoking havoc in your system because of some unhappy quirk of your constitution and its elements.

And, of course, it may not be the ointment at all. The trouble could be with something you've ingested or come in contact with in another way. You mention parchment, and I must say that I have seen my share of students over the years with sensitivities to parchment itself or to the substances used in preparing it for our use. But again, it's most likely to irritate the hands.

You've not eaten anything recently that you do not usually consume? Tis the season, after all, for holiday hampers to begin arriving, filled with rarities and special treats.



 **[alt\\_umbridge](#)** at **[2012-12-02 05:02:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Nothing noticeable on the hands, no. I don't blend it myself, usually, but get it from a school friend who does - one does like to support little cottage industries when people are trying to better themselves - but as I say, she's been using the same methods for years.

I send the holiday baskets on, generally. Always have. Too much sugar and very little to my tastes. It's an unnecessary indulgence. I limit myself to the occasional rosewater candie, but again, not very often.

Perhaps it is something with being out in the wind more on Wednesday, the more I think about it. I keep telling Aurora it can't be healthy.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-02 05:18:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, or I was just wondering if it mightn't be something that you've come in contact with whilst out supervising the YPL exercises in the evenings. The wind carries all sorts of things around the grounds--grasses and plant matter, debris from the Creature stalls and the lakeshore and the forest. There's no telling.

Well, my dear, do come up. I'll have a look and we can consider whether to run a few trials to see if we could isolate what is causing your difficulty.

I don't wish to extinguish hope, but I should tell you that this has been a term in which I've seen an unprecedented uptick in allergies with mysterious sources. I mention it because the great majority of the symptoms have been dermatological--

mostly afflicting hands and arms, but yours would not be the first to include other extremities.



 **alt\_umbridge** at **2012-12-02 05:27:33**  
(no subject)

I'll come right up, then.

This is such a poorly designed building in so many ways. And the insistence on all these entirely unsanitary activities. I suppose it's a marvel there aren't more problems.

I'm surprised to hear there's other issues of this kind - I'd gathered that your most recent evaluation vigorously concluded you were entirely competent to handle the vast majority of student complaints. Perhaps we should talk about other tendencies you've noticed this term, and I might put in a good word with those who could offer additional resources.

**2012-12-03 11:25:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Tonks*

Would you be available tonight, if I take you up on that offer to stop by for a (belated) birthday beer?



 **alt\_bill**



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2012-12-03 23:22:11**

*(no subject)*

Wotcher, Bill!

We're open tonight and we'd love to see you. Come round anytime!

And, of course, the offer's still good. Birthday drinks are on the house!



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-04 00:04:38**

*(no subject)*

Thanks! I'll be by this evening, then. See you soon.

**2012-12-03 13:06:00**

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




*She's still wearing the socks.*

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I don't think she had them on yesterday. But today I saw her scratching her ankles at lunch.

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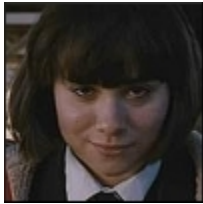


 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-03 20:32:34**  
(no subject)

I know you charmed them to always be at the top of the pile, but-

Do they look just like any other pair of socks or do they look like someone made them specially?

I mean. How can she not know it's the socks that are making her itch? And that it's the same socks as before?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-04 00:51:06**  
(no subject)

Well, we know, so it's easy for us to see it.

It's still utterly *hilarious*.

**2012-12-03 20:55:00**

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



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Hullo, everyone,

Well, Zach's certainly made himself scarce since our Dark Arts lesson. I say, I'm well glad for his sake that we've got Professor Dolohov at the end of the day, so he didn't have to see anyone else afterward, what?

By the way, has anyone else noticed that Madam Umbridge was scratching her ankles all during our exercise period this afternoon?

Ron, good thinking Saturday, activating the Galleon. I think we had a jolly time, and it made Saturday's exercises much more interesting than today's, what? Shame one can't hold a Galleon meeting prior to every YPL activity.

Pansy, I was...pleased to see Malfoy there, as well. It's well time we all got to know each other in more hospitable surroundings.

-Justin

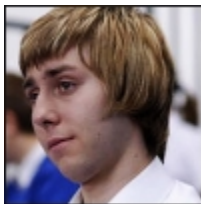



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-04 02:21:19**  
(no subject)

I'm glad we gave him and Harry the coins.

Very.

And it was rather awkward in Dark Arts, yes. Although they really were all sorts of idiotic, so it's a bit difficult to feel too sorry for any of them. I didn't know that people could've had lasting spell damage.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-04 03:14:22**  
(no subject)

No, nor did Zach, apparently. That's what had him bally well spooked, what?

He's lucky he seems to have escaped more severe punishment than a dressing-down. Of course, he told me last night



(since I asked how he was, what) that he'd 'already quit' the circles. I say, I didn't like to contradict him, what, but I pointed out that quitting only a few days before the bally old kettle overturned--well, that hardly counts for much, does it?

Has anyone heard what else is to be done about the others?

-Justin

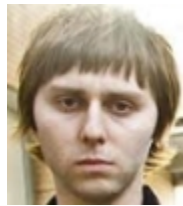


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-04 03:23:06](#)

*(no subject)*

What did he have you doing in Dark Arts today, then?

And, yeah. I wouldn't want to be Smith. Did Dolohov make him the demonstration target for everything or what?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 03:39:19](#)

*(no subject)*

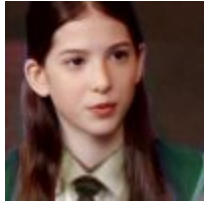
Hullo, Ron,

No, there were no demonstrations of any kind, what? A good deal of lecturing and not the usual kind, if you follow me. When he finally did move off jolly well dire promises to see to it that anyone else who ignored his explicit instructions would regret it all his born days, the rest of the time had to do with the ways that curses can have lasting, unplanned effects.

Zach, Goyle and Crabbe were all bally well green by the end of it, what? I say, I hope we're not treated to more of the same on Wednesday.

Come to think of it, Professor Dolohov didn't cast a single spell all lesson. Not even to put his notes up on the chalkboard. I wonder if he's feeling ill again?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 03:54:03](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I was in his office after class (he's paying me to answer his holiday mail!) and I didn't even see him use a summoning charm for the book he wanted.

Everyone was looking at Smith, and at Greg and Vince. They were all trying as hard as they could to pretend not to notice.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 04:00:53](#)  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

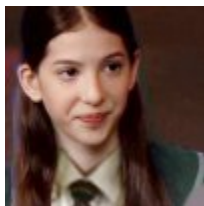
Yes, everyone except Professor Dolohov, what! *He* barely looked at them once he started talking about spells and their consequences, rather than his expectations for his instructions regarding homework.

~~I thought he was looking at me~~

I can't pretend to feel as sorry for Crabbe and Goyle, what, but I *do* sympathise for anyone who finds himself the centre of that kind of attention!

Hullo, I've just realised something, I think. The sorts of curses he was talking about--I say, he's conserving his magic, don't you think? In case using his magic makes his condition worse. I imagine that's probably its own form of torment, what?

-Justin

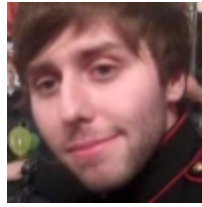


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:11:32](#)  
(no subject)

It's true, Professor Dolohov didn't look at them once.

What do you mean by conserving his magic? I thought maybe he was just really tired, although that doesn't

really explain why he got up to get a book instead of using accio.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-04 04:29:28](#)**  
(no subject)

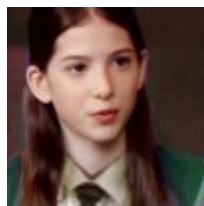
Remember what he was saying about how some kinds of magic use actually exacerbate curse damage? He was talking about things like the Curse of Casting Fatigue. It's particularly dangerous, what, because when it's cast properly, it takes a little of the strength from its victim every time that person casts another spell--whatever sort of spell he casts.

There's another spell like it that rebounds a tiny portion of one's spells back onto the victim, so for every spell one casts, one feels a small part of the effect of the spell oneself. There's a counterhex but it's bally well difficult and if not cast properly, the only way to undo it is to let the spell wear off. And that can take up to a week of not using any sort of offensive spell.

I'd wager that Professor Dolohov's ailment has something to do with using magic, which is why when he's not feeling well he has to be careful about what he chooses to cast.

I say, we'll have to keep track and see if the days he's feeling particularly bad are the days he uses magic with the most restraint, what?

-J



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-04 04:34:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Hmm. You might be right.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 03:57:14](#)

*Private message to Justin*

Yeah, I noticed Madam Umbridge scratching.

Do you remember how I made extra-itchy socks last year for Professor Carrow and then didn't give them to her? When we were talking to Professor Dolohov at the beginning of the year, you know those interviews about whether we would do better in practical or theoretical, I told him about those socks. Not that I made them for Professor Carrow, of course, I said I was curious whether I could do it and it turned out I could so then I hid them at the bottom of my trunk. Anyway, he asked for them and said he would promise they would not end up anywhere they shouldn't.

We both knew he was thinking they SHOULD be in Delores Umbridge's sock drawer.



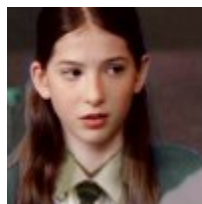
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 04:05:17](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

He asked for them and then gave them to her?

They can't be traced back to you, can they?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:10:28](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

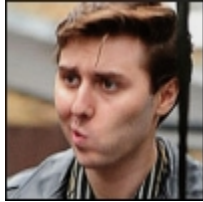
No.

I mean, so, here's how it went. He asked if he could see them. And then he showed me all sorts of spells that could be used to analyse them (which sort of included showing me how to avoid being detected). Runework is actually a LOT harder to trace back to the person who did it, because it doesn't require a wand.

So THEN he said that if I wanted to unload them he would gladly take them off my hands, and he said that they wouldn't end up anywhere they shouldn't, but that in any case if they somehow DID come back to me I should just say that I gave them to him, at his

request, and he'd take it from there. Because I didn't do anything wrong with them: I made them experimentally, I showed them to my Dark Arts professor, I let him keep them, and that's the last I saw them.

But I knew he was thinking about giving them to Umbridge. And he did, because she has been scratching like crazy for DAYS (not every day, but lots of them!)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-12-04 04:45:41

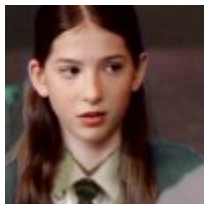
*Re: Private message to Justin*

Well, I'm glad it's unlikely anyone will connect them to you. That's the last thing you need, what?

But... Look, I don't wish to sound like Terry but I'm not at all sure it's wise to let him know you can make an artefact like that? Not that I'm not pleased she's the recipient, what, only...what if he comes to you while you're helping him and asks for something more insidious?

In any case, it's clear I could never have been a Slytherin. It would never have occurred to me to put an itching rune on something and then give it to anyone, what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2012-12-04 04:52:48

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Like what?

I was actually thinking about making him another cursed item for Christmas. Something else that's basically harmless but annoying, you know? He collects this sort of thing the way a potions professor collects rare potions ingredients.

Itchy socks are more a practical joke than anything else. And if he wanted something really awful he'd hardly come to me for it, he'd call Mr LeStrange (you know, Hydra's father) or maybe Professor Raz, if he didn't think he could make it himself.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:53:23](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Anyway, I can think of two Gryffindors who would put an itching rune on socks and give it to someone, if they thought they could get away with it. (And I don't mean Ron and Neville.)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 05:09:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Yes but I doubt they'd have done the second charm that always put the pair at the top of one's drawer, what!

-J



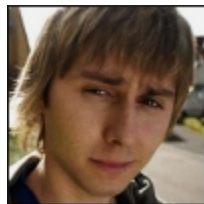
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 05:12:32](#)


*Re: Private message to Justin*

Hmm. You're right that it might have taken a Slytherin to think of it.

But if someone had suggested it to them, they wouldn't have said, 'oh no, that's far too cruel.' They'd have said, 'brilliant, that will make these even better.'

Have you heard about the time Ron and Pansy and I set lice on the Ravenclaw dormitories? We tried to get Fred and George to help us undo what we'd done and they WOULDN'T because they thought the whole thing was hilarious. That was WAY worse than one pair of itchy socks. (I still feel a bit guilty about that. I mean poor Luna, you know? SHE hadn't done anything wrong. We weren't trying to give lice to EVERYONE in Ravenclaw, just Patil, but it worked really, really, really well.)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 05:23:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

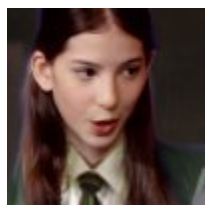
Yes, I do think I read something about that when you first told me about the lock, what? Or someone may have mentioned it along the way.

But--and don't take this as something other than intended, please--but I'm rather glad I wasn't about for that. I say, it may have been successful but it bally well wasn't very nice and, as you say, it affected loads of people who did nothing to deserve it.

I suppose it's not about being a Gryffindor, or a Slytherin, or even a Ravenclaw, instead of a Hufflepuff, what, so much as it is about being kind.

But then, I'm well glad there are people who can think up those sorts of things because I never could do.

-J



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2012-12-04 05:27:23**

*Re: Private message to Justin*

I'm not actually a very nice person, Justin.

And Patil, at least, deserved every last bedbug bite. And so did Lana Sandoval.



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-12-04 05:34:04**

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Nonsense, of course you are. You're simply more selective about it.

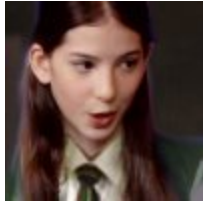
You've enough sense to feel guilty that the rune worked too well, at least.

She may have done, I'll grant you, but what I don't see is what you accomplished, apart from some momentary satisfaction.

I don't mean to say that everyone deserves kindness all the time, of course. But I do wonder sometimes how much could be saved by a little mercy.

At any rate, it's bally well late and I've still got a bit to do before bed, so I think I shall say goodnight.

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:35:15](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Wait wait wait.

The Curse of Casting Fatigue. That was in the essay Dolohov read to all of us last week, the one that he read out loud because it was an example of 'particular excellence,' and everyone thought it had to be Draco's. Or maybe mine.

It was YOURS. Wasn't it?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:35:48](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

I mean, unless you heard him read that essay and then went and read up on that particular curse because it sounded so outstandingly interesting, you know, after hearing about it in the essay.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-04 04:49:52](#)

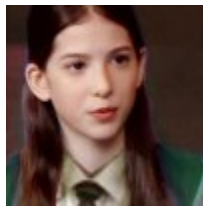
*Re: Private message to Justin*

It was my essay. Dash it.

Don't tell the others. I rather hope it was a fluke, what?

(Hydra knows.)

-Justin



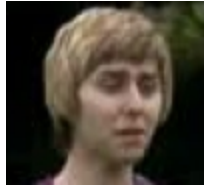
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 04:53:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

What, him noticing you?

It really was a good essay.





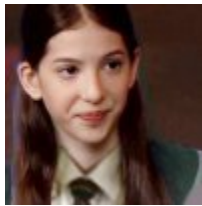
 **[alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-12-04 05:08:12**

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Noticing me and making an example of my essay, yes. It's bad enough the way he pesters one when he's asking questions; I can imagine soon enough he'll want to pick his favourites to demonstrate spells or stand up and read one's own work.

Thank you, but I was hoping for it to be nothing too inspired, if you follow me.

-J



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2012-12-04 05:10:10**

*Re: Private message to Justin*

Hmm.

Well, at this point you'd better not sound TOO dull in your essays or he'll know you're not doing your best.



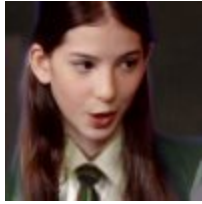
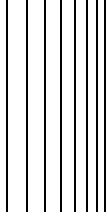
 **[alt\\_justin](#) at 2012-12-04 05:17:19**

*Re: Private message to Justin*

No. It's too bad Zach's already in so much trouble or I'd jolly well propose switching papers with him. I can't take the chance someone might think it's him cheating by turning in my work, and not the other way 'round.

Well, the next essay shall have nothing at all about spells for use in combat, at least, what? I say, that's bound to be boring enough for him.

-J



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-04 05:25:03](#)

*Re: Private message to Justin*

If he's decided you're interesting I'm not sure how you'll persuade him you're not.

**[2012-12-04 17:36:00](#)**

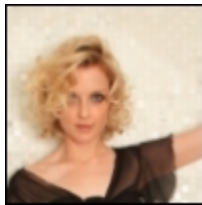
*December, already?*



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

I'm delighted to say that the first committee meeting for a proposed revision of the standard astronomy text went very well. (And students, thank you very much for your feedback over the previous month - it was most useful in helping us decide how to focus our discussion.) Some other excellent conversation with other guild members around edges, as always.

And, as it was last year, it is delightful to see New London decorated for the holidays. It's hard to believe it's December already, but the lights and the displays tell me otherwise. I've already spotted two I like just as much as the Hogwarts Quidditch display last year.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-04 23:40:58](#)**

*Private message to Raz and Tosha*

Dolores was waiting for me in the front hall as I left this afternoon, wanting to hand me her observation notes. (The woman has an absurd sense of timing. At least I could plead a pressing appointment in New London - no need to tell her it involved shoes for the wedding.)

Anyway, she basically admits I know what I'm doing, but has a few teensy things I could do better. (More than a few, but most are ignorance of the field and the fundamental realities of the solar system.) And fairness compels me to say there's one or two worthwhile points in there.

However, when I saw Georg this afternoon (he's the Astronomy guildmaster, Tosha, and another of Alde's former assistants decades back), he said she stopped by the Guild to talk to him on Friday, and asked who else might be a suitable candidate when - not if - I stopped teaching. He made it clear I'd be very difficult to replace (being trained for teaching in a way most people aren't), and he also has his ear out about who else she might be talking to.

Anyway, I am *almost* sure this is just her standard assumption that I'll stop once I'm married, but it's still tedious. I'm going to be fairly blunt in my response about it, but I think I'd like both of you to read it before I hand it to her, if you would.

Raz, love - I should be back by 9, but if you go late with your newts, can we find half an hour tomorrow? (There's a couple of holiday invites that came in my morning mail, plus I've designs from the engraver for you to look at, and I think I've finally managed to convince the florist not to get too creative.) Also, I despise shoe shopping, but I already knew that.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-04 23:57:58**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

I would be more than happy to take a look at things, dear one. (And, must confess, seeing her observations might make it clearer what in the name of the nine hundred little hells she's up to.) I still haven't recovered from the damage I've done to my sleep habits in the past few weeks; if you'd like to stop by after your practical session tonight, I will almost certainly still be awake.

(Since I've at least another day or two of conserving what little magical power wasn't used to power the bindings on the little darlings until I recover it, I could also use a *Reparo* or two. I hadn't quite realised how frequently I break things until I couldn't just fix them on the spot.)

If you've better things to do, mind you, don't feel like it's necessary!

Yours, in exhaustion (and a pile of broken crockery),

T



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-12-05 01:48:32**

*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

Right. I'm back. (Also: I won our regular Tuesday supper "Who had the worst week" competition by a longshot this week, for obvious reasons. We buy six of the Archetype's small pastries between the five of us, and the winner gets the extra. I liked this one - chocolate and raspberry and entirely decadent - enough to snag the last handful to bring back for you both and for Pomona and Poppy and Minerva.)

Tosha - If you're sure you'll still be up, I can certainly come down. And *Reparo*, certainly.

Anyway. I can easily manage copies of the observation notes for you both in a few minutes. My response may take a little longer, but I'll see if I can draft the teaching bit before class. (Much of the rest is tedious explanation in simple language of the realities of the field, as I said, and I can do that any time.) Re-reading them, I - no, I still can't figure out where she's going with some of it. Some of it's obvious, but the rest.

I'll be curious what she tells you both, actually. (Long may she take to get there, mind. I'd not wish it on people I hate, never mind you both.)



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-05 02:29:55](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

I suppose that if one must suffer a week like this week has been, raspberry chocolate pastries are at least a small consolation. Thank you for thinking of me, dear heart. (And, you know, that beignet recipe I gave you for your mother might also find a good home with your café -- do feel free to pass it along, if you think it would suit.)

I am certain I will still be awake; I came entirely too close to sleeping through the beginning of the fourth years' class this morning. I seem to have shifted entirely too nocturnal for a professor's schedule, this week. At least tomorrow morning is one of my late ones!

And, no, I cannot figure out what she might be up to either. Nor whose authority she is trading upon, to set herself up as observer over us all. Well, we'll see when she gets to me, and what she has to say...

Troubling to think of, yes. And entirely too many possibilities.

Thoughtfully,

T



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-12-05 03:03:40](#)


*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

I could not eat them and not want to share them. Entirely too selfish of me. (And entirely rude to swoon about the pleasure without sharing out, too.)

As to nocturnal schedules, haven't I told you that the secret to my schedule lies in the late afternoon nap? Since you can not manage that, given your own course schedule, I can only hope you start sleeping at a moderate hour very soon. (Which is to say, if you want to go to sleep tonight, just drop me a note: I'll check before coming down.)

And yes, on Dolores, all of it. I should get Mum talking again, sometime, soon, and see, too. I know Dolores has been talking to Latimer Caldwell, and maybe more gossip's filtered down that Mum didn't think was relevant. I don't know.



 **alt\_rabastan** at [2012-12-05 02:33:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

We won't be going late. No special pointers or extra assistance tonight. They're doing strategic duelling on parchment- just another part of my on-going effort to sap lessons of anything resembling real-life demonstration until they get the message that such practical elements are earned, not a given.

I rather enjoy shoe shopping.



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-12-05 02:41:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha*

Right. I'll come down to your rooms, then, and wait for you. I'd pity them, but no, not really. Given everything.

Things I had never known about you, my love. You can have all of my shoe shopping, ever.

(Honestly, I don't usually mind so much, but this was forty-five

minutes of arguing over the perfect heel height for the wedding robes. I'm going to have to spend hours practicing before I feel confident in them. Even with the charms to avoid me wrenching my ankle.)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-12-05 03:06:41**

*Private message to Raz*

Just to you, this bit. Obviously.

Would it - look, if I'm coming down the tower anyway, would it wake you if I slipped into your rooms after? If you think it would, just say, but I thought I'd check.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#) at 2012-12-05 03:26:45**

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Won't know until you try, will I?

But you can wake me anytime, love. You know that.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-12-05 03:28:56**

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Well, there's waking and there's startling, and I'd rather not do the latter by accident.

But in that case, do expect me.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2012-12-05 02:06:48**

*Private message to Georg Bright*

Georg -

It went very well. We've come up with at least three options, and we'll meet again in January after people have had a chance to flesh them out. (Cantus *has* settled out nicely, hasn't he? He's really getting the knack for listening without allowing tangents.)

Thanks again for telling me Dolores was asking around. And especially for reinforcing the realities of the situation. Maybe she'll

listen better to you than to me? Also, very interesting who else she's talked to - Hildegard, really? And Leoris, though I'm glad you overheard that one and could report it fairly. The only one I'd really worry about is Alexander, and he's been lying very low since the end of the summer.

I'm thinking of how best to explain it on my end, but it's hard. Our shared House does very badly with unique circumstances like Alcor hand-picking me. It always looks too much like bragging and undue ambition. (And yes, I know you're still mystified by Houses - that's what you get for emigrating. Just trust me, here.) Though the 'I have specific kinds of experience designed to help with teaching' gives me a way in, I think.

At any rate, sure I'll see you at one event or another over the holidays, and perhaps we can find time before the next committee meeting to catch up properly? One of these days, I'd like to sit down and talk stars without eight other things getting in the way.

- A.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-05 02:20:33](#)  
*Private message to Tamsin Overby*

Tamsin -

Just wanted to confirm the list I gave you, plus an additional eight baskets like the last one (Total of 15. You have simplified my shopping no end.) The list has all the deliveries, and we can find a time for me to pick up or have you drop the others through the floo.

One thing - and I'm asking you, because I overheard one of your muggleborns mention it on my way out - I did notice there's an uptick of graffiti and of all different sorts. And just recently, the last couple of weeks. Designs that seem like they're related (all those stars, so of course I noticed), but also other things.

You're not worried about safety, are you? If you are well, Campanella'd be a good person to mention it to. If you have any reason to think it's more than just people fooling around, that is. She'd take you seriously and tell you if it needed to go further, and who to bring it to.



Or even something like... Look, I've heard enough stories about the Watch to - they mean well, I suppose, but that doesn't always mean they act sensibly.

I should be in next week, but not the week after (our end of term exams start the 17th).

**2012-12-04 18:59:00**

**ATTENTION ALL:**

Mark your calendars! A dynamic new STAGE PLAY and MUSICAL REVUE will be presented at Hogwarts this Spring.



 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_daphne](#)

Penned by Gerald S. Krumgold (known for his roles and choreography in *Pedro Calderón de la Barca*, *Tosca*, and *Circe's Bells!*) *The Golden Ages of Hogwarts* is a comedic romp of song-and-dance through the storied halls and histories of our famed Academic Institution.

Co-Directors Gerald S. Krumgold and Cordelia Carpenter will be holding auditions at 16:00 on Friday, 14 December. Students of all ages are invited to try out parts in the production. Those who are trying out should prepare a 2-4 minute comedic monologue *or* a 2-3 minute solo dance, *or* a 2-3 minute musical solo (with or without accompanying dance).

Please direct all questions to Professor Carpenter or Daphne Greengrass

**\*\*\*BE A PART OF HOGWARTS' HISTORY!\*\*\***



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2012-12-05 16:10:15](#)  
(no subject)

Daphs,

What's a comedic monologue and where are we supposed to find them?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-05 16:16:24](#)  
(no subject)

A monologue is when the actor speaks alone on stage; some are dramatic and others are lighter and more comedic. Both Gerald and myself have given dozens of suitable ones over to Professor Carpenter, so you should be able to get one from her office.


You'll be trying out, then?



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2012-12-05 16:21:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Eh, maybe.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-12-05 16:24:55](#)**  
*Private message to Zacharias Smith*

It might do some good to rehabilitate your image, you know, to participate in a school-wide activity that actually has the staff's full support.

If you're worried about that sort of thing.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2012-12-05 16:46:15](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Zacharias Smith*

Cheers, Daphs, that's good advice.


I'm not sure it'll be all that helpful to my reputation to make myself a cut-up like Weasley but then we can't all pursue careers as court jesters, can we?



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-12-05 16:49:51](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Zacharias Smith*

The Revue is mostly a comedy, but it never really verges into full-on slapstick. Anyway, I'm sure there's a role that will suit someone as stoic as you.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-05 23:54:28](#)**  
(no subject)

You mean like the kind of routine Rupert Fizzle-Pizzle does on the wireless?




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-06 04:49:22](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, something like that would certainly work.

We won't be casting any cats this time, just so you know!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-06 05:03:27](#)  
(no subject)

Right, then. I'm on it!

Shame about there not being any cats, but I expect I'm ready to move on to new challenges.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-06 05:27:50](#)  
(no subject)

Let us hope so!

**[2012-12-04 22:55:00](#)**

*Private Message to Toshenka and Barty*

About to turn in, as we've just returned from dinner with Yvaine Warrington and her latest interest. But I did want to let you know, Tosha, that I mentioned the pysanky and the music box to Euphemia Evan this morning at St M's and she's *delighted* by the prospect, simply can't wait to see the items in person.



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

Barty, any other thoughts about your own contribution? I'm free Thursday and Friday morning (the tree-lighting is Friday, so must be on-hand for that, of course!) - are you and Mordant running the security detail? Don't wish to trouble you, if you're busy this week. We could easily touch base for Sunday tea if that's more convenient, only Euphemia does want the majority of items appraised before the event. She's frightfully behind, poor thing, but then we all are, after this November's happenings. Then there's the ... complication ... of someone new taking on the job and wishing to reinvent the potion.

Oh, speaking of that, Toshenka, Lucius asked me to remind you that you've a seat in our box for the Revels concert on the 28<sup>th</sup> and we're having a small party in for drinks prior at Jermyn's. Barty, you'll come as well, I hope?

How are your little protégés, by the way, Toshenka?

(And Barty - yours as well: Has married life destroyed S-P's zeal completely?)



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2012-12-05 04:45:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Quickly. Yes, I have several thoughts.

More soon.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-05 04:59:36](#)  
(no subject)

I would be delighted to join you for whatever bits of holiday revels at which you'd like my company, little flower, and promise to be at my charming best. (And, while I am thinking of it: Barty, if you've no other plans, I would be most pleased to host you for Christmas Eve and Christmas proper -- and the guest room in the townhouse is yours whenever you'd like throughout the season.)

As to the children -- well, I've half a dozen I have my eye on, and many of them are coming along nicely. The girl I told you about has been most diligent on my behalf -- and did not complain when I added another three hundred names to the list today, having finished plumbing my address book for those individuals outside the Protectorate who might benefit from holiday greetings from within, as Our Lord confirmed for me that He wished me to keep up my correspondence there. The difficulty has been keeping ourselves from getting distracted from our respective tasks by discussion!

Hydra's young suitor might still be holding somewhat of a grudge over my wholly unintentional slip of the tongue there, but his classwork is impeccable. (And a delight to mark, as compared to some of the others. Aurora and I have our heads together and are plotting a course in rhetoric and composition; we are both utterly sick of staring at parchment and trying to figure out what in the world some of the little darlings are trying to say.) Recent ... developments ... at the school have rather derailed my plans towards more detailed practical work, but I'm hoping he will step up and take more of a leadership role there, once we move into that section of the coursework.

I've been most pleased with Draco's performance, as well. And his good sense in not getting embroiled in the latest round of *sturm und drang*, the less said about which the better. (It has been an utterly wretched week.) And one of the children involved in that bloody mess has caught my interest -- well, I told you about him, I believe; the one with the notes. If I can break him of the habit of seeing the world as though he is the protagonist of one of those awful ballads, he might prove useful in future.

Now if we can only have a few weeks that are not interrupted by war, death, scandal, drama, explosions, and Dolores bloody Umbridge, we

might be able to get somewhere!

Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2012-12-05 19:37:29](#)  
(no subject)

We were going to make you the same offer, dearest. We'll be in Kensington from Boxing Day through New Year's but whether it's there or the Manor, please, don't stand upon ceremony on our account.

Come whenever you like. Or do not - I'll wager from Cottesmore's balconies you'll have a splendid view of the firework display on New Year's Eve.

The young woman, that's Perks, isn't it? Yes, she's become quite attached to Lucius' goddaughter, practically inseparable. From what I've heard she's every reason to ingratiate herself to anyone with the means to support her and she's not above a little grovelling to earn herself a place. Still, she's a pretty little thing when she puts her mind to her looks and I do remember from the half-blood improvement programme that she's quite clever. I know Aurora thinks highly of her. If she's all that good at clerking then one might have to keep an eye out; Mariposa shan't be with me forever, more's the pity.

I'm still somewhat disappointed Hydra did not choose to confide in me about her young man; I could have eased Rodolphus into the thing rather than presenting him with a shock to the system like that. But I recall that Mr Finch-Fletchley is not an altogether inappropriate choice (despite what our dear Bella might have to say on the subject), and all the more so if he's as inclined toward the Arts as you indicate. After all, I reminded Rodolphus that the lad *did* choose England over all the rest of the world! But back to Hydra: As I say, she's such a secretive child. Really, it's no wonder that the troubles took so long to sort out her first year, when she was too reluctant to tell anyone about her 'secret friend' - oh, but Lucius did tell you all about that, surely?

But I am always pleased with Draco's performance, dear. If there's one thing I am proud of it's that we've raised a young man with a sensible head on his shoulders - usually. I know Lucius is beyond relieved that the boys were not at the centre of this year's crisis!



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-05 22:22:27](#)  
(no subject)

Most beloved little sister of mine, I will fight you for the right of Miss Perks' future employ. And when it comes to talent, I play dirty. I will happily turn you up another candidate for you from the children when you are ready to replace Mariposa, but this one is mine!

I have heard what transpired with Hydra in her first year, yes -- it explained a great deal about how reluctant she seems to be to step out of her shell. I sense that she does not much confide in anyone. Which, one supposes, is a result of Bella's attempts to mold her into the perfect daughter, with little thought as to what Hydra might think of the matter. It is very frustrating as a professor: I feel as though I am so close to reaching her and yet have failed, again and again. Ah well; I will be patient. Rome was not built in a day.

Mr Finch-Fletchley, on the other hand, has quite the mind. While in Ireland, I asked them to build a list of curses and hexes they were interested in learning to both cast and counter (this was, of course, before the latest unpleasantness) and to justify their choices. He presented me with a concise, well-reasoned, creative essay that read more like a battle plan than some actual battle plans I have read! He is entirely too modest, mind you, and does not seem to want to believe that his talents are anything special -- but that is what a teacher is for, to coax the truly talented ones out of their desire to blend in to the mediocrity of their peers.

Fortunately, I have not needed to do any coaxing with Draco! You should most rightfully be proud of him, milaya -- he is quite the credit to you.


As for Christmas -- I will happily take you up on the offer to keep company throughout the remainder of the holiday (when I am not keeping company with my bed and making payments on my ever-increasing sleep deficit), but I would not wish to interfere with Christmas Eve or Christmas Day familial celebrations. Do keep that time for you and Lucius, and Draco, my dear -- I know the demands of Our Lord's service do not give you and Lyoushka nearly enough time together, and the time is rapidly approaching when Draco will be striking off on his own. Take the time as a



family while you have it.

Yours, while procrastinating on composing the exams I'll be  
inflicting on the little darlings,  
T



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2012-12-06 04:42:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I've taken myself off the duty rota for Christmas Eve and day, so I'll be wholly yours. Someone else can cover those days this year.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:00:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I've been thinking. As promised. About the auction.

I have several items that were my grandfather Caspar's, 'charming' items from the sub-continent. All promise enhancements of one kind or another--hearing, night vision, appearance. The latter is an ivory comb with quite a lot of detailed work. I expect someone might find it attractive.

If it's not too late to reply to your other question, about the Revels, I'd be pleased to join you. For drinks, as well. Thank you.

(S-P is Nisha Desai's concern now. I gather she did well enough in Ireland; I found no particular fault with her there. I'm more concerned with her other half, but have no complaints. So far. Trust he has no intentions of immediate fatherhood. Not sure he'd divide his time as well then.)

**2012-12-05 09:17:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Harry Marvolo*



Gentlemen,


If you could trouble to stay following your Potions lesson this afternoon, there are matters concerning the House Quidditch side that we must discuss.

 [alt\\_horace](#)

Mr Malfoy, I know you have Prefects' responsibilities directly after class; I have taken the liberty of speaking to Mr Diggory to excuse you for the first portion of the Prefects' meeting.

I am sorry that we're only just getting to these decisions now but, as you might imagine, there was a good deal of sorting out to do and the persons affected required private discussion prior to taking up the matter with you both.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2012-12-05 16:12:42**  
(no subject)

All right, sir.

**2012-12-05 10:17:00**

### *Quidditch Suspensions*

I usually try not to come over all prefect-y here in the journals, but I heard a lot of grumbling at the breakfast table this morning about how the Quidditch suspensions are hurting the team, and I had to say something, both as a team member and as a prefect.



 [alt\\_susan](#)

First of all, it's not for me to go into the details, but everyone on the team supports Diggory and agrees it was justified, even Bobolis and Smith. You notice *they* aren't the ones flapping their gums about how it's unfair?


Second, for all the people moaning about how it hurts our chances of winning the next match--what is Hufflepuff known for on the pitch? Playing hard, but playing with honour, that's what. Anything less isn't just isn't in the spirit of the sett. Winning's brilliant, but it's not worth losing that.

Also, it's one match. *One Match*. They could have got suspended for the whole season.

And finally, if you really care about Hufflepuff Quidditch as much as you say you do, take a minute to support Rickett and Goshal and let them know that you have confidence in them.

We're a team, both on the pitch and in the sett as a whole, and it's time we started acting like it.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2012-12-05 15:41:43**

*Private Message to Zach*

Sorry I had to bring up a sore subject, mate.

But Drumgoole's lot are being a bunch of little pissants and I just couldn't resist giving them a good telling-off.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2012-12-05 16:03:55](#)

*Re: Private Message to Zach*

It's all right, Sue.

It's a fair cop, sitting out for a match. If I'm fussed about anything it's that Ced doesn't seem to understand that we didn't know Samuels was that badly off and favouring his side could have meant a fair few things, not only that he hadn't reversed the curse completely, you know?

I mean, if he'd just taken a blow there in practice the day before, like, and we saw him favouring it, that would have been all right. Diggory's only upset because it turned out to be more serious. Which, don't get me wrong, I'm well sorry about it but it's not exactly the capitol offence he's making it sound. Seeing him hurt like that--not ever again, thanks.

Anyway. Too right Drumgoole and her lot need to shut their gobs about it. You'd think *they're* the ones being forced to the bench.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-05 23:41:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Zach*

Well, *I* believe you, if that makes any difference.

Maybe talk to Ced again in a few days, when things are calmed down a bit.

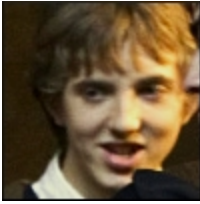


 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-06 01:05:04](#)

*Re: Private Message to Zach*

And think of it from Ced's point of view--he's dealing with this as Head Boy too.

I can understand taking the risk, though. I still think it was stupid and dangerous, but with Umbridge hovering over us all as if we're in infant school, I can see the appeal of stupid and dangerous.



 **[alt\\_ernie](#)** at **[2012-12-05 21:24:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Good show there, Sue. Quite right.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-06 01:06:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Ern.

**[2012-12-05 17:44:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Poppy, I need you -- or anyone else at Hogwarts -- to meet me within about ten minutes or so. Far side of the lake, just past the wards, on the path to Hogsmeade Station?



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

I've just got your dragon blood -- two whole phials -- but I need to hand it over quickly before anyone notices I'm gone.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-05 22:54:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Charlie Weasley, you're a wonder.

I'm on my way this instant.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-05 22:55:32](#)

*(no subject)*

Right, then, meet you there.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-05 23:26:39](#)

*Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

You'll note that I am not putting this where your mother will see it.

**GET TO YOUR HEALER RIGHT THIS INSTANT, YOUNG**

**MAN!**

I know perfectly well not all that blood was the dragon's! 'Only a scratch', indeed.

That said, thank you. I know you're aware how precious this ingredient is and how important it could prove. I certainly appreciate the risk you took today.

**NOW GET THAT WOUND SEEN TO!**



**alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-05 23:50:16**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

I'm in the infirmary right now, I promise! Apparated back, then straight in to report it, and the cleanup team went out to take care of things and I went straight to the Healer. I would've gone sooner, but, well, I know how tight a time-frame you have to work with.

It wasn't serious, he mostly clawed my robes and they're spelled to be pretty impervious. And thank you for not saying that where Mum could see it. It's easier if she doesn't hear about how banged up we get!



**alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-06 00:01:11**

*(no subject)*

Right, for anybody who sees this later and wonders what that was all about: I stomped out of supper tonight because everybody was getting up my nose and went out flying to cool down, and found Istvan, one of our Horntails, mortally wounded just at the edge of the reserve. Looks like two of them got in a fight, which means we'll have to keep an eye out for who the other one was. I'm guessing it was spill-over from whatever those people are doing to them for the wards.

There was no way he was going to survive, but I did manage to get two phials of blood before I had to put him down. (Wish like hell I'd had more phials with me, too, since I likely could've got more.) I was able to deliver them to Poppy and get back to the reserve quickly enough that nobody missed me.

Sadly, Istvan was tagged, so I couldn't harvest anything else -- no heartstring, no liver, no lung -- since we have strict protocols in place for what happens when one of our dragons dies. But it's something, and I'll keep my eye out in case one of the wild and untagged ones doesn't make it through the winter.

Here's to Istvan. One cranky bastard, but a beautiful dragon.



 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-12-06 00:33:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Nicely done, that, and I'll toast Istvan - in tea, I've far too much marking to do tonight - later.

Poppy, you were missed at supper. Dolores apparently wanted a word.

Fortunately for you, she got distracted before she could come up and find you (something Gwendolyn asked, I think, but I didn't hear) and I heard her say she had students coming up from about now. But you might want an excuse handy for why you weren't at supper.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-06 01:01:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, yes, you're quite right.

I'm nearly through the brewing. Thankfully the Cinnabaris is not a difficult or long potion to prepare. Just unforgiving with respect to timing.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-06 04:19:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks to your quick action today, I now have two precious doses of Cinnabaris vitalis potion tucked away, brewed off the books and without anyone the wiser, as luck would have it. As always, I hope never to need them, but if some truly dire accident were to befall someone here, this potion could save a life.

So, yes, here's to Istvan. And to Charlie Weasley.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:04:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Much as it pains me to waste any bit of a dragon who's passed on, I'll keep my fingers crossed that you don't need to use the potions. Although if whatever Lestrage and Dolohov do about that underground duelling club doesn't work to discourage them, you



might wind up needing them after all. (Can't believe I just said that. I'm touching wood right now.)

And you don't need to toast me. All part of my job.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:18:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, that relieves MY mind, that you have some Cinnabaris on hand! I'm glad that Charlie was able to reach you so quickly.

Charlie, well done!



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:22:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Aw, Mum, it was nothing, really. I'm just glad the infirmary will have it on hand in case of emergency.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:11:29](#)**  
(no subject)


Now that the demands of the infirmary have been met, I will place a claim on any further dragon blood you are able to procure. My research on restoring the Sleepers has reached the point where the most likely lines of investigation are draconic.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-06 05:21:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll see what I can do. Give me a list of the ingredients you're most likely to need, sorted from top priority to bottom priority, and I'll get you whatever I can lay hands on. Some things are easy -- scales, shed claw casings, whiskers from the Hebridean Black -- and some things are much, much harder, such as anything that can only be harvested after the dragon's death. If you think you'll need powdered Longhorn horn, for instance, tell me now so I can be on the lookout.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-06 05:15:13](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Charlie, that's tough. Good for you for seizing the opportunity, but I know the entire reserve is going to have a tough time over losing him.

Condolences to you all.

(I'm thinking: do you want me to send you a mokeskin pouch? There's a shop that sells them on Diagon Alley. Might be a good thing for stashing phials, so you'd always have extra on hand).



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-06 05:30:16](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, mate. Yeah, we'll miss him. He was a miserable old bugger, but he was our miserable old bugger.

And yeah, that'd be great, cheers. I usually try to keep a full complement in my robes when I'm out and about, but tonight I wasn't wearing my usual, since I wasn't expecting to be needing them. (I actually dumped my antivenin and my emergency burn potion, which we always carry no matter what, to have the phials free.) So I'm kicking myself a bit for not being better prepared. But at least we got some.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-06 05:57:29](#)  
*Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Also, I forgot to ask: how'd it go on Monday?

And, Kg2.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-06 18:09:33](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

It was...interesting, even if I was a bit stymied in accomplishing my purpose. I'd been invited for a birthday beer, but it was all three of them inviting me, really. I spent as much time talking with Remus as I did Tonks, and 'Sinbad' was parked at my feet almost

the entire evening. So I never had an opportunity to raise the possibility of dinner.

I'm not giving up, though. What time I did manage to snatch with her in conversation made me see even more how much I do like her. A lot. She's fun, and she's warm and she's friendly.

And Merlin, also busy. Between the customers and Bea it seemed at times as if she barely had a moment to breathe.

I've already decided I'm going back again Friday. Maybe a better chance will come up then.

Nh7.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-07 01:54:03**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Well, if nothing else, you'll have a nice few evenings out, somewhere you know the people in charge have got your back. Which is something I think you can use a bit of! All the work for the Order is one thing, but you need a little bit of downtime, too, or else you'll sit down at your desk one night and explode from all the stress.

Another visit tomorrow night sounds like a grand plan -- though from what I've heard, Friday nights are even busier than the rest of the week, so you might not get your chance then, either!

Give my love to everyone, though!

So, are you ever going to start giving me a challenge, here? Qd2.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-12-07 03:09:51**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

It was good for me, spending a good slice of time with people I totally trust. Made me realise how rare that's been lately. Yeah, I'll say hello for you next time I'm there, of course.

A challenge? So you can pull out your trebuchets, no doubt. Or pour burning pitch all over the black squares on the board.

I'm almost beginning to wonder whether you might consider swapping out your bishops with a couple of trolls. THEY WOULD BE ADMIRABLY SUITED FOR THE AMOUNT OF INTELLIGENT THOUGHT YOU'RE EXPENDING ON THIS GAME.

Nc5.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-07 03:27:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

And I just offered to Tonks to come in and help distract Miss Bea a bit one night a week or so, since apparently she's into the tantrum phase, so I might meet up with you there one of these nights! Likely won't know until right before when I'll be able to make it, but we'll see.

And oi. If you think I'm not paying attention, why haven't you taken advantage, then? Could be I'm plotting something dastardly you just haven't seen yet.

Or it could be that I'm just amusing myself. The trebuchet should be finished in another few moves. In the meantime:  
Bxc5.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-06 22:28:45](#)

*Private Message to Charlie*

I know what you mean about having everyone you live with seem completely irritating. Between the baby, the business, the moons, and the shape-shifting, we drive each other mad several times a wee-day. I'm sure I'm as awful to live with as the rest, mind you. Not saying I'm perfect at all.


Sounds as if you had a bit of an adventure between the dying dragon and the quick pop to Hogwarts and back and not getting caught out over what you'd done. Good show!

They keep a tight lock on all the saleable bits of your dragons, then? Makes sense, I suppose, but I can't imagine dragon handlers are much for inventories and Ministry parchmentwork, though. Or do

you have someone who lives up there who just does that sort of record keeping and line-toeing?

We raised a glass for Istvan here last night. And thought of him again this morning when Bea had a complete caterwauling tantrum at the end of breakfast. I think she's had a growing spurt, and it's all been in her lungs! I swear to you, she wasn't this loud a month ago!



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-07 02:35:58](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Oh, I remember that age. If it's any consolation, of the two I was old enough to really be aware of, Ron lasted about three months and Ginny about five before they quieted down a bit -- I think it's something to do with the mind being ready to communicate more complex bits but the rest of them not quite caught up yet. Mind you, three to six months more of this might sound like a million years away, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel, at least?

And oi, yeah, I get tired just thinking about all you have to deal with. I think it's natural to have days when you just want to scream, especially when you have too many people in too small a space. (Once it starts blizzarding in earnest up here, we all have to be very, very careful. It's not odd to see somebody wearing their earplugs indoors at supper 'round February or so, nose in a book, quite firmly pretending the other five dozen people don't exist. You learn right quick that if someone's got their earplugs in, they're about half a step away from "transfigure you lot into firewood and have a cheery little bonfire" territory.)

You've got a bit of an outlet at least now, right? Training with Alice and Frank on things? Bet that if you're having a bad day, you could bring Miss Bea to Moddey and find half a dozen child-minders, and Frank would be happy to let you play smash-and-Reparo for as long as it took to feel better. He's always seemed the sort who'd understand needing to get away for a while.

And yeah, we're not much for following along with what the Ministry wants from us, but Director Higgs rides our arses about it all the time. When a dragon dies, they call in a team from the Ministry to take care of the harvesting. Right secretive about it, too. Things like scales and shed claw casings and the like, things you can just pick up wherever you find them, those they don't bother to

keep track of so closely, but anything more rare than that, it's your head if they figure out you didn't turn it in.

(With a few exceptions! You've seen Opaleye jewellery, right? Where the eyes harden into gemstones after the dragon dies? Long standing dragonman tradition: if you're the one who finds an Opaleye after death, you're the one who gets to keep or sell the gems. For once, this is a good "don't tell Mum": the dragon whose heartstring I was able to give to Melisandra last year was an Opaleye, and I traded one gem to a jeweller in New London to have the other set in a pendant for her for Christmas. Can't wait to see her face when she sees it!)

Anyway, I hope tonight's less stressful than this morning was. And, you know, if you ever need an extra pair of hands or an extra baby-wrangler one night a week or whatever, we're technically allowed off the reserve whenever we're not scheduled for duty or on call -- we just don't bother most of the time because it's a bit of a pain and usually we don't know until right before whether we'll be on call or not. But I'd be happy to stop in, at least every other week or so. Miss Bea couldn't be worse than dragon kits, after all.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-07 04:41:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Don't feel badly for me. I don't know what I'd do if I had time enough to be bored. I've always been the fidgety sort.

Which may explain a lot of things about Bea, as well. I think you're right about her being frustrated that she can't say all she wants to and even when she can say it, that doesn't mean we'll agree. It makes her very cross when we don't see things her way. Generally that's because she wants something or wants to do something that we won't allow. Or won't allow endless repetitions of. I've heard toddlers learn by repeating (and repeating and repeating) things--like banging rhythms or making odd, loud sounds or poking the doggie. And sometimes what they learn is that grownups don't like those things very much! And nor do doggies.

By the way, it would be lovely if you'd come for a visit--we've all sorts of work here, including baby minding. And we've also been known to welcome friends just to come enjoy an evening at the garden as guests. No work required! By which I mean, we'd love

to see you whenever you could get away.

And Opaleye jewellery is lovely, isn't it? I expect your mum will be over the moon about it. But I expect she's the sort, too, who's really genuinely happy with gifts whatever they are, just because they come from family.

What do you Weasleys do at Christmas? Special things that you do every year?



**2012-12-06 19:30:00**

*December*



 **alt\_neville**

I looked back over my journal, and it seems like it's been ages since I've done an entry that wasn't just a line or two, or a private message. So I thought I'd write a bit here so my Gran can hear about what's been going on in school without waiting for my next letter. Classes are going along rather well, I think. I've been yawning my head off today because last night was the practical astronomy lesson at midnight. We've been doing measurements for locational magic last week and this week, triangulating positions using two stars that Professor Sinistra assigns us, and Polaris. I had botched the equations last week and couldn't figure out what was wrong, until I realised that my watch wasn't set for the right time, and that was throwing all my calculations off. This week went better.

In Transfiguration we're working on vanishing spells, and in Charms, on *Silencio*. (Sort of an odd coincidence to be working on them at the same time: Do Not See and Do Not Hear.) There's been a lot of written essays lately. I finished the one on bowtruckles for Care of Magical Creatures, and another one on the reasons why salamander blood is used in Strengthening Solution for Potions. I was going to start my essay for Noble Arts: Professor Dolohov is giving us each a spell and asking us to figure out what we can about it, based on the reading. But I'm not sure I'm getting it, and so I'm swapping books with Seamus to see if his translation of *De Signatura Rerum* is better. Maybe if I reread it in another translation, it'll make more sense to me then.

In Herbology, we've mostly just been cleaning up in the greenhouses for the end of the growing season. I met with Professor Sprout during her office hours this week to go over my notes with her on the experimental cultivars I've been working with this year. She gave me this really cool book about garden design, and it's been all that I can do to keep from sneaking it out to page through it when I'm supposed to be doing my reading for Defence or Noble Arts instead.


With all the work, I haven't had as much time to play chess with Evelyn as I usually do. We've been teasing each other about trying out for the revue. ('You'd be wizard at it!' 'Not as good as you!' when in truth neither of us would ever be caught dead getting up on stage). Evelyn has been thinking about volunteering to help with stuff like the



backstage work, or the makeup glamours. That'd be fun, and a way to be involved, but a lot less scary.

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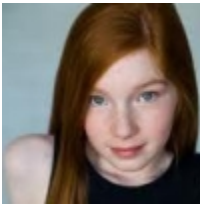



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-07 17:37:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yeah, things are getting busy, aren't they?

But, mate. There's always time for chess!



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-12-07 18:04:09](#)**

*Private Message to Nev*

I think I've almost got the first charm in that book on theatre glamours we found in the library working the way it ought.

I just need to test to see if it looks right with the proper sort of lighting and everything.

I can't wait to try out the aging glamour, but I'll have to work up to it first.

**2012-12-06 22:50:00**

*(no subject)*

We're holding general tryouts for two beaters and a chaser for our next match. It'll be on a trial basis, and depending on how things go, you might have a chance to move to reserves or take over the position permanently.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

I've asked Madame Hooch if we can use the Quidditch field Saturday starting at one, so we'll have a chance to try everyone out and have the people who make the cut practise with the team properly on Sunday at our normal time.

---



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2012-12-07 04:16:13**

*(no subject)*

You forgot to mention that you're captain, now.

Congratulations!



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-12-07 04:20:19**

*(no subject)*

Thanks.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2012-12-07 04:47:05**

*(no subject)*

Really, Harry? What fantastic news!

Well, I'm sure it wasn't fantastic news to Adrian, but he must have known something like this was

coming...


I'm sure you'll do a splendid job!



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 05:00:42](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks Daphs. I wish it was under better circumstances, but I'm sure everyone on the team will pull together and do what has to be done.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:20:55](#)  
*Private Message to Draco*


I think I've got the tryout plays sorted, but it really depends on how many people come out for it.

And I've got to sort out Sunday too.

Two new beaters are going to be a nightmare. We'll be lucky if they don't end up taking one of us out.

And. Do you think we should do something this weekend? With Katie and Pans? Or would it just be too much?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-07 04:25:54](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Slughorn's gone too far, I tell you. He's put the team at a major disadvantage for the rest of the year. Me and Alfred, especially - he and Adrian and I had perfect sync, we had our pattern down, and now we'll have to grease in someone new. In addition to the beaters.

I suppose we're meant to be thankful that Al wasn't scuppered for good as well.

Too much what, exactly?

Here's the thing: do you fancy her? Because I can't tell for certain, you know.



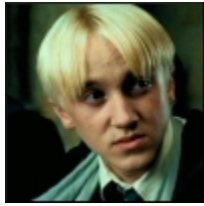
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:34:23](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

He really has. I mean, I sort of thought I might be captain one day, but I'd rather be captain of a team that had a decent chance.

At least they're just out for the one match. I mean, it might be a bit weird for Adrian to join back up with me as captain instead, but I'm planning on giving him a chance to finish up the season. Especially because we didn't get to play at all last term.

Even though he was an utter idiot.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-07 04:43:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

One match, yeah, but it's not as if we have dozens of them to make up for a loss, like the league's do.

Mostly an idiot for getting caught. Too bad Avery's gone. He would have kept those sort of secret arrangements exclusive and locked up tighter than Gringotts.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:54:56](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Yeah. You've got that much right.

Not sure it would've been good to keep that spell damage under wraps the way it was, but that comes from not knowing enough. Maybe he would've been better at that too.

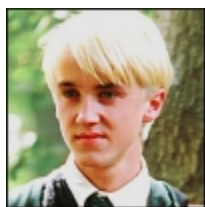


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:36:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

And yeah, I like her well enough. I think. We've just sat together at the one match, is all, but she's pretty, and we had an okay time.

I just meant with all the other things going on with the tryouts and all, we might be too busy.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-07 04:45:39](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Mate, if you really fancy a girl, you'll make time to be with her no matter how busy you are.

You should at least meet up with her again to figure out if you do. Fancy her, that is.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:47:12](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Point.

What about Saturday night, then?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-07 04:48:38](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Sure. Music and records, like we discussed?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-07 04:55:40](#)

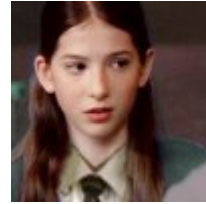
*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Sure. Yeah. I'll ask her.

**2012-12-06 23:02:00**

*Private message to Pansy*

Do you think I'd be completely mad if I tried out for the chaser position?




I used to joke I'd go out for the quidditch team if I were in Hufflepuff but there are too many Slytherins who are good at Quidditch.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

But SO MANY PEOPLE were in that secret duelling club and they've ALL been benched. I mean the ones who were on the quidditch team were benched formally but the others who were in the secret club, I mean in theory they haven't been but I think it's unlikely Harry would pick them, you know? It cuts down a lot on the competition. ~~I might not look like a complete idiot~~

I can't decide. Maybe I'll go, and see who else is there.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-07 18:23:14**  
(no subject)

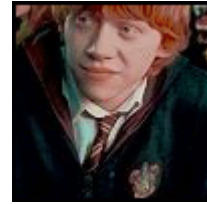
I'd say you have a more than fair chance. Harry knows you, and although he hasn't really seen you fly except for the long-distance sessions over summer, that might be a good thing because he might be a bit surprised over how much better you are than he might've thought. Because you are good on a broom, and you always do well in our pick-up sessions.

And you're right, there isn't a lot of competition, so it's worth your while. And even if they bring back Pucey for the next match, you'd be on reserves, and maybe have a chance of making the team next year after he leaves school.

I'll be there to cheer you on!

**[2012-12-07 07:41:00](#)**

*Private Message to Fred and George Weasley*



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Kind of nice to watch Slytherin scrounging for new flyers, yeah?

Makes Angelina look a bit more clever for taking me over McLaggen now, I guess. I hope she sees it that way.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at **[2012-12-07 17:07:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

We're having loads of fun watching them scramble, yeah. Marvolo must be in agony, trying to figure out how he's gonna cobble together a full team roster.

We've never had any doubt that Angelina made the right decision. Weasleys en masse are unbeatable. And McLaggen's such a berk that any one of us would have hexed by now, if he had been on the team.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2012-12-07 17:39:21](#)**

*(no subject)*

Nift for him he's captain, but, yeah. I bet that doesn't look so rosy when you've got to fill so many spots mid-year!

Yeah, thanks.

Hope I don't let her down.

**2012-12-07 21:27:00**

*Private Message to Ms Tyche Jenkins and Mr Hephaestus Bobolis*



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

Was it a bit too much work to ask for the Professors' supervision before you started tossing around curses you found in some books on the floor in the restricted section? Two Council Wizards only ordered us all not to duel like that without supervision in front of half of the Council, right after Mr Crouch cast the most complicated warding any of us had ever seen in person to protect everyone nearby. Did you need the Lord Protector Himself to give the order at Court in front of the entire Council?

Look at what I was doing with Harry and Draco. Did you think we were drinking tea and eating finger sandwiches? No, we were out racing through the edge of the Forest at top speed throwing spells as fast as we could, working ourselves to exhaustion under the supervision of Auror Peel.

You two are my closest friends. Out of anyone at school, you ought to know I love competition and pushing myself to the limit, so on the surface it sounds like exactly the sort of thing my two loyal friends should have invited me to. But you didn't. Now why could that be? Because you knew I'd have been horrified and have had to report your stupid arses for being bloody morons. If you'd come to me that first night, Melinda and I might have been able to shut it down with some points off for being out after curfew. We could have restarted it under supervision and with the proper precautions Professor Dolohov talked about, but no! You had to let Saumels almost get killed, five others suffer life-altering curse effects because you didn't have a wizard around who really knew what they were doing to make sure all the effects had been dispelled.

You two are incredibly lucky not to have your magic bound like certain others. How hard do you think that's going to make studying for NEWTs for the rest of the year?

Hiding something this big and important from me makes me question how good of a friend you see me as. I get not snitching on someone out after curfew to snog or a jinx in the halls, but this was risking friends' lives. The person who finally went to Professor Dolohov saved lives. How would you feel if it had been one of us and there hadn't been a tattler? The death of a friend on your conscience forever, even



if you didn't cast the curse.

I'm glad the holidays are going to give us a break from constantly being in the same room. I'm just so angry with you both right now.

**[2012-12-07 23:53:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

How busy is the place tonight?

I think I've got the charms working on the lenses but I'm not satisfied with the resolution. I think it's blurry but I could use a second opinion.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Do you think we've time to get some of the twins' knock-out potion? We could dip some quills in it, too.

And I didn't quite catch what Jenks was saying to you, about the symbols on the alley wall? He wasn't suggesting patrolling against the vandals, was he? I'm not sure how often you and Dora can beg off, if people keep suggesting joining the Watch. Or do you think he means to 'join' the Watch so he can try to make sure they're not hurting anyone? Which is a thought, in a way.

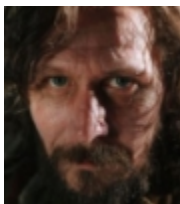


 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-08 05:16:12](#)

*(no subject)*

It's pretty quiet. I could probably duck inside and look at the lenses in a few minutes.

Jenks WAS suggesting patrolling against vandals -- not so much because he objects to the graffiti as that he thinks it'll attract the attention of the Watch if it keeps popping up around here. He might be right, actually.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-08 05:25:49](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, I agree that the first day that Ministry bloke came in asking if you'd seen or heard anything in the neighbourhood I thought for sure they'd realise you and Dora don't actually spend the nights here most of the time.

I just hope that the fact of them doesn't start to affect business. We've more and more mouths to feed in Moddey and elsewhere - oh, and what do you think it means, that there weren't any kids to be rescued this time? Has that happened before? I don't remember

it, if so - but even robbing the occasional train, it seems like we've more and more use for a bigger and bigger bankroll.

I don't know as we'll get away with recycling items from the house for another year's presents.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-08 05:29:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Everyone's been having graffiti issues, from what I've heard. So I doubt it'll affect business.

About the kids -- I hesitate to speculate. It's tempting to leap to horrifying conclusions but we just don't have enough evidence.

I don't know what to do about the bankroll. Rob a few more trains?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-08 16:43:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, the Goblins don't care if I withdraw the entire contents of the vault but it's a little difficult to get to, of course. And I'm sure MLE could trace it if Sirius Black suddenly started ordering up

huge palettes of food.

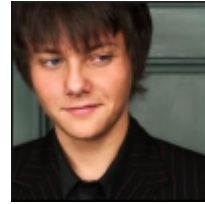
But I think I do know what to do about the recording charm on the spectacles.

I hope she likes them. I hope they're not utterly naff, too, after all this effort.

**2012-12-08 11:44:00**

*Good luck, Sally-Anne!*

I'm heading down after lunch to cheer you on. Bitsy and Phillip want to come, too. (They asked why I was going to watch Slytherin's try outs and I told them, hope that's all right.)



 [alt\\_michael](#)

Just remember, when you're turning in tight formation, nudge the broom with your knees, not your hand. And it's not the same as distance flying, so think about your levels and not just all on one plane.

You'll be brilliant! And I'll see you after.

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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-08 16:51:06**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Michael.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-08 16:56:17**  
(no subject)

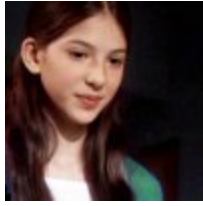
Sally-Anne,

You never said anything about it, what! I suppose I can well understand not wishing to announce it, at least not until one knows the outcome.

But that's smashing! I was going to do a bit of revising but now I suppose that's not on. Going to support a friend is bally well more fun than revising, at any rate, what?

Is it bad luck to wish one good luck, like in the theatre? What does one say here--bend a twig? Well, whatever it is, may you have it.

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-08 17:00:09](#)  
(no subject)


'Good luck' is fine. I didn't want loads of people watching Thanks, Justin.



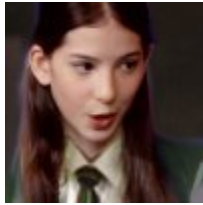
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-08 16:51:38](#)  
*Private message to Michael*


So long as I don't make an utter fool of myself I'll be happy.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-08 16:58:01](#)  
*Re: Private message to Michael*

From what I understand, the fools are the ones who'll be sitting on the bench next match, so you've nothing to worry about.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-08 17:00:55](#)  
*Re: Private message to Michael*

Well there is that.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-08 18:29:21](#)  
(no subject)

If you find me in the stands when you get here, we can all cheer her on together.

**2012-12-08 15:16:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*  
*Private Message to Sally Anne*



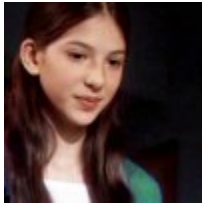
You tried out for the Slytherin side today?

Why didn't you say?

 [alt\\_ron](#)

How did it turn out?

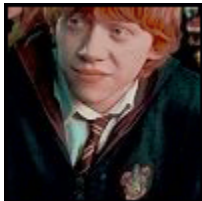
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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-08 21:29:37**  
(no subject)

I decided to do it at kind of the last minute. And I didn't want anyone to feel like they HAD to come, especially since I was afraid I wouldn't do very well.

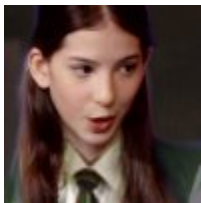
Anyway I didn't do terribly but I don't think I'm going to get on the team because some of the others that came out were better than I was. Although, the person who was best at flying couldn't throw the quaffle very far, and the person who was best at throwing and catching wasn't actually very good at paying attention to what the rest of the team was doing... I don't think I was the best overall, though, by any measure. But at least I didn't feel like I'd made an utter fool of myself.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-08 21:50:38**  
(no subject)

Well, I could have told you you'd be better than decent! But, yeah. I know why you wouldn't want to say much ahead, either.

When will Marvolo let you know? Did he say?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-08 21:52:42**  
(no subject)

He seemed to think he'd decide by tomorrow but given that they made him Quidditch captain on, oh, Thursday? I'm not going to hold my breath.

All the benchings are going to make for an interesting couple of matches, anyway.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-08 23:07:29](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. Did he seem to know what he was about? Marvolo, I mean. As captain? I mean it was awfully sudden.

Be interesting to see how he'll be setting practices and all.

I mean I guess he's been all right leading YPL exercises, yeah? Better than Li this afternoon! I mean what was she thinking?

And, say, Umbritch had your socks on again, didn't she? Did you see her?

What are you up to tonight, then? Want to play something? Doesn't have to be chess. Or, well, I wouldn't mind going over Dolohov's assignment, either.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-09 03:32:37](#)  
(no subject)

He either knew what he was about or did a fine job faking it. Which is pretty much just as good.

Li's usually thinking 'what will Patil think of this? how can I best kiss her arse?' And yes, Umbritch had my socks on again.

We could meet for chess and homework, sure.

**2012-12-08 17:38:00**

*Private Message to Padma*

I regret that I cannot accompany you as usual to your appointed amusements early Sunday afternoon before YPL, but I have expiation to make, alas. In the form of detention. I'll need to leave lunch early as it is. I don't dare make Professor Dolohov angry. Angrier, I mean. And he's sent me to Professor Siz for some of the detentions, and she's not much better pleased with me than he is, so I can't be late.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

I'm sure you understand. I'm very sorry. But it is a just punishment, and, well, I did earn it.



**2012-12-09 08:04:00**

*Private Message to Antonin Dolohov*



We're finished, then, except for continuing care of Goyle, Hooper, Inglebee, Pucey, and Warrington. Healer Vaignoble is satisfied that they may safely continue here through end of term. One wonders if Mr Pucey will receive much benefit from his lessons, given his limitations, but if the Curse Injuries specialists don't think he needs admitting there, I'm not inclined to object.

 [alt\\_poppy](#)

Have you turned up any further concerns?

Are there any of the students who were involved that I've not examined? I would feel better if I knew I'd had a look at each of them, even if there's no document trail suggesting which curses were cast or taken.

And don't think I've missed that your own symptoms are not in abeyance, Antonin. I should like a word with you about that at your earliest convenience.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-12-09 15:16:34**  
(no subject)

Mr Pucey will, alas, have to come to terms with living without (much) magic for a month or two. He should count himself lucky that is the only limitation he must live with: his magic will at least heal itself over time.

I've let him know that he should conserve what little power he has left for the time being, but I do not know if he was in a mindset to listen to me -- you may wish to check up with him in a week or two to see if he is overdoing it, and to counsel him to further restraint if he is. And yes, I am fully aware of the hypocrisy involved in making this statement myself, but at least I know how far I might push myself before risking permanent damage in that regard.

(I still cannot fathom what he had in mind in casting the Solutus Cordis in a duel -- not only is it devilishly difficult to cast correctly, its only real use is when one is captured or being interrogated by an enemy, to arrange for mutually assured destruction. One certainly hopes the idiots were not planning on duelling to the death!)

I am surprised the specialists from St M's did not wish to admit Mr Goyle and Mr Warrington, actually. (Not that I believe you are not more than capable of monitoring their recovery, mind you!) You've likely already received a full briefing on the course of potions Mr Goyle will require -- rebound from a miscast Blood-Chilling Curse can take up to a year to heal properly -- but you will likely wish to keep a watchful eye on Mr Warrington's general health over the next several months; the aging produced by a miscast Tempus Sectus does take a toll on all the body's systems, even if we were able to reverse it before it accelerated past the loss of a few months.

I believe we've (finally) found the last of the damage, assuming you were able to check Miss Chambers' eyes and Mr Croaker's lungs and found nothing of serious concern. If I become aware of anything I may have missed, I will inform you immediately: some of the effects of the magic the little idiots were playing with will not show even on the deepest scans.

As to the last, you've anticipated my own report on the matter, actually. I haven't wanted to disturb you while you were working so hard to handle this mess (particularly since the blame lies in no small part on my shoulders), but my magic, though recovering, is not recovering from my exertions on Monday anywhere near as quickly as it ought, even taking my general convalescence into account. (And I've had this blasted headache for about two weeks now, but I have been cautioned that it, as well as several other symptoms, is expected at this point and must simply be endured.) Still -- if you are through with ministering to the students, I would feel much more comfortable if you had the chance to take a look.

And I must apologise again for the amount of work you've had to do over this past week and a half. (Particularly after I promised you I would do my utmost to keep from sending you casualties.) If there is anything else at all that I can do or provide to make your tasks easier: I owe you a debt of honor for your work in this cleanup, and will do whatever I might to discharge it.

Yours, in service,  
Antonin

**2012-12-09 14:04:00**

*Private message to Tosha*



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

Tosha, dear -

I have just had a surprisingly insightful conversation with our Mr Moon. Quite sure I startled him in more than one place, and I think very usefully. We started with the challenge of my door wards, though I think he didn't entirely get the hint about thinking through larger implications.

That done, I was working on leading him toward the ripple effects of actions upon the rest of the school. We got there, but before we did, he arrived at "We nearly became the Carrows!" all on his own. Rather tidily, even, barring a bit of unseemly language I chose to ignore.

Inglebee's lack of mouth kept coming up - it obviously made a very deep impression. And speaking of influence, he obliquely referenced your conversation more than once. You have certain unmistakable turns of phrase, you know. Incidentally, did you know that one of the current rumours is that Lucius (in his role as one of the Board) apparently Cruciated you and Raz as punishment for letting students go astray? You have not, I think, covered your exhaustion as well as we might like.

After that, we got onto my actual work for him. One part mapping which projection stones I can make when (easy enough, and useful). And then the other, that I'd hinted at with you, that Georg wants me to look at research of three members of the Guild and see if they're manipulating data to suit their arguments. It should keep him busily occupied. Me as well. (I suspect I will regret agreeing to do this for Georg. I will almost certainly want to pick your brain about it.)

From there, I laid out the time expectations we'd discussed, got his promise to tell me if it turns out to affect his other commitments too much, and he realises he should not look happy about his prospects with me either. I'm off to pull journals for him to start with on Wednesday, but if you want me to come down and talk through the rest in person, let me know? I should be done up here around half-four.

While I think of it: do you need another round of *Reparo*, or are you managing that yourself again? Oh, and can I ask your advice

sometime soon about a couple of Christmas presents? (Not Raz, but Lucius and Rod, in specific. And part of Draco's. Ideally before Tuesday noon.)

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 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-09 19:52:49](#)

(no subject)

Little star,

Must confess, I will eagerly await your rendition of your meeting with Mr Moon. Am very pleased that you led him down the primrose path of critical thinking. I made a start, but I was more interested in ascertaining what his motives were in getting involved, and less with his *ex post facto* analysis. I am most amused that you could spot the bits of direct quote. (At a guess, I would venture: the frequent references to them as "you little idiots", telling him to tell his fellows that I am "a wholly unreasonable bastard", and possibly my little lecture on the ivory-tower tendency of certain Ravenclaws?)

And oh, the rumour regarding Lyoushka has provided me the best laugh I've had all week. I must remember to share that one with him.

Even without having heard the recount of your conversation I am not surprised to hear that he missed the hint about larger implications. In our discussion Friday, he proved capable enough of reasoning when pointed in the correct direction, but I did need to take him by the hand and lead him quite far down several pathways before he caught sight of the destination, as it were. And yet, there is something there. Wholly untutored (and, alas, in need of a whole deal of tutoring), but not utterly hopeless.

Ah, well. Between the two of us, we will no doubt make a valiant attempt to drag him out of his Ravenclaw's ivory tower. And at very least, get some useful work out of him in the meantime.

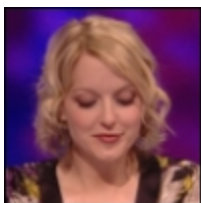
I have worked my way back up to *Reparo* in extremis, although anything more complex than that is still beyond me (and since I know it is useless to tell you not to fret, as you and I seem to have turned fretting about each other into an art form, I will simply say that yes, I have spoken to Poppy about it, now that she has finished tending to the little idiots). If you finish your prep work, however, the pleasure of your company would be quite delightful. And I would be happy to consult on Christmas gifts: Lucius and Rod are fairly easy to find

gifts for, though I'm less certain of my ability to read Draco's tastes.

(Though, if you'll be stopping by, drop me a quick message ahead of time; undoing the warding from across the room is a bit beyond me at the moment. I should probably get around to keying you into them at some point, actually, at least enough so that you can enter my sitting-room without dire consequence.)

Wearily, but in fairly good cheer,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-09 20:32:55](#)  
(no subject)

First, shall we say quarter to five?

I am all over dust from rummaging in the older archived journals. (I know the elves have been in that storeroom, but clearly not recently enough.) I need to do another round - had to clear my head first - but that'd give me time for a quick bath to wash all the grime off. I'm starting him with two trials to make sure he's catching what I need him to. Not that I'm telling him that until after.

I'd forgotten that Irma doesn't have a full set of *Urania's Quill* - that's the main astronomy theory journal - and that she stopped getting *Astronomica Arithmantica* entirely about a decade ago. (I get it because - well, I inherited Alcor's copies, and I am a completist. Even if all the good parts show up in one of the other journals, and usually sooner.)

Your guesses are quite correct, especially the 'unreasonable bastard'. Also, the young man is unobservant in some places, but he said, near enough "I don't think it's good for Professor Dolohov to get so angry. To need to get so angry," And then that it probably wasn't good for Raz either, and was he getting headaches like you were? (I did not answer that, for the obvious reasons and then some.)

And he did recognise exactly how much trouble you and Raz had both had to fix things - and Poppy, too - once I got him working through it logically. And exactly how much rearranging of classes you've had to do to accomodate. I do think he can be taught. (And he was so dismayed when he realised that your classes would be

missing material as a result. A half-measure of you is better than a NEWT with Alecto, he said. As I said, you made rather an impression.)

On the presents. Toshenka, *you* may think it's easy. I certainly don't. And I very much need to get them right. (And on Draco's, I've an idea, but I suspect you can tell me how to narrow it down usefully.) Though, do tell me what Lucius says, to that rumour?

Right. See you in an hour and a quarter.



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-09 20:58:57](#)  
(no subject)

Quarter of five would be lovely, dear heart, and I will look forward to your company, whether grime-bedecked or no.

I am slightly chagrined that Mr Moon has noticed the headache, and more chagrined that he noticed the anger (truly, I am trying my utmost to be even-tempered with the little darlings, to stand in firm contrast to their previous instructor's volatility), though the compliment to my teaching does please. And I am not at all surprised that he mourned the loss of instructional time lost to that lot; he is, after all, a Ravenclaw. (Perhaps the most Ravenclawish Ravenclaw I have encountered in years.)

And no, I did not mean to make light of the difficulty you are having in navigating the rocky shoals of gifting! Just that I can think of a dozen suggestions from my ease of long familiarity. (Actually, if you're truly pressed for time, and I know you are: I have been collecting odds and ends for my best beloveds for a dozen years and planning to dole them out in pieces for Christmases and birthdays now that I am home. I've easily two dozen tomes earmarked for future gifts; you are welcome to any of them and say I mentioned the title as one that might suit.) But I will most happily advise. (And remind me to show you what I've collected for Narcissa, as well!)

Looking forward to hearing you hold forth on your plans for academic hunting,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-10 01:25:09](#)

*(no subject)*

Tosha -

Briefly (Raz asked if I was up for some Defence work tonight, and well, that's always good for me), thank you for your ideas, and give me a day to mull them over? I do want to finish my shopping on Tuesday, one way or the other, so I won't dither too long. Your patience with my various scruples and tendencies is - as always - much appreciated.

I keep telling myself the rocky shoals of gift-giving are in many ways better than last year, and that it only improves after the wedding, for all sorts of reasons. And no, I'm still not hinting at what yours is. Except that I think you'll like it. (That being the point of presents among my people.) And I really do have most of my list under control, except the last few complicated things.

I did not manage to find that article I glancingly referred to. I know I've had my hands on it recently, and will dig it up tomorrow. Oh. One other thing from the conversation with Mr Moon. It so very clearly startled him that voices of authority might disagree. (And may do so for reasons that go beyond the goal of the work, to boot.) The work he's doing for me will help with that, but it seems a thing you might particularly have an eye to in your own lectures.

Right. Of for other sorts of demands.

**[2012-12-09 17:03:00](#)**

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

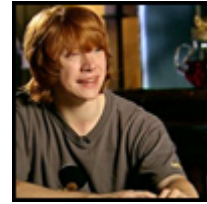
What the merry flip?

I mean. Really.

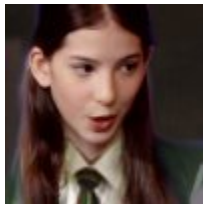
'Hello, my name is Ronald Weasley, so good to meet you, ma'am. May I offer you my seat? Could I bring you a glass of punch? Hang up your fur stole? What did you say? Could I take your terrier outside for a whizz? Oh, certainly. No ~~bleedin~~ trouble at all.' smile ... smile

'Good evening, sir. My name is Ronald Weasley. Oh, quite right, sir, you do outrank me. You should certainly go before me in the queue.'

At least Greengrass and Macmillan were sporting about it. We were next to Dunstan and Nott--and they were not playing nicely with Fawcett. At all.




 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 00:16:35](#)  
(no subject)

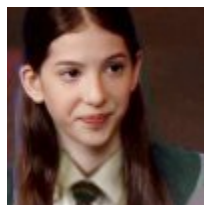
That was the most utterly idiotic way to spend an afternoon EVER.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-12-10 01:15:50](#)  
(no subject)

YPL really isn't much fun since Professor Sinistra's no longer in charge of it.

I'm sure my foster mother would think that sort of stuff is important for me to learn. But then she is awfully concerned with the things you have to do to impress the Right Sort of People.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 01:47:43](#)  
(no subject)

You know, the absurd thing is that even at Those Sorts of Parties it's not as if people sort themselves into a line based on how important they are, and



compare family trees.

It's not hard to get it right. You're just polite to everyone, you don't bring up topics that are likely to start arguments.

Especially if you're a kid you really can't go wrong being gracious about who goes first (which is what 'precedence' really means). I mean according to the Order of Precedence, Pansy outranks quite a few of the adults who come to these parties, but if there's an older lady who wants to get to the desserts, Pansy always steps back and lets her go first. She doesn't say 'No! you are only THREE generations a pureblood, plus my father was on the Council!' and grab the last chocolate truffle (though she might say 'here, Mrs Smith, let me get you one of the lemon tarts' and then take the last truffle while Mrs Smith is saying thank you.)




 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-10 02:04:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Ugh. I hate when people are so wrapped up in formality. It really gets in the way.

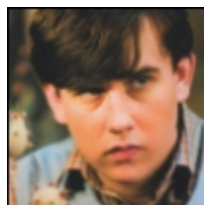
Of course, I suppose it's far easier for me to say it because when I don't stand on ceremony, it's more likely to come off that I'm being generous instead of rude.

How tiresome. And useless.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-12-10 01:16:57](#)**  
(no subject)

What on earth were you doing?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-10 01:30:38](#)**  
(no subject)

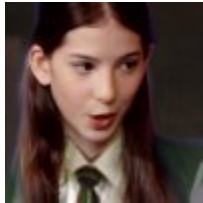
Role-playing. There was a long lecture about how we're going home for the holidays and need to know all about how to behave properly around guests. Madam Umbridge was banging on and on about precedence: there's the Lord Protector, and the Council wizards, and then wizards are ranked by how many pureblood

generations they have. Then three-quarter bloods, halfbloods, squibs and finally muggleborns. But there are all sorts of other little rules: holding office gives you a one-level boost, for example. The rank of the higher spouse determines the rank of both members of a marriage, if both are attending an event. Otherwise, each carries their own rank.

Then everyone drew cards, like, say, 'Your mother's eldest aunt' or 'A Division Director at the Ministry' or 'A Council Member' and you had to demonstrate how you would hold a conversation with a person like that. Sometimes there was some other piece of information like an upcoming business deal, or a relative is marrying into the person's family. We were in groups, and we had to score each other.

Then Madam Umbridge gave out a bunch of badges. Everyone was sort of snorting over what they said, but trying not to let on in front of her. They said things like, 'Diligent helper' or 'Always tries hard.'

She had this look on her face as she was handing them out, like she was giving out lollies to two year olds.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-10 01:40:02](#)**  
(no subject)

So what was your badge for, Neville?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-10 02:01:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Uh, 'Knows His Place.'

Which is really sort of double-edged, since I'm pureblood (not that I care a jot), but I'm from a bloodtraitor family.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 02:08:36](#)  
(no subject)

We didn't quite handle how to deal with that in the Precedence lesson. I think we would've benefited from learning the appropriate dirty look to give, or how to snub in a way that shows the maximum amount of class.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 02:20:47](#)  
(no subject)

Well, she DID ask in her journal whether we had any further questions...



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 02:23:02](#)  
(no subject)

I think the ideal etiquette would be to spit on the person in question's shoes, and then raise the right side of the upper lip while backing away slowly and staring. But I'm not entirely sure.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 02:25:39](#)  
(no subject)

That must be right; if you backed away slowly, THEN spit on their shoes, you'd undoubtedly miss, and then where would you be? IN DISGRACE, THAT'S WHERE.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 02:29:41](#)  
(no subject)


And horror of horrors, at the next fancy party, you'd be... LOWER ON THE LIST.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 01:52:22](#)  
(no subject)

Mine said, 'Polite to her Betters.'



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-10 02:04:12](#)  
(no subject)

Eww.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 02:05:05](#)  
(no subject)

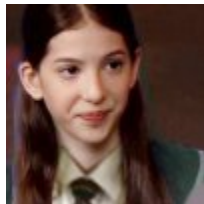
I know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 02:06:12](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you'd better keep being polite to me!  
Otherwise, I might not find you useful any more,  
and where would you be then?

Vom.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 02:21:47](#)  
(no subject)

Well that was surely what she was getting at,  
don't you think? That's probably why yours was  
'Gracious Leader' or whatever she put on it.


If she wants to call me a kiss-arse she should just say it, like  
Patil.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 01:52:51](#)  
(no subject)

NOT THAT SHE EXCUSED ME FROM THE ETIQUETTE LESSON even though it's clear I already know how to get along!




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-10 03:34:52](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I think she wanted you there to show how it's done.

Umbritch came round to Fawcett's group and told her she ought to pay more attention to how you comport yourself. When she got to them, Fawcett was sort of standing off by herself, not really taking part, y'know? But that's because Nott had just been telling her to shine his shoes. I was trying not to pay attention, but the way he said that, you probably could have heard him on your side of the room. And I think Dunstan had a card that said she was a Department Head at the Ministry interviewing candidates, because I heard her ask Fawcett what had made her think she'd possibly deserve a job in Dunstan's office.

We had sort of a laugh with it in our group, actually. But mostly we just laughed at what Madam Hem-hem said. Greengrass can really imitate her, too. Of course, she was really quiet about it. But it was dead hilarious! The hardest part was not falling out laughing when Umbritch came round and started talking at us.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 03:54:13](#)  
(no subject)

Our group was pretty funny, too. Morag was supposed to be somebody's great aunt, and she put on this creaky old lady voice and asked a bunch of questions about whether we'd been studying 'Intra Profundis' in Dark Arts class and then she went on and on about what a good book it was, so educational, so detailed, you know.

It livened things up a bit. She said that even if Madam

Umbridge overheard, well, not falling down laughing when an old lady says something she doesn't know is funny? that's an important etiquette skill.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-10 03:20:21](#)

*(no subject)*

Hullo, Ron,

Yes, it was tiresome, wasn't it? I mean to say, if one's already been properly educated in etiquette, it's well tedious to learn all over again, and besides it's rather second-nature, what? But when it's merely an excuse to treat others with a shocking lack of respect then the entire exercise is worse than boring, it's bally well intolerable.

