

[2013-09-01 11:57:00](#)

(no subject)

Well, the bustle of a brand-new year at Hogwarts never changes! It never fails that no matter how one plans, there's always something left behind, or some child at the station leaving home for the first time with tears - and the parents' eyes are not quite dry, either. We've just returned from seeing off all our charges at the station, and wish them the very best for the year.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Draco, Harry, I'm sure you'll find your N.E.W.T. years exhilarating. And Hydra, you're sure to do brilliantly on O.W.L.s. Provided you apply yourself to revising, of course, and not frivolous pursuits.

I'm so glad we were able to give Draco and Hydra a proper sendoff, particularly from those younger members of Our Lord's Council who are sure to be closer to you in aspiration and disposition than those your parents' age. It was a most pleasant evening and Mr Malfoy and I were so happy to make better acquaintances of you all. We look forward to seeing you again on occasions both merry and formal.

With the children (well, young people!) gone, though, the autumn season suddenly rushes in on one. So many committees, festivals, associations and commissions to demand one's attention. It's almost enough to make one forget the house is empty.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2013-09-01 17:22:37](#)

Private Message to Camille Jugson

I'm glad, in the end, that Janus allowed Hydra's intended to visit her. She's been - well, *wilting* is how one might describe it. I'm sure it's not noticeable to anyone who doesn't know her well - whenever we've been out or she's helped me in hostessing, she was perfectly fine - but then she is rather skilled at hiding her emotions. (A useful skill, I'm sure you agree.)

Of course, now it seems ridiculous to have gone to the trouble. They'll be together all year long. (I haven't dared to ask Rod if he's communicated restrictions or expects Razzer and Tosha to be the ones to keep them within the realm of propriety - I can't imagine they would be happy to enforce anything he might request, on top of their

teaching duties - but then again, it *is* the responsibility of all Hogwarts' staff to see to it that our children are protected while at school, even when that means protecting them from themselves.)

At any rate, your ward conducted himself appropriately. Indeed, he has *always* conducted himself appropriately when in polite company, so far as I can tell. I suppose it boils down to the fact that adolescents will be adolescents. No matter how well-bred. Well, Rod's made his decision; I can't say I know what made him change his mind. If I'd been in his place, I'm sure I would not have allowed the relationship to continue, let alone make it a provisional betrothal.

I only hope Draco shows better judgement than either of them and doesn't cause any sort of similar trouble.

In any case, regarding the business Janus wanted you to ask about: I spoke to Lucius and he said he'd entertain the prospect. He sees Ari Baddock every Tuesday afternoon for tea; with both of them in support, I imagine it would not be difficult to bring others on board.

Oh, and for the WI, Aleta says she's still looking for someone to sponsor November's meeting. If you're interested, you really ought to get in touch, dear.

I've got to dash but I'm sure Remy will do splendidly on his O.W.L.s. Do let me know if he tells you anything shocking about our star-crossed lovers!



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2013-09-01 20:54:55](#)**
(no subject)

Stark contrast, isn't it, when they leave? Too quiet by half.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2013-09-02 03:15:38](#)**
(no subject)

Why, dearest, you speak as if you know!

But yes, that's just it: It doesn't matter how large the house, nor if one barely sees them when they're home. Once they're gone, it's terribly quiet.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-02 12:57:31](#)
(no subject)

Began my Autumn regimen this morning. Made an earlier start on the sparring floor. Tomorrow, I'll add extra miles to the running. There've been rather too many farewell meals for Tosha with his well-wishers.

Do they all imagine he'll starve in the Great Hall at Hogwarts?



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2013-09-02 14:27:33](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it's crucial to keep to one's routine, is it not?

Starve, no, but you must admit that Hogwarts is nothing compared to the delights of our New London master chefs.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-02 19:23:52](#)
(no subject)

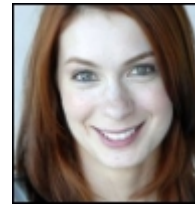
Little about that castle could be called delightful.

The new Quidditch arena excepted. Am blocking out dates for the Slytherin matches at least-- Mackrell and I are looking forward to seeing what the current squads promise. Puddlemere's going to need fresh blood soon. One or possibly two Chasers, but they'll be scouting reserves for all positions.

2013-09-01 20:27:00

ORDER ONLY

It seems like I've hardly had the time to take a deep breath these past few weeks -- we're furiously canning and storing our surplus from summer, and given our storm last year and our being shut out of our normal trading routes for supplements, we made sure to plant plenty. I've been seeing tomatoes in my sleep. Everyone's ticking along here, and healthy as can be (thanks to Poppy as always -- your summer visits are always so appreciated!).



 [alt_alice](#)

Before I get away with myself -- any additional thoughts on figuring out where Laurel and Alise Sinclair might be? Tonks, perhaps you might do some digging. Might Laurel be working somewhere in the Ministry? Have you heard of anyone else being 'called into service' through Beth?

And Bill -- is there any further news at all on the group that was taken in by MLE recently -- who they were associated with, and what's happened to them?

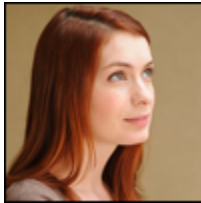
Moody's finally sent a (short) reply to our owls. He said that we needed to stop sending him any more as it was compromising his position, and that he'd keep an eye out for Kathleen. I believe his exact words were, 'for merlin's sake woman, I'll let you know when we've found her.'

Charlie, Mac, I've got your report about the Goblins, and I certainly agree with your assessment -- we won't even be able to approach them without something in hand that they'd want. Unfortunately, their tastes are a bit rich -- Sirius, does Grimmauld have anything that might be tempting? Does anyone else have any ideas? They tend to prefer Goblin-made artifacts, the older the better. And depending on the tribal lineage, they might be particular about who did the making (if I've read your notes correctly, Charlie). And thank you for your initial attempts to talk with the centaurs in the Forbidden Forest. We might try for another round at Christmas, and hopefully get a bit further.

Regina seems very pleased with Aldrich's progress in developing sustainable crops. She's been hard at work writing a manual that she can pass out to other small farming operations that have mixed

magical and non magical workers. I gather that they've also been hard at work on their radio tower as well. Kingsley, do you have an idea as to when it'll be done? And Sirius -- what's the latest from Terrie? As we've seen with Sally-Anne and Ron's encounter, MLE does appear to be rather quick to the scene when it comes to farming security -- does she have any ideas as to how we might work around their measures?

Molly, what wonderful news about finding a venue. I'm sure there'll be some interest from Aldrich. Let us know if you need any help drumming up more sellers. And Minerva; I know it's expected, but it's so very good to see you back in your rightful place. Here's hoping this term goes smoothly for all at Hogwarts.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-02 04:17:10**

Private Message to Frank Longbottom

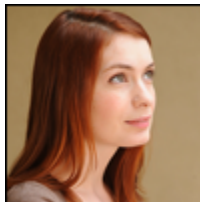
I've just realised something, love.




 **[alt_frank](#) at 2013-09-02 04:17:31**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

what's that then?



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-02 04:17:56**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

It's been over a year since the storm.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2013-09-02 04:18:40**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

yeah.

yeah, it has.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-02 04:20:07](#)**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

I'm so proud of you, Frank.

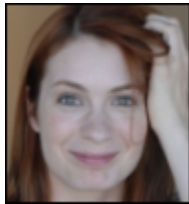
I love you so very much.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-09-02 04:24:04](#)**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

come on up to bed, then.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-02 04:24:28](#)**

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom

On my way.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-09-04 00:02:50](#)**

(no subject)

Right, so.

Someone in the Weasley family has a goblin artefact, don't they? A tiara? Ginny and I went shopping last week in New London, and we wound up window-shopping for a while at a jewelry store (did you know she had a replica of Ravenclaw's Diadem for a while? she pointed out another one as being just like something she'd owned) and one of the things she mentioned was her Auntie Muriel's tiara and how it was goblin-made.

Where does Auntie Muriel (I'm sorry to be so familiar, but I don't know if she's a Weasley or a Prewett) stand politically? Would she give up her tiara for an alliance with the goblins?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-04 00:20:34](#)
(no subject)

Also, it's today (tonight) you're meeting Maureen and helping her escape.


Do we need to postpone because if so, I need to go say something about quidditch.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-04 00:33:22](#)
(no subject)


It's covered. Dora's planning to be there.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-04 02:27:27](#)
Private message to Sirius

Doesn't have much faith in us, does she?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-04 02:52:42](#)
Re: Private message to Sirius


If by 'not much' you mean, 'none at all,' then yes, she hasn't.

Merlin, if I had spoken to my father the way she swotted up about their MLE observation, he'd've - no, wait. I *did* speak that way on occasion (and got the punishment to prove it). Though in my defence I'd say I had far more provocation.

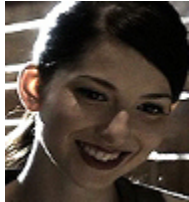
Teenagers.

In all honesty I've no idea how Pomona, Minerva, Albus and the others do it.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-04 05:42:00](#)**
(no subject)


She's arrived, safe and sound.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-09-05 01:03:03](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Mrs Longbottom.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-04 02:12:37](#)**
(no subject)

Did some tentative questioning of my source, using Mum's nerves over Ron witnessing the incident as an excuse (sorry, Mum. I suppose people at the Ministry must think you're a wreck from the stories I tell about you, but your nerves often come in handy that way).

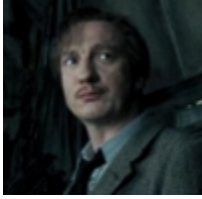
I was cautious and so didn't dare probe too much. I couldn't tell, from what she said whether the people captured were with Beth's group or not. She was willing to tell me that the group they captured were attempting to detach a group of muggles and a muggleborn from a labour detail to which they'd been assigned. The wizard who had requisitioned the labour was killed by the wizards in the group. Tracing the 'stolen property' has been difficult due to some shoddy recordkeeping in the camps in the region, so they're not quite sure where these smugglers originated from. That part of the investigation is being followed up on by the Malfeasance Elimination Unit.

MLE isn't clear whether the individuals who were in the labour pool were cooperating with the 'thieves' or not. I guess that's one thing the interrogators are trying to determine.

My source isn't directly involved in either the questioning or the follow up investigation, but I have a reasonable amount of confidence that she's not giving me bogus information.

Is anyone following up on our side to try to find Beth to see whether

that incident involved her people? How often do the folks at Doughty Conduit see her? Or do they have a safe way to contact her?



 **alt_lupin** at **2013-09-04 02:28:02**
(no subject)

We don't have a way to contact Beth; we have to wait for her to come to us. Believe me, we're as anxious to see her as you are.

2013-09-01 22:41:00

(no subject)

Ah, how very good it is to be back at Hogwarts. Students, I hope you all had a pleasant summer; it was lovely to see you all looking so well-rested and energised at supper tonight.



 **alt_antonin**

A few housekeeping notes before the beginning of term:

Fourth and fifth year students, if you wish to make a change in the class track in which you are enrolled (from practical to theoretical or from theoretical to practical), this can be arranged. Simply arrive at the correct class session and remind me after lecture to switch your records.

Third year students: you will have a chance to make your selection of the theoretical or practical tracks after this week's introductory lectures. If you have any concerns before then, you may certainly stop by my open hours.

NEWT students: the books you have found on your beds this evening were delivered by the house elves; they are copies of texts I was unable to source adequate translations through Flourish and Blotts. I will not assign homework before we have even had our first lecture of the year, but you may find it worthwhile to arrive at your first class session having read the first two chapters of the *Liber Bellorum*.

As always, if anyone has any concerns, or would simply like to catch up after our holiday, you have only to stop by. My open hours for the year are posted on my office door.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2013-09-02 13:09:30**
(no subject)

All settled and diving into the work, then?



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2013-09-02 21:42:39](#)**
(no subject)

It's always best to hit the ground running. I'll be back this weekend, though.

2013-09-02 17:11:00

(no subject)

N.E.W.T.s are going to kill me.



 **alt_zacharias**



 **alt_susan** at **2013-09-03 02:02:24**

(no subject)

Too right, mate!



 **alt_justin** at **2013-09-03 17:38:19**

(no subject)

Smith,

Steady on, mate. We're all liable to feel overwhelmed now and then, what.