-Justin



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 03:41:01](#)

*(no subject)*

There'll always be people out there who'll hold onto whatever power they have, even if it's incredibly petty. I think people are never ruder than when they demand respect from people because they think they somehow deserve it more.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-10 03:41:23](#)

*(no subject)*

You know. That's the thing, isn't it?

My parents said we ought to be polite to everyone. And I know Mum would say that people using 'precedence' as an excuse to be horrible to someone else is the worst kind of rude you can be.

It would be funny, really, to hear what Mum'd have to say about her if she could have been here today. Mum can be a bit ... opinionated about people.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-10 03:47:40](#)  
(no subject)

That's why I like your mum so much.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 03:56:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well, and she's right. That's why I think this really isn't anywhere near as complicated as Umbritch was making it out to be.

Although there are certain situations where I get to have Pansy's status instead of my own (because I'm her invited guest) and THAT ... well it can be worth knowing, you know? Because every now and then you want to be rude to someone in the most socially acceptable way possible. (Or gracious, but from the position of power.)

But mostly? You can just be polite to everyone.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-10 04:03:49](#)  
(no subject)

Hear, hear, Sally-Anne,

Whenever in doubt, politeness ought always to be the answer.

Oh, and did I read Marvolo's message correctly? If so, congratulations! Well done.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 04:05:54](#)  
(no subject)

I think so?  
I mean I can't think what else he means by 'get me your schedule, I'll have flying drills for you over hols.'





 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:07:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Good show, you!



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:22:02](#)**  
(no subject)


Wonderful!



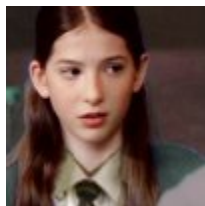
 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-10 14:39:15](#)**  
(no subject)

That's brilliant!



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2012-12-10 14:40:44](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh, that's exciting! Congratulations!



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:06:07](#)**  
(no subject)

I think I'm going to throw up.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:11:08](#)**  
*Private Message to Sally Anne*

Yeah.

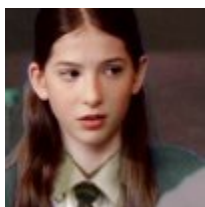
I sort of feel that way, too, half the time about having made it.

If you want to fly sometime, we could. Though I guess that'd be



like practising with the enemy. I'm not sure what Angelina would say about it. Maybe I could tell her I'm learning to anticipate Slytherin strategies?

Mostly, I'd just like to have someone throwing quaffles at me to see if I can get my block ratio up a bit. I could throw them for you if you wanted to do sprint drills.



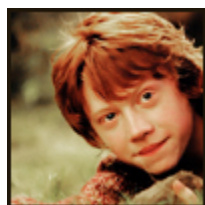
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:16:53](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne*

Well I'm only playing once and it's a match against Ravenclaw. ~~Thank goodness because playing against you would be so~~

I should probably make sure it's okay with Harry? and you should make sure it's okay with Angelina. Over hols I'm thinking I will practise with Jeremy. You might think he'd sabotage me (because he's from Ravenclaw!) but I think he'll actually be really happy for me. He's not that crazy about Ravenclaw these days.

~~Oh Merlin what am I going to say to Mi~~



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:40:04](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne*

Well. You could come to the Burrow over the hols, at least.

I mean, the twins would probably set up dodge drills for you with bludgers if you want. And, you're right. It's just the one match, so it's not like we'd be giving away all our side's secrets. It'd just be basic skills, and you've played with us before loads of times.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-10 04:43:08](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne*

If we were going to be playing against Gryffindor I'd wonder if that's why Harry had picked me -- I mean, you lot basically ARE the

Gryffindor team these days and I've played with you loads of times.



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-12-10 04:48:22**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne*

Hm.

Well. Maybe you should point out how useful that would be so he might think about keeping you on for more than the one match! That would be Slytherin of you.

Of course, we've played with you as much as you have with us, so I'm not really fussed about it. Angelina might see it differently, but she- well, there's taking it seriously, and then there's Angelina's way of looking at Quidditch. Bit of a menace, really.

**2012-12-09 19:29:00**

*Today's lessons.*



 **alt\_umbridge**

**Dear boys and girls,**

How fast our time together has flown! I can scarcely believe we are nearly at the end of our first term working together. Now, I do hope you are all prepared to do just your very best on your coming exams, and that the little notes and study tips from our session in November are still fresh in your mind.

We also covered such a great deal of information today. And so I wanted to give you this space, here, through the wonder of the journals, that if you have any teensy etiquette questions we did not get to this afternoon, that you should feel free to ask them here.

I want to send you back to your parents demonstrating the very best of what the YPL Programme has to offer, encouraging you to be courteous, well-behaved young witches and wizards, a credit to the Protectorate. And of course, the Protectorate traditions of valuing the very best that pure Wizarding blood can bring to our building a bright future.

**Dear parents,**

Let me take the opportunity to let you know about a few teensy advances. You should all have the latest newsletter in hand by now, and I do appreciate each and every letter you've sent. Some of you will even see your letters excerpted in our subsequent newsletters. I have been giving a great deal of thought to something that clearly concerns a number of you, the quality of education here at dear old Hogwarts.

To that end, I have begun observing each of the professors here, getting a better sense of their skill and mastery of material. Thus far, I've had the opportunity to observe Professors Vector, Sinistra, and Acton, and will be observing Professor Grubbly-Plank this week, with the rest to follow once we return from our holidays. And of course, I am teaching myself, now. Our first two weeks of Civics classes have gone splendidly, and I look forward to our next sessions. With that, I have also begun attending staff meetings, and it is just so very intriguing what conversations happen there.

Now, again, any little questions or concerns, you know just where to

find me. I will be continuing to respond to YPL business and correspondence over the holidays - there is no rest for those truly seeking to build our strongest future, of course!

---



 **alt\_umbridge** at **2012-12-10 00:33:38**

*Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Poppy,

Do let me know when you might have a few minutes for me again. It seems as if every time I've stopped by, you have been thoroughly enmeshed in some conversation or another.

The problem is no better, though I suppose it is not vastly worse, either.



 **alt\_poppy** at **2012-12-10 04:26:33**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

You'd be most welcome to stop up tonight if you have not turned in yet. I'm afraid that one cannot schedule around the ailments of school children-- they are impossible to predict and often of an urgent nature.

That said, I would very much like to get to the bottom of the trouble you are experiencing. Does it continue to involve only your ankles and feet? Do you notice any variation in the intensity of the symptoms? Is it less bothersome in the mornings, for instance? Or after bathing? When sitting as opposed to when standing or walking for stretches of time?



 **alt\_umbridge** at **2012-12-10 15:48:23**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Oh, dear. No, I did not see this last night, and this morning has been quite taken up with the Civics classes. I'm rather surprised to see you keeping such late hours, my dear. I would have thought that of anyone, you'd recognise the importance of going early to bed.

I'll try to stop by late this afternoon, or after supper, and see if that

gets us anywhere.

To answer your questions in the meantime: Ankles, feet. Up the calves, at this point. I do wonder if I'm feeling something on my hands, but it's very fleeting. As to variation, some days are better than others, but I admit I've not found a clear pattern yet. Worse in the evenings than the mornings. I'd wonder if the weather had an effect, but it's not as if we've had overmuch variation recently.

And I believe somewhat better after bathing, though I'll pay further attention to that. I do notice it more when I'm walking or moving around.



 **alt\_poppy at 2012-12-11 02:51:47**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

Do stop up this evening if you've the time. Unless this was a day when the symptoms seemed less severe. Given what you say, I would prefer to see you in the evening of a day when you've felt the itching manifest itself, and I'd hope to examine you before you bathe or change any of your clothing on such a day.

I find it unlikely that it's anything to do with the cleansing processes the elves use as one would expect the effect to be more evenly dispersed. It's highly unlikely that you should be the only one with bedbugs if that were the source, and in any case, I didn't think it looked like bites or stings when I examined you the first time.

I suppose it could be a slow-developing reaction to the transfigured ingredients in our diet here. I expect you've not been accustomed to rely so much on transfigured fare?

The trouble with allergies, as I said before, is that they are not always immediate: a body may go on for some time, fending off the irritation before it suddenly succumbs to the botheration.

And you've truly not purchased any new garments--hosiery or shoes, particularly?--or ordered in new bedding? (I know some find the school-issued sheets to be less than satisfactory. It would be understandable.)

Or. Well, while I agree that it seems most like an allergic

irritation, there's always a chance that it's something more sinister. Have you, by any chance, received any gifts recently that we ought to check for tampering or malign influence?

If you wish, you could use the fire to check before coming up. I should hate to have you stop up only to find me in the midst of some emergency. You needn't worry, however, that you'll deprive me of sleep. It is simply a fact of the caregiving profession that one must be able to respond when need requires. I'm blessed with a constitution that demands less sleep than most, it seems, and, of course, over the years I've weaned myself from wanting more.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at **2012-12-11 03:23:28**

*Re: Private message to Poppy Pomfrey*

I'm just waiting for a brief firechat at half-ten, but I will come up thereafter, as I would indeed like to sort out what is going on. It has been an unpleasant day for the symptoms.

To answer your other questions briefly:

Bedbugs, really? I do hope that is not actually a common problem. Or else the habits of the house-elves here need a great deal of attention indeed.

As to diet, I suppose that is possible. You are quite right that the amount of transfigured food at the staff table is surprising to me, though I generally limit myself to the better ingredients.

I've not purchased new garments since the end of the summer, and the sheets on my bed are my own, from my own little house south of New London. Nor have I received any particular gifts. I've started to see a few coming in - it is that time of year, of course - but they all are quite ordinary baskets from widely used businesses. Nothing as yet unusual or even unexpected.

Ah, well. I am glad you have come to some sort of balance with the demands of your position. I must say it's quite a challenge to adapt, myself. There always seems to be one more conversation to have.



 [alt\\_umbridge](#) at [2012-12-10 00:50:00](#)

*Private message to Septima Vector*

Septima -

Well, that's one less thing to manage until January. Honestly, I must give you credit for keeping so many pieces going at once, my dear. Your own classes, and Ravenclaw House, and then keeping everything together for Minerva (and that is just such a task these days.)

Now, are you really sure that the punishments for that duelling circle were the right thing? It just seems uneven and unfair to me, somehow. Only six of them with their magic bound, no matter how many others will end up serving detentions. (And didn't you and I have quite the talk about that kind of punishment not being generally appropriate? How is this different, I ask.) And I still cannot fathom some of the other decisions. Not to remove the Prefects from positions of power..

And related, are you certain that dear Antonin should be teaching? I swear, every time I see him, I have to wonder whether he is really capable of dealing with his classes, should anything arise. I know he's spent quite a bit of time talking to Rabastan and Aurora, but neither of them can be considered an unbiased evaluator of his skills.

Now, on the observations, I am glad you didn't take offence, my dear. You know I have to have something to share with Latimer and with the Board. And Gwendolyn is the same, nothing at all to worry about, though we'll go through the formal process. I am going to be quite curious how Wilhelmina does, on Friday. (And of course I'll continue to share my notes with you.)

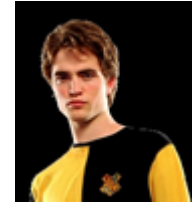
Aurora, well, she does know her field to all accounts, but she does overcomplicate things for herself, doesn't she? (I do hope she sees reason soon and actually plans for a successor, whatever her Guild Master implied about her being difficult to replace.) At any rate, she's made a strong enough objection about most of the points I raised that I will let it be for now. No sense wasting too much energy in pointless back and forth. She does get defensive, doesn't she?

I would love time after supper tomorrow, just the two of us, to chat. I learn so much from you, my dear, about what this school could become, given the right direction.



**2012-12-09 20:02:00**

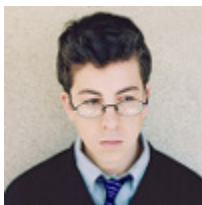
*Private Message to Linus*




 [alt\\_cedric](#)

Look. I know you were involved in the recent debacle. But you went to Professor Dolohov, even if it was after it all went bad. I know you've had several lectures at this point. At the danger of taking the sting out of those well deserved reprimands, has anyone told you what was discovered in your notes? Five of the others in your idiotic little club had hidden curse damage not fully reversed. One of them basically owes you and your notes their life, others would have been in and out of St Mungos for the rest of their lives if the lingering effects had not been dealt with right NOW.

All of this is to say that as a prefect you must not take the abuse from other former members that I saw you taking today. You're a prefect. Behave like it. Your job is to enforce the rules or if you can't bring it to Melinda and my attention or an appropriate professor. While the prefects involved are not losing their positions (if there are no further infractions), I will be giving them only the absolute most basic assignments and as few of those as possible. However, for the remainder of the year rather than rotating prefect meeting secretary duties we will put your love of comprehensive notes to a good use and you will be our secretary. Consider it a reward for coming clean and a punishment for being involved in the first place.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at **2012-12-10 04:00:15**  
(no subject)

While I am immeasurably grateful that the Matron and Professors were able to put right the consequences of our idiocy, I can't claim that any of the good effects of having taken notes owe anything to any conscious decision on my part. In fact, the lack of conscious decision-making is rather a major theme lately from ~~everyone~~ numerous sources. I would be angry about having it pointed out over and over, except that it's quite true, to a shameful degree.

I must learn to think, and I must learn when to take action, and how.

But I'm afraid I'm bereft of ideas about how to deal with the sort of verbal abuse I was getting today, other than to ignore those offering



it. Which doesn't precisely work if I'm supposed to be giving them the kind of guidance a Prefect is supposed to offer.

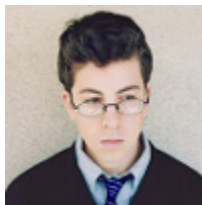



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-12-10 18:15:17](#)**  
(no subject)

It is difficult to respond to that sort of thing when it's directed at yourself rather than at someone else. When it's someone else you just take house points or threaten to take house points if you see it again. That can look like retaliation if you do it when they've come after you.

For now I would suggest two things, ignoring it and travelling with other prefects when reasonable. The prefects are a team, lean on your teammates. You don't get the quaffle in the goal by yourself, your beaters protect you and your fellow chasers pass responsibly back and forth. Flying high and ignoring it is showing leadership. It's demonstrating that they can't taunt you into rash action, that their attacks are unimportant. Padma shares many of your classes, right? Walk with her and they won't dare hit their bludgers at you. Everyone is tense and tempers are running high right now, if things don't improve by next term we can take steps. It's the sort of thing the probably requires a sneaky plot so if necessary we'll discuss it with Melinda.

When and what sort of action to take is something everyone struggles with. I certainly do. Find a friend to talk to about that sort of thing, just talking through the problem out loud can help. Finding an expert can help as well. Over the last year I've found talking with Professor Siz very helpful on a number of issues.



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-12-10 18:38:17](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you. I shall definitely take those points under advisement, as they seem very sound.

Learning when to lean on one's teammates, as you say, and when to make a stand to prevent those teammates from being in harm's way... That is apparently one of the lessons we are here to learn, isn't it? And if I want full marks, I have a great deal of work to do. And it will be work. I can't just cast *Reparo* on my reputation or my record, or use a Time-Turner like in those storybooks.

I shall talk with Padma straightaway. ~~It will probably help that I am trying to retrieve my reputation and redeem my honour.~~ She is well-regarded as having a sensible head on her shoulders, after all.

Professor Siz will probably indeed be helpful, though it is possible that both she and Professor Dolohov will make their most significant contributions to my future by keeping me in detention so much. After all, detention might not be at all pleasant, but one's schoolmates cannot usually get at one, if one is under the eye of a stern taskmaster. So there is that.

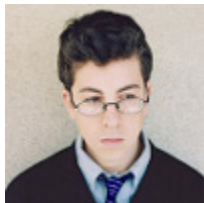



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-12-10 18:43:48](#)**  
(no subject)

I didn't necessarily mean for you to talk to Professor Siz, just that she was helpful for me and that finding a professor mentor can be very helpful.

If anything comes up come talk to me and Melinda.

Time-Turners sound great, but from what I've read about real ones they just cause chaos and exhaustion.




 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2012-12-10 18:56:48](#)**  
(no subject)

A professor mentor would truly be a great resource. Were I so fortunate as to gain such a thing, I would do my best to live up to such a great gift.

Teaching is actually a noble calling. I hadn't... well, I have recently come to the realisation that I have been remiss in not sufficiently valuing the lessons and overarching guidance that the entire staff strives to impart to us. Sometimes against our strenuous efforts.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2012-12-10 04:54:39](#)  
(no subject)

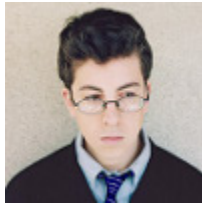
Oh. And the secretary duties -- thank you, I think.  
(You're quite right that it's both a punishment and a reward!)




 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-10 18:18:11](#)  
(no subject)

Do you follow Quidditch? Processional would be best,  
but the House tournament would work.

I know it sounds like a non sequitur but it is relevant.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2012-12-10 18:28:10](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't, much? Well of course I have attended, to  
show House spirit, but I am afraid I have not made  
a study of the intricacies of the game.

It's more complex than it appears at first glance, in terms of  
strategy. And most persons discussing it seem to focus on tactics,  
at least when speaking of the game they've just seen.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-10 19:21:16](#)  
(no subject)

Mendick Hewett is a superstar. Scores lots of goals,  
fans love him, but the Pride hasn't won a  
championship while he's been playing for them.

Oliver Wood was perfectly competent Keeper while here at  
Hogwarts. But his team loved him because he made everyone  
around him better.

Fans and players argue about why this sort of thing is.  
Management wants to measure it. Because if they could measure  
it, they could hire a team of players who make everyone around  
them better and just fly past every other team.

If you want a huge project to throw your notes, analysis and

||| arithmancy at see if you can figure out how to measure the  
intangibles of quidditch team dynamics and you'll go down in  
history as the man who changed the sport.


**2012-12-09 21:46:00**

*Private Message to Troy Derwent*

Troy,

I am so happy for you. You didn't tell me you made your house team. I just saw Harry's post. We will have to find a way to celebrate. What would you like to do? Or would you rather wait until we are out for Winter Hols, so that we can find something better to do in New London?



 [alt\\_ginny](#)

I know we haven't had much time together since school started. Hopefully we can do a lot more soon. My schedule has been very maddening. But as you know after Christmas I won't have to go into New London anymore. So I will have more weekends here and we can do more things together.

Again, I am glad you made your team. Lets plan on eating lunch quickly so we can talk tomorrow. Let me know if that works for you.

**2012-12-09 22:49:00**

*(no subject)*

Thanks to everyone who tried out. Croaker, Derwent, Perks, make sure you let me know your full schedules for the next two weeks so we can fit in an hour or two per week of additional flying time before hols to go over some drills you can practise.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

We'll have our work cut out for us after hols.

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 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-12-10 04:02:35**

*Private Message to Horace Slughorn*

Sir, I was wondering if the banned players could still fly in practice. If it were to train replacements.

I understand if some couldn't for health reasons and all, but it'd be better for the new people if they had someone to play against during practices, and make sure they know the plays and things.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-10 04:04:05**

*Private message to Harry*

Wait

REALLY? You want me to play? ~~Are you sure~~

Um, my schedule, okay. Can I get it to you tomorrow? ~~I have to~~



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-10 04:13:35**

*Re: Private message to Harry*

And, you mean drills during hols, right?

The Strettons I'm not sure

Okay so here's the thing. The Strettons usually make me deliver baskets of jam pretty much continuously from the moment I get to Coventry until ten pm on Christmas Eve. AND they're Ravenclaws, so they're not going to be happy about helping Slytherin win against Ravenclaw (although I think Jeremy won't care anymore

and he'd fly with me, and you know he's actually pretty good.)

BUT

The fact that you're the Quidditch captain ought to make everything okay. You just may have to send me instructions, and make them as specific as possible in terms of how many hours a day, what you want me doing, and so on. If it comes from you they'll let me do it.

Anyway. About my schedule. I've been working for Professor Dolohov -- he's paying me to clerk for him, which means writing out all his Christmas cards, and he's probably got another batch. Mostly I've been going on Monday afternoons. If I can work around that I would prefer to but if not I'm sure he will be understanding.

Other than that it's the same as you -- classes, those stupid YPL exercise sessions, all the rest.



 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2012-12-10 04:19:15**

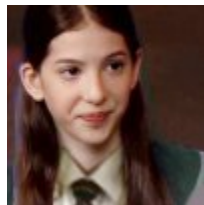
*Re: Private message to Harry*

I can work with that, yeah.

And I'll be specific.

I remember the Strettons.

I might see if I can get you invited to New London during hols to run through some drills for a few hours. As, you know, a guest or something. Depending. I'll try.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2012-12-10 04:22:22**

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Well and after Boxing Day they don't much care what I do. It's just that during the Christmas rush it's nice for them to have another unpaid pair of hands.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-10 04:25:37](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Right. So maybe I'll try to sort things out so you can come up after Boxing Day, but the invitation to come up and instructions for drills can get to you at the start of hols so they'll know I'll expect you to have worked on things when you come up.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-10 04:13:48](#)

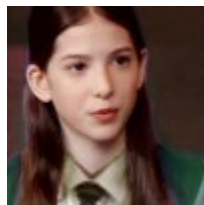
*Re: Private message to Harry*

Yes really.

I mean, of everyone who came out, you could both chuck a quaffle and actually pay attention to Draco and Freddy, and that's probably the most important thing I was looking for.

And you flew with Wood, right?

Tomorrow is fine. I know it'd be extra, but it's important to get on the same page before hols, and I want us to have the best chance of doing well. Show them just how good we really are.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 04:20:10](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Yeah, I flew with Wood, though that was years ago. But Wood pretty much made me LIVE on my broom that summer.

I've flown with Jeremy Stretton a fair amount, too. He was a decent player before he got kicked off the Ravenclaw team over those potions, second year.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-10 04:27:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

I remember, yeah. And if Stretton's willing to work with you, I'll make sure to include some drills that he could join you on.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 04:30:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

He's never yet refused to fly!

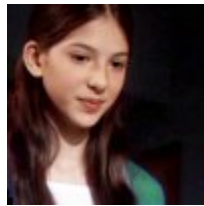
His parents take his broom away sometimes though, so you might want to put that in your message. That he should come flying too.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-10 04:31:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Okay.

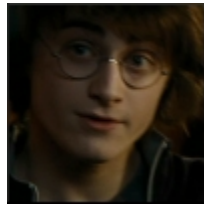


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-10 04:23:05](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Oh and thank you.

Sorry, I should have said that first, instead of 'are you mad?'



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-10 04:31:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry*

You must need another round with Hembridge to learn proper manners, then.

Honest, Sally-Anne, I picked you because you were the best one to come out for the spot. You earned it fair and square.

**2012-12-10 12:24:00**

*Private Message to Bill and Charlie Weasley*



Boys,

I really need to talk to you.

 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Yesterday had its highs and lows. No need to worry about the highs. As for the lows, our dear Madam Umbridge could stoop no lower with her "inspirational badges". We had a topic yesterday that Percy would have loved. We talked about how to behave at parties and who takes precedence over whom. Did you know that even though we have been pureblood for ages, being a Weasley automatically knocks us down a level?

We were in groups, role playing, and she came around to my group. We had to line ourselves up as if we were being formally announced at a grand event. Once we had our line together, she said "Hem, hem, Miss Weasley, you are not that high up. You must go lower". I could barely keep my composure. I am amazed that I was able to bite my tongue. I know rank shouldn't really matter, but to be publicly embarrassed is uncalled for. No one ever wants to hear badly disguised snickering, due to something being pointed out about one's self.

She is just so infuriating. How did she ever get to be the Minister of Magic by being so ...NASTY. She was giving out badges today, as I said before. The one she gave to Neville Longbottom said "Knows Your Place" or something like that. I just barely saw it as she handed it to him. When she got around to handing badges to my group, she looked at me and said "having a pretty and well publicised face doesn't make you important". Then she promptly handed me two badges. The first said "Looks out for herself" and the second which clipped just below the first said "Over - ambitious". Since when has having a little ambition, and stretching your wings to find out who you are and what you want to do with your life, become a bad thing? Or is it just bad because my last name is Weasley?

That was the reason I started signing my letters Ginny or Ginny W. Do either of you ever feel like you can't get anywhere no matter what you do? I mean, I can't win doing what I know is right, and I can't win by following popular opinion. So what's next?

A little help is appreciated.  
Ginny

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 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-10 22:18:59**  
(no subject)

Ugh. What an awful, awful thing for her to do to you all, Ginny-bean. Not just humiliating you in particular like that, but to set you all up to look at each other and try to figure out who's "better" than who is just wrong. There's no way that ends well.

But -- look, Bean, one of the hardest lessons I ever learnt was that there are always going to be people who like to look down their noses at me. For whatever reason (and there are a lot of them) -- because of our last name, because Dad's not interested in status and glory at the Ministry, because we can't prove we're just as pureblood as anybody else the way people want you to prove it, because we're not as well off as other people are, because I work with dragons, because I work with my hands, because I don't own a single set of robes that aren't scorched or torn somewhere ... the list goes on, forever and ever.

It used to get straight up my nose. (Ask Bill, he'll tell you.) I mean, who were they to be looking down their noses at me? But then I woke up one day, and it was like something had twisted around in my head, and I suddenly saw it more as: well, all right, they're looking down their noses at me, but who are they that I should care about what they think?

It's not as easy as that, I know. Especially when you're still in Hogwarts, all mashed together with all sorts of people (and having to deal with Madam Umbridge telling you to your face that you aren't worth the same as everyone else, on top). By the time I realised it had stopped bothering me, I was already up here at Stornoway, doing what I love and what I'm bloody well good at, and that helped too, 'cause I know I'm bloody good at it and I don't need anyone to tell me that. And I know it doesn't help to hear "it gets better", not when things are bad now, but -- It does get better, Bean. It really does.

And I think the first step to making it start to get better, for me at least, was to sit down and give my life a good hard think. It was this

time of year a while back, actually, on my 17th birthday. Dad pulled me aside and told me I was a man now and it was time I thought about what I wanted to do in life, and what I cared about, and what values and ideals were important to me, and what kind of a person I wanted to be. And I decided that I didn't want to be the kind of person who was constantly worrying about what others thought about me, because that would just make me miserable. I wanted to be the kind of person like Mum and Dad are, someone who was kind to others (even when they were nasty to me) just because it was the right thing to do, and the kind of person who helped people out just because they needed help and not because of what they could do for me in return. Because that was what Mum and Dad taught me, and that's what was important to me.

That's what it means to be a Weasley. That's what those people are sneering at, when they look down their nose at our last name and our red hair and our chickens and our goats. They're sneering at how Dad and Bill work their tails off at the Ministry to make things better for the people their departments are there for. They're sneering at how Mum is always there to give anything she can to someone who needs something that we have and can give them. They're sneering at how even when we don't have much, we'll give whatever we have to someone who has nothing. They're sneering at how anyone who's nearby at a mealtime will always be welcome at the kitchen table, no questions asked, no matter what. They're sneering at how even when we don't always like each other, even when we feel like the rest of the family doesn't understand us, we're still a family, and we're still there for each other.

I'll take being a person like that over fancy parties and 'inspirational' badges and always having to watch your back to see if someone's waiting to snicker at every little thing you do wrong, any day.

I think it's okay if you don't know what you want to do with your life, it's okay if you try out a bunch of things and see what you like and what you hate, as long as you keep sight of what's really important like that. And it doesn't matter who you decide you want to be, as long as you remember that 'Weasley' means you do have family, and you do have family traditions, even if they don't look like everyone else's might. Our traditions aren't about stuffy tapestries and who-outranks-who, they're about being warm and friendly and open and generous to the people around us who need it. And I like those traditions a lot better, and you can keep them anywhere you go.

Does that help any?

I'll be home for Christmas, and we can talk more about this then. And you should always remember that I love you.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-11 04:26:47](#)  
(no subject)

Charlie,

I suppose working with dragons have made you sappy. But I think I understand what you mean. Perhaps this required further discussion. And have you guys home would be a great way to deal with it. I think I know what I want. But I'm only 14, so that could change with the wind right? I'm not worried about that so much. Being in the public's eye, the way I was, this past year has opened my eyes to different things. It made me realise what I take for granted, and I hope I can appreciate those things more.

But really, if you had to tolerate her day in and day out, you would find it all maddening.

Sorry, I'm not really sure what to say here. I think you have stumped me. Which is not an easy thing to do. But I promise to give it all some thought. I am glad you will be home for Christmas this year. We really have missed you.

One more thing Charlie. Don't you think I'm getting too old for you to still call me Ginny Bean. Or is that sort of the timeless nickname that an older brother will always use for his favourite sister. (By the way, it makes me smile and sort of chuckle to see that you are still using it.)



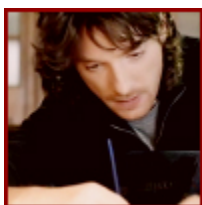
 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-11 10:30:37](#)  
(no subject)


Sorry, Ginny-Bean, you're stuck with it. Older brother prerogative. Glad it makes you smile, 'cause you're going to be hearing it for the rest of our lives, probably!

But while you're thinking about it, think about what it is that's important to you. Not what other people think, or what's important to them. You'll always be able to find the kind of people who agree

with you about what's important someday -- it might take a bit, but you can find them. And it doesn't matter what the people who don't agree with you about what's important think, because you're playing by different sets of rules, so why does it matter whether they think you're winning or losing?

I'll tell you a secret. Sometimes it's fun to stand there and watch people trying to make you feel bad about yourself and not let it get to you. Because they just keep trying harder and harder to make you feel bad, and you just keep getting happier and happier and do whatever you were going to do anyway. I don't think you want to do that at Hogwarts, since it can also annoy people and make them want to get back at you, and you're stuck up that castle with everyone, but you can think about how fun it'll be in the future.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-11 02:16:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Ginny,

I read your message at lunch and I thought about it all afternoon, because I meant to compose a nice long reply for you tonight. Now that I've finally sat down to do so, it's only to discover that Charlie has beaten me to the punch by saying just about everything I intended to say. (Thanks for doing my work for me, bro).

He's given you good advice, and I hope you listen. I guess what I'd add is, why do you assume you can't 'win' by doing what is right? Maybe you need to give some thought to what you understand 'winning' to be. Does it mean having pots of money, so you can buy all the toys you could possibly want? Approval of someone like Umbridge? (Surely you're not coveting more of those stupid badges, are you?) Fame? Meaningful work that makes a difference? A family that loves you and supports you through thick and thin, whether it's us Weasleys or a new family you'll make for yourself some day? Charlie put his finger on it: in order to figure out what 'winning' means to you, you need to suss out what your values are.

There are people who buy into what Umbridge is peddling, sure. But I suspect you wouldn't be particularly happy if you try to turn yourself into someone they would admire, in hopes of pleasing them. If you decide their admiration isn't important to you, on the other hand, then their sneers won't matter a jot to you. After all, you've

already made it clear you don't respect Umbridge's opinions, so don't give her space in your head to make you ashamed of yourself.

That's all, except to add that I'm sorry to that she insulted you like that. You'd be wise not to anger her or challenge her, but that doesn't mean you have to swallow what she says, right?



 **alt\_ginny** at [2012-12-11 05:05:07](#)  
(no subject)

Bill,

You don't have to worry. I don't admire or want to be admired by Umbridge or that lot. At least I don't now. A year ago, that may have been different. I think now that I couldn't care less, and I think that is saying a lot.

I understand what you are pointing out, but I think my definition is not clear. Its not really money or fame I worry about. But I don't like being held back because of my name. I mean, why does status of birth or ministry affiliation have to matter at all. I'm more than smart enough to do whatever it is that I want to do, but just because my last name is Weasley, I am suddenly not what... competent, worthy, good enough? I don't get it. I am one of the top students in my year. Is that all for naught?

Will the effort that I put in now not work in my favour later? Why is ambition a good thing to have but bad for a Weasley? Unless, perhaps that Weasley happens to be Percy? Shouldn't we all want to be the best we can become, with out worrying about what other might think, or what that ambition might do? I'm not power hungry after all. And I don't brown nose. And I have too much spine to bend over and kiss someones arse, unlike some I could name.

I just don't understand why, wanting a bright future has to be seen as a bad thing in my case. Or is that it? As long as my beliefs and actions are for the best, who cares what others think? Right?

Am I really putting to much weight on what others think? Is that something that we just get over? Is it just part of being an adolescent? Or maybe it is the residual effect of my choices this past year.

The thing is, I can remember a time where I didn't care, but then my temper would get the best of me. Maybe I have spent too much time working towards becoming what is currently considered acceptable, and I need to renew the determination that at the end of the day it is only how my family views me and how I feel about myself that matters most.

I suppose I just can't tolerate being disrespected. And it doesn't matter if that person is my elder or not. And Bill, don't worry. I am young, but I am not stupid or mad even. I don't trust her enough to have my back turned in her direction, so I would never try to challenge her or anger her. I do believe I can see through her plastered countenance, and see her for what she really is. Sugar is not not always sweet. Sometimes it is bitter or even rotten to its core. I don't pretend to understand her completely, but that much I think I comprehend very well.

I hope you are having a good night. I suppose I should actually put my book away for tonight and get more sleep for a change.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-11 12:54:51](#)

(no subject)

Caring what others think is a normal part of being an adolescent, yes. And that's entirely natural. Think about it: what you're doing at this stage of your life is experimenting, trying on a lot of different identities to figure out who you are. Sort of like trying on different hats. Some people try on really outrageous hats when they are teens. And sometimes part of trying to figure out how a hat looks on you is gauging the reaction of the people around you, so that's a reason to care what they think. But eventually, as you grow older, you'll settle down into whatever suits you the best.

*As long as my beliefs and actions are for the best, who cares what others think?*

Dad once told me the difference between reputation and honour: reputation is what people know (or think they know) about you. Honour is what you know about yourself. Now a bad reputation can be really really annoying. But sometimes, if the values of the culture around you are really skewed, it can be unavoidable. You may have only limited control of what other people think of you. You should be careful not to do things that needlessly gouge your



reputation.

But what really counts in the end is honour, what you know in your own heart to be true. That you must guard with everything you have.

**[2012-12-10 22:26:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma*

Hey, I just wanted to pre-emptively congratulate Ravenclaw on their victory over Slytherin in the next match.



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

Three players benched! AND pretty much all their reserves benched, too. Putting Perks on the team as a Chaser is pretty much the definition of 'complete desperation,' I think... and Croaker and Derwent have never exactly been serious players.

Your side's down a few players, too, but at least you had some reserves to fall back on.



---

 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-11 04:41:14](#)**  
(no subject)

I know!

Actually, it's four players on the bench for them, only Marvolo already had Symmons on the reserves. But still. Perks! Of all people. I wonder if Parkinson paid him to do it? Or maybe she'll start copying out all his essays for him--did you know she's working for Dolohov now? I bet anything Siz set that up now that she can't play favourites with her in the YPL.

Ours is nothing like their problem. Even if Samuels is done for the foreseeable future, that's only one Beater to replace. Nerea's going to go in as Chaser for the one match, so at least she's used to flying with the others. And Marvolo as Captain--well, I mean, it's nothing against him, of course, but he's no leader. It'll be a complete rout.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-11 04:47:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd forgotten about Symmons! Parkinson paying Marvolo off would make some sense, except I can't imagine he needs the money.

Marvolo would be a fine leader if it weren't for the fact that he's terrified of telling anyone what to do because he doesn't want them

thinking they HAVE to do it. So he might not be a terrible Quidditch captain but I think you're right he won't be a great one.

What on earth is Perks doing for Dolohov?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-11 04:59:33](#)  
(no subject)

No, I can't imagine he needs it, either, but I can believe she went to him with some sad story about how Perks has always dreamed of playing and he fell for it.

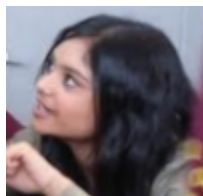
And she's writing out Christmas cards for him. Professor Dolohov, I mean. Some bollocks about her handwriting being all tidy. I heard from Linus; he found out about it when he was serving detention last week.

So, any plans for Hogsmeade?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-11 05:09:11](#)  
(no subject)

Christmas shopping. You?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-11 05:24:17](#)  
(no subject)

Oh? Who for?

A bunch of us are going down together. You know, Lines has been getting some grief from a few of the older students on account of speaking up, so he's clinging like a vine just now. Which is fine--I mean, I'd rather have him stick to the group than meet with mischief--but it makes it hard to break away for a private butterbeer with Dames or Tamblyn, if either of them asked.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2012-12-11 05:27:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Friends. The usual. No Evgeni, this year -- I'm sending him a card, though.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-11 05:34:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, I thought maybe you'd started seeing someone else here. Not that I would know who but you said usually one of you can tell another one.

Well, Pav and I promised Lav we wouldn't look if she needed to buy anything for us. I'll make you the same promise, you can come along with us all if you like.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2012-12-11 05:56:44](#)**  
(no subject)

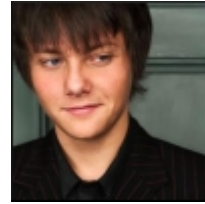
That would be great.

**2012-12-10 22:30:00**

*Well done, Sally-Anne!*

Congratulations on making the Slytherin side.

I just hope it doesn't make all the difference, ha-ha. We'll probably win anyway, since half your team will be new. Don't take it personally, though!



 [alt\\_michael](#)

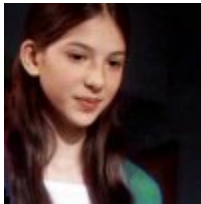
(And that's not me using improper etiquette, either, since we're just about equal in precedence, heh.)

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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-11 03:34:15**  
(no subject)

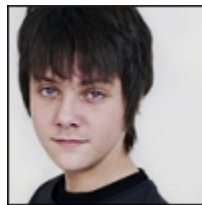
Thanks. Just so long as you don't hold it against me when we beat you.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-11 03:38:57**  
(no subject)

And just think, we would have had to sit with the Hufflepuffs (neutral territory!) if we'd wanted to sit together.

But now you can sit with your own House and cheer against me and I'll see you after the match, right?

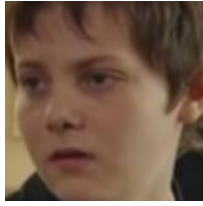


 [alt\\_michael](#) at **2012-12-11 03:42:10**  
(no subject)

Well, it's true we can still sit in Ravenclaw this way, but I think I'll have to cheer for you but against Slytherin, if I can manage that.

Don't the Slytherin team usually all go back to your Common Room and set high tea after their matches?

On second thought, you'd better come and see me since no one will make you have to *serve* the tea!



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 03:45:05](#)

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Or...do you think this would be a good reason to use that coin thing? To get everyone together to celebrate?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 03:50:36](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

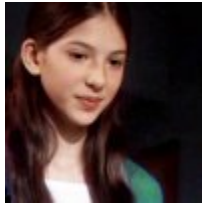
Oh -- good thought. There WILL be something in the common room (butterbeer, probably, not high tea) at least if we win but maybe a little while after?



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 03:53:17](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

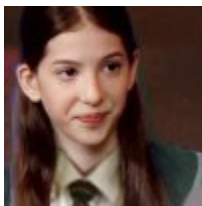
Well, how about right after if you don't win but a couple hours after if you do? Which you shan't, by the way.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 03:55:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Sounds perfect.

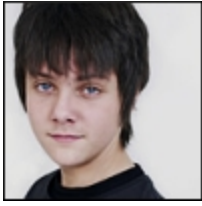


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 03:35:15](#)

*Private message to Michael*

And UGH don't even joke about that stupid precedence stuff.

YPL was a lot better without Hembridge.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 03:39:40](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

Don't come round the Ravenclaw dormitories, then. Capper and I have been telling each other all day to hold the doors for each other and then to piss off, halfblood. Luckily Moon's still so upset with himself over grassing on the Duelling Club that he's not even noticed we're mocking the whole thing.

Nor has Padma, but if she did, we'd just tell her we're practising.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 03:52:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

That's awesome.

I'm not the only halfblood in Slytherin but most of the rest are like Susan Bones -- quarter not half, not fostered, etc. Milli's a halfblood but she still HATES it if anyone brings it up.

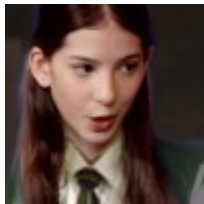


 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 03:57:41](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

We're about half (hah), but not as many as are in Hufflepuff. Gryffindor's about even too, isn't it?

But really, it's not a problem because most of us don't fuss over it; there are other things more important. And when we *do* fuss over it it's--well, it's different. I mean, Padma. I know you can't stand her but she's really all right once you show her you're worth something. And she keeps people's confidences, too. Sort of like the way you talk about Pansy Parkinson.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 04:02:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

She kept Susan Bones' confidences really well, after Megan Jones passed them along to her.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 04:04:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

(Padma, I mean.)

Pansy really does keep confidences. Maybe Padma does for Ravenclaws, I mean I wouldn't know if she's doing a good job keeping them, right?



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 04:15:32](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

Well, that was ages ago. But I know people who've told her things as a Prefect, and even before this year, Su Li says she'd trust her with anything. And Finnigan confides in her all the time, and he's not a Ravenclaw.

That's what I'm saying--Padma and Pansy seem like they're a lot alike to me. Only Pansy can throw more sickles round if she needs to do, Padma has to rely on doing people good turns so they'll like her back. She can't just assume that they'll treat her respectfully, even if she is a pureblood. She's had to work for what she's got. I can understand that she'd be jealous of her place and want to keep it, even if that means sometimes playing dirty.

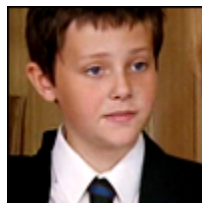
Aren't you always saying that playing dirty's all right, so long as it gets you what you want in the end?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-11 04:17:45](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

I can't remember EVER saying that, actually.



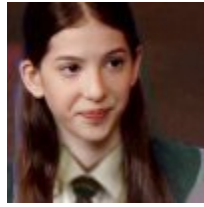
 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-11 04:19:23](#)

*Re: Private message to Michael*

Well, that's how the rest of your House seems to think, anyway.



And that's really what Madam Umbridge is telling us, too, in her way. So you can't blame Padma for believing it.

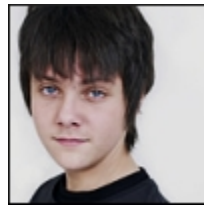


 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-11 04:23:51](#)**

*Re: Private message to Michael*

Yeah, we all hear the same thing from Umbridge.

It's Patil's choice whether she believes it. Just like it's yours.



 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2012-12-11 04:27:21](#)**

*Re: Private message to Michael*

I'm not saying I believe it. I'm saying that if the world is really the way Umbridge tells us, it's up to us to find a way to live with it.

Anyway, you're obviously getting upset, so I guess I'll go do some revision.

I'll see you tomorrow, maybe.

**[2012-12-10 23:51:00](#)**

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*

Mr Malfoy;

I just wanted to say thanks for the gift. I got it today at dinner, but I got busy with studying after and it got too late to send off a proper owl, but I will tomorrow.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

It's really nift. Really. And I know what you mean about wishing I were captain under better circumstances, but maybe if I work at it enough this year I'll be able to make captain next year and have the experience to really have a good season. I mean, I'm going to do my best this time around, and because people aren't expecting us to be able to do much, I figure that'll give us a bit of an advantage.


I'm sure everyone will be happy with the new robes and all, and the playbook really is a find. There's some plays in there that no-one in Ravenclaw would've ever seen before because it's been ages since they've been tried, and it's already given me a ton of ideas for what our strategy should be in the next match. And the playbook is Pansy's dad's book, right? I'll be sure to show it to her. I think she'd like that I was taking her dad's advice.

But yeah. It was really

It was really nice of you. To send that along and all.

So thanks.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **[2012-12-11 05:15:17](#)**

*(no subject)*

You're very welcome, Harry, and congratulations, again.

Yes, it was Tony's own playbook (we each had one but as he was Captain he had annotations on the plays). I'm pleased you'll be sharing it with Pansy. She is, as you can imagine, eager for any artefact that offers a glimpse of the man her father was. Use it well.

I'm sure you feel a greater amount of pressure to win this match -

and of course, I do hope that the strategies in the playbook help you - but I also caution you not to over-think your responsibility. No one expects Slytherin to win under the circumstances (though if you should do, so much the better!). The important thing, as you say, is to get your broom under you as Captain so that next year you'll know exactly what to do.

To that end, the best advice I can give you is to trust your instincts and your authority. The team will want to know that you are confident in your decisions. Even if they turn out to be wrong, simply make a choice. You may always change your directions later.

You'll do fine.

**2012-12-11 00:37:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

Received a thank-you from Harry for his playbook. Which he tells me arrived at supper this evening.

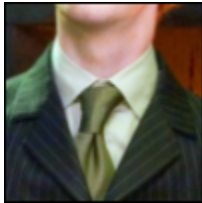


 **alt\_lucius**

It was meant to arrive on the heels of Horace's news that he'd been conferred Captain. Thought I'd made that clear when I gave you the item last week.

If you've slipped this deadline, Merlin only knows what else you've chosen to ignore in favour of your domestic situation.

A wise wizard would be prepared to explain himself - *fully* - in the morning.



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-11 12:22:05**  
(no subject)

Yes, sir. I shall be prepared to do so when I come into work, sir.

**2012-12-11 10:40:00**

*Private message to Penelope Clearwater*

I cannot meet you for lunch today as we planned. My meeting with Mr Malfoy this morning...well, it was horrible.



 [alt\\_percy](#)

I don't dare leave my desk today.

---



 [alt\\_penelope](#) at **2012-12-11 17:19:21**  
(no subject)

What happened? I know you were worried when you saw his note last night.

You're not in trouble, are you? Over a book?

I'm still going to have to leave to grab something, even if you can't come along. You know we didn't pack lunches because we were planning to meet.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2012-12-11 22:14:43**  
(no subject)

Let's just say he wasn't pleased.

I'm going to swing by Dad's office and see if he can go out with me for a pint at the Leaky Cauldron.. I think I need to bend his ear a little.

Don't know how late I'll be.

**2012-12-11 11:39:00**

*Order Only: Communications*



 **alt\_severus**

While the rest of you lot have been wringing your hands about long-term strategy and squabbling endlessly about tactics necessary to achieve interim goals, Miss Granger has applied herself to one of the problems that have plagued operations since the Order's inception: communication. I have examined her solution and found it charmingly unsophisticated, but otherwise quite adequate from both ease-of-construction and operational security standpoints.

As Miss Granger is entirely too modest to advance her proposition to the group as a whole, I will take the decision out of her hands: Miss Granger, when you have a moment, kindly explain.



 **alt\_hermione** at **2012-12-11 21:33:08**  
(no subject)

Oh!

Well, it wasn't just me, I mean I had loads of help, and it took a while, it wasn't just one night's work or anything. And you're right, it's really a very simple form given what went into making it, I'm sure there could be a version that's loads better.

But it's a coin, you see, and it can be inscribed with a short message by tracing letters with a thumb or finger. Then there's a way to activate the spell on it so that the message goes to all the other people with a connected coin.

The coin turns warm in everyone's pockets when there's a new message. Anyone can write a message but you can't tell who wrote it unless they say, and the coin will store 23 messages (when there are more than 23 the oldest one disappears), and they're really short messages but it's enough to tell a group of people something in a hurry, if you need to do.

I thought, you know, what Sirius said about being able to send messages to more than one place at a time. It might work for that.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-11 21:43:05](#)  
(no subject)

Hermione,

You're brilliant! How many do you have? Could we have a look at one?

(It's Hogsmeade on Saturday, isn't it?)



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-11 21:45:33](#)  
(no subject)

We made about 30 of them and most of them have been given to students. Right now we're mainly using them to have revising sessions or little meetings to make fun of Madam Umbridge (which no one seems to have a problem doing, even if I'm there).

The twins have them and they gave one to Terry, so he could show Mr and Mrs Longbottom if he wanted to do.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-11 21:51:45](#)  
(no subject)

That's right clever. Well done, you.

How do you make them? Is it something you can add to later if you want to hook up some more?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-11 21:57:31](#)  
(no subject)

We can although we haven't yet so we don't know how well the new ones will work.

There are a couple of spells and then there's also a potion that gets mixed with the gold when it gets melted down. So I suppose if we had to make loads and loads of them we could start with something that isn't gold, like lead or tin, and then we could transfigure the whole thing when it's done to look like a gold Galleon.

The only thing is that the magic to activate them uses a drop of- of blood. Blood magic. That was the only way we could figure to do it without needing a wand. On the other hand, that made it loads easier to also make people swear they wouldn't knowingly betray the secrets told on the coins or by the people who hold them.

Some of us weren't very happy about using blood magic, even for something really important like that, but don't other forms of magical contract require blood binding and oaths and all? So I don't see that it's all that different, and it's not even a particularly strong compulsion spell.




 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-11 22:48:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I'm sure you made sure it couldn't be used to hurt you, right? You're clever about thinking things through like that. And you're right blood magic's used in all kinds of contracts and agreements and such.

Compulsion magic, though -- that stuff's tricky. From everything I've ever read about it, that stuff can backfire on you when you least expect it. But I'm sure you thought that part through as well, and also made sure people knew what they were getting into, so I suppose that makes it all right. I can see why some of you lot might be skittish about it, though.

But the only way I can think of to link objects up like that is the Protean charm -- that's seriously advanced magic right there, it is. I'm impressed.



 **alt\_terry** at [2012-12-11 23:22:14](#)  
(no subject)

I wasn't sure about the blood spell when she explained it at first, but now that I've held my coin, I don't think it's a problem. Anyway, I don't get that awful feeling I used to get whenever I handled the git's Dark stuff. It does feel different in your hand than an ordinary galleon, so you're not likely to spend it by mistake.

Another point to the blood charm that Hermione didn't



mention is security. Which I think is really important. Your coin that you've marked with your own blood will only work for you, and nobody else can read the messages on it. What's more, the blood also activates a whistle-and-come charm so you can't lose it -- if someone steals it from you they'll lose it and it'll find its way back to you. Which is another point in this system's favour.

Anyway, I was wary about the idea at first, but I think that what Hermione and the others have come up with is dead clever.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at 2012-12-11 21:50:22

*Private Message to Sirius*

Are you coming up to Hogsmeade this weekend? Harry's been wondering if he'd see you. We could show you the coin then. He's got one and Draco Malfoy, too, but they know that I helped make them and they're both fine with that. Draco's changing a little bit, I think, though mostly he's just worried that people will figure out that Harry and I are--more like friends than not, I suppose. I don't know quite what we are because, well, you know.

But I know Mr Lupin wasn't very happy you came last time so if you can't get away we can make sure you get one to look at. Only I don't think it's right for you or Mr Lupin or the Longbottoms to have the same coins we all have, only because someone might want to say something on the coins that--well, we have to have some things that are just ours, don't we?

Besides, it really is just things like "Meet at the lake after lunch on Saturday" and "Come to the library after supper to revise for Charms." Nothing that would be all that interesting to someone who isn't at Hogwarts.

But I think Harry would love to see you, if you could come.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-11 22:04:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sirius*

Remus wasn't happy because it was right after a full moon and there were--other things he wasn't happy about just then. It's fine.

Tell Harry I'll meet you at the stile on the end of the High Street, past Dervish and Banges, about one o'clock on Saturday.

See you then.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-11 22:40:56](#)

*(no subject)*

That does sound like a marvellous way to open up communication with our connections in the camps -- and very easy to use without wands.

Thank you, Hermione.

I don't suppose Muggles would be able to use it? We might test and see.

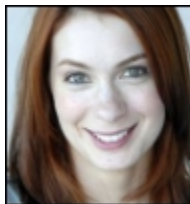


 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-11 23:22:57](#)

*(no subject)*

I was wondering about that, too, whether Muggles could use them.

I'd be happy to show you mine.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-12 00:14:31](#)

*(no subject)*

I'd like that. Thank you, love.

If it's coded to you specifically, I suppose we won't be able to test it until we make our own, but it'd be good to see one.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-11 22:00:40](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Good show, Hermione!

A coin's a really brilliant idea. The right sort of size and common enough it's easy to keep secret.

But now listen here, Severus Snape. I don't know who you're accusing of doing nothing but hand-wringing. The rest of us out here are getting on with business and doing quite a lot to make connections all over the Protectorate. Which you might know if you weren't doing nothing but hiding away down in your dungeons.

You're right, though: we'll find good use for Hermione's coins. They'd be brilliant help with what we're doing.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2012-12-11 22:07:10](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I would happily leave my dungeons for a quality-grade research potions lab, should one be outfittable. Which, clearly, is not a priority -- despite the good it would do -- and so I will continue my thankless drudgery.

**2012-12-11 13:29:00**

*Private message to Antonin Dolohov  
and Rabastan Lestrangle*



Gentlemen -

I just know that you are both as eager as I to instill in our dear students the glories of service to the Protectorate, and remind them of the long memory of those who most closely serve Our Lord.

 [alt\\_umbridge](#)

Now, as you know, we've begun our new civics lessons with the first and second year students, and one of the second years in the Ravenclaw class had just the most wonderful suggestion this morning. The more we discussed it, the more I became certain it was exactly what we all need to hold Our Lord's purpose fast in our minds and hearts. And of course, to direct the energies of our dear students in the most appropriate and *productive* direction.

The suggestion, in brief, is to create a memorial garden here at Hogwarts to honour those Council Members who have fallen in Our Lord's service. Reviewing some of the history, perhaps we might also somehow include those students who fought and died in the campaigns of 1983 and 1984.

Certainly, there will be details to sort out, much necessary research, and decisions on how to present the names in an engaging way with some hint of their greatest accomplishments. I'm sure that can all be sorted out quite easily with a little dedicated interest.

Do tell me I might count on your support, and perhaps some of your time to consult about the planning, before I make a formal proposal to Minerva and the Board of Governors? It would go ever such a long way toward showing a unified vision celebrating Our Lord's leadership from those shaping young minds here at Hogwarts.

Would you have time to meet late this week or early next? I understand you have exams to consider and mark, but I'm sure you'll both be able to add this one teensy thing. Perhaps Saturday, if neither of you are obliged to supervise the Hogsmeade excursion.

Do let me know.  
Dolores

---



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-11 22:21:16](#)  
(no subject)

Your desire to honour our lost is entirely too generous. I'm certain that whatever you have in mind would be a sight to behold.

Sadly, you are correct that the end of term is not the best of times -- I will get back to you in a day or two after Raz and I are able to confer.



 **alt\_umbridge** at [2012-12-12 00:46:45](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I suppose I had forgotten that it's Rabastan's evening to work with students, isn't it? I suppose one must let them work out their energies somewhere, especially now that the weather's gotten so difficult.

And I suppose you - both of you - do have obligations. Though surely, you must have your exams and class preparation already in place through the end of term?

If I don't hear back, I will check in with you, oh, let's say Friday, in deference to the last few days of term? Or earlier, of course, if you've had your chance to confer before then. My time is certainly at the disposal of such an important project, just as it ought to be.

**2012-12-11 17:09:00**

*Private Message to Lucius and Barty*



 [alt\\_antonin](#)

And as though this month has not been enough of a trial: today Dolores bloody Umbridge messaged me and Raz saying that she's had the most wonderful little idea: 'to create a memorial garden here at Hogwarts to honour those Council Members who have fallen in Our Lord's service'.

I cannot tell if my anger is due to the suggestion itself -- ours are not her dead to mourn and I would rather their names remain forever unspoken than to be used as fodder in her cheap and tawdry political machinations -- or the implication that of course we will drop everything and rush to do her bidding. (Or possibly it is the constant rebuke threaded throughout her message -- 'to direct the energies of our dear students in the most appropriate and *productive* direction' being the most outright, but hardly the only.)

Barty -- if she should turn up dead one morning, do arrange to be given the case. I promise I will make it look sufficiently like an accident. (I am joking. ...Mostly.)

Do talk me out of telling her where to stuff her plants? I know we cannot expect outsiders to understand that which ties us together -- and I know there are many even of our company who would find my protectiveness over our dead to be sentimentalist twaddle -- but I still cannot help but fume, and all I want to do is curl up and hiss at her like a dragon protecting its kits.

Am I being unreasonable? ...no, allow me to revise that question: am I being unduly unreasonable? (I know I am being unreasonable, but a certain amount of unreasonableness is, after all, our prerogative, and after the last few months I believe I am overdue for my share.) I have not yet spoken to Raz -- I will catch him at supper -- to see what his thoughts are, but I know myself: when I react this fervently to what will look like a wholly innocent suggestion to others, it is best to get a second opinion.

---



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-11 22:14:47](#)  
(no subject)

I could pay a visit to Madam Umbridge myself, if you don't want it on your ledger.

Sufficiently like an accident. Say the word.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-11 22:19:52](#)  
(no subject)

You have no idea how tempted I am.

Or, rather, I suspect you do. But no: after three months of putting up with her, I would claim the satisfaction myself. Though you'd be welcome to join me: I would not deny you the pleasure.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-11 22:21:25](#)  
(no subject)

If the discussion is to take that turn, Barty, then do not think you shall be left alone to claim the satisfaction. Believe I have at least as much right as any, after four years of suffering her week after week.

But. In all seriousness, you two, the idea has merit, if only she had not been the one to suggest it.

Toshenka, how are Lycus' boys? One of them was mixed up in the unauthorised duelling, was he not?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-11 22:33:34](#)  
(no subject)

I do not know how you did it. But I've long known you've the most patience out of all our lot.

And yes. If it had been anyone else, I would have smiled and nodded and let them do whatever they wished. But the thought of her using our lost to score points in her petty little manoeuvrings --

Well. I managed to be cordial enough in my reply to her -- but it will not stop me from snarling where she cannot hear. They are ours, not hers, and no puffed-up pink-clad toad of a flunky has the right to mourn our dead.

Lycus's eldest was one of the ringleaders, yes. I was forced to impose on him the same punishment as the others responsible, but I've let him know privately that I am willing to take him under my wing as much as I might. He does not seem to be taking his father's death well -- well, neither of the boys are, but I suppose that's to be expected. I cannot imagine how they might react to this.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2012-12-11 22:54:35**  
(no subject)

Not sure I agree with you on the point of patience. Currently running out of it with my clerk - but I do think I've set in motion the final push he needs to devote himself fully and unreservedly to my service. It's his move, at any rate.

However, *do* agree with you, brother, that the source is truly the problem, not necessarily the sentiment. Still. When I consider how Pansy might have prospered more in her first year, had there been a place she could go to invoke her father's memory, or were there one Charles or Darius could visit now, and what trouble that might have saved .... If the bovine baggage is sincere in her proposal, then it's easily handled. We shall simply inform her that the Council would naturally oversee and appoint all decisions related to the design and installation of the thing. If she wishes the YPL to do the work, no matter. We can see to it that no credit for the effort actually reaches her pink and padded shoulders.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-11 23:14:35**  
(no subject)

Yes, of course, you're right. See: this is why I wrote to you rather than allowing my first reaction free rein.

Although, ugh, I'm certain the responsibility as liaison would land on my and Razzer's shoulders, and we're both nearing the ends of our ropes. (Complain about your clerk all you might, at



least you have one! I am beginning to think I ought follow your lead there -- or, at very least, take on one of the children who has left Hogwarts recently as formal apprentice, and fob off the most tedious of my responsibilities on their shoulders in exchange for making up the lack left by Alecto's tutelage.) And I do not think you will have room in your schedule, either. (And I am certain Barty would find regular visits to Hogwarts pleasant were he here to see me, but excruciating were they to deal with our resident sickly-sweet slug and the children she will no doubt be enlisting.)

Ari, perhaps? Or Stephen? I would not mind the chance to spend more time with either.

Why did you put up with her as Minister for so long, anyway? Surely you could have installed a more pleasant figurehead.

**[2012-12-11 19:56:00](#)**

*Private Message to Karoline Moon*



Karo,

Fancy a drink?

 [alt\\_penelope](#)

Percy's gone out for a pint with his father, because I suppose whatever's wrong at work this time isn't something he can tell me, just that it's all horrible. I mean, I know his father's worked in offices with demanding wizards longer than either of us but--I just wish he'd let me know more about what's bothering him.

Aside from money, which is almost all he ever wants to talk about now.

I'm sorry. I shouldn't be complaining about living with my boyfriend when you and Ptolemy are busy planning your big day. I'm sure it won't be anything like this with him, for you. For one thing, it's not as if money will be a problem!

But there's also--I mean, I don't think Ptolemy's the sort who'll expect you to work a full day and then have supper on the table for him. (Ironic, isn't it? If we could afford a mudblood, that'd be one less thing to row over, but as we can barely afford the food, we can't very well stand the stipend for someone to cook it!) Has his father said anything to you about getting you one? I suppose it's not the sort of thing you can put on a bridal registry, hah!

Honestly, Karo, sometimes I wonder if we were wiser not to get married straight off, or if that would have made this all better. I know my mother thinks he'll never ask this way--and he may not do, but I'm still not ready for all that, anyway. Especially if he thinks I'll instantly turn into his mum (complete with seven children, goats, chickens and a ghou in the attic, no doubt!).

I mean, it's weird, right? We talked about so many things before I left school. One of the things he wanted most was to get away from the squalour his family live in. But every Sunday he wants to go tromping back there, milking the Merlin-forsaken goats. And Circe forbid that I don't want to go with him! It's like he wants to build a life in New London but he can't quite bring himself to leave the old one behind completely. I know he loves them, but you should see the way he talks about them in private. And he's so different with them, too! You

remember that night we met the two of you down the pub? He's just so informed. He and Ptolemy really hit it off, I thought. He even sounded a bit sophisticated--I think he even impressed Ptolemy a little with that quip about Mr Croaker! But with his family, it's like they turn him into the butt of every joke, somehow. Though it's different when it's just Mr and Mrs Weasley and his brother Bill, though it's still...uncomfortable, sometimes. Like they're all expecting him to put his elbow in the butter dish or something. (Well, not quite. It's just something I can't quite put my finger on. I know. It's like they think he's puffing himself up when really he's just telling the truth about the things he's done and the people he's met. It's like they're a little bit disappointed in *him*, and I just don't see how that can be. Apart from Bill he's done better than the rest of them put together!)

Well, anyway. Sorry to go ranting in your direction. I guess I just needed to purge it all.

But an ale would also do wonders, if you're free.

**[2012-12-11 20:05:00](#)**

*Private message to Percy Weasley*



 [alt\\_arthur](#)

I hope you are feeling less distraught now. I certainly don't blame you for being upset, son, as it sounded like a most unpleasant meeting. It seems to me quite an unkind and untrue jab on Malfoy's part to imply that your situation at home is affecting your work. I know perfectly well how conscientious you are.

Really, Percy, mightn't it be more likely that he's being just a tad unreasonable?

Penelope Clearwater is a good-hearted girl, and your mother and I have become quite fond of her. I must say, I find Lucius Malfoy's insinuations concerning her motivations, background and character to be most unfair. (And how is it his business, anyway?) But more than that, I'm troubled, I must admit, by some things you said during our conversation. I think they reveal some underlying assumptions of which you may not even be entirely aware. If what I have to say makes you angry, I'm sorry for it, but I couldn't live with myself if I didn't point out a few things to you. Please listen to what I say while bearing in mind that your mother and I do really want the best for you.

My dear boy, I think I must come straight out and say something about what you seemed to be dancing around in our conversation: Penny's blood status can have no possible bearing upon whatever future happiness you may have with her. You never seemed to care much about her parents before going to work with Mr Malfoy, son. I can't help wondering whether perhaps these are more his opinions than yours? And if so, I'd advise you to remember that he's not the man who is choosing her, you are. I think you should worry a little less about whether she is 'worthy' of you and instead turn your attention to the real point, which is whether you are worthy of her. She may be short-tempered occasionally, and perhaps it would be helpful if she could learn some more about budgeting. Some of what you term the 'rough edges' of her character will no doubt smooth over with time and maturity. Frugality can certainly be taught. I'm sure your mother would be delighted to lend a hand, if you think that might be helpful.

What's important, despite any faults she may have, is that she loves you, Percy. Don't make the fatal mistake of sacrificing your heart on

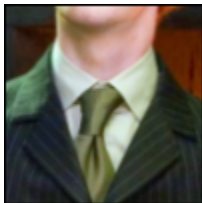
the altar of your ambition. It betrays (and this, I know, will sound stern) a kind of arrogance for you to assume that you have the right to demand a partner who is perfect. No one is perfect, including you.

After all our years of marriage and seven children, your mother and I know that to the core. She despairs over the mess I leave in my workshop and the way that I always forget to pick up half the list whenever she sends me out to the market. I know perfectly well, from years of painful experience, that she can be downright surly before she has had her first cup of coffee in the morning.

But your mother means the world to me, Percy. No job I have ever had will count as much to me as the emotion I feel when I come home at night and find the woman I love waiting for me (with a steak and kidney pie she has baked just for me, no less). No accolade from any boss has ever meant as much to me as the joy I felt when she placed each of my children in my arms for the first time. My fondest ambition is nothing more than to grow creaky and grey by her side, with our children around us. And maybe, someday, our grandchildren, if we're lucky. Yes, even if the Burrow falls down around our ears, I would still know I'm the most fortunate man in the world.

The people we love will give us strength to bear anything, whether it's just minor things like rainy Mondays or hellacious days at work, or the worst things that life can throw at us.

Think about it, son.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-12-12 17:16:31](#)  
(no subject)

I will think about it.

**2012-12-11 21:36:00**

*Private Message to Bellatrix*

Three hours sparring tonight, and I'm still magic-bound. Need to be out and at it.



Want to play?

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at **2012-12-12 03:54:44**

*(no subject)*

The thought appeals, though not for the same reason it appeals to you. Certain fools still insist on including my name in their Private Messages to Yaxley and that blasted notification charm has gone off one too many times today.

What did you have in mind, Barty? You know how I hate to be bored.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2012-12-12 04:20:00**

*(no subject)*

Spot inspection at Epping Forest? We could stage a ward breach and see how quickly they can contain and re-subdue the energetic ones.

Or. Mulciber had a tip on a Maule operation. Pair of low-end Confundus parlours. One in Southwark, the other in Bermondsey. Could go enforce code in one or the other.



 [alt\\_bellatrix](#) at **2012-12-12 04:21:34**

*(no subject)*

The first - not enough challenge, there. And then the smell of the camps lingers on the skin so.

The second - yes, let's. Southwark, unless you have reason to think the other suits better.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-12 04:36:45](#)  
(no subject)

Southwark, then.

Crooked management and confunded clientele.  
Surely there'll be some sport in that.

**[2012-12-12 06:55:00](#)**

*Happy birthday, Charlie!*

I wish we could be together today to celebrate, but it won't be long until I see you. And I'll be making all your favourites your first night home, I promise!




 [alt\\_molly](#)

Have a wonderful day, and don't get singed!

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 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **[2012-12-12 13:39:48](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Mum!

And thank you for the package, too -- it arrived just now. And I promptly hid the tin of goodies from the ravenous beasts, and I don't mean the dragons! (The dragon shaped shortbread is amazing. They look perfect -- you can even tell which breed of dragon is supposed to be which! I'm going to feel guilty when I eat them, they're too pretty. Wait, no I won't, I'm totally lying. I had three for breakfast.)

The trousers and the robes are lovely, too. I needed new casual robes that weren't singed, and the trousers are perfect -- you've been practising your fire-repellant charms even more, haven't you? The owl got here while I was sitting in front of the fire, and as soon as I took the trousers out of the package and shook them out, the fire tried to run away from them from the good five feet away I was sitting. I'll feel nice and secure in them.

Ha, Robert just walked by and saw the shortbread tin, and reminded me to tell you that if you ever decide to leave Dad, he'll marry you in a heartbeat in exchange for the shortbread. I told him there wasn't much chance of that, you leaving Dad I mean, but he made me promise I'd pass the offer along.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **[2012-12-12 17:08:05](#)**

*(no subject)*

Happy birthday, son.

I'm certainly looking forward to seeing you at Christmas.






 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 21:58:23](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Dad! It's been a good one so far -- even the dragons have been behaving well for me.

I can't wait to see you all either. I'm so glad I was able to trade around so I could make it on Christmas for once.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-12 17:12:54](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday, little brother. Hope my owl arrived this morning all right without getting crisped by a passing dragon.

dxc5, by the way. (I told you'd be better off using trolls than those bishops.)



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 22:10:34](#)  
(no subject)


I can't believe you! You listened to me gripe for how long this summer about never being able to find a copy of that manual -- had you had tracked down a copy of it for me already, or did you only start looking after I grumbled about our only copy having been destroyed before I got here?

If it's the former, you're getting better at bluffing, big bro. And thank you, it's incredible. And everybody's jealous as all get-out about it, and already queuing up to borrow once I've read it -- it might be old, but the bits of dragonkeeping lore in it are still accurate, and everybody wants to get their hands on it.

Thank you so much.

(Also, that's a nice try, but I knew you were going to do that. e5.)



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-13 01:03:53](#)**  
(no subject)

I started looking for it after you mentioned it, and I had good luck almost immediately in one of my favourite secondhand book shops. I've been sitting on it and feeling smug ever since. So glad you

liked it!

(I'll post my next move over on your journal, so we don't clutter up Mum's with the gore of fallen chess pieces.)



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-12-12 17:14:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy birthday! Hope our little package livens things up a bit up there at the Reserve.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-12 22:12:23](#)**  
(no subject)

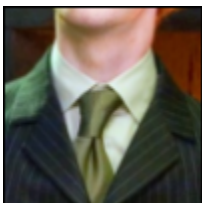
I stared laughing the minute I saw your note with it! I can't wait to set off the fireworks and see what you mean by the dragons feeling inadequate next to them. We'll give it a go sometime this weekend.


Thanks, you two.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-12-13 01:11:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Let us know what you think once you've tried them out!



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2012-12-12 17:15:51](#)**  
(no subject)

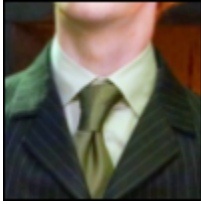
Happy birthday, Charlie.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 22:17:39](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Perce. I appreciate the good wishes.

How're you doing, anyway? Feels like forever since we've talked.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-12-13 01:13:15](#)  
(no subject)

Busy. Mostly.

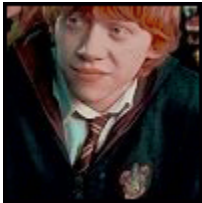
We'll have a chance to catch up at Christmas.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-13 02:03:00](#)  
(no subject)

Well, busy's good! Better than being bored.

Can't wait to see you, little brother, and you can tell me everything you've been up to.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-12 17:35:24](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. Same from me. Happy birthday, old chap.

Hope my card got there in time. I reckon a dragon wouldn't even notice Pigwidgeon, and anywiz, he wouldn't even look like a big enough bite to be worth eating.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 22:20:21](#)  
(no subject)

Still want to know who you think you're calling old, you upstart.

Your card got here first thing, and I tacked it right up over my bunk. Your awful jokes are getting even awfuller -- made me laugh for five minutes straight.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-12 19:05:45](#)

*Order Only*

Happy Birthday!

I wonder if anyone's done work on whether people born in the late midwinter are more prone to be rebels? Seems like there are a fair number of us!



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 22:23:23](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Ha, I've never thought of it like that, but it is true, isn't it? Yours is coming up in a few days too, yeah? Even more of an excuse to stop in for a drink.

If we get a chance over the hols, actually, I'd like to sit down with you and talk things out a bit -- I've already told Dad the same. That barb Snape threw about not accomplishing much lately really has me thinking about what else I could do to be of use, even from up here.




 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-12-13 03:57:58](#)

*(no subject)*

I remember what a flirt Robert is! You can tell him thanks for the compliment, but I'm very happy where I am.

But I'll keep sending shortbread from time to time!



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-13 03:58:52](#)

*(no subject)*

He says "ah, well, a bloke's gotta try, doesn't he?"

And if you wanted to send a few tins 'round about February or so, I could probably clean up, bartering them around. You've got quite a few fans up here.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-12 13:59:33](#)  
(no subject)

Your birthday, is it? Well, many happy returns, you!

I imagine you'll have plenty of folk offering to raise a cup with you tonight, but if you'll stop in here over the hols, we'd love to drink your health and cover your tab then.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 14:28:57](#)  
(no subject)

That's a lovely offer, ta. I will definitely take you up on it.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-12 16:23:32](#)  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Charlie.

I miss you a lot. I can't wait to see you for Christmas. I will have something for you when we all get home.

I hope you are enjoying your day. Don't work too hard today.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-12 22:25:43](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Bean. I can't wait to see you lot, either -- and you don't have to get me anything, I'd be just as happy with being able to spend some time with you and catch up with what's going on in my favourite sister's life.

It's been a great day so far. Although I can't tell if everyone's being kind to me today because it's my birthday, or because they want some of Mum's shortbread!



 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2012-12-12 22:49:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Its the shortbread. You may want to protect it with a booby trap.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-13 02:06:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, believe me, I've got it protected with some of the twins' best booby traps. Learned my lesson last year. (And thankfully, everyone's learned their lesson by now that when I say 'don't touch', I

mean business...)



 **[alt\\_penelope](#)** at **[2012-12-12 19:07:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy Birthday!

I know we've only met once or twice but I'm looking forward to meeting you properly at Christmas. I know Percy's anticipating having the whole family together, too.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-12 22:28:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Cheers, Penny. It'll be lovely to get a chance to spend some time with you over Christmas, yeah. It's been too long since we've all been able to get together.

Mind you, if you make it through a Weasley Christmas with all of us home without fleeing into the night completely overwhelmed you're a brave woman!

**[2012-12-12 17:12:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank you to everyone who's sent birthday greetings, and to everyone here at the reserve who's gone out of their way to make today such a lovely day!



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

(And special thanks to Copacati, our Peruvian Vipertooth, who could've bit me today and restrained herself. Don't think she knew it was my birthday, but I appreciate it anyway.)

Now I'm going to go back to pretending I don't know about the birthday cake Emmett's been cooking up for me for dinner, and defending my Mum's shortbread against all comers. If any of you lot of ravenous beasts want some of it, you'll have to ask really nicely.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-13 01:09:01](#)**

*Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Maybe Copacati is getting more discriminating with maturity.

Hope Dree and Em treat you right tonight! Sounds like it, if there's a birthday cake in the oven.

Here's my next move: Ra6.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-13 02:01:57](#)**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Well, the birthday cake was very nice (almost a rival to Mum's), but we three wound up having a flaming row after, over absolutely nothing. You know the kind of fight where everybody involved knows they're being unreasonable, but can't stop themselves from doing it anyway? One of those.

So Dree stomped out of their cabin in a huff and is sulking in a spare bunk in the womens' barracks, Em tried to talk me into spending the night with just him anyway even though that's against our rules we agreed on right up front, and I'm just trying to stay very small and quiet because Em tried to head her off with "if you



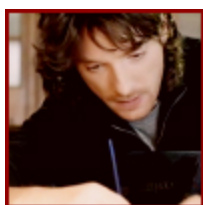
don't stop picking at this you'll ruin Charlie's birthday dinner", which, no, leave me out of the whole thing, ta very much.

Happy birthday to me, right? We'll be all right in a day or two as soon as everyone calms down, I'm sure, but it was an ugly ending to an otherwise lovely day. And of course the whole thing makes me even more worried, since the real cabin-fever snits don't usually roll around until the depths of February and March, and if we're starting early this year, things are going to be just beautiful when that rolls around.

And did you see Percy's reply to me on Mum's post? He didn't send anything for my birthday, not even a card. And I don't care about whether or not he sends anything, but it makes me wonder why he didn't, and that's not all that comforting either.

Ugh. Sorry -- I don't mean to dump on you. Just frustrated as all get-out.

Trouncing you never fails to lift my spirits, though. Qe3.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-13 02:14:54**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Bloody hell, I'm sorry about the row, Charlie. That's no fun. Hope everything smooths over quickly again.

As for Percy: it's not you, it's him. Sorry to add to the romantic gloom, but I had lunch with Dad today, and from what he said, it sounds like things between Percy and Penny are very rocky. Dad talked with Percy last night, and he sounded a bit frustrated, almost disgusted by Percy's part in the whole thing. It seems that Lucius Malfoy is meddling. Among other things, he's planted the idea that Percy can 'do better' than someone who is 'merely' three-quarters pure.

You can imagine how little Dad liked that.

So I think that Percy didn't send you proper birthday acknowledgment because he's distracted by his own domestic drama. It's a pity. I do hope they work it out.

Lucius Malfoy needs to go...snuggle up close to Copacati. Maybe

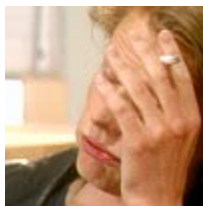


get used as a dragon teething ring.

I'd love to see that berk get singed a bit.

Clearly, it's my duty to lose in order to lift your spirits. That may not be difficult: I'm starting to get a bad feeling about this game. Note the date for posterity: for once Bill Weasley admits that something about screaming and leaping seems to be working for you.

Uh, b6.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-13 03:00:18**

*Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah, the whole thing started with Deirdre needling Em over a bundle of stupid little things, and Em sniping back like he couldn't help himself, and then it turned into You Never and You Always and just, ugh, I'm hoping it's just frustrations boiling over and it will all clear up once the holidays pass.

And I took this behind the lock so I can say flat out that one day we're going to be able to get rid of that stinking tinpot dictator and his stinking flock of cronies and when that happens I am going to find Lucius sodding Malfoy's grave and piss on it. Because, ugh. I think about Malfoy sliming all over a perfectly lovely girl like Penny because she's 'only' three-quarters pure, and I think about a witch like Hermione being able to come up with those coins out of nothing but the bits of classes and reading she's been able to do when Marvolo feels like letting her like he's doing her a fucking favour when she's ten times the intellect he'll ever be, and it just infuriates me even more.

Because in a just world, Hermione would already be collecting dozens of offers to go into private research or write her own ticket at the Ministry, and Tonks would be making waves in the Auror Department, and Terry would be curled up in the library devouring whatever book he could get his hands on and worried about upcoming exams, and Lucius sodding Malfoy would be rotting in a cell in Azkaban as the Dementors' midnight snack.

Anyway.

Yeah, I'm going to pin that admission of yours up to admire when I wind up in a mood like this, because I never thought I'd hear it. And it is cheering me up, ta muchly.

Protecting that pawn isn't going to do much, though. Rad1.

(Also, I just had a horrible realisation: if anybody's really on the ball and reading our messages, both the ones in Mum's journal and then our private messages after, they could realise we were playing a chess game that hadn't been started in the journals where they could see, since we started this one under the lock and have been playing it out in a combination of places. We'd better get our stories straight -- worst case scenario, if anybody says anything, we started this one when I stopped by a few weeks ago, and it's just been taking us a while to get back to it.)



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-13 03:09:24**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

We're working toward that happy day, you and I. That's something to hang onto, anyway. There's good in the world we have now, yeah, but I prefer the idea of Malfoy as the Dementors' plaything.

Bloody bastard.

I really hope Percy comes to his senses before it's too late.

Good thinking on that last; it hadn't occurred to me. Merlin, and I'm supposed to be in charge of journal security, too. We could also say, if anyone asks, that we've also been trading moves by owl. I think it's highly unlikely that we'll be questioned, but that's also a possible fallback.

Qc8.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-13 03:26:04**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah, I don't think it's likely that anyone would notice, but it was one of those horrible realisations that dawns on you suddenly and makes you want to bang your head against the

wall.

But yeah. I'll definitely be cornering him over Christmas hols and trying to get him talking to me. If I can do it without getting his back up. Maybe I'll message him now, actually, and get started on it.

(The thought of Malfoy as a Dementor chewtoy is entirely more uplifting than it should be, though. Pretty sure I could power a Patronus off that mental image. Which makes me feel bad, but, ugh.)

Meanwhile, are you sure you haven't given up? Come on, I might be trouncing you, but give me some fight, or else the pawns will get depressed that nobody appreciates that trebuchet they've been working on for so long. Be4.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-12-13 03:30:47**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

I don't think that Percy would take it well if he gets the idea that Dad's been talking about their conversation with others. (Although he HAS, at least to me). You know how prickly Perce can get. Judging from what Dad says, he's very prickly in general right now. So if you approach him, try to do it without letting on about that little tidbit.

Maybe your pawns should go into war manufacture. Fu could probably use their talents.

Nf8.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-13 03:39:10**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah, good thought. I just want to do something, ugh.

Let me see if I can come up with an approach that isn't "I heard from the family gossip that your boss is a bigoted arse, how does that make you feel?" 'Cause yeah, once he gets sand in his knickers over something, there's no getting it out. And either way, tonight's probably not the best time to start the conversation, not when I'm sulky enough myself.

(And it's not like I can start off with, hey, heard you're having relationship problems, so am I! Let's bond over that!)

The pawns are thinking of setting up a fortified encampment and armouring themselves in dragon-hide. Rd3.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-13 03:52:02](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Another tip: the topic of Lucius Malfoy can be a touchy one, too, by the way. Apparently Lucius Malfoy does not look kindly on his clerk chattering about his affairs to anyone else, so Percy is scrupulously careful about what he says about the man.

I had one other thought, and you may tell me I'm crazy, but what do you think?

You mentioned that the dragons were getting tetchier than usual, and you think it might have something to do with the wards?

Do you think...could whatever it is be affecting people, too?

a4.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-13 04:05:41](#)**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah, if he's idolising Malfoy as much as you say, anything that even hints that the sun doesn't shine out Malfoy's arse would probably make Perce stop listening. I'll be careful not to even hint that Malfoy's anything other than Merlin returned.

...I wonder if I could convince him that I admire Malfoy (and Percy for working for Malfoy) if I try hard enough, or if I'd gag on the words as they came out of my mouth.

And. You know. I've been keeping an eye out for it, and thinking it's just the usual sort of thing where whenever the dragons are in a mood, we all seem to pick it up, too. But


you're suggesting that whatever magic they're working with the dragons to keep the wards working isn't just making the dragons cranky, it's spilling over onto us directly? Not just us picking up on the dragon moods?

Merlin. Now my skin's crawling at the thought.

I'll watch and see if it gets better after the Solstice. ...And maybe I'll spend a few nights over at Laszlo's after I get off duty, instead of sticking around here. Just to make myself feel better.

Qg3.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-13 04:14:40**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Don't try praising Malfoy if you don't think you can make it convincing.

Although. He admires the man so much he'd probably swallow it. Ugh.

About the dragons, and the wards: I dunno, like I said, it's a crazy idea. I wonder if you might write to Dumbledore and run it past him. I remember, there was some report at an Order meeting that he'd come to see you--and then obliviated you afterwards--so apparently, he's been researching this. Maybe he'd have some ideas, or tests to suggest? It might be another clue that might help something fall into place for him?

Rd8.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2012-12-13 04:24:20**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah, that's a good idea. Though -- ugh, I'm still a bit creeped out by all that. I was saying to Tonks a little while back, I can definitely think of circumstances where I'd flat out ask him to obliviate me, if only so I couldn't give away secrets by accident, but

it's more than a bit disturbing to know that there's someone walking around out there who remembers conversations with you that you don't remember. And not just once, but multiple times.

If you can't trust your own brain...

And I don't know. I think I could be convincing. If I was careful. And if Perce thought that at least one of us wasn't sneering at Malfoy behind his back, it might help a bit -- because he's not an idiot, and no matter how careful you lot are, he knows you too well, and it's harder for you to act like Malfoy isn't against everything we stand for. But he doesn't know me as well as he knows you, so that might work out a little better for us?

I don't know. I'm grasping at straws, here.

At least that message from Ginny left me a bit hopeful, yeah?

Here, have some more trebuchet-building. f5.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-13 02:21:59

*Private Message to Deirdre ní Mháille*

Look, love, you know that I hate it when you two fight, but I hate it even more when it feels like the fight has something to do with me. And I don't mean in the "you'll ruin Charlie's birthday" sort of way, and you'd better believe I gave him a right telling off for that as soon as you'd left.

If you're upset with him over something, tell him. Don't use me as an excuse. I know everyone's on edge right now, but I said right up front when we started all this: I won't get between you two. And I won't let either of you shove me there, either, no matter how hard you try. I love you both, but you two are the ones who need to sort this out, and not use me as a reason to pick at each other.

And if this isn't working for you, you just have to tell me. I know this was your idea in the first place, but I won't be at all offended if you decide it's time to move on. Honest. I'd rather keep you both as friends than have this whole thing go down in flames, yeah?



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-13 02:54:45**

*Private Message to Emmett Aillín*

Love, I told Dree, and I'll tell you the same: you need to stop putting me in between the two of you. I don't care what the two of you are really fighting over, but I don't appreciate being used as an excuse, and I don't need you defending me to her when it's not really that you're defending me, it's that you're angry with her and are looking for any reason to get up her nose and I just happen to be convenient.

And for the record? I really don't appreciate you trying to talk me into breaking the rules just because you're upset. A birthday cuddle isn't enough of a reason to screw up years of negotiation, and I really hope you've realised that already, or will soon enough once you calm down. That part's most important to Dree, but everything we agreed to was important to someone, and what's important to me is that we don't break our agreement just because something didn't go the way one of us had planned. I can put up with sleeping alone, even when I'd been looking forward to snuggling up with you both, way more than I could put up with knowing I was doing something Dree would be hurt by.

I know you'll both need some time to cool off, so please take it, yeah? I'll be here whenever you fix up whatever's wrong. And if the thing that's wrong is "this isn't working anymore", just tell me. I told her, I'll tell you: I'd rather keep you both as friends than have this whole thing turn into disaster.



**2012-12-12 19:37:00**

## *Meteors and exams*

First, no assignment, but the Draconid meteor showers peak tonight and tomorrow - and due to the new moon, they should be especially visible. It looks likely to stay clear tonight, but I'm less confident about the rest of the week so come look tonight if you'd like to. (Fifth years, feel free to come up early if you like: I'll have things open around 11.)



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

### **Exams**

Alas, the forecast for next week is rather dire. Rather than keep everyone up late in the hopes of a clear sky, I am planning to use the projection stones for my exams. This also means you can all get a bit more sleep. Please be at my classroom at 8:55pm on your usual night. My NEWT students, please see below.

### **Office hours**

For those of you with last minute questions, I will have office hours on Sunday afternoon from 2-5:30pm and next Tuesday from 7-8:45pm, as well as my usual Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

### **My NEWT students**

Sixth and seventh years: this year, I'd like to gather you all in my office on the Friday night (the 21st) at 10pm. In lieu of an exam, please be prepared to give a 2-3 minute summary of your topic to everyone present, and to submit a copy of your current research notes. (Full review will need to wait for January, but if you have questions that affect your research or reading plans for the holidays, please ask.) And of course, our Friday gathering will have the usual seasonal round of treats and conversation. We should be done by midnight, to make it easier for you all to get off promptly in the morning on the train.

For those of you who can get to New London, I am seeing if I can arrange a short tour of the Astronomy Guild and its library. Scheduling may prove too challenging, but if you are interested, please let me know which of January 2nd, 3rd, or 4th you might be available (daytimes only.)

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 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-13 00:43:36](#)

*Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Cedric -

I realise the NEWT gathering will be a little awkward, but I do hope you'll bear with it. (And I don't think there'll be a great deal of purely social time to manage.)

And I do have a little something for you, in particular, beyond the usual token to my newts. Would you rather come collect it from me, or should I leave it in the tower workspace for you? (You're welcome to keep on in there, of course, when we come back.)



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-13 02:25:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

As long as the topic stays on astronomy everything should be fine.

I'll come up the next chance I can grab when I know you won't be busy. I have an idea for a little bit of end of term fun I would like to run by you before I get anyone else involved.

I won't have your gift until after Hogsmeade.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-13 02:33:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory*

Don't worry, we will stick to astronomy. Or at least, related topics.

And I'll look for you. (End of term fun also sound like the right sort of thing.)

There's no need for a gift, you know that. (As I keep saying, what I want is attention in class, and you have never let me down there.) That said, there's a pleasure in finding the right thing, isn't there? (which is what lead to yours.)

Right. Mr Moon is done with the current piece of work he's doing for me. On to the next step.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-13 01:06:35](#)

*Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

I feel like I haven't seen either of you to talk to properly for ages. Supper does *not* count, and especially not if Dolores is hanging on every word.

Any chance of a little time this weekend? It'd also give me an excuse to explain your presents, which are in both cases a promise of things to come.

Also, Pomona: many thanks for putting me on to that contact of yours about trees for Mum - I think we've finally sorted out just the things to arrange to add to her orchard, and he's actually very curious about whether they'll do well given her layout and the drainage.

(And! He had a contact for a rose I know she doesn't have and will be in tears over - the Surpasse Tout. I know you think it's absurd I manage to keep roses straight and nothing else, but I swear it's her garden's doing. Anyway, quite the find as it's an old variety, and not at all common, but it was Nana's favourite, and she lost Nana's last bush in the winter of 83.)

At any rate: I do want to have office hours Sunday afternoon, but either Saturday after Hogsmeade or Sunday early evening would do nicely for me. Or Friday for tea at 4?



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-13 03:30:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Friday or Sunday would be better for me than Saturday. It's a sad but reliable fact that someone always returns from Hogsmeade ill. Generally it's either Honeydukes' fault or Rosmerta's, but

occasionally it's something more dire.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-13 03:36:32](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Of course, I ought to have said: I've missed our talks and will be most pleased if we can find a time to be together.

And you're quite right. Supper does not count, even were Dolores

Umbridge not a factor.

Surpasse Tout roses? My mother and aunt kept them. I hadn't thought of them in ages!



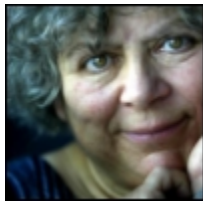
 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-13 03:47:39](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Friday, then? I've missed talking too. And you've been so amazingly busy, so it's with good reason, but.

As to the roses, yes. They got quite rare for a while in there, did you know? They were always Nana's favourites, and - well, I still have the owl where Mum wrote the last bush she had died. And they've got such an incredible scent.

(Actually, I think it's the scent that made me learn the roses properly in the first place. The route from my room to my favourite observing spot at home was best done through Mum's rose garden, and if I crushed something in the dark, I'd be in deep trouble in the morning.)



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-12-13 03:50:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

I can certainly come Friday. And you're both quite right about supper.

Roses, really? I knew you were better with them than most green things (not that that says much, as we both know), but you should have told me that when you were struggling with Herbology. We might have made some use out of it. I suppose that's the reason you were so insistant on a few roses for the wedding, even though it's early season for most varieties?

At any rate, I'm glad the introduction was of use. Hard to put a tree under the tree, as it were, but I suppose that's the advantage of being a grown up, and enjoying a pleasure delayed.



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-12-13 04:01:14](#)

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Yes, on the roses.

Though, clearly, I have not caught you up on the saga of the florist, nor her idea for centrepieces that would like to take over the world. Or at least block every clear line of sight in the place, and I am having none of that.

We will be juggling quite enough touchy personalities (and I do not just mean on Raz's side of the equation: some of my own astronomy colleagues are less likely to pull a wand, but perhaps more likely to throw a very public fit if offended) and I am not giving anyone the chance to be surprised from behind a pot of calla lilies or whatever the last round was.

Why does no one take my "No, really, as simple as we can get away with?" seriously? (Never mind. I know the answer to that. It's hard to do simple really well, and it doesn't show off any of *their* skills to gain hordes of new clients. Anyway. I think I've won the round with the florist, but we'll have to keep checking on it.)



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-12-13 01:14:55](#)

*Private message to Storm Sinistra*

Best brother -

Thanks for meeting me yesterday. They look perfect, and especially the very last minute addition.

(However did you manage to get the decoration done between Sunday night and yesterday?) And the cards are excellently descriptive, thank you. We'll just have to work out the scheduling.

On your question, since you got called away after all...

Mum's made it clear she and Dad would love to have both of us for Christmas Day and Raz is quite agreeable. But of course, if we get an invitation elsewhere, it would be the politic thing to go elsewhere. I'm going to send all my presents ahead, just in case. (And forgive me in advance for spoiling your daughter. She's just at the age where it gets really fun.)

Up through New Year's is going to be busy, but I might manage an afternoon with you between then and coming back here. We'll see? Much love to all three of you.

**[2012-12-13 16:55:00](#)**

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



Are any of you trying out for Professor Carpenter and Mr Krumgold's Revue tomorrow?

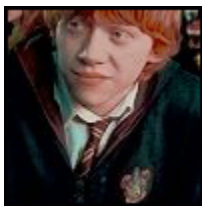
 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I keep calling it Daphne's Revue but then she corrects me and says "oh no, it's really Gerald's. I mean, Mr Krumgold's. And Professor Carpenter's as well, of course!"

I hadn't really planned on it, but Daphne keeps asking me if I'll at least do a dance solo. She says that Mr Krumgold will want a "dainty line" for the chorus, whatever that means. I suppose I might as well, seeing as it doesn't sound like it would take up too much of my extra time, and I do want to show support for my housemate's endeavours.

I know that Remy is trying out as well. He says he wants a starring role. And Pansy, you're doing something with the music, aren't you? What of the rest of you?

And has anyone seen how much information about "Hogwarts through the Ages" that Linus Moon has thrust upon Daphne? I'm sure she's absolutely swimming in parchment by now.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-14 01:40:13](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. I'm trying out. I've been trying to memorise a monologue thinger. It'll be dead hilarious if I can get it down.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-14 02:18:38](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, that's good to hear.

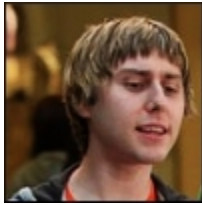
Only you've not much time to memorise it before tomorrow?




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-14 03:32:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Well. I've almost got it.

I think.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-14 01:58:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Hullo,

Well, as I've already told you, I think it's the sort of thing one ought to show willing to do, only I haven't any illusions about being selected to sing a solo or anything of that nature. I wonder if she'd be amenable to people offering to perform if we can do it in groups, what?

-Justin




 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-14 02:23:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I did ask her if the chorus could have people who sing but can't dance, as well as people who can dance but not sing. She seemed to say that it would be fine if the chorus had both, but that everyone should audition by doing what they feel they are best at.

I suppose that doesn't leave much room for people who don't feel they're much good at singing, dancing, *or* reciting funny bits of dialogue.

If you just did something in French they'd probably all be very impressed.



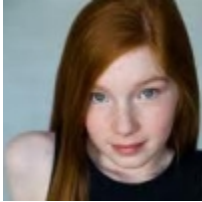
 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2012-12-14 03:10:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I thought I might. Not for any major role, though. But it might be fun to take part. Both of my roommates are trying, too.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-14 03:12:38](#)  
(no subject)

I'm no good at acting, and I don't like the idea of getting up on stage in front of other people. But Evelyn and me are thinking of volunteering to do stuff backstage to help.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-12-14 03:23:09](#)  
(no subject)


I've been working on makeup glammers.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-14 03:24:13](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm helping with music selection and arrangements.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-14 03:36:06](#)  
(no subject)

And you should totally do it.

You'll be great.

No idea what a dainty line is meant to be, though. Maybe they're going to costume the chorus as a bunch of sweets?




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-14 03:42:32](#)  
(no subject)

I think it means she thinks Hydra's slim and graceful. Which she is!





 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-14 03:51:30](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Well, yeah.

Who says that, though? A dainty line?

Mr Krummould, I guess.

What's he like, anywiz?

**2012-12-13 23:09:00**

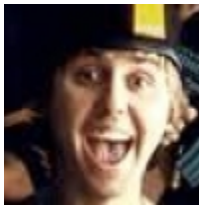
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Justin and Harry Marvolo*




 [alt\\_hermione](#)

I know you don't like keeping secrets from Hydra but I didn't want you to not know: Sirius is coming to Hogsmeade on Saturday. He comes sometimes to visit Harry and so he's meeting Harry and Draco and probably Pansy too around 1:00. If you want to see him I'm pretty sure I can arrange it so no one will be shocked by it but I think maybe for now you might not want to bring Hydra along? I dunno, maybe she'd want to meet him too but too many of us all walking off with a huge black dog would be somewhat conspicuous, don't you think?

But I know it'll be really hard not to tell her about it, too. Well, if you want her to come I can also tell Pansy about it so we can make sure Draco and Harry are prepared because otherwise they're liable to splinch themselves in surprise.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-14 04:21:25**  
(no subject)

Hullo, Hermione,

I say, that's dashed kind of you to tell me! I'd love to see him if you don't think anyone would be upset. I mean to say, if he and Harry are hoping to spend time alone then they'll hardly want a crowd, what?

But you're right, I'd rather give Hydra the opportunity to meet him properly, if she wants it. It's not as if her mother will be able to read her mind about it, what!

What do you suppose you'd say to them to convince them it's all right--for either of us, that is?

-Justin



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-14 04:26:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Leave it to me, I'll take care of it. Pansy can help, too.

**2012-12-13 23:17:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*  
*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*



Say. I was thinking maybe after morning lessons tomorrow you could help me go through my lines? You're good at that sort of thing.

 [alt\\_ron](#)

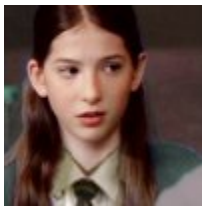
I've got Defence till 11:00, but then I'm free until we go to Charms at 2:00. You've got the same gap Fridays, yeah?

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-14 05:36:45**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I do. I could meet you after morning lessons, that should work.

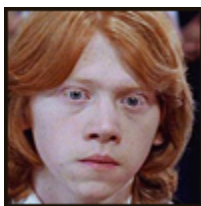



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-14 05:37:45**  
(no subject)

WAIT I'm sorry.

I DON'T have the same gap as you. I have Dark Arts at 1. And that reminds me I can't meet you at eleven, either, I told Michael I'd meet him to revise Dark Arts, before lunch.

Sorry. Maybe try Pansy?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-14 05:43:44**  
(no subject)

Why do you always have to go off doing stuff with him?

It's not like-

Whatever.

**2012-12-14 22:21:00**

*Private message to Bill Weasley*

Bill?

Where are you? Please....


I came by your flat to see you, but you're not here.

I hope you see this. Could you please write back as soon as you do?  
I'll--I'll just wait here.



 [alt\\_percy](#)



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-15 04:31:30**  
(no subject)

You're at my flat? Is something wrong?




 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2012-12-15 04:32:27**  
(no subject)

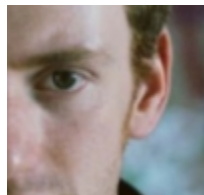
Yes.

Where are you?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-15 04:33:35**  
(no subject)

I'm out for a beer. With Charlie, actually. He's staying with me tonight.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2012-12-15 04:34:46**  
(no subject)


Oh, I--

Oh. Oh, I see.

Oh, blast. I was hoping that...that I could stay with you tonight.

Where are you? Can I come join you for awhile?



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:35:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Merlin, Percy, what's going on? Is the heat out in your flat or something?




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:36:39](#)**  
(no subject)

No.

Penny and I--we broke up tonight.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:37:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Shite.

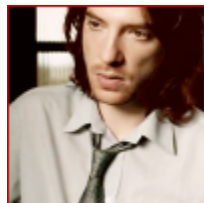
Oh, Perce.




 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:38:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Look, tell me where you are, and I'll come join you.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:39:44](#)**  
(no subject)


No, no, Charlie and I just finished our pitcher anyway. We're grabbing our coats and we're on our way there. Just sit tight, and we'll be with you in a moment.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-12-15 04:40:27](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-15 04:41:27](#)  
(no subject)

And you're staying with me tonight, of course you can. You can just arm wrestle Charlie for the sofa.

On our way.

**2012-12-14 22:28:00**

*Private Message to Harry*

All right, Harry?

And it's really okay if you don't want Justin along. I mean, honestly, it's fine. He won't take offence, and I'm sure that if he really wants to see Sinbad, he'll be able to make separate arrangements. And if you'd rather be all on your own, just the two of you, Draco and I don't have to come. I wasn't going to stay for very long anyways, just to say hello, so it's perfectly all right if you'd rather I didn't, you just have to say.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-12-15 03:38:03**  
(no subject)

Yeah.


You're fine.

And I know it's not

I mean, we both know Sinbad, yeah. And I guess that's good to sort out.

I just don't know him. Not really. That's all.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-15 03:45:01**  
(no subject)

He's not half bad.

I think he might be worth knowing.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2012-12-15 03:47:13**  
(no subject)

Okay. I'll keep that in mind.

Does Hydra?

Know, I mean?



I guess I just didn't expect

He defected. Because he wanted to.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:50:05](#)**  
(no subject)

But there are many different reasons why he might've wanted to, aren't there? I think he's probably better suited to talk about all of that himself. And Hydra too.


Honestly, Harry, you'll have to trust me on this one.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:51:59](#)**  
(no subject)

You and Hermione, you mean.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:53:38](#)**  
(no subject)

...yes.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:56:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Right.

Okay.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:51:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Just promise me one thing, Harry.

Promise me that tomorrow you'll take Katie Bell out for a proper butterbeer and at least attempt to have some fun.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:52:43](#)**  
(no subject)

I was planning on it. But I'll promise if you want.  
Why?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:55:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Because she's a sweet girl with excellent taste in music, and you were smiling more than you had in ages when we all got together, and you could probably stand to smile some more.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-15 03:58:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.  
Yeah. It was fun.

We could do it again sometime.

That might be nice.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-15 04:00:50](#)**  
(no subject)

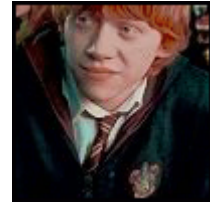
I'd love to, Harry.

**2012-12-14 23:25:00**

*Revvng for the Revue*

Well. That was fun. And I reckon it went well enough. I think it'll be brilliant. If I get selected, of course.

And tomorrow's Hogsmeade, so there's that. Anyone know if it's meant to snow? Or are these clouds just hanging about for no good reason?



 [alt\\_ron](#)

**[2012-12-14 23:43:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Tonks and Bill*



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

Tonks -- tried to grab you on the way out to say g'bye, but you were swamped with that group of giggling girls. I'm so sorry Bill and me had to cut things short -- Percy messaged Bill, apparently he broke up with his girlfriend tonight and needs a place to kip and a shoulder to cry on. I'm hiding in the kitchen while Bill gets him settled a bit, but I've a feeling we'll be moral support for most of the rest of the night at least.

Dunno about Bill, but let Sirius know I'll try to make it back next week sometime to finish up that discussion about the area near the reserve that could be used as staging grounds for smuggling people, after I get a chance to scout around a bit. I think I should be able to find something.

Kiss my best girl for me, will you? She's a love, although I can see what you mean about the Firm Opinions on the world around her.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-15 05:48:35](#)**

*(no subject)*

I wondered where you'd got to. Glad to know it wasn't because the beer was naff compared to whatever sort of grog you drink up there at Stornoway.

Shame about your brother. Hope he's not too done in by it. Did she throw him over, then?

Things are quieting down here now. Actually, it happened as soon as you and Bill left. You blokes were the cause of the giggling. Didn't you realise? They were awfully disappointed when you went.

I'll talk to Sirius, but I think we should offer to put you on retainer if you'd come sit in the garden one or two nights a week. Good for business, you know.

On the other front: we're keen to get back to the conversation about whether one of your islands up there mightn't be a good spot for a haven.

Any wiz. It was good to see you. You'll have to come back soon to prove you're not just making this up about your brother because we were boring you to tears.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-15 07:05:45](#)  
(no subject)

No, dammit, from what I can tell (he hasn't been all that forthcoming) he kicked her to the kerb. Something about her not being good enough for him, and I'm desperately certain he means it's because she's not pureblooded, because every word out of his mouth has been an echo of Lucius sodding Malfoy's worst propaganda.


The worst part is how he's convinced he's the injured party, and all the while Bill and me are sitting here trying to translate what he's been telling us into what really happened and if we're right, he was awful to her. And she's a lovely girl, too.

Merlin. This has been a week.

But the part where I got to see you and your lot last night and tonight was a bright spot. I'll definitely be doing that more often, until you get tired of me at least. Giggling girls aside -- and I think you're exaggerating there, they barely even looked at us! -- you've made a cosy place, you know? I'd come spend time there even if it weren't for the beer. Which is good enough that I should probably drink less of it next time, Bill and I were not at our best for dealing with Perce!

Next night I'm off duty and off call in the evening is Tuesday -- I'll come 'round with a map and some ideas. (And I'll admit, I like the thought of hiding things right under their noses like that.) And take Miss Bea off your hands for another night, since she seemed to like us well enough. She's a flirt, that one. I think she knew she had Bill wrapped around her little finger the minute he laid eyes on her.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-15 17:38:59](#)**  
(no subject)

We're not making it up about Percy, trust me. (If only we were, just to spare poor Penny the pain). It really was the only reason we left, and it was quite a disappointment to cut out early and miss the chance for conversation with you (and not just because I got no sleep from dealing with Weasley Agony last night).

Oh: also, Bea jammed her stuffed unicorn in my pocket when I wasn't looking. I'll bring it back next time I come, next Friday night, I hope. (Let me know if this constitutes a dire emergency because it's her favourite toy or anything, and I'll be happy to bring it by sooner if need be).




 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-15 19:03:28](#)**  
(no subject)

No worries about the toy. We're off at Moddey today, Anywiz, so Bea's totally taken up with other people's toys. Have you noticed how other people's things seem so much more wonderful than what you've got yourself? Afraid it's sometimes the way I feel, too, and I'm old enough to know better.

Sorry to hear about Percy. Have you managed to talk sense to him? Seems you and Charlie both think Penny was good for him. I expect we're all stupidest when it comes to people we love and the relationships we have with them. Speaking from experience there, you know.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-15 19:55:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, now you've dented my pride. And here I was secretly cherishing the hope that Bea had taken to me so well that she had bestowed the unicorn on me like a lady bestowing her favour to her chosen knight. Guess Charlie's right: she's a flirt at heart!

As for Percy: I do love him, but he's as stubborn as any Weasley, and I have rarely met anyone so resistant to the urgings of good

sense. He's being quite firm in his determination to wreak havoc with his own life, the prat. I was ready to throttle him out of sheer exasperation at around 3:00 in the morning, until Charlie took over.

Oh, well. At least he's done snivelling for now, I hope, and with luck, he'll sleep late. Merlin knows I put enough Calming Draught in his tea to be sure of it.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-15 20:03:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Sounds as if you need a dose of the same. Why aren't you asleep?

Of course, I'm the last person to give advice about sane sleep choices.

And, Charlie's too right about Miss Albia.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-15 21:53:28](#)

*(no subject)*

I guess the conversation with Percy's haunting me a bit too much to sleep.

He's choosing to be alone. For the stupidest reasons. I just can't understand that.

Man, I hope I don't ever break someone's heart that way.

Mum and Dad will be sorry to hear the news. I gather that Dad tried to talk to him this week, too. But apparently, Percy thinks he knows too much to listen.

**2012-12-14 23:46:00**

*(no subject)*

We've just returned from this year's MLE party. Mafalda certainly outdid herself this time! (And did the celebrating to show it, as well.) And what a clever idea to hold the party at the Protector's Collection: Truly, it was a fitting venue for the Protectorate's finest. And not coincidentally an excellent opportunity for their new catering staff to show its mettle.



 **alt\_narcissa**

It was so good to see Claudius looking much more himself. Bettina's holding up like an absolute trooper but I can tell she's relieved he's back in the office and seems to be resuming something like his old workload.

Though apparently there is less to do, if half the department can be believed! Everyone was talking about how well the Irish situation is settling. Such good news, too, after it brought so much tragedy. Foxe has done a superb job, by all accounts.

I must say, if it's not too trivial, that I'm more than pleased with the new boots I wore this evening. The worst part of any of these parties (and there are so many this time of year!) is that one stands round - and no amount of pleasant conversation can quite make up for the pain of an ill-fitted shoe. These have been marvellous. I may have to change my plans for some of the other parties coming up in order to wear them again. Or simply get another pair!

Despite that, however, it has been an excessively long week. I think we may need to pare down the list of obligations for the coming one, if I am to survive our own party intact. At this point, the only thing I look forward to is the fact that when that one is over, I shan't have far to go in order to fall into bed!



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-15 05:10:02**

*(no subject)*

The appreciation for a good pair of boots crosses profession, inclination, and avocation. There is nothing more miserable than standing around in a pair of ill-fitted shoes! You'll have to give me the name of your cobbler.



I am quite looking forward to your gala, my dear, particularly coming as it will at the tail end of exams and a very busy term. Do let me know if there's anything I might do to help with preparations.

It's lovely to hear, meanwhile, that Claudius is much improved. I've been thinking of him. Do give Bettina my best.

Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-15 06:39:44](#)  
(no subject)

Agree that it was better than any of the last several. And the PC is worth exploring. Found the sculpture and funerary monuments displayed in the lowest level ... engaging.

Fair to say, everyone's pleased at CY's return to the helm. Continuity is crucial.

Expect to hear that you've set off a rush on boots. I hope the cobblers of the Protectorate are prepared for the spike in demand that is sure to greet them tomorrow. They did look well on you, which can only magnify the envy others feel.

As for the weariness caused by the season's whirl, you know my recommendation: redoubling my usual regimen multiplies the resources I have for everything else. In fact, I think I'll take my own advice and add a half hour to my morning and noon sets tomorrow.

**2012-12-15 12:30:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

M'all right. By now I know the cave well enough to Apparate without too much trouble, despite the distance.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Slept for a good two hours afterward, and then made some of Poppy's tea.

Off now to see him. Should be able to make the return before Bea's bedtime.

Did Charlie tell Dora why he and Bill left in such a hurry? Hope it wasn't the company.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-15 19:45:38**  
(no subject)

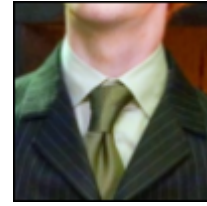
Well, I hope to see you, but take your time if you're not feeling up to apparating. No sense splinching yourself.

And yeah, Charlie told Dora. It was Percy -- apparently he broke up with that girl he was sharing a flat with. For all the wrong reasons, unfortunately. Anyway, he wanted his brothers' company and they thought it would be a better conversation to have back at Bill's flat than at the beer garden.

**2012-12-15 19:40:00**

*Private message to Penelope Clearwater*

I am staying at Bill's, and he has agreed to put me up for the next few days.



 [alt\\_percy](#)

I realise we will need to decide what to do about the lease quite soon, if not exactly immediately. I am sure we can discuss the matter like civilised adults sometime over the next week. In the meantime, I will need to come by the flat tomorrow to pick up a few personal necessities. I will be by between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm, if...if you wish to absent yourself during that time window.

If you prefer.

**2012-12-15 20:56:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Arthur Weasley and Molly Weasley*



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Mum and Dad:

Percy's staying with me. He and Penny broke up last night. He was the instigator, frankly. I was hoping I could change his mind, but even after I spent the night arguing with him, he seems firm in his purpose.

I'm sorry. I tried.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-12-16 13:57:11**  
(no subject)

Oh, no.



 [alt\\_arthur](#) at **2012-12-16 13:58:20**  
(no subject)


Understood, son. Thank you for telling us.

Don't blame yourself. I couldn't change his mind, either.

Damn Lucius Malfoy, anyway.

Will you both be coming for dinner tonight as usual?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-16 14:02:42**  
(no subject)

I haven't raised the subject with him, but my plan is to act as if I assume that we're going. He may be reluctant, but I'll do my best to make sure he's there.

He's mostly worried about breaking the lease. He hasn't asked me, and it pains me to say it, but...I don't want him living with me permanently. Not because of the space considerations so much, as


because I don't want someone in my space from whom I have to hide all knowledge of the Order.



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-12-16 14:03:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Understood, son, and I don't blame you. It's more difficult to hide things when you live in a small flat as you do than at the Burrow. Although I doubt he'll want to move back to the Burrow, either.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-16 14:04:31](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I think he thinks that's below his dignity as Lucius Malfoy's clerk.




 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-12-16 14:05:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Good lord.

Well, we'll discuss it tonight.

Thank you for being on the front line on this, son.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-16 14:35:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Charlie helped, too. It just so happened he was staying with me on Friday night when Percy popped up on my journal, asking for a place to stay.

Charlie tried taking a more sympathetic tack, in the hopes that Percy might talk more freely with him about Malfoy. He did a good job of it, too.

**2012-12-15 22:16:00**

*Private Message to Granger*



 [alt\\_harry](#)

So.

I know you've got

you know

people. And you talk. And you're friends. And that's okay. It's good. I think it's a good thing that you have things that you... you know, that you keep yours.

I just

Look. Okay. How much does Finch-Fletchley know about me? Because he sort of has to know about why Sinbad was coming. And I guess if I know about him and Sinbad it's okay he knows something about me, but it's ~~not like I decided to tell him or anything~~ and I guess I sort of want to know how much ~~your friends~~ he knows and I don't want you to think you can't talk about things or anything but

yeah.

Pans says he's worth knowing. And I guess we've got some things in common I didn't know before. So there's that.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2012-12-16 06:45:03**

*(no subject)*

He *is* worth knowing. I think you ought to ask him what he knows, because I don't really know what Sinbad might have told him. I think he knows (because Sinbad would have said) your real name and that your parents were S's friends. And he knows that you're not-- that you treat me--better than most would do, let's say.

F-F didn't come here for the reasons most people think he did--I mean, I think it was a little more about Hydra than most people believe but it wasn't just her, it was things to do with Sinbad and what he's trying to do, and he has his reasons for feeling that way but it's better if you get to know him and ask him yourself, really.

But don't feel badly that we arranged it so you could each have time

alone with Sinbad, either. It actually worked out perfectly, Draco and Pansy telling him and Hydra to come up the hill like that. And now you've a new photograph--well, an old one but you know what I mean, new to you.

Harry, if you're feeling jealous, don't. F-F may know Sinbad but it's not the same thing at all. It's more like how you feel about Professor Lestrangle, only not even as much. S wouldn't come all the way here just to see F-F, he didn't even know F-F knew he was here, we surprised him with it. He came to see you. And I don't know if you know it but he gets Apparation sickness, too, but he did it anyway. It's even his birthday tomorrow (today, really, I suppose) but he did it because there was a chance he could see you. Just think--all that and all the risk, but he wanted to do it so you could talk to him.

So I hope you really talked! but even if you didn't he would have done it because he's trying to be like a real parent for you, for your parents since they're not here anymore. Which is

Well. It's really--important.



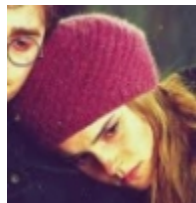
 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-16 17:46:02](#)**  
(no subject)

I wasn't that jealous. I don't guess. Maybe. It was just sort of weird. Because there are people I know I can tell things too, and trust, really trust, and he wasn't one of them.

And Hydra

I've told some things to her, I guess, I mean, she knows a lot more about me than some people, but it's not like I would've thought

so it just sort of was weird. That's all.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-16 17:51:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I know it's got to be a shock, learning what other people know or don't know or believe or don't believe but I think part of the problem is that you can't do the things you're meant to do all by

yourself, alone.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:07:19](#)  
(no subject)

I'm the one that has to  
you know.

And I'm just

I'm just me.

And you and Draco and other people at school, I mean, look at us. What could we ever do that would really matter? Maybe in like twenty years. Maybe. When we're stronger. And have charge of things.

it just seems like too much sometimes.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-16 18:18:41](#)  
(no subject)

But you don't have to do it alone. And you can't, anyway, because it *is* too big for just one person, Harry.

Look at what you've already done. You saved Hydra. You saved Sinbad, too, and the others that night (Mr Mac and Mr Moony and Mr S, I mean). And Pansy and Draco. You've already defied V once. I know you can do it and we can figure out how.

And remember what Professor B has told you, too.

Besides, it's not like there's a specific time and place like an Arithmantic exercise. Maybe it isn't supposed to happen until you're stronger and older.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:29:36](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

Mr Moony. Good one. I'd forgotten about him.

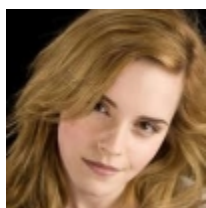


You're right. There's more than just us. It just seems sort of mad sometimes that lots of people think I'm such an important part of whatever's going to happen. That's all.

We have done a lot, when you put it like that.

I guess I didn't think about it as defying. But you're right. Like what the thing says my mum and dad did.

And I've got you. To help me sort out how. Because I'm definitely not going to be able to do that on my own, and you're brilliant.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-16 19:05:47](#)  
(no subject)

We'll all sort it out.

How was the butterbeer with Katie?

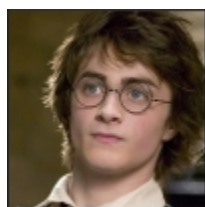


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 19:11:21](#)  
(no subject)

It was nice.

She was nice.

It was... normal. In a really good way, I mean.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:20:25](#)  
(no subject)

While we're talking about what people believe and don't believe.

If it's okay, I mean.

Can you tell me anything about Longbottom?

Because his mum and dad are in the picture. Right by mine. And Sinbad. And I guess I didn't really know that they were all in it together. Because people talk all the time about his parents, and

Sinbad, and what they did, but I don't guess I knew that mine did that sort of stuff too. Not really.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-16 18:24:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes but probably not here, just in case?

He's also good to trust.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-16 18:33:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Draco doesn't.

At all.

But I guess things are sort of different now than they were two years ago. In terms of what we've sorted out that needs doing.

I don't think he still knows what to think about that bit though.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-16 18:41:48](#)**  
(no subject)

Well. Longbottom and Draco both tend to see things in very stark terms of black and white, even when they know it's not that simple, and I think they both have ideas about the way the world is--and where each other fits into that world--that might not be as true as they think. But sometimes Nev L can be really opinionated about what's right and what's wrong, and that can rub people the wrong way, particularly when what he's saying is morally wrong is also the thing that's probably the best option. (And if you think about it Draco can be almost the exact opposite sometimes, so I can see why they'd misunderstand each other a lot. But I think if they looked beyond each other's parents they'd be better off.)



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:38:24](#)  
(no subject)

Still. Good to know.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 17:46:33](#)  
(no subject)

We did talk. And I'm

I know how much he risks every time we see each other. I think it's hard sometimes, just because he has all these ideas of how things ought to be, and I feel sometimes like I'm disappointing him because I don't

I don't know.

I wish we could've been normal. Like what Finch-Fletchley had. Eating dinner together. Talking about books we've read. Talking about random stuff that isn't important at all.

It would've been nice to know him without all the danger and the truths and the prophecy. That's all. Because really? It's been some letters and a few hours. So yeah. Maybe a little.

I guess I'd rather have what I have than nothing at all.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-16 17:55:32](#)  
(no subject)

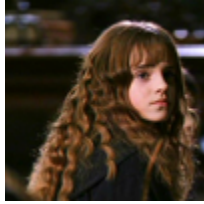
Oh, Harry, you don't understand, if he's disappointed it's not in you, it's because he wants the same thing and he knows there's no time to make that happen. It's probably always going to be a little bittersweet. But if you want to talk to him about books and dinner and random things he'd be happy to hear about it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:10:58](#)  
(no subject)

I guess I could write about random things.

Just to, you know, write. Not because I need something.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-16 18:19:40](#)  
(no subject)

Draco still writes to his parents once a week, even when there's not much to tell them. You could do that if you wanted to do.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-16 18:31:18](#)  
(no subject)

I could. Yeah.

**2012-12-16 18:36:00**

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



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Hermione,

How are you?

I say, thanks again for making it possible to see Sirius. Though I feel sorry you had to spend so much time alone on that hillside, what?

I suppose I was surprised that he looked so...healthy. I mean to say, it's only logical that he has friends who'll help him but somehow I expected he's been living rough more than it appeared. I do wish he'd been a little clearer about the plans he and his allies are making but I can well understand why he might stay cagey about that, what? I'm glad, at least, that he's willing to entertain the idea we'd all join up eventually.

I'm also well glad he finally got a chance to meet Hydra properly! His letters are always careful in what he has to say but I can tell he's been skeptical about her. It's no wonder, what, coming from her family, though he of all people ought to realise that the child need not take after the parents!

We talked a bit about Professor Dolohov but not as long as I'd have liked. I know Sally-Anne's become quite impressed with him in a very short time. I must admit I've a different reaction to his attention. Not as visceral as Neville's perhaps, but then--I think I've more cause, since he will insist on trying to convince me I'm some sort of bally old Dark Arts prodigy. (Which is utter nonsense, it's just a mind-game he's playing at, I'm sure.)

The only thing I regret is not having renewed the warming charms on my cloak and gloves. And I ought to have chosen a warmer hat. It's a good job we got a nice, thick soup for supper this evening, what! I say, I sat as bally well close to the fire as I could get last night, in the common room, and it helped but not nearly enough. I've cast a fresh charm on my jumper, too, but it doesn't seem to make me feel any less shivery.

I say, you'd mentioned that Harry might want to spend some time comparing notes on Sirius and I just wanted to tell you that would be

smashing, as far as I'm concerned. Completely at his service, anytime.

-Justin



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-17 00:39:48](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm all right. Thanks for asking. Most people don't, you know.

It wasn't any trouble to be outside--but thanks for being willing to come later, when Pansy got back. I know Harry wanted time alone, too, so this way you both got to see him but didn't have to talk in front of each other, which was probably better for you, too.

But you're right, Harry does want to know more about what you know (about him, mostly), and he says he wasn't jealous but I think he was, really, a little bit, that you got to spend so much time with Sirius over things that weren't questions of life and death, you know, and that you don't have the same sorts of pressures he has, but then he doesn't know yet that you're muggleborn, like me and Terry. I wouldn't tell him that without your permission, either.

As far as Sirius and Hydra, I think he just doesn't want to underestimate Bellatrix Lestrange. He does tend to make snap judgements, though, especially about people, and then it's hard to make him change his mind. For the longest time he thought Pansy was just trying to draw him out so she could turn him in to Mr Malfoy. Things like that.

Do you really think Professor Dolohov would lie to you about whether you're good at his subject? I mean, I think he would lie if it helped him, somehow, but I just don't see why he'd bother, or what it would gain him to tell you something like that. I suppose it could just be a mind-game. Do you think he's amusing himself, then? I guess that's possible.

If you're not feeling better by tomorrow you ought to go see Matron for Pepper-Up Potion. (Sorry, I'm just used to telling Harry to look after himself better than he does, too.)

**2012-12-16 21:52:00**

*Private message to Pansy*

How was Hogsmeade? Michael and I went for butterbeer and then we split up to do Christmas shopping. I thought I'd catch up with you at some point but I didn't see you all afternoon.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

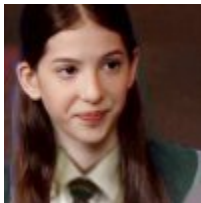
Do you think Ron's going to pretend I don't exist all the way till we leave for holidays?

---



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:11:12](#)  
(no subject)

He can be a sulky monkey sometimes, can't he? I think he just needs to get over it. And maybe if you make sure to ask him to do something, he won't be able to claim you're neglecting him or some nonsense.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:14:27](#)  
(no subject)

Asking him to do something just gives him a chance to shove it in my face that he's busy ignoring me.

Right now I'm pretending I haven't noticed. I'm not sure I want to give that up.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:16:05](#)  
(no subject)

Well. I'll have to see if I can't pull his head out of where it's currently sticking, then.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:17:31](#)  
(no subject)

It shouldn't be YOUR job to beat sense into Ron.

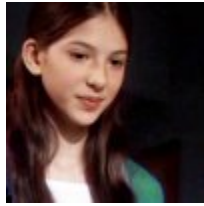
I'm not sure who's job it is, mind you. The Twins', maybe. Or Neville's.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:20:05](#)  
(no subject)

The twins would literally beat him. With rubber chicken wands.

And merlin knows Neville isn't good with girls, unless it involves pining.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:24:43](#)  
(no subject)

I'd pay a galleon to see the Twins beat Ron with rubber chicken wands.

Too right about Neville.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:26:14](#)  
(no subject)

That might be arranged...



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:15:21](#)  
(no subject)

And 'sulky monkey' sounds so playful and fun when mostly he's just incredibly annoying when he's in a snit about something.

I had ALREADY AGREED to meet Michael and I remembered that less than a MINUTE after I told Ron I'd help him work on his lines and it's not as if I am the ONLY FRIEND RON HAS AT HOGWARTS who could help him memorise something.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:18:15](#)  
(no subject)

He just doesn't handle jealousy particularly well, I think. Of course, it'd help if he knew it was jealousy to begin with.



He'll come around. But I can see how it'd be terrifically annoying.  
I'll see what I can do.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:26:26](#)  
(no subject)

I don't think it's the sort of jealousy you're thinking, not really. He's barely noticed I'm a girl, beyond recognising that I have to use a girls' loo.

He just doesn't like the fact that I'm seeing Michael because he doesn't want any of his friends to grow up, either. It would be as if I went into a snit because you wanted to spend time with Draco in Hogsmeade instead of spending all your time with me.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:45:33](#)  
(no subject)

Well, see, that's the thing. He really hasn't gone out of his way for any girl, has he? I don't count Delacour, of course, everyone went moony over her, but I think he isn't good at sorting through it because of that.

So maybe it's because he isn't thinking of relationships yet, and that's making it harder for him to understand why other people would want them?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:14:36](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Sirius came for an unexpected visit. And he wanted to see both Harry and Justin, and then Hermione told Harry about Justin knowing Sirius, and he got all Harry about it, and Hermione and me had to arrange it so they'd each visit with him separately, and I got to say hello but really not much else, and then Draco had questions about Justin and Hydra, and it was all rather exhausting.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-17 04:16:47](#)

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

SIRIUS BLACK was here?

And DRACO saw him?

AND you. And Harry and Justin. ~~How come nobody told~~



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-17 04:25:22](#)

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

I suppose he wanted to catch Harry before hols.

I mostly stood around waiting to tell Justin that he could go up and have a proper visit.

Draco doesn't particularly care for Sirius, and I think he's rather baffled by how much Harry and I like him, seeing as how he's sort of the disgraced slightly mad embarrassing cousin of the Blacks, but he put up with it rather well considering.

**2012-12-17 12:49:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Sirius and Harry*



 [alt\\_hermione](#)

Hello, Sirius, I hope you had a good birthday yesterday.

Harry was happy to see you on Saturday, but it made him a little sad, too, because he wishes it could be more normal, by which he means that it weren't such a huge risk for you and that you had more time and could just talk about ordinary things instead of only having time for the important things.

And I got to thinking that sometimes when he's home at the holidays, it's a little easier for him to slip out for a few hours. I don't think he could come to Grimmauld Place even though I'm sure he'd love to see it, and it's probably too dangerous for him to know that you and Mr Lupin are actually part of Laszlo's (but I think he could come along to tea time if Hydra had another session there with ~~Mrs L~~ Tonks), but what if we arranged for you and him to find a way to see each other over the holidays? I bet I could keep people away for a while if they think he's in Buckingham and doesn't want to see anyone. He's supposed to spend time with the Malfoys too, but that's harder to sneak away because it's more like being a family and people include him more. But sometimes he and Draco go flying and we could maybe arrange something then, as long as Professor Lestrage doesn't go with them or anything.

Anyway, is there somewhere nearby Laszlo's where you could meet him but not be seen? Or even anywhere else, if he can Floo there and so can you then you could just meet.

What do you think?

Hermione

P.S., I'm glad you liked the Galleon. We worked hard on it. Do you think Mr Snape's right and we could use something like it for everyone in the camps? I think we'd have to make sure that the messages from those coins don't show up on our coins here at school. The way we did these was that they're all connected through a modified Protean charm; I think if you did another batch the same way, but never connected one to the original coins (ours, I mean), you'd be all right. And then there's the question of how to keep them

getting stolen or something if someone's in the camps. A Galleon is a lot of money to some people. But I think the twins could help with some anti-theft charms. Although that might be a problem because what if it started screaming in the middle of the night, a mudblood can't have an enchanted item at all and then they'd find it and maybe it isn't going to work, hm. Or do you think it should be something that doesn't look like money in the first place? That's probably better. A button or badge would do it and no one would think it too odd, maybe.

P.P.S., I think maybe if you had some time when I could slip away and see you, that might be good. If you and Mr Lupin have time, I mean, I think maybe I'd like to talk a little about--my mother. But maybe not just yet. I'm not sure. Sometimes I think it's better when I don't think about it.

P.P.P.S. Justin was glad, too, and he said that he hopes now you've met Hydra you'll stop worrying so much that she's just like Bellatrix.

---



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-12-18 02:43:50](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Hermione. It was quiet but pleasant. I suppose I've reached the age where a family supper and a simple gift or two makes for a successful birthday (don't tell anyone I said that! I've got a reputation to uphold, after all). But then I guess I never thought I'd have a proper family, and I guess I do, if it comes to that.

I've been thinking about ways to see him more often, too. And you. I appreciate your willingness to stay behind and cover his absence, kiddo, but I hope we can figure out a way to do it without missing the chance for a more proper visit for you. (I'm glad you mentioned it. You don't have to tell us anything you don't want to, Hermione, but I know Remus and I would always be willing to listen to anything you might have to say. That goes for Harry, as well. He doesn't have to dwell on what you call the important stuff.)

You're right that Laszlo's probably isn't the best place, since he knows it as the Ponds' place. But there is a small park nearby and we could certainly go there. If he got up a Tea Appreciation then we could meet while it's going on - I don't think your other mates would miss him, and besides, I'd need to make myself scarce anyway, as you said, so Justin and Hydra and Pansy don't figure out where I live, either.

And yes, I was thinking that a Galleon itself wouldn't be the right thing for people in the camps, or in households where having money might be a problem. But buttons. That's a brilliant suggestion. (Not that I ever think Snape's *right*, exactly, but I do agree that we can certainly make something that will do a similar job to your coins.) Will you copy out the process step by step and get it to me? Moony and I can tinker with it once we've finished the Christmas presents we're making for Dora.

And tell Justin that I'll grant he doesn't have terrible taste. I've seen Hydra and I can tell she really fancies him, too (though he doesn't know that, of course). It's just that Bellatrix is dead dangerous. And Rodolphus, too. I just hope he knows to be extremely careful. If they catch a whiff that he's muggleborn, they'll not just throw him in the camps, they'll skin him alive. And I'm not exaggerating.

By the way, if we do arrange for a visit, would you like me to see if Alice and Frank can bring Terry, too? I'm sure he'd love to see you, if he knew you were coming.

**2012-12-17 15:50:00**

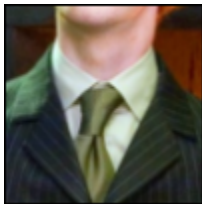
*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

How're you holding up? Been thinking about you all day.



 **alt\_charlie**

Dunno what your plans are for the next few weeks, but right after Christmas hols I switch to working overnights into February or so, so if you want some help flat-hunting I could probably apparate down in the evenings. Or if you just want a shoulder to lean on a bit, I could do that too. I'll promise on my wand not to let the words "you should" cross my lips.



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-18 04:21:49**  
(no subject)

I'm...taking it day by day. Picked up quite a few items from my flat yesterday (I'm keeping them miniaturised in a rucksack in the corner by the sofa where I'm sleeping). I had hoped Penny would make herself absent at the time (I'd carefully told her when I was going to be there, just to avoid unpleasantness), but no, she insisted on hanging about and looking daggers at me as I was packing up.

Bill's been brilliant, and thank you for your kindness, too. I'm sorry I was such a wreck on Friday night/Saturday morning but, well, it had just happened.

I think I'm going to owl Virgil Crispin (you remember, Mr Malfoy's former clerk: he's now with the Office for the Regulation of Commercial Enterprise). I plan to pick his brain about how to get out of a lease. Penny told me yesterday that the landlord's demanding two hundred galleons to do so. I'm not sure whether to believe her; it seems like an entirely ridiculous sum.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-18 05:21:58**  
(no subject)

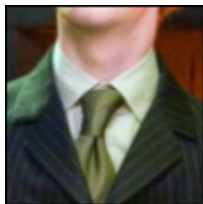
Don't be silly -- there's no need to apologise for Friday night. You're allowed to be a right mess for a bit, as long as it doesn't interfere with the important

parts of your life. And you're conscientious enough, and dedicated enough, that I know you wouldn't let it. So I wouldn't worry too much. 'Day by day' is a good way to look at it.

And I don't want to hear any talk of 'kindness', either. You're my brother, and that's that. Being there when things go wrong is what family's for. I only wish I could be there in person to do more.

Still -- if you need me, or even just want something to take your mind off things, just holler. And if you want a change of scenery, we're allowed to have guests up here, for an afternoon or even overnight. I know it's not your scene, and you're likely up to your ears in things to do for now, but it might be nice to take a bit of time to do something that isn't your usual? Consider the offer open-ended -- I know I can count on you to be a good guest, and everyone up here's pretty good at minding their own business.

That sounds like a good idea, the bit about owling Mr Crispin, I mean. I hope he'll have some useful suggestions. I don't know much about New London flat rental, but £200 sounds like quite a lot to me, too. Is there anyone else you've met through your work with Mr Malfoy who might be able to help you out if Mr Crispin can't?



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-19 02:43:34**  
(no subject)

I did receive a prompt reply to my owl from Crispin, and we're meeting for lunch tomorrow. So I hope he'll have some useful suggestions. If he can't help me figure out what to do about the lease, perhaps he can suggest someone who could.

Actually, getting away for a day or two might be a good idea. I would have to inquire with Mr Malfoy, and I'm a bit wary about doing that until the holidays are over. But I also like the idea of your company if I'm going to be flat shopping again. It will have to be a much more modest flat, and probably in an inferior neighbourhood, unless I can find a flatmate. I'll have to think about that.

First step, though, is to find out what it'll cost me to break the lease. I'm very grateful that Bill's letting me stay with him until I get all this sorted out.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-19 05:19:04](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if you'll have time in between your duties for Mr Malfoy, I'd love to host you for a bit. If you give me a few days' notice I can likely arrange for you to stay in the guest cottage -- otherwise you'll be stuck in bachelor barracks with me, but it's all right, we've all got much better at keeping the place not smelling like scorched robes and dirty socks.

A smaller place might be a better idea -- less to keep clean, what with you so busy -- but does the neighbourhood really matter that much? Sure, it'd be nice to live in the center of the action, but maybe it'd be better to save your sickles to put to better use. Well, that's what I'd do, at least, rather than taking a flatmate. Unless there's someone you were close to from your year at Hogwarts who was looking for someone to share a flat with, but I think you're the sort who'd prefer peace and quiet at home after a long day rather than having to socialise in your own space with someone over supper, yeah?

Does Mr Malfoy work from Christmas through to New Years', then? I'd think that with everyone concentrating on the holidays you'd have the time off, but then again, he's definitely one of those people who's always working so hard, so I'd definitely believe he wouldn't take much time away.

But really, whenever you figure out what your next step is, just give me a shout. I'll do whatever I can to help, even if it's just listening to you gripe about all the things you have to get sorted. And if Mum starts in on you over Christmas, feel free to throw me to the hippogriffs as a distraction -- I don't mind her clucking at me about grandchildren for a bit if it'll save you from the same.



**[2012-12-17 17:48:00](#)**

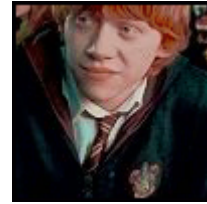
*Oi. Exams.*

Yeah. Can this week just be over already?

No?


Well. So, for those keeping a tally (Mum), that's Charms and Arts done. And not too badly, maybe. I thought my hand was going to fall off, though, during the Arts exam. From all the writing, I mean! Not anything that happened in the practical part.

At least there's nothing tomorrow morning, but I've got both Creatures and Defence tomorrow afternoon.



 [alt\\_ron](#)



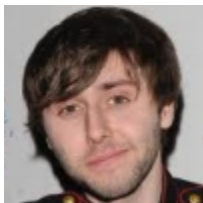
 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2012-12-18 00:11:12](#)**

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

You don't think Professor Raz is going to make us write the whole exam, do you? I mean, he's not still trying to punish everyone for that duelling rubbish, is he? Because that would be so crap. Especially after all the questions on Dolohov's exam. Seriously! I know he wants us to think about stuff, but that's totally different when we're answering questions in lessons. I had to keep sharpening my quill!

Anywiz. I'm so ready for hols, I can taste it. (And it tastes like mincemeat and roast and jam and honey and pies and bangers and mash and eggs and toast soldiers... yeah.)

And we've been talking about when to have a Burrow day, and we think maybe Thursday after Christmas. Who can come? You're all invited, and Mum'll cook and we'll play some Quidditch and maybe fly some obstacle races, and there won't be any stupid exercises!



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **[2012-12-18 00:51:03](#)**

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


Right now I just hope I can stay *awake* through the exams, what! Though it's well possible he will do-- but I hope not. (Even if I do butcher the pronunciation or sneeze in the middle of the

incantation.)

Hols at yours sounds a treat. I do hope I can figure out how to come this time. If I had to bring Remy and Alfie, would that pose a problem?

-Justin



 **alt\_ron at 2012-12-18 00:58:14**

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

Nah. The more the merrier, mostly. They fly, right?

I mean we've had loads of people who've just sort of come along. All the Strettons, for instance, and their muggleborn servant with them.

Course, it'd be better if you could get away from them and just come be with friends, yeah?



 **alt\_justin at 2012-12-18 01:16:26**

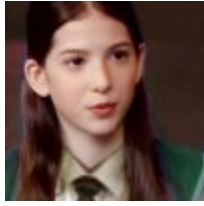
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Oh, yes, they fly. Not so much as you lot, I don't think.

Remy's not so bad, I suppose, when he's not acting oddly. He's just a bit of a show-off but I imagine in the company of your family he'd have a hard time staying in the spotlight.

I confess I've not the slightest idea what to expect at the Jugsons' this holiday. They were so pleased over the summer but this term I've had only a letter or two and one parcel (a jumper, which I sorely needed but seems to be inadequately charmed against this Scottish weather). Still, I don't suppose it ought to be too difficult to arrange a visit, what?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-18 01:23:10](#)

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

Do you want me to take a look at the jumper?

I'd love to come play quidditch, Ron. If you'll have m



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-18 01:35:34](#)

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

No, I shouldn't like to trouble you, Sally-Anne. I'm sure I can put the charm right, somehow. Besides, I've a snug seat near the fire just now.

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 01:25:05](#)

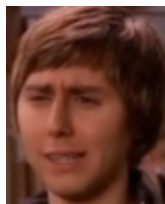
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Remy did well with his audition for the revue. Dead funny. But that's the most time I've really spent around him.

What do you mean by acting oddly?

Hm. I guess it must be hard to know where you are with a foster family. I can't even think what that must be like.

But, say. If you need a warmer jumper, I've got extras. Course, they're hideous. (Don't tell Mum I said that!) But if you wear them under your robes, they'll keep you warm like nothing else. Want me to bring you one? I could meet you at your common room entrance in a bit.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-18 01:32:17](#)

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

Oh, as I said, he tends to like to create drama, whether it's warranted or not. Though I say, I think he'd be on his good behaviour if he did come.

I say, how hideous? Would you mind terribly if one changed it to

something less hideous, or do you think that would make it not warm?

But yes, I could do with another one. I've been wearing this one nearly every day, except for when the elves have laundered it. I looked in Hogsmeade for a second but all the jumpers at Gladrag's were more than the Jugsons give me for a month's allotment.

There's no need to come to the Common Room, though, I shouldn't like to trouble you, old man. Tomorrow would be fine. Shall I send you a message when I've finished the Arithmancy exam?

-Justin



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-12-18 01:40:36**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good  
Private Message to Justin*

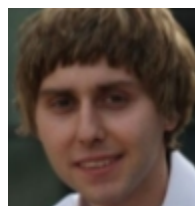
You can transfigure it anyway you'd like. Though I think hideous might be one of its essential aspects, yeah? (Warm definitely is,

though.)

~~I didn't realise you didn'~~

Do you have warm things for sleeping in?

It's no trouble if you need something.



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-12-18 01:46:18**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good  
Private Message to Justin*

Oh, I say, sleeping's no problem. Our dormitories have lovely bed-warming pans and curtains to keep the heat. Have yours?

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-18 03:08:40](#)**

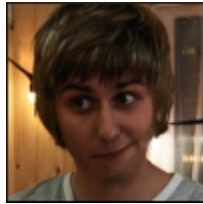
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good Private Message to Justin*

Sure, and I've got a hot water bunnybottle. But sometimes it still gets chilly in the night.

Maybe it's just the way things are in my room-- a bit icy with Thomas and Finnick and all.

Or maybe one of them's putting a anti-heating hex on my coverlet sometimes.

Could be that.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-18 03:45:44](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good Private Message to Justin*

I say, perhaps Sally-Anne could teach you a rune or some jolly old thing that will tell you if someone's disturbed your things?

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-18 04:02:20](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good Private Message to Justin*

Yeah. I'm in Runes, too, and I reckon I could put up a protection rune or two, but they can be funny, runes. Don't always do only the

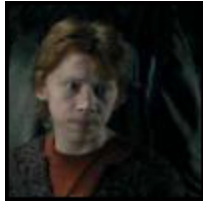
thing you wanted them for.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-18 01:23:38](#)**

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Ron*

Do you want to meet to revise for Creatures and Defense? We with me and Pansy, I mean.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 01:35:45](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:  
Private message to Ron*

Have you checked your day book to see if you've got time for it?

Or is Corner busy, then?

Cause obviously you'd rather be off snogging him.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-18 02:20:21](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:  
Private message to Ron*

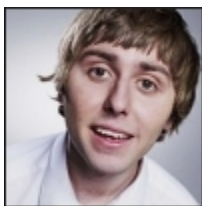
As a matter of fact I did check my date book, since apparently if I make a mistake about when I'm free and then correct it two seconds later you will be cross with me until further notice.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 03:01:48](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:  
Private message to Ron*

Who's getting cross, then?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-18 00:11:40](#)

*(no subject)*

Hullo, Ron,


I know just what you mean about the Arts exam, what! I'm well glad it's over, though I've a feeling I quite destroyed the section on sensory spells.

I say, you're lucky you've nothing in the morning. Some of us have three exams, with Arithmancy. I could do with a lie-in to get over this rather beastly cold!

Are you looking forward to the holidays, then?

-Justin




 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 00:23:13](#)  
(no subject)

Looking forward to hols? Ha. You could say!

That was you sneezing and coughing, then? Must have made it rough to cast some of the things he wanted in the Practical, yeah?



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 00:34:44](#)  
(no subject)

Say. We'll be having a bit of flying and fun at ours over hols again. It's sort of a thing we do, y'know? You should come!

And even if you didn't want to fly or if your cold's still a bother, you could stay in and Mum'll feed you soup and fresh-baked bread and honey or jam and tarts or cakes or pies or summat. Probably most of those things. Her cooking'll make anyone feel better.




 **alt\_justin** at [2012-12-18 01:00:30](#)  
(no subject)

That sounds lovely, old man, cheers!

(Although right now, soup appeals more than pies or tarts. Never thought I'd say that, what!)

-J



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 01:16:21](#)  
(no subject)

Have you been up to see Madam Pomfrey?





 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-18 01:21:17](#)**  
(no subject)


No, I'd been hoping the thing would play itself out, what? If it's not better tomorrow I shall, though.

I've not wanted to take the time, with three exams to face!

Do you think Professor Grubbly-Plank will include anything on Porlocks? She only gave us the one lesson on them. There were-- what--three lessons on Kneazles and Knarls!

-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-18 01:27:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.

Right.

I totally forgot Porlocks. I can't even remember what they're meant to eat-



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2012-12-18 03:51:37](#)**  
*Private Message to Justin*

That's mad, mate, just go ask for some Pepper-Up. You'll be right in no time.

Anyway, you should've said you're still under the weather. Ern's got an extra blanket with a charm on it to figure out where you're cold and warm just there. Just ask to borrow it.





 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-18 01:24:13](#)  
(no subject)

Mrs Weasley really is a brilliant cook.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-18 02:22:51](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

And apparently she doesn't object to a mass invasion by Ron's mates, either!


-Justin



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-18 04:47:07](#)  
*Private Message to Ron*

Are we all invited, tunalips?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 04:50:03](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Ron*

Of course you're invited!

D'you mean whasisname? Didn't we try to get him to come last time? You can try again if you want. Do you think he would?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-18 05:02:15](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Ron*

Oh, I'll ask him.

But I wanted to know if Sally-Anne would be welcome or not. Because she loves your mum and the Burrow, and believe it or not, she likes spending time with you too, and I think it'd really hurt her if you kept giving off the impression that you didn't want her there over hols.

I can understand how her forgetting about plans would be frustrating, but I hope you can forgive her, Ron.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-18 05:06:08**

*Re: Private Message to Ron*

Oh.

Well, of course she can come.

She's not going to want to bring that git Corner, though, is she? What does she even see in him?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-18 05:10:46**

*Re: Private Message to Ron*

Say. Do you remember anything about Porlocks?

I can't see I've written anything down at all from that day Grubbly-Plank talked about them. D'you want to look over Creatures notes during lunch tomorrow? You've got Arithmancy in the morning, don't you?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-18 05:16:14**

*Re: Private Message to Ron*

I mean, I already invited her to come flying over hols and work on Quidditch drills with me and the twins when she made the side for your House. And she said she'd see if Harry thought it would be crossing some lines for her to come throw quaffles and run bludger drills with us.

But then she got all whatever with Corner and she's never said about the Quidditch and she never wants to do anything anymore but go off and snog him.

Seriously.

Whatever.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-18 05:32:24](#)

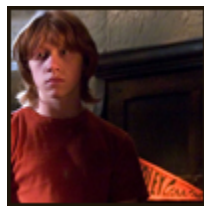
*Re: Private Message to Ron*

It'd be nice if you could tell her that you want her to come. Because right now I'm not sure she knows it. And she's just said up there that she wants to go, tuna face. She looks forward to the Burrow for weeks. I think it's one of the few fun things she has over the hols.

And I don't think she thought much about Corner at all, really, until he asked her to go out for a butterbeer. But the fact that he asked made her give him another look, and she liked him more than she would otherwise because he showed he was interested in her. And I've got to admit, I think that it reflects rather well on his character that he likes her and is nice to her, only because I think she deserves it, and so I'm inclined to like him better because of it.

Replace Corner with Draco and that'd be what you thought last term, yeah? Maybe he's not that bad.

And Sally-Anne and me were thinking of going over Creatures together tomorrow. She was planning on asking you to join, actually. Hasn't she? You're welcome to, only I'm not going to be sitting between you while you growl at each other, because that would just be unpleasant for everyone.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 05:41:55](#)

*Re: Private Message to Ron*

That's just daft.

I don't see how you're making it my fault. I ask her to do stuff, but she wants to get butterbeer and snog Corner instead. And now you want me to ask her all over again?

Never mind.

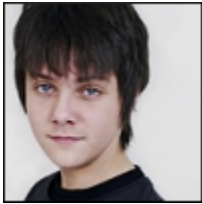


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-18 14:42:44](#)

*Re: Private Message to Ron*

I'm not saying it's your fault. I'm asking you if you could make an effort to smooth things over.

That's all.

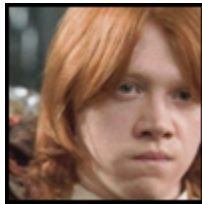


 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-18 03:48:00](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I've got Arithmancy in the morning, too.

I feel the same as Ron, I can't wait for it to be holidays!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 04:11:56](#)

*Private Message to Michael Corner*

Don't you have something else to be doing than writing in my book?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-12-18 02:31:28](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, I have been keeping a tally, so thank you for your report!

I've sent along a tin of shortbread for each of you to help you through exams. You should receive it at breakfast tomorrow. There should be enough to share with your friends.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-18 03:03:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks, Mum. You're the best!




 **alt\_arthur** at [2012-12-18 02:37:12](#)  
(no subject)

Good luck to you on the rest of your exams, son. I'll be rather curious to hear about the Arts exam in particular when I see you this weekend; it's not a subject I studied while at school, of course.

(I do remember the fifth year Creatures exam right before Christmas as being rather exciting. That was when Professor Kettleburn lost two fingers on his left hand. Not to worry you or anything!)



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 03:04:28](#)  
(no subject)

I heard about that! Professor Kettleburn having two fingers missing, I mean.

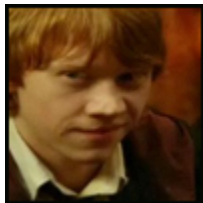
It happened in your exam? That's wicked! What happened?




 **alt\_arthur** at [2012-12-18 03:57:08](#)  
(no subject)

He had a Graphorn in the paddock--the NEWTs students were studying it--when it got a little, ah, overexcited when a niffler escaped its cage. The graphorn gave Professor Kettleburn's hand a vicious kick when he was trying to corral it back, and, well....

I believe that was the last year that actual Graphorn specimens were studied at Hogwarts.



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 04:09:07](#)  
(no subject)

Dead wizard.

I mean. I'm sure it was really tragic.



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 03:29:40](#)

*Private Message to Dad*

Say, Dad?

I was wondering. If maybe you could stop into a shop in New London for me. It's at Charterhouse Square. That's pretty near the Ministry, isn't it?

Anywiz. I had a little money left from my YPL stipend, and I wanted to get Mum something special for Christmas this year, so I sent for a rose bush, but um-

I thought maybe it'd be okay to say we'd pick it up rather than pay for having it sent out to the Burrow and all-

D'you think you could go by there one night this week and pick it up?

I mean, if you're not too busy. Well, I know you're busy-

I mean, I could still probably ask them to deliver it, but-

The place is called Welken Nurseries.



 **alt\_arthur** at [2012-12-18 03:59:28](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dad*

Ron, that's quite an inspired idea for a gift. Well done; I know your mum will love it.

I would be more than happy to run that errand for you. I can pick it up either on Tuesday or Wednesday, and I'll smuggle it out to my workshop and hide it there.



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 04:05:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dad*

That's brilliant!

Thanks, Dad!!!




 **alt\_zacharias** at [2012-12-18 03:57:23](#)  
(no subject)

I know I'm planning a lie-in tomorrow but I'm taking advantage of that to put in a little extra work on Transfiguration for Wednesday.

(Could you believe that Arts exam? 'You're alone in a room with a kumquat and a bowl of cherries, a butterknife, two sticking plasters, two unlabelled potions and a book of lute compositions. The door is locked and you do not have a wand. How do you get out of the room?' Seriously?)



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-18 04:07:39](#)  
(no subject)

I wish it'd all been like that. It was all those 'short' answer questions before! I mean, there must've been a hundred of them. And they needed seven or eight sentences each!

Well, three or four sentences, at least.

But that was a bloody lot of writing!

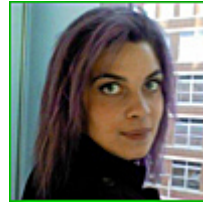
And, I know. Kumquats, yeah?



**2012-12-17 22:51:00**

*Order Only*

We had a nice supper here last night for Sirius. Kept him awake for most of it, too.




 **alt\_nymphadora**

Bea gave Sinbad some lovely charmed balls for playing fetch, which is her new favourite sport. Well, next to pulling his tail, which she still thinks is a merry riot.

And Ellie made a nice ginger cake, which I think helped him keep the rest down. Looked a little peaky at the edges after all his travelling. Speaking of ginger. Bless her, I think El's had her head turned by a pair of dashing blokes who've stopped by the garden recently. Sweet how she kept circling us back around to talking about them!



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-18 05:30:03**

*(no subject)*

I dunno, you might want to keep an eye out for those blokes. They seem the shady type to me. I heard one of them was planning on coming out drinking tomorrow night, in the middle of the week, even!

Sirius -- I'm sorry we all missed wishing you a happy birthday, yesterday. (It's been the Weasley family drama this week.) Still, it sounds like it was a good day. I'd buy you a beer tomorrow night, but it might look odd to put a dish down for Sinbad -- still, I owe you one.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-18 12:50:24**

*(no subject)*

Wish I could join you there, but I have a meeting with a contact tomorrow night. But I plan to be there on Friday.

Happy belated birthday from me too, Sirius. Same goes for me with regard to the beer.





 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-18 13:34:19](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, that's all right. That way we get two nights out of you lot. I told Charlie we should pay you both commission: we sell more beer when you're here, improving our scenery!



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-19 05:43:06](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm happy to come in and be decorative whenever I have a spare evening! You'd better watch it, though -- one of these nights I might just try to sneak Miss Bea out under my robes with me when I go. Did you see her turning her hair ginger when we were playing grab-your-toes?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-18 14:43:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Bill.

And I shouldn't worry too much about our Ellie, if I were you. She tends to get attached easily, whether it's to dogs or tall, handsome blokes who appear to be single.

Can't blame the girl when her other options round the garden are so limited, eh?



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-18 13:39:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll see if I can't get more of those good nuts in. We went through them all last week.

Oh, and I'll speak to my pastry chef and see if she couldn't bake another of her nice cakes for tonight.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-18 14:38:57](#)  
(no subject)

Please, no more ginger. I can't even look at a slice of gingerbread just about now.

It's not that I don't appreciate the tender loving care - just that variety would be appreciated, as well.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-18 23:25:57](#)  
(no subject)

Hope carrot's alright.

Have you had a look at it? She's even put little sugar carrots on top.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-19 01:43:59](#)  
(no subject)

Carrot's lovely.

Has she been reading up on cooking charms?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-18 14:41:37](#)  
(no subject)

No worries, Charlie. It was quite an intimate affair: As Dora says, we weren't up for much in the way of celebration. Dressing gowns and slippers seemed to be the preferred attire. Suited me just fine.

Though today, Bea thinks it's my bound duty to prove to her that I value her gifts by giving them exercise!

But regarding your drama: Moony said Percy's making a proper mess of his life. Sorry you and Bill seem to be the ones elected to support him - well, that's what brothers do, of course, but it's hard, I know, to try to offer support for *him* while not condoning his *actions*. Believe me, I know.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-19 05:41:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Dressing gowns and slippers sound like a lovely birthday to me.

And thanks again for those bits of advice tonight on how to best handle my brotherly duties. I keep hoping that if we hit on the right thing to say or do, we'll be able to lure him out from under Lucius sodding Malfoy's thumb, but ... well, it's like you said, you've been there yourself.

I'm not giving up, though. Not until I have to. Even if it does mean I have to pretend to admire his boss instead of wanting to see him used as a snack for the Dementors.

I realised after I left that I'd forgotten to hand over the list of apparition coordinates for the spots we were talking about -- it's a pretty long list, so I don't want to copy them into the journals. I'll bring them by sometime later in the week if I can, or hand them over on Boxing Day if we can stop in.



 **[alt\\_macnair](#)** at **[2012-12-18 14:52:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy returns, Sirius. Thought about coming 'round, but we're still preparing for the solstice run up here and figured I ought to stay and help.

The universe must have a sense of humour, since it saw fit to have you born the same day in December as your cousin Bellatrix.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-18 16:22:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, and weren't joint birthday parties such a treat round ours!

And a week before Christmas, in the bargain.

I'll be coming out to meet you for the boat trip, probably Thursday night so we can head out in the early morning.

Have to say these broad daylight trips make me uneasy. Don't suppose we could convince the planet to tilt its axis a few hours earlier, do you?

**2012-12-18 06:50:00**


*Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*



 **alt\_bill**

Please tell me that Ellie blushes and giggles when she sees you tomorrow night. No offence, because I'm sure she's a nice girl, but if she's honed in on me...that's a complication I don't need.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-18 13:07:44**  
(no subject)

Not meaning to imply that you do need a complication like that.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-18 18:36:41**  
(no subject)

I'll keep an eye out to see, but you're right, that would be a bit of a complication!

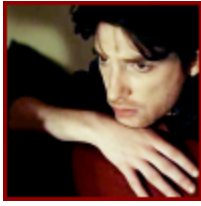



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-19 05:32:41**  
(no subject)

Well, she was definitely watching me tonight, but I don't think it was the kind of blushing-and-giggling Tonks was talking about. So you may very well have another admirer...

You ready to strangle Percy yet?

By the way: you should admire my restraint in not mocking you for losing that game when we played it out on Thursday night. I'm pretty sure I've earned the right to poke fun for at least a few weeks. Shall we hold off until after Christmas hols to start up the next one, or do you want to set it up now?



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-19 23:59:45](#)  
(no subject)

Percy is being uncharacteristically quiet. Subdued, even. Maybe deep down he knows that Dad's right and he's being a royal prat so he feels guilty--I can only hope--but he's still sticking to his resolve to end it all. He's just not talking about it.

But he's being a scrupulously considerate flatmate, washing all his dishes (and mine, too, before I can get to them), extra quiet in the morning, keeping everything neat as a pin.

It's sort of like the flat's being haunted by an exceptionally conscientious and morose house elf.

Let's wait on the next match for now. We'll probably end up playing a number of 'em live when we get together anyway. And I have a couple of busy weeks coming up, as I'm finishing year end reports. A new game would give me distraction, sure, but I probably won't cover myself with glory.

(Not that I did in that last match, anyway. Huh. Guess screaming and leaping is good for something. Once in a while.)

**[2012-12-18 11:27:00](#)**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Well, that's Arithmancy done!

I'm trying to take your advice and not use every single minute of the exam period to go back over the answers. Trust my instincts, that's me.



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

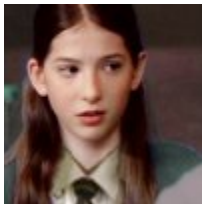
Only if I find out I messed up the answer to #7 it's your fault, right?

And I'm sure I did the maths right on #22 but now I'm thinking I might have subtracted the square of the angle instead of added it in #48.

Oh, bugger. And I've already handed it in, too.

Er.

Well, anyway. Look. I know he's your mate but has something got up Weasley's arse lately? Because every time I try to talk to him he's a right git. So. If there's something about you two that I ought to know, maybe you should just tell me now, yeah?



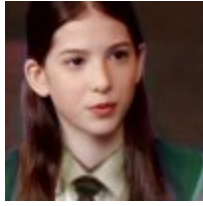
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-18 16:37:58](#)**  
(no subject)

He's just being an eejit. We've been friends for years, never more than that. He's being a git to me, too, if that's any comfort.



 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2012-12-18 16:39:30](#)**  
(no subject)

What? Why's he being a git to you? That's not on!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-18 16:41:51](#)  
(no subject)

He got cross because I was spending time with you.

Honestly I think he's fretting about exams. Either he'll get over it once he's home for the holidays OR he'll eventually grow up a bit, either way it'll be fine.



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-18 17:03:01](#)  
(no subject)

Who *isn't* fretting about exams? Capper and I've been up til about two every night preparing.

It's not fine, he can't just treat you like you're not allowed to have a boyfriend. What, does he think he's the only person you can be friends with?

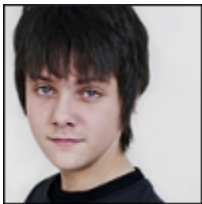
I guess you know best what'll make him leave off but sounds to me like he needs to be told to get stuffed.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-18 16:39:51](#)  
(no subject)

Oh and even if you'd caught a mistake on #7 or #48 you'd just have introduced a mistake on #4 or #36, you know?

What did you think of the Dark Arts exam? Did yours have kumquats? Because mine didn't, but I did get satsumas in that 'imagine you're in a room with...' problem. (I used the nail parer to carve runes into one of the satsumas, hopefully he'll like that trick.)



 [alt\\_michael](#) at [2012-12-18 16:45:57](#)  
(no subject)

Now you're making me think about what I wrote down for #4 and #36!!!

You're cruel, you know that? Good thing you're cute.

Mine didn't have fruit in at all. It said 'You wake in a completely



darkened room with an unconscious wizard, a cup of tea, a candle and a book of gardening charms. The door is locked and there's no key. How do you get out?'

I took the wizard's wand, lit the candle, drank the tea and looked in the charms book for a charm that would dig a hole under the wall.

Seriously, should I be calling Ron out or anything? Not here, obviously, but maybe on the train?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-18 16:52:19](#)**  
(no subject)

NO! No, really, he's just trying to get a reaction. Did Bitsy ever whine when she was little? Did your parents tell you to just ignore her? I mean really it's almost the same thing, any reaction at all just encourages the annoying behavior.

**2012-12-18 12:00:00**

*Talents*

I know some people complain about exams, but I find them rather energising. And I'm learning to appreciate the way some professors write theirs to help us tie together concepts and point out connections between techniques and approaches that we might have missed in the day to day work of mastering this and that bit of casting or content.



 **alt\_blaise**

I'm just finished with Arithmancy, and I must say Professor Vector wrote a brilliant exam for us, building from one system to the next. Seems a shame to follow that heady bit of thinking with something so... earthy as Creatures. I'm looking forward to Defence, though. I always feel stretched after Professor Lestrange's lessons, and I expect he'll have designed a true exercise of skills for us this afternoon.

Interesting, isn't it, who does well and who flames out in the Practical sections of a Dark Arts exam? Thomas, for instance, is always surprisingly sharp in these situations. And now Finch-Fletchley. You've got a flair for it, mate. I suppose that speaks to the strength of your magical heritage, and the fine training available at Beauxbatons, of course.

But then we've all got our gifts. Who knew Smith was such a comic, for instance? I mean, we saw what Weasley could do with farce during the last production, so it was no surprise he was offering more of the same this year, and I suppose his cockney monologue was funny enough, but Smith! Really?

Say, Daphs. Have you made your choices? When will the cast list go up?



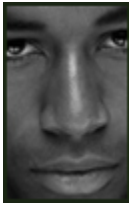
 **alt\_daphne** at **2012-12-19 00:18:56**

*(no subject)*

Now, that decision is being made by Professor Carpenter and Mr Krumgold, not me! Though they have let me know that they expect to announce the results either tomorrow or Thursday if they can

~~actually agree on~~

Yes, both Smith and Weasley did a very fine job at the auditions. But then again, every one did his or her best, I think!



 **alt\_blaise** at [2012-12-19 02:21:59](#)

*Private Message to Daphne*

Say. May I take you to some of the holiday events? I don't want to monopolise you, of course, if you've someone else asking you. I was thinking, though, that it would especially nice to go together to the St Mungo's gala on the 29th. After all, next year we're almost certain to be tapped for membership in the Junior Auxiliary, and I'd like us to put ourselves in the very best light this year.

And there's mother's soiree, of course. She wrote to say it will be the 27th this year. She intends an Egyptian theme, and Fergus has designed something for the veranda, apparently. Some elaborate mis-en-scene.

Are you and Mr Krumgold involved in any of the Twelfth Night festivities? There's a ball on the Saturday, of course, and if you're not spoken for, I'd like to escort you there, as well.



 **alt\_daphne** at [2012-12-19 05:00:36](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphne*

Oh! Well, no, no one else has asked me to the events. Not officially, that is. Mr Krumgold and I do have plans to "socialise together" at the ball, but he's not my escort. It wouldn't look proper, seeing as he's ten years my senior, and coming to the school to work on the Revue, besides. But I did promise that I would save him a dance.

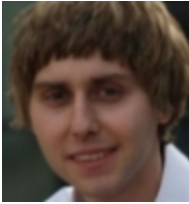
But I would be very happy if you were my escort, yes.

And an Egyptian theme, really! That sounds positively splendid! Will it be too cold for Robes of Nefertiti, do you think?



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2012-12-19 01:08:36](#)  
(no subject)

Whatcher mean, Zabini? That was meant to be dramatic!



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-19 01:13:05](#)  
(no subject)


Zabini,

Er, thank you, I think?

I'm glad to hear it looked better than it felt, what? I mean to say, I was quite sure my cold had the better of me.

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-19 01:47:21](#)  
(no subject)

Um.

Glad you thought it was funny, yeah? It was fun, anywiz.

I thought the Creatures exam was really interesting. Identifying the creatures and the diet and whether they're healthy or old or whatever--just from what we could make out from the droppings.

**[2012-12-18 20:23:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Hydra*



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

Hullo,

I'm feeling much better tonight, though I'm not sure whether that's just because both Defence and Noble Arts are over, what? How are your exams going?

I'm also well glad Ron offered another jumper.

But it's just occurred to me: Ought I to have got presents for Mr and Mrs Jugson? I've a small something to give Alfie and Remy (despite how he's been acting toward you, what!) but I didn't even consider what they might like.

Perhaps I can ask Sally-Anne to order some Stretton jam on account.

-Justin



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 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-19 04:54:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

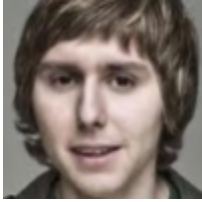
I can't believe you've been feeling poorly again this week. I don't see how you're always catching cold yet don't ever pass it along to me. I never seem to get colds, though, just this or that stomach upset. Usually right before an Arithmancy exam, ugh.

Good you're feeling better than last night, though.

Well, at least Remy's speaking to me again, even if he is still acting a bit jumpy. He seems to be in a better mood ever since he did so well at that audition.

I do think that Auntie and Uncle will be expecting a gift, from what I know of them. And I'm sorry to say, but I'm not sure that Stretton jam is something they'd much fancy. I know they're not as wealthy as my parents but they do consider themselves above transfigured foods most of the time, I think. But then again, I don't know what they would expect from someone they're fostering.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-19 05:05:34](#)  
(no subject)


Well, you must have inherited your parents' hardy constitution, is all.

And you'll do fine, Dux. You'll see.

I was thinking of their better jams, not the odd-tasting ones. But dash it, what do you think I ought to do, then? There's little time; perhaps someone's got a catalogue one could borrow? I say, you don't think Mrs Stretton hopes for something extravagant, what? Like those charm bracelets all the 6th-year girls seem to fancy? I say, just one decent assortment could be more than the jumpers we saw in Gladrag's!

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-19 05:10:40](#)  
(no subject)

Oh no, not a charm bracelet. A food item is a good idea, really, but maybe something a little more delectable. I know Daphne sent out tins of exotic-flavoured biscuits last year, from a bakery in New London called Sweetcream. Something like that, a little novel but still nice-tasting, would be suitable, I think.

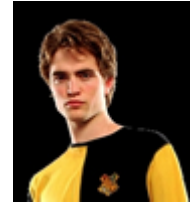
Also.. I would really like to taste those biscuits, especially the orange-chocolate ones!

From,  
Hydra

**[2012-12-18 20:37:00](#)**

*Private Message to Fred and Ron Weasley*

I think that the school could use something to cheer everyone up right before we all go home after this term. I'd like to invite the two of you (and George) to be in the traditional Devonshire Mummings play. I'm sure you've seen it as many times as I have. I was thinking Ron for Hind-Before, Fred for Bold Slasher and George for St George. Daphne should be taking one of the other two and we're discussing the last part, have to find someone who can play the jig.



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

We'll be performing at dinner on Friday and we'll have to throw together the costumes, but that's part of the fun. We can use the masks again. I've got copies of the lines written out for everyone, if you don't have it memorized already. The staff will know ahead of time and will have stuff for the bags.

Are you in?



---

 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-12-19 02:36:54](#)**  
(no subject)

What a brilliant idea. We're in, absolutely, George and me both.

What about Luna Lovegood for the last part? She knows the play pretty well, too, we think. And she's fooled enough around the penny whistle that she can probably play the jig!




 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-12-19 04:17:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Wonderful to have you involved. We'll see about Luna, I'm waiting to hear what suggestions Daphne has.

Does Thursday after dinner work for you to run lines and make the costumes?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-19 04:41:12](#)  
(no subject)


I can do it then. No probs.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-19 10:36:39](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, Thursday night would work for us.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-19 02:44:21](#)  
(no subject)

Aw, that's brilliant!

And, yeah, of course I'll do it!

You don't think I'll be type cast, though, do you? Heh.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-19 04:11:32](#)  
(no subject)

It's a mummings play all the parts are sufficiently silly  
you could argue you are being typecast.

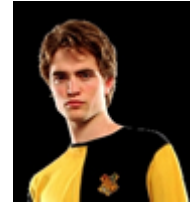
Great to have you involved.



**[2012-12-18 21:04:00](#)**

*Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

Have you come up with a suggestion for the Big Head part that can play the jig? If you don't have a suggestion for Moll Finney I'll ask Luna Lovegood since she's from Devon and will also be familiar with the part. I've just asked the Weasleys if they are willing to play the other parts. I assume you are are still willing to be the Healer.