I say, yesterday wasn't terrible but Tuesdays and Thursdays promise to be bally well rough.

-F-F



 **alt_daphne** at **2013-09-04 00:28:47**

(no subject)

Already?




 **alt_ernie** at **2013-09-04 00:38:20**

(no subject)

Well, it doesn't take much to throw our Zach, does it?

Anyway, some of us are taking more challenging loads than others.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2013-09-04 00:45:37](#)**
(no subject)

I wouldn't say that Daphs' eight lessons qualify as unchallenging, MacMillan. Especially on top of being a Prefect.



 **[alt_zacharias](#)** at **[2013-09-04 00:56:44](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, but isn't one of her subjects Divination?
That's more properly half a N.E.W.T.

2013-09-02 21:31:00

Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson



Hullo, Pansy,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you (been busy with Mum on the final arrangements about the building. We were in a bit of mad scramble because we found it right before the end of the month, but Mum was able to get the keys September 1, so we can move in any time. Thanks for your last capital infusion. That was the last bit we needed to close the deal.

 [alt_gredforge](#)

Also, we've been helping pull in the harvest out of the garden so Mum can get on with the canning. She's sort of frantic because she's behind her usual schedule.)

Now, as for your budget proposal: the two of us and Mum have gone over it, too, and Lee also had some suggestions. We think it looks good. Maybe we might allocate a bit more for advertising to start out. (Among other things, you're right that we should advertise in the *Prophet*, and that can get pricey, especially since they just raised their rates.) We have some notes scribbled in the margins of a copy of the second draft we're sending back to you. The owl should arrive either tomorrow or the day after. We'll also include our first quarter's progress report on R&D, including our descriptions of a few new nifty possible products (about ten or twelve of them). We should have samples for you in a week and will owl them along to you. Once you've looked them over, it'd be great if you can take a stab at modifying our descriptions for advertising copy.

Demeter Freesia we haven't heard of, but we thought of another bloke who might help: Hermes Tamblin. He was in the class ahead of ours, and we think this might be just his thing. Brilliant artist and illustrator, really creative. He was hired by a potions company, and we think it was in ad design, but maybe packaging design, too. Fred thinks he can track him down quickly. No harm in asking both of them if they might be interested in submitting a proposal.

Like your idea about Zonko's. One thing we always appreciated about the place is that the owner is always on the lookout for the next new thing. So we bet your hunch is correct, that he'd give us some display space for a cut. *Particularly* if we have good packaging, as you say. It's

worth a try.

Anyway, keep a lookout for that owl, and like we said, some samples of new stuff should be on its way to you within a week.




 **alt_pansy** at **2013-09-03 03:57:42**
(no subject)

Excellent. I agree with shifting a bit more to advertising.

Tamblyn sounds better suited, actually, but Demeter might be up for it, or would know someone else who might work, maybe. I think if we get two people, we might ask them to bid on it and send us a sample of what it'd look like so we can get a better deal.



 **alt_pansy** at **2013-09-03 04:01:59**
(no subject)

And before I forget, it was quite the surprise to see you out of your usual jumpers when you came to see us off on Sunday. You lot clean up well.

George cleans up a bit better, but it can't be helped.

Anyways. I'm sure you'll make a great impression when you pitch to Zonko's.

2013-09-03 20:28:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private Message to Dux



 **alt_justin**

Hullo, love,

How is Jack settling in? Does he find your dormitory familiar or has he had to adjust all over again? I expect he can't fit into the crannies where he used to hide, what.

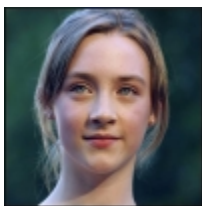
I say, our room in Hufflepuff feels bally well empty, with Hopkins and Stebbins gone.

Tuesdays and Thursdays do rather promise to be quite difficult but tomorrow I've only Potions, so that's a blessing.

Professor Dolohov assigned loads of reading but I'm nearly done. I can read the Runes text tomorrow morning. Which means, if you'd like to meet tonight, I'd very much like to see you. In a way, I'm almost glad we only had the one brief visit, what. It was jolly hard to be with you but not allowed to be together, at the same time.

Shall we risk it?

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2013-09-04 02:11:18**

(no subject)

No, he doesn't like it. He won't come out from under the bed unless I coax him with treats. I expect he'll get used to it in good time.

Everyone's already giving us horror stories about OWLs and how we'd better start revising now or else. At least we'll have proper teaching and lessons on our side this year, without Madam Umbridge around.

I'd very much like to see you, too, only I can't help but feel a bit nervous about it. Daddy said he expected "proper behaviour," but he didn't really elaborate, so that could mean anything.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-04 02:47:33](#)**
(no subject)


I expect it's the damp Jack doesn't fancy. Don't give him too many treats; you'll note he's already looking plump!

As for proper behaviour, what, do you think your father--well--*did* anything to ensure that we maintain our distance? I mean to say, he has no way of knowing while we're at school, has he?

Perhaps we'd best not. At least not straight away. Dash it.

-J




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2013-09-04 02:50:26](#)**
(no subject)

He didn't say we couldn't see each other at all, he just said to be proper. Conversing is proper, isn't it? And maybe a few other things...

Well, you are meant to be my intended, anyway.

We should just be proper, I mean. For now, I think.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-04 03:01:42](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose that depends on what century's customs your father considers proper.

Somehow I rather don't think it's this one.

Well, you're right: We should be careful. No use giving anyone an excuse to call off the engagement, what.

I can still walk with you to your lessons, at least. Have you copied out your timetable?

-J




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-09-04 03:10:22](#)
(no subject)

It's not my fault that my father is like he is.

You can see me tonight if you think you would be alright with holding hands and talking. You know, like we used to.

And yes, I've copied it out.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-04 03:28:51](#)
(no subject)

I think it's a bit late, if we're trying to be circumspect about it.

And I'm not blaming you, love. I'm blaming him, what?

As far as limiting things to holding hands, if we must do, we must. You know I'll do whatever it takes, sweetheart.


But I'll be dashed if we limit ourselves unnecessarily out of fear. It would be different if we knew for certain, what. It's jolly well bad form. You're old enough to make your own decisions and he's still bally well manipulating us, from all the way down in New London.

Double dash it.

Sorry. I suppose I'm simply out of sorts, being back at school and.... No, I'm sure I don't know what my excuse is. Sorry.

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-09-04 03:32:36](#)
(no subject)

It's alright. We can talk about it tomorrow, when we've both slept.

Jack says hello. It sounds like *meow*, though.

I love you - Goodnight!



 **alt_justin** at **2013-09-04 03:34:53**
(no subject)

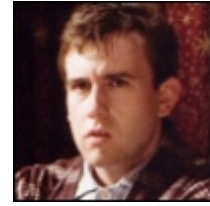
I love you, too. I'm sure you're right and some sleep will sort me out quite well.

Sweet dreams, Dux.

-J

2013-09-04 06:54:00

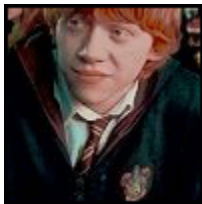
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private Message to Ron Weasley




 **alt_neville**

Is it just me, or is Seamus even colder than last year?

I swear, we might as well put up a partition in the room between the two of us and the two of them. I try, but I honestly wonder if the four of us will ever have a joint conversation again.

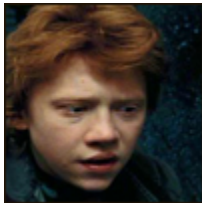



 **alt_ron** at **2013-09-04 14:59:20**
(no subject)

Oddly enough, I'm getting along better with Seamus.

I think it's Dean.

When I get a chance (not really able to write just now), I need to tell you about both of them during CCF. It was strange.



 **alt_ron** at **2013-09-05 02:35:51**
(no subject)

So. Here's the thing. When we were at CCF I got to captain a unit and Harry had the other one. We chose our members and I chose Malfoy, so Harry took Justin.

And then, looking at the rest of the group, I thought about the way people are connected to each other and how that might play out if they were on my side or on Harry's against me, and whether it would be better to have them split up or together with me, rather than both against. Anywiz, I took Seamus next.

And I think that meant something to him. Anywiz, he worked really well for me. Maybe because Draco was with us and Seamus wants to impress him, but maybe because I put together a good team and chose him second for it. It was a good choice, too. We did really well, and he was a big part of it.

Dean, though. Well. I'd hoped Harry would take him. Maybe even right after I took Seamus, only he didn't. And there were uneven

sides because we had thirteen people this year in the cadet force. So I ended up with Dean because at the end, he was the one unchosen. And, yeah. You know he's touchy at the best of times, but that was sort of a recipe for winding him up, yeah? And it just happened. I mean, I didn't take him because I didn't want both of them, but I thought sure Harry'd take him before the end because, well, the things he's good at, he's really good at. And everyone knows he'll do pretty much anything to win.

Which, I guess, is probably why Harry didn't want him. Because Harry's got really strong ideas about fair play and lines you just don't cross--even more than me, y'know? And we've all seen Dean cross those lines. And double cross the people who try to be his friends, too. So, yeah. The whole thing made it really clear no one wanted to deal with him.

But I got him because the last person was mine. And he did want to win, so we were able to work with that, but what he wanted was to work on his own and not coordinate with any of the rest of us. Which partly worked. We used him to run stealth ops. And he was great if he pulled it off, but really hacked off with everything if he failed. It was just... His temper was really up and down. I mean, I'm not telling you anything, right? It's how he is. But magnified by a hundred times because we all wanted to impress Auror Desai. Or anywiz, not make fools of ourselves. And when they started sending us out against MLE and then Aurors as 'the enemy', we didn't want them handing us our arses because that was just humiliating. So, yeah.

And he got sent to Harry's side for a while to shift the advantage, but then sent back to mine by the end. And it was just tense.

But it's worse now. Like tonight at supper when he acted like I'd got in his way when we were taking our places at the table. Oi! And the ice treatment he's giving us both in the room. I think Mr Peakes must have had something to say to him about CCF stuff that got out in the journals, and he probably blames me. Or Mr Peakes does. I don't know.

I'm watching my back with him. More than usual.

And, y'know, I wouldn't say I trust Finnigan, exactly, but I think we've got a truce, and I want to keep it if I can. Because it's better to be able to work with him than always having to work around him or against him.

2013-09-04 08:23:00


Order Only: Occlumency practise

Children: Whilst I am quite aware the beginning of one's sixth year leaves one wondering whether one will be left with time to sleep and eat in between academic obligations, we ought arrange your extracurricular lesson times. Do let me know when is convenient for you.



 [alt_severus](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-04 16:33:00**
(no subject)

I am free late Tuesday afternoons or early Thursday afternoons (before two, since I'm not in either Divination or Arithmancy) or most evenings (I want to keep going to duelling club though) and weekends.



 [alt_severus](#) at **2013-09-04 16:37:44**
(no subject)

Thursday should be easier for me to carve time out of my schedule, particularly as Minerva Headmistress McGonagall shall no doubt be more amenable to rearrangements of my schedule. I shall meet you in the standard locale.



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2013-09-04 18:42:48**
(no subject)

I can come practically anytime, as long as people are in lessons, so maybe when everyone else has found a time I can pick mine out of what's left.



 [alt_severus](#) at **2013-09-04 19:00:28**
(no subject)

I am less worried about your scheduling, particularly now that Mr Potter is more complicit in your

additional activities. Should all else fail, we may simply say you are assisting me with the castle's upkeep.



 **alt_justin** at [2013-09-04 18:46:18](#)
(no subject)

Mr Snape,

I say, thank you for offering to continue. Wednesday mornings are best but I'm also free on Monday afternoons before three o'clock.

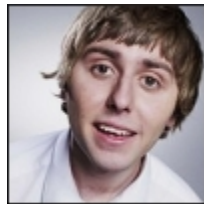
-Finch-Fletchley




 **alt_severus** at [2013-09-04 18:56:28](#)
(no subject)

I will not be the one to leave you less prepared than you ought be.

Wednesday mornings should suffice, though we will need to be finished before eleven.



 **alt_justin** at [2013-09-04 19:07:32](#)
(no subject)

Jolly good; I'll be wanting to collect Hydra after her Astronomy lesson at eleven, at any rate.

-Justin



 **alt_evelyn** at [2013-09-04 23:15:17](#)
(no subject)

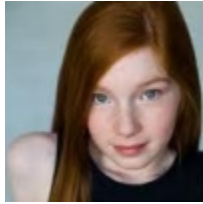
Sir,

I've got Thursday afternoons free as well, and could go after two, but if a 6th year needs that time, I know they're ~~more im~~ more difficult to fit in because of tricky schedules and things, so if I need to change, I can.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-05 12:54:04](#)
(no subject)


If you are amenable, I will combine your lessons with your brother's, Thursday after two.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-09-05 16:44:39](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-09-05 11:25:50](#)
(no subject)


I'm definitely much more free on Tuesdays and Thursday; I only have one 1-hour class on each of those days. On Tuesday I have Transfiguration between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm and on Thursdays I have Charms from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Otherwise those two days are wide open.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-05 12:54:43](#)
(no subject)

You are close enough to mastery that I do not think you need individualised attention any longer; if you are amenable I will combine your lessons with your sister's on Thursday after two.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-09-05 22:11:16](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, sir. I think that will work well.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 00:05:30](#)
(no subject)

What about me? Aren't I close enough to mastery yet?




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-06 00:22:29](#)
(no subject)

You are certainly at a level of practise that will allow you to block all but the most dedicated of intrusions, and have been for quite some time.


However, your natural gifts and inclinations make individualised instruction more rewarding, and given the circles in which you move and the future rôles you are likely to play, I am inclined to spend as much time working with you as you are able.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 03:02:57](#)
Private message to Mr Snape

Can you be more specific about those *future rôles* you mentioned?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-06 03:42:14](#)
Re: Private message to Mr Snape

Let us speak plainly, as doing so privately will avoid the vapours certain members of the Order reliably fall into whenever it is suggested that you lot not be wrapped in cotton wool until your twilight years.

The majority of your cohort is learning Occlumency as a talisman to allow them peace of mind; barring utter disaster in the future, the extent to which they are likely to use it is to guard against glancing skimming of their thoughts in passing, and in the event of utter disaster there will be methods other than Legilimency employed against the sanctity of their thoughts.

Given who and what you are, it is vanishingly unlikely you will not be called into the Dark Lord's service, and given the Dark Lord's recent ... erratic whims, that day will no doubt be sooner rather than later. At some point in your future, you will undoubtedly find yourself kneeling before the Dark Lord while he rummages through your mind for whatever scraps might amuse him, and you will need to not only show him the face you wish for him to see, but do so in such a way as to prevent him from suspecting there is anything lurking beneath.

Of all your cohort, I believe you the most likely to play that role successfully, but for all the skill you have learned — and I do not denigrate the skill you have learned — you are not yet ready for that prospect. This year, should you be amenable, we will begin studying the ways in which you can become so.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2013-09-06 03:49:31**

Re: Private message to Mr Snape

I don't have any illusions that the Lord Protector will pass me over.

I can't quite tell from your words, but I have a feeling that you're presenting this not just as something to prepare for, but to actively seek out, when the time comes.



 **[alt_severus](#) at 2013-09-06 04:01:42**

Re: Private message to Mr Snape

Rather, I am saying there is little chance you will be able to avoid the prospect, short of disappearing entirely — something I do not believe you would be willing to do.

We both know that having someone in such a position would be to considerable tactical advantage in the Dark Lord's overthrow. I am well aware, however, that you are still torn in the question of many things involved with the Order save for the need of that overthrow, and I would and will not push you into the rôle of the double agent unless you could do so with no reservations. It is not a comfortable life, and the risks are considerable; should you be uncovered now as I was then, Azkaban is no longer as likely a fate as Avada Kedavra would be.

Still, even if you do not wish to turn spy for the Order wholeheartedly, I would not wish you to be delivered unto the Dark Lord's nonexistent mercies without every scrap of preparation it is within my power to impart.



 **alt_draco at 2013-09-06 04:40:50**

Re: Private message to Mr Snape

How is Harry any less likely to avoid the prospect? He's the Lord Protector's "son."

Then again, he does have most of the Order members willing to swoop in and give their lives to save him from that fate. I don't.

In theory, being a double agent suits me just fine. I half feel I am one already.

In reality, though, I reckon I might rather disappear entirely.



 **alt_severus at 2013-09-06 14:03:04**

Re: Private message to Mr Snape

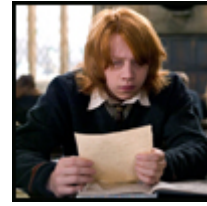
I am working with Mr Potter as well, though given the level of difficulty he has given the Dark Lord in the past, I doubt the Dark Lord will wish to bring him into the fold quite so early. ~~He has no parents to torment by forcing him into~~

Should you decide disappearance suits you better than intrigue, I will offer my assistance there, as well.

2013-09-04 23:05:00


Order Only Private Message to Professor Dumbledore

Sir. I know I haven't made very good progress and I know you might think it's not worth me carrying on with Occlumency lessons, but I'd like to keep at it if you've got time for a session now and then.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_albus](#) at **2013-09-05 13:57:47**
(no subject)

I'm certain we can arrange a time, my boy.

If you would describe your practice since we last met, I will consider how we might best begin.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-09-05 14:07:13**
(no subject)

Erm. Well. I tried doing all the things we discussed all summer whenever I was talking to Mum. I mean, she's not a Legilimens, but she always knows when I'm thinking of stuff she doesn't think I should be or stuff she doesn't want me to go do or not thinking about whatever she's saying to me. So I thought it might help if I could Occlude when she was talking to me. And maybe it sort of worked. Sometimes. Except it meant I never really knew what she'd asked me to do, and I got in a load of trouble for starting to muck out the goats when I was meant to bring rakes around from the shed. That sort of thing.

Oh. I have been doing Professor Dolohov's meditation exercises every day because we got in the habit during CCF and he's going to have us doing them all year. They're good for setting aside stuff I'm thinking about. Sometimes. Depends what I'm thinking about.

I don't know. It's the same thing still. I just get ideas all in a flash and can't stop that. They just pop up. And, um.

Well.

I think about someone in particular a lot. And I can't stop that, either.



 [alt_albus](#) at [2013-09-05 21:36:51](#)
(no subject)

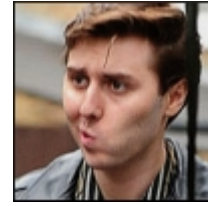
Indeed.

Bring me a copy of your schedule when you come for class tomorrow morning, and I will find some suitable times to meet. I should review your material from Professor Dolohov as well, to determine the best approach.

The question of how to hold your focus will occupy us for some time.

2013-09-05 17:07:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good



Everyone,

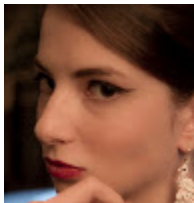
Did you hear Professor Dolohov as we were leaving the lesson this morning? We've got to tell him our working groups for the year before Tuesday.

 [alt_justin](#)

I think though, if we all simply join up in our usual sets, we might give him the confirmation he's been looking for, about the Ministry and such, what? Also, we may all be mates but we're not necessarily all interested in exactly the same sorts of projects.

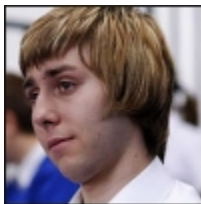
Has anyone else thought about partners? We might want to strategise so no one's left with a team that's completely incompatible. On the other hand, there might be some--Brocklehurst, Corner, Greengrass and even Moon--who could easily join a team without driving the others round the twist, what.

-F-F



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-05 22:13:41**
(no subject)

I think we ought to ensure Daphne's surrounded by our lot, if we can. And you have a good point about Brocklehurst and Corner (and Moon). Who's going for the Dark Arts NEWT who has a galleon?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-05 22:24:17**
(no subject)


Just Corner and Daphne.

I was going to talk to Macmillan about one but he--well, it became clear at the time that it wasn't the right choice, what.

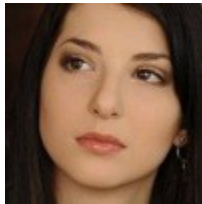
This year might be different, though. He's a good chap, if a bit blinkered. I'd jolly well like to make sure he's not left to fall in with the likes of Patil, what, if possible.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-05 22:34:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, talk to Sue first. Have they patched it up after all the business with Umbridge?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-05 22:34:33](#)
(no subject)

Well, let's see. Of our lot, here's who's in NEWT Dark Arts:

You

Me
Pansy
Ron
Harry
Draco
Susan

If you and Susan work together with Ernie you'll have a little Hufflepuff grouping. Susan could pull in Mandy Brocklehurst because we're in Tea of the Strange together, and that'll keep her out of Patil's shadow.

Harry and Draco can work together and they could pull in Linus and Corner. Everyone will assume they wanted Linus for his cleverness. Corner too, for that matter.

If Pansy and I partner that would be perfectly natural and if we work with Ron everyone will assume it's because he's my boyfriend. (I think.) (I mean, I think that's what they'll assume.) But, if we want to pull in Daphne, that would be awkward. And I DO think she ought to be in a group with some of us.

Hmm.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-09-05 23:00:00**

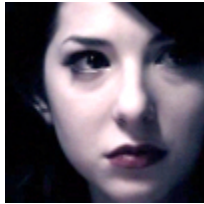
Private Message to Sally Anne

Do you even want to partner with me? I mean, that makes it sound a bit like I'd be the dead wood.

Only, you don't have to.

If

Whatever



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-06 01:18:58**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

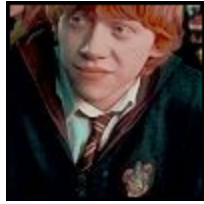
No. I DO want to. When Professor Dolohov said that we could work in groups of two, three, or four, I thought, 'well that will work out perfectly, because Pansy and Ron and I can all work


together.'

Justin's right though that we should think about ways to group ourselves so that no one ends up partnering with Teddy and Blaise or something horrid like that, and that we should also try to make sure Daphne and Corner don't wind up partnering someone horrid. (I don't think we need to worry that much about Professor Dolohov working out who was in the Department of Mysteries because he already knows who's friends with whom, but just making sure Susan doesn't end up having to work with Patil or anything is complicated enough.)

And of course it's awkward. Because you dated Daphne, and I dated Corner. And there's also Pansy and Draco. Susan didn't ever date Ernie but there's awkwardness because of Umbridge. And so on.

There's probably a way to make it all work out properly. I tore up little bits of parchment with names and I'm moving them around.



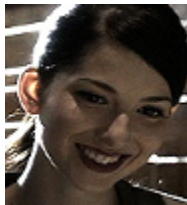
 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-06 04:02:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

All right, then.

Finnicky's putting me off, anywiz. So that's probably a No from him.

We could ask Daphne. I mean, you wouldn't have a problem with that, would you? It'd seem normal again pretty soon. I think.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-06 04:15:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

I definitely wouldn't have a problem with Daphne but I thought you or she might feel weird about it. I'll ask and see what she says.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-06 04:17:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Me? No. I was thinking you might. But if not, then ask her. I think that would be brilliant. I mean, that'd be me and three people with loads better penmanship!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-05 22:40:56](#)

(no subject)

I agree about Daphs.

I've been thinking about seeing if Finnigan wanted to be part of a group, but I think he'd be more likely if that were with Malfoy. Or Harry, maybe. I mean, otherwise, he'll end up with Patil, for sure. Only, I think if she falls in with Zabini (or have they blown up again?) anywiz, if she's with Zabini, I might have a chance to get Finnigan into a group, but I might need one of the others to hook him.

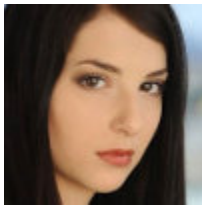
Of course, I could really end up regretting it. I mean, Finnigan and me stuck together for the whole year could turn out to be a right disaster.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-05 22:47:15](#)
(no subject)

You and Finnigan. Hmm. I'm sure he'd RATHER be with Patil, but he likes Zabini almost as much as I do.