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

As we discussed the costumes should be easy and the parts are short enough one or two run throughs Thursday evening while we do the costumes should be enough.

---



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-12-19 03:00:13](#)**  
(no subject)

The Weasley Twins have just let me know that Luna knows how to play a jig on the penny whistle, so if you don't have someone for that part I'll ask her and we'll just need Moll Finney.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-12-19 05:03:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I'll be the healer!

On any other occasion, I would suggest Samantha for the Big Head part, but seeing as she's somewhat in disgrace right now, perhaps it's not the best choice.

What about Melinda, then?



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2012-12-20 04:12:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I talked to Melinda after the prefects meeting. She's agreed to be Molly Finney as she doesn't feel she could do the jig justice this quickly.

I talked with Luna and she says she can play the jig.

**2012-12-19 07:54:00**

*Private Message to Sue and Zach*

Sue, not that it'll do much good, but could you let Binns know Justin and me'll be late for our History exam? He was feeling peaky again overnight and this morning he had a fever.



 [alt\\_ernie](#)

So I took him up to the Hospital Wing but Matron must be at breakfast. If she's there, could you ask her to come up when she's finished? He'll be all right but he needs Pepper-Up.

Oh, and Zach, save some toast for me, yeah? Thanks, mate.

**2012-12-19 15:11:00**

*Private Message for Sarah Yaxley*

Oh, my goodness! I can't stop looking at it!

I mean, I really think it turned out so intriguingly well. So artistic! And I can't wait to see the rest of them when you mount your show. Do I really have to wait for January?



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Listen, what are you up to tomorrow? Could I talk you into coming with me to collect the portraits from Verdollini? I want you to look them over and make sure I'm not missing any flaws before I agree he's completed our contract. I can't wait to see Mama's face, and Abuelita's, when they see them. Only, they have to be perfect. I don't want to have to send them back after I've given them.

Have you talked with Vani? She wanted to get together last week, but I couldn't manage it, and now I can't get hold of her. She wasn't moving house again, was she? I thought she'd found such a darling little place this last time.

Anywiz, I've got to run, but do let me know about tomorrow. I was thinking we could go over lunch. My shift runs late, so I'm afraid he'll have shuttered the gallery before I could get there at the end of the day. Does that work for you?

Ta.

**2012-12-19 16:04:00**

*(no subject)*

To my fellow fifth-years,

I humbly beg your pardons for disrupting this morning's exam. It seems I'm allergic to Pepper-Up potion, a fact which one had not known prior to this morning.

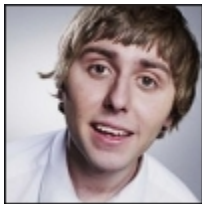


 [alt\\_justin](#)

I do hope I didn't ruin anyone's pages (apart from my own, what) or unduly disturbed anyone's concentration.

On the plus side, I'm quite well, now that Matron's given me an alternative brew. Thanks to those of you who came by the Hospital Wing at luncheon to check on me.

-Finch-Fletchley



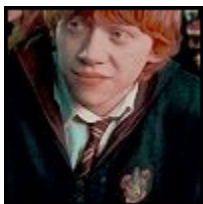
 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-19 21:17:05**

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

I say, dashed embarrassing, what!

Though I must say, if one's to miss an examination, History of Magic is the best choice!

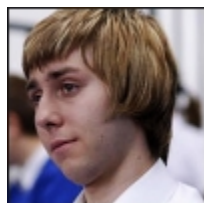
-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-19 21:37:44**

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

Still up there with Madam P, then? Anything you need?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-19 21:57:41**

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

She released me to go to Transfiguration this afternoon (I was at the back, what, so you'd not have seen me) but wanted me to come up afterward to make sure the second potion has had


no ill effects.

I rather wish I could go straight to bed and not take the Astronomy exam but there's no help for it, so I expect I shall be down for supper presently.

I say, old man, thanks for asking. (And thanks again for the jumper; it's been jolly warm, at least!)

-Justin




 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-19 21:36:48](#)  
(no subject)

Glad you're feeling better.

(Because it's hard to think you could be feeling any worse!)

That was... more excitement than we've ever had with Binns.



 **alt\_ernie** at [2012-12-19 23:11:11](#)  
(no subject)

That really was impressive! I've never seen anyone have a reaction to Pepper-up before.

Mind you, the smell was completely lost on Binns. He barely even acknowledged that we had to *Evanesco* the place after you left!

Glad you're feeling better. Coming to supper?



 **alt\_justin** at [2012-12-19 23:12:40](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Ernie,

Yes, I'm just on my way down.

Though I ought not to thank you, for reminding me of being sick at the same time as asking me if I'm ready to eat, what!

-Justin

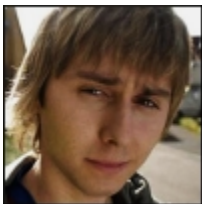


**alt\_gredforge at 2012-12-20 01:48:30**

*Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley*

A well-timed impressive spew can be so useful. Like avoiding History of Magic exams! How can any professor argue with sure-fire evidence of illness like that? Even a ghost like Professor Binns!

It's something we've been working on, actually, one of the products in our proposed Skiving Snackboxes line: Puking Pastilles. (We're not as far along on the testing as we would like, though. We still need to figure out how to get some start-up capital.)



**alt\_justin at 2012-12-20 04:35:40**

*Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley*

Hallo, you two,

How are you?

Well, I beg your pardon but I hope I bally well never do anything like that again--and certainly not deliberately! If it's a choice between writing an essay and spending half the day in the Hospital Wing while Matron tries to figure out what's wrong, and all the while quite unable to keep anything settled--no, thanks, I'll take the exam, what?

To say nothing of the inconvenience it caused everyone else.

Now, if it's for one of Madam Umbridge's sessions on the proper way to place one's boot-heel on one's servant's spine.... Then it might be worth considering!

But I say, I hope you're not trying to say you two had something to do with my difficulties? I can't think how you managed to slip something like that into my tea, what?

As for capital.... Chaps, if I had full access to my accounts, I'd be more than willing to contribute. (No, I know you weren't asking, precisely.) Sorry to say that even with full control, I shouldn't think I'd be able to meet your need as a sole investor, what. Though I'm

sure among several of us we might be able to manage it. Perhaps if you took up a collection?

-Justin



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-12-20 14:52:30](#)**

*Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley*

No, WE absolutely did NOT slip you anything. Wizard's oath. We wouldn't try pulling a trick like that, particularly with your exam. Even if History of Magic is useless.

The way we're planning it, each of the concoctions we're testing comes with its own antidote. What's the point of setting yourself up to puke to get out of class if you can't stop? So the Puking Pastille comes with another pastille you can swallow to settle your stomach again. We suppose it could be its own little first aid kit: if you're puking for real without OUR help (or maybe because you have an allergy to Pepper-Up!), you could break out one of the antidotes to make it stop. Although we suppose most people would simply go to Madam Pomfrey instead.

Other products planned: Nosebleed Nougat, Fainting Fancies, and Fever Fudge.

We have sent out a couple other feelers on investors.

**[2012-12-19 21:06:00](#)**

*Almost ready for Christmas!*



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

I have been baking up a storm, and I've spent the last two days delivering my baskets of biscuits, plum cakes, and jam to the neighbours and members of the barter network. Mercy, it seems as though my list gets longer each year, but I do enjoy the visits so. The Burrow is all decorated (Arthur put up the pine garlands and the holly this past weekend with much prickling and *ouching*) and it smells of cinnamon, cloves, and balsam from the Christmas tree. I just adore Christmas smells.

I still have a few gifts to organise, but I'm further ahead in my preparations than I often am by this time of the year. My, I'm looking forward to picking up the children from King's Cross station this weekend. I can't wait to have everyone under one roof again for the holiday.

(Speaking of which, Arthur, why on earth aren't you home yet?)

---



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-12-20 03:19:21](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, Molly, dear. A few bobbles came up this evening in the preparations for the Ministry party this Friday that I'm trying to smooth out, but I should be apparating home quite shortly.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-12-20 03:20:53](#)**  
(no subject)

My goodness, how does that concern you, dear? You're not on the committee that's organising it, are you?



 **[alt\\_arthur](#)** at **[2012-12-20 03:30:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Not technically, no. But they are planning on using Muggleborns to do the serving, you see, and the camp they had requisitioned from has had their work census drop quite a bit due to illness.



Whooping cough. We don't want to introduce that with the hors d'oeuvres. So I've been scrambling tonight to find workers from a different camp to fill the work requisition.

As I said, I'll be home soon.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-20 04:33:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Can't wait to be home, Mum. And I can't wait to see your face when you see what I got you for Christmas!

**2012-12-19 21:09:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Padfoot*

Done your Christmas shopping yet?

I had a thought about Hydra, but wanted to get your take on it. Now that you've properly met her.



 [alt\\_lupin](#)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-20 03:41:43**  
(no subject)

The Christmas shopping out of the old cupboards, you mean? Or the window-shopping Padfoot's done out on the street?

I thought Dora's already taken care of all the Ponds' gifts. But what's your idea?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-20 04:36:56**  
(no subject)

No, we've got started but haven't sent them all out yet.

I was thinking about how that last shipment of Laszlo's stuff included those packets of muggle sweets. I think Hydra would enjoy trying them, but only if we're confident she won't tell her mother. I doubt she will -- I don't think they have a lot of cosy mother-daughter chats -- but I wanted to see what you thought, first.

We wouldn't send it to her at home, obviously. Probably a note saying she'd get a special parcel once she was back at school.

Were you planning to send something to Harry? Cards to your numerous correspondents?




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-20 05:09:04](#)**  
(no subject)

For Harry I've got a two-way mirror. Hermione said he wanted to be able to chat more often, so, I'm giving him half the set that James and I got, after that first summer home from school.

I suppose if you think she'd like them, we could always send them through Justin. He's probably missing a proper Muggle chocolate bar, as well. I've a small parcel I can send him without anyone taking note. We can make it a little bigger.

For the others - well, hah-bloody-hah, first off. Berk. But I suppose I do owe Parkinson and Perks something - if nothing else, Perks needs to know what her mother's status is (and Arthur needs to help us create an incident so she can get away, I think).



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-20 05:22:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, now, that's a nice idea. Are you thinking that if we sent them through Justin, they'd be from Sirius & co., rather than the Ponds? We could still send her a parcel with the fancy honey in jars, and the muggle sweets could be from that source of All Things Subversive.

Does she know? About Justin?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-20 06:13:24](#)**  
(no subject)

From what I could tell they know every last detail about each other. Honestly, even Linda and Martin at their worst were not that much treacle. (More snogging but less, er, adoration, if that makes sense.)

And yes, let's keep the Ponds' gift completely above-board, and only put in the Subversive items from a known Subversive Source.

Sounds good. Merlin, is that the time? Why didn't you say? I'll close the workshop and come up.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-20 06:15:59](#)  
(no subject)

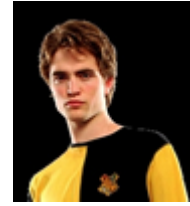
Muggle music for Pansy Parkinson; muggle sweets for Hydra Lestrangle; muggle clothing for Harry Potter.

Whom shall we corrupt next, and with what?

**2012-12-19 23:12:00**

*Private Message to Luna Lovegood*

Thank you for agreeing to play the jig as Big Head in the mummings play.



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

We're all meeting tomorrow after supper to rehearse and toss the costumes together.

I hope this helps lift everyone's spirits given recent events and exams. It should be a nice way to end term.

---




 [alt\\_luna](#) at **2012-12-20 04:20:56**

*(no subject)*

I'm quite looking forward to it. I think it will be fun, and it's a very good idea.

It took some searching, but I finally found my old penny whistle in my trunk (it was stuffed in a pair of my socks and wrapped around with an amulet on a chain to ward against the evil eye). I've practised the jig tonight. It doesn't sound quite like hopeless tootling, and I think with more practice tomorrow, I shouldn't embarrass you too much.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-12-20 04:42:50**

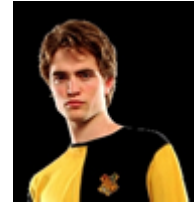
*(no subject)*

Bring the spare socks for the costumes tomorrow, the more colourful the better.

If you still have your mask from Halloween, bring that along too and we'll get it reset for the play.

**2012-12-19 23:18:00**

*Private Message to Headmistress  
McGonagall and Professor Vector*



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

Thank you for agreeing to let us perform the traditional Devonshire mummers play Friday evening. I'll be coordinating with the house elves to make sure that the head table is sufficiently supplied with chocolate frogs and other treats for the guisers' bags at the end of the play.

In addition to the three Weasleys and Ms Greengrass, Melinda and Ms Lovegood have agreed to fill the final two roles.

I hope this lets us end term on a positive note after the stress and chaos of the fall and early winter.

**2012-12-20 05:48:00**

*End of Term*

To celebrate exams being over (and the successful completion of my first term at Hogwarts), I will be holding an informal get-together in my classroom, tomorrow (Friday) after the final exam slot of the day and until it is time for supper. I will provide light refreshments.



 **alt\_antonin**

As all exams will have been given by that point, you will likely be able to persuade me into discussing the questions, and the answers I was looking for, should the uncertainty be such that it would spoil your holiday. Priority will be given to the questions of those who bring suitable bribes of chocolates or sweets. (Lest anyone take me seriously and cry foul: yes, that is a joke.)

Though it certainly has been an eventful term, I must say it has also been, on the whole, an enjoyable one. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all of you, and I shall look forward to returning, refreshed and ready to tackle a new term, in January.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-20 10:52:02**

*Private Message to Auri*

My dearest,

Well, exams are nearly over, and I have survived. (Let us hope I have not now jinxed us.) Your advice on formulating my exams for easy marking has once again proven invaluable: I have for the most part managed to mark as I go no matter how gruelling the students themselves found the questions. (If we've a moment free before end of term, remind me to show you the collection I am keeping of some of the more ... creative ... answers; many of them do not require familiarity with the subject to spot the hilarity.)

Regarding gifts, meanwhile: the bulk of your present is rather unwieldy. I would rather not haul it along with us to the get-together on Wednesday next (and you would likely rather not have to haul it home afterward) -- if you are amenable to an early exchange, I will ask the house-elves to bring it up to your tower Friday evening in anticipation of the midwinter vigil. (For which, yes, I am still

interested in joining you, if my invitation still stands.)

Since we have not had a chance to compare our holiday schedules: are you and Raz attending the Coopers' soirée on the 27th? I will assume you'll be at the St M's gala on the 29th, and of course New Years' Eve at Buckingham. (As for me, I am simply looking forward to the chance to sleep in for two weeks -- should my blasted circadian rhythm do me the kindness of refraining from waking me before sunrise again.)

Yours,  
T



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-12-20 15:45:53**

*Re: Private Message to Auri*

Tosha -

I am delighted, as usual, to have been helpful - and yes, swapping creative answers is one of the pleasures of marking, so please share.

Unwieldy presents, really? (Raz has managed to massively simplify things for me with the early part of his gift, but it's meaning rearranging my packing plans, which is what's occupying me this morning.) At any rate, part of my present to you is probably better done in private, rather than on Boxing Day, so I'll bring it all up tomorrow as well.

And yes, of course, tomorrow night. Do come up whenever you like - I'll be up there from after supper. I have the 3rd year exam at nine (but you may have the comfy chair and whatever reading material you like in my office), and then I have the newts from ten to half-eleven or so in the office. You are most welcome for that part: it is largely an exercise in "how to discuss one's research", and it might be of interest even if some of the topics are unfamiliar.

But before and after that, my attention is entirely yours, and I think the weather might clear nicely. I will have to mark the 3rds at some point, but their exam is straightforward, and I can keep chatting throughout.

As to holiday schedules: yes to both of the above (though with the Coopers, I'm trying to figure out what on earth to wear.) And at



least the ball for the Twelfth Night weekend, as inconvenient as the timing is with coming back to school. (And of course, the Malfoys, Boxing Day, and a handful of smaller gatherings, though I am making my excuses for our extended family Christmas eve, given the rest of the calendar.)

If you and I can find a free afternoon, I would love to take you up on your offer of introduction to yet more bookstores, and I am mindful that I promised you an introduction to the Archetype. I suspect Raz will be out with Harry at least a few of the days in there, and perhaps we can use one of those?

Right. Back to my packing. If I am not down at lunch, it is because I am buried in robes. And shoes.

-A.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-20 10:53:34](#)**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne Perks*

Miss Perks,

I will bend my dignity and confess to you that I have been entranced with your gift since receiving it on Monday -- every time I think I have discovered the extent of its diabolical subtleties, I uncover another layer. I am particularly impressed by the work you did to ensure that whenever the bearer compares the time on the watch to another timepiece, the time is correct -- the randomness regarding whether the watch runs early or late is intensely amusing in and of itself, but the comparison clause and the way it keys into the bearer's anxiety about timeliness elevates it from amusing curiosity to delightful evil genius.

Thank you again for the gift; I will certainly put it to suitable purpose at some point in the future. And thank you again as well for your diligence on behalf of my holiday greetings -- I have heard compliments from several people about the loveliness of the cards.

If you've a few moments to stop in before the end of term, I have a small token for you -- if you don't have the chance, I will make sure it is delivered by house-elf before you depart. I hope that your holiday is pleasant and relaxing, and look forward to the pleasure of your intellectual company in the coming year; the desk in my office you have been using is yours for the asking next term as well, should you be in need of a quiet place to work.

Best wishes for the season,  
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-20 11:02:14](#)**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Mr Malfoy,

It occurs to me that I will be leaving from Hogwarts directly to Malfoy Manor on Saturday in anticipation of your gathering. I certainly do recall the ride home for the holidays on the Hogwarts Express being a social event as much as transportation, but if you would care to forego it for any reason, do let me know -- I would be happy to side-along you and save you the trouble.

I do look forward to the chance to socialise with you outside the school environment, and to continue our past discussions regarding opportunities to serve Our Lord in the wider world.

Regards,  
Professor Dolohov



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-12-20 16:08:04](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Thank you for the offer, sir, but I do think I ought to take the train along with the other prefects.

The elves at home know to have all of my dress robes and other accouterments out and ready for me as soon as I get back to the Manor.

I look forward to socialising with you, as well. I'd particularly like to know a bit more about how the Noble Arts are seen abroad. I'd been led to believe that some countries take a rather more conservative view of them than we do, but then Finch-Fletchley seems quite adept at the Arts, having come to us from Beauxbatons. Several of those I befriended from Durmstrang indicated that they embraced them, as well. Still, it was clear that their usual curriculum different from ours, if only in subtle ways.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-21 05:40:08](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

No, that does make perfect sense, and speaks well to your sense of duty -- still, I thought I would make the offer.

And yes, you're quite correct -- attitudes on the Arts are many and varied. (And of course individuals inside a culture vary considerably as well, such as how many of the prominent families of the Protectorate passed information and performed study privately, before Our Lord came to power and while societal attitudes were more restrictive.) Eastern and northern Europe, in general, have historically been more permissive -- Durmstrang has been teaching the Arts for generations -- while western Europe, pre-Protectorate Britain included, has been more restrictive. Following on from my class lectures about the social construct of groupings of magic, there are also many cultures who don't divide the categories of magics the way we do -- in my mother's culture, which is still strongly influenced by the worldview of ancient Egyptian wizardry, most forms of Divination are considered "Dark Arts" unless practised under very exacting conditions.

But I get ahead of myself! (As you may tell, I find the topic utterly fascinating, and will happily converse upon it for hours. The trick is to aim me in the direction you find most interesting.)

If we do not have time to have that conversation due to your hosting obligations -- I would be happy to host you, and perhaps Miss Parkinson and Mr Marvolo as well (as I believe you're all good friends), for tea and conversation at any point over the next two weeks. You've only to let me know when it would suit.

Regards,  
Professor Dolohov



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-20 11:03:48](#)

*Private Message to Linus Moon*

Mr Moon,

I must thank you again for the mug -- the charm work is very clever, and I have amused myself by trying to spot all the languages I speak among the display and guess at those I

do not know. (It does help that 'coffee' is a fairly recognisable term, one supposes!)

As I mentioned last week, you may consider yourself off the hook for your detention tomorrow, and we will resume in the new year -- however, if you would be so good as to stop by my office right before lunch anyway, I have a small token for you that you may find educational.

Best wishes for the season,  
Professor Dolohov

**2012-12-20 19:05:00**

*Order Only: Solstice*

This evening we're making space in the storeroom for the good we're about to retrieve in the morning.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

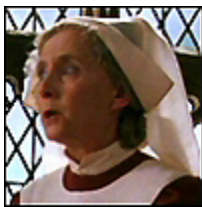
Frank, everything ready? Mac, how about on your end? I'm leaving here after we lock up for the night, so I should be at the rendezvous point in time for the tide to change.

Last chance for requests: I've got a little room in my pack for anything that ought to be ferried from here to you lot out west.

Oh, and Arthur, Molly: I've just reminded myself that after the holidays, we ought to check back with Miss Perks' mother and see if we can't think of a convincing way to arrange for her to join one of the enclaves living rough. But after the holidays - it's just been far too busy here to worry about anything other than tonight's run.

Well, that and the graffiti that keeps showing up and getting people talking. Last night there was a chalk drawing on a wall three blocks away. Depicted a Dark Mark with stars covering the eyes and open mouth. A little further down, someone had added a makeshift dog carrying a dead snake in its fangs.

I hope I'm being paranoid if I say I find images of dogs a little disquieting, especially so close to the shop.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **2012-12-21 00:45:32**

*(no subject)*

Graffiti of dogs? And stars?

I wish we had any idea where that Ridley woman has taken herself off to.

But, Sirius. Best wishes for tomorrow. Do write as soon as you are safely able to let us know you've been successful.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-21 01:24:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

we could probably ask around if we really want to know.

I'd rather just work with the people we've got an in with at the camps and leave it at that.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-21 01:19:42](#)**

*(no subject)*

we're ready to go.

the ten from the camps, and five more trickling in from sherwood.

damn good thing we held over the train when we did, or else we'd be tightening our belts a great deal more waiting for this shipment. as it is, with the staples we're getting our hands on for this run we'll have enough to easily get us through winter, and have some to spare for sherwood.

**2012-12-20 20:40:00**

*(no subject)*

There's so much to look forward to over hols, it's getting rather hard to concentrate on revising for Herbology tomorrow. I don't think I realised just how much I enjoyed Christmas at Gloss House until we spent hols at Hogwarts last term. I'm very much looking forward to celebrating Christmas with Ewan for the first time, and I just know the annual Christmas party will be wonderful.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Daphne, I'm waiting with baited breath for the cast list -- so many talented people came out for it, I'd imagine they had some hard choices to make, and it'll be ever so much fun to rehearse. I've got several of the arrangements mostly sorted out the way I'd like them, but they'll have to be adjusted depending on who's been cast and what their ranges are. But the chorus bits are coming right along, and I can't wait to have the time to really properly work on them over hols.



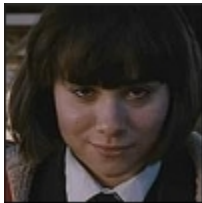
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-21 02:02:10**

*Private Message to Fred and George Weasley*

You lot have something planned with Diggory, don't you?

I don't suppose you can tell?

And if you'd please hit Ron upside the head, he's being a right idiot about Sally-Anne.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-21 02:06:28**

*Private Message to Draco*

I can't believe that in two days, it'll have been a year since the Yule Ball.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-21 05:02:27](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

That it will. Quite something, hey?

You don't mind that we'll be at my parent's party instead, do you? It seems that Professor Dolohov has already booked my dance card, you know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-21 16:39:56](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'm glad it'll be at the party, because everyone will be happy and look wonderful, and that tends to make everything feel a bit more special than usual. But I do hope we'll get some time to ourselves.

I may have to rip you away from dear Professor Dolohov for a dance or two.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-21 17:48:30](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I hope we do too, though I'll be expected to say Hello, at bare minimum, to every single person there. Who knows how long that will take, but at some point everyone will be too drunk to

remember.

"Rip?" Sounds violent. Make sure it doesn't harm the exquisite line of my dress robes.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-21 17:57:51](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'll be sure to spin you a bit while I do, so as to make sure you display at your best.

We ought to come up with a rating scale of drunkenness and adjust our hellos appropriately, where maximal drunkenness leads to either maximal cheekiness and inappropriate questions, or the shortest Hello we can manage, depending on the person in question.



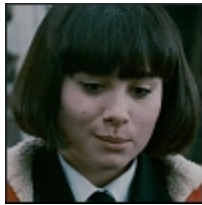


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-21 18:01:10](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

How well is this rating system going to work when we get to the point where we, too, are completely pissed?

I'm planning on trying, anyway. I think I might actually be old enough now where people won't actually care, even if they do catch me.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-21 18:10:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'm all for getting a bit funny, as long as we don't vom. I'd really rather avoid that.

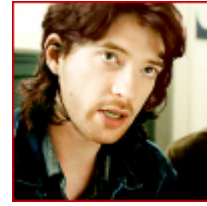
Perhaps we should come up with a competing scale, then, so that we only try to be cheeky when we can remember what we've said, and if everything starts seeming far too silly to bear, we'll just have to sneak away for a bit until the general level of drunkenness raises to the point where no-one will notice.

**2012-12-20 20:57:00**

*Order Only: Tomorrow night*

Tonks, Remus and Sirius:

I'm still planning on dropping in at the beer garden tomorrow night, but probably a little later than I had originally planned. The Ministry's holiday party is tomorrow afternoon and evening, and I do have to go. It's a bore, but I must put in the face time and schmooze, what with the recent promotion and all. The Lord Protector's speaking, too, so my presence is definitely required. The speech is scheduled for about four pm.



 [alt\\_bill](#)

I think I'll be able to break away and be there by about seven.

Mum, are you joining Dad for it? (Percy's planning on being there, too, by the way.)



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-12-21 03:14:50**

*(no subject)*

Oh, yes, I'm planning on going. I do rather enjoy the Ministry party every year. Although I must admit I'm a bit surprised by the change in location; I hope it won't be a terrible mistake if it snows tomorrow. What made them decide to hold it outside?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-21 03:16:34**

*(no subject)*

Oh, there'll be a large tent up, with strong warming charms. I gather they thought that the view over the river would be pretty, and it'll make an interesting change, I suppose.

I'll see you there then.




 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-21 05:36:54](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm admit I'm feeling a tiny bit glad that the cleaning staff aren't sincerely invited to that party. Not sure I could stand the schmoozing, so better you than me.

Besides, small business folk like Mr Ponds and I have got to keep the doors open so we can welcome you paying lot whenever you roll in from your first-round engagements.

(We'll be looking for you, and looking forward to seeing you.)



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-21 14:13:13](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sure I'll enjoy my time at the beer garden much more. So I'm glad you'll be open!

See you tonight.

**2012-12-20 22:53:00**

*Private Message to Raz and Auri*

I've had something very odd happen this evening, and I thought to ask you both if either of you had any suggestions on how to handle it.



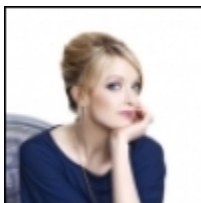
 **alt\_antonin**

As I was marking the end-of-term essays from the theoretical class that they turned in this week during their exams, a house-elf brought me an additional sheet of parchment and told me it was the last sheet of Mr Longbottom's essay and had fallen behind his trunk before he turned in the rest. Since I'd already marked Mr Longbottom's essay, and it had not seemed to be missing anything, I thought it might have been a draft version, but I happened to glance at it and it read only "this is all lies".

I checked with the elf and apparently Mr Longbottom writes that invocation at the end of each of his essays for my class, then removes it before turning it in.

I must confess, I do not have any idea what to do in this situation. I have not found the boy to be disruptive in class, but neither is he very bright. And of course there's his parents to consider -- but at the same time I do not want to automatically condemn him simply based on the choices of his parents. My first instinct is to call him in after next term begins and see if I might get to the bottom of this, but he's repeatedly seemed quite wary of me (and with attitudes such that he feels the need to disclaim every essay he has written for my class, one suspects he will not respond well to either gentle coaxing or outright asking).

Do either of you have a better suggestion?



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-12-21 04:32:41**  
(no subject)

Goodness. You just caught me - was about to head outside again. Ignoring the content for a moment, but what makes you say he's not very bright?

There are things he struggles with in my class, but overall his work is quite solid, when he's not rushed. There's a few odd places, but his charts are solid, his essays actually answer the question, and his observation notes are clear. (The odd place is mostly with work he does more quickly - transcription errors he'll catch given time.) Not

top of my class, but definitely top half, maybe the bottom of the top third.

On the rest of it, I've no idea where to start, beyond the usual gestures at assumptions about your field. (And they might well come from his grandmother, mind: everything I've ever heard of her makes it clear she is quite the conservative older witch and set in her ways.) What I saw in the YPL work was a solid attempt at participating, but he had rather a bad broom crash during the CCF trials, and of course has had fewer opportunities since.

I'd be glad to show you his work for me - bring some of yours, and we can compare tomorrow night?



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-21 04:43:14](#)

*(no subject)*

Hm. You may be right, regarding the assumptions -- I only know of Augusta Longbottom through reputation, but from those bits of reputation I can certainly believe her quite set in her ways. And, well, how many times have you and I spoken of traditional prejudices...

And I must confess: thinking back over the past few months, the "not very bright" perception is, alas, sloppy thinking on my part. He told me, in our initial interview, that Amycus thought he was not very bright, and that combined with the fact he has done the absolute basics in my class to avoid complete failure, and the fact his analysis tends towards the shallow and rote, has contributed to reinforce that observation. And thinking back on his behaviour in class, I suspect he has been doing his utmost to lead me to those conclusions. (Which is fairly mortifying when one thinks about it too closely; I am supposed to be better than that.)

Which raises the question: why is he so determined to make me think he's so dim?

I will bring samples of his work, yes. And when the children return for next term, I will keep a closer eye on him.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-12-21 04:54:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Toshenka, dear,

You have been more than a little busy managing hordes of students, curricular design for five years of classes, a new set of personalities to arrange like stars in the heavens to your liking, and the occasional national crisis.

More to the point, we all work from baselines, and you are still establishing yours for a given year, and for a given segment of the class, never mind for an individual. (If you feel you must be mortified, you might consider the degree to which lack of sleep might contribute to lack of insight, and apply yourself diligently to actually getting enough rest over holidays and next term.)

As to why - we've had those conversations as well. You do intimidate, Tosha. Who you are, what you are, the power you hold in every possible dimension. And it might be only that. It might be something else, but I think you'd have to actually talk to him to figure out what. Or even what category of what.

I wonder, could you arrange something to observe him when he's not as aware of you? (It is almost a pity he's not in CCF, or you might volunteer your services to Dolores whenever she arranges that plan of hers.)



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-21 05:01:41](#)**  
(no subject)

I do not think I could bring myself to be that helpful to Dolores even for the sake of solving this particular mystery, little star.

But for all that you have a point (and you do have a point) -- you also forget that for the last dozen years I have been expected to make much more high-stakes decisions and evaluations, much more quickly. And, of course, there's the wondering about what else I have missed. But that's another collection of issues.

I wonder -- if I am recovered enough when we return from holidays to brave your steps, I might prevail upon you to allow me to sit in through one of the fifth-year observation sessions.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-12-21 05:15:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Alas, then. (It would have been a great deal of fun to watch, mind you.)

And you do have a point, yes, but my argument about baselines does apply. You may insert my lecture on "If you were transported to Australia, the stars you currently know would not make sense to you, but the same tools work once you have your bearings." here. Editing in something else for the stars, since you've already admitted that the ones here would not help you much anyway. By and large, our affairs are not so high-stakes as you're used to, and I'm sure that must affect calibration.

(Pardon. Apparently marking the 4th years has gotten to me.)

As to sitting in, of course you may, any night you wish. And if you come for the newt gathering tomorrow, you'll even have something of an excuse that is not solely about Mr Longbottom.




 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-21 05:21:35](#)**  
(no subject)

I will indeed be there for your gathering. And you're welcome to drop in to mine, as well; I do not know how many of the little darlings will take me up on it, but if no one shows up, I will at least have time to do some extra marking.

Mind you, it might take me an hour to make it up your stairs -- but I will be there.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2012-12-21 15:06:16](#)**  
(no subject)

His work for me is passable, but he'll need to step up if he wants to be a newt. For example's sake- In third year he was ill on the day of a rather major practical test and demonstration, and he never did bother to come in and make it up. Always have the impression he's trying not to be noticed, but you know, there are more than a few students who

get that way about professors.

I think you ought to call him in, when the time's right. I've never done it myself, but now that I think on it, maybe he ought to be pressed, seeing as he's always avoided it.



**2012-12-20 23:37:00**

*Private Message to Conall Drumgoole,  
Buckingham*



Sorry. Only just caught your message. Have been out Ipswiching.

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

You sent that info to Yaxley as well, yes?  
That's his turf: he's covering primary arrangements with his own staff. Bristles if he's overlooked. (Fair warning. Annoy at own risk.)

Aurors will be all in tomorrow for Our Lord's speech if anything's needed, but it's Yaxley's game.

Our Lord's Might Prevails in All Things,  
B

**2012-12-21 10:36:00**

*Order Only: Coming About*

Frank, Mac,

I think I see Aleks' boat. About 10 degrees off the port bow and perhaps 15 miles out?



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Or is that a commercial liner much further away?

All things considered, I'm glad we've a little cloud cover but I do wish it weren't playing havoc with the visibility. And my lot are complaining of the damp.

I'm going to refresh their warming charms. It shan't help with the twitchy feeling this near the wards but at least it'll keep their feet comfortable. Let me know if you think we need to circle round again.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-12-21 16:35:24](#)

*(no subject)*

mrs jordan won't stop sicking over the side.

least she's got decent aim.

I think that's him, yeah. we should hit him dead on unless the wind picks up.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-21 16:55:14](#)

*(no subject)*

Feel that?

Wards just fell. Tell your people to heave alongside, it's time to move.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-12-21 16:56:43](#)

*(no subject)*

right.

**[2012-12-21 13:07:00](#)**

*Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

I know you're more of a firewhiskey drinker, but do try the mead -- it's got a surprising kick to it. Do you know who supplied it? I might order a few bottles next year for holiday gifts.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

Arista threw a fit when I left her behind today -- I was baffled as to why she thought she'd be coming with me to the Ministry Christmas party, of all things! Turns out she was confused. She's in one of the children's choirs that will perform at the Froste Faire, and she thought THAT was where I was going.

---



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-21 19:17:18](#)

*(no subject)*

Noted. Have only just arrived from Court; supposed to meet my clerk in a quarter-hour for some parchment he neglected to give me this morning.

(Happy to say that he has just informed me the fruits of my grooming have not been in vain. At least one of the factors limiting his performance has been cleared away.)

Did you tell her she'll have all the festivities she can stomach, come the weekend? You and Chloe are coming in the afternoon, are you not? Antonin Nikolaevich is expected as soon as the students have been packed away on the Hogwarts Express; Draco and Harry will join us once they are done with their duties in conducting the younger ones on the train.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2012-12-21 19:20:51](#)

*(no subject)*

We wouldn't miss it. She was temporarily unconsolated because she was convinced that THIS was the event she'd be singing at -- she doesn't want to shirk her responsibilities, that one.

Good news about your clerk.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-21 19:33:04](#)  
(no subject)

There seems to be something about the theatrical bent that engenders devotion, doesn't there? Perhaps it's akin to the artistic temperament.

Have they any collective talent, at all, or shall the Faire be another exercise in a fixed smile?



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2012-12-21 19:22:09](#)  
(no subject)

Your clerk is one of the ten thousand or so Weasley offspring, isn't he?

Stephen seemed quite pleased with his brother.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-21 19:29:21](#)  
(no subject)

So far as I know, the eldest brother has no romantic entanglements that might cause him embarrassment at his level. Sensibly so.

Knowing this one's ambitions, it was to his advantage to disengage himself from his inamorata. (Not that she herself was objectionable - though perhaps more suitable for a mistress than a wife, if one's taste led one to such things. But the family were, if possible, less socially acceptable than Weasley's own. Cannot imagine the lad speaking as seriously about their futures as he did while never having met her parents, for example. Entirely inappropriate.)

To say nothing of the fact that their somewhat unstable ... relationship ... required him to spend far too much time and energy devoting himself to its repair and maintenance, rather than to the demands of the realm.

Ah. I've spotted him.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#) at [2012-12-21 19:35:58](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps your Christmas gift to him ought to be a matchmaking service that specialises in finding suitable wives for ambitious purebloods who come from moderately disreputable (if nonetheless respectably old) families.

Though if he only just ended things with his lady-love, it's undoubtedly too soon.

You could make it a Spring Equinox gift.

**2012-12-21 13:36:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

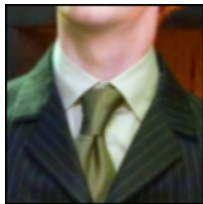
Got your message from Healer Acton's assistant. The meeting at St Mungo's ran right over luncheon and required going straight to Court.



 **alt\_lucius**

Presume you and Miss Clearwater were coming to the Ministry this after-noon, at any rate? Simply bring whatever it is you'd wanted me to review there and we can take care of it whilst others queue for the punch bowl.

Our Lord speaks at four o'clock so, let us say we shall meet by half-two?



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-21 18:47:05**  
(no subject)

Thank you, sir; I'll close the office early and come over as you suggest. I've been quite looking forward to hearing Our Lord's speech.

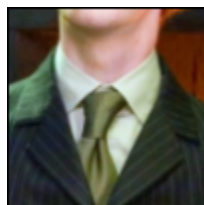
Uh, no, Miss Clearwater will not be there.

Actually, we will not be attending any parties together in the future.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2012-12-21 18:55:05**  
(no subject)

Really? Pity.



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-21 18:57:49**  
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

**2012-12-21 14:34:00**

*Private Message to Cousin Hydra*



 **alt\_nymphadora**

We're up to our elbows in holiday sales here: the whole shop smells of cinnamon and nutmeg and ginger, and I think I must have said 'Have a Happy Christmas!' to twenty people so far this afternoon. But I suddenly thought that this means you must be having a feast tonight and taking the train tomorrow, and I wanted to be sure you know that we'd love to see you if you've time to come for a visit.

Bea's a year and a half now, and more than half a handful! Her latest trick is giving herself a little black bunny nose that twitches and whiskers to go with. She'd love to show it off to you.

Sorry this has to be quick, but I did want to wish you a happy Christmas, too, and a safe trip home tomorrow.



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-12-22 02:07:21**

*(no subject)*

I would like to come for a visit, I don't know if I can. I don't know much of anything right now.

Some friends of mine - their Father's just been killed in an accident, at Ministry's Christmas party. You might have known him from your work there, his name is Arthur Weasley. Some of my friends, well, Ron, he was at the Tea Appreciation.

I hope you weren't at the party, too. And if you were there, I hope you're alright.

From,  
Hydra



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2012-12-22 16:00:22**

*(no subject)*

Oh, Hydra. I'm sorry for your friend. About his father.

I did know Mr Weasley a little. He's always so nice to everyone. Even people like me who don't have important jobs. And he's, he was funny. I liked him.

You must all be very sad.

And, oh. No, I wasn't at the party. We were here with at the shop, actually. So I'm fine. We all are.



**2012-12-21 15:44:00**

*Private message to Chloe*

I'm fine. Truly.

There's no need for you to seek me out; there were other injuries, and you might obstruct the Healers. I'm sure we'll hear in a bit what ~~the explosion~~ that rather sharp noise was, but in the meantime I wanted to set your mind at rest. Go home, please, and reassure Arista; I'll be along in a little while.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

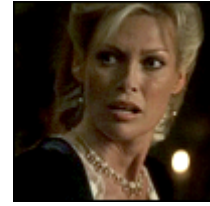
I think the festive part of this event is well and truly over.

**2012-12-21 16:02:00**

*Private Message to Lucius*

Husband,

Are you under the pavilion? Chloe and I thought we just heard something but we were taking a little air.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Then we rounded the corner to see people rushing out to the riverbank. What's going on?

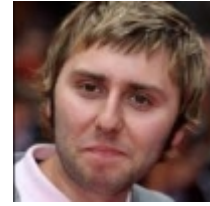
Is Our Lord arriving via the waterside?

**2012-12-21 16:28:00**

*Et Finis!*

*Mes amis,*

*Merci beaucoup pour le merveilleux panier de friandises! Je ne m'attendais pas de cadeaux de votre part beaucoup. Juste à temps, aussi - notre dernier examen était cet après-midi. Je suis bien heureux que, après tous les ennuis que j'ai eus cette semaine, nous avons terminé sur une belle, une douce: Botanique. Nous allons tous en vacances à partir de demain. Est-ce que l'école toute décorée pour Noël? Il doit être joyeux magnifique. Je suis également heureux de recevoir vos lettres, ce n'est pas aussi facile qu'on pourrait le penser à trouver d'autres personnes qui y converser en français lorsque l'on aime. Mais je me suis intéressé à entendre les nouvelles. Ce projet de loi qui est devant le Parlement a voté contre, vraiment? C'est ... bon d'entendre, je suppose. On m'a assuré que ça allait passer. Je me demande comment le ministère de la Magie ici doit réagir.*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

*JP, vous avez demandé à ma famille d'accueil. Ils sont un M. et Mme Jugson et que vous avez rencontré leur fils aîné, Remy. Ils ont une maison confortable à London Nouvelle, avec une servante née-moldue. Le cousin de M Jugson est notre professeur Lestrangle, ils sont donc très bien desservi, ce qui fait d'eux un bon choix pour mes hôtes. J'ai hâte de passer Noël avec eux et voir ce que les traditions sont ici. Je suis presque emballé mais je dois finir quelques petites choses, et notamment de décider ce que je veux partager avec tous mes amis ici à Hogwarts.*

*Joyeux Noël et merci encore,*

*-Justin Finch-Fletchley*

**2012-12-21 16:42:00**

*Private Message to Chloe Selwyn and Bettina Yaxley*



I've found Lucius. He was - he's fine. He's all right.

 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

Have you seen Dominic? I think he was closer to the platform.

Now if I can just find Barty or Bella but they'll be in the thick of things, I'm sure.

I heard that they've taken Our Lord back to Buckingham for the time being but surely no one else can leave right away. Dear, could you help keep people calm, over by the tea station?

I'll let you know if I see Dominic.

Bettina, I caught sight of Claudius - he appears to be all right as well.

**2012-12-21 16:54:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*



Charlie,

I hope you see this message right away, but just in case, I'm also having the Matron here at St. Mungo's Floo your superiour at the Reserve to tell them to find you as soon as possible. You are on emergency family leave as of right now. Don't bother finishing your shift. Come immediately to the St. Mungo's Trauma Unit and tell them you're with the Weasley family.

 **alt\_bill**

After you read this, close your journal and don't read anything else until you talk to me. I'm sorry, but ~~you need to be told in person~~

Just hurry.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-21 22:58:58**  
(no subject)

Fuck. Who's hurt? Who's dead

On my way.

**2012-12-21 16:55:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Minerva McGonagall*



Minerva,

There's no easy way to say this.

 **alt\_bill**

Dad was killed in a bomb attack at the Ministry party this afternoon.

Please locate my siblings and...and tell them or not as you will. If you choose not to, I'll take on the task. Please arrange for them to portkey as soon as possible to the reception area at St. Mungo's. Someone will be waiting for them.

**2012-12-21 16:57:00**

*Private Message to Barty and Claudius*

Anything yet?

He's away, though His last comment was that He plans to summon us all once the scene here has been contained.



 **alt\_lucius**

Narcissa has helpfully assembled the spouses and they are handing round tea. Kindle, Haley, Sanditon and their lot are beginning the interviews as quickly as possible.

Dominic's with the Healers but someone ought to be dispatched to St Mungo's with the family, perhaps. The ones who are here, that is.

Rowle's already rounded up the work detail (and another work detail besides) for Swift Retribution.

And I need to speak to Stephen as soon as possible, if you see him.

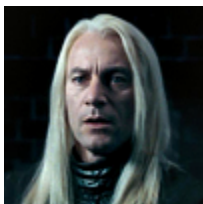


 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2012-12-21 22:26:01**  
(no subject)

Have just blasted two more reporters skulking behind the tape. Bloody nuisances.

Consensus here is that we can sell 'Faulty construction led to collapse of scaffolding.' Accounts for what's visible. And low casualty count.

Truncheon and Penderyn working on the first batch of witnesses and persons of int. Will make quick work of that. And quiet.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2012-12-21 22:34:18**  
(no subject)

Good.

Am joining the wives; will pass on the official version.

Reporters - where is Fudge? He or Claudius ought to be making a

statement, now that we have one.

The IMA have gone too fucking far this time.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2012-12-21 22:51:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Lucius. Dammit.

It's def IMA. Forney's just dug a brick out of the turf.  
'Ballydrain Brickworks, Co. Down'

Bloody IMA calling card.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2012-12-21 22:58:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Knew it. Hate when I'm right.

HOW THE BLOODY FUCKING

Nevermind. We shall all know the how soon enough.

Stephen. Need Stephen. The O'Connors shall have to pay for this,  
as it's clear they can do nothing to keep their muggles in line.

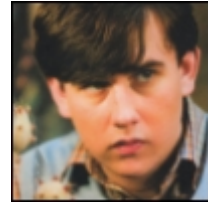


**[2012-12-21 17:11:00](#)**

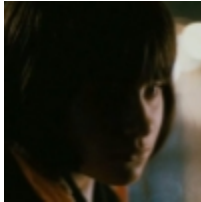
*(no subject)*

No

No no no



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



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-21 23:21:58](#)**

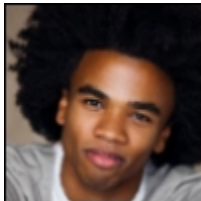
*(no subject)*

Oh.

Ron.

Oh Ron.

It can't be true. It just can't.



 **[alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-12-21 23:31:27](#)**

*Private message to Neville Longbottom*

That...utter...bitch.

To fling it at them like that, in front of everyone!



 **[alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-12-21 23:42:08](#)**

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

I can't stop crying.

They were going to adopt me.

He was going to be my father.



 **[alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-22 01:52:52](#)**

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

Oh, Luna. I'm so sorry.

I don't know, maybe you'd rather be alone, but if you'd like to sit with someone, I'm around.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2012-12-22 02:12:15](#)

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

I would like that.

Could we meet where we had the last tea? Until curfew, at least.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-22 02:22:08](#)

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

I'll be there soon, and I'll bring some tea along as well--the sett has an emergency stash.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-22 02:50:03](#)

*Private Message to Luna Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good*

We can go along to the galleon thing after a bit if you'd like, but seems like some quiet for a bit might be good. For us both.



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-12-22 00:55:41](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm taking care of packing up the twins' trunks.

You guys will take care of Ron's? One of the prefects said that they'll have house elves take them to the

Burrow.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-22 00:56:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

I don't know how I'm gonna sleep tonight.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-22 01:14:42](#)**

*Order Only*

Lee, I've got some things to put in them, Harry said I could come up and help.

Someone come and meet me at the portrait.



 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2012-12-22 01:15:20](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

On my way.

**2012-12-21 17:19:00**

*Order Only: Success!*

We're back on shore and Aleks really outdid himself this time! Three dozen wands - I could have kissed him right there! - and cartloads of supplies for both legitimate and illegitimate sale.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

And all the passengers were safely aboard his.

Merlin, it feels good to have something go off without a hitch.

Poppy, there are three crates of medicinals for you; can you come down after tomorrow and decide what you want to sneak into the storerooms at Hogwarts and what we can distribute among our various other collaborators?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-21 22:24:39](#)  
(no subject)

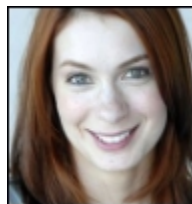
Three dozen! That's fantastic!




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-21 22:26:42](#)  
(no subject)

I know!

Coupled with the wands Mel's been able to get working, we'll really have something to trade with Beth's group and anyone else who requires bargaining.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-21 22:35:44](#)  
(no subject)

That is brilliant, love.

I don't suppose I can convince you to stay for supper before you take off?

**2012-12-21 17:37:00**

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

Ron?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I'm so sorry.

I just can't

I'm sorry.

**2012-12-21 17:54:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*

I am so sorry.

I wish I could be with you.

Write when you can. Tell me if there is anything I can do.

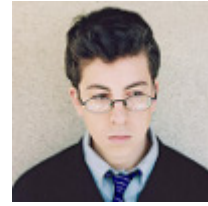


 [alt\\_terry](#)

**2012-12-21 17:58:00**

*A Mummings Play!*

Oh, a traditional mummings play. How interesting! I have read about these. They have been performed in this land for a very long time. Folk traditions, you know. It's nice that we in the Protectorate can now have them with all the proper wizarding words in them, instead of having to disguise them as in former days.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

I wonder if this one will have a King George or a St. George? Oh, there we are, it's a St. George -- and apparently one of the Weasleys playing him, under those masks. That's right, they live out where they do these.

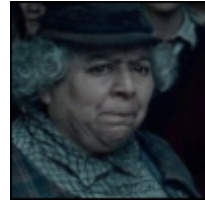
"'Twas I who killed the Manticore and sent him to the slaughter  
And by that means I wooed and won the king of Egypt's daughter!"

Rustic amusements are jolly at this time of year!

**2012-12-21 18:18:00**

*Order Only*

Oh, my dear ones. If you're not somewhere private, put this away until you can be - you at Laszlo's, especially. I have the most horrible news, and Minerva and Poppy can't be spared to share it yet.

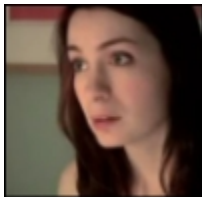



 [alt\\_pomona](#)

We were at supper, when that bloody awful pink mess barged in, and Arthur Weasley's dead. Some sort of something at the Ministry holiday party, something collapsing or exploding or - I don't have anything like details. But I ... you all needed to know. Right away. (And that awful woman, she's mentioned other injuries but no details.)

Molly, Bill, Charlie, when you do get a chance to read this, anything I can do, I would be glad to. And I've no plans for the holidays, so if an extra pair of hands would be of any use, you have only to ask.

I am so very sorry.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-21 23:30:51](#)  
(no subject)

What?

WHAT?

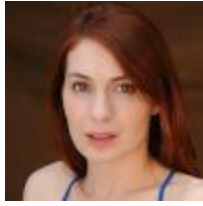



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-22 00:00:52](#)  
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom? Where are you?

I hope...would you be okay with some company?






 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-22 00:26:51](#)  
(no subject)

I'm

I'm in the kitchens.

Yes please, love.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-21 23:34:24](#)  
(no subject)


No...it can't be!



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-21 23:36:09](#)  
(no subject)

What the hell?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-21 23:56:06](#)  
(no subject)

Bloody hell.

I am so, so sorry. Please let us know if there's anything you need, anything that any of us can do for you.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-22 00:24:16](#)  
(no subject)

Remus...has word spread in New London about this? Do you know anything more?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-22 00:26:22](#)**  
(no subject)

We've turned on the wireless (not that anyone can hear it well in the garden) but the only thing they've mentioned is that a structure collapsed at the Ministry's holiday celebration.

No word on why.

Or that Arthur .... I can't even say it.

Nothing. Those bastards.

I can't even dedicate a Grim Truth on this. It's far too dangerous for them all.

Molly, Bill, Charlie, Fred, George - Remus said it. We're all simply stunned and 'sorry' doesn't begin to express our - our loss.

All of our loss.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 00:26:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Bill suggested that if anybody at the school has a chance, could you have the twins', Ron's, and Ginny's things packed up and --

Well. Sent to the Burrow, I suppose.

~~I don't even know what~~

Thanks, if you can.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-22 00:28:02](#)**  
(no subject)

The elves are doing that. But I can ask Harry if I can help.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-22 00:31:23](#)

*Private Message to Hermione Granger*

If you do, see me first; there is something I wish to include.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-22 00:33:11](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hermione Granger*

What could Okay.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-12-22 00:34:19](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, my dear. I'm sure that would be helpful.

I'm sure Poppy will have a few things to include as well, but I know she's up to her neck in students.

I'll stop by there - at least it'll keep me away from that horrible woman.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-22 00:32:41](#)

*(no subject)*

Charlie...there were no other injuries in your family? I mean, my god, Arthur, but the rest of you who were there are all right?



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-22 01:01:50](#)

*(no subject)*

From what I can tell, Bill was there ~~and he said~~  
~~Dad died in his~~

~~He was covered in blood and had his robes all torn up and I had to be the one to tell him to change before the others got~~

~~The Healers are calling it shock, I can't really blame him I gue~~

and he's taking it pretty hard, but he wasn't actually injured. Percy was there, next to Mum and Bill said that while he went for Dad, ~~Percy was holding Mum back and trying to make her not see so she didn't have to~~

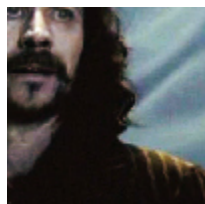
but he wasn't hurt, just a few scratches. Mum wasn't hurt ~~except I don't know if she's going to be able to keep going~~

physically, but she's obviously taking it worse than Bill, even.

~~I'm all right~~ I wasn't there, Bill had me called in from the Reserve as soon as they knew. I suppose it hasn't sunk in yet. I'm just trying to keep everyone ~~from saying anything they shouldn't~~ from totally falling apart.

They're saying they'll release ~~the body~~ Dad in an hour or so, and we can bring him home. I'm going to go light the fire so everyone else can Floo in, since I don't think anyone's in shape to Apparate.


I'd say you should all come over to help us keep the watch over him, ~~except Percy might~~ but I don't think that would be a good idea right now.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-12-22 01:04:18](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin, Charlie.



 **alt\_terry** at [2012-12-22 01:10:12](#)  
(no subject)

...

Your brothers and sister are there with you now?  
From Hogwarts?




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 01:14:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Bill asked Minerva to take care of bringing them quietly ~~but that cow~~ but Madam Umbridge apparated back and broke the news before anyone else could --

Yeah, they're here.



 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2012-12-22 01:17:38](#)**  
(no subject)

I saw. I'm so sorry.

Please give Fred and George and Ron my love.

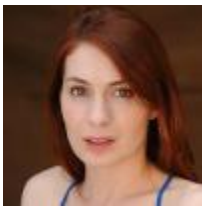
And Mrs Weasley. Especially her.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 01:36:18](#)**  
(no subject)

I will, absolutely. I'm back at the Burrow now ~~trying to get everything Dad left out put away before Mum has to see it and think~~ getting everything sorted, and they should be behind me pretty soon.

Thanks, Terry.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-12-22 00:47:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Do you need a spare hand at the Burrow, Charlie?

I can be there in an instant. I could be a friend of Molly's from the trading network. If you need me there.

I know

I know families need to pull together at moments like this. So if

you'd rather be alone, I understand. Just tell Molly that if she wants me, I'm there.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 00:59:52](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know if Mum's in any shape to decide

She says she'll want to see you, but not when there's a chance that so many people will be coming by, because she'd be too worried for you.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:04:38](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be sure to take precautions, Charlie.

I'll wait until you and Bill and Molly think it best. I'd hate to add to her strain in any way.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:19:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Alice, Lucius sodding Malfoy showed up at St M's. To pay his condolences.

There's something going on here, I'm not sure what, but if you were here, and one of them showed up, even if you were in disguise ...



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:23:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Damn them all.

I'm sorry, Charlie.

I'll hold off until things are settled.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:32:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I wish you didn't have to. I wish you could all be here right now.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:06:41](#)**  
(no subject)

I could come. If it would help.

Oh, Charlie. I'm so sorry.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:15:34](#)**  
*Private Message to Tonks*

Please.

I haven't even asked Mum yet, they all just got here, but ...

Yeah. Please. ~~I could use somebody~~

**2012-12-21 19:20:00**

*Such a difficult evening*

It is appalling that even in the very heart of New London, we are not safe from disruption to the work of Our Lord and his diligent servants.



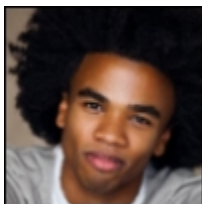
 [alt\\_umbridge](#)

I am so very sorry that I had to be the one to bring the news to Hogwarts that, following the explosive collapse of the very stage upon which Our Lord was scheduled to speak, one of the parents of our own dear students gave his life to protect another.

Knowing that the news should come to them from someone who truly understands the depths of their loss, I was surely the best possible person to tell the Weasley children about the death of their father - such a tragedy. Of course, that sort of terrible tidings is unwelcome whatever the source, but it's lucky I have such sensitivity and care for their feelings, and that I was able to relate to them something of their father's heroism in his last moments.

Boys and girls of Hogwarts, I am certain you will all extend your every effort towards the Weasleys at this difficult time, just as I'm sure every one of the staff here will do. And - after working for so many years with so many people at the Ministry - I'm just certain he will also be missed by his department and the rest of the Ministry staff.

All one united in service, of course.



 [alt\\_lee](#) at [2012-12-22 00:39:22](#)

*Order Only*

You. Utter. Stinking. Cow.



 [alt\\_horace](#) at [2012-12-22 00:42:57](#)

*(no subject)*

Dolores, I hardly think that this is the time.






 **alt\_sirius** at **[2012-12-22 01:19:41](#)**  
*(no subject)*

With a bedside manner like that, it's not hard to see why you're the former Minister for Magic.

Madam, may you always be the one to present death notifications to freedom's enemies.

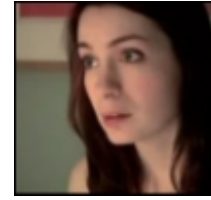


 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **[2012-12-22 03:30:30](#)**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Why couldn't you have died instead of Mr Weasley?

**2012-12-21 19:28:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank*



 [alt\\_alice](#)

Frank?

I'm in the kitchens right now, and the Professor and me will be making our way upstairs. I feel like my feet can't quite touch the floor and my chest hurts from crying and oh, Frank, please come up to our rooms.

I hope you're reading this right now, love.

I hope you're not

I need you.

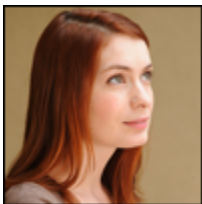
Badly.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2012-12-22 04:13:28**  
(no subject)

love you.

always.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2012-12-22 04:16:18**  
(no subject)

I'm glad our Professor's sleeping.

I'm glad you're next to me.

I love you more than I could ever say.

Oh my goodness, here I go again.

**2012-12-21 19:34:00**

*Fred, George, Ron and Ginny Weasley*

I say, my sincerest, deepest condolences to you all and to the rest of your family.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

It's dashed shocking, too, that you received such unfortunate news in such an abrupt manner.... I'm surprised that one who has undertaken to instruct us in matters of etiquette could commit such a breach of it. Doubtless she intended only to bring you the news with as little delay as possible, what, but I daresay it was well unseemly.


I hope you can all find solace in one another and please, if there is anything that we your classmates and school chums can do to ease your pain, do please let us know how we may assist you, whether now or in the days and weeks to come.

Your friend,

-Justin Finch-Fletchley

---




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2012-12-22 01:16:21**  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Good for you, Justin.

I hope she realises what she did and feels sorry for it.

Somehow I doubt she will, though.



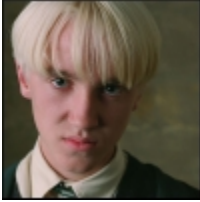
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2012-12-22 02:00:11**  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

She won't. She's *not* bright.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2012-12-22 01:41:31](#)  
(no subject)

I'm so sorry. I don't really know what to say, except to agree with Justin--let us know whether there's anything we can do to help and we will.



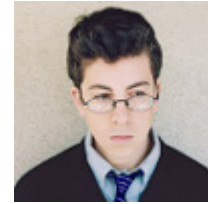
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-22 01:58:26](#)  
(no subject)

You speak for more than you know, Finch-Fletchley.

**2012-12-21 19:51:00**

*Private Message to Padma*

I had better direct the House Elves to provide cocoa and biscuits and perhaps some warm milk in the Common Room, hadn't I? Perhaps even a sandwich or two for those who neglected to finish their meal in all the turmoil.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Merlin, some the firsties are going to be in a state. We shall have to comfort them.

Did you see how when Madam Umbridge rolled in with the news and stopped the play, she hugged Lovegood? I believe she thought it was Ginevra Weasley under the mask and motley costume, there.

Had I better put some distractions out in the Common Room as well? Decks of... well, no, Exploding Snap wouldn't be quite the thing, with everybody on edge, would it?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2012-12-22 01:12:04**  
(no subject)

Yes.

This whole thing is making me think of our first year.  
And Sanji.

But yes, distractions would be good. And assuring them that whatever it was is over and we're safe here, and their parents are safe, and everyone's going home tomorrow so it'll be fine.

**2012-12-21 20:15:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Charlie and Fred Weasley*



 **alt\_severus**

I recognise you are quite busy, but as you seem to have been designated the family member to watch the journals and pass news, I am writing to you, and copying your brother should he or his twin check their trunk before you are able to pass along the message.

Miss Granger has arranged to slip a crate of potions into Fred and George's trunk. They are miniaturised and have been included among their personal kit.

The phials are unlabelled, as my handwriting is quite distinctive and I do not know who will be present at your home over the next few days. However, they are colour-coded. The light cyan potion in the dark brown phial with the red label is a basic restorative -- I highly recommend providing at least two teaspoons to your mother and your eldest brother at earliest opportunity. The clear potion in the small crystalline phial with the blue label is Dreamless Sleep, of my own formulation: add no more than two drops, in tea or water, before sleep, for no more than three nights running. The dark brown potion in the larger clear phial with the green label is a nutrient potion that should be taken as four teaspoons at each mealtime, whether one feels capable of consuming food or not, to avoid starving the body of fuel.

I am sorry for your loss.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2012-12-22 01:34:26**  
(no subject)

Thanks.

I hadn't even thought about

Yeah, that'll help. I'll have the twins look for them as soon as their kit gets here, and try to get the restorative into Mum as soon as possible.

Thanks.

**2012-12-21 20:26:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa*



 **alt\_lucius**

Dearest,

Don't settle in just yet. I've spoken with Fudge, Mafalda and Claudius regarding the statements to the press, and conferred with Dominic before he was released from St M's. Still discussing with Stephen what we may need of the Finnigan lad.

Have just paid a call on the Weasley clan - the entirety of it, or what is left of it. They're waiting to remove his remains for a vigil. Say what we will of your cousin, at least she observes some of the proper ways.

However, as I mentioned at the ~~bomb~~ party site, Our Lord was (understandably) most wroth and intended to summon us all to Him before the end of the evening. Have just heard from Claudius that He means to convene the full Court. Not sure what it bodes. But be ready, my love.

It would be a gross miscalculation to displease Him tonight.



 **alt\_narcissa** at **2012-12-22 02:08:14**

*(no subject)*

One of the elves just brought word.

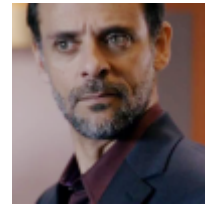
I'm on my way.

I love you, Lucius. No matter what.

**2012-12-21 20:43:00**

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*

What in the name of Salazar reborn is going on over there?



We are getting only fragments and no one else seems to suspect anything amiss, but I smell coverup. Do you need more hands?

 [alt\\_antonin](#)



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-22 02:00:23](#)  
(no subject)

In a word, *bratishka*, bedlam.

The IMA apparently is more like a colony of cockroaches than a flock of wild geese. It somehow (we are still discovering *how*) managed to leave a calling card at the Ministry's Christmas party. Am sure it was intended to ignite a few minutes later, when Our Lord would have been in the path of destruction but some providence or His uncanny power caused it to fire prematurely.

As the Pink Porker has already informed everyone in her ... unique ... manner, my clerk's father threw himself into the blast - pushing Dominic Selwyn out of the way, in the process, I hasten to add.

You can imagine the chaos we have been controlling since that moment.

But I am glad you wrote, brother. Our Lord means to summon His faithful to Him within the night - and more. Claudius conferred with Him not an hour ago and was told that He wishes to address the full Court. Narcissa, Toshenska. Chloe, Diana, even Yvaine - possibly (though I am not certain) even Raz's astronomer. You've grown fond of her, I know, but somehow I doubt anyone has adequately prepared her for the close observation of Our Lord in one of His worst fits of fury.

And it *was* terrible and fearsome, Tosha. As only a handful of times before.

Perhaps it is an over-identification with young Weasley in his present



circumstance, the violent and sudden loss of his father but - do not mind confiding that I am uneasy about the interview to come.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-22 02:01:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Mordred's mercy.

I'll be there as soon as I can, and we will do what needs to be done.

**2012-12-21 21:16:00**

*(no subject)*

Anyone who would care to meet, remember Mr Weasley and organise support for the Weasleys, please come to the secret meeting room at 9:30.



 [alt\\_galleon](#)

**2012-12-21 21:38:00**

*Private message to Padma*

Longbottom packed up Weasley's trunk and sent it off with one of the elves. I guess that makes sense, since we were all going home tomorrow anyway.



 **alt\_seamus**

It's strange how sad I feel for him. Considering I don't like him. But I never would have wished this on him, or any of the rest of them.

The wireless says it was a construction accident, I guess? Something collapsed? It made me think about your balcony that got built by a mudblood, I've never really thought about the dangers of a BUILDING before, you know?



---

 **alt\_padma** at **2012-12-22 03:46:41**  
(no subject)

Yeah. Linus made sure that we had plenty of snacks and things in the Common Room, and people are milling about but not really eating.

I hadn't thought about that. I wonder if the wizards who designed it are at fault, or what they'll do to the workers if it was faulty construction. It shouldn't have happened, and certainly not like that.

Pav says that the Gryffindor Common Room is pretty dour, I'm sure your dormitory feels empty without him clattering round it. But you're right, it's a horrible thing to happen, no matter who it happened to.

I told Lines I keep thinking about Sanji. Losing a brother isn't like losing a father, though. And their mum doesn't work, does she?

We should see if anyone wants to take up a collection, maybe on the train, so they'll have it for hols.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2012-12-22 03:50:50](#)**  
*(no subject)*

It's really quiet in the common room.

The elves set out tea and I know some people went to get Dreamless Sleep.

Losing a brother isn't like losing a father, but losing a grownup isn't like losing a little kid, either. Sanji had his whole life ahead of him. Mr Weasley...well, he wasn't OLD exactly, but he wasn't a little boy, either.

No, their mum doesn't work, not in a job, anyway. They're really poor, you know, that's why Weasley's robes are so foul. She has a garden, chickens, things like that to make ends meet, but I don't know what they'll do without Mr Weasley's salary. A collection is a good idea.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-22 03:55:08](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah.

**2012-12-21 22:22:00**

*Private message to Lucius Malfoy*

How's Narcissa?

Chloe

well

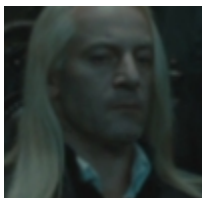


 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

she went to kiss the children goodnight (the nanny had put them to bed, of course) and then locked the bedroom door from the inside.

At least she CAN lock the bedroom door.

At the moment, I mean.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2012-12-22 04:37:14**  
*(no subject)*

She was fine when she left Buckingham. Asked Tosenka to conduct her home, since he was to stay with us this weekend, in any event.

Did not wish her to be entirely alone but for myself, am too - agitated - to return straight to the Manor.

Chloe shall forgive you, in time, and consider herself lucky that only Bettina bore the brunt of Our Lord's, er, whimsical sense of punitive action.



 **alt\_selwyn** at **2012-12-22 04:39:13**  
(no subject)

Where are you? I could do with an outing. A walk. A duel.

Anything.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2012-12-22 04:43:53**  
(no subject)

My dear Dominic, sympathetic as I am, I am not fit company just at present. This is a private errand.

If you are interested in an excuse to duel, recommend you look to Barty or Cadmus. They are rarely out of the mood for it - and nearly always have access to appropriate targets.

~~Unlike our wiv~~



 **alt\_selwyn** at **2012-12-22 04:46:08**  
(no subject)

I should probably stay here.

Chloe might come out. And want to talk. In which case I probably ought to be present.

I can't blame her for feeling the way she does. I hope you're right that she'll forgive me, in time.

~~Do you worry about Drae~~

**2012-12-21 22:25:00**

*Private message to Mrs Weasley*

Mrs Weasley,

There's really no way to convey the depths of my sorrow on your behalf. Or my gratitude to your husband, who truly embodied the virtues of Gryffindor House -- in the moment of danger, leaping to protect those near him.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)

I owe your family a debt I can never repay. But I wish to assure you that I will, to the best of my ability, at least see that you're cared for as Arthur would have wished; that your children's school expenses are paid, that you have everything you need, and that Arthur's sacrifice is honoured and remembered.

There's more I'd like to say in person, but I have no intention of intruding on your family tonight. Please let me know if I may call on you in a few days.

I am so terribly sorry for your loss, and your family's loss.

With my highest regards,  
Dominic Selwyn



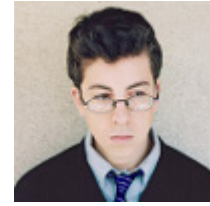
 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-12-22 19:59:02**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Selwyn. My whole family appreciates your kindness.

We're still finalising arrangements, and I think there will be an announcement later today. But after the funeral...yes. I would welcome a call.

**2012-12-21 22:54:00**

*Private Message to Lionel Moon*



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Sir,

I am painfully aware that I have not been the most conscientious of sons about writing home during term. Furthermore, I know to my sorrow that I have been a disappointment of late in matters of discipline, and I am truly sorry for behaviour reflecting poorly upon the name of Moon.

But I hope you know, sir, that even though my ill-considered deeds recently have hardly demonstrated it, I do strive to live up to the guidance and care you have always offered to us, and will redouble my efforts from this day forth. Two of the staff have taken me in hand, reawakening my awareness of the need for clear-headed thought and prudent action. I would appreciate time to discuss some of that with you during the upcoming holidays.

~~What I mean to say, Father, is that I lo~~

I remain, sir, with deep regard and gratitude,

Your son,  
Linus Moon



**2012-12-21 22:59:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

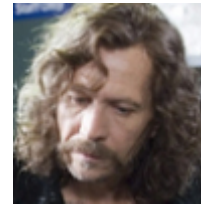
Circe, what is Molly going to do without him?

What are we going to do?

I've been holding Bea for the last hour. Not helping.


Do me a favour and push everyone out early, will you?

---



 [alt\\_sirius](#)



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-22 04:07:57**  
(no subject)

I don't know if I can.

Ironically enough, there's a group of about ten that came here from a funeral. For an older man than Arthur, at least. And it's a somber mood out there. They might move themselves along soon enough but I wouldn't feel right giving them a shove out the door.

I don't know how we'll Molly will get on, without him.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-22 04:14:05**  
(no subject)

Blast. No, you can't do, you're right.

I thought things were going well, this afternoon.  
Three dozen wands - it seems so insignificant right about now.

I

First Emmeline and Benji and now Arthur! Everyone jokes about how I'm the dogstar, but, Remus, he was our true north.

Especially with Albus being enigmatic and Minerva - struggling.

Mordred, she's going to get even worse now, isn't she? She thought of Arthur as the head of the Order, practically. Even though we all

preceded them joining.

I can't even ....

Oh, sod it. If they can't leave soon, then I'm putting Bea with Kreacher and coming back over.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-22 04:16:58](#)  
(no subject)

I know.

I know. He's been the one leading us for -- years now, really. I think we can safely assume at this point that Albus isn't going to suddenly step up, or that Minerva isn't going to suddenly stop drinking.

We're going to need a new leader. Which means we'll need to meet, as many of us as can. Merlin, who's going to manage the snatches of the muggleborn babies? Thank goodness the Book was blank, this last time.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-22 04:17:39](#)  
(no subject)

And Bea seems to get on with Kreacher much better than the rest of us, so if you want to leave her with Kreacher, I think Padfoot would be a comfort to all the mourners here tonight, not just

me.

**2012-12-21 23:55:00**

*Private Message to Narcissa*

Cannot stop seeing the look in your eyes.

Whatever you need, I'll do.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2012-12-22 06:01:19**

*(no subject)*

I need him to come home.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2012-12-22 06:02:50**

*(no subject)*

Oh.

Barty.

I'm sorry. I didn't mean -



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at **2012-12-22 06:07:59**

*(no subject)*

I can't blame him for needing to be - by himself. Just now.

Tosha's here with me and I'm sure Lucius will return once he's worked things out of his system.

But come tomorrow, as early as you like. Stay.

You've no idea how much I appreciate your offer, my love.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-22 06:12:40](#)  
(no subject)

I will.

And I do.

Tell Toshe

**2012-12-22 03:10:00**

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

Thanks, yeah?



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-22 09:17:39**

*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

Wanted you to know--I did read what you said earlier.

Yeah. Ta, y'know?

Really.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-22 15:26:12**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

We all got together yesterday at the secret room and talked and hugged and cried.

And the entire time, it felt like part of me was missing because you weren't there.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2012-12-22 15:53:56**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

yeah

i'd rather have been there, really

it was-

at st mungo's-

we got there, in the reception, and we were still wearing those mummer's robes and george still had hold of his mask

people were staring i mean, i would've, too, if i'd seen four kids come in looking like us- well, gin looked like she does, y'know, but at least this time i don't think she thought about it enough to be embarrassed being with us, cause, yeah, normally she'd've hated that so much.

and then we were just there, y'know. waiting for i don't know what. i mean, he was already gone. i guess they were cleaning him up, now i think-

but we were just sort of standing around

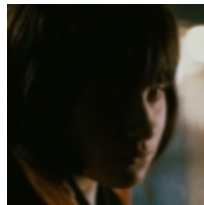
bill looked awful

and mum-

well, you know her

it was

yeah



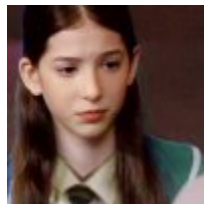
 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2012-12-22 16:13:07**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

That sounds

It sounds awful, Ron. There's no way around it.

Bill and your mum, were they at the party? And Percy too, I'd imagine. ~~Did they see~~



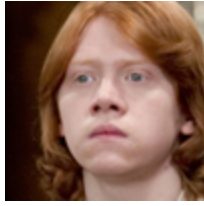
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at 2012-12-22 17:05:36**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

I wish one of us could have been there with you.

I wish one of us could be with you right now.

I still can't believe



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-22 17:23:00](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

you could——

—could you

would the Strettons let you come?

we're sitting vigil here and people are

Mrs Diggory was here this morning and loads of other neighbours

we're- we have to say hello to all of them, but it's mum ~~they're~~  
~~who needs to~~

i may shout if anyone else puts their hands on my shoulder or tries to

just-

it would be nice to have someone to talk to

or not talk but not have to



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-22 17:25:27](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

YES. I can. Give me just a few minutes. Also, I'll be bringing stuff, just so you know, I mean -- well you'll see when I get there, but I can come.



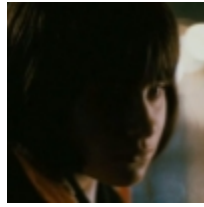
 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-22 17:27:19](#)**


*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

thanks, you.

Mum'll be really glad.

Me, too.



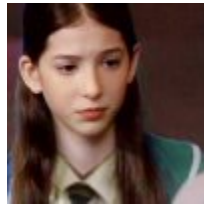
 [alt\\_pansy at 2012-12-22 18:49:31](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

Can I

can I come too?

I can bring Lunes with me.



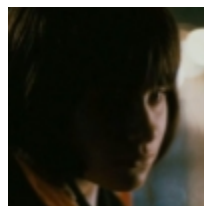
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne at 2012-12-22 18:54:26](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

Ron's not checking his diary much but yes, please come. Luna too.

There are people coming in and out for the vigil and a lot of them

It won't hurt to have more real friends here.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2012-12-22 18:56:49](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

Right. I'll swing by the Browns.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2012-12-22 15:32:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

And yeah.

Yeah.






 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-22 16:07:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry that I never got to properly meet him.

If there's anything you need - well, I don't have much, but I'd try to help however I could. We all would.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-22 17:25:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Hydra.

Dad would've liked to meet you. Really.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-22 18:45:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Ron,

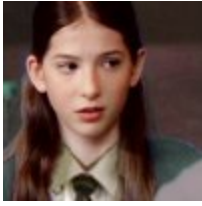
Like Hydra, I'm very sorry not to have met him properly. It was only the once, at the station this past September. But I know you all speak of him highly, and fondly, and of course we all know that anyone who raised men like Fred and George and you, old man, must have been a fine person indeed.

We shouldn't dream of intruding on your family at this time but, well, sometimes it's better to have one's mates about, if only to provide a respite from the grief. If that would be helpful, of course. I plan to ask the Jugsons if they'd allow me to attend the funeral, or reception, or whatever your mother decides is best. If you'd like to get away, as well, after Christmas, instead of having friends over, I'd be happy to see if the Jugsons would let me host a guest for a few hours or even overnight.

I'm sure Pansy and Sally-Anne have told you but there were quite a few who came in response to the Galleon last night. Hermione seemed particularly affected. You and your family have more friends than you realise, I think.

If there's anything at all one might do, please, you've only to say.

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-22 20:52:54](#)  
(no subject)


If you want to come to the Burrow you can.

His house has rather a lot of people coming by.  
Having friends around him means that he doesn't  
have to talk to them as much.

I'm going to have to go back to the Strettons at some point. I got away by telling them I'd deliver all the parcels people had ordered sent to the Weasleys -- there were loads, all sorts of things from camp administrators and other people Mr Weasley worked with -- and that would spare them finding the owls. And they said 'oh brilliant' and I gathered it all up and went through the floo and haven't been back.

~~At this point they're probably getting cross but unless they send Jeremy to come shout at me there's not much they can do~~



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-22 21:07:36](#)  
(no subject)

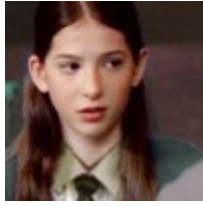
Dash it all, we're expected at the Malfoy party in an hour.

How late do you expect to stay there? I'm sure that once Hydra and I are both at the Malfoys' we could use their Floo. We might even be able to nick some platters (Remy's told me there's always an abundance of food) and bring them along, what?

I'd quite like to come and pay my respects. But perhaps it might be better to wait until tomorrow when there are fewer people and some fresh reinforcements would help.

Which do you think?

-J




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-22 21:12:45](#)  
(no subject)

Ron was up all night last night, I think, sitting vigil with his mother and with Fred.

So tonight I think Ron will probably go to bed early and hopefully take some Dreamless Sleep.

Although you could come by and see. And bring platters. They've gotten more gift parcels than they know what to do with but the nice thing about platters is that they're all READY, you know? And it's Christmas and apparently Mrs Weasley feels like this means EVERYONE who comes by has to eat something.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-22 21:14:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sure tomorrow would be fine, if you'd rather not feel rushed. I'm going to have to leave in a bit for the party as well.

Maybe we could plan to be at the Burrow tomorrow at noon, anyone who can come. And we can bring along things for a luncheon.



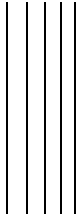
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-22 21:21:37](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I say, that sounds brilliant, yes.

Perhaps you could say something to Draco about sending extra food for tonight, then, since as Sally-Anne points out it'll all be prepared already.

See you soon, then, what!

-Justin



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-22 21:26:20](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, I could do that. I'm sure he'd be fine with setting some platters aside.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-22 19:56:07](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm coming to the funeral for sure, Ron. If you'd like me to come over sooner, or later, whatever seems best. Just let me know, yeah?

And...and I'm sure you want to be with your family right now. Of course you do. But later on, during the holiday, if you want to get away for a night or two, just to come over and stay with me, if that would help, I mean, we can do that, too.

**2012-12-22 05:00:00**

*(no subject)*

oh, Arthur



 **alt\_molly**

**2012-12-22 09:09:00**

*Casting Announcement*

Hopefully, all of you who auditioned saw the cast list at Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who tried out, and congratulations to those of you who were given parts. Mr Krumgold would like me to tell you that you'll be receiving a final version of the script over hols, so when you have time, please look it over and began to familiarise yourself with your part. Shortly after we return from hols, we'll start up rehearsals.



 [alt\\_daphne](#)

And, as a Prefect, and as a Hogwarts student, I would like to say that I know it's difficult when we lose one of our own, or when those of our own lose loved ones. Sometimes it feels as if the loses of these last few years are too much to bear, but it's in these times that we should take comfort in each other, in our friendships - or, for those of us who are not friends - in our shared experiences as young witches and wizards, all striving to find our way in the world.

Happy Christmas, everyone.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2012-12-22 16:28:16**

*Private message to Gerald Krumgold*

Ron Weasley's long left the castle, you know. How am I supposed to get word to him that he's been cast as the lead? I really think that, considering what's happened, you ought to think about putting in Blaise or Draco. Or maybe Richard. I know you've said Weasley "has something," but honestly, I'm not sure that he can even sing or dance! And who's to say he'll feel like it, now that his Father's been killed?

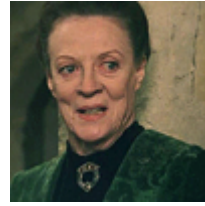
I'm not questioning your judgment, or experience, but... oh, I'm just so uneasy about this.

**2012-12-22 10:11:00**

*Order Only*

Is there anything at all to say?

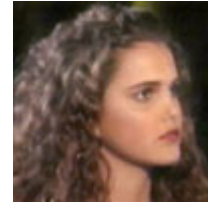
I think not.



 **alt\_mcgonagall**

**2012-12-22 10:13:00**

*Private Message to Bill Weasley*



Bill, I saw this morning's paper and

I'm outside your flat but no one's here. Well, you're all at the Burrow, I guess.

 [alt\\_penelope](#)

Bill, I'm so dreadfully sorry about your--about your dad. I really liked him. He and your mum were always so nice to me. I wish I'd come to more Sunday suppers, now.

How is P

I don't know if you've thought yet about the arrangements, I mean whether you'll have a private service or what, but...I'd really like to come to the funeral. Would that be all right? I don't want to cause any problems, if you think it would be an intrusion.

I just

Your family are all so close. You enjoy each other so much.


I was glad to have been part of that. Truly.

Please tell your mum that you're all in my thoughts. And--anyone else who might care to know.

With deep sympathy,

Penny



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-22 20:06:19**  
(no subject)

Penny,

Thank you.

There's no question about it, of course our family would be honoured if you would come to Dad's funeral.

I never had a chance to say anything to you, but I'd hoped--hell. ~~Percy's been a~~ I am exceedingly sorry about the way things turned

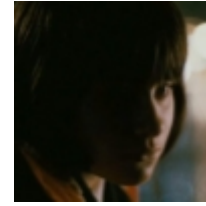


out. I know that Mum and Dad liked you, too, and in fact Dad...well.  
He tried to make Percy come to his senses.

I will pass along your message. To Mum, and to...to everyone.

**2012-12-22 10:33:00**

*Private Message to Mrs Weasley and Fred Weasley*



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Mrs Weasley;

I hardly know what to say. You and your family have always been so warm and welcoming, and every time I've been to the Burrow I feel like I'm coming to a home. A real home.

I don't want to impose, or overstep, but I would imagine that right now, you and your family are dealing with quite a lot, and I hope to help however I can.

I have a house-elf, Hitty, and if you think she could be of use at all, I would like to ask her to help your family during hols. We'll be in Scotland for the holidays, and she's in New London, so it would be no bother at all. I'd imagine that cooking for everyone as well as little things like keeping on top of laundry and cleaning can be rather difficult at this time, and Hitty would be so happy to help. Hitty is very discrete and quiet, and I'd be sure to tell her to treat you as if you were my family, and that she's to keep any family business to herself as if it were Parkinson family business, and not speak of it to anyone, even myself and my mother. If you'd rather not have her help, I understand completely, and you only have to say what would be best for you.

I'm also sending over a hamper that's rather larger than my usual Christmas present, only because shopping at a time like this must be difficult, and I don't know what else I can do Mrs Weasley, but if there's anything else, please let me know. Anything at all.

I'm so very sorry. I really am. When I think of Mr Weasley, the first thing I think about is the sort of Father he was, and I know he was patient and kind and loving, and I know that Ron and Fred and George thought the world of him. I can't imagine how hard all of this is for you right now.

All of my best,

Pansy.