If Patil has the common sense of a scrambled egg, she won't partner with Zabini. I'm not sure she does, though. And Zabini might ask her -- SHE'D make a much better partner in that class than Teddy Nott.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-05 22:18:49](#)
(no subject)

Also -- Linus Moon is dead clever and likes showing off, especially for anyone he's impressed by. If Linus is in a group with, say, Harry and Draco, if there's anything we especially want to learn more about, they'll be in a good position to put him to work, you know?

He's also not very likely to notice that he's being manipulated. But, it definitely needs to be Harry and Draco pulling the strings, because Padma Patil might notice.



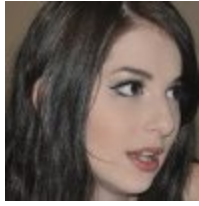
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-05 22:27:52](#)
(no subject)

Yes, he was well useful during the CCF exercises, what.

He can be a bit--overenthusiastic, if you follow me. But one can usually make sure he's staying within limits.

I say, though.... Is he likely to want to include Miss Brown?

-F-F




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-05 22:37:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I think if Harry or Draco tells him that it's an all-boy group because they don't want to be distracted, Linus would eat that up with a spoon.

I mean, they SHOULDN'T let him include Lavender, those two will probably break up and get back together five times before next June, and who needs that sort of extra drama in Dark Arts class, of all places?

Besides, if we're taking Linus, Padma needs SOMEONE to partner with. It can be her and Finnigan and Lavender Brown.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-05 22:49:22](#)
(no subject)

From what I've seen of Patil, she shan't want Brown in her group, best friend or no. When it comes to her studies, she's bally well fiercely competitive.

Did you happen to be watching when Professor Slughorn said no one's Draught of Living Death was quite up to snuff? She was jolly cross.

If Sue doesn't wish to work with Macmillan (and I can understand that, Sue, if that's your decision), then I could ask him and Daphne. Sue could work with Brocklehurst and Corner, perhaps, and then you, Ron and Pansy and Harry, Draco and Linus.

Would that leave anyone hanging?

-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-05 22:49:08](#)
Private message to Pansy

I am just taking it for granted that you WANT to partner with me. You do, right? If not I should probably start looking.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-06 01:26:02](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

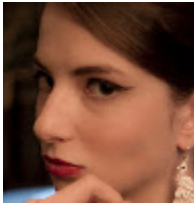
Of *course* I do. And if we decided to split up and be in different groups, even if it was to spread out a bit, like Justin's suggesting, people'd think we were in a spat or something.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-06 01:24:45](#)

(no subject)

I think Linus would join my group if I asked. And he could be useful.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-06 01:37:51](#)

(no subject)

Ask soon, or Patil's going to get him. Did you see where she asked him to come find her?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 03:17:30](#)

(no subject)

I don't see how we have any control whatsoever about what conclusions Professor Dolohov draws. He's a shrewd man, not an idiot.

Like it or not, there's going to be times when we're going to have to work with people who aren't one of us, whether that means that they're simply tolerable or utterly unsavoury.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-06 03:25:59](#)

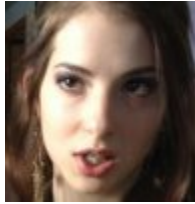
(no subject)

Well, sure. But that doesn't mean any of us should work with Teddy when we can so easily avoid it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 03:31:55](#)
(no subject)


I'll work with Teddy if there's no way around it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-06 03:43:51](#)
(no subject)

Professor Dolohov said to choose our own groups so there IS a way around it, a rather easy one.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 03:45:44](#)
(no subject)

Fine, I'll be with Harry, Moon, and Corner. Provided, of course, that Moon and Corner haven't already agreed to work with someone else.

Teddy will end up somewhere, though.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-06 04:03:45](#)
(no subject)

Malfoy,

I say, there's no need to be cross with one another. I agree we need to be able to work outside our sets, what: That's partly why I suggested we...fan out, as it were. Spread ourselves instead of lumping in cliques, if you follow me.

I'm well aware that Professor Dolohov will conclude what he concludes but that does not mean one must make those conclusions simple to draw, what?


-F-F



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-06 04:29:14](#)
(no subject)

Who said anyone was cross?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-06 04:39:14](#)
(no subject)

Of course, quite right. My mistake, then.

-J

2013-09-05 18:00:00

Order Only: Radio Tower in Aldrich

Alice, I'm getting back to you quite belatedly on your question about the progress on setting up a radio tower at Aldrich, and so I thought I'd make this a separate entry.



 [alt_kingsley](#)

The people there have been pitching in with commendable enthusiasm on this project, if not much personal knowledge or direct experience. Lee's knowledge of ham radio operations has been useful. However, there is one looming question which probably can't be answered until we try setting things up and doing some testing. Specifically, how will the Fidelius spell affect our ability to broadcast? After all, Fidelius hides or shrouds whatever is encompassed by the spell so anything within can't be detected outside the boundary. Does that include radio signals, too?

We're sketching out ideas for a hybrid set up, using both magical spells (similar to the ones used to run the Wizarding Wireless) and muggle technology. After all, we do hope for both a wizarding and muggle audience--which reminds me; we certainly need to discuss our programming content. We have several thoughts about how to power it, and the mechanics on site have built a model or two to help work out logistics. The most promising idea is to build a windmill, which spells could turn if there is no wind available, but the electricity thus produced is generated entirely by muggle means.

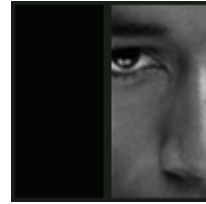
Ideally, we'd like broadcasts to be able to be picked up by both wizarding wireless sets and muggle radios. If the Fidelius spell blocks the wizarding transmittal spells, perhaps the muggle signal might still get through.

I should have an idea pretty soon--maybe in about a week--of when they will be able to try the first broadcast test.

2013-09-05 18:05:00

Private Message to Padma Patil

I've been thinking, of course, about groups for Noble Arts. I'd like it if you'd consider working with me.



 [alt_blaise](#)


I've been thinking of asking Moon, as well. His analytics are worth having even if he is a bit wet.

And then I think together we might make a case to Malfoy. Otherwise, he's likely to partner Daphs and Marvolo, and that would be a bit of a waste.

Of course, if you wanted to consider a wild card, we might ask Crabbe. He is an absolute natural at the arts. Mind you, we'd have to do all the writing, but if we're given adaptation assignments, he's able to adjust spells by touch. And if we've got to demonstrate, we could rely on his always getting full marks on that.

I'd rather avoid partnering Teds, so I'd like to get this sorted before he starts thinking what he'd like to do.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-06 00:44:22**
(no subject)

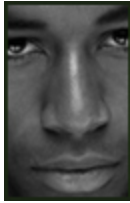
Crabbe's good but we'd spend almost all our planning time explaining. And explaining. Unless he's willing to keep his gob shut until we tell him 'Wands out' and just confine himself to casting. Oh, but what if everyone's research papers count to the whole group's overall mark? Or he expects us to help him because we're on a team together?


Lines would join us if we asked him but I'm worried he'll insist we carry Lav, too. I mean, this is N.E.W.T.s we're talking about. There's no one I'd want more if we were picking out robes or brewing a potion to keep nail lacquer from chipping but--well. It's just that if Lines feels he has to take care of her, that's his lookout and I won't have it bring down the rest of the team.

What would you think about asking Daphs ourselves? I don't mind if you want to make sure she doesn't go and do something daft like throw her lot in with Weasley or Parkinson. She's not brilliant but she's also better than most--she was good to have along on the CCF

trip, too.

Oh, I think we should also promise that even if we're cross with one another (you know), we leave it outside for the purpose of coming in tops.




 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2013-09-06 00:51:59**
(no subject)

We could ask Daphne, yes. But would that really help us keep from getting cross with one another?

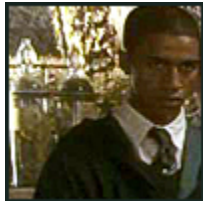
I'd prefer we asked Draco, actually. Particularly if what we want is to top the standings.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2013-09-06 00:57:01**
(no subject)

Malfoy would be good. You, me, Moon and Malfoy.

We'd better act quickly or Malfoy will go with Marvolo. Do you think you'll be able to talk to him tonight?




 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2013-09-06 01:05:30**
(no subject)

Yes. I've already told him I have something to talk over with him later.

Have you said anything to Moon?



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2013-09-06 01:38:51**
(no subject)

I just wrote to ask him and

oh, bugger.

Seamus.

Would you.... I mean. Well, if you didn't mind, or if Lines insists on having Lav along, then, maybe, would you consider Seamus?




 **alt_blaise** at [2013-09-06 01:48:40](#)
(no subject)

Well. We're not having Brown, that's for certain.

But surely Moon knows to separate study from snogging, since he's chosen someone so unsuited to academics.

As for Finnigan? I'm not saying he'd drag us down. I know his marks are good. It's ~~only that the two of you together can be~~—
As long as you're really going to ask Moon first. Let's talk about it again if Moon's a no-go.

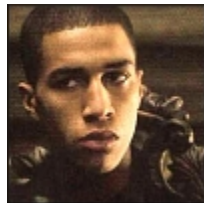



 **alt_padma** at [2013-09-06 04:10:29](#)
(no subject)

Did you see Harry just wrote to Lines?

I'm betting it's not to ask about his scintillating internship with Georg Bright.

On the ~~bright-side~~ other hand, that means we don't have to worry about Lav, I suppose.



 **alt_blaise** at [2013-09-06 04:27:00](#)
(no subject)

You're sure he'll pick Marvolo over you?
Maybe. Depends who Marvolo's got with him, don't you think? I mean, Moon cares about top marks as much as you. And, no disrespect intended, but Marvolo's gifts aren't necessarily academic. If you know what I mean. Mind you, he's an excellent wand, and I'd wager he's had more tutoring in the Arts than all of us combined. And I'm not saying he's a Crabbe, but as far as the theory and writing goes? He's not a match for you--or me. I'd expect Moon to take that into account.

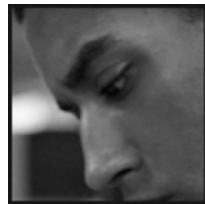



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-09-06 19:22:18](#)**
(no subject)

Of course he did. All Marvolo has to do is smile in his direction and he begs after him like a puppy.

Just as well, in some ways. He's *useful* but lately he's a crashing bore. I don't know if I could take a whole year (or two!) of him waxing poetic.

So, should I ask Seamus? He's really worth having.




 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2013-09-06 19:40:53](#)**
(no subject)

Well, blast. Draco's going with Marvolo, so that's another reason for Moon to have gone with him. I didn't realise Moon was the sort to run after Marvolo. That is a bore.

Do ask Finnigan. And I'll ask Daphs, shall I?

And if that fails, well. What's Brocklehurst like academically? I mean, obviously she's nothing to look at and generally missable by other measures. But there must be a reason she Sorted into Ravenclaw, no?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-09-06 20:36:27](#)**
(no subject)

Seamus is in.

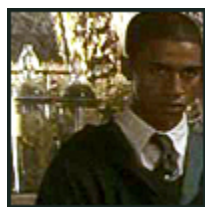
What about Daphs?

I was talking to Seamus and he had an interesting suggestion. F-F.

I mean, I know he's sort of a drip, with all that honour and fair play nonsense. But. He can write, at least. And he's not bad at the spellwork.

If Daphs says she's already got a team, that is. I mean, if

she's interested, then fine, F-F can take care of himself. But he might be a good alternative to Crabbe.




 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2013-09-06 21:00:18](#)**
(no subject)

Actually, Flinch-n-Fetchit's a good idea strictly because he's one of Antonin Nikolaevich's favourites. That could be really very useful when assignments get doled out: we'd be sure to get the extra interesting things.

Let's go with that. I can't find Daphs, anyway.

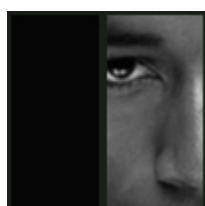


 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-09-06 21:12:16](#)**
(no subject)

Is he? I've never noticed--but then Ravenclaw never had Noble Arts with Hufflepuff, either.

You're right that it'll be useful to have a teacher's pet, though.

Should you ask him or me?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2013-09-06 21:41:17](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry. Still looking for Daphne, but she's off somewhere.

I think you might do better asking him, actually. He'll be flattered. Obviously he'll think you want him because he's a top student.

2013-09-05 20:30:00

Private message to Padma Patil

So -- how about partnering in Dark Arts? You aren't going to leave me to try to work with my house mates, are you?



 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-06 02:11:21**

(no subject)

No, I don't want you to have to work with Thomas *or* Weasley if you don't want to!

Just...don't accept any other offers for a day, okay? I'm trying to work out a few options where we'd all be in good stead for the N.E.W.T.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-06 20:08:00**

(no subject)

Can you work with Zabini? Because if you can then you're in.

We need a fourth. Blaise thought maybe Brocklehurst. She's all right but not stellar, you know? I mean, she's a hard worker and she'd do as she's told.

What do you think? I'm not sure but our options are fading fast.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2013-09-06 20:15:06**

(no subject)

Zabini. Okay. I can work with Zabini ~~if he can work with me~~ sure.

Dean Thomas, though I know you don't think much of him. Or Corner, he's in your House so he must be clever. Or -- I don't know. We don't HAVE to have four, do we? I suppose if we're only three, we might have someone assigned to us if there's an odd one out.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-06 20:23:09](#)
(no subject)

Right, we don't *have* to, but there are 20 of us in the class, so if it winds up that there are two extra people, my guess is the teams with three will each have to take one.

So far, I know Draco and Harry took Linus, and they'll need a fourth. No one wants Teddy Nott, so he'll probably wind up with Greg and Vince. I mean, Blaise and I talked about Vince but even though he's really good at Noble Arts (surprisingly good, actually), the thing is that he can't write, so we risk our overall marks.

Blaise is asking Daphne, which is fine, although sometimes I wish she were a bit better at this kind of casting.

Corner would not be my first choice. He's milquetoast, you know? We need someone who's really, really *good* at this, and who can write and do research.

Ugh, why isn't there someone else who we can get?




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-09-06 20:26:27](#)
(no subject)

You don't think he'd allow a team of two? He SAID we could work in pairs if we wanted. But yeah, it's a risk and I don't want Teddy Nott.

If you want someone who's really GOOD at this sort of thing and can write and won't liquefy our bones for a laugh while our back is turned like Nott might, what about Finch-Fletchley?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-06 20:31:07](#)
(no subject)

Huh.

I guess I assumed he'd be on the Hufflepuff side, you know?

But--hm. You're right. I think his marks weren't even very bad.

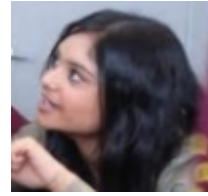
And he did fairly well at CCF--I mean, you know we were on a team with him and Harry after Blaise and I switched. And he was in charge of that rescue thing. That's when he went wrong. I mean.... You're right, he won't do anything like hex us when our backs are turned. But he's the absolute opposite of *ruthless*, and we want to *win*, you know?

Let me see what Blaise thinks.

2013-09-05 20:35:00

Ravenclaw Corner is

off to a great start for the year. We've added some new pillows for the window seat and Madam Pince has given us permission to bring Restricted Section books there for reading, provided we bring them back to the desk at the end of the evening.



 **alt_padma**


As has *always* been the case, if anyone else happens to be looking for a title in the library and can't find it, you're welcome to see if it's on our adjoining table. We generally keep those texts near to hand when we're revising there in the afternoons or during free periods.

Gilhooly and Vane: We were talking in Ravenclaw Corner and we've decided that if you'd like to come and sit with us now and then, you're welcome to do so. It's good to see an incoming class with so much potential; our advice to you lot is: Don't squander it.

Thompson and Cuthbert: Congratulations again on making Prefect. Remember that House Prefects meet every Monday and Thursday for breakfast and Professor Vector likes us to report to her before each staff meeting, so you can tell me or Edgecombe (or Moon and Tamblin, of course) if there's anything from the lower forms that we need to her to know.

Oh, and Lines, there are a couple of things I wanted to ask you, if you can tear yourself away for a private conversation. Maybe in the common room tonight? History club, for one thing, and a couple of other little thoughts I had.



 **alt_lana** at **2013-09-06 02:49:30**
(no subject)

It's good to see you carrying on the traditions. And a good sign that some are showing their potential so early. The Hat knows its business.

Best wishes for the new term, Patil!



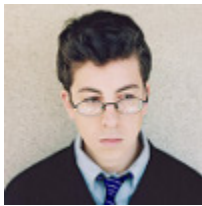
 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-06 20:49:36](#)
(no subject)


Thanks!

I'm sorry I didn't write back yesterday. Last year I thought our professors were waiting for O.W.L.s to pile work on us but that seems like *nothing* compared to N.E.W.T.s!

As for the firsties, it's a good sign, I guess. But I think it's more of a sign that there was really no one to speak of coming in last year. There are a few third-years who are coming now who've made a place for themselves but it all makes me think about how it *used* to be, you know? At least Tamblын's made sure that Ravenclaw are still well-represented. He's making an excellent Head Boy.

I'm really glad you made the time to say something, though. Seems like it's been forever since we chatted! How are you?



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-06 03:56:33](#)
(no subject)

Terribly sorry, Padma, but I've been finishing up some notes for Guild Master Georg Bright regarding my internship. Quite interesting, being able to work at the Astronomy Guild House in New London this summer. I told you that my parents permitted me to take up Guild Master Bright's invitation to observe during the summer projects at the country Guild Hall, did I not? Perhaps I didn't -- this summer has been an absolute whirl -- but it was most splendid: lectures and observing and an overnight stay. There is something charming about being ~~permitted to be around~~ included in a group of simultaneously exhausted and energised researchers at a late breakfast in a bucolic setting. Sheer paradise!

In any case, I simply must devote myself to these notes until sleep claims me. We can talk at the next opportunity that schedules permit, yes?

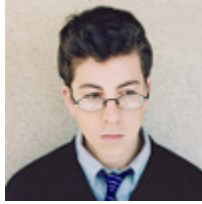


 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-06 04:07:21](#)

Private Message to Linus

Oh, I guess.

I just wanted to know if you've got partners for Noble Arts yet.

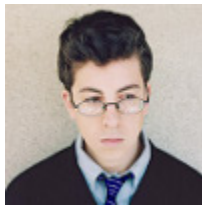



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-06 19:08:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Linus

I do now.

Gird yourself and summon all your Ravenclaw virtues, for this is going to be a year to remember.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-06 19:10:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Linus

What I mean is, in case it wasn't clear, I have accepted the offer of Harry Marvolo to be a member of his team.

(Professors Dolohov and Sinistra have been at me to adhere to all the precepts of good writing, and would be horrified at my lapse of clarity in the previous message. My apologies!)

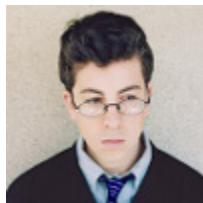


 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-06 20:25:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Linus

I know what you meant. Too bad.

What about Lav? You're not going to leave her to her own devices, are you? That doesn't seem very chivalrous. Or has Harry invited her, too?



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-07 00:19:27](#)


Re: Private Message to Linus

Oh, Lav is quite resourceful, I am sure, and will certainly throw herself into finding a congenial group with her customary Gryffindor determination. Any group would be fortunate to

have her. Ours, however, has acquired a fourth member in the meantime, and I believe Marvolo has the team he wants.

Perhaps she could join with you and your team. Who have you invited so far?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-09-07 00:28:57](#)**

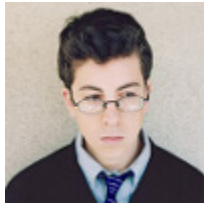
Re: Private Message to Linus

Why, who did Marvolo ask besides you and Malfoy?

It wasn't Macmillan, was it, because then you'd have all the M's on a single team!

We're at three and we've got two possible fourth members already, so I suppose Lav's on her own.

I'll just tell her you were completely unconcerned, shall I?



 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2013-09-07 00:35:04](#)**

Re: Private Message to Linus

I'm not unconcerned, Padma. I have confidence in her. Honestly, there's a difference. I should think that you as a Ravenclaw of all people should be more sensitive to the nuances of words.

As to Marvolo's choice, I shouldn't like to give things away before he's confirmed all arrangements, so I'd best not say anything yet.

2013-09-05 20:37:00

Private message to Megan Jones

Megan,

You may remember that my foster family is the Strettons (Jeremy Stretton was a Ravenclaw a few years ahead of us). They own a load of farms up near Coventry, worked on by muggle labourers.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

For complicated reasons I might or might not be going there for Christmas hols (I don't know yet -- ask me in person if you want to know more, it's too complicated to write it all out). I turn 17 in the spring (DURING spring hols) and Mrs Stretton noted that once I turn 17 I can go where I like, and she invited me to come work for them when I'm done with NEWTs.

I am not going to. I have other plans, and even if they fall through I have backup plans that don't involve the Strettons. But it occurred to me that you might be interested in the opportunity, and they'd probably be pleased to have you. The Strettons like hiring half-bloods and they're particularly fond of Hufflepuffs. Which means you should be careful, because they like Hufflepuffs because you're loyal, and half-bloods because we don't have as many opportunities, and that means they will underpay you until they absolutely can't get away with it any more. Mrs Stretton offered me a starting salary of 6 galleons per week, with the promise that she'd raise it to 8 galleons after six months if I was satisfactory. She also said I could keep sleeping in my old room -- there's plenty of space, so assume that comes with housing.

The job would likely involve all sorts of odd work. Over the years they've had me monitor the journals for jam orders; every Christmas they have me hand-deliver baskets of jam by floo; they have me check in with overseers on the various work gangs, especially if something's slowing production. They've had me fix the machinery (that sounds hard, but it's really not). They've had me babysit their children. They've had me taste-test the jams (not very often) and work in the production line making the jams (a bit more often).

Anyway. Since I'm probably not going back there for Christmas, and since they're always desperate for any help they can get right before the holidays, if you ARE interested I can introduce you to Mrs Stretton

and you can see if your foster mother will give you permission to spend the holidays somewhere else. You won't get paid at Christmas, mind you, but they always let me raid the cupboard of jams with the labels on crooked to send as my own gifts.

Think about it. If you have any questions about them I'm happy to answer them.

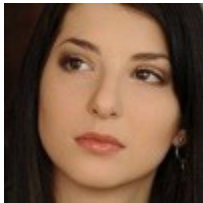


 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2013-09-06 19:53:04](#)**
(no subject)

I am interested. Yes, please. Because my guardian will ~~not care even if~~ I will give me permission, because she has always told me to make myself useful if some opportunity should arise.

~~And probably it is useful to you, if I help out, because then they wouldn't be so cross with you for not being there like they had planned?~~ It is very kind of you to think of me.

What do I need to do?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-09-06 20:04:35](#)**
(no subject)

I just wanted to make sure you were interested before I said anything to Mrs Stretton. I'll write a PM to her and to you, to introduce you to each other. She doesn't write in her journal much but she does read them. If she likes the idea she'll probably owl both you and your guardian.

Just -- it seemed like it might be a good opportunity for you but don't feel like you're stuck there, okay? She'll be as eager as you for this to work out so I expect things will go very well at Christmas but once she starts taking you for granted --

Well I don't want to tell you how to run your life. Just, don't let her take too much advantage of you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-07 00:11:47](#)
(no subject)

I wrote to Mrs Stretton (and you). If you want to chat privately without me you can send her a PM on the message and I won't be offended. (Don't send ME a private message without including Mrs Stretton, though, not there, use this one.)

2013-09-05 20:55:00

Private Message to Linus Moon

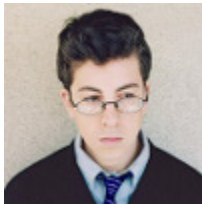
Hey, Linus.


I was wondering if you'd picked a group to work with yet for Noble Arts? I was thinking that you and me and Draco would make a really wiz team, and you had a lot of great ideas this summer.



 [alt_harry](#)

Anyways, if you've already got a team, that's fine, but I wanted to see if you'd be interested, because I think we'd work together really well.



 [alt_linus](#) at **2013-09-06 19:07:03**
(no subject)

Why, thank you very much for asking, Marvolo. You are quite correct that we three bring a glittering assortment of skills together. A team which comprises us will surely accomplish great things.