---



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-22 16:06:11](#)**

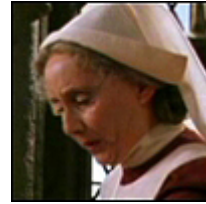
*Private Message to Fred Weasley*

Let me know what else I can do.

Please.

**[2012-12-22 10:46:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Molly and Bill Weasley*



I'm shattered. Oh, Molly.

Arthur was one of this miserable old world's absolute treasures. We have all relied on his good sense, his measured judgement, his gentle way of guiding, chivvying, reconciling, and encouraging us all in all things.

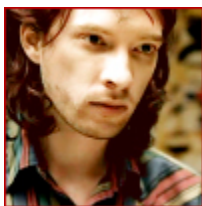
 [alt\\_poppy](#)


Oh, he will be so very sadly missed.

Have you been able to sleep at all, Molly? Bill?

The elves included several items for me when they packed the children's trunks, but I imagine you may not have yet unpacked any of it, and in any case, I'd like to see you all for myself before pressing any of you to take anything medicinal on a guess of what you might need.

I'm finishing reports here, and waiting to be sure Dolores has taken herself off to wherever she'll be sticking her unwanted nose in over the holidays, but I would very much like to come tonight to see you, to see how you are and whether there's anything at all I can do for any of you.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-22 22:42:37](#)  
(no subject)

I'll answer for us both, Poppy. Mum's not up to much writing herself, but we would be very glad to see you tonight. It might also be wise to have you cast your medical eye over us, if you'd be willing.

We're obviously not--we're not ourselves. I'm having a hard time thinking. I trail off in the middle of a sentence, and I can't even remember what I was starting to say. Mum acts like she can't even hear what we tell her half the time. I haven't seen her cry too much yet.

None of us can eat, either. Well, the younger ones can, but they're mostly just picking at their food. Tonks keeps trying though, waving

plates under our noses to tempt us.

I managed to sleep last night, a little. Mum didn't. She wanted to sit vigil this first night instead, and so she did, with Fred and Ron. Perhaps if you a potion for her, she could take it and get some rest tonight, and so I'll do the vigil tonight, with George, and maybe Ginny and Charlie and Percy will do it Sunday night, with, well, whoever else is willing.

I don't

I can't

I think that's all I can write, for now. I try again later.

**2012-12-22 11:38:00**

*Private message to Mr Rosier*



Sir,

Although I can't say that I understand the need for secrecy regarding the IMA bomb that took Mr Weasley's life, understanding is not a requirement for obedience. And you will always have that, sir. In everything.

 [alt\\_seamus](#)

May I have permission to tell the truth to Padma Patil and Neville Longbottom?

They both know my situation because I've told them. Padma is very discreet (even in smaller matters -- she has never gossiped, even to her twin sister, about my relationship with Evgeni -- I think it's safe to say that if she had, it would have quickly become common knowledge). She is also unimpeachably loyal. I have to admit I know less about Neville Longbottom's loyalty, given his parents, but -- well. He's never given me reason to believe he's NOT loyal. And he's never told anyone about my situation, either.

Given that they know -- they will certainly be suspicious when I don't come back to school. No matter what the official story is.

If Padma's told, especially the reasons why it's necessary, she'll keep it in confidence. I believe Neville will, too. (And if they're not told, they may ask a lot of awkward questions -- not because they wish to make trouble, but because they care about me.)

So I want to tell them. Privately. In the journals. If I have your permission.

With respect,  
Your loyal and devoted foster-son,  
Seamus

**2012-12-22 13:28:00**

*Private Message to Sarah and Martha Yaxley*



 [alt\\_lana](#)

I'm just off shift. What can I do?

Are you home with your mother? I know your father's been at MLE all night and today. Is she recovering?

Is there an awful lot of pain?

I can't even imagine how terrible it must be. Montague said she can't even touch her wand, and he thought that other aspects of her magic might be triggering the eur symptoms, as well.

I'm just so stunned at it, and I know you must be.

He was so *angry*. Our Lord. I was there when he arrived and was told. It was-

And, of course, the whole thing is staggeringly horrible. How they could have managed it. Here. In New London. ~~And got throu~~

What are you doing about the Malfoys' tonight? Montague said he thought you were waiting to see. Some of you must have to go, don't you think? Even if your mother can't manage it? Of course, it would be so much better if she could collect herself to make an appearance-- even just for a short time.

Let me know what you're thinking. Ned and I could come with you if it would help at all to go together.

**2012-12-22 15:35:00**

*Private message to Padma Patil and Neville Longbottom*



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

This is really hard to write so I'm only going to do it once rather than writing to each of you.

Also, I have to say that what I'm going to tell you is REALLY secret. I mean I know you've both kept my secrets in the past, and I appreciate that, a lot. And if you hadn't, I couldn't possibly tell you this now. You can't tell ANYBODY -- not even Parvati. I'm sorry, but that's the way it has to be. But you know my situation and I have permission to tell you the truth.

The story about a building collapsing at the Ministry party, and killing Mr Weasley -- it's not true. Or at least it's not the whole truth. There was a bomb, planted by IMA. They left a brick from County Down, just so there'd be no doubt who it was.

So

Yeah. Anyway. Something they didn't explain to me back when I was eleven: it's not just revenge against my family for failing. There's a spell, a really complicated spell, that they can do that will make it so Irish muggles CAN'T leave Ireland. It's sort of like the wards around the Protectorate only -- smaller, I guess. Anyway. Spells like this require a sacrifice, and it has to be someone from my family.

Back when the Sleeper spell first didn't work right, Our Lord wanted to cast that spell to protect the people in Britain from the Irish muggles, and for obvious reasons my family said 'no, look, we'll keep them contained without you having to do that' Our Lord said 'well, that's fine, but you only get one chance to get this right, and I'll take a phial of someone's blood just in case.'

And they gave him my blood. And that's why, and why it has to be me.

I don't know how long until they come for me. For this sort of magic you need the right day and time as well as the right place, it's all very complicated and they're having some Arithmantic expert checking things.

I don't know what they'll say happened when I don't come back to school. But at least you should know that my death accomplished



something useful. Because IMA won't be able to come back for another try, and kill more people.


I mostly don't feel too scared. Now that it's happened. I don't feel anything at all, really. I haven't done anything embarrassing. And anyway they actually have a guard here, to ~~make sure I don't try to~~ ... watch over me.

I don't think I'll get to see either of you again but Padma, you're the best friend I've ever had. You've kept all my secrets, you've looked out for me, and you've always been loads of fun to talk with. I wish --

Well I wish you the best, you know?

Seamus



 [alt\\_neville](#) at 2012-12-22 23:13:54

*Private message to Seamus Finnegan*

Seamus...Merlin...

I won't insult you or hurt you by acting as if you must be joking or mental. You wouldn't joke about something as ~~de~~ serious as this. (Although you must know it sounds absolutely mad.)

I--I just don't--


Blimey, I don't even know what to say. I've never--I'd never have dreamed

It sounds as if--as if you think it'll be soon. That ~~you'll be~~ it'll all be over by the time we go back to school?

All right. You told me the truth. I'll hold the truth for you. I can do that for you. And I understand that it has to be a secret.

What else can a friend do for you at this point? Whatever I can think of seems so pitifully little. You say they have you under guard. Would they allow you to have your friends join you? Or even just one friend? I could come, and stay with you as long as...as long as you have? To wait with you, so you wouldn't be alone at least? I would understand, though, if you would want it to be Padma instead.



 **alt\_neville** at **2012-12-22 23:14:52**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnegan*

Is there ANYTHING else I can do?



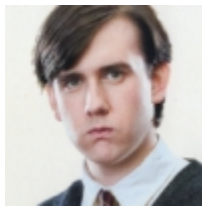
 **alt\_seamus** at **2012-12-23 01:52:20**


*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnegan*

I can't think of anything.

Mr Rosier doesn't want anyone coming. I think they've got apparition wards and so on -- it would be complicated, bringing someone in.

Anyway.

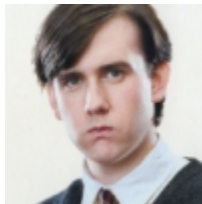


 **alt\_neville** at **2012-12-23 03:03:49**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnegan*

We're trying something else.

I haven't given up hope yet.



 **alt\_neville** at **2012-12-23 16:40:59**

*Re: Private message to Seamus Finnegan*


Seamus.

I think that, well, maybe not all is lost. I'm sorry, I can't say more, and I hope this won't be an unspeakably cruel disappointment if it doesn't work, but...I've been given reason to believe that there is something that might work.

So hang on. Okay?

Please let me know if Mr Rosier changes his mind and lets one of us visit you.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-23 00:26:03](#)

*Private Message to Seamus*

What?

Wait. What?!

That's

But

So, you mean they're really going to--to *kill* you? How soon? Isn't there any other way? What does Mr Rosier think about it--I mean, isn't he going to try to find something else they can do?

Can I come and see you? I mean, one last time?

And--sorry I know you've said before that Longbum knows things about you but are you really sure you want him to know this kind of thing? What else does he know?

I just--wow. I can't believe it.

But if this is the last time we're ever going to--you've been aces, too. Really. I know what you mean. I can talk to you about things that I can't even talk to Lav or Parvati about. And--and I can't imagine what school's going to be like if you're not there.

Could I send an owl to Mr Rosier? Or anyone? I mean, maybe if I talk about how loyal you are and how much you're worth to the Protectorate, maybe they'd change their minds?

Is there anything you want? I mean, anything else I can do for you?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-23 01:56:51](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*


Mr Rosier is sick about it.

He says if he could take my place he would. That it was bad enough losing his son the first time (he means Evan) and that losing me will be

Anyway. Owling him won't do anything except make him feel worse.

About Longbottom, I know what you mean. I told him after -- I can't remember. One of the other incidents, that turned out not to be IMA. I guess if I could go back I wouldn't have told him, but he hasn't said a word to anyone.



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at 2012-12-23 02:30:28**

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Do the whole Council know about it, then?

Because maybe if enough of them object they can all find another way?

They're all at the Malfoys' tonight, aren't they?



 **[alt\\_seamus](#) at 2012-12-23 02:40:02**

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

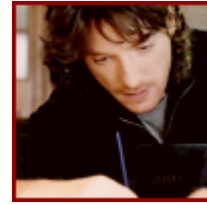
Yes, they're all at the Malfoys. Even Mr Rosier, he said he needed to go for a little while but would come back as soon as he could.

I think they all know about it? The Headmistress does, that's why she always let me listen to the wireless. I mean, they don't all pay attention to every little thing, you know, so I wouldn't be certain that ... Mr Nott, say, would know about it.

But it's not a secret from them.

**[2012-12-22 17:20:00](#)**

*Arthur Weasley February 6, 1950 -  
December 21, 1995*

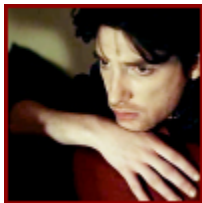


 [alt\\_bill](#)

Arthur Weasley (pureblood), age 45, Ottery St. Catchpole. Died accidentally December 21 in New London. Born February 6, 1950 in Chudley, Devonshire. Survived by his wife Molly; children William (Bill), Charles (Charlie), Percival (Percy), Fred, George, Ronald (Ron), and Ginevra (Ginny). Arthur attended Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (House Gryffindor) and upon leaving school went to work with the Ministry of Magic, holding positions in several departments. At the time of his death, he was with the Division of Protectorate Affairs, in the Department of Purity Control (Committee of Muggle-Born Labour Services). He also served as the Department of Purity Control's Liaison to the Department of Muggle Domestication.

A devoted father and loving husband, Arthur Weasley was passionate about many things, including chess, fishing, the Chudley Cannons, the Protectorate, and humane treatment of Mudblood animals in his care. He died as he lived, an embodiment of Gryffindor courage, and his quick-thinking is credited with saving the life of bystanders.

Services to be held at the Protectorate Hall, Ottery St. Catchpole, December 24, 1995 at 10:00 am, with visitation with the family beginning at 9:00 am. Memorials for the support of the family may be made c/o Gringotts Bank, Arthur Weasley Memorial Fund.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **[2012-12-23 01:14:54](#)**

*Order Only*

The cause of death listed in the obituary, and the article in the *Prophet*, are goddamned lies.

Dad was killed by a bomb. In an assassination attempt against the Lord Protector.

We had a visit from Cornelius Fudge this morning, ungodly early. Supposedly to offer his condolences, but really to inform us of the cover story and make sure we keep our mouths shut. I dealt with him, and it took every scrap of self-control I had to--

Well. That's the story, and we can't say otherwise.

We are

god

we're together. That's the most comfort we can give each other. And the rituals. The beehives have been turned, and the mirrors and the clocks covered.

Mum is quiet, and numb. She hasn't slept yet, but I'm hoping that when Poppy gets here tonight, she can look Mum over and give her something she's willing to take, so she'll be able to rest tonight.

Oh: one thing. Dad's wand.

Mum and Charlie and the twins and I talked about it. We all just knew that Dad wouldn't have wanted his wand to be buried with him; he'd want it to be passed on. Best of all would be to keep it for a kid at Moddey Dhoo, one of the ones that he saved. Although someone at Sherwood would be better than nothing if the wand doesn't fit anyone at the Sanctuary. The thing is, ~~because of Percy~~ we have to act like we're gonna bury it with him. Could Melli make a mock up copy of Dad's wand, and we can switch it at the last moment, right before the funeral?

Thanks to Tonks, who was here last night. Poppy will be coming tonight. There are a lot of others, friends from school, and neighbours and people from the office, and the barter network, trying to be a comfort.

Except that nothing is, really.

I have to go, I promised Ginny I'd try again to eat. Maybe I'll manage it this time.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-23 01:35:14](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Bill,

Melli and I can come tonight. I have enough polyjuice for a very quick visit, and I'll bring her via side-along, so she can see the wand, and maybe sketch it or take an

impression of it.

I think you are right. It's certainly what Arthur would have wanted. And whoever gets the wand will honour it. We'll make sure of that.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-23 01:44:45](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Bill,

Remus and I are coming, as well, soon as things shut down tonight. And Dora can bring Bea tomorrow since the shop's closed.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-23 03:35:53](#)

*Re: Order Only*

We'll be by late tonight, Bill.

**2012-12-22 19:57:00**

*Order Only: Arthur Weasley February 6, 1950 - December 21, 1995*



Arthur Weasley, age 45, Ottery St. Catchpole.

Died in an assassination attempt on the Lord Protector on December 21 in New London. Born February 6, 1950 in Chudley, Devonshire. Survived by his wife Molly; children William (Bill), Charles (Charlie), Percival (Percy), Fred, George, Ronald (Ron), and Ginevra (Ginny). Arthur attended Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry -- one of the brightest lights of House Gryffindor -- and upon leaving school went to work with the Ministry of Magic. Prior to the Death Eater takeover of the Ministry, he worked for the Misuse of Muggle Artefacts office, where he had the opportunity to explore his fascination with muggles and their creative side.

 [alt\\_lupin](#)

After the fall of the Ministry, he stayed on, working for the Committee of Muggle-Born Labour Services, always doing his best to protect the muggles and muggleborn wizards in his care. His position gave him the opportunity to facilitate Order expeditions into muggle camps to rescue muggleborn wizards as infants, well before they came to anyone's attention. Thanks to Arthur Weasley's courage, care, and diligent work, 64 infant muggleborn wizards have been saved from slavery or death from the camps, to be raised in loving safety at Moddey Dhoo. Through trickery, persuasion, diligence, and compassion, he also saved hundreds and possibly thousands of muggle and muggleborn lives.

In addition to his work for the Order, Arthur Weasley was a devoted father and loving husband, and passionate about many things, including chess, fishing, the Chudley Cannons (maybe next year will be their year?) and freedom and liberty for all, wizard and muggle alike.

He died as he lived -- an embodiment of Gryffindor courage, he thought only of protecting those around him. Ironically, he gave his life to save that of a Death Eater, but all those who know him would say that Arthur would have acted without thought for danger to save any human life. May we all someday be as judged with the mercy and compassion Arthur had for Dominic Selwyn, in the moment where he saw Dominic not as a Death Eater, not as an enemy, but as a fellow human being in terrible danger.



Molly. All of you. I hope you don't mind. I thought you did a fine job with the obituary for the newspaper. But I wanted to write an obituary that told the truth about who he was.

---



 **alt\_sirius** at **2012-12-23 02:35:00**

*Private Message to Moony*

I'd call you a girl's blouse if I weren't so proud of you, love.

No word from Albus. At all. And Minerva - I'm just ... I have too much respect for Arthur to start a row at this point. But let's just say there's a certain dog who'd like nothing better than to chase a certain cat round the lake and then some.



 **alt\_lupin** at **2012-12-23 02:45:47**


*Re: Private Message to Moony*

Leave it be with Minerva.

We'll need to -- she cannot be the Head of the Order without a 'Co-Head' to actually lead us. But that will come soon enough.

I don't even know what to say about Albus. I feel even more bereft, when I think about where the Order is without Arthur tonight.




 **alt\_alice** at **2012-12-23 03:37:26**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, love.



 **alt\_lee** at [2012-12-23 04:28:16](#)

*Private message to Remus Lupin*

Mr Lupin,

I'm over here at the Burrow, with Fred and George, and I just thought you should know...Fred told me that when Mrs Weasley read your obituary she busted into tears. But that wasn't a bad thing; they were all really relieved about it, because she's barely cried at all, and it was like the dam finally burst. Fred said that she choked out that she was so happy to read it, because she hated that other obituary that the family had to send to the *Prophet*.

And then when she was done crying, she finally let Madam Pomfrey give her some Dreamless Sleep potion, and she's gone to sleep for the first time.

So. I just wanted you to know. What you wrote was a real comfort to her. And no wonder. Reading it made me proud to think that I knew him, even just a little bit.

Wish they could have published the real one.



 **alt\_lupin** at [2012-12-23 04:33:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Remus Lupin*

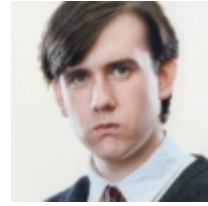
Thanks for letting me know.

I hope -- maybe someday things will be different. And we will be able to publish the real one.

**[2012-12-22 20:01:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Can't anything be done for him? Any influence, do you know anyone that--could Professor Dolohov do something? He's in the Lord Protector's circle, isn't he?

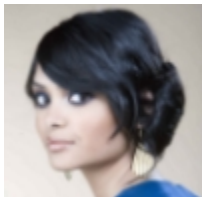



 **[alt\\_neville](#)**

Look, I know that you don't like me. But this is-- Merlin, he's just fifteen. Just like us. If we put our heads together, can we come up with something?

There has to be a way to stop this. It's crazy!

---



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-23 02:24:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

I dunno. He says there's not, that if there were, his guardian would have done it already. Because I dunno if you know it but Mr Rosier lost a son a long time ago and he's really come to think of Seamus as his own, you know? So he's just as upset about it all.

And he said we shouldn't tell anyone. But I've been thinking about the duelling club and how we all looked the other way about it. And how sometimes it's the right thing to say something.

So, maybe.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-23 02:27:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

Besides, I think most of the Council are probably at the Malfoy holiday party. I suppose we could try to get hold of someone there.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-23 02:40:09](#)**

*(no subject)*

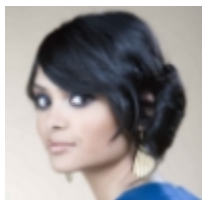
What if we put it that way to Professor Dolohov? 'You told us that if we ever had the opportunity, we should prioritise saving a life over keeping a secret.' Except that it's the Protectorate's secret--I don't

want Seamus to get into even worse trouble.

But really, what could they do to him that's worse than this? They're already going to kill him!

I'm willing to make the Floo call, or send the Professor a private message. I think--I hope--it would be all right, since Professor Dolohov works for the Lord Protector. So maybe he would already know about this, wouldn't he?

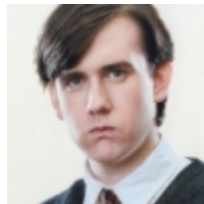
Should we ask Seamus first, do you think?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-23 02:48:09](#)**  
(no subject)

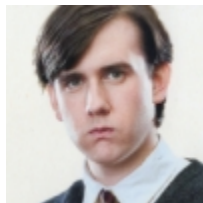
I just asked him and he said that most of the Council know that he's a hostage. So it's not like we're telling someone who doesn't already know. And he said he had permission to tell us.

Professor Dolohov's probably a good one to ask. Because he knows all about blood rituals, too, right? So maybe he can think of something and suggest it?



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-23 02:59:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. I'm going to Floo right now and ask for him then. Maybe...maybe he can think of something.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-23 03:34:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I just talked with him. I was worried that the house elf answering the Floo wouldn't let me speak with him. So I told the elf to tell him I was applying his lesson. About prioritising saving a life over keeping a secret. Guess that made him curious, because he came and talked to me right away when the house elf gave him the message.

He listened, and he thanked me for speaking to him. He said he would do his utmost.

I guess that's something.

I just hope to Merlin it's enough. I don't know what else we can do.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-23 16:47:33](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I heard back from him this morning. Professor Dolohov. It sounds like he's on to something. He can't say what, but I'm hoping that he's gonna find a way out of this. So keep your fingers

crossed.

**[2012-12-22 22:42:00](#)**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

The party is so odd.

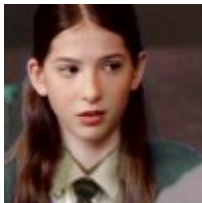
Everyone is either too quiet or too loud or too drunk and no-one wants to look anyone else in the eye or say anything important and everyone's being careful about the sorts of jokes their telling.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

It sounds awful and selfish of me to say, but this wasn't how I imagined our first anniversary. Draco's and mine, I mean. Maybe it'll be better later tonight when we can go off and spend some time on our own.

Fred said that Mrs Weasley would probably be better off if she kept busy, so they've no need for Hitty, so if the Strettons start fussing, we'll just ask Hitty to help cover your shifts so that you can spend as much time as you need at the Burrow. She likes you loads and I think she was a bit put out that she wasn't wanted at the Burrow so I'm sure she'd be up for it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **[2012-12-23 04:31:00](#)**  
(no subject)

That would be brilliant, with Hitty. They were SO CROSS -- well. I was afraid Mrs Stretton would confiscate my journal and I think she considered it but decided to be decent, for once. Either that or she was afraid of Harry.

The party doesn't sound the least bit fun.

I wouldn't have expected they'd be so upset. I mean none of them liked Mr Weasley.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **[2012-12-23 04:34:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Justin thinks its something else.

I think it might be too. But I don't know what.

Professor Siz looks awful.

And yes, I'll be sure to ask Hitty tomorrow. And if you tell her how much it means to you and how helpful she's being, she'll be just over the moon.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-23 04:38:03](#)**  
(no subject)

I definitely will tell her. I adore Hitty, you know.

Professor Siz might really be upset about Mr Weasley, since Ron is her student. And I heard it was Director Selwyn that Mr Weasley saved, so if he's at the party I'd expect him to be looking a little upset.

But

Yeah, that's really weird. What subjects are people conspicuously avoiding? Who's not there who you'd usually see?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 04:45:39](#)**  
(no subject)

No, it was more like she had a sudden turn. She was looking okay earlier.

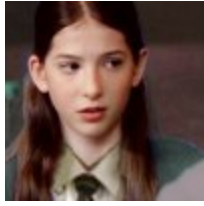
Let's see.

Mr Rosier left early, and Finnegan wasn't with, but that's understandable.

Everyone seems on edge. Lucius and Aunt Narcissa are the ones I've noticed the most, and they just seem like they're tired and jumpy and unhappy. As do a lot of people. And of course they're not talking of anything that happened yesterday.

Professor Dolohov is trying his best, though. He's been enlisting me to rope in people so we can all talk of books and the theater whenever we both end up in the same part of the house.


He wasn't there yesterday, though. He was at school.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-23 04:54:35](#)  
(no subject)

I think Justin's right. Either there's something else going on, or there's something important they're not telling us about the accident yesterday.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 04:56:34](#)  
*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

We'd probably better use this.

Maybe it's that Someone got hacked off because he didn't get a chance to do his speech. Like what I told you Harry said happened at the end of last term. Only less.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-23 05:00:11](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

Ohhhhhh


But WHY? He almost never gives speeches. I kind of thought he didn't like doing it.

Could he have been really angry about the accident?

Harry hasn't done ANYTHING. I mean unless He found out about the coins somehow

I really hope that's not it



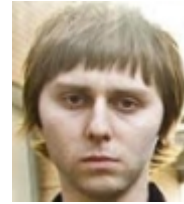
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 05:04:21](#)  
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

No. It's not Harry. He's looking miserable to be at the party, and a bit peaky, but he's always miserable at parties, and I'm sure he would've said something.



**2012-12-22 22:43:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Pansy and Hydra*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Pansy, we've found a quiet window-seat, up on the second floor. Hydra says it's near the library and Mr Malfoy's office.

I say, is it always this...er, forced? That's not quite the right word. I know Hydra and I both feel odd celebrating when so many of us are mourning Mr Weasley and feeling bad for Ron and his siblings, what.

But I shouldn't have thought so many of the Ministry and Council people here would be so...determined about having their fun. Surely not because of Mr Weasley?

And Mr Malfoy seemed rather distracted, did you notice? He looks tired. Although Professor Dolohov has been exerting himself tremendously. Did you happen to see when that couple in the blue robes were trying to talk to Mr Malfoy (oh, it was about an hour ago?) and Professor Dolohov simply inserted himself into the conversation? And Mr Malfoy looked so relieved to be able to excuse himself. Though it's true Mrs Malfoy's barely taken her eyes off him all night. I say, Draco's parents are clearly well devoted to one another.

There's another thing. I know you mentioned people tend to overdo things here, what, but it seems like there are rather a number of them, and early in the evening. Mrs Avery actually fell off her chair a few minutes before Hydra and I decided to come upstairs!

Well. I do think it's a smashing idea to go to the Weasley home tomorrow. I've a feeling even with the rawness of their emotions, that shall be a much more pleasant gathering.

-Justin

---



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 04:06:30](#)  
(no subject)

Agreed.

On all counts.

I think something's happened. Other than Mr Weasley, I mean.  
Everyone seems a lot more

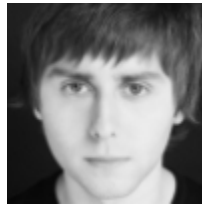
I mean, they didn't know him that well. Not all of them.

I can't put my finger on it. But yes. Everyone is trying very hard, and they're getting drunk a lot faster than usual.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 04:08:17](#)  
(no subject)

I think it's not that they're trying to be disrespectful, they wouldn't, it's just that they don't know how to be.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 04:19:58](#)  
(no subject)

No, I shouldn't expect anyone's being disrespectful. And as you said, I don't think all these people would have known Mr Weasley, so there's no reason for them not to be at a party.

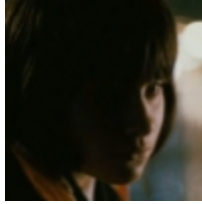
But there's no reason for them to force themselves to have fun, either.

I wonder if Professor Lestrangle would tell us if there was something else? I've paged through our journals a little and I don't know if you noticed but many of the Council were writing very late into the night.

I still can't believe he could have died, and so suddenly. The *Prophet* article was well vague, too. I hadn't wanted to ask Ron or the twins but--did anyone say, when you were at the Burrow, whether it was quick? Did he suffer at all? And what exactly happened?

The paper says it was an accident. But what sort, I wonder?

-J



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 04:27:48](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not sure he would say. If there was another reason, I mean.


Ron talked of having to clean him up at St Mungo's.

I think it was rather fast, but only because everything else seemed so abrupt. But I'm fairly sure he was already

already dead when they took him to St M's.

I can't believe it either.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 04:44:07](#)**  
(no subject)

How awful.


It's just curious so many of the people here tonight would take it so hard. There must be something else at work that we've not heard, what?

I say, that would at least explain the underlying tension.

But I suppose it's none of our business. Have you said hallo to Professor Sinistra?

-J



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 04:54:36](#)**  
(no subject)

I was going to, yes, but she looks like she's had a bit of a turn. Perhaps she could use a friendly face. I'll see if she's up for talking.

And maybe...

So Harry told me about the end of last term, when the LP got really hacked off and started punishing people. Like people on the council. He cruciod Professor Raz and Lucius, and even killed someone. In front of Harry. Maybe he was hacked off he didn't get a chance to make his speech? And they all got called to the carpet for it?

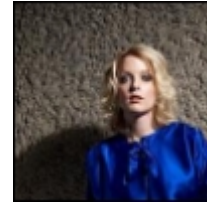
Harry seems to think he's very unpredictable these days. And that he could get really angry at really little things. Whenever he talks about him, which isn't often at all, he gets this look on his face and I get frightened for him.

But that'd explain why everyone on the council is so on edge.

**2012-12-22 23:08:00**

*Private message to Raz and Tosha*

~~My love, I need  
That was unbearably~~



Chloe Selwyn. She got me alone just now while you are all off talking. She's overwrought. Drunk. More than that.

 **alt\_sinistra**

She insisted on telling me about last night. Point by brutal point. ~~It makes no sense. What does that even solve?~~ I knew it was bad, just watching people today. But the way she told me, it was...

I mean, there's facts, and there's implications. I can't imagine she's exaggerating what happened. ~~Her voice when she told me~~ Bettina Yaxley's being punished, not allowed to use a wand for however long. That the curse was - that it needed Crucio to make it work. That Lucius had to - to assist with that.

But the implications are - well. ~~When Chloe talked about her children~~ I'd rather know than guess. Truth, please. Both of you. Whenever we get a chance to catch our breath.

Raz, dearest. This doesn't change what I want with you. I refuse to let it.

But it's going to take me a few minutes to be able to smile and make nice again. Come find me when you can, would you? I'm in the salon looking out at the garden. It's quiet enough here - if I go elsewhere, I'll let you know.



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-12-23 05:09:02**  
(no subject)

Both of you - moved to the small drawing room not too far from there, and have found (been found by, more like) Pansy Parkinson, whose conversation has many virtues at the moment. Beyond her usual, that is.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-23 06:31:51**

*Private Message to Auri*

Dearest,

I'm so sorry I didn't see this until just now -- I'd left my journal back in my rooms lest it distract me. Raz left our conference a little while ago and I will assume he's found you by now, but if he hasn't, he is here somewhere and if you call a house-elf, they will likely be able to find him for you.

I am also incredibly sorry I could not stand your champion as much as I had promised -- matters have grown exceedingly complex, very quickly. I am, unfortunately, tied up in an exceedingly thorny problem that must be solved in a short period of time and Lyoushka's library lacks the references I need -- I must return to my townhome and consult some of the books I did not bring with me to Hogwarts.

(I would not excuse myself were it not urgent, and I do not know if I will be able to explain the details to you, but knowing what I know of your priorities and values I can safely say that if I did, you would understand completely.)

I will tell you what I can, when I can. And I am sorry that you heard what transpired so brutally.

Yours,  
T



 **alt\_sinistra** at **2012-12-23 06:46:42**

*Re: Private Message to Auri*

Toshenka -

Raz did find me a few minutes ago. I'll manage - clearly, there's worse afoot. I could tell as soon as I saw his face. (And what you say, above, just confirms.) And you were all off talking for so long. That's never a good sign.

Raz and I are about to see if we can do one more round of pretending this is a social event everyone's enjoying, and that nothing's the matter, honest. Much easier with Raz to help, anyway.

On the rest, if there's anything I *can* do, I know you'll tell me. And we'll talk when we get time, I know. Whenever that may be.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-23 06:58:04**

*Re: Private Message to Auri*

Little star,

If you and Raz are taking the floor again I will feel less guilty at having to leave Narcissa alone. Raz will know what to do, but if anyone is stubborn about leaving by about another hour or so, gently and discreetly ask Narcissa if she'd like help apportioning guest rooms for the remnants; that will remind her to steer everyone to a bed for the night if she hasn't noticed the time.

I will tell you what I can (little though it might be) when I can, but do not worry -- we were away so long to brainstorm about a problem, and if the gods are smiling upon us, we may have cracked it.

I don't think I'll be in need of your particular talents to solve this particular conundrum, but if I am, I will not hesitate to ask.

Yours,  
T

**2012-12-23 00:43:00**

*Private Message to Dree and Em*

My father's dead.

(Merlin. That's the first time I've actually been able to say it. Write it. You know.)



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

I -- they're going to need me here for a while, everybody's hanging on by a hair and the only reason I'm not having a meltdown is because somebody's got to keep it together and if I'm remembering to feed people and smile and say thank you to everyone who's stopped in and make sure all the food that people are bringing gets put in the right place, it means I don't have to stop and actually think about it. But I

~~I'll never get to introduce you to him as my~~

I'm not going to ask, you'll just tell me it's an insult that I asked, but if there's any reason why I can't pop in for an hour or two tomorrow, let me know. I have to come back up anyway to get dress robes for the funeral and the rest of my things, since I'll be on family leave for the next two weeks or so. I don't know exactly when it'll be, since I'm sitting watch tomorrow night and I'm going to try to sleep a bit late, but everyone's sleep is so disturbed anyway that

We have a family clock, did I ever tell you? I came home early from St M's last night, I was the one who swept the house to make sure Mum didn't have to see his things sitting out in the living room, and it was a fucking good thing I did. His hand fell off the clock. It was just ... sitting there, on the floor, and I picked it up and put it in my pocket and

yeah.



**[2012-12-23 05:17:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Students -- I must apologise I was unable to mark and return your final essays before the end of term. I will return them with the owls bearing your end-of-term marks.



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

Deepest condolences, meanwhile, must go to several of Hogwarts' own who have lost a loved one, and in such a sudden and public fashion. I am certain Hogwarts students will rise to the occasion to offer whatever support possible to the Weasley family in their time of grief.

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 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 10:18:50](#)**

*Private Message to Pansy Parkinson*

Miss Parkinson,

Your help tonight and your talents in distraction and diversion have been, and continue to be, most appreciated. Your conversational skills are impeccable, as is your talent for knowing when to deploy them. I am certain you did not wish to spend the entire party smoothing over awkward moments -- but I am grateful that you did, and I am certain Lucius and Narcissa would agree.

Regards,  
Antonin



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 15:34:41](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson*

Dear Antonin Nikolaevich;

I must admit, I rather enjoyed the opportunity to be useful, because it offered a rather welcome distraction. I've found that working at something tends to be the best way to sort out sadness.

I'm quite sure that without you the party would've been a disaster, and our little chats here and there were one of the highlights of my evening, so I must thank you right back.

All my best,

Pansy



 **alt\_antonin** at **2012-12-23 10:24:17**

*Private Message to Neville Longbottom*

Mr Longbottom,

In regards to the matter about which we spoke last night, I wished to once again say that your concern does you credit.

I must also ask you to make certain your discretion does you credit as well: please do not mention this to anyone at all, as should your knowledge and actions become known, even slightly, it will jeopardise efforts considerably. I do not think I need to give you this warning, but it is better safe than sorry. (And if anyone asks you the topic of this message: I am asking you to interpret a portion of your final essay in which your handwriting was illegible.)

Once we've returned to school, please do stop into my office as soon as possible, as I'd like to commend your quick thinking privately.

Regards,  
Professor Dolohov



 **alt\_neville** at **2012-12-23 14:03:52**

*Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom*

Yes, yes, I understand the need for discretion, absolutely. Seamus warned me not to say anything. I agonised over approaching you, sir, and I only dared because you're on the Council, so you know about his situation in a general way already. I promise I won't speak to anyone else. Well, except for Padma Patil, because Seamus had permission to tell us both, so she already knows.

Is there...is there any hope, sir? Please don't give me false Galleons, but if there's even a sliver of hope, it would help a lot.

Yes, I will stick to your story, should anyone ask. No one who's seen my handwriting will doubt it.

And thank you, sir. Whatever happens, I'm grateful to you for listening. And for trying.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-23 16:02:50](#)

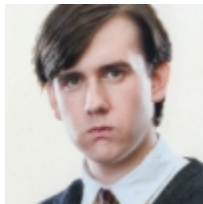
*Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom*

You did exactly right in coming to me, Mr Longbottom, and I am glad that you took my lessons about such to heart and felt you could trust me enough to make your report. (Your line of reasoning is also quite sensible.)

You'll understand that I cannot tell you anything further, but I will remind you that very few things are hopeless, when one brings one's mind, and one's research skills, to bear on a situation -- another lesson I hope I have conveyed adequately in class.

Your commitment to your friend and housemate is commendable, and I hope you will be able to breathe easier knowing that the situation is being tended to as closely as possible.

Regards,



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-23 16:34:55](#)

*Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom*

I will breathe easier, sir. A little, anyway. Thank you.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-23 10:34:49](#)

*Private Message to Stephen Rosier*

I did not misremember.

I'll need to confirm with Gus that they've not made any adjustments to the wards while I've been gone, but assuming they have not -- or if they have, that the changes wouldn't interfere with the resonances -- the Damascene variant of the rite should work. I'll have to work a bit at it, but I will almost certainly be able to make the necessary translations in time.

Given Our Lord's ... uncertain temper of the other evening, I think it

would be best if I propose the change myself, as I'll be able to answer His questions, but do be ready in case He would like your thoughts on the matter. I've been up all night chasing references and need at least an hour or two of sleep lest I be too inarticulate in front of Him, but I will be petitioning for audience as soon as I wake.

My own dear brother -- I will do what I might: he is my student, as I was yours. And either way -- bring the boy to me, once things are certain. I will help prepare him.

Yours, as always, and ever mindful of the lessons you taught me,  
T



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-12-23 15:34:48

*Re: Private Message to Stephen Rosier*

He approves.

I am willing to leave the question of what to tell Mr Finnigan, and when, in your capable hands -- but if you would like me to be the one to explain both detail and necessity, I will so you do not have to. I could come by tonight, once I've slept more. Or you may think it kinder to tell him the broadest strokes only, and save the detail for Thursday, in case Our Lord reconsiders -- but He did see the wisdom, after careful consideration.

Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at 2012-12-23 10:47:47

*Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

Зайчик,

This message, like several of the others above (and indeed the public message itself), is a smokescreen to make anyone who might be watching the subject lines in my journal think that I am simply catching up with my correspondence, and so my message to Stephen does not stand out. (As to that: matters look promising.)

But while I am writing -- I imagine you stayed over at the Manor last night; do let me know how Narcissa is doing. (Lyoushka, as well -- I am almost more concerned about him than her -- but he's more

stubborn, and more likely to tell you to go jump in a lake if you ask; I will pry more when next I speak with him.) I will be immersed in books all day, save for when I bring the proposal before Our Lord, so please do stay and do what you can for them -- but you know that my door is eternally open to you.

~~My heart nearly stopped when He was looking in your direction when~~

Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-23 16:01:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

As you'll see, I did not stay all of last night. Am here this morning, however, hoping to have a word with L before other things. He's not yet appeared for the day, so perhaps he is resting. Agree that he appeared strained.

Trust you will have success with Our Lord.

And that you will take time for sleep, yourself.

Always,  
B



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-23 16:41:48](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty Crouch, Jr*

His anger does appear to have cooled somewhat, at least. I wanted to receive His verdict as quickly as possible, for Stephen's sake.

Do keep an eye on Lyoushka, and tell me if he seems to be unwell. (Or rather, I fear, how unwell he seems.)

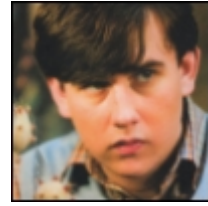
~~Do you ever sometimes want to just~~

I will still see you tomorrow, I hope -- for supper, if nothing more.

Your,  
T

**[2012-12-23 08:34:00](#)**

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

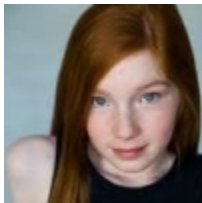


 **[alt\\_neville](#)**

Professor Dolohov just said something to me in a Private Message about my last essay. The one I turned in right before the break. And I just realised...

I don't remember burning the last page. Like I usually do.

oh no



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2012-12-23 15:52:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.

I see.

Did he appear as though he was angry with you? I know sometimes it's a bit hard to tell, but he certainly didn't hide it when so many people didn't do their essays properly when he came back.

I know it's something you did to make you feel better. Like you weren't letting it get to you. Only I guess writing it down like that was a risk each time, wasn't it? A bit like the risk we take every time we write mum and dad.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-23 16:14:04](#)**  
(no subject)

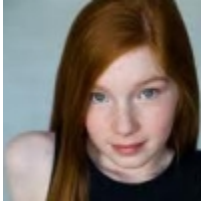
I just don't know!

I mean...I DO look over the essay every time right before I turn it in, just to make sure I don't include it! And I think--I thought--I did it this time. So maybe I'm worrying for nothing. Argh. If I were at Hogwarts, I could turn the room apart and look for it, but I can't.

I feel like such a fool.

I probably didn't do it. Probably? Maybe?

But if I did--oh, Mum and Dad must be mad to trust me not to screw up.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-12-23 16:26:15](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Pete. They aren't mad. You're always so careful. And if it turns out you have slipped up, it's not anything that could be linked to mum and dad, so the most important secrets are still safe.

Maybe

Maybe we could talk through all the things we do that are risky, and see if we can't work to make it less. It might make you feel better. And it'd be good for us to do any ways.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-12-23 16:02:22](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

Here's what I think.

If he asks you about the writing, you ought to own it, and tell him right out that you know Dark Arts are required, but you don't agree with it. That you'll keep doing the work, and maybe even see how it could be useful to some people, but that it's not for you. You might even thank him for offering the theoretical section. Because it lets you learn without doing something you don't agree with.

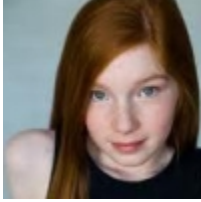
I think he'd try to argue with you about it, but he'd probably know if you were lying, so I'd stick to the truth.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-23 16:16:05](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. If worse comes to worse, I suppose that's the only thing I can do. Just own it. I don't want him to get the bright idea to pry. To legitimise me, if he can do that. And he's dead clever, if he--

How I wish I knew!



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2012-12-23 16:29:48](#)  
(no subject)

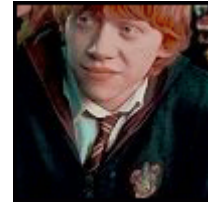
If he does legitimise you, you've been working with Mr Milland, and that will help.

But I can't see why he would, unless he thought you were hiding something big from him. You know you've got a lot to hide, but he doesn't know that. And if you tell the truth, that explains enough of it so he wouldn't need to look further.



**[2012-12-23 08:38:00](#)**

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



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Madam Pomfrey's here. She came last night sort of late. I was- I'd gone to bed, but then I couldn't sleep and I could hear people in the kitchen, so I came down. I thought- whatever, doesn't matter. I thought if we were all going to still be up, maybe Charlie'd play some chess or someone else would.

Anywiz, when I got downstairs, Bill came out of the kitchen and then called for her to come out, and she said she was glad to see me and wouldn't I let her have a look at me and answer some questions, so she took me into the lounge and gave me a cup of water, asked when I'd eaten and what and whether I'd slept at all or napped and a load of other things, and then she talked me into having a try with dreamless sleep, and I did.

But the thing is. She was here--still is, actually. She stayed over--I saw her as I was coming down the stairs. She's in by the fire. Must be waiting to see that Mum's all right this morning. She's still asleep, Mum. Most of them are, except George and Bill--they've been with Dad all night. And I guess she was, too.


And there were other people, too, last night. I could hear voices, but didn't see any of them.

So. Yeah. You see what I'm thinking.

You're coming again today, aren't you? Will the Strettons let you?  
Were they awfully cross about yesterday?

I expect I should go in there and see if any of them want anything. But I wanted to write you first.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **[2012-12-23 15:43:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I see what you mean. It's a pity you couldn't have seen the others, only because I'm rather curious if we'd know who they were. I wonder

I wonder if Sirius was there.

I think we've sorted things out with the Strettons well enough for now. I hope they won't put up a fuss, and if they do, I'm likely to flog over and give them a piece of my mind.

I'll be there too. I've got a bit of a headache, but Ms Macalister is giving me something for it once she stops clattering around the pantry, and then I'll be ready to head over.

**2012-12-23 09:53:00**

*Private Message to L Malfoy and A Dolohov*



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Paid a visit to the Prophet's print shop last night. Think we got just what we wanted there in the end, though it was well I was there to loom and posture a bit to be sure the tone and information held to agreement.

Strangeweale won't be so smug this morning as he was last night. Expect he won't stomach breakfast.

Lucius. Thank you for your hospitality. I did return to the Manor this morning. Would like to have a word before we're needed elsewhere.

Toshenka. Trust you are sleeping now. Wanted to be sure you did not overlook the paper when you wake.

---



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-23 16:16:37](#)  
(no subject)

I've grabbed a copy before heading back to bed. Excellent work -- and I do wish I were a fly on Strangeweale's wall when he read it. I've just returned from Buckingham and a private audience with Our Lord -- He has approved. Believe Stephen will be handling the practicalities.

I will now be repaying some of the cheques I have been writing my body of late, but both of you, call upon me if you need me.

Exhaustedly,  
T



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-23 17:03:50](#)  
(no subject)

Barty,

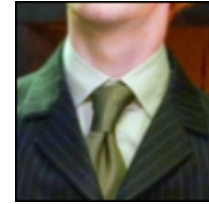
Just getting to this; breakfasted before seven and have been closeted, catching up on the journals since, with a few pauses to see off late-rising overnight guests.

The last of them have just gone but have received word from Buckingham; the O'Connors have made their choice.

If it's to do with Strangeweale, shall have to be brief. Nonetheless if you were successful: Good.

**2012-12-23 10:54:00**

*Private message to Bill Weasley and Charlie Weasley*



Bill, come see me when you wake up.

Look. I know you're worried about the eulogy. I meant what I said; I'm willing to do it instead if you think it's too much for you to bear. But if you're determined...

 [alt\\_percy](#)

The thing is, I have something you should read. It's from Dad's journal, a private message to me. It's actually from the very last post he wrote, at the very end. Something he said about Mum. And the Burrow.

I think it was...very eloquent, really. And you might consider working it in to whatever you're writing.

But even if you don't use it for the eulogy, you should read it. I'm including Charlie on this message, because I think he would like it, too. I think it will help.

I'll copy it out for you, so you can look at it when you're awake again.



---

 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2012-12-23 18:22:02**

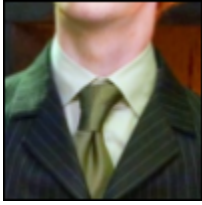
*(no subject)*

Thanks, Percy. I'd love to see it -- and that's very generous of you, to want to share.

I think Bill feels it's his duty, but I've offered to help as well. We were going to meet up in our old room sometime today, him to work on it and me to help. I'm sure he'd be grateful if you wanted to be there, too -- I think between the two of us we can help him find the right words to describe all the things that ~~make~~ made Dad special. I'll grab you when we do. I don't know when he'll wake up from his nap.

Meanwhile -- I need to go back up to the Reserve for a few hours to gather my things (my only pair of dress-robos are there). If you need to get out of the house as much as I need to get out of the house right now, would you like to come with me to help?

(I don't really need the help, so much as -- well, you know.)



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-23 18:26:30**  
(no subject)

Yes. Yes, I'll come with you. I need to get out for a bit, too.

**2012-12-23 13:00:00**

*Private Message to Little Bit*

I've already spoken to Draco this after-noon but do not think me unaware of the measures you both took yesterday to make our guests comfortable.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Narcissa and I both appreciate your efforts. In a party the size of our holiday gathering, it is quite impossible for us to be in all places at once.

Your attention on our behalf is particularly notable given that you have a personal connexion to the Weasley family. Thus your ability to set that sorrow aside in favour of playing hostess (and graciously, from all accounts), does you great credit.

Doubtless we shall see you to-morrow at the funeral. Arthur and I had our ... differences, over the years, but it cannot be denied that he sacrificed himself for the good of the Protectorate (and do not mean only the manner of his untimely demise). Suspect my clerk too proud to reveal to me the true extent of the family's destitution without their provider but - should you hear through your friendships of ways in which Mrs Malfoy or I might assist them, quietly, do let me know.

As for you, no doubt your friends' loss accentuates your own. (Confess it even brought back memories of my own father's death, and natural that it should do.) As ever, if you have need of me for your own behalf, am always at your disposal.

Am ... exceedingly proud of the woman you are becoming, Little Bit. Considering the distance you have covered since your initial term at Hogwarts, the difference of four years is somewhat astonishing - yet simultaneously, no less than I should have expected. Confident that you shall continue to grow into a witch of the finest calibre. To that end, I look forward to the result and remain, always,

Your loving godfather,

Lucius

**[2012-12-23 13:04:00](#)**

*Private Message to Neville Longbottom*



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

I noticed that Dolohov wrote to you, a message at the bottom of his post about our marks for the term.

Was it--did he have any news? Is he still working on it or --?

I could barely sleep last night. I can't stop crying. Every time I think I'm done I start over. Pav doesn't know what to think and I can't even think what to tell her.

I mean, it's just NOT FAIR. Well, you know what I mean, it's not like Seamus DID anything wrong.

There has to be a way to do what needs to be done without it being him. There just has to be.



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-23 18:14:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, we exchanged some messages, and yes, he's working on it. He says that I did exactly right to contact him, and that he's doing research. That's good, isn't it? But of course, he can't tell me what he has in mind to do.

I asked if there was any hope, and he was reassuring. He didn't tell me otherwise. So I'm trying to hang on to that. I passed that on to Seamus. I hope...I hope it wasn't too cruel for me to do so. And that Professor Dolohov will come through.

I know, I didn't sleep a wink last night myself. No, it absolutely isn't fair. At all.

It just makes me sick to think how long Seamus has been going through this. Having this hang over his head.



**[2012-12-23 13:17:00](#)**

*Private Message to Seamus Finnigan*

Are you still there?

I hope you are and it's not too late.



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

Listen, I guess Longbottom's told you already but I pushed him to ask Professor Dolohov about finding some other way to fix the Irish muggles without you having to get mixed up in it. And he said (Professor Dolohov, I mean) that he's got to do some research but he's working on it and not to give up hope.

So I dunno where things stand but if you're going to be okay, let me know, as soon as you can? And tell me if I can come see you if they decide--well, that they can do something else.

And if--if it doesn't--well, look. Write to me anyway. So I know. Because

Because not knowing until we get back will be awful.

(I can't believe that of all the people I could be talking to about this, it has to be **LONGBOTTOM**. But he didn't even hesitate when I told him to call over to the Malfoys' to reach Professor Dolohov. So I guess even a shite Gryffindor is good for something! And there, now you're smiling.)

Love,

Padma



 **[alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-23 20:32:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sorry I didn't reply until now. Mr Rosier had me take Dreamless Sleep before he went to the Malfoy party last night, and I think he gave me a double dose because I slept until just a little while ago.

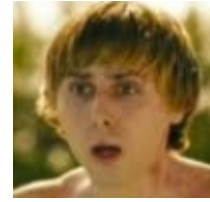
He told me, when I woke up, that Professor Dolohov had possibly come up with a solution. That he didn't want to raise my hopes too high, but that there might be another way.

Thank you.

And yeah. You made me smile.

**2012-12-23 13:24:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Pansy and Hydra*



 **alt\_justin**

We need to talk.

Pansy, can you come out beyond the garden?  
Without Sally-Anne and Ron, I mean?

It's not urgent but before we all leave, what. I say, it's been jolly well enlightening, being here with everyone.

Or else.... I say, Hydra, tell Pansy what you told me, what? About the Ponds' dog. Because--well, I say, I thought it belonged to the Weasleys, but she says no, it's Mr and Mrs Ponds'.

Have you seen their dog before, Pansy? In their shop, I mean to say.  
Or...anywhere else?

-Justin



 **alt\_pansy** at **2012-12-23 18:45:53**  
(no subject)

I didn't get a good

Oh.

Oh.

Yes.

I didn't know you knew.

Really?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 18:47:12](#)  
(no subject)

And yes. We ought to talk.

I was only just saying to Ron that it'd be something if he

But honestly.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 18:48:20](#)  
(no subject)

I mean to say I haven't seen him in the shop.

I didn't know he and Mrs Ponds

But yes, I have seen him.

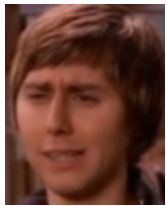


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 18:52:09](#)  
(no subject)

They are cousins.

So there's that.

I don't think I would've given him a second thought if you hadn't said.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 18:53:17](#)  
(no subject)

Well, he's also made himself scarce, it looks like.

I'm sure that's why. Wouldn't a normal dog want to go out and play when offered the chance?

-J



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 18:57:24](#)  
(no subject)


Yes.

It's him.

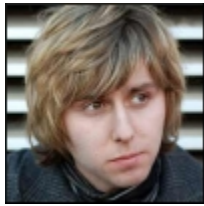
I'm sure of it.

I haven't told anyone about that part of it. Not even Sally-Anne. I thought only Harry and Draco and Hermione and me knew.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-23 19:12:03](#)  
(no subject)


DRACO knows that Sirius Black is a DOG?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 19:47:54](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, apparently. Shocking, what?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-23 19:13:03](#)  
(no subject)

And he hasn't told anyone?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 19:15:48](#)  
(no subject)

Well, no, he hasn't.

I mean, we've talked about it a little, but we both knew already.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:20:29](#)**  
(no subject)

But Draco doesn't even like him. I mean, it doesn't seem as if he does.

So that's quite something.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:22:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it's because of Harry.

And partially because of me, too, I guess.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-23 18:47:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, it's definitely my cousin's dog. He lives at their shop with the Ponds family.

Why does it matter, though?



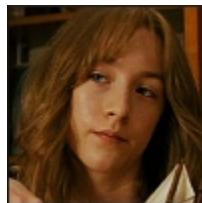
 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 18:50:05](#)**  
(no subject)


Because he's not a dog.

Not a proper one. Well, I don't think. I mean, I don't think there could be two.

Love, remember when I said I knew someone who could turn into a dog?

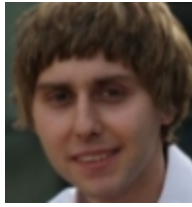
-J



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-23 18:52:10](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I don't remember. When did you say that?


Oh, but wait, now I do, I think. That was ages and ages ago. I rather thought you were just trying to impress me.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 18:54:18](#)  
(no subject)

Cheers.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-23 19:00:56](#)  
(no subject)

But if you really meant it, then do you mean that the Ponds' dog is the person you knew who was an animagus, and that Pansy knows that person too and

I don't follow.

You and Pansy didn't even know one another until you came here from France, I thought?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 19:03:11](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. The person I know who's an Animagus was in France when I knew him.

And now he's here.

He's *here* and he's Mrs Ponds' cousin.

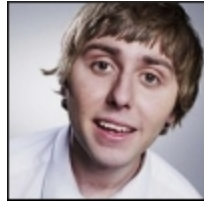
-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-23 19:05:52](#)  
(no subject)

What?

But



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 19:06:33](#)  
(no subject)

What's their dog's name?

Did they tell you?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-23 19:11:15](#)  
(no subject)

They call him Snuffles.

He wasn't there when we had our Tea Appreciation. I remember I asked, and Dora said "oh, he just comes and goes as he pleases."



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 19:13:29](#)  
(no subject)

Right.

So.

Snuffles is Sirius Black.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-23 19:14:51](#)  
(no subject)

But he calls himself Padfoot. I mean, he told me to call him Padfoot in dog-form.

So.

Perhaps the Ponds *don't* know he's hiding with them.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-23 19:16:12](#)  
(no subject)

Or perhaps he didn't want you to know where he was.





 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:18:40](#)**  
(no subject)

But why would he hang about with them, specifically? There must be loads of people who would take in a clever and friendly dog.

And yes, like Pansy said, Dora's his cousin. I'd like to think that she knows.

But I suppose we can't conclude that. Not for certain.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 18:59:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Should we tell the others? Ron? I rather think it's too much to present him and the twins with all this, if they don't already know.

Or...perhaps we ought to pretend we haven't noticed? Since they're trying to keep it secret?

Do you think Mr Ponds knows? Or even Mrs Ponds? Do you think they've any idea that he's been hiding under their noses?

I can't...I don't know what to do.

-J



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:03:08](#)**  
(no subject)

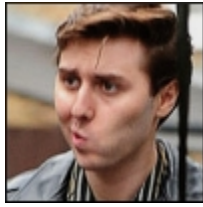
I'm not sure either.

It is a rather big secret. Which is why I didn't say anything.

Hermione did say we could ask her things, maybe we ought to ask her?

She'd probably say not to tell, though. And Ron

Ron's been thinking about his mum and dad for a while now, and this rather confirms quite a bit, doesn't it?



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:09:47](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Hm.

Or

Terry. Terry was figuring out how to be an Animagus. And he's with the wand smugglers.



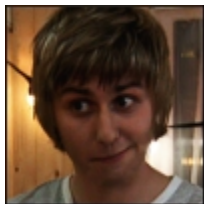
 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:10:51](#)**  
*(no subject)*


Yes, you're right. I'm sure he'd know.

He has been a bit

You know

lately though.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-23 19:16:17](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Right.

I'll ask Terry and you ask Hermione, what?

And we'll see what they say.

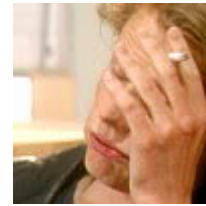
This is all bally well incredible!

**2012-12-23 13:26:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Bill*

If you wake up before we get back -- I know I said I was going up to the reserve by myself to see Dree and Em but, well. There are rather a lot of people here today who don't really have a reason to be here, if you know what I mean. So I thought it would be better to invite Percy with me.

(Especially since he's starting to look a little wild around the eyes.)



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

So if you're wondering where we are, that's where. (And don't worry about me. I'll ask him to pack some things up for me while I go sort something out with the office, and be able to slip away. For at least a few minutes.)

Merlin. This keeps getting more and more complicated.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-24 05:08:47**

*(no subject)*

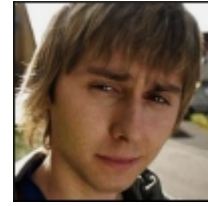
I hope your time with Dree and Em helped. And thanks for taking Percy with you. It was clear you both needed a change of scene, desperately, and yeah...better for him to be out of Mum's hair, considering some of the guests.

I feel a lot better about the eulogy after our time working on it together this afternoon. That piece from Dad's journal that Percy gave us, I can't get over how perfect it is.

I hope it helps Mum. And all of us.

**2012-12-23 14:19:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Terry Boot*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Hallo, Terry,

How are you? I say, we've all descended upon the Weasleys, to do what we can to help them. I do wish we could have everyone together, you and Hermione. I'm sure you'd have liked to come, if it were possible, what?

Ron's holding up, I suppose. It's helped that so many of us are here, though there's a constant stream of well-wishers. And Mr Weasley's lying in state, as it were, and that's a bit, odd, but I suppose one gets used to it.

But then something very curious happened. Hydra's cousin, Mrs Ponds, came to visit with her husband and their daughter. And they brought the family dog along.

Pansy and I had never met their dog but we did know *this* dog.

I say, Terry, old man, when you were learning animagery, did you.... Did you by chance have help from Sirius?

Because we're pretty well certain he's masquerading as the Ponds' dog.

Are we right? Ought we to share it with the others?


I'm sure you have loads of questions as have we but--oh, dash it, I wish you could be here with us all. Not just so we can all talk but for Ron, as well. Do you think it's possible? We could say you're some country cousin no one would be likely to know. No one would think twice, there are so many people about.

Could you come? If not, I hope you can answer, at least.

-Justin

---




 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-23 20:16:57](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, shite.

Uh.


Um.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-23 20:17:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Give me a moment.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-23 20:35:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm trying to figure out how to get there. I don't apparate yet, and there's no Floo powder here.

Hang on, I'm trying--trying another angle.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-23 20:47:36](#)**  
(no subject)

All right. I figured it out.

I'll be there as quickly as I can.

**2012-12-23 14:22:00**

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



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

We were at the wake. And Junius and Dora Ponds came with their dog and Justin and me saw it and pretty much sorted out who the dog was. Justin saw it first, and then he asked me, and yeah, I could see it right away.

I haven't said, you know, about what he can do. Not even to Sally-Anne.

But between this and Madam Pomfrey, well, it's a pretty clear thing that they were both visiting Mr Weasley, and I guess Justin and Hydra and I were just wondering if we could say? To Ron? Because it's a rather big thing. I mean, it might not be our secret to tell. I didn't think the animagus thing was, at least, and this is an even bigger thing than that. And we wanted to know if you knew if Mrs Ponds knew who her dog was?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-23 19:35:01**

*(no subject)*

And Justin's talking to Terry about it, and we would've asked you both at once only because of the stupid PMs we couldn't. But you can talk to one another, anyways.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2012-12-23 19:44:06**

*(no subject)*

Yes, you should tell him. Grab the twins and everyone.

I'm trying to find out if Harry will be able to go to the funeral and I really really want to go but--I don't know if I should because I haven't really been able to stop crying since Friday when we heard about it.

Mr Weasley was the most wonderful person ever and Ron needs to know what he really did.

And yes, yes, Sirius is there and it's all--it's just--oh, just everyone should talk to everyone.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 21:19:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

Okay.

I

I'm sorry, Hermione. For what it's worth.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-23 21:28:07](#)**

*(no subject)*

And I'm sure Harry would understand. If you wanted to go. He'd help.

I guess I should've sorted out that if he was a part of all this, you'd know him. Better than I thought you did, I mean.

**2012-12-23 14:31:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley and George Weasley*



 [alt\\_terry](#)

Uh, help?

Justin's figured some stuff out. He's figured out that Sirius is Snuffles, and that he was AT YOUR HOUSE. With the Ponds! He's asking me what do I know.

And now he's asking me to come there.


What do I do?!



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-23 20:37:17](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, we know. Justin's in our room now.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-23 20:38:26](#)  
(no subject)

I feel like I should get there, but...I don't know how angry Mr or Mrs Longbottom will be if I do. Without permission.


I can't apparate anyway, and there's no Floo powder.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-23 20:39:52](#)  
(no subject)

One of us can come get you. Side along apparition.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-23 20:40:59](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Longbottom has gone off. Wanted to be by himself for awhile.



Mrs Longbottom is asleep.

If I go now...maybe I can get back without them knowing.

I'm not going to betray the Order though.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-23 20:41:24](#)  
(no subject)

I know, and neither are we.

But we think we need to get together in a room and talk.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-23 20:42:16](#)  
(no subject)

I've got a feeling I'm going to--this is going to be awful, isn't it?

I'll meet you at the rendezvous point.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-23 20:45:34](#)  
(no subject)

Right. And we'll sneak you upstairs, but we'll hide the fact that it was us who went to get you.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-23 20:46:23](#)  
(no subject)

Come to think of it, George will bring his booksack. The Professor can go for a ride.

**2012-12-23 14:33:00**

*Private message to Neville Longbottom*

Padma told me that you talked to Professor Dolohov.



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

Thank you. It may have helped quite a lot. Mr Rosier says we don't know for certain, but -- he looks like a huge weight's been lifted. He clearly thinks Professor Dolohov found a way.

So thank you. I won't forget this.

---



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-12-23 20:54:58**  
(no subject)

Oh, I hope so! And I was glad to do it.

That's...that's a big relief. Huge.

(Well yeah, for you even more than me, undoubtedly.)



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-12-23 22:27:24**  
(no subject)

Anyway. That's what friends are for.

**2012-12-23 14:48:00**

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



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Everyone,

Well, everyone who's here at the Burrow, please come up to Fred and George's room.

Neville, if you and Evelyn were thinking of coming to pay respects, now would be an excellent time for it.

Terry, again, if it's possible...I hope you can come, as well. And Hermione, if you tell Harry it's important, perhaps you could Floo through?

-Justin

---



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2012-12-23 20:03:09**  
(no subject)

I really can't, I wish I could but after you've all talked if you have questions I can try to answer them.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-12-23 20:30:46**  
(no subject)

Yeah, we were planning on coming today anyway.

On our way.

**2012-12-23 16:37:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To  
No Good: Meeting Minutes*



ISS LOCK MEETING MINUTES

Date: 23 December 1995

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Location: Fred and George's bedroom at the  
Burrow

Members Present: Fred Weasley, George Weasley, Ron Weasley, Sally-Anne Perks, Pansy Parkinson, Justin Finch-Fletchley, Hydra Lestrangle, Neville Longbottom, Evelyn Longbottom, and.... Terry Boot!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
OH TERRY IT WAS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU and by the way your animagus transformation is AMAZING. I have always wanted to be able to do that. And I could watch you turn into a dog (and then back into a person) all day.

Members Absent: Susan Bones, Luna Lovegood, Lee Jordan,  
Hermione Granger.

AGENDA:

The Wand Smugglers.

What exactly do we know? We decided to make a list.

1. Mr Weasley was absolutely one of the Wand Smugglers. And he didn't die in a construction accident or whatever the newspaper said; there was a bomb, because someone was trying to kill the Lord Protector. And they killed Mr Weasley by accident instead. (Mr Weasley wasn't doing anything secret when he died and the assassination attempt didn't have anything to do with the Wand Smugglers...because none of the people we've noticed look scared. Just really, really sad.)
2. Mrs Weasley is also one of the Wand Smugglers.
3. Also Madam Pomfrey. We suspected already but she also spent the night at the Burrow last night.
4. Sirius Black is the Ponds' dog. (He's an animagus.) Pansy and Justin recognised him when he came to the Burrow. He helped Terry learn to

transform. This also explains why he made himself scarce at Tea Appreciation.

5. Ron was thinking about that and realised that the gruff Scotsman who stepped on his foot while waiting for the loo was Professor Macnair. He's disguised really well, but the voice is the same. So we think he's probably also a Wand Smuggler.

6. Speaking of voices, I finally worked out why Mr Ponds looked so familiar at Tea Appreciation. He's Remus Lupin, also in disguise.

7. Presumably Mrs Ponds is also a Wand Smuggler. She certainly knows about Mr Lupin (can you imagine trying to hide from your wife that you're a werewolf?)

8. Little Bea, presumably, isn't. Since she's a baby.

9. Bill Weasley seems to know all these people so he's probably one, too. Maybe also Charlie. Not Percy. The Twins were very emphatic about that.

10. Headmistress McGonagall is probably also one, given that Ron was told that he could always trust her implicitly.

11. Some years back, Ron and the Twins were both told by their father that if they ever got instructions from a number of talking animals (a weasel, a squirrel, a hawk, a cat or a Newfoundland dog), they should obey those instructions without question.

12. Ron and the Twins now recognise the 'talking animal' spell as a variant on the Patronus Charm, so presumably these would be patronuses of Wand Smugglers.

13. Madam Pomfrey probably knows that Sally-Anne is one of Terry and Hermione's friends.

14. Sirius Black certainly knows that Sally-Anne and Pansy are among Hermione's friends.

15. EVERYONE knows that the Twins were Terry's friends. That wasn't even a secret. AMYCUS CARROW knew that.

16. We can assume that they share information so if any of them know, all of them know.

17. So, we should ALL be alert to messages from talking squirrels and so on because if there's urgent information, they might send it to more than just Ron, the Twins, etc. They might try to warn all the Friends of Muggleborns they know about.

18. Which, let's face it, is everyone who's here today.

19. Well, except Ginny. We should probably wrap this up before she comes looking for us. Though Luna thought she could keep her distracted.

20. We would further note that Neville's parents are almost certainly among the Wand Smugglers, given that we think they're involved with Sirius Black.

21. We don't think any of us have seen them at the Burrow, but Ron remembers hearing a woman's voice last night that he didn't recognise. Which might have been their mother.

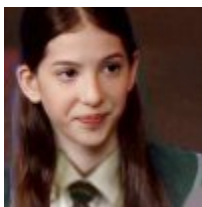
So. After all that...

Well. We agreed not to say anything about it to the Wand Smugglers, at least for now. Because they're all grieving for Mr Weasley (and so are we).

## ADJOURNMENT

We can always keep talking in journal. But we wanted Hermione to be able to see what we'd discussed. Also, Terry had to go (he changed back into a dog and the Twins snuck him downstairs in their rucksack).

Terry it was really good to see you. (Even though I wish -- like everyone, I'm sure -- that it had been under happier circumstances.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-23 23:03:49](#)  
(no subject)

So also I should add that when we came down the stairs from the Twins' room, who was there but Professor Sprout.

And she just LOOKED at us for a second. And we looked at her. And then we said 'hello, Professor Sprout' and went to get something to

eat.

Anyway

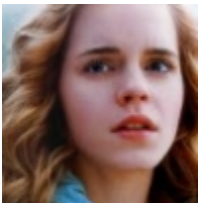
22. Professor Sprout is probably also one of them.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-24 00:57:40](#)  
(no subject)

Whoa.

We really have figured out an amazing amount of stuff, haven't we?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-24 01:37:28](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I really wish I'd been able to come, it would have been so wonderful to see Terry!

It's funny--not funny ha-hah but funny curious--that you did minutes up like this because sometimes the wand smugglers do up minutes and they're really quite similar.

And in fact, the same person who writes up the minutes also wrote a proper obituary for Mr Weasley, and Ron, I really think you should see it, and everyone else because it's just--it's ever so much better than the one that Mrs Weasley had to put in the paper.

Here:

*After the fall of the Ministry, he stayed on, always doing his best to protect the muggles and muggleborn wizards in his care. His position gave him the opportunity to facilitate wand-smuggler expeditions into muggle camps to rescue muggleborn wizards as infants, well before they came to anyone's attention. Thanks to Arthur Weasley's courage, care, and diligent work, 64 infant muggleborn wizards have been saved from slavery or death from the camps, to be raised in loving safety in secret locations. Through trickery, persuasion, diligence, and compassion, he also saved hundreds and possibly thousands of muggle and muggleborn lives.*

*He died as he lived -- an embodiment of Gryffindor courage, he thought only of protecting those around him. Ironically, he gave his*

*life to save that of a Death Eater, but all those who know him would say that Arthur would have acted without thought for danger to save any human life. May we all someday be as judged with the mercy and compassion Arthur had for Dominic Selwyn, in the moment where he saw Dominic not as a Death Eater, not as an enemy, but as a fellow human being in terrible danger.*

Also, Mr Weasley's one reason I'm not in the camps. He found me and arranged for me to be placed at Hogwarts, and then with Headmistress McGonagall. And he saved my parents (or tried to do) and a couple of times even arranged for me to see them.

He tried to treat me and Terry almost like his own children. It's just so awful that he's gone.

Pansy, I think maybe when everyone gets back we should talk more about what happened at the end of your third year, and why Draco knows some of this, and Harry. I think we should just make sure of what everyone knows because it's just exhausting trying to keep all these secrets and remember who knows what.



 **alt\_evelyn** at [2012-12-24 01:50:36](#)

*Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*

Oh Hermione.

That's what they do?

That's what my mum and dad do.

Thank you. Thank you so very much.



 **alt\_pansy** at [2012-12-24 01:53:30](#)

*(no subject)*

Right.

I'll do my best.





 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-24 01:58:29](#)**  
(no subject)


They save babies?

They save muggleborn babies?

That's

oh, Hermione. I'm so glad to know that. And that that's what Mr Weasley did.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2012-12-24 02:04:49](#)**  
*Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*


Wow.

Whoa.

After so long, imagining all sorts of things, even the worst--I feel as though I've lost the weight of...of everything off my shoulders.

Thank you. You have no idea what this means, to Evelyn and me.



 **[alt\\_luna](#)** at **[2012-12-24 02:24:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh....

I read this, and tears sprang to my eyes. Of course. Of course Mr Weasley did this. I never knew any of this, but it sounds exactly like the man I knew.

It also makes such sense, all the grief that Mr and Mrs Weasley's friends are feeling, doesn't it? I mean, the ones that are involved, too. Aside from the fact that they loved him and he's gone. But if he did all this, and he's no longer here to do it, it must have been a terrible blow to the wand smugglers.




 **alt\_susan** at **2012-12-24 02:34:17**  
(no subject)

Wow, you *have* learned a lot.

And yeah, Mr. Weasley have been really respected and loved for so many of the wand smugglers to risk coming out to his vigil, even disguised. I mean, they must know that you know certain things, because of Hermione...and other things.

And Terry, I hope I get to meet you properly someday.



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-12-24 03:13:03**  
*Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*

I don't actually know what to say. I've been sat here looking at this for I don't know how long, and

yeah

That's what they do. It's not just wands. They're saving kids lives. That's-

I knew he did something in the camps that his department didn't know about, and that's why he stayed even though they were horrible to work with. I mean, he was making a difference there by trying to get them not to as awful to the people in the camps as they could have been. He told me a few of the things he did and some of the things he could stop from happening, too. But he never said they were doing this--taking people out of the camps to somewhere safe.

Where do they take them? I mean, they put you at Hogwarts and that was better than a camp, but you're still someone's servant and you can't, well- yeah. And Terry-

I need to think about this for a while, I guess. It's just-

I wish I could tell him-



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-24 03:37:52](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*

I'm sorry, Ron. I can't tell you where they go once they're rescued.

I wish you could, too.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-24 03:49:00](#)

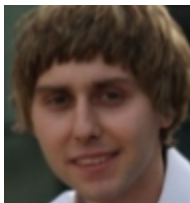
*Re: Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*

Yeah. I didn't think you probably could. I shouldn't have asked you, only-

It's just that it feels like they've kept all the really important stuff secret, and now he's gone and I'll never know him the way he really was. I mean I thought I was starting to-

I was going to ask him about all of this when I got home this time. I have this whole list of questions and I kept adding things to it and trying to put it in the order I thought was most important or the order that would tell me most if I could only get him to answer some of it. And I spent so much time thinking about what I was going to say, and what he'd probably say back, and-

sorry



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-24 03:36:01](#)

*(no subject)*

Hermione,

I say, thank you. And I'm dreadfully sorry this is a blow to you as well.

I'm well glad to hear this is the sort of thing Sirius and his mates are doing.

-Justin




 **alt\_tery at 2012-12-24 01:48:59**  
(no subject)

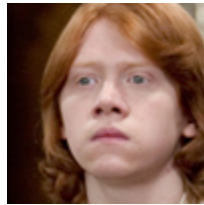
It was fantastic to see all of you, too. I wish it could have been longer; I wanted to talk with all of you for hours.


I made it back to, um, where I came from all right. Without anyone being the wiser. Which is a ~~big~~ relief good.



 **alt\_tery at 2012-12-24 01:50:19**  
(no subject)


I'm so glad I got to tell Ron and Fred and George in person how sorry I am about their father.



 **alt\_ron at 2012-12-24 03:51:12**  
(no subject)

Thanks, Terry.



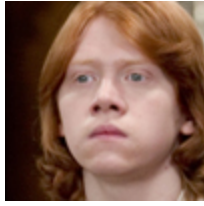
 **alt\_tery at 2012-12-24 04:16:11**  
*Private message to Ronald Weasley*


There's one other thing I think you should know, Ron.

He was their leader. He was the head of the organisation, for years. So you see...they truly loved him and respected him. ~~And without him they're~~

Your father was a remarkable man. He had more friends than you can possibly imagine.

I admired him so much. I honestly think he was one of the most heroic people I've ever met.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-24 04:23:34](#)**

*Re: Private message to Ronald Weasley*

I-

thanks




 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-24 02:52:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

And I'm sorry I couldn't be there. Mum needed me at home, but I thought about all of you a lot.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-24 03:53:10](#)**

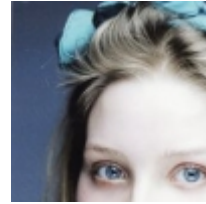
*(no subject)*

Thanks, Sue.

**2012-12-23 17:56:00**

*Private Message to Padma*

It's been such a strange start to hols, hasn't it? I gave Dad the biggest hug when I got home because I just kept thinking of the World Cup last year and how much worse *that* could have been. Don't tell her I told you, but Pav had nightmares the night before we left-about Sanji. She acted like she was fine when I asked her about it though.



 [alt\\_lavender](#)

It was nice of Greengrass to post the revue results before we left--it was good to have something cheerful to discuss on the train.

Lovegood's at the Weasleys'. I always forget that she practically grew up with them. I think she was afraid Mum wouldn't let her go--I'm not sure why, it's not as if Mum's unfeeling.

Speaking of friends of the Weasleys', what on Earth is Longbum sending you PMs for?



---

 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2012-12-24 02:17:10**  
(no subject)

Oh, it's been so weird, I agree!


I could barely sleep last night. I guess just because home is so unfamiliar, in a way.

As for Longbum, it's the most annoying thing. You saw how Finnigan wrote to us both? Well, Longbum wanted to ask if I could help him next term because he's practically failing Noble Arts. And everything else, probably! He was too embarrassed to ask on his own, so that's why Seamus brought it up.

I haven't decided yet whether I'll tutor him. I mean, it's not like he can get a whole lot of help, given his deficiencies, but on the other hand, he's making an honest effort to improve, and it's part of a Prefect's duties to help out.

What do you think I should do?



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2012-12-24 02:27:47](#)  
(no subject)

He's not really one to put himself forward like that--he must be doing really badly! It was nice of Seamus to help; he's been taking his prefect duties really seriously. Not that I haven't been!

If I were you, I'd offer to help, but make clear you're busy and haven't much time to spare. And maybe ask for something in return?

Did you get my owl about the post-Frost Faire party?

Mum insisted I had to do formal invitations, even though it would be so much simpler to ask everyone over the the journals.

It *is* more elegant, though.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-24 02:33:35](#)  
(no subject)

Of course you have been! But Seamus thought between him and me we could maybe manage to get Longbum's marks up in NA.

I dunno. I might have him talk to Lines, since they're both in the theory class and Seamus and I are in the practical.

And yes, I got the owls! You must have been at the invitations all evening so get them out so quickly.

It looks like it's going to be ever so sophisticated. I can't wait!



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2012-12-24 02:57:06](#)  
(no subject)

Well, Linus does love to share his knowledge of the Noble Arts *and* needs to get his prefect status back on firmer ground, so that might be the best solution altogether!



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-24 02:37:05](#)  
(no subject)

Who else did you invite?

I didn't tell you: I got home and there's a Christmas parcel from Lana Sandoval-Pennifold!

I'm waiting until Christmas to open it (mainly because I don't want to insult her by opening it before then). I'm just so flattered she thought to send something. I'll have to thank her at the St Mungo's benefit. Did Pav tell you we're going this year?

It's just so amazing to finally start getting to go to some of these events that we've only read about. I feel so grown-up. I know that sounds childish even to say but it's true!

(Even if it does feel a little odd to be so happy about it, when the Weasleys are mourning, you know? But I guess life goes on. Seamus and I were collecting, and I want to do something more about that, too.)



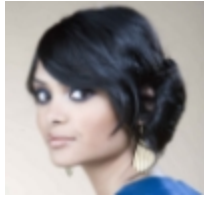
 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2012-12-24 03:01:44](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I invited mostly the usual crowd, plus a few others just to shake things up a bit!

R.S.V.P.s are just starting to arrive, but something odd happened! The post-owl came back with Seamus's invitation still tied to its leg, completely undelivered.

Mr. Rosier hasn't moved recently, has he?





 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2012-12-24 03:11:09](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.

Well, Seamus did say that he fell asleep for ages and ages and didn't wake up until afternoon.

Maybe the owl got tired of waiting?

I bet if you sent it back, or even just gave it by Floo to Mr Rosier's elf, it would be okay.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2012-12-24 03:36:27](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll send it again, then.

Seamus has seemed so serious lately--it'll be good for him to get out and do something

festive!

That *was* really thoughtful of Lana Sandoval-Pennifold (whew, that's a mouthful!) especially with how busy she must be. I think it's wonderful that she's continued on with her own career now that she's married; some people can be such fossils about that sort of thing.

**2012-12-23 18:46:00**

*I Solemnly Swear: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Justin*



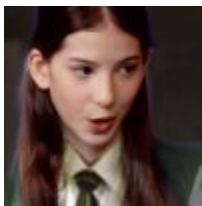
Merlin! I just remembered something.

Ron's got the leading role in the revue--has anyone *told* him?

 [alt\\_susan](#)

I didn't want to just blurt it out in the ISS discussion, and I feel as if don't know Ron well enough to PM him, especially at a time like this.

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-24 03:06:05**  
(no subject)

No one's told him, so far as I know.

I mean, I thought about it, but

'oi Ron, you got the lead in the school play! congratulations!!! sorry about your Dad, though'

no. I couldn't come up with a good way to bring it up.

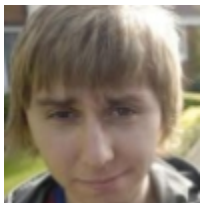


 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2012-12-24 03:10:25**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I know what you mean.

But maybe he shouldn't be surprised by it when he comes back to school, either...

That's why I thought of you two, because I thought you might have an idea how to break it to him without sounding like *that*.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-24 03:18:26**  
(no subject)

Sue,

Dash it all, no, I hadn't even realised it until you said. In all honesty, I shouldn't have known that *I* had been given a part if Remy hadn't told me on the way home.

Let's give it a think, what? Perhaps not right now but if he needs some distraction after the funeral and Christmas and all, we could tell him then.

-Justin



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-24 04:06:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

I think you're probably right that it can wait; it just came to me all of a sudden...

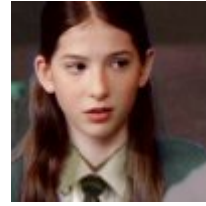
Honestly, I wouldn't blame Ron if he didn't want to take on the part, and I don't think anyone else would either. Well, there are *some* people who would probably find a way!

But maybe he'll want something to do.

**2012-12-23 20:03:00**

*Private message to Ginny Weasley*

I didn't see you much today (I think you were with Luna?) and I just wanted to ask -- how are you doing? Is there anything you need? Ron's been surrounded by friends but you



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Will Honoria be able to come to the funeral, do you know?

And I'm so sorry. About your father. He was a wonderful man.

---



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2012-12-24 02:35:51**  
(no subject)

Thanks for thinking of me. I spent a very short while with Luna. It's just hard because I don't know what to say or do really.

I'd much rather be out of the house right now doing something, and keeping myself busy. Or at least keeping my head busy. I hope that makes sense. I'd just rather not think about it right now. But I know it's something I need to deal with. And I don't want to upset Mum, or seem uncaring by asking to go somewhere else.

Being here at the burrow just makes me want to cry, and makes me feel terrible. So I went flying for a short while when I knew I wouldn't be missed. But coming back... Just seeing the Burrow, and knowing Dad will never walk in again hurts too much. And I just really don't want to be here right now.

Sorry to unleash all this on you. I know that you and I were never very close. And that was probably my doing. I just don't know what to do and what to say. I'm glad this is over the journals though. I'm a mess right now. Don't tell anyone I said that though. I need to at least appear to be strong. And I need to help pick up some of the slack for Mum, right now. And I can't do that if I can't hold it together.

Thanks again for your concern.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-24 02:42:16](#)  
(no subject)

We're not close, but we're not in the same House or the same year so it would be more surprising if we were.

I'm not going to tell anyone you said you're a mess, but really, you're allowed to be a mess when you're grieving. If it helps to stay busy -- well, I can understand that, too.

Anyway. Ron's had friends around a lot, to lean on, and there have been loads of people in and out of the Burrow but I don't know if you've had friends over? (Other than Luna, at least.) Is there anyone you want to come and sit with you?



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-24 03:21:36](#)  
(no subject)

Not really. I can't keep my composure if people are fussing over me. Plus I have the cooking to do. So I would rather just focus on that.

**[2012-12-23 21:27:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Neville*



I can't stop thinking about it, Pete.


About mum and dad, I mean. It just

 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

Well, it explains everything, doesn't it? About why they had to leave us, and what they've been doing that's so important, and why they knew Terry Boot and Hermione, and I was so worried they were doing something just awful and frightening which is why they couldn't say, even though they seemed so nice and

I'm just so *glad*.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **[2012-12-24 02:42:58](#)**

(no subject)

I know.

I just realised something else: I'm so proud. I'm dead proud that they're our parents. And that's both unfamiliar and wonderful. The not knowing has been horrible. If you don't know, your imagination fills in the gaps with all the worst possible, and it's all you can do not to flinch when they call you 'blood traitor.'

I tried not to resent that they left us behind, but I just couldn't understand it. But this: I never imagined anything like this! And it all makes sense. Why they gave us to Gran, and why Gran supports them. I wondered about that, too.

But this is why. They're heroes.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **[2012-12-24 05:58:09](#)**

(no subject)

I know what you mean.

I've never been prouder. Not ever.

We've all got to keep their secret. Because I think that's the most

important thing. But it's just about the best Christmas present I can think of. Even if we're the only ones who'll ever know.



 **alt\_neville** at **2012-12-24 13:55:30**  
*(no subject)*

You're right. The best Christmas present ever. Although it's so sad that it took Mr Weasley's death for us to find out.

Been thinking, too: they were aurors, after all. I reckon that in a way they just went on being aurors even after the old Ministry fell. Because they saw it as protecting people.

When we put the lit candle in the window tonight, i guess I just won't be thinking of Mum and Dad. I'll be thinking of all those people, all those kids the wand smugglers saved, too.

**[2012-12-23 22:36:00](#)**

*Private Message to A Dolohov and L Malfoy*



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)**

Have just come from Truncheon's workshop. Satisfied they have the rodents. Two of them. Reasonable certainty on details of transit, support, facilitation.

In short: def. IMA, but partnered in Ireland with Ridley. Remnants have merged. A bloody Irish arm of Dogstar. But not, by any means, a Thames-side branch of IMA. These two came alone. Came through at Holyhead. Pale's Bella's seeing to that. Complete staff sweep.

Point of interest: foreman of Strangeweale's crew was Imperiused. Should be simple to give out that he's merely claiming that now. Convenient Imperius defence has been tried too often to be heard now without rolling of eyes.

Yaxley had audience tonight. Is not back here yet.



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2012-12-24 05:19:22](#)**

*Private Message to Toshenka*

What time tomorrow? What's the earliest you'll have me?

Meant to respond earlier to your question re. L. In any case, he was fine. And not submitting to the sort of scrutiny that would pierce beyond that impression. Interpret as you will.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-24 06:23:33](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Toshenka*

Come whenever you'd like. The earliest I'll have you is two days ago, dearest -- my house is yours. (And I could use an extra pair of eyes on the books.)

Yours,  
T



**[2012-12-23 22:44:00](#)**

*Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

Aurora,

Do forgive me for writing so late in the day; it has been rather a long one.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

I wanted to thank you for your efforts yesterday - you and Razzer. Believe me, I appreciate your subtle attempts to fill in where I could not. Friday was a very long (and trying) night.

Which, I understand, you learned in a rather rude way. I'm so sorry, on behalf of Mrs Selwyn. I heard she was much the worse for the wine, so please, don't believe her bluntness in any way characteristic. She'd suffered a terrible fright - though that does not excuse her behaviour, of course.

Tosha says that he and Razzer saw to you in the aftermath. I'm just so dreadfully embarrassed that it happened under my roof.

If I know Chloe at all, she bitterly regretted her intemperance by light of day (and recovery of wits). Please, don't hold her harsh words against her. She's really a lovely person - normally.

And thank you again, for your ample assistance throughout the evening. I hope we can spend another day together soon, under less stressful circumstances.

-Narcissa



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **[2012-12-24 04:19:32](#)**

*(no subject)*

Narcissa -

Not late at all by my usual standards, but it is very good to hear from you. (I'd thought about writing this afternoon, but adding one more thing to your list of concerns seemed hardly the thing. Especially since it could wait.)

Honestly, I wish I could have done more to help, given the undercurrents all evening. That conversation did shake me, more than a bit, and it took me a while to get my composure back. I admit I

ended up hiding for a bit longer than I should have. (That salon overlooking the garden was just the place, and lovely.)

Raz was wonderful when he finally got free, and Tosha when he got a moment for a note - and from the little they've said about their other business, I gather it was far more important. Please don't worry one bit on your own account: I have enough of an idea of how much you were managing, and you certainly could not be everywhere.

As to Chloe Selwyn, well. Yes, she was very blunt. And harsh. And in the worst way. But it'd be unfair to hold it against her. As you say, she'd had a very difficult day or so, and it's understandable that all might come pouring out somewhere. It - well, it's given me a lot to think about, of course.

I'd love another day together, or some time to talk, whenever it might be managed, though of course the holiday commitments do not make that easy. But do let me know if I can be of help anywhere else. It's easier, for me, the social part, when I've got some purpose, even if that's just keeping a conversation going pleasantly.

Aurora

**2012-12-24 07:56:00**

*Order Only*

I think I said this to everyone who came to the Burrow, but in case I missed anyone...



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Those of you who are wanted fugitives, please: we have seen you at the vigil, and that is the most important thing. We feel your love and support, but Dad wouldn't have wanted you to risk yourselves any further for us by attending the funeral. We expect the Council and MLE presence to be heavy. Despite the cover story, they know circumstances, and so they will be showing up to honour Dad, too, as, Merlin help us, a hero of the Protectorate.

Charlie or I will be more than happy to show anyone the memory of the funeral service in a pensieve afterwards.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for all you've done for us. We know you will be with us in spirit.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-24 14:08:14](#)  
(no subject)

What he said.

Please, all of you. Knowing that you want to pay your respects to Dad is enough. Please don't risk yourselves, no matter how much you think you can fool them. We couldn't live with ourselves if one of you got hurt.

We've swapped Dad's wand (and please thank Melli again for the replacement) and we'll try to work out some way to get it, and us, to Moddey without anyone noticing, and we can have a memorial then. I'm sure it'll be a damn sight more pleasant than what we're about to go through.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-24 14:33:47](#)  
(no subject)

Nice try, you.

The Ponds family and their faithful hound plan to attend.

**2012-12-24 09:41:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Kingsley and Alice*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

To be honest, it's not MLE and the Council that worry me.

It's all those members of the Jr Aux who were at the Burrow.

Did you hear them all greet Pomona, Kingsley? Sounded like a primary school class.

I smelled Justin soon as he arrived; tried to get out of sight in a hurry but I can't be sure whether or not he saw me. The problem was that every time I moved away from him, I came near to being spotted by Pansy Parkinson.

And Kingsley, was it me or was Mac staring at the young woman who came with Justin, the one carrying the hamper? Poor girl looked like she hadn't an idea how best to make herself useful. I think she wound up in the kitchen most of the afternoon. Maybe we ought to ask what was so fascinating? Don't know if he'll take that as teasing about his tastes or what.

Alice, you and Frank had gone but you ought to know that Neville and Evelyn both came by Floo, mid-afternoon or so. Then all of them - Pansy, Justin, Hydra, Ron, Sally-Anne, your two - went up to Fred and George's room. Can't be good, whatever that means (though the twins were seen going up and down the stairs from time to time. Nicked a platter of sandwiches on their way back up, too).

Mordred, it's nearly time to go. Look, I know we said we'd let things alone and they can figure it out in their own time but .... I just think that time is coming much sooner than any of us planned.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2012-12-24 17:54:21**  
(no subject)

Yeah, you're so worried about the Junior Auxiliary fingering you that you showed up at the funeral, just to give Justin and the Parkinson girl another chance to gawk at you. Against Bill's, Charlie's and Molly's

express wishes, too.


Sirius, you prat.

Dunno what was up with Mac, but I noticed the same thing. He was fascinated with her. He must know her from somewhere, but he's not very teasing. I'd let it alone unless he says something. If it's important, he will eventually.

I have a hunch that you're right: the kids may be close to putting it all together. Well, they're our kids, some of them, so they're plenty clever. I'd hope that Fred and George will try to deflect them, but they might not.

Better not to ask.



 **alt\_alice** at **2012-12-25 00:53:38**  
(no subject)

I'd say that it all is rather inevitable, although I trust Fred and George (and Hermione and Terry) to keep an eye on them all, and make sure that they don't put anyone in direct danger, and keep what they do know rather tightly buttoned.

I must admit, I'm one part terrified and another part happy to know that Evie has taken up with them. She's so very young, too young, but I've a feeling they take care of their own, so I'm glad she has that.

**2012-12-24 10:47:00**

*Private Message to Sue*

What gives with the subject, Sue? Are you practising for your part in the show already? I mean, it sounds like something a Victorian or Edwardian or whatever you're supposed to be would say, innit.



 **alt\_zacharias**

'I do solemnly swear' what, exactly?

Congratulations, by the way, I never said. I think everyone was in too much shock about the Weasleys. I mean, I'm not even sure how I wound up getting a speaking part, but I'll give it a go.

How's your hols so far, then?



 **alt\_susan** at **2012-12-24 19:17:50**  
(no subject)

Yeah, Justin and Perks and I were having a bit of a joke on the train and something reminded me of it.

I just got the words in the wrong place is all--that'll teach me to write to people when I'm half asleep.

And thanks for the congratulations; I think it'll be jolly fun being in it together.

It's been good to be back with Mum and Dad and Pete, you know? It's always nice, but I guess I'm noticing it more at the moment, because of, well, everything. But I keep thinking about the Weasleys, and how it's going to be a shite Christmas and Yule for them. I thought about asking to go to the funeral, but I'm not that close to them even though I'm mates with some of their mates, so I thought I might just be intruding.

How've *your* hols been?

**2012-12-24 11:19:00**

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



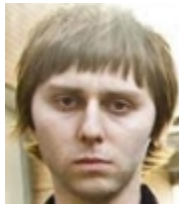
 [alt\\_susan](#)

Oh shit oh shit oh shit oh shit

I did something wrong last night and Zach can see that I PM'd you!

At least it was a PM and not a message to the whole group, and it's not out of character for me to write to either of you.

Still, I've GOT to come up with an explanation he'll buy--he mentioned the revue so I think I can use that.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-24 16:41:38**  
(no subject)

Sue,

All right, calm down, let's look a moment, what?

Oh. Yes, I see, you didn't write the whole of the phrase in your subject.

Well, it's not too terrible. You didn't mention anything out of order. If anyone at the Ministry looks, they'll not know what the 'ISS group' means but that could easily be a school club, what?

Could you tell him it's a game we've been playing? Or perhaps Sally-Anne can think of a more clever explanation.

We've just been to Mr Weasley's funeral, though, so I'm not sure either of us are at our best just now.

But Zach shan't fuss if you simply say you were starting to write something else or that it was just a bally well silly mood struck you, or something of that nature.

The important thing is not to panic, what. It'll be fine.

-Justin





 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-24 17:30:22](#)**  
(no subject)

Right then. Not panicking.

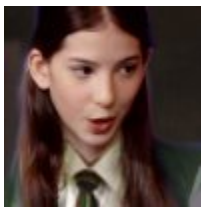
Thanks, Justin.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-24 17:11:33](#)**  
(no subject)

It's about the review, you were making a joke in character, and you put stuff in the wrong order.

If anyone from the Ministry asks (which they won't) it was a joke that related to some conversation we had on the train.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-24 17:15:10](#)**  
(no subject)

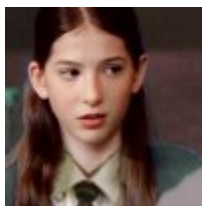
And if he wants to know the joke, tell him it's not funny unless you were there for the original conversation but it relates to Daphne.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-24 17:36:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Thanks! I think something like that will work. I mean, it's not as if Zach's suspicious, really. He's just taking the piss, like he does.

But, yeah, that was close. And I'm starting to realise how new I am at this really, compared to the rest of the group.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-24 18:11:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, we've all slipped up in one way or another. The stuff I have to be particularly careful about:

1. Remembering that if we make some sort of arrangement under the lock, we have to send an owl or write a PM or something so that no one's parents or foster parents will say, 'wait, when did you talk to Pansy? are you sure she's expecting

you?' or whatever.


We were pretty sloppy about this on Saturday, but I thought about it later and decided it wasn't really suspicious at all that Ron's friends would have wanted to come be with him. Anyway, I had all those parcels to deliver and then I just stayed.

2. Remembering not to call Hermione by her first name anywhere else. She's 'Granger' or 'Harry's mudblood,' ugh.

3. Remembering that outside of the lock I don't know Terry at all. Amycus Carrow had a mudblood and apparently the mudblood disappeared after the Carrows died. Probably because Carrow killed him. And that's really all I know about him.

It's #1 I tend to be twitchiest about because when we act like we're all reading one another's minds, that's honestly pretty suspicious.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-24 19:10:03](#)**  
(no subject)

That's really helpful.

I'll have to think a bit about what specific things *I* need to be most careful about, but I'll definitely take those on board.

And I'll be extra careful reading over my posts from now on.

**2012-12-24 13:48:00**

*Order Only*

Molly, it was a lovely memorial. I'm glad so many people came. Even the tent outside was bulging with folks. I imagine your hand must be bruised from so many people squeezing it. I hope you're having a chance to rest now.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#)

Bill, your remarks were just right. It must have been very hard to deliver them, but you did so well. Really.

I can't imagine what it will be like at the Ministry without Arthur there. His smile and his way of putting people at ease--he was always warm even if there were other people around, the kind who don't speak to workers like me--he could always making the day brighter... I'll miss that so very much.

But I won't go on and on. Only, I hope you know that you can ask us for anything you might need. If you need someone to help with chores, or just need an ear--or a furry ear to scritch--I know I speak for those other two chaps in saying you've only to drop a note or ring the fire's charm. We could even bring Bea by if chasing a toddler for an afternoon would help!

I suppose I'm trying to say that we love you, Molly, and want to find ways to show that.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2012-12-24 20:20:09**

*Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

Shame about the giant Ouroboros looming over the room. Arthur would have hated that!

And all those Death Eaters. Did you see Crouch hovering at Dolohov's elbow? Because that wasn't at all threatening, having those two turn up.

But say. Should we mention the graffiti? I didn't know whether to bring that up.

Were you able to get a better look at it?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-25 00:46:18](#)

*Re: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*

Ta, Dora, for letting me sleep after we got back. Needed a kip.

Did I *see* him? Worse, I could *smell* him. Like overboiled cabbage and rusty iron.

I did try to take a look but before I could do, some of those Ministry blokes went over to it and covered it up. Overheard them saying how shameful it was to see someone taking the mick out of Arthur when he'd died a hero. (Course, then I heard one make a crack about how ironic it was that after a life spent as a mediocre employee, he should use his last moments 'finally doing some good' and - well, I didn't trust myself to stay. Sorry.)

Possibly I could pop round again in a day or two and see if it reappears.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 20:24:07](#)

*(no subject)*

Sorry I wasn't able to make it to the service, but didn't seem a wise risk to take, not with so many other Ministry folk there.

Wish that Arthur and I had been on the same side from the beginning. Or rather, that I'd been on the right side. Could have learnt a lot from him, I reckon.

Suppose I don't have much else to say.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 20:32:40](#)

*Private Message to Mac*

Glad you came yesterday, though. You're one of the ones I mean when I say I wish we saw each other more often. Any chance you've an excuse to visit NL? Could a drink with friends in their quiet beer garden be excuse enough?


Say. Yesterday, there was a certain someone I noticed you noticing.

Is she someone you know from somewhere? Only, you had such a look on your face. As if you were sort of hoping.

Now I suppose you'll tell me you've no idea what I'm talking about and say it must have been when you bit into that unbrined olive that was so bitter.

Only, I wondered if I could help you find out something about her. If it was someone special, I mean.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 20:42:24](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Mac*

Could do. Might have to work on those glamour charms a bit first. Didn't have to use them the last month or so, now I might be out of practice.

You don't miss much, do you? Else I really did have some kind of look on my face.

Can't be sure, it's been years, see. But I thought the girl who brought Finch-Fletchley might be someone I knew, once.

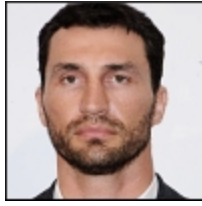


 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 21:08:14](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Mac*

Well, we're glad to provide an excuse for keeping your skills up.

And, you know, I'm meant to be working on Auror techniques, myself. Frank would be happy to know it if I'm getting better at Observing and Assessing my surroundings.

I won't tease you about that girl, I promise. Only, was she someone special, then? If you wanted, I could ask a few questions and see I can't find out her name.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 21:14:14](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

You think I'm afraid of teasing?

Just don't want to find out I'm wrong. That she's not who I think she is. So, dunno.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 21:49:15](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

Hm. Not wanting to answer my question. She is someone special, then.

Or might be.

But you think it would be better to go on thinking she might be than to find out it isn't?

Do you mind if I ask around about her so long as I don't tell you what I find out? I mean to say, then you could ask if you decide you want to know ever.

And, of course, maybe I won't find out much at all. Because names can change, you know. So a name might not tell the information you're after.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 22:01:11](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

It's not better either way. Cos if it is her, then I've no doubt she'd curse my name and spit in my face. And if it's not, then I don't get what's coming to me, not the curse nor the spit.

Find out what you can, I suppose it'll gnaw at me, else wise. And you'll get to work on those investigation skills, even if nothing comes of it.

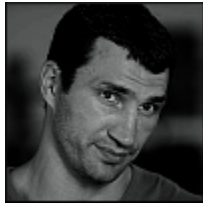


 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 22:06:43](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

All right. I will do.

If you ask me, I think you're punishing yourself enough she needn't bother. You sure you need her to do that?



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 22:10:24](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

You never knew me as one of Voldemort's own. She did.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 22:38:54](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

You're a better man than you think, Mac.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-24 23:04:02](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

Ain't no use arguing with a Hufflepuff. Learnt that during my post at Hogwarts.

Cheers then. For the investigation.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-24 23:19:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Mac*

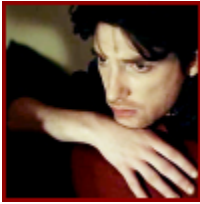
Ha.


Cheers, you.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2012-12-25 02:02:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I wish we could've been there.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-25 03:17:23](#)**  
(no subject)

It was hard, yes. But I was proud to do it. Dad deserved the best job I could do.

Thank you so much, for everything you've done for us the past few days.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-12-25 18:19:57](#)**  
(no subject)

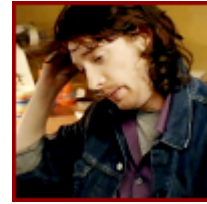
I love you, too. Oh, how I bless the day that Arthur first spoke to you on your first work shift.



**2012-12-24 13:51:00**

*Order Only: Visit from Dominic Selwyn*

Selwyn showed up at the Burrow about an hour after the family had completed having lunch. He asked to speak privately with Mum, but she asked that I be included in the conversation, given that I'm a co-executor of Dad's estate.



 [alt\\_bill](#)

We discussed various matters, but this is of the most interest to the Order in general. He reiterated that the Ministry knows that the IMA were the perpetrators, but that fact is NOT to get out. Then he sprang a surprise: there is going to be a rite performed, and as Arthur's heirs, we have the right to send a representative of the family to witness it. The purpose of the rite is to 'protect the wizards of Britain from the rabble of Ireland.' We didn't know what that meant, so I probed a little. It was clear he was reluctant to go into much detail, but he finally admitted that although it must be kept secret, the rite was meant in part as the Protectorate's justice for the attack against the Lord Protector. And we are being included as witnesses because we are entitled to revenge, too.

Merlin.

And as for 'protecting the wizards of Britain,' he pussy-footed around a bit, and then finally hinted it had something to do with the wards.

My eyes met Mum's, and we could each tell what the other was thinking: whatever it is, we need to see this. Selwyn went on to describe the conditions for the witness: whoever comes must be an adult, as 'this will NOT be a fit thing for a child to see.' It must be someone capable of controlling emotion, as an outburst might distract the ones enacting the rite. It will involve things that observers might find upsetting, particularly if they are not particularly accustomed to the Dark Arts. Whoever it is will not be allowed to bring a wand to the rite. Someone will hold their wand for safekeeping a short distance away. The same will be true for any magical jewelry and all metal objects (which, again, can be held for safekeeping).

Oh, and one other tidbit he let drop: Dolohov will be there.

Well. Sounds like a thoroughly dark rite.

I have agreed to go. I assume that I am going to watch an execution.

Maybe with some blood sport for the appetizer.

God.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-12-24 20:32:05

*Private message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

I am including this as a private comment, because it's personal financial information that the younger members of the Order don't need to see. Please share with the other adults at Moddey.

Selwyn also spoke very frankly concerning the life debt he owes to Dad, and it's clear that he feels he must take responsibility for the family. He was tactful--I was grateful for that--but straightforward. To be blunt, as much as it sticks in my craw, he's absolutely right, because without Dad's income, Mum is in a very tight situation.

I was impressed, despite myself. He has already looked into some options for cobbling together small stipends into an income stream that will help Mum make ends meet. There's a fund for 'protecting the Lord Protector' which he had to stretch things a bit to cover, but this was an attack on the LP and it did kill Dad instead, so. He looked into redirecting money to us from the Rebuilding Ireland Fund but since there's official denial that IMA was involved, the accounting would be too complicated. There's another fund he turned up that's for the Widows and Orphans of Those Who Died in the Lord's Service. He also made it clear that we should contact his clerk if bill collectors are harassing us.

Then he mentioned the Repopulation Office, which issues incentives to the wizarding population that have large families. Having seven pureblood children entitled us to move into a stately home, but Mum and Dad had turned that option down long ago. Selwyn, however, sensibly pointed out that we could accept the stately home and *rent it out* to some other family who has not had, as he put it, 'as much reproductive success.' And, he added, we were entitled to getting a mudblood servant. Mum's hackles went up at that suggestion, which he couldn't help missing, but I managed to convey the impression that she was offended by the idea of someone of impure blood under our roof. He agreed and then suggested that, again, we could rent the mudblood service's out, and that would give us another income stream.

I told him that my intention is to give up my flat and move back into the Burrow to save money and be with Mum. This was a surprise to Mum, and she started to protest, but I squeezed her hand and she fell silent, thankfully. I explained that Percy recently ended a relationship, and needs to get out of his own living situation, so my idea is that Percy can move into my flat, which is smaller and will save money, and then we just have to see about how to break Percy's lease.

He's quick, I'll give him that. He immediately picked up the hint (Merlin, but it stung my pride to give it) and said that he would take care of arranging things with Percy's landlord so that an accommodation could be reached that would satisfy everyone.

So: as much as Charlie and I hate it, we're both relieved, too. At least Mum is going to get some help. And if I can convince her to deal with the Repopulation Committee, it might be an opportunity for the Order, or at least one of the Order's allies. We could get someone into the house who would be doing activities we could support, with a very tolerant landlord. And it would get one more muggleborn out of the camps, and into good hands.



 **alt\_alice** at **2012-12-25 00:57:31**

*Re: Private message to Frank and Alice Longbottom*

Thank you for the update, Bill. I know Molly's bound to find several of those options more than a little distasteful, but I don't think any of us are made of money, and although it's galling to admit, Selwyn does appear to have your family's interests at heart.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-24 20:35:28**

*Private message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black*

I am including this as a private comment, because it's personal financial information that the younger members of the Order don't need to see. Please share with Tonks.

Selwyn also spoke very frankly concerning the life debt he owes to Dad, and it's clear that he feels he must take responsibility for the family. He was tactful--I was grateful for that--but straightforward. To be blunt, as much as it sticks in my craw, he's absolutely right, because without Dad's income, Mum is in a very tight situation.

I was impressed, despite myself. He has already looked into some options for cobbling together small stipends into an income stream that will help Mum make ends meet. There's a fund for 'protecting the Lord Protector' which he had to stretch things a bit to cover, but this was an attack on the LP and it did kill Dad instead, so. He looked into redirecting money to us from the Rebuilding Ireland Fund but since there's official denial that IMA was involved, the accounting would be too complicated. There's another fund he turned up that's for the Widows and Orphans of Those Who Died in the Lord's Service. He also made it clear that we should contact his clerk if bill collectors are harassing us.

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I told him that my intention is to give up my flat and move back into the Burrow to save money and be with Mum. This was a surprise to Mum, and she started to protest, but I squeezed her hand and she fell silent, thankfully. I explained that Percy recently ended a relationship, and needs to get out of his own living situation, so my idea is that Percy can move into my flat, which is smaller and will save money, and then we just have to see about how to break Percy's lease.

He's quick, I'll give him that. He immediately picked up the hint (Merlin, but it stung my pride to give it) and said that he would take care of arranging things with Percy's landlord so that an accommodation could be reached that would satisfy everyone.

So: as much as Charlie and I hate it, we're both relieved, too. At least Mum is going to get some help. And if I can convince her to deal with the Repopulation Committee, it might be an opportunity for the Order, or at least one of the Order's allies. We could get someone into

the house who would be doing activities we could support, with a very tolerant landlord. And it would get one more muggleborn out of the camps, and into good hands.

I also wonder: this may be a ways down the road, but Charlie and I have been discussing whether it might not be a good idea to get Mum involved at Laszlo's somehow. I reckon she would be a very good clerk. She's personable, and has a lot of energy...or she will, when the grief eases a little. And you could trust her implicitly, of course. Naturally, the shop isn't probably doing well enough to provide her with full-time wages, at least not yet. But maybe helping out a day or two. Or she could help keep the books; she's very good at that.

Anyway, think about it?



 **alt\_lupin** at **2012-12-24 21:33:24**

*Re: Private message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black*

I have to say, our experience with Ellie has made me think that more Order members might consider getting muggleborn servants. It gets someone out of the camps, and while we weren't comfortable laying all our cards down the first day -- well. Moddey Dhoo is a long-term investment -- a good one, mind you, but it's going to be years before those children can fight at our side. The adults in the camps are a wealth of potential allies who in some cases need only wands.

Regarding Laszlo's -- if we hired Molly, we could potentially expand. We could certainly make it work part-time -- maybe even full-time, although we'd need to start her part time. There's quite a lot of demand for our wares, and not just because of what we get from Aleks -- I'm thinking she wouldn't just work in the shop, she might also act as our buyer. Or mind the shop while I go.

We could get in touch with Beth -- she might know of people who could use the house. Or perhaps Kingsley has thoughts there.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-25 01:27:13](#)

*Re: Private message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black*

Yeah, I think we could possibly make it work. I mean to say, it's rather like picking our own pockets, in one sense, but in another we *could* do with a little more help. It'd free Dora if she decided to leave the Ministry for good and all, to split her time between the shop and the camps, and if Molly tapped Laszlo into the barter network that could pick up business for us all.

I wonder how hard it would be to set up a branch office in Hogsmeade?

Bill, I - hope I didn't bollocks anything up, being there this morning. Kingsley said .... Well. There are some risks worth taking, is all I'll say about it.

Anyway.

Remus, I'm obviously back awake now, so I'll be down in a tick to put the finishing touches on Dora's presents.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 02:44:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black*

I think Mum would like working there, too. It would give her something new to take an interest in, which would be good for her.

Yeah, I hope you didn't bollocks anything up, either. (And dammit, Sirius. I could have saved my damn breath.)



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-24 20:36:33](#)

*Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Poppy Pomfrey*

I am including this as a private comment, because it's personal financial information that the younger members of the Order don't need to see. Please share with the other Order members there at Hogwarts.

Selwyn also spoke very frankly concerning the life debt he owes to Dad, and it's clear that he feels he must take responsibility for the family. He was tactful--I was grateful for that--but straightforward. To be blunt, as much as it sticks in my craw, he's absolutely right, because without Dad's income, Mum is in a very tight situation.

I was impressed, despite myself. He has already looked into some options for cobbling together small stipends into an income stream that will help Mum make ends meet. There's a fund for 'protecting the Lord Protector' which he had to stretch things a bit to cover, but this was an attack on the LP and it did kill Dad instead, so. He looked into redirecting money to us from the Rebuilding Ireland Fund but since there's official denial that IMA was involved, the accounting would be too complicated. There's another fund he turned up that's for the Widows and Orphans of Those Who Died in the Lord's Service. He also made it clear that we should contact his clerk if bill collectors are harassing us.

Then he mentioned the Repopulation Office, which issues incentives to the wizarding population that have large families. Having seven pureblood children entitled us to move into a stately home, but Mum and Dad had turned that option down long ago. Selwyn, however, sensibly pointed out that we could accept the stately home and *rent it out* to some other family who has not had, as he put it, 'as much reproductive success.' And, he added, we were entitled to getting a mudblood servant. Mum's hackles went up at that suggestion, which he couldn't help missing, but I managed to convey the impression that she was offended by the idea of someone of impure blood under our roof. He agreed and then suggested that, again, we could rent the mudblood service's out, and that would give us another income stream.

I told him that my intention is to give up my flat and move back into the Burrow to save money and be with Mum. This was a surprise to Mum, and she started to protest, but I squeezed her hand and she fell silent, thankfully. I explained that Percy recently ended a relationship, and needs to get out of his own living situation, so my idea is that Percy can move into my flat, which is smaller and will save money, and then we just have to see about how to break Percy's lease.

He's quick, I'll give him that. He immediately picked up the hint (Merlin, but it stung my pride to give it) and said that he would take care of arranging things with Percy's landlord so that an

accommodation could be reached that would satisfy everyone.

So: as much as Charlie and I hate it, we're both relieved, too. At least Mum is going to get some help. And if I can convince her to deal with the Repopulation Committee, it might be an opportunity for the Order, or at least one of the Order's allies. We could get someone into the house who would be doing activities we could support, with a very tolerant landlord. And it would get one more muggleborn out of the camps, and into good hands.



 **alt\_poppy at 2012-12-24 22:35:57**

*Re: Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Poppy Pomfrey*

Bill. I have something to suggest, and I want you to know that I will understand absolutely if you'd prefer not to take me up on the offer.

This rite, whatever it consists of, sounds perfectly horrendous. I hope our imaginations are overestimating that, but in case we are not wrong in guessing that you will be witness to something heinous, I would like to offer you a dose of something which will simultaneously heighten your ability to recall the details of what you see and depress your responses to what you are witnessing. The draught is called Commemini Acer, and it is used principally by people whose work demands extreme visual acuity or memory for minutia and the ability to perform detailed tasks without being distracted by irrelevancies.

You are, after all, attending this event in the pursuit not of revenge but of potentially crucial information, and it would be perfectly natural if your ability to process and recall needed details were dulled by the brutality of the ritual these butchers have planned.

Of course, I would not recommend anything of the kind if you were to be in a situation where you needed to rely on your reactions and your wand. But under the circumstances-

Well. The choice is yours entirely.





 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-25 02:37:47](#)

*Re: Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Poppy Pomfrey*

Poppy, I could kiss you. God, yes. Please.

I must confess I'm absolutely dreading this. It's bad enough, seeing...well, seeing what I saw, with Dad, whenever I close my eyes. I don't want to overlay that with yet more bad memories. But I'm convinced that I have to do this.

The ritual is the 28th. Do you need to brew the potion, and can you do it by then? Or do you have it in your stores? Or you can tell me where I can obtain it, I could pick it up.




 **alt\_poppy** at [2012-12-25 07:02:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Poppy Pomfrey*

It will be no trouble for me to pick up what's needed. I have a number of items to procure for the school. And I'm happy to make a house call to deliver it as well. That will give me an excuse to see how your mother is getting on. The next days are bound to be harder, as the flow of visitors slows and she's forced to really face what's happened.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-25 13:11:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Poppy Pomfrey*

Then why don't you come by the Burrow, Poppy. You're right, Mum can use the visit.

She's trying. But it's so, so hard for her.



 **alt\_lupin** at [2012-12-24 21:27:28](#)

*(no subject)*


Merlin, Bill.

Sounds --

Well. If it does touch on the wards, any information you can learn will be invaluable.

I just hope you come through ~~with your sanity intact~~ without too much personal grief.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-25 02:38:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Me, too.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-25 00:42:40](#)**  
(no subject)

sounds like blood magic.

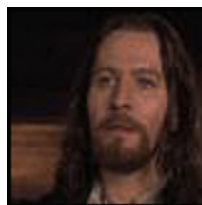
with Dolohov there, wouldn't be surprised if it incorporated some of the old magics from egypt, so there'll be some things you might be unfamiliar with.


hate to say, but your being there could give us an edge when it comes to sorting out the rest of the wards.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-25 00:43:36](#)**  
(no subject)

maybe the old man will loan us his pensieve.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-25 01:35:41](#)**  
*Private Message to Frank*

Maybe the old man will actually say something to us, for a change.

You all right? We've been trying to think how long to wait before calling a meeting. Molly's still in bad shape. But obviously we all need to talk, and before the kids go back to school and Minerva, Poppy, Pomona, our good friend the old man, and of course the other one, are all tied to the castle.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2012-12-25 02:19:51](#)

*Re: Private Message to Frank*

been better.

you're right. we need to meet.

I'll be ready for it.



 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-12-25 02:27:04](#)

*(no subject)*

Yes, it does sound like blood magic.

Do you know what time of day the rite will take place?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 02:27:59](#)

*(no subject)*

It's on the 28th. He mentioned the full moon as being part of the reason that day was picked, so I expect it'll be at night.



 [alt\\_tery](#) at [2012-12-25 02:32:09](#)

*(no subject)*

All right. I don't know if there is any difference between being a witness or being a participant, but if you're going to be in the area where there's a lot of Dark Magic, it wouldn't hurt to go through

the same preparations.

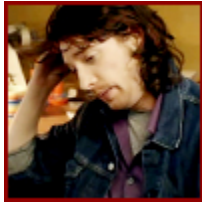
Eat a good meal the night before, and try to get as much sleep as you can. If the ritual was in the morning, I would say to fast until then, or if it was in the afternoon, I'd suggest just clear broth in the morning. Since it's at night, I'd suggest just a light breakfast, clear broth at lunch and no dinner.


I'm so sorry. I--I hope it will be worth it. Whatever they do.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-25 02:39:00](#)  
(no subject)

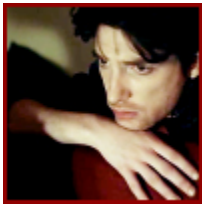
From what I know about blood magic, that seems like sound advice.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 02:39:36](#)  
(no subject)

I'll take it, then.

Thank you, Terry.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 13:28:55](#)  
*Private message to Frank*

Frank, I also meant to say...thank you. For being there the night I was doing the overnight vigil. And when I broke down like that, when I discovered that Dad's hand on the clock had disappeared, and you and Alice and Kingsley just held me

Merlin. I haven't cried like that since I was a kid.

Thank you.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 04:18:26](#)  
*Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Merlin, Bill.

You tell me about Selwyn acknowledging the life debt, and about all the suggestions he had for how to keep ends meeting, and all the business about the flat, and you forget to mention the GREAT HUGE DARK ARTS RITUAL they want you to go witness?

You'd better not be trying to pull that big-brother protecting-me shite again. I told you Saturday afternoon: you and I are in this one together, and if you try to take all this on your own, I don't care that I'm the "easygoing" one, I'll settle this the traditional way: by knocking some sense into you.

Or was it just that you couldn't bring yourself to talk about it, so you had to write about it instead?

Either way, it sounds hideous. Utterly hideous. Is there anything I can do to help? Maybe I could, I don't know, meet up with you after and take the memory for a Pensieve so we don't lose any detail, then obliviate you or something so you don't have to remember it?

...Please tell me they aren't going to expect you to CAST any of that.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-25 04:41:30](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

I'm sorry.

You're right, I couldn't bring myself to talk about it. Writing it seemed easier, somehow. More detached, more remote.


And I needed that detachment, because frankly, this scares the shite out of me.

I don't think they'll ask me to cast anything (although yes, the thought did cross my mind) because he only spoke of the witness avoiding emotional outbursts that would distract the others doing the rite. And anyway, if they expected me to cast something, I'd have to have my wand, wouldn't I?

Still, I agree, it's going to be hideous. But I have to be there, Charlie. This may be the best chance we get to find out what the bloody hell is going on with those wards. The only chance. And it has to be me, dammit, because I'm the oldest, and I'm the one with a background in cursebreaking, and that may give me an edge in figuring out what the fuck is going on.

But I'll need you afterward, Merlin, yes. I don't think I should be obliviated (although I fear I'm going to long for it), but yes, we'll definitely want to take a pensieve memory sample while it's fresh. Poppy suggested something that might help, too. She mentioned a potion, Commemini Acer, that she says will simultaneously heighten my ability to recall the details of what I see and suppress the emotional response. I'm going to take her up on the suggestion.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 04:54:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah. I thought that might be the reason.

And, you know, I can't believe I'm saying this, but ... I should see that memory, as soon afterwards as possible. If they're warding Ireland with the same sort of wards they're already using here, I might be in a position to figure out some of it, if it's using the same sort of dragon base as the wards.

~~I was going to go out flying Friday night and see if I could figure out what they were doing with my dragons~~

I'm so sorry, Bill. I agree that you have to do it ... but I wish you didn't have to.

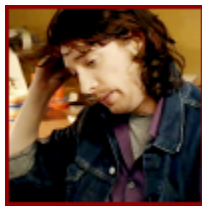


 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 05:00:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

I wish I didn't have to do it either. But if there's one thing I learned from Dad, it's that sometimes you just need to do what must be done.

Terry's right: it had better be bloody worth it.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 05:03:44](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

And as for you seeing the memory, too, I'll think about it. It depends upon what it is I'll see.

Ugh.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 05:10:57](#)

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

There's a huge part of me that hopes -- if you have to go through with it -- that this is the thing that lets us crack the problem once and for all. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to Dad than that would be.

And I don't care what it is you see. Or rather, I won't change my mind based on what it is you see. You can't protective-older-brother your way out of this one: if you have to hold on to that knowledge, so should I.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-25 21:25:32](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

...

You're a damn good brother, Charlie.

True, you're also an annoying git at times. Like when you won't let me do the protective-older-brother thing. (Not to mention all that screaming and leaping at chess.)

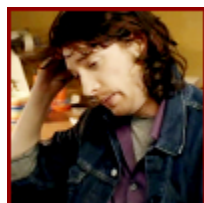
Right now, though, I'm just awfully glad to have you at my side.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2012-12-25 04:55:33](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

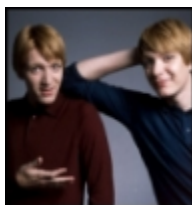
And I'm glad Poppy has a solution to help with the emotional reaction.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-25 04:58:17](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Bill Weasley*

Yeah. I'm going to be pinning a lot of my hopes on that.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2012-12-25 12:54:32](#)**

*(no subject)*

You could bring one our joke wands. Then when they get all indignant that you brought a wand to the site, you can pull it out and flourish it so it turns into a rubber chicken.






 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-25 12:56:40](#)  
(no subject)

Wouldn't you just love to see Dolohov's face?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 12:58:59](#)  
(no subject)

THANK you for making me laugh SO HARD.




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-25 13:02:51](#)  
(no subject)

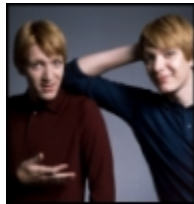
Which is why we suggested it.

Seriously though, Bill--ugh.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-25 13:03:33](#)  
(no subject)

I know.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-25 13:06:13](#)  
(no subject)

That's being a Gryffindor.

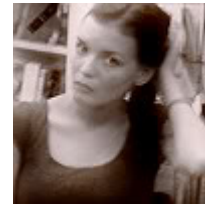
Just like Dad.



**2012-12-24 13:53:00**

*Private Message to Percy*

Look, I know things are--awkward. And I didn't want to disturb you this morning, or upset you or anything, or risk a scene, but I knew I had to be there.



 **alt\_penelope**

You look okay, all things considered. Tired, of course, you all do, and sort of...glassy-eyed. I guess that's natural, given what you've all been through. But I know you care about appearances and I just wanted to tell you, you look like you're bearing up under it all admirably.

I can tell, though, that you're more upset than you're letting on to the rest of them.

So, I.... Well, I just wanted to say that, if you wanted, last week could be last week and we could, maybe, try again. Forgive and forget, isn't that what they say?

If you want--company, or companionship or someone who you don't have to be strong in front of, I--I'll lift the wards round the flat, for the next couple of days.

I'm--I'll have to go to Mum and Dad's for supper but, if you wanted to come home, it'd be all right.

I may not have shown it the best way, Perce, but I did--do--love your family. And you.

Come home. Okay? *Our* home.



 **alt\_percy** at **2012-12-24 19:49:27**  
(no subject)

Thank you for your condolences, Penny.

I'm obliged, but I will be spending my time with family.

**2012-12-24 20:05:00**

*Weasleys...Breakfast!*

Any Request?

I'm doing prep work for tomorrow night now. If there is anything you know you want in the morning make it known now please. I can also make more sticky buns. A whole plate of them went missing after lunch. So I think you guys liked them well enough.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)

And I am making Mums traditional Christmas Dinner. So if there are any special request for side dishes, do let me know.

---



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 03:38:19](#)

*(no subject)*

Thanks for handling that, Bean. If you need another pair of hands, I'd love to spend some time with you in the kitchen tomorrow.

...You'll be doing the roasted potatoes, yeah?



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 04:16:01](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, That would be great. And of course I will be doing the potatoes.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 04:20:20](#)

*(no subject)*

I'll be at your disposal, then. Just tell me when.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 04:24:43](#)

*(no subject)*

Well I will be starting Breakfast at 8. I figure we'd want to sleep in a bit after... well after the day we had today.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 04:31:28](#)

*Private Message to Charlie*

I am also charging the air around certain dishes that I know will walk off with a small electric current. Nothing damaging of course, but with some of my deserts being done one has to be careful with Ron and the twins around. So anyone who tries to touch those plates will receive a nice zap. I'm really tired now, and I don't want to have to redo my work. I won't name which dishes, that way it will serve as a warning for all the others.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 04:34:56](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Oh, I can't wait to see their faces when they trip it. And you know they will!

Those sticky buns this morning were fabulous, by the way. I had four of them.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 04:53:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Well I am glad you enjoyed them. And I'm sure they will. Do you think its too cruel that I have announced that I was doing prep work tonight, only to set a trap like that?



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-25 05:07:31](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

I think it's fitting revenge for the years and years of them booby-trapping your room!



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 05:10:08](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Well, I suppose I am their sister after all. They should have known that one day they would rub off on me. Anyway, I think I am going to get some sleep now. I'm looking rather puffy.

I'm glad your are here Charlie.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-25 05:13:18](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

You look perfectly lovely to me, Bean. You always have.

I hope you can get some sleep. And I hope you catch at least someone in your trap so we can all have a bit of a laugh.



 **alt\_gredforge** at [2012-12-25 03:46:33](#)

*(no subject)*

We're perfectly happy as long as trifle is involved.



 **alt\_ginny** at [2012-12-25 04:15:00](#)

*(no subject)*

It will be on the menu. Just don't try sneaking anything out of the kitchen before the meal is prepared. I've got multiple eyes on you two.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-25 03:48:28](#)

*(no subject)*

Mum loves bacon. Anything we can do to tempt her appetite is good.

Thanks, Gin.



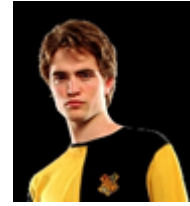
 **alt\_ginny** at [2012-12-25 04:13:22](#)

*(no subject)*

Consider it done

**2012-12-24 20:43:00**

*Private Message to Fred and George Weasley*



 **alt\_cedric**

Mates,

I swung by your house directly after the service and left your Christmas present on the stoop. I expect you've found it by now. It's to both of you, you should find it useful.

I know now may not be when you want to talk about it, but some time I'd like to talk about your plans for after we're all done with Hogwarts. If you want to talk in the journals over break, great. If you want to wait until we are back at school and have had some more space to grieve, that's fine too.

The service was very nice. I'm incredibly sorry for your loss. He was a good and friendly man. If there's anything I can do, let me know. I really truly mean it.

Your Friend,  
Cedric



 **alt\_gredforge** at **2012-12-25 20:34:51**  
(no subject)

You found it! The book we found so useful in the library. Where did you find it? We thought Flourish & Blotts was out.

Thank you! This is gonna be dead useful, and we're glad to have our own copy.

And thanks, yeah. We appreciate you coming to the service, and Mum really appreciated all the stuff your Mum did to help.

Not exactly a Happy Christmas for us, you understand, but we're doing our best. We hope you're having a better one. (No doubt you are.)



 **alt\_cedric** at **2012-12-25 21:15:04**  
(no subject)

I have to admit De Fingant Incantationibus is used, though in excellent condition. I spent much of the day on Sunday poking around used bookstores in New London. I also found a copy of Enchanting the Formerly Living. I know that sounds entirely grisly, but it's really about special enchantments for leather, wood and similar items which I'm looking forward to using.

If you are interesting in coming out to fly over break to get out of the house and do something, just let me know.

**2012-12-24 20:45:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Terry Boot and Evelyn Longbottom*



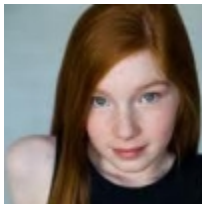
 [alt\\_neville](#)


Terry,

Happy Christmas. It was truly wonderful to see you.

And...if you could pass word to them, please tell them Happy Christmas from Evelyn and me, too.

---



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2012-12-25 03:14:42**

*(no subject)*

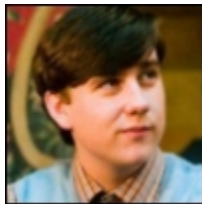
Yes, please do.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-12-25 03:27:48**

*(no subject)*

I will, of course I will. Happy Christmas to both of you.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2012-12-25 03:29:25**

*(no subject)*

So. Are you doing something to celebrate Christmas where you are then, too?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-12-25 03:31:25**

*(no subject)*

Yes. There's a Christmas party. It's really nice. We have people of all different ages here, and there are games and small gifts for the children. We don't have a tree, but we do have decorations that the children made. And the adults have been sitting around talking, and there's a reading going on, for people who want to listen.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:32:25](#)  
(no subject)

A reading?

They're reading *A Christmas Carol*, aren't they?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-25 03:32:48](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, they are. I've never heard the story before; it's quite interesting.


How did you guess?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:33:58](#)  
(no subject)

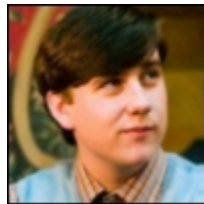
Terry...my parents are there, aren't they? I thought...I thought you had to get word to them. But you're actually living with them, aren't you?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-25 03:34:27](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.


Oh, bugger.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:35:22](#)  
(no subject)

My Gran reads *The Christmas Carol* to us every Christmas. She read it to my Dad when he was growing up.



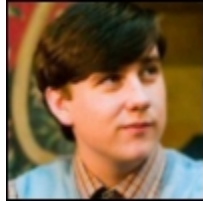
 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-25 03:36:01](#)  
(no subject)

...



I'm sorry, Neville. I shouldn't have--

Are you angry?



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:36:52](#)  
(no subject)

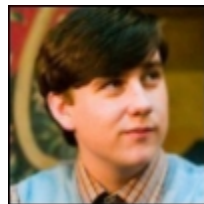
Angry? Why on earth should I be angry?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-25 03:37:25](#)  
(no subject)

Because--well, I thought that should have been obvious.

Because I'm with them, and you're not.




 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:39:06](#)  
(no subject)

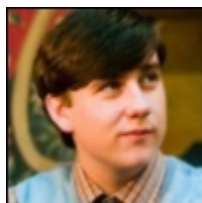
Terry, I understand.

Since yesterday, I really understand. And it's okay, honest. I'm just happy because...because I know they'll be good to you. And you need that. If anyone deserves that, after all you've been through, you do.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-25 03:42:19](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Neville.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-25 03:43:19](#)  
(no subject)

You should go back and hear the rest of the story. It's a really good book.

And tell Mum and Dad that we have the candle lit and in the window.

||||| They'll understand.

**2012-12-24 23:20:00**

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*



 **alt\_michael**

Hi.

I just wanted to say Happy Christmas. Well, almost Christmas.

How's Ron? I mean, with his dad and all. Because I know you were spending time there. Which is okay. I mean, of course you'd want to go and be there and support him.

Do you think he's still going to have that Quidditch thing at his place?

I, uh, sent you a present. A small one. I had to wait until today to get it because it wasn't something I could get in Hogsmeade. So I hope you like it.

Well.

I should go to bed. Bitsy's probably going to wake us all up at dawn like she did when she was six or something.

But, you know, just wanted to say. Happy Christmas.

Okay.



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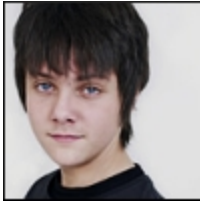
 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2012-12-25 04:29:40**  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas to you, too.

Ron is ... well, about like you'd expect. Really sad. Every now and then something will distract him for a few minutes and he'll get a little more cheerful and then it's like he remembers and it all comes crashing back down on him.

I don't know if they're going to feel up to hosting quidditch.

Between Gemma, Mars and Val, we're lucky if we get to sleep all the way until sunrise. I can't get to sleep this early though so not much point in going to bed!



 **[alt\\_michael](#)** at **[2012-12-26 00:36:30](#)**  
(no subject)

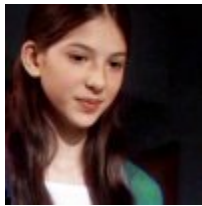
Thanks for my presents!

I'm glad you included the note because I barely remembered ever writing about wanting to see unusual animals.

I still do want to see them, especially the ones that we aren't covering in Creatures. Not in origami, though. But they're quite clever! How did you get the third eye on the newt?

Fair warning, I think Bitsy's going to claim the unicorn and the singing fish.

I quite like the gloves, too. Brown and blue look well together.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-26 23:13:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I charmed it there, that wasn't paper folding. And I'm glad Bitsy thought they were nift.

Thank you for the necklace. Is that one of those talismans, that your mother makes? It's really lovely.

**2012-12-24 23:45:00**

*Private Message to Lucius*

Dearest Lucius;

I've been thinking about what you've written, and you've left me at quite a loss for words. You must know how much I look to you and Aunt Narcissa for guidance, as well as an example of how one ought to be. You both always seem to know exactly what to do, and manage it with such grace and style. I know I've got a long way to go yet, but knowing that I've made you proud is truly the best gift I could have received this Christmas. It gives me hope that I can some day achieve the high standards that you've always set for me, and I appreciate your support more than you could ever know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

You're right, the last few days have had their challenges, for many reasons. But I'm stronger than I was two years ago, and I'm much more able to think of others, and how I might be of use, rather than spending all of my time dwelling. It still stings, though, and I've been missing my father quite fiercely these past few days. I think the best any of us can do in times like this is to hold close to the people we love who are with us, and be thankful they are a part of our lives. There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not thankful for you, Lucius.

I will be sure to let you know if I learn of anything specific and discrete that you could do to provide help to the Weasleys in their time of need, and I hope very much that you enjoy your Christmas. (I know, it's late and I ought to be sleeping, but I wanted you to know how very much I've taken what you've written to heart, and how much it meant to me.)

All of my love,

Your Little Bit

**[2012-12-25 02:58:00](#)**

*(no subject)*

Ouch.

Gin.

That was crafty.



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



 **[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2012-12-25 19:33:59](#)**

*(no subject)*

I learn from the best. But I told you I had my eyes on you two.

**2012-12-25 06:23:00**

*Happy Christmas*

You've all been wonderful, all my dear friends and family. And Arthur's coworkers, and my neighbours, and the barter network. I have been so grateful for everyone's kindness, and all the food brought by, and the visits during the vigil and all the help given in planning the funeral. The children are struggling, of course they are, but they have been such a comfort to me, and Bill, especially, has been just a rock of support. Arthur would have been SO proud of them.



 [alt\\_molly](#)

And it's awful, of course it is, but I am determined to pull myself together so that we can have the best possible Christmas, because that's what my dear man would have wanted, for us to celebrate it, just as we celebrated his life, and we're here, and we're together, except--and we're going to be just fine.

And I'm fine, too, I'm FINE.

Or I will be.

Eventually.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2012-12-25 15:25:23**

*(no subject)*

Happy Christmas, Mum. We love you.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-12-25 21:01:04**

*Private Message to Mrs Weasley*

May your Christmas be as happy as possible given the circumstances.

My mother wanted me to remind you of her offer of help, particularly once we are all back at Hogwarts. If you need someone to talk to, if you want to be around other people, just let her know. If you need some help from our mudblood and she isn't too busy with Jasper, Shelley and incipient Diggory talk to her and you can probably work something out.

**2012-12-25 11:19:00**

*order only: merry christmas*

Merry Christmas to all of us remaining

Poor Arthur I keep thinking of the Weasley sweaters. And of all the children, my God, on this morning of all mornings, and the fairy lights and the puddings flaming like valkyrie funerals or some such thing.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#)

And the camps also and the cold christmases there.

And what people will say about heroes.

Merry merry wassail and all those things.

I am supposed to be grateful to our lord for this manor but it is very empty and I would rather a stable.

---



 [alt\\_severus](#) at **2012-12-25 19:38:10**

*(no subject)*

If you would like some company you need only say the word.



 [alt\\_mcgonagall](#) at **2012-12-25 21:39:28**

*(no subject)*

I could not use your comoany if you bring me thay vile drink



**2012-12-25 12:59:00**

*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*



Happy Christmas.

Yeah.

 [alt\\_ron](#)

Things are quiet here. I mean, we got up and had breakfast and Charlie made us all laugh by making the buns jump out of reach when anybody tried to take one. And the twins admitted they'd tried to nick a snack in the night but Ginny'd booby trapped the food! But mostly we all just ate a little and then made excuses why we needed to leave the table.

I went up to my room for a while and then walked out through the fields and pitched rocks into the stream but it wasn't much fun without the squid. Or you.

Thanks for being here. You know, during all of it.

I'm not sure what we're going to do now. We've all got gifts for everyone, but nobody wants to do it without Dad because he always made it such fun. And then there'll be tomorrow and...

Yeah.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-25 20:21:31**  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Ron.

That book of pretend CCF scenarios you wrote was really great. I read it out loud to Gemma and Philip and Philip made fun of it and Gemma tried to think of solutions. I wasn't expecting 'You're on an island in the middle of a large body of water with only a wire whisk, a kneasle and a vacuum flask of turtle soup. How do you escape to the mainland and return safely to base camp?' Gemma wanted to know if maybe she could make an island-escaping potion out of turtle soup.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-25 22:44:47](#)  
(no subject)

Gemma's clever and Philip's a tit.


If you could come again tomorrow we could do some flying. Get in some practice, but make it fun so Pansy'd have a good time, too, yeah?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-25 22:57:45](#)  
(no subject)

I'll have fun! Even if it's on a broom.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-26 04:08:06](#)  
(no subject)


Excellent!



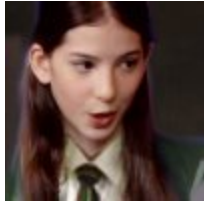
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-26 03:33:06](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know if I can come tomorrow. I think the Strettons want me to go around doing things for their muggles, again, and that's not something Hitty could do in my place. Do you remember their Boxing Day tradition? With new clothes and 'favours' where they can ask for things they really need.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-26 03:58:07](#)  
(no subject)

I hope none of them are ill this time! Be careful, yeah?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-26 04:01:26](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, believe me. If anyone's ill, I think the Strettons will be keeping me as far away from them as they possibly can.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-26 03:36:19](#)  
(no subject)

Though I think the Strettons would let me spend the night at Pansy's and maybe I could be there in the late afternoon or early evening? So at least I'd see you tomorrow for a little while.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-26 04:02:55](#)  
(no subject)

That'd be brilliant.

Or if it's better with the Strettons, you could come Thursday and spend the whole day.

I haven't forgotten what I said about flying drills sometime if you wanted. And maybe later in the week we could ask the twins to help with bludger drills for both of us. They'll do it. I mean, we're already all starting to go spare, being cooped up around the house.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-25 20:57:52](#)  
(no subject)

That's what friends do, tuna lips.

I made it through the end of my second year because of you both, you know. The least I can do is be there for you when you need it most.

I could come over tomorrow if you'd be in the mood to chuck rocks some more. Or go on a walk. Or do absolutely nothing worthwhile. And Sally-Anne, you know that Hitty's ready to help at the Strettons again.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-25 22:51:08](#)

*(no subject)*

That would be wizard if you can come. And we can go for a fly or pitch rocks at the fish or walk up to the place that looks down into the village. I've been wondering, actually, whether we could find out anything about who wrote that rubbish on the buildings around the hall where, y'know. I've been thinking about what that stuff meant.

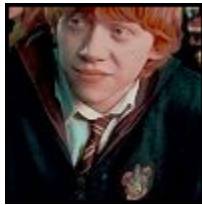


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-25 22:59:31](#)

*(no subject)*

That all sounds very worth doing. Count me in.

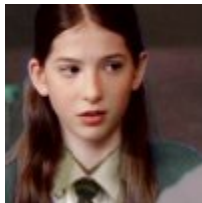
If they'd have known, really known your dad, they wouldn't have written it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-25 23:58:44](#)

*(no subject)*

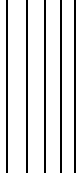
I know, right? And that's the thing. I'd be interested to know who thinks heroes of the Protectorate are rats, y'know? Could be we'd like to know them. Or really not. It depends what they really mean by it.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-26 03:34:00](#)

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

Yeah. I mean there are definitely people who don't like the Lord Protector who I wouldn't want to know. Like the ones who blew up the QWC.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-26 04:03:32](#)**

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

Yeah. That.

**2012-12-25 13:34:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Padfoot*

We have got to call a meeting. The sooner the better.

We need a leader.

Minerva's not it.



 [alt\\_lupin](#)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-26 00:40:18**  
(no subject)

I've been doing my best not to think about it, today.


But yes, you're right. (Looks like Sniv's taking care of her, at least. Or if he's not then maybe we'd better

go?)

All the same I hate to saddle Alice with the responsibility for all of us. She's already got Moddey. And Frank.

Wonder if we could get Poppy and Pomona to frog-march Albus to the meeting?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-26 03:44:19**  
(no subject)

That would be brilliant.

I don't know who ought to lead. Bill, Charlie, and Molly are all grieving. Alice -- well, like you said, she's already got Moddey, along with Frank. Poppy and Pomona are stuck at Hogwarts, like Minerva, which may have been our original reason for appointing Arthur a co-head, back when Minerva wasn't drowning herself in firewhiskey to the point that she could barely string a sentence together.

Macnair's not trusted enough -- I trust him not to betray us, at this point, but I don't trust his judgment to the point that I'd want to see him leading us. I'd just about rather see Snape lead us than Moody - - paranoid git, and he's just about as helpful as Albus when it comes to participating in day to day decisions.

There's Kingsley and his lot -- though that's the problem right there, isn't it. It's sort of the same problem as Alice, he's already got enough responsibilities I'm hesitant to dump more on him.

And there's us -- you, me, Dora.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-26 16:15:12](#)  
(no subject)

You, maybe. Dora, definitely.

Not me, I'd be rubbish.

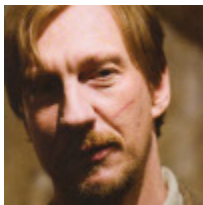
I'd rather have Kreacher than Snape, any day in the week.




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-26 22:00:49](#)  
(no subject)

Dora it is, then.

Do you want to tell her, or shall I?




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-26 15:30:08](#)  
(no subject)

I discussed this with Dora last night.

She said, given all the considerations I listed, that our best option is probably Lee Jordan.

Which means we should probably swear in the Jr. Aux at our earliest opportunity. Maybe one of THEIR lot has the sort of leadership skills we're looking for. And if not, at least they'll make Lee Jordan look mature and experienced.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-26 16:31:30](#)  
(no subject)

Well. Jr Aux (we think) who aren't already in the Order: Perks, Parkinson, Finch-Fletchley, Weasley R, Longbottom, Longbottom, Lestrangle. Based on who was at the Burrow over the weekend.

Unknown if that's the whole of them, of course.

We could put Bea in charge and we'd have a much simpler mission!



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-26 22:33:49](#)  
(no subject)

Mm.

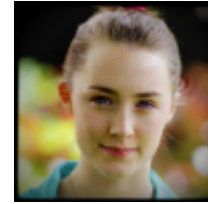
It would be completely impossible to put a current Hogwarts student who's not even reached wizarding maturity yet in charge of the Order.

Too bad.



**[2012-12-25 17:34:00](#)**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good - Private Message to Justin*



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

Thank you so much for the earrings and necklace, they're beautiful. Daddy gave me earrings as well, and so far I can't find anything funny about them. I think they have some kind of rune for calming and concentration, which is a relief after last year's gift. I've also got a load of new books for Arithmancy, and some very smart robes and other things from Aunt Narcissa, but of course I like your gift the very best.

Today has been rather quiet. We opened gifts and had breakfast and then Mummy and Daddy both said they had work to do and Mummy went to her office and Daddy went to his laboratory. Since then I've been watching Rigel plays with all his new toys. Toys have gotten much more snitch since I was a little child, he's got a massive castle with all sorts of soldiers and other little figures than march around and fire spells and such.


Mrs Baylock helped me to try on some of my new robes. They look nice, I suppose, but I don't know. I feel like I still look not quite as old as I ought to, to wear such stylish things.

Now I'm not doing much of anything, just reading some of my new books. I'm looking forward to tomorrow more than today, because I'll get to see the rest of my family and you especially. St. James is too quiet to be comfortable.

I wish Dora and her family were invited to Boxing Day. I don't suppose they ever will be, though.

Love,  
Hydra



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-26 02:08:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Dux.

I've been looking forward to tomorrow, too, only, I

admit I'm a touch nervous, being round your parents the whole day. I say, anything I ought to know, beforehand?

The Jugsons had a jolly Christmas morning, as well, with loads of unwrapping and gifts. Every once in a while I would catch Maggie's eye, across the room, what, and we would exchange a bally well sad and sympathetic look. I think it helped to see someone else who understood that, as hard as they're trying to make me feel at home, it's quite obvious I'm not family. I did manage to slip her her present, right after breakfast, but she's not said anything more about it.

We've just finished supper here. You were right to recommend a non-transfigured basket; Mrs Jugson made sure to include some of the fruit with the pudding. We did have crackers.


I love the muffler you sent, and the thermos ought to come in jolly well handy if we've now got mates on three Quidditch sides, what! I shall use the cologne tomorrow and you can tell me if you approve, love.

As for the other presents, there wasn't much, compared to what Remy and Alfie got, but I'm not at all surprised. Before we came home, I'd asked if we might go to get new shoes (my good pair are getting worn and the others have begun to pinch at the toe). But Mrs Jugson plans to take me, Remy and Alfie all shopping on Thursday, since she says we all need new trousers and if she's going to trouble over my wardrobe, she may as well take care of the two of them at the same time. Still, she did include two new shirts and a rather smart pullover waistcoat. I also got a few books, a funny little set of cards from Alfie and a flask (of all things!) from Remy.

I keep thinking about Ron and his family, and how odd their holiday must feel today. But mostly I miss you, terribly. I hope we can spend some time along together, tomorrow. Do you think it shall be possible?

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at **2012-12-26 03:01:48**  
(no subject)

You've never been to Blackmoor Park, so we might be able to get some time together if I can somehow give you a tour of the main house and grounds, just

the two of us. Everyone else has seen it, so hopefully they won't be especially interested.

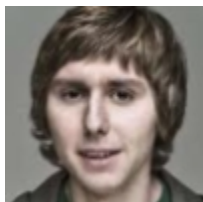
But when we're in front of my parents it might do to behave as if we're just good friends. Daddy can be quite observant, even when he doesn't appear to be, and Auntie Narcissa has been quite keen to give me advice about boys so she might notice as well.

I'm pleased that it seems you've got some nice gifts this year, even if it's not the same as what you usually receive.

Do you suppose Maggie's still in touch with any of her family? I suppose they might be at the camps, still, or stationed at other pureblood homes. She seemed a bit anxious when we were at the Weasleys. It's just too bad there isn't a way we could have told her that she was in safe company. Though I suppose that we didn't really know that at the time, not for certain. Only I hope that Auntie Camille doesn't bring her to Nanella's tomorrow. Mummy is so awful around muggleborns, acting as if the air tastes and smells bad and such.

And speaking of family, I've been thinking about Ron a lot, too, and the rest of his family. It doesn't seem fair that good men like his Father have to go, while other people... well, yes, it simply doesn't seem fair.

From,  
Hydra



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-26 03:37:52](#)  
(no subject)

So long as Professor Siz doesn't think to come along, what! (Or has she been before? Your Aunt Camille's been fussing over that as if it's new, her being along.)

I was afraid you might say that, dash it. Yes, I've been thinking something similar. Though perhaps he's already noticed the present I got you, if he's that observant, what?

Oh, I've no complaints about my presents, at all! I say, sorry to have given the impression. I'm quite content. As a matter of fact, I'm rather certain the Jugsons shall use my own accounts to pay

for all the shopping we'll do later. I hope that means I shall bally well be able to make my own selections, at least. Your aunt's style is--well, she's nothing to your aunt Narcissa, what.

I'm sure they don't plan to bring Maggie tomorrow. It's not as if we need assistance with anything. I say, I know what you mean about having her over to the Weasleys'. Perhaps if Ron holds a Quidditch get-together, I might convince Mrs Jugson to let me bring her along again, and there shan't be as many people about whom we don't know we can trust.


Do you think you'd be able to get away, if Ron does host anything? I've offered to ask the Jugsons if he could visit here but--well, I don't think Ron particularly cares for my company. Not compared to Neville or Sally-Anne and Pansy's. Nor should he, naturally, we're not really strong mates or anything. It just seemed the proper thing to make the offer.

I've also been thinking about Hermione and Terry. I say, it was smashing to meet him, finally! But I wish Hermione had been able to come, and Susan. Then we'd have all been together. I hope Harry's given her a proper Christmas, but we've not heard anything from her. Do you suppose she's all right? She was so distraught about Mr Weasley.

Perhaps I've had too much of the rum cake, what! I say, I'm not normally this melancholy on Christmas. If we're ever able to spend a proper holiday together, we shall have a beautiful tree and loads of presents under it, and punch and carols and all our friends, and games and just a jolly time of it. How does that sound?

-J



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-12-26 04:25:22**  
(no subject)

And I meant to say, I'm sure your robes look well fetching. Are you going to wear one of the new ones tomorrow?

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2012-12-26 05:00:03](#)  
(no subject)

I had planned on it!

But oh, I hadn't thought of Professor Siz being there. She wasn't there last time, but she and Raz were only really just going "public" at that point, weren't they? Well, they'll have loads more people to greet and socialise than we do, so we can only hope they'll be too distracted for a look around Blackmoor until later.

If it makes you feel better, I didn't open your gift in front of Daddy, and I haven't worn it in front of him, either. I'm always careful about things like that.

Do you think it's good to bring Maggie along? I mean to say, sometimes I don't know what's the right thing to do, because if she discovers she doesn't have to remember her "place" somewhere like the Weasleys, then what if she forgets later, when she's waiting on Auntie? That would be unfortunate.

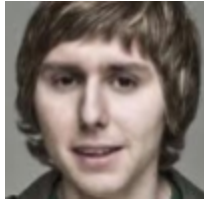
I suppose that Ron and Pansy and Sally Anne and Neville have been trusting each other for so long that they might not feel as close to you or me. In any case, I don't think that I can tell anyone that I'm going to Ron Weasley's house, but Mrs Baylock doesn't seem to pay much mind when I say I'm flooing over to see Remy. She's always much too preoccupied with minding Rigel, anyway.

I think what's happened to Mr Weasley has got Hermione thinking about her own parents, maybe. Harry will do everything he can for her, but he probably has to be careful, too.

You do seem a little melancholy, but there's always something a little sad about Christmas being over, isn't there? No matter how old you are. I think your version of a proper holiday sounds perfect, though.

It is getting late, isn't it? I should let you sleep, so - sweet dreams.

Love,  
Hydra



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-26 05:23:43](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yes, quite late.

Sweet dreams, Dux. I'll see you in a few hours.

Love,  
-J

**[2012-12-26 10:37:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Poppy Pomfrey*



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

After Minerva's exhibition of yesterday, I took it upon myself to join her for the remainder of the day. I did not lecture; I did not think it would serve any good.

She was so deeply in her cups I do not know if she even registered my presence, but I was at least able to distract her from doing herself too much further harm. I could not prevent her from further drinking; I did not even try. But I flatter myself into believing I was able to at least slow the rate. She was near-incoherent, but desperately unhappy.

It is past time for someone to intervene with her. When you've time this week, while there are no students to interrupt, let me know and I will join you to strategise.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-27 03:31:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. Quite right.

I'm in Kent tonight and have several errands tomorrow, including a stop to see Molly, but I expect to return to the castle in time for supper at the latest. Do stop up after the meal--as soon as Gwen and Bathsheba allow you to excuse yourself.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2012-12-27 03:41:20](#)**  
(no subject)

I will do, should Minerva not wish my presence again tomorrow. (Having already established that persuasion and lecture do not work to deter her from her course, yesterday I simply brought a book with me and for the most part sat in the corner of the room reading while she applied herself to the goal of achieving unconsciousness; my goal was to ensure she did not choke on her own vomit, unsupervised. I cannot say I am fond of the memories she is invoking.)

| Either way, I will call upon you at earliest possibility.



**[2012-12-26 11:45:00](#)**

*Boxing Day*

And a happy one to each and all.

We'll be at my Grandmother's for most of the day, though it's typically a relaxed and low-key gathering of close friends and family, quite different from the social rigours of the Malfoy Christmas party.



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

Aside from wishing everyone a good Boxing Day, I wanted to propose that those of us in the Revue get together in New London to run through our lines at least once before returning to Hogwarts. Daphs, think you could find a good cafe or public space for us to gather? What would be a good day for everyone?

And Blaise, I'm up for a session at the Elysian at some point. Let me know when you've got space in your schedule.



 **[alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-26 19:05:19](#)**

*Private message to Harry and Granger*

Harry, did you see where Finch-Fletchley got off to? Wanted to clarify the remark I made to him on that journal post he made about Umbridge, following Arthur Weasley's death. Want to make sure he hasn't got the wrong end of what I was saying. Bumbridge is an utter cow, but I'm not about to start commenting on it in public.

Suppose he and Hydra slipped off somewhere to snog, or something. They seem to be good at that.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-26 19:10:12](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

I don't know where he went but I'm sure he knows what you were trying to say. He can be very subtle when he puts his mind to it, and he's very good at saying things so they can be taken more than one way.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-26 19:32:03](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

Always good with the implying that you understand people better than I do, Granger. ~~Including my own~~

Still, I'd prefer to address it. Private message it is.

Say, while I have you - did you happen to get a glimpse of the gift that dear Auntie Bellatrix gave Harry and myself? While you were organising Harry's things, that is.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-26 19:39:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

~~I'm not~~ Sorry. Go ahead and write him then, or just wait. I'm sure they'll reappear in time for lunch.

Do you mean the little coffer-thing? Yes, I saw it. It's very...decorative?

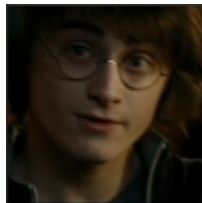


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-26 20:07:51](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

More than decorative. It's a pair of courier boxes. If you put a note in it, say, then it gets delivered to the other person's box, no matter where they are. More secure than using an owl.

I assumed it was a rare item, but I heard Raz say that he and Siz received a set as well. Perhaps Uncle Rodolphus made them.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2012-12-26 22:05:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

It is pretty ace.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-12-26 22:44:46](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

Yeah, and I've got a good idea for how we might best use it. It'll mean putting Granger to work.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2012-12-26 22:06:04](#)**

*Re: Private message to Harry and Granger*

sorry. I just saw this.

I haven't seen where he got to, no.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-12-26 20:03:04](#)**

*Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley and Hydra*

Not wanting to interrupt, but I was hoping to have a word with you today, Finch-Fletchley. Nothing too serious, I suppose.

Find me in the music room if you get a chance.

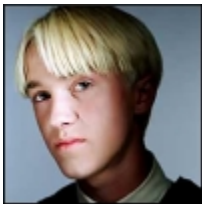


 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2012-12-26 22:45:48](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, yes. Getting together sounds like a fine idea, Draco.

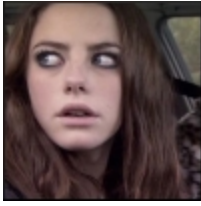
So Mr Krumgold hasn't been in touch with you, then?



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-12-26 22:47:11](#)**

*(no subject)*

I got the script, if that's what you mean. It didn't include any special instructions from either him or Professor Carpenter, though.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-26 22:48:25](#)

*Private message to Draco*

No, what I mean is: he didn't contact you about taking on the role of Guy Brotherton? In Ron Weasley's place, I mean.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-26 22:50:20](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

No, and I hope he doesn't do, either, because I'll have to turn him down.

Sorry, Daphs, but there's no way I've got time for the lead role - not while attending to my role as Prefect and YPL counselor. A bit part suits me just fine.

Why, did Weasley say he doesn't want the part now?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-26 22:52:29](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Draco, are you positive you won't reconsider? You're such a natural performer. You already know how to dance, and you're musically inclined. Picking up the lead should be very little trouble, surely!

No, Weasley hasn't said that. Not exactly. He hasn't said anything at all.

To be honest, I'm not certain that he knows he's got the lead.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-26 22:54:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Rather not, Daphs. Have you asked Blaise though?

And you really ought to tell him he's been cast as the lead, so he can back out now, if he wants to, and you can get someone else in for your leading man. What about Remy? He'd no doubt love to be the star of the show.



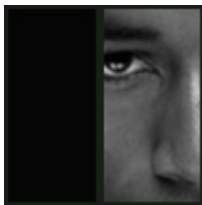
 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-26 22:57:24](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Bother.

Remy's too short for us to work together on stage.

And Gerald was supposed to have contacted both you *and* Blaise about taking the role, but he clearly hasn't done. When I spoke to him last, he seemed rather set on keeping Weasley in for the part. I really have no idea why. Weasley can be a bit entertaining, yes, but I don't think he's had any sort of training in singing *or* dance, which means it's going to be a lot of work, getting him prepared for the part.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-12-27 05:10:57](#)

*(no subject)*

Enjoying hols, then, I hope?

Thanks for the cards. Fine picture on the Gwendolyn Jones--she was well fit wasn't she? And the card's in fine condition, too!

How about Friday morning for the Elysian? Or will that interfere with Diggory's Quidditch outing? We could make it Saturday if you'd rather.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-27 16:29:17](#)

*(no subject)*

Harry wants to fly and I've got the itch, too, so we'll probably do the quidditch on Friday. Saturday would be best, if that works for you.

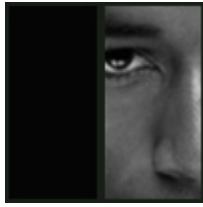


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-27 16:39:24](#)

*Private message to Blaise*

Has Daphs said anything to you about taking on the lead role in the Revue? Seems she tried to convince Krumgold to recast, seeing as Weasley's had a family tragedy, but he hasn't followed through.

I told her I had too much on my plate as is. You interested at all?



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2012-12-27 17:11:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Blaise*

Yes. She said she'd tried to get you to consider it, but didn't think you were inclined. I thought I'd wait to see what you decided or what Krumgold might say. Of course, I'd be pleased to do it, but I'm certainly not going to petition Krumgold for the role. That would be... No.

I do sympathise with Daphs. I can't imagine what Krumgold's thinking to cast Weasley. And it *is* rather insulting to have been passed over under the circumstances. But that's more reason not-

So, no. Unless Krumgold asks me to consider it, I'm entirely satisfied with the part I've been assigned and have no intention of making waves.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-27 19:58:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Blaise*

I suppose she might be able to wheedle him yet, but who knows. Sometimes she acts as if he hung the moon in the night sky, and I know I've seen him grasp her hand and stroke her hair, but there's something a bit brotherly about it. I don't think it's a guarantee that he'll take her advise into account at all.

Perhaps she ought to petition Smith next. He might be bold enough to ask Krumgold for the part.

**[2012-12-26 12:49:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*



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

I'm sorry you couldn't come to the Burrow and meet with the others. (It was brilliant to see them all again.) And I'm so, so sorry that you're hurting over Mr Weasley. I didn't know him nearly as well as you, of course, but I do feel bad about it, too. I admired him. it's making me feel almost desperate in a different way. Like I don't have time to get a magical education at Moddey Doo and grow up. Because my chance to be a kid was lost long ago. I want to do something now to stop the Protectorate.

I want to fight.

There's another thing I've been turning over in my mind. Hermione...I don't think you really had the right to tell the others some of the stuff you did. And yeah, you're not under the Unbreakable Vow now (and thank Merlin for that). But the information that the Order's smuggling away Muggleborn babies...that's about their deepest secret. And we promised to keep that secret. I'm not saying that anyone in our group would betray us deliberately. But what if they make a slip, or what if someone gives them Veritaserum?

I know you felt bad for Ron, and that's why you copied down the obituary. But did you have to share it with everyone?

What is going on with the Headmistress, do you know? She sounded sick, or addled. Maybe even drunk.

Who do you think should lead the Order now? It doesn't sound like she can do it on her own.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2012-12-26 19:25:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Harry would have let me come if I'd explained but I didn't want to explain and anyway I had no reason to be there and I didn't trust myself to be seen by whomever might have come by.

I know what you mean about wanting to fight. I guess I'm doing

something important by helping Harry learn about things, and get ready for what's facing him, but it can feel really indirect, sometimes, like it's not going to do any immediate good. That's why I'm happy Sirius and Mr Snape really liked the coins so much, if they can reuse the idea, because it's like I've actually *contributed* something.

As far as telling the others...I *do* think they had a right to know, and not just Ron. Neville and Evie are so glad to know for sure that their parents are doing something like that (and no, before you say anything, I didn't tell them but they know enough that they figured it out on their own and I didn't tell them otherwise), and I think it's about time that we all started talking together. Because it's ridiculous that we have to keep all these secrets--not the really important ones, like Moddey (and you'll notice that I did change things to obscure all that), but the facts of what they're doing. Honestly, Terry, the sorts of secrets we already share on the lock, those are just as dangerous as knowing that the Order is saving muggleborns--maybe even more, because none of the ISS know *how* we've been saving them or where they're going. If someone gives them Veritaserum, then we're all dead anyways. I'd rather be able to talk about it with them. Besides, they're all going to ask to join, anyway, like you and Fred and George and Lee. So I'm not going to tell the Order that I did it, but I'm not *sorry* that I did, either.

Professor McGonagall *is* sick. Mr Snape's been trying to help her, but.... Well, you know that she has to pretend to be a Death Eater too and it kills her, mostly, and she's scared all the time that someone will suspect her or try to Legilimise her or something. So yes, she drinks. And she's been getting worse, I think. (I'm sorry if that upsets you. I don't know what to do about it, I think everyone in the Order sees it but no one can make her stop if she doesn't want to stop. But I think Mr Snape and Madam Pomfrey have a plan, maybe, at least to try.)

That's another reason I told, although I can't say that I was thinking about it at the time, but it's true: Mr Weasley was one of the Order's leaders, and Professor McGonagall's supposed to be the other. And with Mr Weasley gone, if she falls apart--well, we need all the help we can get, I suppose, is what I'm saying.






 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-26 19:27:24](#)  
(no subject)

Besides, a while ago Mr Lupin told me that I had to trust myself when they ask us questions, and that they trusted us to know what was right to tell them and not tell them, and this--this was just *right*, Terry. It may not have been clever but it was *right*.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-26 20:03:01](#)  
(no subject)

Huh. Maybe it's the difference between you being a Gryffindor and me being a Ravenclaw. Ravenclaws tend to think about being clever, first.

Or maybe that it's just hard for me to stop keeping secrets. Since they were the only thing keeping me alive for a long time. Makes it sort of hard to trust.

That's awful about the Headmistress! I liked her a lot, even if she was on the Council. Maybe that's why; I suppose the stuff they have to do on the Council would drive any sane, decent person to drink. I do hope Mr Snape and Madam Pomfrey can help her. If she's drinking a lot...well, I saw the git go down that road. I'd never wish that on her.

You still didn't answer my question. Who do you think should lead us? I need to think about that myself, in case we get a vote.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 01:36:46](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I wouldn't run off to Professor Sinistra and tell her that Madam Pomfrey spends her weekends looking after the babies, or that Mr Snape has been giving me lessons, even if she's very nice to Sally-Anne and the others, and generally fair to halfbloods.


But...yeah.

And yes, I'm worried about her. And Mr Longbottom.

For leading us, I don't know. I'd choose Mr Lupin, probably, but the problem is that being a werewolf there are times when he's just not able to *lead*. I sort of wonder if Mr Longbottom would be better if he were in charge but I think he'd want it to be Mrs Longbottom, actually.

And there's Mr Shackbolt but I dunno he seems more like a fighter than a planner. And Bill Weasley but it's not a good time. Then again, kings always had to do that, didn't they, their father would die and the son would be the new king, no matter what was going on, so maybe someone should suggest him, anyway.



 **alt\_terry** at **2012-12-27 14:14:29**  
(no subject)

I'm worried about Mr Longbottom, too.

Hermione...it's maybe not right to tell you this, but he drinks, too. Not nearly as much as the Headmistress, from the sounds of it, but every once in awhile. When he's upset about something, mostly, I think. He sneaks away and he'll be gone to another part of the island, because he doesn't want the kids to see him that way. Or Mrs Longbottom, I suppose. I talked to him about it, because I can smell it on him when he gets back if I'm the Professor, you know. And he saw I was scared of him, then, because of what it was like with the git--you know. And that just cut him to the heart. He was really ashamed. So he didn't do it for awhile.

But last time was just this week, right after he came back from Mr Weasley's funeral. And I tried to follow him as the Professor, but he just firmly told me that I mustn't come, but that this was something he had to do. And he left me there on the beach.

I think my thinking about our next leader is pretty close to yours. Mr Lupin, maybe. Or Mr Shackbolt. Or I would have said Bill Weasley, if it were maybe two or three years from now.

**[2012-12-26 16:34:00](#)**

*Order Only*

We need to meet.

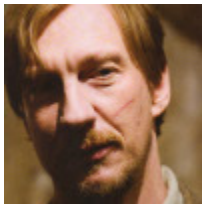
It should be after the 28th, but before all our Hogwarts staff and student members are once again bound by their commitments at the school -- so, before the 5th (and probably best before the 4th, maybe even the 3rd.)




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

We'll host at 12GP. Who can come, and which days work (or don't work) for you? (Obviously, the 28th is completely impossible, both for Bill, and for me.)

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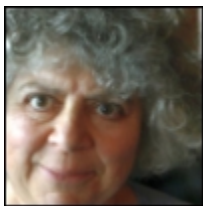


 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-26 22:41:33](#)**  
*Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Sirius and I were wondering if by any chance you could ensure that Albus attends the meeting. We're not overly fussy about which hexes you use to get him there.

He should bring his Pensieve. So that other people can view Bill's memory.

Also, do you think there's any chance you could dry Minerva out before the meeting? It would be nice if she were at least coherent. I realise this may be asking rather a lot.




 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-12-26 23:18:19](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

You do think highly of our skills, Remus. Some of us have less practice with tweaking the nose of authority than you do. (And did not start nearly so young, either.)

Look, I'll find time to talk to Poppy, and we'll see if we can come to any useful conclusion. But I'm making no promises. On either count.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-12-27 19:22:09**

*Re: Private message to Poppy and Pomona*

Consider it done.

If I have to body-bind him and bring him side-along, I will. Pomona will see to the Pensieve, if it comes to

that.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-26 23:16:12**

*(no subject)*

There were a bunch of the folk from the reserve at Dad's the funeral, and they let me know they've all banded together and arranged things amongst themselves so that my shifts are covered until the second week in January at least so I can be home to help Mum while all the rest are home from Hogwarts. So any time that suits should work for me.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2012-12-27 00:38:58**

*Private Message to Dora and Remus*

Dora,

Thought you ought to know that we plan to nominate you as our new fearless leader.

It's between you and Alice, love, so if you've strong opinions (either way), or if you two can't decide between you, we thought we'd make you both wrestle for it. In oil. Or jelly. Haven't decided yet.

If nothing else, you'd be doing the Weasleys a service. Well, and Frank. (And all of us, really.)



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#) at 2012-12-27 19:38:52**

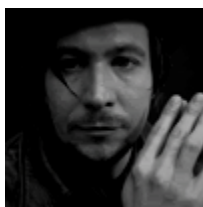
*Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus*

Listen, you. If I thought slicking myself with oil was what you were wishing for, I'd have...

No. Sorry, luv. Not doing it for you or any of the other blokes. I've got enough to be going on with without worrying

whether I'll be able to clean the oil out of my wrestling kit.