I had been contemplating various possibilities suggested by Professor Dolohov's lectures, but am quite willing to be persuaded to adopt a topic you have chosen, should you have set your course already.



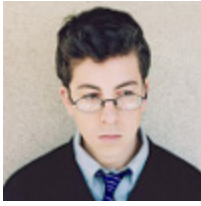
 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-09-06 23:18:09**
(no subject)


That's brilliant.

Great.

I was thinking of asking Corner too. Sound all right?

And. I don't guess I'd thought much about projects, but what he said about ritual and cooperative magic seemed like it could be interesting. Or handling cursed objects safely.



 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2013-09-06 23:58:00](#)**
(no subject)

Corner should be a perfectly fine addition. He definitely has his competencies.

Handling cursed objects is a fascinating area of study, to be sure. I'm given to understand that the concerns involved in storing multiple cursed objects in proximity are quite fascinating indeed, and occupy certain of the best and most methodical minds at the Department of Mysteries.

2013-09-06 17:38:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

No need to answer. Assume you are tying things up there.

Enticement to make it in time for supper: the elf is making pirozhki.

Don't let them entangle you.

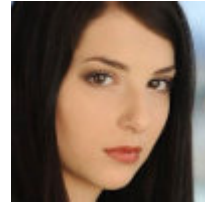
Whatever it is can wait until next week.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2013-09-06 19:10:00

Private message to Mrs Stretton and Megan Jones



Mrs Stretton,

At the end of summer hols, you sat me down for a discussion of my future. I turn 17 this spring, and will take NEWTs in two years; you wanted to let me know that you were interested in hiring me on as an assistant, during holidays starting next summer and full-time once I graduate. You offered me 6 galleons/week to start, 8 galleons/week after six months, with room and some meals included (I assume it would be the room I've slept in as your foster child.)

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I am working toward other goals, but I very much appreciate your offer, and I wanted to recommend to you a fellow NEWT student who I think would be precisely what you're looking for. Megan Jones is in my year; she is a proud member of Hufflepuff House. Her marks are generally excellent (she received Es on her OWLs in Charms, Transfiguration, Potions, Defence, and Astronomy, and is working on NEWTs in those five classes). Like me, she is a fostered half-blood; her foster mother is Estella Penworthy, an elderly lady who lives in Dorset. She is loyal and hard working (as you'd expect from a Hufflepuff) as well as organised and efficient.

I think she'd be exactly what you're looking for. Since it's not clear whether I'll be with you at Christmas, and since you're always exceedingly short-handed, I've proposed to Megan that she spend the beginning of the Christmas holidays with you, to help with deliveries and the other pre-Christmas-rush work. I assume she'd want to spend Christmas itself with her guardian, but she might be able to return on Boxing Day to help with the end-of-year work. (I think she'd quite enjoy the usual Boxing Day rounds on the estates.) If the arrangement proves mutually agreeable, I expect you'd be pleased to extend to her the same offer you made to me. She turns 17 in May.

She thinks her guardian would view this as an excellent opportunity for her.

My own plans, as I said, are to attempt to gain admission into a Healing Apprenticeship; failing that, several of my teachers have offered to help me find employment. I certainly appreciate the many opportunities you have given me to learn and grow as your foster-

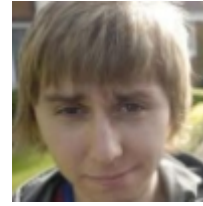
daughter, and I am confident that I will make you proud and bring you credit as I make my way in the world.

Your devoted foster-daughter,
Sally-Anne Perks

(P.S. You'll note that I've included Megan Jones on this PM; she may want to add to my introduction, or if you'd prefer, you can take it to owl post.)

2013-09-06 19:29:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good: Private Message to Susan



Sue,

Sorry to disturb but have you asked anyone yet to partner in Noble Arts?

 [alt_justin](#)

Only, Patil stopped me as we were all leaving supper and asked if I'd join up with her, Zabini and Finnigan.

On the one hand, they're all studious enough and one trusts they'll not turn one's bones to liquid, what.

On the other...I say, when I suggested we spread out and take in some of the others for their own protection, the three of them were not who I had in mind.

Would it be too awkward for us to partner with Ernie, and perhaps Brocklehurst or Corner? Or Brown or even Thomas?

Of course, if you've already put together your own group, I'm sure I shall manage all right with Patil. It's no trouble.

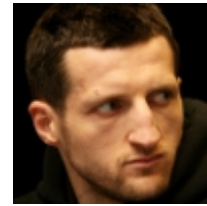
Cheers,

-F-F

2013-09-06 20:27:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

You haven't gone home yet, have you?



 [alt_corax](#)



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 01:28:56](#)

(no subject)

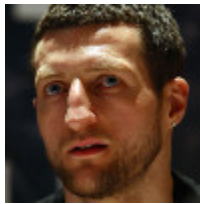
I suppose it doesn't much matter if you have, you can apparate from home as well as you can from the office.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 01:39:05](#)

(no subject)

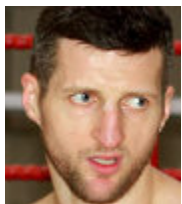
I can be there directly. What do you need?



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 01:40:51](#)

(no subject)

Sending you on an errand to the Bawsey muggle camp. You can go straight there if you'd rather.



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 01:42:04](#)

(no subject)

You have learned to cast a proper cruciatus, haven't you? If not I may have to come up with an alternative punishment.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 01:46:22](#)

(no subject)


Yes. I've cast it.



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 01:50:18](#)
(no subject)

Yeah? Anyone see you do it?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 01:51:02](#)
(no subject)


Miss Lamont did. She taught me how to do it.



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 01:55:51](#)
(no subject)

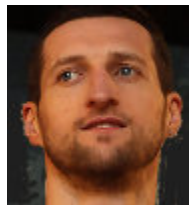
Hell of a first date, Weasley. Don't get your hopes up, though, my sources say she's sleeping with Mafalda Hopkirk. Not sure she's even into blokes.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 02:02:08](#)
(no subject)

That's not something I'm worried about in the least, sir.

Who do you need cruciated?



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-07 02:05:50](#)
(no subject)


The administrator at Bawsey is a woman named Serena Dankworth. Few weeks back a couple of sprogs split from the camp; no one made any particular attempt to find them, which in retrospect may have cost a wizard his life. (Wasn't killed by the sprogs, obviously, but anyone who'd followed the sprogs might have found the rest of the group in time to stop them.)

The camp's had a bit of turnover in the last few years and Dankworth's efficient enough no one wants to see her fired,

so you're to cruciate her for at least thirty seconds. No doubt your Auror girlfriend taught you the ten-second rule. If you have to do it in three bursts, or more than that, that's fine. I'll send Pontus Kendall along to watch the clock.

I was going to take care of this myself but the day really got away from me. She's been instructed to wait in her office until someone arrives for her punishment. If you don't find her, firecall me immediately. If you can't manage the spell, Pontus will firecall me and I'll come out there, but she'll be a lot happier if that doesn't happen, because when I cruciate people, I don't watch the bloody clock.




 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-07 02:23:23**
(no subject)

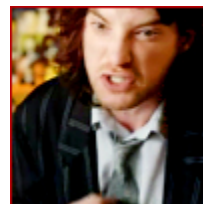
Understood, sir.


I am on my way. Will Kendall meet me there?



 **alt_corax** at **2013-09-07 02:25:16**
(no subject)

He's waiting for you outside the office, you dawdler.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-07 02:31:04**
Order Only

I'll do my best to keep you organised so that you can keep on top of little chores like this yourself with no need to delegate them to me.

You insufferable arse.

2013-09-06 21:32:00

Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley

*Cardinal Report No. 1
Cruciatus*



 [alt_bill](#)

(Merlin, I hope there won't be anymore. But I have a feeling there will be)

Tonight at the order of Corax Mulciber, I personally cast the Cruciatus curse on Serena Dunkworth, the administrator at the camp at Bawsey. Corax claimed he was 'too busy' to do it and so sent me. This may be entirely an excuse, and he simply wanted to make me do it. The order was directed to me via the journals, and he specified that I must hold her under the spell for thirty seconds. In my replies to him, I did my best to hide that this goes entirely against my principles but acted as matter-of-fact about it as I could. I think if he knew how much I hate this, it would just make him order me to do it more often. Because yes, he's a sick fuck like that.

Dunkworth runs the camp from which several of the children came from that--well, I expect Mulciber was talking about the incident Ron and Sally-Anne and the rest doing the fly over witnessed. Apparently, the Ministry finds it useful to blame her for losing track of them.

Mulciber sent someone along with me by the name of Pontus Kendall, a minor clerk in Protectorate Affairs, who was tasked with timing the spell. And making sure I actually did it, I suppose. We were ushered into her office as soon as we arrived. She was behind her desk working. Waiting, maybe. "Corax Mulciber had sent us," I said.

"I know why you're here." She immediately stood up and walked around to the front of her desk. I realised afterward there was a thin rug there on the floor. So she would have somewhere soft to land when she fell. Softer, anyway. She'd thought ahead that much.

I stared at her, trying to dredge up the emotions I knew I would have to draw upon to perform the spell. Nobody said anything. She just looked at her feet, as I stood there, rotating my wand in my fingers and trying to think of reasons why I hated her, a perfect stranger. Why I had to hurt her.

I raised my wand finally, which made her look up finally, square into

my eyes. I saw it then.

She was terrified.

That made me fumble the spell and when I said the word, nothing happened. Portus had his wristwatch in front of his face, and he peered over his wrist, frowning at me.

I--well, I did it. For a standard ten second burst. I thought I could, I don't know, break it up into smaller chunks for her, and maybe, just maybe, that would make it easier for her to bear. When I lifted the wand and stepped back, she gasped, 'Is that it? Are you done?'

Kendall told her that there were still twenty seconds to go.

'So get it over with already!'

I decided to do it until the end. But I wanted to do something to keep Mulciber from winning, so I stopped at nineteen seconds.

But that bloody berk Kendall wouldn't allow it. 'One second short. You have to finish the job.'

So I did.

I sent Kendall out, ordered him to go home, and then I...I tried to do what I could. It seems like so little. I helped her up off the floor, and I offered her a handkerchief because she had tears ~~and bogeys~~ all over her face. She wouldn't take it. She shook my hand off as if it were a snake, and she said that if I was done, I should simply go.

Then, like she was twisting the knife, she told me that I could tell Mulciber she had learned her lesson, and learned it quite well.

I quickly stepped up to her side, before she could retreat around the desk again, and I slipped a couple of lemons into the pocket of her robes. 'Squeeze these into hot water, and drink it. It'll help.'

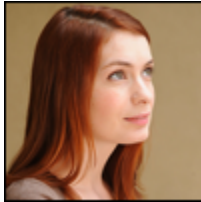
She turned away angrily, but at least she didn't take them out and toss them away. Not while I was there to see, anyway.


When I left, she was floo calling someone--her husband perhaps--to ask him to come to side along apparate her home.

I apparated away and then sat down immediately to write down this

report.

Bill




 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-07 04:57:07](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Bill.

If you're still feeling a bit off over it tomorrow and need to clear your head with some good deeds, you can come over to Moddey for a bit over the weekend and we'll put you in the nursery.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-09-07 12:37:39](#)
(no subject)

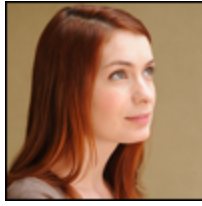
I think....I think I should just lay low for today. I'm feeling the instinct to hole up in my room for now. I might do some private stuff in my journal. About remorse, you know, like Dumbledore said.


And I think, yes, it would be a good idea to come out to Moddey Dhoo. Give me something hard and physical to do. And thankless, the sort of mucky job nobody likes to do. But they're real happy when it's finally done.

Don't take this wrong, but I might not be...light-hearted enough to joke around with the kiddos very much. But I'd appreciate the chance to talk with Terry, if he's available.

Alice, has there been any progress on that potion? The one that Snape and Sirius were working on for me? You have my permission to, um, tell them that I really, really need it.