And, look, it's sweet of you, but honestly, I don't believe for a minute that's how it will turn out, so I'm not going to worry that it'll end up being me. Could it help us get Alice through the voting, though? If you think it's a strategic thing, then I won't speak against you if you put my name in.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-27 20:57:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus*

Oh, no, not you, kiddo. The point (for me) is to see Alice in *her* cozy. (Not that some of the other blokes would mind, either way). But, since you object, no oil.

Jelly?

And yeah, it's not all in jest, dearheart. You came up with the beer garden. You've been the one pushing to get into the camps and contact people. You made our introduction to Beth. Don't sell yourself short: You've got a head for ways to make a difference.

Still, it's true what we need most is someone to come up with more of a master strategy. ~~Wish James were around to do it.~~ I do think Alice is our best option, for loads of reasons. Maybe I can have a word with her before the floor opens to nominations. I'm only worried about her juggling Moddey, Frank and the rest of the Order. To be honest, I'm mostly worried about her juggling *Frank* and the rest of the Order. But then again, Arthur's death aside, he's been doing better.

Hate the thought of seeing him as badly off as Minerva, though. Nor of Alice having to deal with it.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:33:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus*

Really, the Order ought to have two functioning co-heads. Maybe we should push for Alice AND Dora.

And yeah. I agree about Frank's drinking. It's not a big problem, yet, but Minerva's wasn't a big problem, yet, years ago. Though I

think it was more Lucius bloody Malfoy who drove her to it than the lot of us.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-27 23:32:04](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dora and Remus*

You know how to build a girl up, you do. Ta, luv.

I don't know who I'll put in for yet. I might vote for Snape just to see the look it would put on both your face and his when they announce he got a vote in his favour.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-27 23:39:56](#)

*Re: Private Message to Dora*

Seeing as there was no possible way to answer that wouldn't get me thwapped on the nose with the Sunday edition of the *Prophet*, I thought I'd go for the truth. Told you before, you're well attractive, but would you really want me ogling you in your knickers? Didn't think so.

And since you're totally uncooperative in helping me achieve a teenage fantasy, perhaps I'll just support Moony's idea and we'll make *sure* it's a tie between you and Allie, and you'll have to share the rule of us all.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-27 03:41:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Of course.

We'll be there, and bring along Stephen and Arabella.

I'm assuming this is a closed meeting -- so I won't extend an invitation to Davidson unless I hear a general consensus otherwise.

Thank you, Remus.

**2012-12-26 18:09:00**

*Private message to Tosha*

Tosha -

I didn't want to go into it in company, but you are *extremely* generous. Exceedingly so. (Was it that obvious just how much I'd been coveting your book trunk?) I cannot bear to say no, even though I know I should.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

Thank you, truly (now that I've made my formal "It's far too much" protest.) It will get a great deal of loving use, and it solves more than a few of my worries about managing my library after the wedding. All the little touches are brill - using the zodiac constellations to mark the configurations, and having one set for charts, rather than books. And I'm sure Raz will appreciate not having books and charts strewn over every flat surface, too.

Other things not for general company:

First, do you have an afternoon free for bookshops and the Archetype? I suspect, from the hints I heard, that your time is more committed than mine, and I do not want to step on any toes. (Other than the various social obligations, I've one conversation I want to schedule after New Year's, and some necessary wedding planning, but everything else is flexible.)

Second, at Christmas Day with my family, we did touch on a couple of topics of interest. Less ongoing wrangle with Diane about Defence, for once (probably because Raz was there and she was doing her level best to be welcoming) and more comment on your own field. But now I say it, I'm hard put to describe it, exactly. Distaste, yes. A certain amount of quiet curiosity in places. (Chiron, my brother in law, especially.) And some assumptions, about the implications, that I'm still trying to sort out how to explain.

And finally, I'm glad to say Raz let me set the personal charms on both the pocket watches. (Which I'm telling you, because if there's a need, it might be useful to you to know. I only wish we'd exchanged them before last Friday.) And it's a real relief to me to have some way to know if I really should be worried.

Oh. And there's a bit of the reading you lent me I've got a question about, but it can wait if you're as busy as you still seemed.



- A.

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 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-27 00:55:14](#)  
(no subject)

'Obvious' is perhaps not the word, dear one, but the number of covetous looks at mine were enough to help me realise a trunk of your own would not go amiss. (And if it will soothe the part of you unwilling to accept such gifts for fear of the unspoken price tag they might carry in future, allow me to assure you the gift is made freely and with no hidden strings or conditions; I do vow it upon whatever bedrock you feel might bear my oath.) Consider it an appreciation of all the delightful hours we have spent discussing matters academic, and in service to future and similar conversations. (And, yes, as a present to Raz as well -- and I am glad your present to him was agreeable.)

I am very pleased you like it. And I look forward to hearing tale of what sort of categorisation system you devise: the maker suggested several methods of triggering which space will appear when you open the lid, but I knew instantly which would suit you best.

For practicalities: the bulk of my time is spoken for until after Friday, though I will be at the Coopers' tomorrow night, for a short time at least. Sunday, perhaps? After Friday, with a bit of luck I should be nearly entirely free, social obligations aside. Even if we are not able to carve out a full afternoon, I must take you to Poundtree & Associates and make you known to them: I believe I've mentioned they have two sets of prices, one for the casual reader and the other for actual scholars, and you more than deserve the scholars' prices. (They are open most days save for Mondays, holidays, and Thursday mornings, should Sunday not work for you.)

I am glad your Christmas with your family was pleasant, and yes, am quite interested in the implications, your family being a useful cross-section of public opinion. What bits intrigued your brother-in-law?

As to the questions on the reading: busy though I might be, I have mostly arrived at the 'hurry up and wait' stage of the matter. What are your questions? Having lent you the books, I am happy to put forth the effort to help clear up any misconceptions.



Yours,  
T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-27 01:29:46](#)  
(no subject)

Toshenka -

I appreciate the reassurance, though in this case, it was my - pride? my upbringing? something like - that's more of the sticking point. (Yes, I know, I show my House. Both ways round.) And yes, on the categories, once I sort them out. Sunday - one? two? - would do very nicely for me. Should I meet you, or would you rather come here? (By which I mean, which is the least exertion for you, Tosha, please.)

Chiron was asking about how you and I had gotten actually friendly - he admitted he was surprised. (And I suspect half the family was on him to ask, actually.) And he did want to ask about your classes, because of Andie, next year.

But the thing I wanted to ask you about is partly one of the books you loaned me, and partly a present from my Aunt Canora. (Not the brightest star in my family, alas, though very sweet in the right setting. An excellent example of general opinion in some circles and so useful here though.)

Anyway, she gave me *The Open Door*, by Prudentia Mallen. It came out a year ago, and I'm three-quarters sure it's a pseudonym. She says, and I quote, that the Dark Arts, while "potent tools for change" also "open doors in the self and the environment that may, in fact, be best left closed."

You know chapter 3 in the *Magica Abscondita Patafacta Erit* he's got that whole section about privacy versus secrecy, experience versus intellect, and then that discussion of precaution and proper foundation? When she references that chapter - and I wouldn't know this if I didn't have them both at hand - she picks out about three sentences from it, and ignores the rest, even when he's actually supporting her argument.

(The bits she picks on are something called 'Death Essence', a reference to 'deep practice' which seems to be an idiosyncratic phrasing in the *Abscondita*, and then a discussion about blood

magic's imperviousness to certain kinds of removal techniques. And yet, I remember you commenting about the blood-lock and the boxes that it *can* be overridden, in some cases, yes?)

It's not bad research, exactly. (I mean, that bit is, but that's not what's most bothering me.) It's something about why those examples. It's balanced, on the surface - and she's good about referring to titles I know you approve of - but at the same time, there's quite a line of "All right for some people, and not for everyone" about it. And there's several places where I'm fairly sure she's using examples from the Carrows.

So, my question, roughly, is "What context am I missing from the *Abscondita*", and in general, what to keep in mind as I read. (I'm only on chapter five of the former, and chapter four of the Mallen.)

I don't know. Stars are so much simpler, sometimes. Either you prove they're there, or you're all talking theory, and either way, they're a very long distance away.

A.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-27 03:04:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, bones of the Blessed Martyr Barbara, are they *still* repeating that slander? And in a book published only last year? It must not have come from one of the more reputable presses, that's for certain.

To put it bluntly: the concept of 'Death Essence' has been lingering around for at least the last three hundred years, and stems from most of the scholarship on the Arts being forced underground (and thus not widely disseminated) and done in Latin (which practise only started to fall out of favor about forty years ago). Some idiot mistranslated *fatis*, the perfect passive participle of *fari* ('having been spoken'), as *fatis*, the ablative of *fatum* ('doom, death'), interpreting it as the ablative of agent and rendering it as "the essence of death". So what was intended in the instructions (and yes, I have read the original source) as "the incantation having been spoken, add to the spell you are building by performing these wand motions..." was rendered as, "Add 'Essence of Death' and perform these wand motions..." -- thinking it to be some elixir or

potion the reader would be familiar with, one assumes.

Sadly, no-one who read the mistranslated manuscript had enough sense to recognise the confusion. The mistranslated manuscript then fell into the hands of those whose only use for the Arts was to use them to generate screed after screed of moral outrage, mutating into 'Death Essence' along the way. Someone else decided that 'death essence' must refer to some mysterious quality that 'Dark wizards' have, intrinsically, to make them suited for certain classes of spellwork. You'll find source after source of so-called 'Light wizards' railing against the perfidity of the practitioners of the Arts, and about horrible rituals we conduct to sacrifice our souls and our victims to gain this 'essence', and about horrific practices we all get up to behind closed doors that threaten the very fabric of society, and so on and so forth. It is most wearying.

(All right, and sometimes amusing -- but too many of my forebears have been condemned and executed on the strength of that mistranslation for it to truly amuse.)

I have not read *The Open Door*, but if she is discussing 'death essence' with any seriousness, her scholarship has passed 'questionable' and arrived solidly in the land of 'indiscriminating about her sources'. The other points of hers you raise are also not promising: most types of blood magic *can* be broken, and redirected, and overridden, in many cases. (A topic which has been on my mind quite a great deal recently, actually, for several reasons, including my reflecting on the descent-linked magics I alone am now heir to, and could not teach to anyone not of my family's blood; they are lineage-bound.) The *Abscondita* is quite explicit about that, in fact, though more in later chapters than what you have read so far.

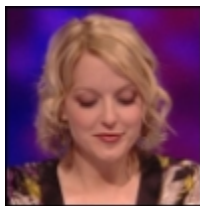
And 'deep practice' is the *Abscondita*'s term for the bits that have the most transformative properties, or have the potential to be most transformative -- well, if you've reached chapter five, you'll soon start seeing the hypothesis presented and argued: the *Abscondita* is where the concept was first advanced that the Arts can be summarised as "the class of magic that behaves differently for each practitioner, and asks the practitioner to commit to whatever changes they enact". Which, from the sound of it, is also Mallen's theory, but the transmission has become garbled on the way.

Does that help, any? While you are reading *Magica Abscondita*, pay careful attention to the duality he sets up between 'static' and 'transformative' magic (although I can't remember; the translation I gave you might be the one that uses 'unchanging' rather than 'static', a rendering I find somehow unsatisfactory), and particularly the nuances of 'sacrifice' in the later chapters. (Which is another concept that has been rendered very badly throughout the years, and misunderstood and used to excoriate my brethren-in-Art throughout history: when the *Abscondita* discusses 'sacrifice', it only rarely means the sacrifice of *another's* possessions, blood, life, or potentials. When you get there, for 'sacrifice', think 'offering'; when next we have time, if you would like concrete illustration, I will tell you of some of the sacrifices I have had asked of me throughout the years.)

If I had the translating of the *Abscondita*, meanwhile, I would put chapter nine, or at least a summary, in the preface. You may want to skip ahead and read that now; it might make everything else a bit clearer.

And speaking of 'when next we have time': Sunday at one should be fine. Why don't you join me at my townhome? (I'm on the Floo, as 'Cottesmore Steading' -- the 'Steading' is necessary lest you wind up halfway across the country.) I expect to be much refreshed by then, but we shall see.

Yours, in scholarship (and the tendency to pontificate at the drop of a hat; admire my restraint),  
T



 **alt\_sinistra** at [2012-12-27 03:50:10](#)  
(no subject)

Toshenka,

I do indeed admire your restraint: it is clear that might have been two or three times the length (or ten), without it. (Not that I would have minded, but - well, we do both have other calls on our evenings, and should not dally too long in mutual indignation over this. At least not tonight.)

I agree more every day with Alde's rant about the lack of formal training in Latin, and the number of people who are content to rely on other people's work without the skills to evaluate it on

their own. No one can be master - or mistress - of every field, granted, but really, you'd think someone in the past centuries would have figured out the problem. (And that's scarcely an uncommon instruction, either, really, all things considered. It's not like the Latin asking one to calculate the locational magics, where everyone has a different preferred phrasing.)

On the rest of it, clearly I should make you a present of *The Open Door* for your commentary and offended marginalia notes when I am done with it. Though as a rhetorical device, it, well, I'm trying to figure out exactly what its aim is there, and I'm finding it quite intriguing. (Bearing in mind it came out before your return to the Protectorate, and when it seemed likely Alecto would remain as Professor of Dark Arts for some time. So very glad that was not true, may I say again.)

I do indeed take your instructions about the *Abscondita*, and I will indeed skip ahead to chapter 9. I am more or less making sense of it - well, I've a good twelve inches of notes to ask you about, but it's all smaller points, not the main ones - but a larger context sounds entirely promising.

Finally, on Sunday, here I must admit that of all the methods of transportation available, I like the floo the least. That said, I know it's one of the easiest to adapt to some kinds of warding around, and if that's what you prefer, I will manage. (Just, there will be at least a quarter hour of my sneezing my head off afterwards, and it's so terribly undignified. And difficult to hold a conversation during, more to the point.)

And if you do need to cancel, just say the word. I do hope the Saint Mungo's Gala will be entirely less exciting than it was last year. (Not that I was there, mind you - it would have been different if I had been, and I still can't decide if that's a good or bad thing.) There *are* one or two things I'd like to ask you (and one better discussed in person, I think, since it may be easier to demonstrate), but they are not crucial, really.

A.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-27 04:12:46](#)  
(no subject)

If you've things to discuss, meeting here is likely the best option (though we might wish to mount the expedition to the bookstore and your café first, lest we fall into our typical reverie). My wards are formidable, yes, but if Floo does not agree with you, I will owl you apparition coordinates to the park down the street, and you can walk from there. (The wards may be formidable, but knocking on the front door will not trigger them. And that is another reason to meet here: I can key you into them enough that in future you will be able to apparate into the arrival parlour, even though you will not be able to go further if I am not in residence without safe-conduct from my house-elf.)

And yes -- that is the most irritating part of the whole mess; the phrasing in question can be found in half the grimoires of the time. But it is yet another example of the propagandists winning. You do, however, make me think that next year, I will revise my NEWT-level curriculum to include a unit on proper research skills -- how to evaluate a secondary source for accuracy, how to cross-check against other secondary sources, when (and under what circumstances) to step back to a primary source, etc. I am already thinking of ways to teach many of the skills of which I am noticing the lack, and that is one I am most determined about.

(I do so wish there could be two of me -- one to teach the Arts, and another to teach all the fundamentals that have fallen from the curriculum over the years. Rhetoric, as we've already discussed. Latin. Greek. A practicum in research skills, both in terms of performing research and the magics that help in the execution of same. Ah, well. Perhaps in a year or two, once I am settled, I will begin a Latin club.)

But we've tread those boards before, have we not?

Yours, and anticipating the amusement of excoriating a very silly and badly-researched book,

T



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-27 04:39:16](#)  
(no subject)

Tosha -

Apparition coordinates, please. I'm quite happy working from them. (And ... I still don't know if it's Floo or something in the powder. I've never really wanted to do sufficient formal testing. Some variants are better than others, but all of them make me sneeze my head off.)

Anyway, yes, on the need for better research training. (I did tell you, didn't I, about our Mr Moon's distress that researchers might not be telling the entire truth as they had observed it?) And I'd help you with the Latin Club, you know. Not this year, but thereafter.

As to my questions: I was going to say that both of them could be discussed in one of the Archetype's private rooms, but on consideration, you're right that at least one of them is better done elsewhere. (Or otherwise, we'd need to be rather oblique.) Books, cafe, then conversation, then?

My other question, in case you wish to tuck it into your contemplation between now and Sunday, has to do with the best combination of privacy and sound-muffling spells with some specific parameters. (In short, I plan to arrange a conversation with a certain friend I've mentioned to you, and I expect it to be noisy, and perhaps revealing of private details that neither of us would, in a calmer moment, want others to overhear.)

The parameters, if that helps:

- Communal space over which I have some authority and greater permission (namely a reading room in the Astronomy Guild Hall here in New London)
- To last until I dissipate it (or ideally, to release if I am for some reason unable. I don't expect that, but tidiness is a virtue. )
- To be utterly and reliably soundproof and free from other interruption.
- The room itself is about 15 by 30, standard windows down one side, one fireplace, solid floor, two doors, both into the hallway. I can draw you a sketch Sunday if that helps.

I do have ideas, but this is a "Asking Raz is a little tricky" question, and there are two or three options where I'm not sure of the best combination. I promise, in advance, that the conversation is personal, and that while matters touching on Our Lord's service may come up, I fully expect it to stay on the personal. Just, I really do not want people getting the wrong ideas if they did chance to overhear, and we've a limited number of even vaguely neutral spaces to choose from.

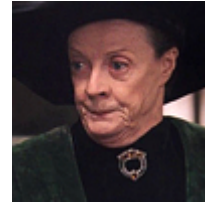
At any rate, I am expected elsewhere (ten minutes ago). Do sleep well, Tosha, and take care.



**[2012-12-26 19:05:00](#)**

*Boxing Day*

A very large thank-you to the Nigel Corbyns for a most welcoming Boxing Day celebration.



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



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2012-12-27 03:20:39](#)**

*Order Only*

I trust today finds you more well?

If you find you are in need of company over this next week I would be pleased to conduct my current research and reading in a corner of your New London monstrosity. Should I have established to your satisfaction that I will not require you to entertain me, that is.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2012-12-27 15:16:39](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

That might be acceptable. But none of your potions, please.



 **[alt\\_mcgonagall](#)** at **[2012-12-27 03:30:22](#)**

*Order Only*

A horror of all horrors. No memory of agreeing to go or why, but there it was on my appointment-calendar. High tea en famille. Plenty of time spent watching their odious daughter, Harriet, exhibit her various talents. (Obvious truckling to Lord Protector in her naming was not, I suppose, the girl's fault, but she had no perceivable charms, apart from her obvious disinterest in impressing me.) Piano charmed to produce a "heavenly chorus of voices" did nothing for my poor head.

No beverages other than tea at the meal, with self-satisfied motions to keeping little Harriet free of vices, and plenty of talk of "that poor man Weasley," general attitude being that he has gained more fame in death than he ever deserved in life, with more than a tinge of jealousy. Mrs Corbyn would, I think, not mind becoming a widow in

some honourable way, which would rid her of her husband's clumsy attempts at social-climbing. She at least had the courtesy to slip a touch of whisky in my tea behind Nigel's back.

So now I must remember Harriet Corbyn next year at the Sorting, and "put in a good word for her with the Hat-Slytherin of course, to emulate our Lord," to which I will admit I pointed out that my House was Gryffindor. Corbyns not visibly taken aback, altered their wishes to "Slytherin or Gryffindor," and at length sent me on my way with half an inedibly dry pound cake.

Such is life.

**2012-12-26 20:08:00**

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



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Hullo, everyone,

I hope you've all had a pleasant Christmas, or as pleasant as possible under the circumstances. Christmas with the Jugsons was good, if a bit odd now and then, as it's bound to be.

But this has been a bally well interesting afternoon!

As Malfoy mentioned earlier, the Jugsons, Lestranges, Malfoys and Pennifolds have a luncheon every year on Boxing Day and the Jugsons brought me along. I say, it was quite a surprise to see Professor Dolohov, what! We were expecting Professors Lestrangle and Sinistra but I'd rather believed it to be a family affair. I suppose Mr Malfoy does consider Professor Dolohov to be family. Mr Rosier was there and asked me how I've found the Protectorate as a citizen, what, but I noticed that he wasn't really listening to the answer. Also, apparently Finnigan usually comes as his ward but he wasn't along today. Mr Rosier said he's not been feeling well. That's not entirely true, we learned. Let me explain:

After luncheon, Hydra took me on a tour of her grandmother's house, mostly as an excuse to be alone together for a while. We got to the library, which is a snug little round room with a fireplace and a cosy sort of sitting area. And we thought we'd be safe there for a bit if we wanted to--well, to pass the time for a while, what.

But then we heard people approaching and Hydra pointed to the study off the library as a good place to go and collect ourselves. Only once we were inside, we realised two things: First, that there isn't any other door out except into the library; and second, that everyone on the other side of that door was a Councilwizard (or witch, her mother was along, too).

So we stayed and listened.

First off, as I said, it seems Finnigan's not ill, but Mr Rosier has been keeping him secluded at home, under some sort of potion. It sounded like a drugged sleep, Hydra said probably Dreamless Sleep but it could be even stronger than that, what, from the sound of it. No idea

why, except that we thought we heard Mr Rosier say 'Only another day'--but that might have been two days, there was a pause and we couldn't hear. Then Professor Dolohov said--it had to have been him, what, because of the accent--that it was a terrible idea, as he'd never be 'ready' to do what was 'required of him' if he isn't properly prepared.

Well, then one of the other men asked if he could even do it if he were properly prepared, and they laughed. But Professor Dolohov and (I suppose it must have been Mr Rosier) said yes, they think he's capable, and anyway 'he'll have to be.'

Oh, someone asked if Mr Malfoy had had any more dealings with the Yaxleys. He said he spoke to Mr Yaxley and there aren't going to be any 'repercussions' - I say, I've no idea what was the matter between them but he seemed confident there was nothing to worry about - only then he added something like, 'except, of course, that he is even more fervent to do Our Lord's bidding.'

Well, Auror Lestrangle said, 'He should have been in the first place!' and then they all started speaking and it was hard to hear but eventually Professor Dolohov asked Mr Malfoy if he were still willing to be his first acolyte for the ceremony, because he would think it no dishonour if he were not up to it and preferred 'Barty' (Auror Crouch, that must be) to assist in the primary and he'd get another second. Then Hydra recognised her uncle's voice (Professor Lestrangle, I mean to say) and he said something that made them all laugh, and Professor Dolohov said, 'I can still out-duel you any day of the week,' and something in Russian that made them all laugh again. Mr Malfoy said no, that if he thought it would weaken him (meaning Professor Dolohov) too much, he ought to have Barty be the...something (Magus?)--and that he'd probably enjoy it more, anyway, which ought to make the ceremony that much more effective.

Then Auror Lestrangle said that if that were the case, she and Barty ought to do it with Professor Dolohov assisting *them*, and make everyone ashamed to be in Our Lord's company.

They got quiet then. Eventually, Mr Lestrangle asked if they thought He was serious about bringing in new blood, such as Pennifold or some of the others who've been looking for favour. They mentioned several people but no one was sure what He would do about them. Then they got on to the topic of people currently at school, what! We heard Draco's name and Pansy's, and we tried to listen to what Mr Malfoy had to say but he must have quashed the discussion about

both of them, because the next name we heard them mention was Zabini, and after that whether Warrington or Montague were ready for it.

Of course, that put Professors Lestrangle and Dolohov onto the whole duelling club mess, what, and Professor Dolohov in particular was flatly against any sort of recommendation for most of them, especially Teddy Nott, and including Crabbe and Goyle, at present. Sally-Anne, he *did* mention that he's got his eye on you--and me, dash it, as potential recruits (though, I say, Auror Lestrangle didn't think much of either suggestion, which I thought bally well comforting).

Mr Lestrangle changed the subject. He seemed to think that someone named Strangeweale might have had something to do with the attack, that there was an article in the paper that suggested it could have been someone who worked for him who levelled the platform. But Auror Lestrangle said that was just nonsense made up to cover up for the Irish making it to British soil.

Mr Malfoy said yes, but that didn't change the fact that Strangeweale's a right plonker (he, er, didn't use those words, precisely) and that he feared for the realm if He couldn't be brought to see that Strangeweale's not trustworthy. He also mentioned that Glendower's an idiot and said something about Mr Thicknesse, but Mr Rosier defended him and said besides that now wasn't the time to be fragmenting among themselves.

Mr Malfoy told him that it wasn't that simple, when the 'new lot' were circling every day. He also said that these days, going to Court could be--something, but we think maybe it was 'as dangerous as'--being in the field fighting the 'insurgents.'

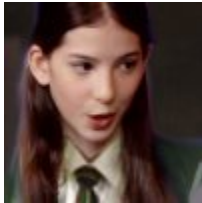
That was well shocking enough, but that got them on to the graffiti that had been scrawled on the Protectorate Hall at Mr Weasley's memorial service (did anyone get a look at it?) and how it was disgraceful and disrespectful and so on. (Mr Malfoy said something, and I'm sorry, Pansy, Ron, it wasn't altogether kind to Mr Weasley, what. I'll not repeat it here but--well, it's enough to say that we all know they didn't get on well.)

Just about then there was a knock and it was Mrs Malfoy and Mrs Black, coming to tell them it was time for pudding and brandy. So they all left, and we waited to make sure they were gone but then we had to leave, too, to come back to the table.

I say. Hermione, it sounded like the sort of thing the Wand Smugglers ought to hear, so I've tried to write it all down as soon as ever I could do. (Which took quite a long time, as you can see!) Hydra, have I left out anything we ought to include?

-Justin

---



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 01:25:18](#)  
(no subject)

You and me as potential recruits for what? the Council? He cannot POSSIBLY be serious.

Well, maybe he's serious about you. ~~He did like that essay of yours~~



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 01:25:59](#)  
(no subject)

And frankly I don't want Auror Lestrage thinking of me at all, in any way, if at all possible.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 02:51:17](#)  
(no subject)

Wow. That's a lot to have overheard. Weren't you worried they'd find you eavesdropping?

Oh, and I'll see if I can pass on the messages about everything.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-27 03:51:13](#)  
(no subject)

You're really lucky they didn't catch you, Justin.

That could've been quite bad.

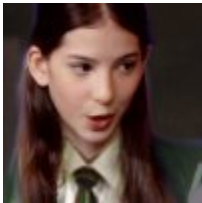


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-27 04:03:26](#)  
(no subject)

Uh. None of that's good.

I mean, they're wanting to recruit Pansy and you and Sally Anne? Seriously not good.

And the stuff they were saying about Finnigan? That makes it sound like something really awful's going on, doesn't it?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 21:29:06](#)  
(no subject)

The bit about Finnigan sounds utterly dire.

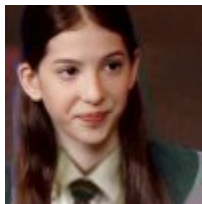
Shame they weren't talking about Patil, too.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:35:33](#)  
(no subject)

I say, Sally-Anne. There's no need to be nasty, what?

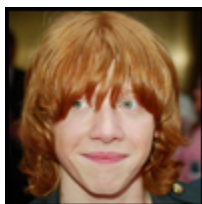
-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 21:42:37](#)  
(no subject)

Pffffffffft.

It was just a joke.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-27 21:35:45](#)  
(no subject)

Well, when their recruitment captain calls you and asks you to join, you can tell them you'll only do it if they ask your mate, Padma, too.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:39:40](#)  
(no subject)

I say, Ron, I was just thinking that, too--do you think the ceremony they meant could be his initiation?

(Though why on earth would they pick him before someone like Draco or Teddy--apart from Teddy's involvement in the duelling ring, that is.)

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 21:44:02](#)  
(no subject)

I can't see as they'd do that unless they really needed him to do something. Perhaps something to do with Ireland.

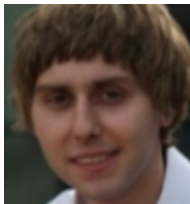
He's a half-blood, you know? That's not exactly a fast ticket to popularity with the Council in general, even if you DO have Mr Rosier as a foster father.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 04:37:22](#)  
(no subject)

Justin,

Someone wants to know, when the Council were talking about you and Sally-Anne and the others, was that as if they were really going to pursue you or just more as a sort of theoretical abstract (meaning in a 'someday' sense)?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-27 04:40:07](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. No, I think it sounded more as if to say that they'd far rather some of us were ready to be considered than some of the people who are, I gather, closer to a real option at present.

At least, when Professor Dolohov mentioned me and Sally-Anne, he



wasn't suggesting that they make an offer on the spot, what, but perhaps down the road, if you follow me.

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 21:27:36](#)  
(no subject)

Okay

I've stopped laughing. How far down the road? Like who were the people they thought would be closer to a real option, were they people like Ned Pennifold and Lana Sandoval? Or current students who are older than we are?

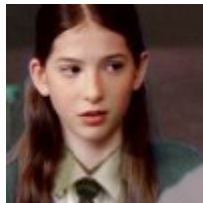


 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:37:07](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, they were in the discussion, certainly. And the others, though as I said, Professor Dolohov was dead against anyone who'd been in the Duelling Club.

Only, it's just occurred to me: The ceremony they were discussing. You don't think they could be initiating Finnigan, do you?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-27 21:45:05](#)  
(no subject)

Surely they wouldn't be keeping him drugged to ensure he didn't run away (or -- did they say WHY they were keeping him drugged?) if it was to make him a Council Member? He wouldn't run from THAT.

He's not even 17. Surely that's not it.

**[2012-12-26 21:48:00](#)**

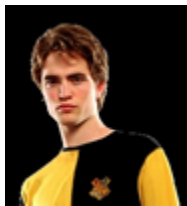
*Quidditch!*

I've reserved the Hampstead Heath Quidditch Pitch starting at one o'clock Friday the 28th and January 4th. Any and all Hogwarts Quidditchers, reservists, hopefuls and enthusiasts are welcome to come join me for a pickup game. This is completely unofficial, please come even if you aren't on the Hufflepuff side (and it's not, in any way, mandatory if you are). If you think there's some reason you wouldn't be welcome, forget it and come out and play the greatest wizarding sport, QUIDDITCH!!




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

Come one come all, test your warming charms on your new winter gloves! Get your exercise and keep up your fitness regimen! Come work off that extra holiday sweet (or dozen)! Take your mind off your troubles while in the rough and tumble!



---

 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-27 03:03:09](#)**

*Private Message to Fred and George Weasley*

Please come out and bring Ron and Ginny. Get out of the house and come do something. We'll have fun, at least for awhile.

I'd really like to see you guys out on the pitch.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-27 03:05:08](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Raz and Harry*

While I'd love to see Harry at the pickup Quidditch, I understand there are security concerns. If those can't be straightened out by Friday, is there anything we could do that would make it possible for Harry to come out next week? A different location or whatever?

Thanks,  
Cedric




 [alt\\_harry at 2012-12-27 04:08:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Professor Raz and Harry*

Hey.

Thanks for the invite, mate. I'll try to make it out. And if it doesn't work out, for whatever reason, I'll be sure to let you know so we can get together some other time.



 [alt\\_cedric at 2012-12-27 18:38:03](#)

*Re: Private Message to Professor Raz and Harry*

Glad to invite you. You're fun to fly against. If we can't do general flying let me know a time and place and we can try out your Christmas present. I'm mostly at loose ends over break other than playing with the kids and helping Mum since she's 7 months pregnant. Dad's thrown himself back into work with a vengeance since the accident at the party.



 [alt\\_harry at 2012-12-27 04:13:04](#)

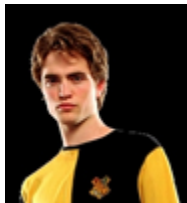
*Private Message to Cedric*

And Ced

All the stuff with the free flying and the masks and the mummings

Even though the mummings didn't turn out the way you'd hoped.

I just wanted to let you know you're doing a lot of good things. Really. And it's appreciated. I appreciate it, at least.



 [alt\\_cedric at 2012-12-27 18:42:36](#)


*Re: Private Message to Cedric*

Thanks, it means a lot to hear that. Particularly from you.

I can't believe Umbridge couldn't wait five minutes until we were done and tell them in private instead of in front of the whole school. I can't imagine how I'd react if I was told my Dad was dead in front of the whole world.

It hit everyone from Devonshire hard, he was such pillar of our little community.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2012-12-27 03:06:23](#)

*Private Message to Tyche and Heph*

You really are welcome if you want to come.

I need to say some other stuff but after my last post I want to say it right so give me a little more time.

~CD

**2012-12-26 21:53:00**

*Order Only*

I'm passing on some information that was overheard today:



- I think whatever the ritual is that Bill's going to watch, it involves Seamus Finnigan, because Mr Rosier has been keeping him sort of drugged, but he's going to wean him off them starting tonight.
- The Death Eaters are talking about maybe having to recruit new people and they talked about Mr Pennifold, and also Draco, Pansy, Justin, Sally-Anne, Zabini and a load of other people whom they didn't think were good candidates (and they didn't necessarily want any of the others, either).
- Something might have happened between Mr Malfoy and Mr Yaxley but maybe it's patched up now.
- He also doesn't like Mr Strangeweale and he also doesn't like Mr Glendower or Mr Thicknesse
- But Mr Rosier doesn't mind Mr Thicknesse
- and he doesn't want the Death Eaters fighting among themselves (which is what they might be doing)
- And Mr Malfoy thinks that going to Court is dangerous nowadays.

I think that's the most important stuff and I'm sorry to bother anyone's Boxing Day but if we have a meeting I probably can't come to it, which is too bad really because I think I'd like to be there once, especially since it seems like there are some big decisions we have to make.

---



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 03:51:14](#)  
(no subject)

Most intriguing. What more can you tell us about your source of information, and about his or her reliability and trustworthiness?

Also, several of your antecedents are unclear. In your fourth point: who is the 'he' in question? And in your sixth, might we assume it is Rosier who is arguing against infighting? Can you tell us any more about this infighting, or did your source not overhear anything?

(Macnair: do you have any insights on the more recent state of the alliances among that nest of vipers? I can only imagine the ways in which connections have or have not developed; you have far more recent intelligence than I.)

If you wish to attend the meeting, meanwhile, I am willing to write to Mr Marvolo and request your assistance at Hogwarts for the afternoon; he has proven willing to lend your services in the past.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 04:11:07](#)  
(no subject)

I can tell you that the source is trustworthy but couldn't necessarily hear everything properly because the source was behind a door and trying not to get caught.

That's Mr Malfoy who doesn't like Strangeweale or the others. Oh, he said that the Lord Protector thinks he can trust Mr Strangeweale and Mr Malfoy thinks that's a mistake. The thing that Mr Rosier said was that they shouldn't be 'fragmenting' any further just now, and Mr Malfoy said there were 'new ones circling every day', which I think means that there are some people at Court who haven't been there since before He took over but they are trying to gain favour and of course, Mr Malfoy wouldn't like that, naturally. (I've heard a few things like that sometimes, how one person's trying to get ahead or move closer to the Lord Protector and the others don't like things to change.)

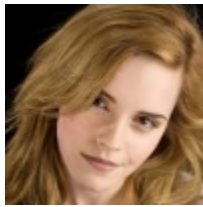
Does that help?



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 04:15:54](#)  
(no subject)

It does, yes.

Were any other names mentioned? And can you tell me any more about how they were speaking of your contemporaries -- did your source have any impressions about whether they were discussing things in the theoretical abstract, or that the decision to recruit had already been reached and they were simply debating the particulars?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 04:41:50](#)  
(no subject)

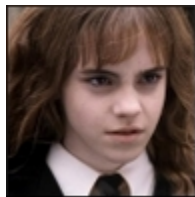
Oh. No, it was more like whether they think there are people *they* would rather see inducted, as opposed to people who might actually be under consideration but whom they *wouldn't* choose if it were up to them. And it wasn't as if they were thinking about it anytime soon, more like a while from now.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 17:46:46](#)  
(no subject)

Ah.

Well, I suppose that saves us the endless handwringing over whether it is moral to send one of your contemporaries as a spy, then, no matter how useful it might be.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 17:48:50](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Because I think some of them would do it. If they had the chance to do. At least one or two, maybe.

Justi



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 17:53:06](#)  
(no subject)

No.


Just no.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 18:05:47](#)  
(no subject)

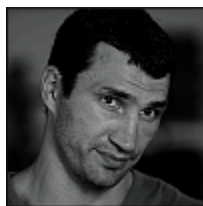
And there is the handwringing, right on schedule.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:10:04](#)  
(no subject)

Even setting aside the moral considerations of whether we should consider it even remotely acceptable to allow children to go spy on *Death Eaters*, you should be well aware of the fact that in playing a role, it is sometimes possible to become the role. A risk that is particularly hazardous for anyone as young and unsettled as a teenager.

In other words, asking someone like Sally-Anne Perks to cosy up to Antonin Dolohov risks not merely her safety, but her moral compass. (And I don't think Ron or Neville is immune from the risks here, either; I don't think this is a risk that applies more or less to Slytherins or Gryffindors or any of them.)



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-27 21:28:27](#)  
(no subject)

What about someone like the Lestrangle girl, or Miss Parkinson? Not Draco Malfoy himself, since it seems he's not as far down the path as those two girls are, but -

It ain't my pleasure to point it out, but they do practically live right under the noses of Death Eaters. Their moral compasses have been at risk since they were born, and yet



they appear to be intact.

How's it any different than what we ask of Hermione, that's what I want to know. I know she'll say she does it by choice, but I dunno if any of us know what really compels us to make the choices that we do. Some of what we decide is for ourselves, but some of it will always be for others.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:41:15](#)  
(no subject)

I don't have any idea how to explain Hydra Lestrage or Pansy Parkinson.

Or Sirius Black, for that matter.

But Peter Pettigrew betrayed all of us, years ago. Someone I thought I could trust with my life -- someone James really DID trust with his life, and Lily's. And Harry's. It makes it hard to forget that it's difficult to measure another's inner strength, convictions, steadiness.

We told them all in September to be wary of Dolohov because he had a way of worming his way into your confidence so that he could turn your beliefs inside out. And now Snape thinks we should consider deliberately sending one or more of them into his clutches?



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-27 21:44:33](#)  
(no subject)

I understand your hesitation, just not sure we should scrap the idea without some discussion first.

Maybe Snape could polyjuice himself into Sally Anne Perks next, and then he can be the one to spy on Antosha.

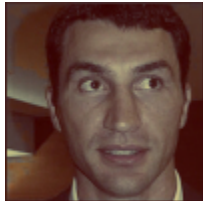


 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:48:16](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, that would be brilliant.

I'd pay money to see that.

I'm not sure Antosha would be fooled, mind you. Perks almost saw through my disguise when she came to tea that afternoon with her friends -- not because of my face, mind you, but because of how I stood and how I walked. There are things about our appearance that are extremely difficult to hide, and Antonin Dolohov does not strike me as a man who'd be fooled by a familiar face for long.




 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-27 21:51:47](#)  
(no subject)

No, he'd not be fooled, you can count on that.

Might be that there's a difference between asking someone to actively "spy" on another person, and making it clear that you're open to any intelligence they happen to stumble upon.

And some of them already seem to be volunteering it, so there's that.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-27 21:53:49](#)  
(no subject)

True enough.

They'd be able to volunteer it more directly if we swore them into the Order properly.

Maybe someone whose name rhymes with Rudy won't be able to make it to the upcoming meeting to object to young members...



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-28 00:00:55](#)

*Private message to Snape and Macnair*

It's also worth noting that working with us while posing as a Death Eater is slowly killing Minerva.

Not exactly an appropriate job to give to someone who's barely of age.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 18:03:16](#)

*Private Message to Hermione Granger and Harry Marvolo*

If you are serious in your evaluations, and not merely saying that because of a Gryffindorish belief in adventure and self-sacrifice, you should let me know the identities of those you feel would make that choice, so I might speak with them. Occlumency training takes a considerable amount of time.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-27 03:52:20](#)

*(no subject)*

Hermione,

Tell me you weren't endangering yourself by listening at keyholes, kiddo.

We appreciate the information but not if you're putting yourself at risk to get it.

(As for the meeting, we'll try. Do you think Harry would help you get away for a while, if we could think of a pretext?)



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 04:01:21](#)


*(no subject)*

No, I was safe. Mudbloods don't work on Boxing Day, even at Buckingham.

And yes, I guess it depends on when the meeting is. Harry wants to go play quidditch on Friday but of course that's the

worst day for Bill, right, so I don't know how we can work it out. But if Mr Snape writes to him he might just agree without asking any questions.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-27 05:21:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Rosier. Well, he is my former boss, but between the fact that most people are out this week, and I'm out on bereavement leave and have been ordered not to show up at the office, I can't think of a plausible reason to just drop by and pick up hints.

He didn't come to the funeral. Just sent flowers.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-27 05:22:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Seamus is one of Ron's dorm mates.


Bugger.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-27 05:31:14](#)**  
*Private message to Bill Weasley*


Well, don't ask Ron about Seamus. Unless you want to immediately confirm for him that you're with the wand smugglers.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-27 05:31:55](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

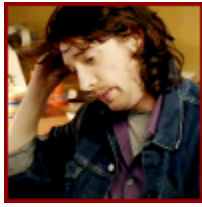
What? Why?




 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-27 05:50:43](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Because Hermione told the Junior Auxiliary she was bringing this information TO the wand

smugglers. So what's he going to think when you suddenly start asking about him all about Seamus?



 [alt\\_bill at 2012-12-27 05:51:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Good point.




 [alt\\_tery at 2012-12-27 05:52:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Anyway, you could ask Fred and George about Seamus, if you need information about him. They're in his House, too, and they know him from the Common Room.



 [alt\\_bill at 2012-12-27 05:53:01](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

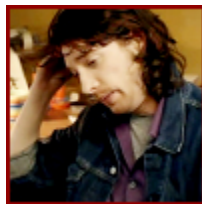
You do realise that by telling me this, you're sort of outing Ron as being a member of the Junior Auxiliary, don't you?



 [alt\\_tery at 2012-12-27 05:53:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

I have a hunch he's maybe, uh, sort of on the verge of doing that himself.



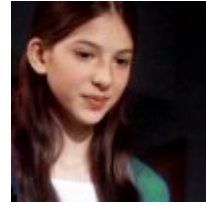
 [alt\\_bill at 2012-12-27 05:54:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Bugger, bugger, bugger.

**2012-12-26 22:12:00**

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



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

So this evening I went to the Burrow and now I'm at Pansy's (because the Stretton's said I could spend the night) but most of today was Boxing Day. So they sent me around to a dozen different estates with new clothes for the muggles and treats and to do favours.

This year I actually felt like I could do some useful things for people.

Let's see. Someone had a burn, and I was able to heal that. Someone said he was tired all the time and I couldn't work out what was wrong but I gave him a talisman with a rune for strength on it, so maybe that'll help. And then everyone at that estate was curious about how runes worked and nearly everyone wanted a rune for SOMETHING, although most of them just wanted one to keep bedbugs away.

At another estate this one woman wanted a love potion because her husband had run off with another woman who worked at the same factory -- I told her I couldn't help her, I don't really like love potions, they seem unethical to me. I mean he shouldn't have run off with the other woman but it should be his choice, anyway.

The last place I visited was the farm with the sheep where all those babies had measles last spring.

There were a few people who wanted favours but also, ALL the families whose children had been sick were there with their children and they said they were so glad it was me who came around this year because they wanted to show me how big their children were now, and how they were healthy and strong and had recovered completely. And they had a gift for ME, a little charm for my charm bracelet that someone had made out of silver. I'm not sure where they got the silver for it, it seemed rude to ask. It's a Rod of Asclepius -- it's a muggle symbol of healing. A snake coiled around a staff.


The Bakers -- those are the ones whose baby died -- were there too. They both gave me hugs and said that they still appreciated everything I did for them.

They said they didn't need anything but I'd been scribing runes on

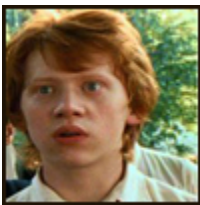
things, right, so I made little runes for all the children to wear with the 'health' rune (not that those are foolproof or no wizards would ever catch colds, right? but they're something. Say, Justin, do you have one?)


---



 **alt\_terry** at [2012-12-27 14:34:14](#)  
(no subject)

I think that's wonderful, Sally-Anne. To have them treat you like that, like a real Healer who helped them. I bet that made you feel pretty good.



 **alt\_ron** at [2012-12-27 18:01:01](#)  
*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

I keep thinking about all this. What you told me and Pansy about how it feels to be able to do something, but not be able to really change things.

We have to figure out how. We have to start making a difference. Even if it's small things, we need a plan and we need to figure out what we can do. I mean, I know. The first thing is still to stay in school and learn as much as we can. It's why I'm working hard at Dolohov's stuff and why I care about Defence and CCF, even when it's hard to stomach a lot of what we're supposed to do. Especially now with Umbridge in charge.

(You know, I've got a bad feeling about this next YPL thing because of what she said about its being like CCF challenges again. Remember the one last winter that went pear shaped?)

Anywiz, What I'm saying is I know we have to learn everything they'll teach us, so we're ready if we ever have to stand up to them. When we have to, because it is when not if.

But we also have to figure out what we can do that will make the most difference. Like should you be taking Madam Pomfrey up on learning what she can teach you about Healing or should you be working for Professor Dolohov? Which one will put you on the way to do the most? And what should I do?

You know, I was going to ask Dad all this... and now I'm thinking I'm going to go ahead and ask Mum. About what they really do and how I



can help and what will put me in the best place to help. It's stupid that we don't talk about it. How am I supposed to know what to go into, what job to try to get? I mean, I can't smuggle kids out of the camps yet, but I could try to work in a camp, I guess. Or I could be trying to get in with the right people to get a job like Percy's, working for one of Council wizards so I'd be able to spy on them. Um, not that that's what Percy's doing. He's definitely not. But I could try to get Professor Dolohov to tutor me and see if he'd put in a good word with one of them so I'd be working somewhere that I could make a difference. Like Dad.

And there's Mr Selwyn.

But see. We need to know what we should be training for. Now. And I'm really done just pretending I don't know what Mum and Dad do. I want Mum to know I know and that she can count on me. I'm in. For whatever I can do. But I've got to start doing it.



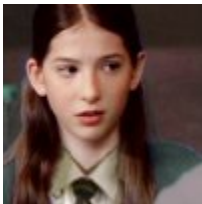
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-27 21:23:08](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

Yes.

I know what you mean.

And you're exactly right. We should know what they need from us, so that we can get ready.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-27 23:59:39](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Sally Anne Perks and Pansy Parkinson*

I've been thinking about this all day.

About what Justin heard Professor Dolohov say. And

I don't know if I'm brave enough to be on the Council and a Wand Smuggler, like we think Headmistress McGonagall is. (She was in Gryffindor, you know.)

But I could try. Maybe.

It wouldn't be soon, anyway.





 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2012-12-28 00:54:08](#)  
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

No, I haven't put the health rune into anything yet, but that's a smashing idea.

I did take long enough to inscribe runes into my new shoes to help keep them from wearing out, as well as one to waterproof them. Supposedly there's already a spell to keep them comfortable.

I say, it must feel gratifying to see that the families you helped are doing well, even the Bakers, in their way.

Are you going to be able to go to Diggory's get-together tomorrow?

-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 00:58:50](#)  
(no subject)

I think so.

**[2012-12-27 10:32:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private Message to Padfoot*

I'm half tempted to skip taking the wolfsbane this month.




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

It might be nice, you know. Not to have to grieve, or worry about Bill, or worry about the Order, or think about....any of it.

---



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-27 16:39:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Could do. Run round the forest like old times.

Do you feel it coming on already? The aches? The symptoms?



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-27 16:44:01](#)**  
(no subject)


I was rather imagining I'd lurk in the cellar behind a nice, secure door.

The forest sounds even more appealing.

And yeah. It's one of the months without a proper night-time moon, and if it weren't for -- everything, you know, I'm not sure I'd even transform.

But my left elbow is aching. And I couldn't sleep last night. Though that might have been everything else.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-27 16:55:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Elbow is it? That's what we're calling it nowadays? (And Morgana knows, I *know* you couldn't sleep. Didn't I feel you tossing, punching the pillow, lying there staring? Next time I'll ask to inspect your elbow,

then.)

See, if you go down cellar, you'll get bored. And then you'll want

something to read and then you'll transform and rip it to shreds and then you'll be upset come morning ... Easier to go chase foxes or hunt wild claggs than counsel a weeping werewolf. Way less boring, too.

Only one problem. Scarpering off on Dora and Ellie, when we might not be back until Saturday.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-27 17:10:14](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Didn't someone leave a copy of 'Intra Profundis' at the beer garden last week? I could take THAT into the cellar with me. It'll be no loss!

Scarpering off on Dora and Ellie could certainly be a problem, you're right about that. Dora's very understanding but I think she'd prefer I take my wolfsbane like I'm supposed to. And I can't blame her.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-27 17:12:57](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Always the responsible prefect, you.

Right, well, then.

Bring your elbow back over and let's have a look.

**2012-12-27 10:33:00**

*Order Only: Alliances*

Snape asked if I know anything about alliances amongst the Death Eaters. Can't say that there's much I'm certain of, but reckon I could offer some speculation.



 [alt\\_macnair](#)

The truest alliance in the council is between all of those who fought and risked their lives to bring Voldemort into power. Call them the old guard, if you like, though some of them, like Crouch Jr., are younger than I am. I've said it before, but the core of that lot see each other as family (and are family, in some cases), despite their surface differences. The group Miss Granger reported on represents that core, more or less. I reckon Antosha's return has united them more closely than ever before.

And then there's the others on the council who slipped in as the pieces of the Protectorate fell into place. They didn't risk much or contribute to the fight, but they have benefited by aligning themselves with the powers that be. The old guard regards them as scavenging opportunists, lacking in the strong pureblood ideals that characterise the old guard.

Looking at Miss Granger's report, I'd say that some of the old guard might feel threatened by those in the new, though it's hard to say - might just be aiming to remind the newer folk of their place on the rungs. Either way, it's good that there's tension in the ranks. For us, that is. Means they're distracted. Though it'd be better yet if there were fissures within the old guard itself.

Like I said, they're family to one another, but doesn't mean they don't have their weak spots. If you ask me, Lestrangle is one of them. The younger one, that is. Maybe Selwyn and Rosier, as well. Even Malfoy, if you press right. Not Bellatrix and not Crouch, Jr, though.

Interesting that Malfoy says going to court is dangerous. I doubt that's much to do with Strangeweale or Glendower, and more down to the Lord Protector's state of mind.

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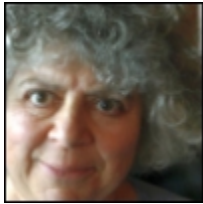


 **alt\_severus** at [2012-12-27 18:36:11](#)  
(no subject)

Interesting.

I agree with you about Rabastan Lestrage, or at least as he presents himself at Hogwarts. The question, of course, is if Aurora Sinistra's Hufflepuffness is wearing off on him, or if his Death Eaterhood is wearing off on her. (I will note that she and Dolohov have got rather close, rather quickly; I have seen them exchanging books at table frequently.) Can you think of any methods that might be brought to bear on him? I do not think we can hope to turn any of that lot, but there is the chance we might splinter their solidarity.

As terrible for the country as an insane Dark Lord might be -- if he is beginning to succumb to his profligate use of the Dark Arts, it can only sow further dissent in the ranks. Perhaps if we wait long enough, the Dark Lord might take care of his followers for us.



 **alt\_pomona** at [2012-12-27 19:10:46](#)  
(no subject)

Welcome to some of the things that keep me up at night, Severus.

On my worse nights, I think it is both. And she has a streak of unrelenting pragmatism that's grown more obvious. How much of that was the YPL and how much was her Raz, it's hard even for me to tell, and I've known her for twenty years. Poppy and I are trying, truly, to keep her talking, but there's clearly a lot she's not saying to either of us, and we don't want to push too hard and break her trust.

I do think, if you want a way to him, she is one of the better choices. Her or Harry, because she's been quite clear there, that Rabastan wants to do the best by Harry that he can.

There's also a question of how much she knows herself, and how much they're keeping from her, and again, it's near impossible to tell. It's true she's close to Dolohov (and closer than just exchanging books at supper, Severus, she's spending time chatting with him regularly, in private.) But she refuses to get into what, in particular,

they talk about. And she's the same way about many of her conversations with her Raz.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 19:50:54](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose that asking her outright and obliterating her if the answer is not to our tastes would be deemed out of the question.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-12-27 20:16:14](#)  
(no subject)

Part of me is so deeply tempted. And part of me is appalled.

~~I want to think she'd do the right thing, given the~~  
knowledge



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-27 19:40:07](#)  
(no subject)

Sinistra scarcely gave me the time of day at Hogwarts, so I don't know but what I observed from a distance.

No more than cordial to witches within ten years of her own age (Hooch, Carpenter, Acton). Drawn to well-connected men with golden tongues, if Raz and Antosha are any indication. Absorbed in books and cerebral activities. More concerned with her students private lives and personal welfare than most.

Might be possible to bring her under the council's scrutiny, which could test Raz's loyalty. Though I doubt Poppy and Pomona would get behind that.

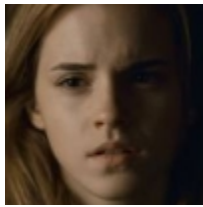
Far as I know, Raz's only passions in life were quidditch and women, and his brother and sister-in-law more or less forced him into the circle of Death Eaters. Wasn't until Evan Rosier was killed that he appeared fully committed to their cause. His apparent fondness for Harry, and for his niece and nephew, is an aspect to consider.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 19:49:35](#)  
(no subject)

I would argue it well past time to enlist Mr Potter amongst our ranks, or at very least in our plans, were it not certain to lead to further caterwauling about involving children -- scruples the Dark Lord and his servants do not share, mind you.

Though the children do seem to be determined to involve themselves.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2012-12-27 20:11:24](#)  
(no subject)

Can I say something about that, sir?

The thing is, that as much as I agree about Harry, he's so close to Draco. And Draco's keeping loads of secrets from his father, it's true, but if we decided to offer Harry membership in the Order then he'd want to ask Draco as well. He just wants to include him in everything, and--well.


You can see how that's a problem. At least, right now.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-27 20:16:17](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Potter may need to learn that he cannot always get what he wants.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-27 20:24:51](#)  
(no subject)

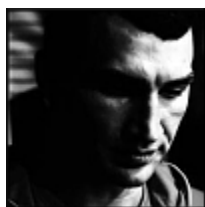
Who says he's not included in the plan?

Why else do you think he's coming to you for lessons?

I'd love to induct him tomorrow, if it were possible but the fact is that Hermione's right about young Malfoy. To be fair, I think Draco's coming round to it but he and Miss Parkinson still have a

blind spot for Lucius bloody Malfoy. Until something shakes that, it's unlikely we could trust them completely.

As for Harry, the kid's more than aware of his responsibilities in this whole mess. Too aware of it, if you ask me. If he joins, we'd better have a better plan in place to help him out than Mordred-accursed Occlumency lessons.



 [alt\\_macnair](#) at [2012-12-27 20:47:08](#)

*(no subject)*

The Malfoys love their son, have spoilt him since he came into the world, and Lucius seems to have given the Parkinson girl similar amounts of attention.

If Voldemort had been able to offer a similar show of support and love for Harry, you'd have a much tougher case on your hands as well, I reckon.

Where the Malfoys went wrong is in handing their son over as the target for Voldemort's disappointment and anger at Harry. Course, that might also be where they went right.

If Miss Granger is concerned that Harry's decisions hinge too much on Draco Malfoy, perhaps we ought to encourage her to sever them apart. Might be easier than convincing Draco to go against his Father.

Unless there's some way of showing him what his father really is. That tends to work wonders.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-12-27 20:11:47](#)

*(no subject)*

To be fair to Aurora, I think it's more about interest than age (though I admit, she does have a fondness for charming and intelligent men - Alcor's fault, that, really.) Until she took up with Raz, she had no interest at all in Quidditch, and you know that's at least three-quarters of what Rolanda wants to talk about. And she's got no patience for Divination at all.

As to Gwendolyn, no, they've never been close and less so since



that mess with Raz the beginning of his first year teaching. But even before that, I think Auri never could forgive Gwendolyn for not being Filius. Can't say I blame her at all there. (And I miss him more than ever, this week.)

As to bringing her under greater scrutiny - no. First, if we get it wrong, at all, it's the surest way to lose her as an option forever. Probably her Raz, too, and quite possibly others.

Look, she was ducking talking to us on Friday night, but I know she cancelled her plans with students and one of her exams, and I don't think she would have solely for Arthur's death. I think something happened then - at Court, I mean. We didn't get much chance to talk at Arthur's memorial, but she had that wariness I've seen a couple of times before. That something unusual had happened.

As to Raz's loyalty, there, you're right. She's said he's nearly a Hufflepuff in it (a compliment, obviously, coming from her) even when there are times it's clearly also frustrating to her. She's let on they don't treat him as well as she thinks he deserves, though she's not given much detail. And perhaps that's a way in, as well.

**[2012-12-27 10:46:00](#)**

*Private message to Professor Dolohov*



Sir --

~~I know you meant well~~

I really appreciate your help.

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

But

~~look if someone's going to be sacrificed~~

Can you change it back, I mean, and NOT substitute someone else for me. Because I didn't -- I mean, I don't, I don't want someone else to die in my place.

So please change it back to the way it was. It's okay, it'll be okay, I mean if I

Please



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2012-12-27 17:19:44](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh, my dear boy. I know that you mean well, and your concern for others does you credit. But the choice is not only yours: we must all make decisions based on what is best for Our Lord's realm, not one individual.

If it eases the pangs of your conscience at all -- we did not make this decision solely to spare your life; there are other considerations at hand. And it is due to those considerations, I am afraid, that Our Lord has ~~agreed~~ dictated the substitution. The die has been cast; matters cannot be changed.

I do, however, have full faith in your ability to do what is required. Stephen has likely already told you that there are several things we can do to put the majority of the difficult magic in our hands, not yours -- if you have any questions you have only to ask. I will be calling upon you this afternoon to provide additional detail and to help you begin your preparations.

Regards,  
Antonin



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-27 17:21:34](#)  
(no subject)

But

He says I have to

~~I don't think I can. I mean I have on animals but~~

~~Why does it have to be me that~~

I don't know if I can. Do what's required. I know you have faith in me and so does Mr Rosier but what if I can't?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-27 17:42:55](#)  
(no subject)

Do not worry. If you do prove incapable, there are alternate methods that can be used without disturbing the rite.

~~However, I would not like to see Our Lord's reaction should you~~

Worry and fear can be antithetical to the state of mind necessary to be able to cast. I would suggest that you spend some time working through the meditation exercises we've been using in class -- if the sitting and reflective meditations prove difficult to sustain through your current state of mind, adapt the balance and movement meditations for walking or flying. Tomorrow afternoon, before we depart for the ritual site, I will talk you through a meditation that may be helpful as well.

Courage, Mr Finnigan. You can do this: I am almost never wrong in my evaluation of my students' capabilities.

Regards,  
Antonin

**2012-12-27 18:58:00**

*Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy*



Girls,

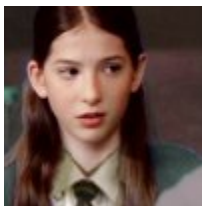
I'm simply fraught with distress over what to do about the Revue casting! I've done all I can to try to convince Gerald to re-cast the part of Guy Brotherton, but he's flat told me that he won't do it unless he hears from Ron Weasley that he doesn't want the part. He says that Weasley is exactly how he pictured Guy Brotherton, and he won't consider someone else until he has no choice but to do so.

 [alt\\_daphne](#)

But I haven't heard a peep out of Weasley about the Revue - and understandably so! I'm not even certain that he's aware that he has the lead, let alone that he wants it or not.

I'm - I'm very sorry to trouble you about it. Normally I'd have no problem inquiring myself, but, I don't know Weasley very well, and it seems quite graceless to bother him about such things at a time like this.

Do either of you know if he realises he's been cast as the lead? Do you think he'll want to continue on in the part?

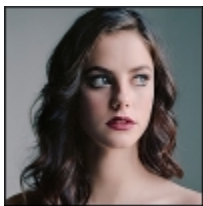


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2012-12-28 04:39:19**

*(no subject)*

Oh...I don't know, actually, if anyone has told him. And I don't know if he'll still want to do it.

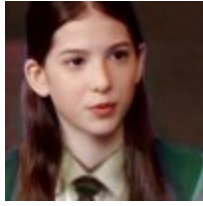
I'll ask him. (I should have told him before that he had the part, but I didn't quite know how to bring it up.)



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2012-12-28 04:45:27**

*(no subject)*

I'm sorry, Sally Anne. I don't mean to make things awkward, but I just...really wouldn't know how to bring it up. And now you're telling me that you don't know how to bring it up, either! Bother...



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 04:49:22](#)  
(no subject)


No, it's okay. I went ahead and wrote him a private message (along with Pansy) to see what he said. He hasn't answered yet. I'll let you know what he says (or maybe he'll write you his own message.)



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-28 04:56:37](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you so much! I truly do appreciate it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-28 22:32:19](#)  
(no subject)

We talked it over, the three of us. He was a bit surprised, and wasn't expecting so big a part, but he said he wanted to do it. I think he was a bit nervous about the dancing, but only because he wants the production to come off well and he wouldn't want to spoil things, which probably means he'll practise a lot, which can't hurt.

I think

Well, he wants to be doing something. To get his mind off things. He's said he's looking forward to being back at school, so I think this would be a similar sort of thing.

We'll make sure he comes to the meet-up in New London.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-28 23:23:33](#)  
(no subject)

Oh! But Well, I'm so pleased to hear that. I hadn't thought about the Revue being an opportunity for him to focus on something other than recent events, but now that you bring it up, I see how it would be useful, as a sort of distraction.

Gerald is an excellent teacher. I'm sure he could teach just about anyone to dance! Well, perhaps not Millie, but that's to be expected.

**2012-12-27 21:50:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sirius Black and Poppy Pomfrey*



 [alt\\_severus](#)

If you bear any affection for Minerva, you are needed *immediately*.

Poppy and I arrived to confront her regarding her current state and found her extremely inebriated, transformed into her feline form, and huddled in the corner of her drawing room; Poppy says the level of alcohol in her system is likely to be fatal to the smaller form. We need assistance in reversing the Animagus transformation.

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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-28 02:56:57**  
(no subject)

Right.

You mean her house in London?

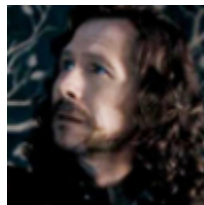
Is the Floo open?



 [alt\\_severus](#) at **2012-12-28 02:59:12**  
(no subject)

Yes, and yes.

Poppy is doing what she can, but --



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-28 03:11:31**  
(no subject)

Try putting out a saucer of milk. I'm not joking; it ought to keep her calm.

I'm just getting Bea to settle down, I'll be half a tick.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-28 03:15:09](#)  
(no subject)

If you are unable to free yourself from your domestic bliss long enough to keep Minerva from dying of alcohol poisoning, you might prove yourself useful and at least tell me the spell.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-28 03:21:21](#)  
(no subject)

Severus, stop impressing us all with your massive ability to miss the point and do as I'm telling you: The cat will drink the milk; it will keep her in one place; the milk will help start absorbing the alcohol until I can get there.

Anyway, Bea's dropped off now so I'm on my way.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-28 03:23:09](#)  
(no subject)

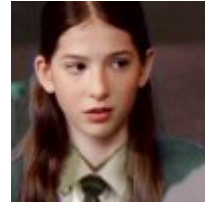
You could have simply said so in the first place.

Regardless: the Floo is open. We are in the drawing room. ~~Hurry.~~



**2012-12-27 22:39:00**

*Private message to Pansy Parkinson  
and Ron Weasley*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**


Ron -- Daphne sent me a message tonight because she was wondering if anyone had talked to you about the revue.

You got cast as the lead. Guy Brotherton. The list went up on Saturday, before all the rest of us got on the train, but of course you weren't there to see.

Daphne is wondering if you're going to want to do it. I know it's not exactly the part you tried out for. Apparently Mr Krumgold was really impressed by your audition. Anyway she asked if Pansy or I could ask you, because she couldn't think of a way to ask you that wasn't tactless (and really that's why I didn't tell you before, who wants to be thinking of the school play when....yeah.)

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 **alt\_ron** at **2012-12-28 04:49:02**  
(no subject)

Wot?

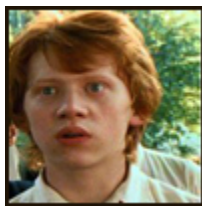



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2012-12-28 04:50:37**  
(no subject)

The school play. That you did that brilliant funny monologue to try out for.

Krumgold wants you to play the lead.

Think you'll be up to it?



 **alt\_ron** at **2012-12-28 04:58:15**  
(no subject)

Um. I don't know.

Wait. Are you taking the piss?

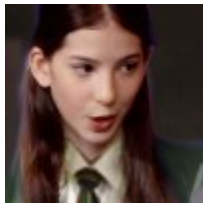
I mean, the lead?

You are teasing, right?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 05:04:26](#)  
(no subject)

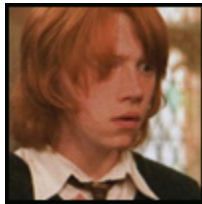
No, I'm not.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 05:05:15](#)  
(no subject)

I mean if you really don't believe me you could ask someone else.

Like Daphne. Or Susan Bones.



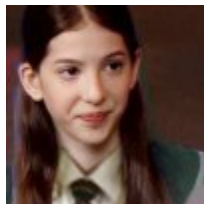
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-28 05:11:38](#)  
(no subject)

I got the lead? In Greengrass's revue?

Wait. Am I meant to dance, then?

I mean, singing's alright. As long as they don't mind if I make it funny. But I don't know anything about dancing.

You remember when Madam Pomfrey and Professor Siz tried to teach us before the ball? Yeah. I wanted the floor to open and swallow me. Totally.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 05:17:40](#)  
(no subject)

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. I don't know, but you could ask Daphne. Pansy might also know.

4. I do remember and you weren't as bad as you thought.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-28 05:40:45](#)  
(no subject)

Erm.

Why would they have picked me? I mean, there must've been loads of people really going for that part. Like Zabini, right?

I mean, it doesn't make any sense, does it?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2012-12-28 05:43:45](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Krumgold and Professor Carpenter probably picked you because you were really good.

Blaise is also in it but he has a smaller role -- he's playing Hugh.

Oh and you know Justin's also in it, if you wanted to ask him any questions.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-28 15:31:50](#)  
(no subject)


I think they just wanted the best person for the part, Ron.

And they'd teach you the dancing bit.

I think it's less a matter of whether you can do it or not, because you totally can, and more a matter of whether you want to or not.

I think it could be fun, but if you weren't feeling up for it, that's perfectly understandable.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-28 16:39:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Did Greengrass say that? They thought I was best for the part?

Huh.


I wish he wasn't called Guy, though. Guy Brotherton. Eh.

Course I'll do it. I mean, once we're back at school, why not? I'm actually starting to wish we were back, y'know? I think I'm going to tell Mum I want to go to Diggory's Quidditch thing. I hope she doesn't mind. I mean, it's not like we can really have our usual thing here. Or, we could, but it wouldn't be-

Yeah.

Anywiz. Are you going this afternoon?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2012-12-28 17:29:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Someone has to cheer you lot on and bring cocoa and sandwiches, don't they?

I'll be there.

And we'll tell Daphs.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2012-12-28 18:19:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm coming today. I'll see you there.

**2012-12-27 23:20:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

Sorry, puppy. I had to dash out in response to Snape's distress call. He and Poppy took it upon themselves to confront Minerva and--well, Snape came back to find her drunk *and* transformed to her cat form.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

You remember that time that James transformed when he was already too drunk to stand?

Well. The thing is that a stag's a much larger creature than a cat but neither one was made to process alcohol.

Anyway, he needed me to intervene with the *Hominem Reddulio* but we all decided someone better stay and keep an eye on her while he and Poppy start work on a potion. I gather it's some tricky business (and not a few of the ingredients were only just brought to us in the solstice run. Seems you're not the only one who corresponded with Aleks separately). They'll be at it for a while.

Oh, and he's got a shopping list. He might turn up at Doughty Conduit around closing time to raid the private stockroom, now that Aleks' latest shipment has been stowed. Myrrh resin and a particular strain of cardamom and - oh, whatever else he was saying. Wasn't really listening. Anyway, I think we have the cardamom but I'm not sure if we realised it was meant for him, so it might actually have made its way to the shelves.

He wants to run some sort of test on it when it gets here. But now that I think about it, I heard Aleks say something about not being able to get the myrrh resin at a decent price and I had no idea what he was on about at the time - turns out it's for Snape. Maybe we can send Ellie out to beg some from another apothecary.

Well. If you've already transformed, you'll not see this until morning, anyway, but I should be home by then and I'll see you when you wake up.


And if you haven't, I'll be home as soon as I can. Perhaps we'll be lucky and you'll skip a month?

Merciful Morgana, he's growling that this is taking too long. ('Stop

writing sweet nothings, Black. I need an extra pair of hands.' Hmph. I ought to bring one or two of those new albums back with me tomorrow and torture him while I'm cat-sitting!)

---



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-28 04:45:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Not transformed. Yet, anyway.

I was really not expecting to skip this month, considering.

I'm glad I went ahead with the wolfsbane, though.

Anyway. Take whatever time you need. I've told Ellie to let him in to the stockroom when he arrives. Do you know if he'll be coming as Snape or as Milland?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-28 04:49:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry. Well, tomorrow I shouldn't have to answer a peevish summons.

It'll be Snape. His polyjuice wore off a while ago.  
(Pity, since if I've got to be civil to him I'd rather look at Milland than his huge bonce.)



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-28 04:51:49](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll let her know to expect a greasy git, then.

I definitely think this would be a good use for that Madonna album. Except for the part where you'd have to listen to it, too.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-12-28 04:57:12](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I dunno. I think any of the others will do just as well, without that particular drawback. (Just do me a favour and don't leave it out where Ellie can see it - she already made an intrigued noise about the woman's makeup job on the album cover.)

Besides, this way I've half a chance of enjoying my Christmas presents before the new year.



 **alt\_lupin** at [2012-12-28 04:47:09](#)  
(no subject)

And bloody hell.

I keep thinking about what Hermione said about our Juniors wanting to turn spies. And Snape encouraging the idea.

THIS is what it does to people, to try to pass as Death Eaters when they aren't.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2012-12-28 05:06:17](#)  
(no subject)

Well, stop thinking about it. It's the last thing we need, sending a kid in to do an adult's job. We'll find another way.

And as for Minerva - we should never have let things go this long but we'll set her right, now that Poppy's decided it's the best thing to do.

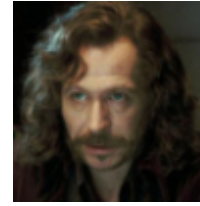
You should try to sleep. You didn't get any rest last night and if you're certain you're going to transform tomorrow then even with the wolfsbane it'll be worse if you're overtired.

Just leave the Floo open for Snivellus and go on to bed.

**2012-12-28 09:45:00**

*Order Only: Status Report*

Weasleys: How are you all? Poppy said she brought your potion yesterday, Bill. Courage, mate. We'll be a little busy tonight but come by the garden if you're in the mood for company, you and Charlie. Molly, you'd be welcome, too. Dora'd love to show you all she's done with the place.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

Next: As far as that meeting Remus asked us all about, it's going to be a couple of days, at least. Well, more than a couple. Bill's busy tonight, of course, and so are Moony and I, and the weekend's a terrible time to leave Ellie alone at Laszlo's Unlimited.

But it's also going to be a while before Minerva's up to it.

We've been at her New London house since last night - Poppy and Severus and I, that is. They tried to intervene in her drinking for good and all and ... it didn't go as they'd hoped.

So, they've spent the last night using slower methods to purge her system, but in the meantime, they plan to brew what amounts to a highly complex potion, which I gather they've not tried before because it could have disastrous results. I guess we've reached the point where the risk is worth it.

Dora, when you can free Ellie or yourself, we need someone to go round the apothecary's on Camden Road. The one near Holloway? I'm reasonably certain they'll have the ingredients our shop hasn't got. I've got a list I can give you. (If buying them doesn't work, then Poppy might have to try to sweet-talk Horace into fetching the items from the Potioneers' Guild and we'd really rather not have to go that route.)

Anyway. With all that in mind, I propose postponing our gathering until after the 1<sup>st</sup>. Other than that I'm not fussed about the date, so if anyone else has a preference, let's hear it. (Hermione, that includes you, kiddo.)

Oh, and if anyone else would care to come take a shift, particularly this evening, I'd be grateful.

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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-28 15:18:41](#)

*Private Message to Alice*

Allie,

I know it's hard, love, but you might want Frank to see this. What she's done to herself. And what we're all having to do to help her survive it.

For what it's worth, I think we're about to be able to force the rest of the Order's hand and include almost all the Jrs, or at least tell them what they already suspect. I'd like to put it on the table, at any rate. So you'll have your Neville in the Order properly. But if that's the case - Circe, I don't want the boy to see his dad going the same way Minerva's been. Remus is blaming it on her double-life and I'm sure that's part of it; Frank's got other pressures but I know one thing plaguing him is what your children must think of you and how they're compelled to behave in front of their peers.

I think an object lesson for him, before his son gets another point of view about him, might be a good thing.

Oh, and remind me to tell you all about arriving to find Severus holding a tabby cat in his lap like he actually might have cared for her. Downright touching, if it weren't so bizarre.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-28 17:25:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Back in the day, he and Fabian and Gideon used to go off on a tear whenever things got to be too much, and I think he just never sorted out any other way to handle it.

It must sound like I'm making excuses for him, but this past week was the first time he's had anything since this summer. He went off after we returned from our family trip where our petition was turned down, and Neville had been obliterated. He had to come back earlier than he'd expected because of the storm that hit us, and even though he'd sobered up as best as he could, Terry Boot could smell it on him.

So he's been trying.

He didn't drink a thing after Emmeline and Benjy and that awful mess in Ireland. Even though he wanted to. I could tell. But Arthur... well. Arthur hit him rather hard.

He's a soldier. In the middle of it all, he does what he must and keeps his head. When he's safe, that's when things get hard.

I know. I know.

It's a liability. And a weakness.

And he knows it too.

And you're right. He ought to see. Maybe it'll make it just that much harder next time around. We'll be by.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:19:44](#)**  
(no subject)

Ellie can go straight away if you'll hand that list through the fire.

When you say the potion they're trying could have disastrous results, what do you mean, exactly?



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:32:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, it's in the drawing room by the grate. Be right there.

Apparently my brain is far too simple to grasp the intricate details (according to someone) but the potion's one of that class where there's no way to be sure it's been brewed correctly short of taking it. (Presumably that's if it's close within a certain margin. I'm sure there are ways to brew it so horribly wrong that anyone would know it's not correct. But I didn't offer that option.) Anyway, the point is that if they're off even by a hair, it not only won't be effective it could have lethal consequences. So you see why Poppy's been resistant to the idea.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-28 15:47:05](#)  
(no subject)

So does that mean-

I think I'd best go for those ingredients myself. I'll make as sure as I'm able they're selling me the best they've got and not passing off near-substitutes.

Ask Poppy if there's anything I need to be especially careful of?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-28 16:10:59](#)  
(no subject)


You're asking me to wade into a professional debate, you know. I think watching Poppy and Snape row over who's better equipped to brew this would be comical, if the stakes weren't so

high.

As it happened, his highness the repugnant prince insisted on answering. Says the myrrh resin's got to be as pure as possible, no additives, oils, perfumes or thickeners, no enhancement of any kind. If the saleswitch claims it's 'extra strength' or anything like that, probably not what we need.

The calamus must come from the Himalayas, Mongolia, or Central Siberia (which I think I already noted on the shopping list but twice told, etc.) and the cardamom we had was 'all wrong' according to his nibs. It's Indian. The strain he wants (needs?) comes from Bhutan or Nepal. In fact, it's black cardamom he really wants, not the other kind. That means the black or brown pods, not the green ones. (Amomum if you need to be technical about it. Sorry but he keeps shouting new information at me, which if he'd told Aleks probably would have saved us all a lot of - hang on.)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-28 16:12:26](#)  
(no subject)

Right.

Oh, and. Probably goes without saying, love, but

being this precise in what you're trying to get might point to what we're trying to make. So you might want to think of a story, should the shop ask loads of questions about why it's so specific.

And maybe when you get back you could stay for a bit and I'll go back and take a break. Mordred, if sitting on Ridley wasn't half this frustrating I don't know how Kingsley and the others managed it.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-28 16:14:58](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Got my instructions.

I'll come there straight away. And, yes, of course, you may go home. I'll stay.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-28 16:32:21](#)  
(no subject)

Black, that you remain incapable of retaining even the smallest bit of information for more than five minutes shall never cease to amaze me.

'Cardamom' are two distinct genera of plant, *Elettaria* and *Amomum*. They are both used in cooking, but only one can be used in this preparation. Miss Tonks, it may be called 'black cardamom', 'red cardamom', or 'Siamese cardamom'. The myrrh must be pure resin, unadulterated and untreated; the descriptor used to be 'ingestible' but in the past several years has started to become 'brewable'; if the price is less than three times the 'unguent' preparation it is not suitable.

The calamus must be *Acorus calamus* and not *Acorus americanus*; the easiest way to ensure this is, as Black already noted, to source it from the Himalayas, Mongolia, or central Siberia.

Those are the only three ingredients that *must* be sourced so exactly, but the remaining ingredients on the list do of course need to be natural and not transfigured or adulterated.

If you are questioned about the potion it will be used in, you may say you are assisting a friend who is uncertain about the

paternity of her child or that a customer believes he or she has been reunited with a long-lost parent and is attempting to brew a potion to confirm: all these ingredients are also used in ancestry potions.




 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:20:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Bad to worse. Do you need another pair of hands, Sirius? I can find some excuse to be away from the castle. (Not that there's many here, either.)

On tonight, I was going to write. I woke up this morning dreaming of a conversation I'd had with Aurora, about one of her exam questions, something about having students calculate their location from the position of the stars. I gather it's fiddly work - that most people, even astronomers, don't touch it after their exams - but could that be of use, somehow?

As to the gathering, between the 1st and the 5th would be fine for me, the children will come back on the 6th.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:30:42](#)**  
(no subject)

That's...an intriguing suggestion, about the stars, Pomona. How would that work, exactly?

It probably would be excessively useful to go back and check the site of the rite afterwards, to see if we could gather any more clues.



 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:50:05](#)**  
(no subject)

Goodness. The part I do remember clearly is that it's what's used for locational magics, that's why they teach it.

She said something about precision mattering, that that's where most of the errors are. It's something about measuring the angle from where you are to a given point in the heavens (more than one is much better). And you need to know the time, as precisely as

you can. You can use any number of stars, or planets, or even the sun or moon, but obviously, you need to know what you're looking at.

Or - I gather it's something where you can sort out the missing piece if you have two of the others: time, angle, and location. Because now I think about it, she was very proud of working out a piece for the punishment for that duelling club, to limit the area affected, and she had the time and the location there, and worked out the angles.

Only, blast. I do remember her saying it's a fairly uncommon skill. There's a few people in the Floo Network office who use it regularly. She does, an astronomer friend of hers, from her year. Maybe a dozen others, in all the Protectorate. (Well, as she said, it's "tedious, fiddly, and not that interesting for most people.")

But maybe if you had a clear memory of it, and we could show it to someone who could work things out, it might be enough?



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-28 15:54:16**

*(no subject)*

Yeah...my NEWTs astronomy class is beginning to come back to me, now.

The potion should help, with getting a clear memory. I hope. I think I have to note the time, particularly. Which might be a bit of a problem, since I won't be wearing a watch. I'm not allowed to bring metal. But if I take particular note of the time when I leave for the rite, and then make a point of looking up and noticing the constellations right when I arrive...yeah. That might do it.

That is, of course, as long as they come to fetch me at night, which is what I'm hoping for. And there's not too much cloud cover.


Very good suggestion, Pomona. I should put it into action. Thanks.



 **[alt\\_pomona](#)** at **[2012-12-28 16:16:46](#)**  
(no subject)


Most welcome, and may it be of use. Seems like, even if it's not perfectly precise, it might give us enough of an idea to scout further?



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-28 17:28:22](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll do another visual check of the sky right when it's time to leave and then note the time when I get back, and that'll give us another point of reference.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:28:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, Poppy delivered the potion, and I'm following Terry's advice about preparation. Guess I'm doing everything I can to be as ready as possible.

About Minerva...I'm dismayed, but not, I'll admit, surprised. I'm very sorry to hear it. Hope the brewing goes well, and the potion helps.

After the 1st is fine with me. And we're flexible as to the exact date. No one is expecting much of any of us for at least a week.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-12-28 15:34:59](#)**  
(no subject)

It would be useful to give us as much notice as possible, though. We're going to have to think of an excuse for all five of us away from the home for an evening without Ginny or Percy asking questions.

I'm doing...as well as can be expected, Sirius, thank you. I might stop by Laszlo's some evening, that's a good thought. Although not tonight, of course. I want to be available for Bill when he comes home.

Oh, poor Minerva! I'm sure you're taking as good care of her as

possible, but do give her my love. If...if she's capable of understanding.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-28 15:38:09](#)  
(no subject)

At least with us and Lee, we can use the Mutual Excuse. Tell his parents he's over at our house, and tell Ginny and Percy we're over at his.



**[2012-12-28 12:53:00](#)**

*Private Message to Percival Weasley*

I hope you had a decent Christmas, despite everything.



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

I wasn't going to bother you again but the landlord presented me with a notice parchment, because you'd told him that we're definitely breaking the lease and he wants to be able to show starting next Wednesday.

I never said I was *going* to break the lease, I just told you what he was *asking* in order to break it. In fact, I've already spoken to Karoline Moon and she's going to share until the wedding in a few months, and by then Fae will be able to afford moving out of her parents' as well.

Look. Whatever you said to sort it out with him--it's not that I don't appreciate it, I mean, neither of us could have afforded what he wanted. But as you've made it clear that I'm on my own, then I've already made sure it shan't be a problem.

The only trouble is that now he seems to think he'll need your permission to replace your name with Karo's, since it's not a proper sublet, it's a substitution.

So, I'm really sorry to trouble you, honestly, but if you'll let him know that the change is fine, he'll change it. Today, if you could do? He's going out to Chelsea for New Year's so he'll not be in town on Monday.



 **[alt\\_percy](#) at [2012-12-28 18:09:55](#)**

*(no subject)*

Oh. Oh, I see. I'm sorry, I didn't intend to create additional trouble for you.

I'm...pleased...that Karo will be able to step in and help solve the problem.

I will contact the landlord and get it straightened out.

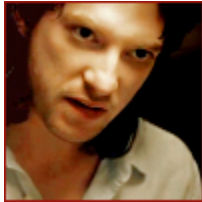
**2012-12-28 15:33:00**

*Private message to Bill Weasley*

I'll be picking you up at five. From the Burrow, I assume. Let me know if you have any questions, or if you've changed your mind about being there.



 [alt\\_selwyn](#)



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 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2012-12-28 21:49:17**

*(no subject)*

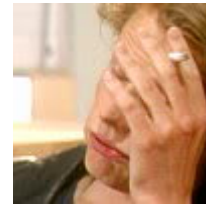
From the Burrow, yes. I haven't changed my mind.

I shall be ready.

**[2012-12-28 19:58:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Well. That's over, at least. Judging by the way Bill's reacting -- flipping back and forth between utter horror, and cold and vacant -- it was even worse than we'd expected. ~~He just keeps staring at the wall and~~




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

Poppy -- he says he could really use a drink (or "another drink" -- apparently Dolohov took him out right after to answer his questions over a pint, Bill said there might be something useful in there but he couldn't bring himself to talk about it yet). Will it interact or interfere with the potion if I give him a splash? I won't unless you tell me it's all right, and I'm not going to let him pour for himself right now, but if I've ever seen a man in need of a shot, it's him.

All the rest of you -- he's fine, it's over, he's back here at the Burrow, we won't be heading out anywhere else tonight. Mum, Fred, George, we're out back in Dad's the shed -- I conjured a cot and I'm going to try to get him to sleep it off. Don't come back here. Don't come back, don't let Percy or Ginny or Ron come back, as far as you know we're in New London. Trust me.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-12-29 02:26:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Understood, dear.

Just...just take care of him, dear.

Oh, I know you will. And thank you.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-29 03:23:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

He's coming out of it a bit. Faster than he expected, really. He grabbed his journal and started writing a little bit ago, so I think you'll be hearing his version in a few minutes.

I'm mostly trying to stay out of his way. He's ~~really fucking scary~~ right now



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-12-29 04:09:42](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, Charlie. I just read what he wrote. I'm in tears.  
I don't even know what to say to him.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-29 04:11:26](#)  
(no subject)

It's okay. I'll sit with him for the rest of the night.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-29 04:33:23](#)  
(no subject)

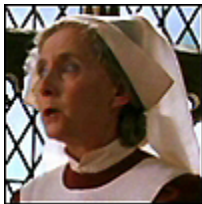
Especially make sure he's kept warm.  
It will help as much as anything.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-29 04:36:03](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Terry. I will.

We're going to play chess for a bit.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-29 05:46:26](#)  
*Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

I wish I'd seen this earlier. I apologise that I did not.

It would have been best if you had kept him from drinking, but if you did not, I doubt any long term damage will have been done. A somewhat more difficult night, I think, but it shouldn't prove life-threatening.




 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-29 06:12:46](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

It's all right. I didn't think it would be a good idea, anyway, so I told him I wasn't going to give him another drink unless you said it was all right, and you not answering immediately gave me time to distract him.

Merlin, I really hope he'll be all right in the morning. The look in his eye is right devastating.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-29 06:38:13](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

Merlin's tears, he's really getting testy now. Think the potion's wearing off. He's about bit my head off twice in ten minutes, and he's pacing like a penned dragon -- I wouldn't be surprised if he opened his mouth and flame came out.

I really hope this is normal.

I'm up for distracting him as long as I need to, but if you've got any suggestions on how to lure him to sleep, I'd appreciate it.

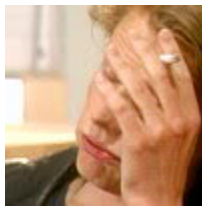


 **alt\_poppy** at [2012-12-29 07:51:50](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

It is the magic, alas. I doubt you will be able to gentle him while it remains so high in his blood and bones. Unless-

What do you do to quell a dragon in high blood? If you can think of a parallel action, try it. No harm in it.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-29 08:14:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

A meal and some exercise, for the most part, although the exercise is usually of the sort that isn't suitable in this situation, if you take my meaning. And we're mostly doing that already, so I

suppose there isn't much else.

(Although sometimes we have to round up a dozen wands and stun the poor thing to let him or her sleep it off. Which I don't think you'd advise, or he'd let me do -- and I don't want to have to try to get the drop on him right now. Not when he's like this.)


I've got a bit more food and tea into him, and convinced him Snape might know what he's talking about with the standing barefoot on the ground thing, though he snapped at me about the cold, too. (I reminded him we have warming charms for a reason.) Don't know if it really helped, but I figured it couldn't hurt. Snape's a right bastard sometimes, but I don't think he'd try to hurt Bill deliberately, and this is the sort of thing he knows about, right?

Anyway, Bill's calmed down a bit, and he actually won the last chess game, which means he's back to thinking about his moves strategically instead of just attacking straight out. I'm figuring on bringing up the idea of sleep again in another half-hour or so.

(I'm so tired myself right now that I think my eyes are crossing. But I told him I'd stay with him until he's asleep, at least. We've two transfigured cots out here to sleep on. I'm not letting him back in the house until ~~I know my brother's still in there~~ he's feeling better.)

How's Minerva doing? I forgot to ask.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-29 09:57:49](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

Minerva is gravely ill. We can scarcely find her within the wizened core of what was once so robust a mind and magic. She has very nearly lost herself.

But we are not giving her up, nor allowing her to give up herself.

It is a pitched battle at the moment, and it is unclear whether we are advancing or going down to ignominious defeat.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-30 03:58:45**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

I ... there aren't really words. I hadn't realised how bad things were. (Well, and we've been caught up in our own troubles this week.)

Is there ... is there anything we could do? To help, I mean. I saw Snape was being picky about potions ingredients with Tonks and Sirius; do you need a few hours of someone else running around and trying to locate the right things? I'm memorable, so maybe that wouldn't work, but really, anything I can do, just tell me.

On this end, I finally got Bill to sleep around 4:30 in the morning or so, with me not far behind, and then the damn rooster woke us at dawn. But Mum was awake when we stumbled into the house, and she fussed over us a bit (in the good way, I mean, not the unhealthy way) and fed us and sent us back to bed. I think, actually, that having Bill to worry over these past two days has helped her a little.

Actually, there's a thought. You might want to ask Mum to help you take care of Minerva for a few days.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at 2012-12-30 04:32:16**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

Thank you for the offer and your suggestion about your mother. I think it best to wait until tomorrow and then we'll see where we are in this process. I may call on Molly then



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-30 04:51:45**

*Re: Private Message to Charlie Weasley*

I'll keep my fingers crossed for you. And for her.

And let's all hope the new year is a better one.





 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-29 13:07:05](#)

*Private Message to Charlie*

How is he? That was an awfully brave thing he did, but- Well. How is he?

And how are you, Mr Faithful Sidekick? Staying up and seeing him through. That can't have been easy.

We're all right here. My blokes are sleeping it off after the moon. I may be going back to McGonagall's, I'm not sure. Depends on Alice and Frank, but I'm home seeing my girl now. She's an early bird, that one. And always sunniest first thing, so it's nice to have that time with her. She'd send a Hiya if she understood about these journals, so you can imagine she's giving you that giant grin of hers and waving at her favourite Uncle Charlie.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2012-12-30 04:49:44](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

Ta, luv. I don't know how you manage to do it, but you somehow always know when I need to hear happy cheerful things and provide them in spades.

Tell Miss Bea hullo from me, and give her a few kisses on account. I'll stop in and make good on them in a few days once things calm down here a bit.

(And, you know, I was just saying to Poppy that Mum seems to be doing a bit better yesterday and today, having Bill to fuss over. Maybe sometime later this week you should drop by for a visit, and bring Little Miss Early Bird along with you. We can maneuver her into Mum's hands and pretend that wasn't our purpose all along.)

I won't lie, last night while I was sitting with him, all I could think about was how they say casting the Dark Arts hurts your soul to do. And watching him pace, and snap at me, and lose his temper at jokes that would have made him laugh two days ago, well. Only the second time in my life I've ever prayed for anything, but I was praying with every bit of me that just being at a nightmare like that wouldn't be enough to do it.

But when he woke up this morning -- afternoon, really -- he was a little better. Quieter, and I still don't like the look in his eye, but a little better. I'm mostly trying to keep him away from Ron and Ginny



so he doesn't bite their heads off, since they wouldn't understand. He can take it out on me all he's a mind to, it just rolls right off, but I don't want him saying something to them he'd regret later.

And once this is all done with, and he's back to his usual sunny self, I'll trade in all the favours he's been racking up!



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2012-12-30 05:37:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Charlie*

I'll say a prayer for that, too. I think I know what that is, more or less.

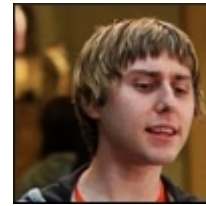
Because, Charlie, I know they're not making it up, those people who say Dark Magic changes your soul. It's the one thing I ever agreed with Mr Crouch about. And I've seen it over the years with Barty. He was never nice. I don't mean that. But he wasn't twisted back then. Just cold and unsatisfied with his family. (That was mutual, on his father's part, at least--his mother just wanted Barty to be someone he wasn't, which isn't quite the same.). But then he started learning 'the Arts' (they sat that like it's painting or dancing, you know), and he changed. He got hateful and took to holding grudges that were never cleared, and he got more and more violent. And stealthy about it, too. Every time he'd come home for hols, he was scarier.

**2012-12-28 20:25:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Draco,

I say, sorry not to have caught you on Boxing Day. I suppose Blackmoor Park is large enough that one was always in another part of the house, what?



 **alt\_justin**

I thought perhaps we might have a chance to chat today, as well, but it went dark before you lot stopped flying. (Well done, by the way! That last set of goals before Marvolo caught the Snitch? Well impressive.)

Remy and I do plan to join the rest of the cast, what, but I don't expect that will afford any privacy. Did you still wish to have a word? I say, old chap, I'm quite at your service.

-Justin Finch-Fletchley



 **alt\_draco** at **2012-12-29 01:47:27**  
(no subject)


Ah, yes. That was quite a lengthy tour you and Hydra took. The house and grounds are large, it's true.

Cheers on the flying. I'll have to remember to tone it down during the non-competitive matches, though - as it is I'll be putting ice charms on my shoulder tonight.

No, the Revue meeting will no doubt be focused on the Revue. What I had to say to you concerned the words in your journal following Arthur Weasley's death. I agreed with the sentiment - particularly about Bumbridge's disgusting conduct - but thought you ought to know that she's far too stupid to be chastised into changing her behaviour just because she's been called out on it. I've heard enough from my Father about her to know that. Her ears aren't just deaf, they're stuffed up with the sound of her own idiotic convictions, and after what happened in Ireland with the IMA she's feeling terrifically smug. Seems she's spent the last few years cautioning everyone about the dangers of subversive activities during Bonfire Night, and now that its come to pass she thinks her wisdom unsurpassed, or some such.

So - don't expect any great change, there.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-29 02:01:08](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I agree, it's far too much to hope she'd see a single comment (particularly from one who wasn't even raised within the Protectorate, what), and reconsider her actions. That's no reason to let those actions stand unopposed, however.


I'm bally well reasonably confident she'll not even notice the rebuke. And I say, if she does, one can always claim to have been confused over her etiquette lessons.

But thank you for your concern, of course. I heartily appreciate the advice. Jolly kind of you.

Other than a sore shoulder, are you enjoying your holidays?

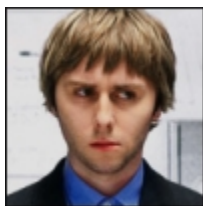
-Justin



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2012-12-29 02:20:54](#)**  
(no subject)

You're probably right this time, but those who make a habit of speaking out against the actions of those in power can end up being scrutinised in unpleasant ways. That's why you won't see any such noise from me. I would even regret the comment I left on your journal entry, had it not been so satisfying. Would have been wiser to reserve the message for a more exclusive and succinct form of communication.

Enjoying them well enough. Last year was better, I must say.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2012-12-29 02:43:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Quite. Although it's fair to say that not everyone has access to that sort of message. Nor such a terse way with words, what? I'd have considered

making it a private message, except that I wanted all the Weasleys to see it at once. But then I suspect if more people *could* use alternate tools, they *would* do.

Last year was certainly more pleasant, with the Yule Ball and the excitement. I've no doubt the Weasleys would much rather it be last year than this. Though Ron at least seemed to be able to let things go for a while when he was flying. That was good to see. Pansy says he intends to stay in the revue, as well. I say, I think that's a good thing for him.

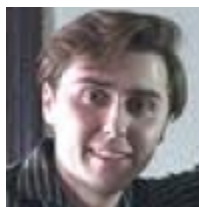
-Justin




 **alt\_draco** at **2012-12-29 02:51:22**  
(no subject)

Alternate tools, too right. Been giving those a lot of thought lately.

Does he, now? I'm sure Daphs will tear herself to pieces, then - she's utterly on edge about playing opposite someone who's just suffered a family tragedy, and hasn't much theatre experience, at that. Oh well, I'm sure she'll manage in the end, though I think she was prepared to next ask you and Smith if you'd willingly go to Krumgold to request the part.



 **alt\_justin** at **2012-12-29 03:07:32**  
(no subject)

Have you? I say, I think alternatives often come in handy. I'm sure we'll come up with numerous applications, given time.

I've no doubt that someone as consummately professional as Miss Greengrass imagines herself to be has nothing to worry about. But then, I do hope her expectations for the revue aren't terribly high. They can't be if she was considering asking *me* to request an even larger role than the one I've been assigned, what!

-Justin



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2012-12-29 03:13:14](#)  
(no subject)

As useful as these journals are, they do have their limits - at least as currently designed. For some more than others.

Daphne's expectations are always high, and she almost always manages to meet them. Come to one of her parties sometime and you'll see what I mean. Anyway, I'm sure you're a better performer than you think.

**2012-12-28 20:27:00**

*Order Only: Report*

Roughly an hour.

Potion effective. Sight keen-edged, hearing sharp. ~~Remote, numb~~. Selwyn brought me via side-along. Noted the time, and carefully scanned the sky as soon as I arrived. Luck. Skies clear. Arrived soon enough after sunset that was able to identify westerly direction from fading twilight.



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Did not recognise location. Suspect island or coast: could smell the sea. Standing stone. Preparations underway already: detected scent of smoke, unrecognised origin. Searched. Selwyn confiscated my wand, placed it in bag of black material. Silk. Felt the slubs under my fingers. He gave bag to Bellatrix Lestrange. Identified Barty Crouch Jr, Lucius Malfoy, dressed in white. Linen, perhaps. Dark-haired woman, dark-haired man. Strangers. Woman also in white. Barefoot. Shivering.

Escorted to viewing area. Selwyn seemed concerned that I have the best possible view. Courteous.

Rosier apparated in, carrying potion. Gave to woman, who drank. Inaudible conversation. Cast warming charm on her. Thoughtful of him, I thought. Put her wand in black bag, for Bellatrix.

Rookwood appeared, gave several phials, with dark liquid (blood?) and basket with organic material (leaves?) to Barty Crouch. Stepped away to observer circle; Selwyn manoeuvred my position to keep my sight line clear.

Crouch laid leaves out in circle on the ground around the stone. Circle perfect. Each leaf end to end. Precision.

Wait. Starlight flowing silver, and as the circle was completed, the line of leaves began to glow, bright enough to pick out silver glints in woman's hair. More waiting.

Dolohov arrived. With the boy. Seamus Finnegan. Both in white. Boy's face as milk-pale as his robe in the glow from the circle. Dolohov searched him, Crouch and Malfoy. Looking for metal?

Dolohov: case with three knives. Blades: keen. Thirsty. Each marked with rune, glowing faintly. Recognised two: 'family,' or 'blood relationship,' maybe. Also 'ward.'

Did not know the third.

The boy and the two dark-haired strangers each took a knife. The boy would not look at the woman. She stared at him. Desperately. Dolohov nodded. They each cut themselves, on palm. They bled for a minute or two into the phials Dolohov held. He muttered a charm (to make blood flow better?) The three knelt. Knives plunged into the ground. The boy had to be prompted to do so. Shook as he stood.

Dark-haired man left circle. Reclaimed wand, apparated away.

The boy's eyes met the woman's then. Something about the two of them standing there, the angle of their jaw lines...

I suspected then.

The Lord Protector arrived. He kept his wand.

Malfoy assisted woman to her feet. Crouch and Malfoy bound her to the standing stone. Their touch, so gentle. So very courteous. She did not resist. Malfoy mixed the blood from the three phials, drew a circle on the ground. Line of the leaves.

Dolohov: incantation, unknown language. Crouch handed him the two phials provided by Rookwood. Dolohov used the liquid within to draw runes on the woman's hands. A different rune yet. Did not recognise it. Different from the ones on the knives. Another long incantation.

The boy said something when prompted by Dolohov. English. I think. Couldn't quite make it out. Knelt at her feet, traced something on ground with his wand. Another rune, but too dark to see. Head bent, until Dolohov touched his shoulder, whispered something. He stood.

She closed her eyes.

No one breathed.

The boy performed the 'Avada Kedavra.' Flawlessly. She slumped. The ropes held her upright. He stood there. Just looked at her.

Dolohov crouched

~~seized one of the knives~~

Will stop there. The rest of that part can be seen by those who view the memory.

Afterwards: the phials were poured out onto the ground. Dolohov shattered them at the circle's edge with a spell.

Rosier took the stumbling boy away.

Selwyn retrieved my wand. I took a last look at the body, quiet against the stone, ~~the blood~~ I stared up at the stars. Told myself to remember them.

Remember this.

Remember this.

Remember this.

Dolohov took me out for a drink. Among other things: confirmed what I had suspected.

She was the boy's mother.




 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2012-12-29 04:16:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, my dear.

I will see you in the morning. Charlie says...Charlie says that's best.

I love you so much.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2012-12-29 04:25:33](#)**  
(no subject)

The first time is especially difficult.

I am very glad you have your brother with you.





 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-29 04:27:37](#)  
(no subject)

We're hoping there won't be any more.


And yeah.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2012-12-29 04:28:05](#)  
(no subject)

(Merlin. Seamus Finnigan, you poor bastard.)



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-29 04:37:59](#)  
(no subject)

Understood. Thank you for your willingness to do this. I hope to Merlin it will crack this problem for us once and for all.

Thinking of you tonight, son.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-29 05:23:00](#)  
(no subject)

Eat something as soon as you can, if you have not already. Simple is best: bread with milk, or cheese, or honey. Tea, as hot as you can stand it, with extra sugar or honey in it.

You will not want to, for fear of what dreams might come, but sleep, as soon as you feel you can without replaying events behind your eyelids the moment you close them.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-29 05:52:33](#)  
(no subject)

Have eaten, yes. Although it was difficult to keep it down. But I succeeded. Charlie is giving me tea. With enough honey to glue my teeth together.

Not ready to sleep. May try later, but playing chess for now.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2012-12-29 06:09:35](#)  
(no subject)

Good. It may turn your stomach, but the more sugar you can get into your body, the more it will counter the effects of the magics you have been exposed to. What you are feeling is not simply due to the emotional weight of the actions you have been forced to witness: from what you have related, you have been present at an exceptionally powerful blood-magic rite, and if your magics are not attuned to those energies, they may continue to have physical effects upon you.

Bathe before sleeping, if you have not already. And as you have a strong emotional and magical connection to your home, you may also find some small amount of surcease by standing barefoot on the earth for at least a few moments.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-29 06:25:10](#)  
(no subject)

That reminds me: something I neglected to put in the report, but it may be important nonetheless. I felt it start when Dolohov began the first incantation, sort of like...like a vibration. Very small, very subtle. I might not have noticed it at all at the first were it not for the potion. It became more noticeable with the second incantation, and when Seamus did the killing curse, it was like a surge of something, from the ground up through my feet. Snapped off suddenly when Dolohov did the last part.


When the blood soaked into the ground.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-29 06:33:21](#)  
(no subject)

As for standing barefoot outside, it's fucking cold out.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-29 15:56:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Should have kept that last bit to myself. Or for the ones viewing the memory, anyway.

Sorry, Terry. Sorry, Lee, Fred, George.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2012-12-29 05:39:31](#)**  
(no subject)


Severus has just pointed me to this.

I can only say I am very sorry for what you've been through, Bill, and then second his advice. I do rather think the afterlife of the potion you took might help temper your experience of this first night's dreams. It is, of course, no guarantee of dreamless sleep. One hopes, merely, that the emotional freight may be blunted somewhat.

I hope that is how it proves.

In any case, do not add any other potion or (further) intoxicant. And, if you've not yet done so, I would caution against taking any sort of sleep aid.




 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-29 05:50:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Understood. But damn. I wanted that drink.

No, no sleep aid.

Don't want sleep at all, though am sure Charlie will bully me later into trying.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2012-12-29 11:13:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Charlie transfigured a tub for me for a bath, as Severus suggested. Had the water as hot as I could stand. He put some oils in it he said would help. I stink of lavender now, but it did help. Calming.

Getting sleepy now, a little. Will try again soon.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-29 15:09:51](#)**  
(no subject)


right, mate.

this would've happened with or without you. wasn't your doing, and hard as it is you couldn't have stopped it. remember what your job was. to see. to sort out what was happening. that's why you were there, and you did your job well. we wouldn't have known anything about it without you. because you were there, we'll be able to sort out what happened.

we'll get a pensieve, get a good look at everything.

and. it'll stick with you. no mistake. but if you remember why you were there, and the good that it did, it might help.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-29 15:11:23](#)**  
*Private Message to Bill*

don't try and drink it away.

it only works for a little while. not worth it in the long run.

trust me on this one.



 **[alt\\_macnair](#)** at **[2012-12-29 15:30:21](#)**  
(no subject)

What Frank says.

Shame about the Finnigan lad. Remember him from his first year, just a wee thing, but seems he was bound for a difficult patch from the beginning. There are only so many we can help, much as it never seems to be enough.

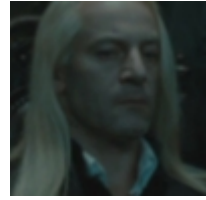


 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2012-12-29 17:23:19](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, Bill.

**2012-12-28 22:40:00**

*Private Message to Toshenka and Stephen*



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

Well, thank Mordred that's over.

Stephen, he did well. Quite well. Let me know if time with others his age will help him put this behind him. Harry's spending most of the holiday with us at the Manor; he could go flying with the boys and not dwell on what's been done.

Tosha, it seems you took the curse for us all in conducting Weasley elsewhere; you might be disappointed you separated, however, for Rizzer joined us in Oban. (Thankfully he did not press us for details of the event, other than to ask if it had been successful.)

Dominic seemed to need the refreshment almost more than anyone. Kept going on about last Friday (and this), and how unpredictable He is becoming. Believe the business with Bettina truly unsettled him.

Don't know if you know this but Chloe locked him out that night. Then there was her outburst toward Rizzer's astronomer, of course. Advised him that if he's truly worried about Our Lord's wrath being visited on his wife, he ought to counsel her toward more discretion, in future. He wasn't pleased with the remark but was too far in his cups already to give much protest.

Unfortunately, that did not stop him fretting over what might come next. First preventing Bettina Yaxley from holding a wand to punish Claudius. Then this business of forcing your ward to get his hands unnecessarily bloody, Stephen. He even suggested that Our Lord might take a notion to combine the two and force one of our children to kill one of our wives. (Do not need the night terrors *that* conjured!)

In the end we decided to book him a room. If he's having that much trouble with Chloe, she surely would not appreciate his arrival by Floo, stinking of firewhiskey, smoke and blood magic.

Merciful Morgana, it's been an absolute bitch of a week.

---



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-29 04:48:23](#)  
(no subject)

Bitch of a week, true, but Cyprian's *sword* was tonight exhilarating. How often does one get to lead a rite that powerful?

(Pardon me; the exaltation has not worn off yet. I expect I will be vibrating slightly for the next three days from channelling that much magic.)

Dominic did seem unwell, yes -- it's a good thing he had you there to take care of him. I hadn't realised he was having that much difficulty at home. Do you think there's anything we might do to assist?

As for Our Lord -- I do not know what to think there. Must confess I'd thought you were exaggerating, when He was so much like old after Ireland -- but this week, I finally take your meaning. Troublesome.



 **alt\_antonin** at [2012-12-29 04:58:56](#)  
(no subject)

Weasley, meanwhile, was no trouble at all. He still seems much affected by his father's death, mind you -- quiet and fairly subdued, but interested in understanding what he'd seen and the ways in which it was fitting payment. He seemed quite satisfied with matters, at least. I sent him off with suggestion of a bath, a meal, and a good night's sleep.

Though I will say, I never did expect to be cordially raising a glass with Molly Prewett's eldest. The twists of fate are strange indeed.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-12-29 05:24:41](#)  
(no subject)

Nor did Stephen think ever to hire him as an assistant. (Nor, indeed, should I ever have considered his brother as a clerk!)

There is something delicious in the irony, is there not?




 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-12-29 05:23:17](#)  
(no subject)

I hope the surge does you much good, *bratishka*. Am similarly energised, though not with wholesale excitement. Perhaps it's just as well that you and Barty are not parents; I fear that those of us who have charge of our offspring cannot look upon a deed such as tonight's with anything but a mixed conscience. Had we proceeded to your original suggestion and forced O'Connor to perform the curse on his sister, rather than his nephew, sure I would feel much the same, with no qualms. That's not to say the boy did not do admirably - quite the contrary. Still. When I think of Draco in a similar position .... Well. Best *not* to consider such a pass.

As for Dominic, his brood are all even younger, around the same age as Ari's younger children. Sympathise with his fears for their safety. Of course, in his case, the simple introduction of separate bedchambers might affect any number of improvements to his domestic situation.

For my part, remain as devoted to Our Lord as ever, but must admit that His volatility creates the sort of uncertainty one finds inconvenient in running a country. In some ways, I believe He was so jubilant following Ireland *because* it allowed Him (and us) the chance to revive a proportion of the old order, to indulge, if you will, in our more straightforward rule of law. Cannot blame Him for loss of patience with the Ministry, the Wizengamot, even others in our circle, who do not share the same vision for our prosperity as Our Lord ~~did~~ does.



 **alt\_lucius** at [2012-12-29 05:44:15](#)  
*Private Message to Toshenska*

Moreover, you had already begun conversing with Weasley so you would not have heard Him to-night. Our Lord taunted me - somewhat humourously, I think, but nonetheless - regarding His savagery a week ago in selecting me to cast the Cruciatius on Bettina in order to assist His spell. (Not the first time I have been so honoured, to be sure.) He expressed His satisfaction with my role to-night, intimating that He had not been certain I could perform the task to His or your standards (as if I would shirk either of you!) because, as He put it, He was all too cognisant of my reservations when He



proposed that young Finnigan should cast the spell or wield the knife.

In the discharge of my duties, then, am glad to have impressed Him, at least, and between last week and this, perhaps, proven once again my fidelity as well as my quality. Still, it means that a threat such as Dominic imagines is not outside the realm of possibility, should He take the notion that I or Draco or any of us require a reminder of His dominion.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-29 08:33:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Toshenka*

I hadn't thought to consider how you would react to the matter in that light, of parents and children; it's understandable you would imagine yourself in the scenario in different role. (Well, and particularly after Arthur Weasley's unlamented demise -- even though you did not care for the man in the least, I can only imagine the memories of your father it must have bestirred. If it is any comfort to you, little brother: when next I apply myself to my devotions, I will be burning an offering for Abraxas's souls, along with those of my own dearly departed, and paying honour to his name. I know you view my practices as affectation and bemusement, but I do honour him, for what he has given us in you.)

But then, you and I have always had very differing concepts of death, and of the realms beyond. I've been mulling over, these last few hours as I pondered my reply to you, about what I would have felt if I had been in Finnigan's shoes with Kolya (were he still alive) as the sacrifice, or had I been the one bound with Barty's hand upon the knife. It isn't the same, of course, but -- I think it better, if the action is fated, that it come at the hands or the wand of one who will pay the traveller full honour, and who better for that than one of your family, if not of your blood? For they alone know how precious that blood truly is. I would rather go into the worlds beyond at the bidding of someone who loved me.

But I can see your fears, and Dominic's, when I remember that my faith is far from universal. And I hope you do know that whenever you do go forth -- may that day be far from now -- I will do everything within my power for those of your family you leave behind, as I know you would for me were I to leave any of my blood behind me.

And speaking of faith, I had nothing but, that you would be a most satisfactory acolyte -- well, you know there are none other in this world I would rather have at left and right hand for a rite such as this than Barty and you, save for Our Lord, and had He wished to take the circle, He would of course have played the Magus's role. Must admit I had similar reservations about the wisdom of Finnigan's participation when He first laid forth the possibility, but upon second thought, I believe I take His reasoning: the argument we laid at His feet was that Finnigan was more worth to Him alive than dead, and so He wished to take stock of Finnigan's mettle Himself. (As to that, I agree with you: the boy exceeded my already-high expectations for him. Well, Stephen's eye for potential outdoes even my own, and I am hardly surprised he claimed the pick of the litter to foster.)

I take your meaning about Our Lord's loss of patience, though. I wonder: I've been thinking, recently -- prompted by several conversations from a number of different directions -- about the difference between restoring and nurturing a realm into its full flower, and governing it once it has been shepherded past its childhood and through its growing pains. (And we spiral back to parents and children, and what is owed to, and owed from, each to the other.) Easier for me to see that difference, I suppose, what with having been away throughout those years as our realm moved from war to peace and seeing them now as contrast rather than step-by-step progression. It should have been expected, that our fervor should be co-opted by those who know nothing of our ideals and seek only self-aggrandisement, wanting power and prestige (and Our Lord's reflected glory) without ever understanding or honouring the price we paid, in blood and in sacrifice, to buy this world of which we dreamt for so long.

I do not think that price too dear. But I wonder if Our Lord might be having second thoughts about the being, rather than the becoming, He and we have bought for ourselves. Not of its value -- I have travelled far and wide and would not trade this nation built on our culture and our ideals for any dozen others I have visited between -- but after having fought for so long, the tedium of governing may be grinding Him down, now there are no glorious battles for Him to set his wand to.

I will think more about this. And do whatever I might, that He be reminded that we are His loyal hands, in this world and all the worlds thereafter.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2012-12-29 20:42:50](#)

*Re: Private Message to Toshenska*

My father, Tony, even Serena, in her way - too many over the years. As for your devotions, while I do not share the superstitions, do not think me ungrateful for them - or for the esteem for him that it represents.

But as for your thoughts on the realms beyond this one ... well, that's our age-old debate again, is it not? Perhaps it is better to cleave to a belief in something, as a balm against the 'inevitability' of finality. Personally, thought that was no small portion of Our Lord's mission, in which we are His acolytes, as it were. That when He has mastered the veil, we His best councilors shall share in the bounty.

~~Though there are times when I wonder~~

Mordred, you and I both know that despite Our Lord's talents in all things, His predilections have never lain on the road of diplomacy! You have grasped the central difficulty, yes.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-30 08:34:00](#)

*Re: Private Message to Toshenska*

I still maintain that one of us will someday convince the other, and immediately find himself honour-bound to switch his position immediately so as not to lose the comfortable ground over which we have trod for so long! And I am well aware my bedrock faith in the worlds beyond is alien to you, little brother. You are all so very indulgent in not mocking my beliefs. (Much.)

But as I said, you've given me more to think about, in this particular iteration of our eternal wrangling. About immortality, and the various forms it takes, and about lineage and our responsibility to the ancestors who have gone before us and to the children who have and will come after.

Well, and I suppose that after a rite like last night's is a good time to think those weighty thoughts, and a snowy December eve at the turning of the year is a suitable backdrop!

If it is any consolation to you, if your own thoughts are as vast and ponderous as my own: I will say once again, you and Narcissa have engendered a fine son between you, and nurtured and shaped several other fine children throughout the years. The ones you've had a hand in the raising of proclaim their worth again and again. And as Tony lives on in Pansy, and Serena in Ptolemy, so will you, in Draco. And in the others you've had the teaching of, as I will in my fine collection of students.

As to more pleasant matters: Before this surefit of energy from Friday's working wears off and I must once more return to hoarding every scrap of power this damned curse will spare me, we should take advantage of it. Wednesday is your morning at the Ourobouros, is it not? Will you be keeping that appointment this week despite the holidays, and if so, would you care for a round or two? And we can discuss the ways in which we might be of the greatest assistance to Our Lord and His vision, and redouble our efforts to take the more displeasing parts of His obligations from His shoulders, that He might be more free to continue His work in the ways He sees fit.

**2012-12-28 22:47:00**

*Quidditch Today!*

It was good fun!

It was pretty wizard to play on the same side as people you normally play *against* and great to have something to bring the younger sibs to as well, where they could join in at their own level.



 [alt\\_susan](#)

Thanks Ced for organising it all! You've got a new fan in my little brother too--I have a feeling I'm going to be hearing a lot of Diggory this and Diggory that from Pete in the next few days!



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **2012-12-29 04:10:21**

*(no subject)*

Cheers!

Glad to provide an example for those interested in the brilliant sport of Quidditch.

I agree it was a great deal of fun to mix up players from different houses. Though I will say that when you haven't practised with your teammates it shows off individual skill rather than precision teamwork. We didn't see any of Ravenclaw's intricately choreographed passing plays for example. On the other hand we got to see Katie Bell's wizard showboating quaffle skills.

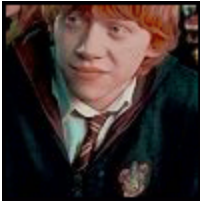



 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2012-12-29 04:51:36**

*(no subject)*

I hadn't thought about it that way, really, but you've a point.

Then again, when you're playing pick-up like this, with lots of people of different ages and skill levels and whatnot, it isn't as serious anyhow.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2012-12-29 04:47:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. It was nift.



 **[alt\\_susan](#)** at **[2012-12-29 04:52:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Good to see you out, mate.

**2012-12-28 23:50:00**

*Our Lord's Might Prevails in All Things*



That's two will never raise wand to defame Our Lord again.

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Will never raise wand again. Full stop.

Will beg His mercy before tonight ends. And tell all they know before they receive it.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-12-29 06:17:40**

*Private Message to Barty*

Do stop by once you're done with your hunting if you'd like, *lapushka*. I'll be awake for some time.

(At this rate, I will be awake until Tuesday. I haven't felt this energised in years.)

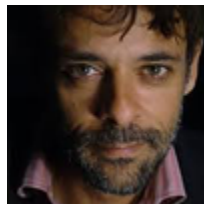


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2012-12-29 07:47:03**

*Re: Private Message to Barty*

On my way to you now.

Late, but the power- It thrums in the blood.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-12-29 07:54:51**

*Re: Private Message to Barty*

Indeed it does.

I am finishing my correspondence, but do let yourself in -- the wards should respond to your touch. If you are still as infused with the results of our work tonight as I, there are some magics I have been postponing until I am more recovered that we might turn our wands to. It is so enjoyable to feel as though I am at full capacity again.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2012-12-29 16:46:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty*

Toshenka.

That rite. Quite different from any I've known for warding and staking claim. Still feeling the shift it caused in my own alignment. Feels- I'm not certain.

And I can't think of any proper comparison. For instance, Black's wards were as extensive as yours, and his palisading caused a distinctive frisson at passing, but altogether different. And different in basis, surely. Still, it's made me think-- did you design some of the protections for that townhouse of his?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-30 07:59:43](#)

*Re: Private Message to Barty*

Ah, dear one, I'd wondered if you'd felt that. And thought you might.

I did assist Orion with some of the final pieces of the magics on that house, though he'd done the bulk of them before he engaged me as Reg's tutor. (A fact for which I remain eternally grateful, in that it led me to you.) Kolya did help him as well, in earlier years, but Kolya was my father's heir while I was far more my mother's. And if you are referring to what I believe you are, that sense of being evaluated and weighed when passing the threshold: I was able to teach Orion some additional ways to access and utilise the blood ties of 'family', and to bind the house even more strongly to the Black line, by extending my mother's teachings and adapting them for a framework more likely to make sense to him.

Before we moved on to refreshing the actual protections on the house last night, that additional incantation you raised your eyebrows at (and I do appreciate your patience in not breaking my concentration to ask, darling, as that bit can be tricky even at the best of times) was much in the same line: an invocation of the magic of my ancestors, and an invitation to them and to the gods to witness our work. And an introduction of you, my son of the heart, in whom I am deeply pleased and in whom I delight.

That you were able to feel it pleases me, immensely. And merely



reinforces that I was right to extend that offer to you over Christmas Eve supper, no matter what your answer proves to be. Those invocations are not lineage-bound the way some of the magics I hold are -- I only do not perform them before most of my workings done in company because they are difficult to explain without sounding like mystic or madman (or both) -- but they do react differently in the presence of family, and last night they did indeed begin to recognise you as mine.

You are likely still resonating with the magics we've worked this weekend -- and allow me to say again, your work in the circle was flawless -- or taking advantage of one of the crowd of witches who were flocking to your side at the gala this evening, but when you've some time later this week, stop by and we can discuss further. Now that you've had a chance to reflect upon my proposal, and have touched upon the edges of the mysteries I propose to adopt you into, I suspect you may have further questions for me.

(But even if you decide that is not a path you can see yourself walking -- you will always find a welcome waiting for you here.)

Your,  
T

**2012-12-29 11:23:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Padfoot*

His mother.

They had Seamus Finnigan kill his mother to do ... what? Maybe Rudy'll be able to tell us at the meeting, if he does grace us with his presence.



 [alt\\_lupin](#)

Finnigan's the same age as Ron and Neville and most of the rest of the Juniors, isn't he? Never heard his name with theirs, though.

It's the sort of thing that makes me sympathise with Dogstar. To think that no cost is too great if it destroys the people who'd do this, and we're all doomed anyway, or at least that the likes of Malfoy see the rest of us as nothing but fodder for Dark Magics in the end so what does it matter?



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-29 17:36:10**

*(no subject)*

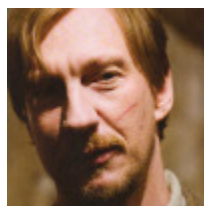
Are you going to view the memory, do you think?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at **2012-12-29 18:06:36**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I think so. Not that I'm eager, just - it's important. And I think, in a way, we owe Bill. So he doesn't have to carry it alone.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-29 18:12:20**

*(no subject)*

Yeah.

I can't imagine --

Well, that's exactly it, right there. I don't think any of us can imagine; if we want to share the burden with Bill we will need to see it.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2012-12-29 18:40:15](#)  
(no subject)

Though you know something odd.

So far as I know, neither Ron nor Neville is really mates with Seamus Finnigan. And yet there were maybe a half-dozen private messages between Seamus and Neville, this past week. Including one today.

**[2012-12-29 11:26:00](#)**

*Private message to Professor Dolohov*

Antonin Nikolaevich,

I didn't sleep much last night. Mr Rosier said that was normal.



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

I felt

I had expected to feel guilty, but I don't. When I poke at it, I feel ... something else. It's more a good feeling than a bad feeling but I don't know quite how to describe it.

Mr Rosier said that this was also normal but he looked unsure. And then he said some people react to Dark Noble Arts that way, and it might have been different if I'd used a knife.

Is this why you wanted me to use the killing curse? Did you know it would be this way for me?

Yours in Our Lord's service,  
Seamus



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-29 18:47:08](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Finnigan,

First -- allow me to say, you did excellently last night. Not only in the execution of the curse itself, but in your preparations, and in your following of instructions. I had expected to need to prompt you at least once (there is always someone who forgets at least some small part of the ritual) and was very pleased that you did so well.

There are several things you could be reacting to, this morning. The most likely is that you are still reacting to the immense amount of blood-magic energy that was generated last night. This particular rite was not necessarily what I would have chosen as your first exposure to ritual magic and blood magic: it was much like attempting to play in the World Cup as your first game of Quidditch. You are not used to the touch of those magics, but some people are highly sensitive to them, either positive or negative. You may be

indeed one of the people who find them invigorating or energising (most of Our Lord's Council are, myself included).

Or, yes, you may be reacting to having successfully cast the Killing Curse on another person for the first time. The common slander of generations and centuries has it that casting the Killing Curse will always leave you feeling damaged and regretful, and I think I know the feeling you are describing: you expected to feel that damage and regret, and instead feel quiet and calm and perhaps a bit satisfied. But reason it through, my dear boy: it was necessary that she die, to sacrifice herself for the well-being of the realm as a whole. Once that necessity was set, is it not better that she die quickly and painlessly, rather than slowly and in pain? You did accomplish that, and can be proud that you were able to do so; the satisfaction is in having been able to do what was necessary and required, as mercifully as possible.

If you would like to talk out matters more deeply, you may ask whatever questions you have. Please do not feel as though you are imposing: you are my student, and you have a claim upon my time.

Yours, in service,  
Antosha



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2012-12-29 18:54:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes -- that's some of it, I guess.

I don't know if it's 'quiet and calm' though. I think maybe I'm feeling the invigoration you mentioned.

And certainty instead of regret.

And

How did you feel, after the first time you cast the killing curse on someone? How old were you?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-29 19:23:58](#)  
(no subject)

I was slightly older than you -- eighteen? No, the summer between my sixth and seventh year, so seventeen. But in my case, it was self-defence, not a ritual context; my brother had taken me back to Russia for the summer, to introduce me to our family's ancestral lands there, and the Muggle-repelling charms had decayed in our long absence. We were attacked as we entered the estate.

My hands were shaking, afterwards -- adrenaline reaction, really -- but mostly I felt pride, that I had been able to keep up in the fight, and that Kolya, my brother, hadn't had to defend me like a child who was too uncertain to do what needed to be done.

I have killed since then, both with the Curse and with other methods, and I think the most important thing, afterwards, is to honour both the life that you took and your actions in taking it, as much as is possible. If that makes any sense. Circumstance and fate, and the choices you both made, meant that the lines of your lives intersected such that it was necessary for you to choose to end their life, for whatever reason. That choice, once done, cannot be changed -- but you can look at what decisions you made to lead up to that choice, and see that each step was likewise necessity, and accept that you have acted correctly and rightly, by whatever means you define such, in each choice that led you there.

Obviously not all of those things pertain in this situation -- but I hope my thoughts will help ease your mind anyway.

If the surge of energies prove too much distraction today, meanwhile, you may wish to find a suitable practise-space and work through as many spells as you can think of, or see if Stephen might find you a duelling-partner for the afternoon. It is often helpful to channel the exhilaration into something concrete.

Yours, in service,  
Antosha



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-29 19:26:41](#)  
(no subject)

How do you know when it's 'necessity' and not something else? Like a mistake you made, somewhere, before that point.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2012-12-30 06:14:40](#)  
(no subject)

I must apologise for disappearing so soon after telling you to ask me what questions you still had -- as soon as I said that, the universe heard me and presented me with six other things to solve. I hope you've been able to transmute some of that excess energy into something useful to you since last I wrote!

Your question, meanwhile, has both many answers and no answer that I can give you. I know this will not be the simple and unambiguous reassurance you'd like -- not to mention, a teacher is not supposed to admit he cannot answer a student's question -- but we've long moved past the easy questions here, and stepped out onto the ledge of the complicated questions with which you will likely be wrestling for the whole of your adult life.

The facile answer is to say that even if you had made a mistake somewhere, it does not matter: that mistake has been made, cannot be changed, and must only be dealt with as matters stand. But there are many different schools of thought on philosophy and theology, epistemology and ethics, that concern themselves with those questions, and each one has a different framework upon which they advance an answer.

You are at the age when boys become men, and part of that process is to begin the construction of your own set of values -- to determine your own set of ethics, and what it is that you hold dear. Most people never do so formally, operating under self-contradictory instinct and past teachings, and calling it natural law or universal morals. It may sound as though I am pontificating (likely, because I am), but if I had one piece of advice for you, it would be this: you will make far fewer mistakes in future, and arrive at far fewer moments of paralysing indecision, the more time you devote to articulating those

principles to yourself in advance.

If you'd like, stop by my townhouse -- Stephen knows the Floo address -- later this week, and I will give you some questions to mull over and start you thinking in the right directions. Or, if you'd prefer to spend the remainder of your holidays doing something more exciting than sitting about with your professor now that this matter is no longer lingering over your head, stop by my office once term begins.

Either way: I am proud of you, and of how well you've faced this week. The measure of a man is taken in how he faces adversity, and you've done very well indeed.

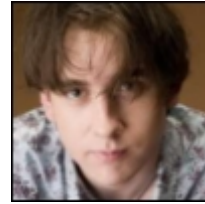
Yours, in service,  
Antosha



**2012-12-29 12:32:00**

*Private message to Seamus Finnegan*

I had a stab of hope this morning when I saw your private message to Professor Dolohov. Because you were writing at all. Still here to write.



 [alt\\_neville](#)

Have you...have you learned anything more?

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 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-29 18:35:59](#)  
(no subject)

Oh

yes.

Thank you for your concern, Neville. I will be fine.



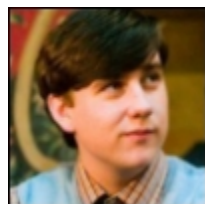
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-29 18:46:19](#)  
(no subject)

Uh, does that mean it's all over? And Professor Dolohov did something?



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2012-12-29 18:47:51](#)  
(no subject)

Yes.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2012-12-29 19:02:49](#)  
(no subject)

That's good then. I'm glad.

I'll see you back at school.

**2012-12-29 16:33:00**

*Private Message to Seamus*

We just got back from ice skating this afternoon and I saw that Longbum had written to you.



Are you all right, then? I mean, it's been a week so...does that mean everything's okay now?

 [alt\\_padma](#)

Will you be at the gala tonight? Mum said Pav and I could go. We're about to start getting ready. Then there's Diggory's Quidditch get-together next week and whenever Daphs decides we should all meet up about the revue. But what about New Year's Eve? There's a big party along the Thames and we were going to go out for a while, and find a good spot for the Lord Protector's speech (that's assuming He gives one this time! Which if you're all right, that means that Ireland's taken care of, right, so there shouldn't be any problems this time round).

Maybe we could get together, some other time? I've just been worried about you and it'd be great to make sure you're okay.

Love,

Padma



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2012-12-29 21:43:42**  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm all right.

The gala -- wait, which gala is tonight? I'd have to check with Mr Rosier and see if we were invited. I suppose I COULD go, actually, although I didn't sleep well last night so I'm a bit tired.

I suppose I'll be at the revue meeting, anyway.

I should ask Mr Rosier what we're doing on New Year's Eve. A party on the Thames sounds just the thing, though.



 **alt\_padma** at [2012-12-29 21:53:40](#)  
(no subject)

OH, LAKSHMI, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

The St Mungo's gala. I guess, with the scare you had, you probably haven't even been thinking about the holidays and everything. Oh, I didn't even ask if you opened your Christmas presents! Did you?

I'm sure if you wanted to go, Mr Rosier'd let you. Unless...there's not a reason for you to have to stay under guard or anything, anymore, is there? I mean, whatever Professor Dolohov did to save you still fixed things there, didn't it?

I still want to come over if that's all right. Whenever you want.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2012-12-29 21:59:02](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't.

I had pretty much forgotten presents entirely. I did SEND them -- I mean, I sent them out before everything. So at least people got presents from ME. I wonder where Mr Rosier put mine?

And no, the guards are gone. Completely.

I checked with Mr Rosier and he says it's up to me about the gala and you can come over tomorrow, if you want.



 **alt\_padma** at [2012-12-29 22:24:56](#)  
(no subject)

Tomorrow would be brilliant. Tell you what, wait to open your gifts and we can do it then.

Okay, I have to do my hair and all for tonight. It's okay if you're not going--I mean, it'd be marvellous to see you if you come but if you're not feeling up to it that's all right. So long as you're not going anywhere now.

**2012-12-29 19:18:00**

*Private Message to Emilia Cuthbert and Sarah Yaxley*



 [alt\\_lana](#)

Have you got here yet? You won't believe when you see the room. I stopped in earlier just to check for Mama that Harrods had made their delivery, and of course they had. Only, then I peeked into the ballroom, and-

Honestly. Who put Psyche Bobolis in charge of the Juniors' arrangements? It's utterly shambolic. The tables are hideous, and if that's meant to be a snow effect, it's abysmal. I'm almost ashamed to say I've any part in the Jr Auxiliary now, and last year when it was in your charge it was so magnificent.

We're stopping up to the Mezzanine bar first, Ned and I, if you wanted to meet us there. Then we could all make our entrance together.

We're just going to have to fix on our proper smiles and pretend there's not a thing wrong. But I swear, if I see Bobolis tonight, I may not be able to keep from hexing her.

**2012-12-29 22:58:00**

*Order Only: Thanks*

I'm better now.

Couldn't sleep last night until 4:30 am, but then Charlie and I managed to kip until the rooster woke us up at dawn. Staggered into the house, where Mum made us breakfast, and then I went to bed and slept like a rock until this evening.



 **alt\_bill**

So my days and nights are turned around, but the inside of my brain feels much more familiar. If still a bit soggy. Which is a huge relief.

Charlie extracted a copy of the memory last night as soon as I returned. Two versions: the whole thing, and then just an excerpt showing the view of the night sky at the beginning and the end. I hope we can borrow Dumbledore's pensieve at the Order meeting for anyone...anyone ~~mad enough~~ willing to view it, who thinks they might be able to shed any light on what this has to do with the wards.

I'm a bit stumped about what to do with the astronomical portion, though. We need to find an expert who can interpret it accurately enough to pinpoint the site. And I'm firmly of the mind that we need to find that site. As much as I dread the thought of going back there to confirm the location. If we could do tests of the soil to help identify the, uh, fluids that were spilled, and examine any lingering magical signatures, that might be really crucial information.



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2012-12-30 05:20:36**  
(no subject)

I do know what it's like to have your inner timepiece turned inside out. It's odd. But the truth is, the small hours are right peaceful, and strange in a way I really quite like.


It's not for everyone, I know. And might not suit you, at all. But the dark has a way of screening out some of the things That are annoying in the daytime world.

Don't listen to me. I'm going on about nothing.

Actually, what I really wanted to say, Bill Weasley, was that it's good

to hear you sounding more like yourself, and I hope you feel more like him soon.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-30 05:46:54](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks, Tonks. I'm getting there.

I think stopping by the beer garden sometime soon would help. To renew my company with good friends.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2012-12-30 05:42:23](#)  
*Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I can't thank you enough for sticking with me through the night. You gave me exactly what I needed, even though I turned into such an arse by the end. (And sorry.)

Thanks especially for keeping the bottle away from me. Now that I've come to my senses, I agree it would have been a bad idea. I usually don't feel so desperate for a drink. Thinking it over, though, it occurs to me that part of it was sort of a reaction to the fact that I'd just shared one with Dolohov. I know I scared you last night because I seemed so off by the time I returned, but I really don't think he detected a thing. Doesn't know me well enough, I suppose. He, on the other hand, was acting as if he were strung out on too many doses of Invigoration Draught, as if--well, the only point the entire night I felt the potion falter in covering my reactions was when he said something about how witnessing the rite must have felt so satisfying for me. Because of Dad.

I managed to choke out something about how, yeah, the bitch utterly deserved it.

Merlin, the way he grinned at that...I cut short the chitchat about five minutes after that and came back to the Burrow.

So I think that somewhere inside of me, I just wanted to have a drink with you. To scrub that out of my mind.

Along with everything else. If that makes sense.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-30 05:52:54](#)

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

That does make sense. Scary sense, but sense.

I can't imagine having to go through that. Any of it.  
(But having to go out drinking with him later -- ugh.)

But I don't have to imagine it to know when you need me. And you had a damn good reason to be an arse for a while. You can keep leaning on me as long as you need to; I'm only paying back all the times you've done it for me.

(And it's not like I took it personally when you were throwing things at me and call me names. Knew you weren't yelling at me, if that makes sense.)

And when you've got a bit more distance from things, we'll go out for that drink, and we'll toast to the day when we can put those monsters where they belong.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-30 05:59:08](#)

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

'Can't imagine'...but you won't have to imagine, will you? You'll see it for yourself, in every tainted and sordid detail, if you view the memory. I wish I could tell you that there's no need for it. But I do think you're right. That you must.

And I'm gonna hate if it means nightmares for you, too.



 **alt\_charlie** at [2012-12-30 06:01:51](#)


*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Yeah. But seeing it in a memory's not like being there, and having to convince all that lot I was enjoying watching it.

And I keep telling you: if you're going to have to live with it, I'm damn well not going to make you be the only one.





 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-12-30 06:03:32**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I'll hold the bucket if you have to spew afterwards. Guess I owe you that. And believe me, it'll be a real possibility.

Sorry.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-30 06:06:32**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I keep telling you, it's all right.

I've got a pretty strong stomach, though. You've got to, in my line of work. And I know it's not the same, but still.

Think you could eat? I'm all turned 'round the clock with you, so my body thinks it's lunchtime. Was thinking of commandeering the kitchen for a while.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2012-12-30 06:14:16**

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Yeah. I'm just finishing up another private message, this one to Frank, and then I'll be down. It smells like Mum baked enough for an army today. There should be something good to help down the next dose of tea with honey.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#) at 2012-12-30 06:28:30**

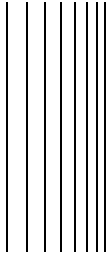
*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

I'll see if I can turn up some chicken, too -- think I saw some in the cold-box. If Ron didn't inhale the last of it after supper.

C'mon, you. Let's go feed ourselves.

Also -- I love you, you know. In case I haven't mentioned recently enough.





 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-30 06:30:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Love you, too. Little brother.

Even if you do steal my chicken.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-30 05:50:33](#)

*Private message to Poppy Pomfrey and Severus Snape*

Thank you for your advice last night, although I apologise that I didn't receive it as graciously as I should have. Especially since you've been preoccupied with Minerva (Charlie passed on your report, and I am wishing you the best in bringing her back).

Anyway, the advice all was good and it seemed to help, even if I wasn't in a fit state to appreciate it last night. I'm still sucking down tea with extra honey.

Hope my teeth don't entirely rot away entirely before I feel more the thing.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-30 06:15:48](#)

*Private message to Frank Longbottom*

Thank you for what you wrote to me, Frank. I'm gonna hang on to that. Yeah, I know I couldn't stop it, although I still feel--I keep seeing the kid standing there. He's one of Ron's dorm mates, you know? The first time I tried to sleep last night, my imagination keeps substituting Ron, with his wand point trained on Mum.

No wonder it took me until so late to drop off.

I also wanted to say, about what you said about taking a drink...yeah. I won't go down that road. At least, I will do my damndest to keep from doing so, I promise.

Thank Merlin I had Charlie here last night. He kept me from own worst impulses. And I admit that what's happened to Minerva scares me.



 **alt\_frank** at **2012-12-30 16:16:38**

*Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom*

we'll keep working on keeping them safe, man. as safe as we can.

the thing about your dad was that it wasn't

he was supposed to be low risk. for a damn good reason. he wasn't supposed to be in the line of fire. and when the fire came to him, it was something none of us could've planned for. ben and emmy, they went to ireland knowing full well what could happen.

guess what I'm trying to say is it's fucking terrifying when something like that happens when it isn't supposed to. when it's someone who needs to be safe. when it's something we can't control.

I'll make sure to bring up safety protocols at the next meeting. we do drills once a month at moddey, evacuation drills and the like. maybe we can set up a few scenario drills order wide just to test the system, make sure everyone knows their options and has a plan. maybe that'll help.

and wanting to get a bit numb and not remember things for a little while is part of it. it can just get out of hand, is all. when it turns into a habit you can't shake, and there's nothing else that'll do the trick.



 **alt\_bill** at **2012-12-30 17:59:45**

*Re: Private message to Frank Longbottom*

I think examining our security procedures is a good idea. I'd be willing to put heads together with you and Kingsley about that.

I think I might want to increase our wards on the Burrow, too. Just for my own peace of mind.

Trying to get numb...yes. That seemed awfully appealing this week. In fact, Poppy's potion, despite the reason I took it, felt almost like a relief, right when I downed the dose. It did make it seem as if nothing mattered.

Maybe that's why coming off of it was so difficult. I was an absolute beast to Charlie during the withdrawal.

I just didn't want to come back.

However, I don't intend to take it again. Don't want to start down that road, either. I'm going to have to figure this out, how to pick myself and go on without any props or crutches. Somehow.

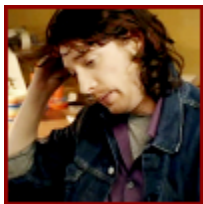
Oh, Frank, I just miss him so much. I talked to him almost every day, had lunch with him several times a week. And I always came back every Sunday night for dinner. He was my sounding board, my confidante, my, well, my father confessor. Literally. I talked to him more than I talked with anyone. I know Mum's feeling the same way; it's just an ache, because you keep reaching out for him, and he's not there.




 **alt\_pomona** at [2012-12-30 17:17:40](#)  
(no subject)

Bill, so good to hear from you.

Back to the astronomy, I still don't know what to suggest. But if I can help - asking Aurora who could do the work, perhaps. Well, I'm glad to.



 **alt\_bill** at [2012-12-30 17:23:27](#)  
(no subject)

Would she be the best choice, do you think?  
Considering who her fiancé is? Could she be trusted to keep the request to herself? Because we don't want this to get back to the Council, that someone who was there is trying to find out the site of the rite. I'm afraid that suspicion would fall upon me immediately, as I may have been the only who came via side-along.

We would have to consider very carefully how to approach her. I think we should add this as an agenda item, to discuss at the Order meeting.



 [alt\\_pomona](#) at [2012-12-30 17:46:49](#)  
(no subject)

That's the thing - and yes, perhaps best discussed at the meeting.

I want to trust her, so very much. But you're - she doesn't keep much from him. I'm not sure she could. And even asking if she'd keep something from him makes it so very clear that there's something serious at stake.

Do I trust her to answer the question "Who else could do this work?" and not tell him? Yes. I do. If someone she trusted asked it (that would be me or Poppy, I'd assume.)

Do I trust her to do the work herself and not tell Rabastan? I have no idea. If we could present it as a pure academic problem, a matter of curiosity, then perhaps. But if she got any hint there was more, then, well, I've no idea. Maybe Poppy might.

Or do we tell her and as Severus suggested (forgive me, Auri) Obliviate her afterwards? Or give her the choice, which is only slightly better.

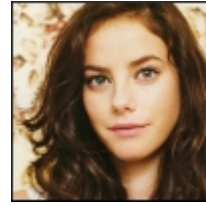
And that's the risk. She's so very good at putting pieces together when she pays attention, and we've no way of knowing how much they've told her - if anything - about the whole mess.

I wish I knew how much she'd told Rabastan about the matters with Poppy and Snowdonia this summer. That would at least let us gauge. But one can't ask, really, without tipping one's hand.

**2012-12-30 11:23:00**

*Happy Almost New-Years!*

And since I'm sure that we'll all be very busy celebrating tomorrow and the following day, I wanted to announce that the cast of the Revue will be meeting in New London on Wednesday, 2nd January, at 1:00 pm. I've arranged for a private room at Featurette, a cafe in Piccadilly Circus. Please bring your scripts along with you, as we'll be discussing our parts, as well as arranging the rehearsal schedule for when we're back at Hogwarts.



 [alt\\_daphne](#)

Please let me know here if you will be able to make it, so I can put in our order for tea ahead of time.

And again, Happy New Year!



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2012-12-30 19:05:12**

*(no subject)*

Hullo, Daphne,

I say, that sounds splendid. Remy and shall both be happy to attend.

You and Zabini seemed to be enjoying yourselves, last night. It was quite a smashing fête, what? Too bad Zabini wasn't able to out-bid that young gentleman on the ankh that captured his interest. (I say, there seems to be rather a surge of interest in things Egyptian, isn't there?) There were a number of items that looked well intriguing but-not for the sorts of bids they were hoping to receive, even if it were in the best of causes.

Have your holidays been going well?

Thank you again for organising the get-together. I'm sure we shall all be quite pleased to get ahead of things before the term begins.

-Justin



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-30 19:31:52](#)

*(no subject)*

Hello, Justin,

Egyptian and Persian themes do seem to cycle in trendiness, it's true. Why, just a few years back, (before you were here), I organised an Egyptian-themed birthday celebration for Blaise. I hadn't expected the culture to be popular quite so soon since then, but the people and their interests have spoken.

My holidays have kept me very occupied, to be honest. But I can't say I've ever been one to enjoy idleness - I find that a full schedule agrees with me.

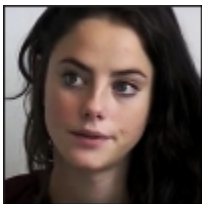
I'm happy to hear that you and Remy will be able to make it, and I certainly hope that Hydra shall be able to attend as well!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-30 19:21:11](#)

*Private Message to Daphs*

Could I put my name in for tea? If you'd rather keep it to just the cast, perhaps you and I can meet later and chat more about the arrangements I've sorted out so far.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-30 19:34:30](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphs*

Of course you may! I had rather thought you might want to accompany Draco, anyway. Only I do hope that Linus Moon doesn't insist on an invitation. He means well and some of his historical research has been quite helpful, but he can also be a tad over-bearing, and I'd prefer to keep Wednesday's discussion focused on the script and rehearsal schedule. If it's not too late by the time we've finished, we can discuss the music.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-30 20:37:22](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphs*

I'll tell you what... If Moon does show, I'll sit with him in the corner and let him talk my ear off.

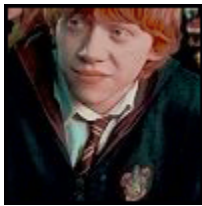


 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-30 20:40:03](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphs*

What a good friend you are! I should feel quite guilty about subjecting you to that, but... I'm not sure that I do, entirely. After all, I experienced it often enough before hols and feel it's high time it

were someone else's turn!

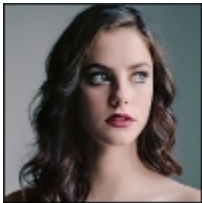


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-30 20:03:16](#)

*Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

Um. I thought I should check. I mean, am I really meant to be playing the lead part? Or were people just having a laugh when they said that?

Because I haven't got a script, and it sounds like I should have if I'd really got a part, yeah?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-30 20:14:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

Yes, you were cast as the lead. Well, the male lead. I'm the female lead.

I wasn't sure if you knew - that is, you left school before the cast list was posted. I hope you don't mind that I went through Pansy and Sally Anne to make sure you found out, only you already speak with them quite a lot already and...

Well, I'm very sorry about your Father. Pansy says you'll want to be in the Revue in spite of what's happened. I'm sure everyone will be glad to hear that.

Scripts were supposed to have been sent out to everyone, so I'm not sure why you've not gotten yours. Maybe the owl was waylaid,



seeing as you've probably had loads of post lately? At any rate, I can provide you with one on Wednesday, if you decide to meet at Featurette.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2012-12-30 20:22:24](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

I'll come Wednesday.

And, yeah. You're right there's been loads of post here. I'll ask Mum if she knows whether it's come.

The script, I mean.

And, thanks. For saying that about Dad.




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-30 20:38:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Daphne Greengrass*

Of course. Only you've probably heard it so many times over the last week or so, you're probably sick of it. But I do mean it, and "my deepest condolences" sounds so artificial, like something from a script, in fact. It's probably just best to say things exactly as you mean them, in situations like this.

I'll put you down for tea, then. I think Pansy will be there too, you'll be happy to know.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2012-12-30 21:05:57](#)

*(no subject)*

We'll be there!

The gala was really amazing, wasn't it?



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-31 15:28:51](#)

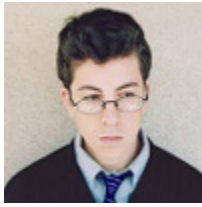
*(no subject)*

Oh, indeed! And I just adored the robes you were wearing. Were they your Mother's design?

And speaking of, that reminds me that I need to ask Professor Carpenter about costumes. Lizzie and Samantha said that



they wanted to help with that end, but they've also got parts to play, as Margaret and Josephine. Hmm, I had better start asking around.

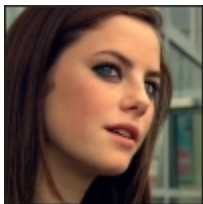


 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2012-12-30 21:55:41](#)  
(no subject)

Dear Daphne,

I fear I must tender my regrets for the gathering on Wednesday. I do hope you don't mind awfully that I shan't be able to attend, but I'm in the early stages of organising a new research project, and I'm afraid I should be rather distracted. In any case, surely you have enough to go on by now, in the way of supporting information on the historical periods your Revue dips into, yes? Should you need any further research, of course I would do my best to accommodate, but between this new project and the ongoing detentions, I'm rather afraid I'm likely to be a bit squeezed for time for a while. Well, for the entirety of the upcoming term, quite frankly. Please accept my apologies for any inconveniences this may present, and as always, my gratitude for your understanding and graciousness. It has been a pleasure to work with you on this, and I am certain the Revue will be a great ornament to Hogwarts and a star in the firmament of your own CV.

Yours sincerely,  
Linus Moon



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-31 15:32:37](#)  
(no subject)

Dear Linus,

I think it's safe to say that you've already surpassed expectations as our historical researcher. Certainly, should anything come up you will be the first person I ask, but I think we are well-prepared to portray the various eras that the Revue encompasses. Best of luck on your new project!

Sincerely,  
DGG



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2012-12-31 03:34:44](#)  
(no subject)

I should hate to miss it! I'll look forward to seeing you there.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2012-12-31 15:29:14](#)  
(no subject)

Wonderful! I'll put you down for tea.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2013-01-02 03:05:28](#)  
(no subject)

I'm so sorry I can't make it, but I really am very excited about playing Agnes!

**2012-12-30 12:20:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Terry Boot*



 [alt\\_gredforge](#)


Hey, Terry, could you do a favour for us, and pass on a private message to Pansy Parkinson, through the lock? We don't want to draw other people's attention by posting it to her ourselves, since we're not under a lock with her anymore. Tell her this:

"Thanks, and yeah, there is something you could do for us. We've been wanting to start a business for awhile now, and now even more than ever, because we're gonna need to help chip in for Mum's support.

We're sending Pig to you with a copy of the business plan all worked up. Would you consider being an investor?"


Thanks, Terry.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-12-30 18:21:41**  
(no subject)

Sure, I'd be happy to do that.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-12-30 19:56:48**  
(no subject)

Passed the message along. She thinks it's a brilliant idea, and she'll watch out for Pig. So her initial reaction sounds good.

Good luck, hope it works out.

**2012-12-30 12:21:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*



 [alt\\_terry](#)

Pansy:


Fred and George sent me a message, and asked me to pass this on to you:

"Thanks, and yeah, there is something you could do for us. We've been wanting to start a business for awhile now, and now even more than ever, because we're gonna need to help chip in for Mum's support.

We're sending Pig to you with a copy of the business plan all worked up. Would you consider being an investor?"

Terry



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2012-12-30 19:02:34**  
(no subject)

That does sound like just the sort of thing they would do, doesn't it? They're absolutely brilliant.


I'll be sure to keep my eye out for pig.

I'd been hoping that I could do something useful.

Thank you, Terry.

Do they want to keep it quiet, then? I'm assuming since they had you pass along the message instead of a PM.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at **2012-12-30 19:10:15**  
(no subject)

Yes, they do, I think. They specifically asked me to make the request to you in a private message under the Lock, rather than doing a private message to you in the journals themselves so that anyone could see the header.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2012-12-30 19:16:04](#)  
(no subject)

Duly noted.

I wish they were still under the lock. But it's good to know that they can send word through you, at least. And through the galleons too.

**2012-12-30 12:28:00**

*Order Only: The Barter Network*

Oh, this is dreadful.

I received a visit from two of my neighbours, with the barter network. And what they had to tell me was a shock.



 [alt\\_molly](#)

They've decided to 'spare me the burden,' given Arthur's death, and they're removing me as the trade administrator for the barter network.

Oh, Alice. This means that Sanctuary is cut off from the network! And Sherwood, too.

I was exceedingly careful, I kept two sets of books, so no one will ever know we were looped in. They're just going to be puzzled because the number of trades per month is going to drop precipitously.

I tried to protest, to say that I didn't mind, that it would help me to have something familiar to do. But they pointed out that I've been doing it for four years, and it was time to rotate the responsibility so others could learn the ropes and they hinted I might not have time, because I will probably have to find a job, and--oh, I know that Luella Hargrove is jealous because I've built it up so well and made it so successful.

What are we going to do?



 [alt\\_molly](#) at **2012-12-30 18:42:01**

*Private message to Alice Longbottom*

Alice...I'm afraid it means that, what with the storm destroying so much of the harvest, and now this...

Oh, dear!

You may have some genuinely hungry times ahead.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2012-12-30 19:12:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom*

That's a blow to Sherwood, no mistake. But between the goods we got from the train and the extra supplies from the solstice run, we ought to be just fine at Moddey until the next planting season. We'll be careful, and won't be able to extend our usual degree of generosity to Sherwood... and we will cut into our reserves more than I'd like, but Arabella and Victor have assured me that we'll have enough to get by. No one's going to go hungry here.

It helps that we aren't having to keep the ten from the camps fed anymore, now that they've taken off for France.

Oh, Molly. That must have stung.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2012-12-30 19:57:31](#)

*(no subject)*

From what you say, I expect they'll be back and begging you to resume your duties before very long when numbers drop and it looks as if your successor has let the whole business slip.

I'm sorry, though, that you had to suffer that. How very unpleasant.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-30 21:16:02](#)

*(no subject)*

Too right, Poppy.

(How is everything on your end? Let me know when Frank and Alice need to leave; I'll come over.)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2012-12-30 21:14:57](#)

*(no subject)*

We'll manage, somehow.

Would it help to tell them that you'll offer this Luella woman a list of the people and places you usually can count on for help, and include Laszlo's in the mix?

**2012-12-30 13:22:00**

*Private message to Narcissa Malfoy*

Narcissa -



 [alt\\_sinistra](#)

A few things from last night, that I wanted to pass on. Or ask about. And sometimes both. First, I heard more than a handful of envious comments about your robes - I'm sure you had no doubts at all, but they had quite the effect.

- What is the story with Theo Higgs and Lana Sandoval-Pennifold? I was watching people, as one does (and well, I'm starting to contemplate seating charts for the wedding supper, so knowing who's not getting along seems especially useful right now), and I don't think I've ever seen her quite that way. Or at least to that extent. And him bidding up like that...

- I did get a lovely chat with Ptolemy Baddock. So glad to see him happy, and I always did like Karo Moon. I gather he's getting along better with his father than he was for a little, but - there did seem something a little odd there. Though I suppose all grown children and their parents wrangle over something.

- It was very good to see Tosha so rejuvenated, truly. (And I gather, watching, that the same was true of Barty and of Lucius?) After the previous week, it was rather a pleasure to see them all at their brightest. I'd gathered from Raz that their work had been successful, but he'd not asked details, and Tosha only said I'd be gladder with what they ended up doing than the original idea.

- I did spend some time watching Dolores, and that's the part I wanted to ask you about. Did it seem to you she spent rather a lot of time with certain people? I saw her spend a very long time talking to Peakes, but also Mr Burroughs (he did go on, apparently, I saw even her trying to get away), Mrs Fleet, and Mrs Rickett, and then rather a long time with Mr Vandemar. But I also saw her in - well, she'd rather cornered that Rowena Robins, who was her assistant for a long time. (And she - Miss Robins - seemed a bit off her usual, did you see?)

And finally, the Cooper party on the 27th quite made me see why you were so nervous about the theme idea for your Christmas party last year. It really is possible to take a thing too far, isn't it? And it all felt so very ... I don't know, inauthentic and flat. I rather wished Tosha'd



had more time to give sotto voce commentary than he did, but of course, other demands.

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[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2012-12-30 20:27:20](#)  
(no subject)

Aurora,

Thank you, but you sell yourself short. There were more than ample compliments dropped in my hearing regarding your wardrobe, as well.

The St Mungo's benefit is always a highlight of the season, whether it's for its opulence or its lack of it. (There was one year, 1987, I think, when the decorations were inspired by Arthurian legend and - well. The less said the better. It was just as well that the auction format began the following year; I don't think anyone would have stood for another entertainment featuring dancing suits of armour.)

As for what troubles Mrs Sandoval-Pennifold about Mr Higgs, it's hard to know where to start. My current guess is that he was recently seeing one of her schoolmates and she, discerning witch that she fancies herself to be, disapproves. He certainly did not help himself by driving the bidding with no intention of actually winning. I must admit that seeing him get caught and with that atrocious tortoise wall hanging - well. Poetic justice!

Poor Ari, it's always something between fathers and sons, isn't it? Just when I think Draco and Lucius are back to being friends, one or the other prickles. But in this case, you're quite right that it's not the wedding eating at Ari. Ptolemy believes that since he'll be starting a family, he is also ready for an introduction to Court. Understandably Ari is not - ready - to take that step.

I must admit, I found many more enjoyable things to do last night than monitor Dolores' movements. However, it *is* interesting that she spoke to so many member of Hogwarts' Board of Governors. Tell me, did you happen to see her speaking with Director Selwyn? (I do apologise, dear, if that name brings up unpleasant thoughts. But I know Chloe, now that she's back to herself, is dreadfully embarrassed.) I'm sure I didn't notice Miss Robins in the slightest. But as you say, she was Dolores assistant for some time so I suppose they had much to catch up on.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2012-12-30 21:02:53](#)  
(no subject)

Narcissa -

That is a relief, on my robes - I still find it so hard to tell if I'm striking the right balance. (And Raz gets more than a little credit for the end result, I should add.)

I heard the overall auction went well, though I gather from a few bits of snideness that the items for the Rebuilding Ireland fund were not what they might have been. Something about how that set of charmed hair combs were rather second rate, and that set of serving dishes, especially. At any rate, interesting enough to see the thing for myself for once, and at least none of the difficulty of last year.

Thank you, on Mr Higgs - not a student who particularly stood out to me. And I suppose I can see about Ptolemy. Difficult place to be in, I suppose, for both of them.

As to Dolores, I'd not pick it as my first choice of hobby, but she does have rather a noticeable effect on my day to day life at school. (Raz and Tosha and I keep trying to figure out what she's up to there, and any further hint can only be helpful.) But yes, on seeing her with most of the Governors, and the oversight board for the YPL. (Though I noticed her giving much more attention to Strangeweale and Caldwell there than Whitacre, though he's mostly concerned with the budget, really.) I thought her attitude with Miss Robins quite different - and not precisely what I'd call friendly, either - though I suppose that's understandable.

On Chloe Selwyn, I *could* use your help. I've been giving her a wide berth, but really, I'd rather smooth things over. It's not as if the discomfort is doing either of us any good. Would it be better to send a note, do you think, or to find a moment to speak in person? (Not New Year's Eve, as I'm sure we'll both want to have our minds clear for other things, but I thought I might catch her quietly at one of the Twelfth Night events for a quick word.)

It's true I am still thinking over what she said, not just how she said it, and it was a bad few minutes. But I also see enough of where she's coming from. You know her so much better than I do, perhaps you'd know what would work best as an approach.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2012-12-30 21:43:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, my dear, of course. I'm sure Chloe's only waiting to know what sort of reception she'll receive. It would be so good of you to make the first move. I suggest a note, and include an invitation to tea - not alone, of course, but with some others. Pandora, perhaps, since her girls are of an age with Chloe's, myself, and either Yvaine or Mariah. That way she'll be among friends and we may steer the conversation in ways that will be comfortable for you both. Besides, it's probably high time that you begin to hostess your own small parties; it will help you later. I'm sure Raz would offer Spencer but it might be better to choose a reputable tea room and book one of their salons. You'll continue to come to town on Tuesdays, is that correct? Then it could be on any week that suits you, even after the term starts up again.

Regarding Madam Umbridge, it's none of my business, of course, but it's my understanding from certain contacts of mine in the Ministry that she never quite forgave Miss Robins her ambitions. Knowing Dolores as we do, that's not hard to imagine. Perhaps she intended to take the girl to task for some new slight, imagined or otherwise. In any case, that's well outside the realm of holiday thoughts and celebrations.

You ought to take that young man of yours out somewhere fun this evening. We'll see you tomorrow, I assume, but that's a circus, always is.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2012-12-30 22:06:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, that is just the thing. Of course. And you're quite right that waiting until after the holidays makes some sense, though I'll send a note today or tomorrow, just to ease some of the awkwardness in case we do bump into each other.

And yes, I do expect to be in New London most Tuesdays. While I think we're nearly sorted on most of the major wedding details, I meet friends for supper most weeks, and well, there's always one errand or another that's more enjoyable done in town. (Granted, for me, that usually involves the bookstores, but still.)

And I could use an excuse to get to know either Yvaine or Mariah better, really.

As to tonight, yes. Balancing everything is a trick I'm still learning, but a night out with just Raz is quite the thing. And I will look forward to seeing you and Lucius tomorrow night, of course, however briefly we manage.

**2012-12-30 18:05:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*

Toshenka.

Re. your offer that I ~~that you wou~~—

I see no reason to delay my answer.

I'm honoured, Toshenka. That you would consider it.

Yes.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2012-12-31 03:59:44**  
(no subject)

I am so very pleased to hear that, dear one.

After that disaster of an operation in July, and thanks to multiple other conversations since, I've been spending a great deal of time thinking about -- well, let us call it 'contingency planning', I suppose. (To you alone in all the world save for Our Lord I will admit how much of that disaster, and my present long recovery, was due to my own carelessness -- no more than fifteen seconds of inattention at the wrong time and I am unfit for the more critical half of my prior calling, perhaps for good (and praying no-one stops to think why an 'ambassador' need be whole and hale). Five more seconds and I would have been retired, in a slightly more permanent fashion. It should not have happened; I am still chagrined that it did.)

I suppose it is no wonder I have been thinking about what, and whom, I would leave behind me. I have always thought I would have children some nebulous 'someday', to ensure an heir -- but the more I thought about the matter, the more I realised I had already acquired my heir and needed only to open my eyes enough to recognise that fact.

I am not, you understand, proposing to replace your own parents, as strained as your relationship with them was, nor to supplant your other familial ties, and it need hardly be said that I would not for my life interfere with your devotion to Our Lord. We need not even mention the fact to anyone else; I know how fiercely you guard your privacy.

But having realised what it is you mean to me, and how much that transcends 'student' and has for quite some time -- you deserve to be acknowledged as my adopted son and heir in the eyes of my ancestors and the gods, and you deserve to hold the full measure of the magics to which my son and heir would be entitled. And I could not be happier that you have agreed.

(Now, mind you, I must dig in the familial archives to unearth something that would suffice for a rite of magical adoption in the eyes of those magics -- but that will be a pleasant enough problem to have!)

Your,  
T



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2013-01-01 21:13:24](#)  
(no subject)

If I have any experience of family, it is in relation to Our Lord and to you, Toshenska.

I am yours entirely,

B

**2012-12-30 21:16:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

I'm heading to Minerva's to relieve Frank and Alice. Additional buffer would not go amiss, if you cared to come along.



 [alt\\_sirius](#)


Been thinking about what you said the other day, the messages between their Neville and the Finnigan lad. D'you suppose it means they're better mates than we realise? Or are you leading somewhere else with it.

Merlin, if we have to tell Frank *again* that Neville can't be inducted to the Order ... I don't know how he'll take it. Not well, and I can't blame him. But if the boy's hiding something ....

I guess we'll have to ask if he's said anything that Alice and Frank haven't told the rest of us.

Right. Floo. Another night of ignoring the (constant) snide remarks out of the malevolent minger.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2012-12-31 04:25:48**  
(no subject)

I don't know what I think about the messages between Neville and Finnigan. I doubt they're mates. It's an odd flurry of messages, though. Fortuitously timed, if he was ignorant of Finnigan's situation.

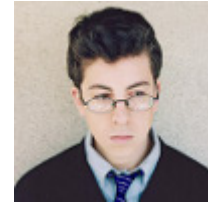
Perhaps Neville's played the part of Our Lord's Future Loyal Footsoldier so convincingly that Finnigan's taken him into his confidence?

[2012-12-30 23:39:00](#)

*Private Message to Cedric*

Cedric,

I have been considering your suggestion that attempting to quantify what you referred to as the intangibles of quidditch team dynamics would be a worthy project, and I believe you are correct. At the very least, I shall get some practice in charms for displaying the analysis of various data, which may prove helpful in classes and other projects. To that end, I should like to ask you and other followers of the game some questions about noteworthy teams and their best (and worst) seasons. If you have recommendations as to useful informants on the topic, I would be most grateful -- and suggestions on highly-regarded reference works would be happily received as well.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

What you said about Oliver Wood being a perfectly competent Keeper but making his whole team play better definitely caught my interest. I plan to see if I can use the performance measurements of teams that suddenly demonstrate an upturn in skills (both individual and teamwork) to spot the hitherto unnoted effects of such unseen catalysts (or anti-catalysts). It's a bit like what Professor Siz described to us when she was teaching us to "see" stars that we couldn't see by noticing what they did to the ones that we **could** see.

Oh. Thank you again for your encouraging words on the duties and comportment of a prefect, by the way. I took them to heart, along with Padma's exhortations, and things did seem to be improving by the time we left for hols.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2013-01-01 03:30:48](#)

*(no subject)*

I'll be happy to help out and I would love to see your results.

The first person you should talk to once we are back at school is Professor Raz. He still has enough connections to the professional scene he may be able to put you in touch with people who work for the teams who might allow you access to some of their data. Any of the captains can point you at their heroes and favorite players. Any of the Weasleys will talk about "great" Cannons players all day. I haven't talked to Wood since he left, but someone in



Gryffindor might be able to put you in touch with him. I'm partial to Wendi Watsen and her effect on the Harpies during her tenure.

In terms of books, the most recent edition of *Quidditch Through the Ages* has discussions of important rule changes. Obviously anything after the codification of the current rules in 1750 could be your starting point. However, the Snitch construction changes in the early 1800s and the Quaffle/Chaser rule changes of 1884 make anything before then for seekers and chasers/keepers difficult to compare to modern numbers. There have been some other more recent changes but nothing as radical. *Règlement officiel pour le quidditch internationale du sport des sorciers* is obviously the place to start for making sure your terms are all properly defined. *The Encyclopedia of Modern Quidditch* (1977) will talk about all the greats up until a generation ago and has mostly complete rosters for the twentieth century. It's also a good resource for matching coaches up with players as well. Its bibliography is also massive. *Protectorate Quidditch Watchers Monthly* and *Fantasy Quidditch Enthusiast* are both excellent for current stats. *The Diviner's Guide to Fantasy Quidditch* is highly suspect and only comes out once a year, just before the season starts. I would avoid it.

**2012-12-31 03:40:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Madam Poppy Pomfrey and Headmistress Minerva McGonagall*



 [alt\\_terry](#)

Dear Madam Pomfrey:

It's the middle of the night, but I can't sleep. I saw the message the Sirius wrote a few days ago about the Headmistress, but I haven't seen anything publicly under the Order lock since about her, although I can see there have been some private messages going back and forth. I hope she's better. I've been worried about her.

Could you make sure that she sees this? Or read it to her yourself, if...if she's not in a fit condition to do so? Thank you.

Dear Headmistress McGonagall:

I am sorry you have been unwell. I've been thinking about you, and there were some things that I wanted you to know.

I wanted to thank you for being kind to me. When you took me from ~~the gi~~ Amycus Carrow, it was the first time a master had ever been decent to me. Maybe it didn't seem like much, but it meant the world to me. And you let me read books in your library, so I could study that way, and you made sure I was warm, and I had food, and that no one mistreated me where you could see it. And that he couldn't get at me.

That was a big step in my way back. To being human.

And then, after I escaped and made my way to Moddey Dhoo, I found out all the rest: about how you've helped saved so many people, so many kids, so that none of them would have to go through what Hermione and I did, even when you...even when you had to hide in Darkness yourself.

I know all about hiding your true self when you're surrounded in Darkness, and I'm sorry, because I know how hard it is. I reckon that's why you turned to something to make it easier. And that's understandable.

But please, don't do it anymore, because we need you. We care about you. I cut paper snowflakes for your windows that first Christmas you took charge of me, because I wanted to give you a gift. Even before I

knew everything, I could see that you were someone who deserved something, even if it was a simple and humble as that.

I want to be able cut paper snowflakes for your windows for your Christmas gift for years to come. And for you to be able to see them.

Please get better.

Terry Boot  
House Ravenclaw  
a free wizard

and

your devoted boot

**[2012-12-31 11:45:00](#)**

*Order Only*

you all have not been holding your tongues about me



mr Boot I very much appreciated your note

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

I suppose we all are aware of what my new year s resolution must be.

the world ended and i am still here, it is a relief to say

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 **[alt\\_molly](#) at [2012-12-31 18:03:19](#)**  
(no subject)

We've been concerned about you, you dear, maddening creature! How glad I was to read this--I've been so worried!

Would you be up for a visitor, Minerva? I promise I won't scold or anything. Please...if only for my own selfish reasons? I think it might do me some good to get away from the Burrow for a little while. I would dearly love to see you.

If not today, then sometime in the next few days?



 **[alt\\_terry](#) at [2012-12-31 18:05:29](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm very happy to read this. Thank you, and please keep getting better.



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2012-12-31 18:07:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Excellent news. Slow and steady on the course, Minerva.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2012-12-31 20:17:36](#)**

*Private Message to Min*

merlin knows I don't have the right to throw the first hex.

might be a bit broken, but that doesn't mean we still can't do a bit of good, yeah?

**2012-12-31 18:53:00**

*Private Message to Bella and Tosha*

If you're interested in a little spot of fun, Ari and I have just run across a group down by Whitehall, one of whom had a suspicious-looking kit. On closer inspection, turned out to be full of paints matching the 'artwork' discovered near the piers.



 [alt\\_lucius](#)

His companions have admitted that there are a few other ... participants ... along other sections of the Strand. He has graciously agreed to lead us to them.

Assume Barty is with one or the other of you, or else not far away. Bella, bring Mulciber, too, if you know his whereabouts. There should be plenty to go round.