I still don't feel the sort of pull from Crucio that I felt from Imperio. But I want to be protected in either case. And I'm dead afraid that Imperio's next.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-07 18:20:06](#)**
(no subject)

Whatever you need, love. Come on over once you're ready, and we'll put you to work. And I'm sure Terry'll be willing to talk as well.




 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2013-09-07 13:18:51](#)**
(no subject)

Merlin, what an arse. Mulciber, I mean. I'm sure he sent you instead of doing it himself because he knew how much you'd hate it. And probably because he wanted you to have that experience of someone being terrified of you.

Are you all right?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-07 13:40:37](#)**
Private message to Charlie Weasley

No.

Which perversely almost gives me hope, you know? Like that I haven't gone so far on the path that Percy's travelled if I feel this sick about it.

But I'm trying to figure out what I can, to undo the damage. Like going to Moddey Dhoo to work.

I wish I could think of something I could do to help her. Giving her a bloody lemon is hardly enough.

I was thinking when I got home this morning that I should have just quit before getting to this point. Surely there could have been another way I could have helped the Order.

But it's too late now. I've *done the bloody spell*.

2013-09-07 07:38:00

Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley

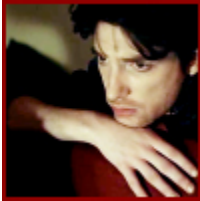



Bill?

I got up at 2:00 and again at 4:00, and your bed was empty both times.

 [alt_molly](#)


I was coming up the stairs after feeding the chickens and I thought I heard a muffled apparition pop. Now your bedroom door is closed. Are you in there? Are you all right?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 12:50:09](#)
(no subject)


Yes, I'm here. I'm fine. I'll be down for breakfast soon.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-07 12:51:33](#)
(no subject)

But where were you last night?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-07 12:52:47](#)
(no subject)

I was with a friend.

2013-09-07 10:58:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley and Rachel Lamont



 [alt_lana](#)

Sarah, I know you said Montague's tied down with work today, but really you've got to come out to Amersham. Bring Martha.

Lamont, you should come, too, if you're not working.

We've just got here and it's fantastic. Utterly quaint.

The town's nestled in a valley, and as you crest the hill, the train makes a turn along the top, so you have a perfect view of this sprawling, old village in the midst of farm fields down below you. So you really must take the train. I know you think I'm silly with nostalgia for school, and of course you could Floo to the town hall or Apparate, but really what have you got to do today that's so important you couldn't enjoy the rail trip and get here for the afternoon? It's only three-quarters of an hour that way.

They've got bands booked to play in the square all day. The one that's going at it now is just the perfect sort of sincere group of schoolmistresses and shopkeepers, who've kept up playing their flutes and fiddles all these years and have never really got any better but have also not got any worse. Quite charming. When we got here, it was a brass ensemble from New London, who were entirely respectable.

The shops are all open, though we haven't done any looking yet. We went straight for the market, which is bursting with stalls selling the most wonderful fresh produce, though you ought to hurry because that won't last the afternoon. There's one selling juices and an absolutely wicked cider. Ned's bought a gross of jugs and summoned the elf to carry it off home.


And there are weavers and silk-dyers and no end of traditional crafters. Ned and Orion are keen to take an alehouse and brewery tour, which should keep them entertained most of the afternoon, I imagine.

We've just booked seats for supper in the old church. Everyone says the space is perfectly atmospheric by candlelight, and they've brought the chef from Ambergris out to create an Autumn country feast. There

was still one larger table available, so we could add onto our reservation.


There's too much else to tell you, so do just stop whatever tedious thing you're doing, and come join me.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-07 17:44:46](#)
(no subject)

Sounds brilliant. How often does the train run?




 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-09-07 17:52:17](#)
(no subject)

There are three an hour today.

And yet it's not overrun with people out here. I was worried about that.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-07 17:54:22](#)
(no subject)

I'll try to catch a train this afternoon, then, if you think you could switch the reservation to the larger table.

Do you think I should head for the vegetables first, or the silks? If I've not a lot of time, I mean. (I don't know if I'll be able to get out of here before three -- I'm in the office, I KNOW, it's shameful.)



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-09-07 18:05:29](#)
(no subject)


Go for the silks. The veg will be nothing but the dregs by then. Is there anything you'd really die to have? I could see if I can find any for you.

Some of the shops in town are lovely. There's one with table linens and really attractive crockery. Not coarse, at all.

I can hardly throw stones about working hard when it needs to be

done, but it's a shame to miss such a gorgeous day if you can possibly leave it. I mean, when Narcissa Malfoy told us about this festival (they had a bit of a gathering last week), I thought it sounded a bit twee and missable, but Ned wanted to come and talked Orion into it. And then today turned out to be such a stunner. Well. Remember those files will all still be there on Monday!



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-07 18:12:08](#)**
(no subject)

Okay, okay. I'll head out at 1:30, I just need to finish what I'm working on right now. Should I come look for you?


Anything I'd die to have...hm. I love really ripe blackberries, but I imagine if there were any, they've been snapped up. If I could find time to go visit mum, they're surely perfect at home, but you know how it is.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-07 18:12:50](#)**
(no subject)

Mum would be thrilled if I went shopping for table linens. She'd think either I'd finally decided to keep house like a grown lady, or I had my eye on some bloke, and at this point she'd be delighted with either!



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2013-09-07 19:07:49](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I suppose keeping house does bring that on. I caught myself looking at bird and bat houses for the garden. Honestly.

And Sarah and Martha came along with the notion that Ned and I should take a country property out here. Imagine how that would turn us into nesting birds!

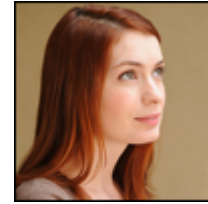
We've only just stopped for tea at Primrose's (it's on Whielden Street, just up from the Market Square), so you might find us still here when you arrive.

Oh. No ripe blackberries, sadly. But I bought you some fresh jam, and there's more where I got it. Tarts and pies, as well.

Hope you're on you're way!

2013-09-07 11:20:00

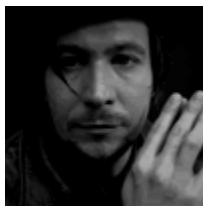
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius and Severus




How far along are you in the process of developing the family potion for Bill?

 [alt_alice](#)

I know, we'd be the first to hear if you'd fully sorted it out, but how has it been going? I think Bill is pinning his hopes a bit on the idea of having access to it, and I want to be as realistic as possible with him.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-09-08 03:41:49**
(no subject)

Well, we *were* going along rather well for a bit. Had a breakthrough not too long ago but then *someone* decided not to listen to me about measuring twice and pouring once. I shan't say who that might have been, of course, but his initials were S.S.

Anyway. We did put together a list of options to try now he's back at school but it's been slow going.

Tell Bill he's going to have to bear it for a while longer. Sorry. Not giving up, though.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-09-08 04:00:51**
(no subject)

Good.

Thank you.

2013-09-07 11:35:00

Private Message to Corner

Hey.

Do you have a group for Noble Arts yet? Malfoy and Moon and me are thinking of joining up together, and I thought you'd be a good person to ask too, because I got a chance to see how good your work was while we were revising and things, and I thought that you'd add some interesting ideas, and they both agreed.



 [alt_harry](#)

We've been talking about working on dark artifacts, how to store them and handle them and things, and also about maybe cooperative magic, but if there was something you really wanted to do, we haven't settled on anything just yet. If you've already got a group, though, that's fine.




 [alt_michael](#) at **2013-09-07 18:51:27**

(no subject)

What? Why?

I mean, you've got Moon. It's not just because you want someone to volunteer for all the dangerous stuff?



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-09-07 20:47:38**

(no subject)

No?

I mean, the team's got me on it, doesn't it? So we've already got that well covered.

I guess it's because I figured

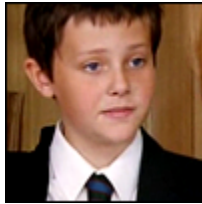
Well, okay. So this summer I had to do a lot of thinking about how teams work and all. Which was really interesting. Like take Moon, for instance. He's clever, and thinks of stuff I wouldn't, but he can get really focused on small details, and sometimes he gets into random stuff that won't be useful and gets sort of off track, if that makes sense.

And you're clever too, but you're different from Moon. From what

I've seen in the revision groups we had last term, you're practical, like taking what you know and doing useful things with it, and you're also good at explaining things to other people, and finding where to look up stuff in books and things. And I think you'd speak up if you didn't agree with something or thought we should do it another way.

So I'm looking forward to having Moon around, but I think you'd add a lot to what we've got in a different way? I figure it's better to have people with lots of different kinds of ideas, so we don't get stuck, and can solve problems better.

And I figured you'd know Moon, and me, I guess, even though you don't know Draco as well, so it wouldn't be too hard to get on.



 **[alt_michael](#)** at **[2013-09-08 00:22:16](#)**
(no subject)

Well, if you've already got Moon, what do you need with someone else who's good at research?

Unless you think you'll need loads of help with magical items or talismans. But those don't seem like they're the sort of thing Professor Doves will want to use.

He might even say they're a load of rubbish. That's not your idea, I hope, to do a project on how talismans are useless.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-09-08 00:36:35](#)**
(no subject)

We haven't sorted out what we're doing yet, not really anyways. Other than maybe how to destroy dangerous artifacts safely. But if you've got any ideas, that'd be great.

Did you have anything in mind?

And it's not just doing research. You could do other stuff too.



 [alt_michael](#) at [2013-09-08 01:04:55](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, 'other stuff.' That's the sort of academic genius I'd expect from you, Marvolo.

Way I see it, you've got two of the top students in our year already. And you've got your mudblood, too. I think you'll be fine with three people. Or three and a half, I guess.

Anyway, I'm not keen to join a team with only one slot, since Brocklehurst and I already decided we'd go together. We've got plans. You can stop straining yourself to make sure us halfbloods are seen to. I told you before we don't need you to take pity on us.

But it's good to know you think I'm clever enough to be in your noble arts team, even if I'm not clever enough to be included in whatever it was you had going at the end of the year.

Cheers.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-08 02:23:18](#)
(no subject)

It's not always

Okay.

Right.

If you've got plans, that's fine.

If you want to make it about blood, you're wrong.

And if you want to talk about what we were up to at the end of last term and why you weren't part of it, we can, but you didn't seem very keen to take that kind of risk. Which probably makes you a lot more clever than me.

Best of luck and all that.

2013-09-07 13:26:00

Private message to Emma Lamont

Mum -- got your owl. My mate Sandoval wants to take me shopping for table linens ('not at all coarse!'), but don't get your hopes up that this means I'll start keeping my flat in any sort of order.



 [alt_rachel](#)

Of course there's a man in my life; there's always at LEAST one, you should know that by now, but it doesn't mean there's anything serious, my first priority will always be MLE (in general, and the Aurors in particular), I've told you that. (Just like I tell them that!)

Are the blackberries ripe? I don't know when I'll get away for a visit, I've been working 14-hour days and that shows no sign of letting up. But maybe some evening I can floo in for dinner, at least.

all my love,
your Rachel

2013-09-07 17:51:00


Order Only: Private Message to Bill Weasley

...



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-07 22:53:48**

Private message to Arthur Weasley

Merlin, Dad.

I'm so sorry.

2013-09-07 19:29:00

Private Message to Padma Patil

So has Flinchley made up his mind?


Honestly.

If he's still waffling, we should bag it and ask Vince.



 [alt_blaise](#)




 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-08 00:49:35**
(no subject)

He said he'd 'think about it.' *Think* about it! Honestly, he should have been honoured we even *asked*.

But, here's the thing. I went back and looked at the O.W.L. results. I was first, Linus was second and I thought Malfoy was third, but he said no, he was fourth. So I went to the Headmistress' notice board and looked. F-F was the third in our class.

No matter how good Vince is, he can't possibly make up that much. I say we give him another day. But if he hasn't answered by lunch, he's on his own.




 [alt_blaise](#) at **2013-09-08 01:38:11**
(no subject)

Lunch.

It's fine, though. Vince is in with Greg and Teds, which was completely predictable. But he'll pitch them over if we ask him. I know exactly how to sweeten the deal so he'll say yes. If we need him.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-08 01:42:12**
(no subject)

Right.

You know, it's too bad Thomas is such a cheating toerag, because he came in high in the rankings,

too. But after how he behaved at CCF, I'm not having him on ours. Even though he *would* put winning first above all other things. I don't think old Doves would care for it, somehow. I mean, he'd be fine if we came up with *elegant* ways of finding the loopholes in his instructions but Thomas's solutions are hardly what I'd call *elegant*.

Anyway, if we go with Vince, he'll have to know that we expect him to pull his own weight. So long as that's clear it's fine. I just hope it doesn't come to that because honestly, I think F-F would give us more than a little advantage, if he really is one of Doves's pets.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2013-09-08 02:06:12](#)**

(no subject)

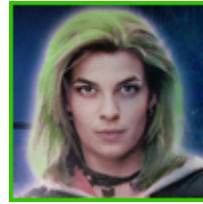
Definitely a pet. As much as Thomas is not one, but wishes he were.

And that's just it, you know. About Thomas. Scrabbling after rankings like that is worse than inelegant. It smacks of desperation.

2013-09-07 21:06:00

Order Only

Frank and I've had a productive trip today. We flew out Ipswich-way to see where Harry, Ron and Draco had their accident, and we found the ley line without difficulty. Nothing peculiar about it as we flew, but then we hadn't been there before, so there's no telling whether there's any discernible difference to the feel of it now as opposed to before the upheaval they experienced.




 **alt_nymphadora**

Anywiz, we kept on up the ley north-east towards the coast. There's not much up there these days: abandoned Muggle towns, of course, or places where there were towns but they've been cleared. And we found an abandoned wizard village, too, which was a bit surprising. A place called Egmere, according to the inscription on a monument at the crossroads. It's almost to the sea, just by Walsingham. Frank knew something about Walsingham--wizards and Muggles both lived there in the old days, but after the war, the wizards from Walsingham moved out to Egmere and made a proper town of it. We stopped and had a look around, but there's no one there now.

And then we discovered why that must be. Just on the outskirts of Walsingham and just bang on a node in the ley line, we found another of those devices. And this one's fully installed, not just a cleared site with runework laid out like the site up west. Frank and I have plans to get back there, by the way. Tomorrow, maybe, if the weather doesn't turn. And if Frank can sit a broom a second day in a row.

Anywiz. Today. We saw one of them, but couldn't get close at all. They've got it warded surer than Gringotts. So we can tell you it looks a lot like the one we nicked from the train, but we couldn't tell much more than that. We assume it's fully installed, though I suppose we don't know if it's functioning yet.



 **alt_frank at 2013-09-09 03:48:02**
(no subject)

think I broke my arse.

good work today.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-09 13:37:58](#)
(no subject)

I'm a bit stiff this morning. Can you even walk?

I've never seen anyone sit a broom quite the way you do, Frank. I mean, you get the job done, but it looks... uncomfortable. That how they taught you to fly in Auror training?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-09 16:30:18](#)
(no subject)


they were short a beater in my sixth year, and brought me on because I could hit bludgers and stay on my broom at the same time.

barely.

so I picked up all my bad habits there.

but you need something hit really hard while we're flying, I can do that.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-09 16:31:59](#)
(no subject)

and to answer your first, no. not without looking like I'm on the *Hopeful* in a squall.

Jude says I remind her of an American cowboy.

feel damn old.

2013-09-08 10:36:00

(no subject)

The Amersham Faire and Festival has become one of our favourite haunts for fine crafts and a pleasant day's diversions.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Lana, Ned, it was delightful to see you there! And to make the acquaintance of your charming friend. I'm so glad you decided to take in the event.

Now, do you plan to attend the Thames festival next weekend? I have it on good authority that the arts exhibits will be second to none. Fergus Cooper has been working on what promises to be an utterly impressive work that is part of the official show - if I understand him correctly, the pieces are all to be installed directly into the river route. If he has any competition at all, the works on display will offer an unparalleled look at the state of artistic endeavour within the realm.

Sarah, I do hope you're planning an entry or two? The show would not be complete without one of your studies. Or have you a gallery opening? I hear from Selma Hawkins that nearly every gallery along the Southbank is changing installations this week.

Of course, Lana, if your duties as an Auror prevent you enjoying the weekend in anything other than an official capacity, Ned, do join us. We'll have a viewing stand for the races and we've arranged for supper on one of the gondolas. There's room for a few very good friends.

Meanwhile, we've some plans afoot for St Mungo's Christmas charity. Or rather, Selma's had a splendid idea and I think the Committee will be pleased to adopt it.

Oh, Diana, Mariah: I'm so sorry, dears, but I've completely lost track of who's hosting our card party on Wednesday. Is it mine? Only I've a run across a note that must be old and says we needed to change to Thursday this week. I'm sure that's not correct.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-09 00:58:52](#)
(no subject)

Have been to Amersham. In a professional capacity. Fail to see the charm. Suppose you found it... relaxing?


Next weekend's events sound significantly more enjoyable. Quite looking forward to it.

Walked down this afternoon to watch the installation work in the river. Not sure how they'll have it done by Thursday, but that's what magic is for. And Burdett-Coutts' galleons. Sure he'll recoup whatever his outlay.

Wonder how much of that budget goes to the weather wizards?

Cooper's still on the A-list, then? Should have thought interest in his style would be on the wane by now.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2013-09-09 04:49:12](#)
(no subject)

We find it that rare gem of a country outing that is neither too quaint nor too gentrified.

And in the 12 years we've been attending, it has never failed to offer amusement.

I've wondered about whether Amersham also employs weather wizards--but perhaps that's why the weeks have been so dreary in between weekends. At any rate, one trusts that Thursday's preparations will make this weekend well worth the trouble.

As for Cooper, you should know by now that a truly great artist is able to reinvent himself and his style to remain in vogue. Personally, I cannot wait to see what he has devised. He's been most secretive while updating the gardens here.

(By the way, has Tosha made arrangements for a box at the opera this season? I took one look at the offerings planned and thought perhaps we might let our box out for at least half the productions. I'm not sure what Gilhooly's thinking, giving us those old chestnuts. *Lohengrin? Gormenghast? Boris Godunov?* One expects he's trying

to impress *someone* with a morbid sense of humour! Anyway, I know Phyllida Marks was hoping to take a box this season if one were available and possibly the Gimlets as well. But if he's at all interested, we'll hold off making any offer.)




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-09 18:43:22](#)
(no subject)

I think Tosha would be pleased if you'd offer your box. He's fond of the classics, especially when they're vaguely risky in current context. Should be interesting to see what they make of *Boris Godunov*

this time out.

Gormenghast, however, can hardly be called a chestnut. Expect it will be completely unpalatable rubbish. The books were in vogue with Gryffindors when I was at school. Not to my taste. Should be amusing to see what Tosha makes of it, actually.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-09-09 04:08:53](#)
(no subject)

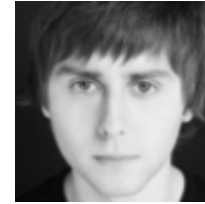
I'm so glad you told us about the festival, Narcissa. We enjoyed ourselves very much.

And we're looking forward to next weekend, as well. You're right that I'll be working some of the time--I've taken the evening detail, but Ned would love to join you for supper. It's kind of you to include him.

I am looking forward to watching some of the racing in the afternoon, though. And with all the rumours buzzing about the pieces commissioned from artists and musicians, my expectations for all of it are running high. I saw a plan for the fire installations in the river and the route for the gondolas to weave around and between them. It's going to be terribly romantic, don't you think? I expect the Prophet will be full of betrothal announcements the next week!

2013-09-08 12:51:00

Private Message to Padma Patil and Blaise Zabini



 [alt_justin](#)

Hello,

I say, sorry to keep you both waiting. I had made an offer to someone else, what, and had to make sure I wasn't needed there before committing to another group.

As it happens, that person has a team already, so I'd be delighted to work with you. Please tell Finnigan it's only the limitations of private messages that keeps me including him, as well.


We might wish to establish a regular revising time, what, so that we can make sure all four of us are involved in planning any assignments requiring group input.

At any rate, thank you again for the offer and I'm happy to be able to accept.

Cheers,

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-08 19:02:46**
(no subject)

F-F,

About time. Just so you know, we do have some ground rules we all agreed on. Well, two, really. First is that no matter what might be happening in our personal lives--rows with boyfriends or girlfriends or whatever, or even if we're arguing among ourselves--we're leaving it aside as far as getting our work done. Second is that we're all going to come in first in lessons, and everything else comes after.

We've all decided that we're going to Dolohov's luncheons, too. That won't interfere with your social calendar, will it?



 **alt_justin** at [2013-09-08 19:16:15](#)
(no subject)

Er, no, not at all. I'm sure that's a sensible strategy, all round. And as I understand, Professor Dolohov sets a splendid table, so, jolly good.

Well. I'll see you in lessons, then, what.

Shall you give Professor Dolohov our roster?

-Finch-Fletchley



 **alt_padma** at [2013-09-08 19:18:36](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'll let him know.

Oh, and we can work out a revision time tomorrow after charms. Seamus is in History of Magic or we could just meet then. But we'll figure something out. Are you in Creatures? None of us are.

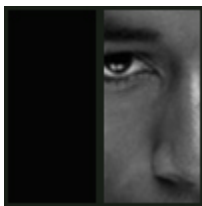


 **alt_justin** at [2013-09-08 19:24:26](#)
(no subject)

No, I'm not taking Creatures.

We've a free hour on Fridays as well, what. I'd rather not use time outside of lesson hours if at all possible, but of course if it's necessary, one will adjust.

-F-F



 **alt_blaise** at [2013-09-08 19:21:43](#)
(no subject)

Glad to hear it.

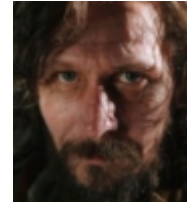
I could clear time either before supper or after, any day but Thursday.

2013-09-09 15:47:00

Order Only: Private Message to Snape

Formulae 1-4 failed.

Of note: iteration four resulted in foaming at step six. Adjusted for viscosity in iteration five; better consistency but turned black just going into step eight, then solidified before steps 9-12.



 [alt_sirius](#)

About to start iteration six. Maybe need an adjustment before adding the powdered beetle horn but after the sliced arrowroot. I'm thinking two drops of salamander oil ought to keep both colour and liquidity. Don't want to use more in case it affects the temperature of the solution.

Will let you know what happens.



 [alt_severus](#) at **2013-09-10 00:10:05**

(no subject)

No indeed; if you add more than two drops of salamander oil you'd need to add some mint to counterbalance it, and mint is counterindicated with the verbena.

Although —

I am vaguely remembering that a decade and a half ago, a group in México was turning out some research about cornmeal as used to stabilise preparations that were arithmatically imbalanced under high heat. I cannot remember the results, and of course circumstances resulted in the rather forceful cancellation of my subscriptions to the journals of the field shortly thereafter. Given the time period the potion was originally developed during, cornmeal would have been unknown to your ancestors, and not likely part of the original instructions — but if we are at the point where we are altering the instructions this dramatically, perhaps we ought look slightly further afield.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-10 00:49:24](#)
(no subject)

Why am I not surprised that you were reading potions journals when we were that young? Merlin, some of us had better things to -

Right. Anyway. Cornmeal. Not likely to get hold of that in the Protectorate until we can figure out how to get Aleks through the wards again. Likely substitutes Flour? Or barley?

Though we may not need to go that far. Sixth variant: So far so good. Colour good, consistency fair. It's been on the simmer for an hour, per instruction. About to try step nine.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-10 01:04:21](#)
(no subject)

~~Some of us thought with something other than our~~

A quick bit of calculation shows rye meal would likely be more suitable than wheat flour, though barley might suffice as a stabilizing agent if ground under a new moon and mixed with well water drawn at sunrise.

Though that would likely interfere with the potion's base ... which I am still exceedingly dubious about. Are you absolutely certain you translated that portion correctly?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-10 01:17:27](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I'm absolutely certain I translated that portion correctly. Well. 99% certain, anyway. 99.5%.

We really might not have to worry about it. Step nine went without a

What the f



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-10 01:19:22](#)
(no subject)

Right, so, rye meal.

We'll try that.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-10 01:27:56](#)
(no subject)

I shudder to think what I have missed, but presuming the workbench is still extant: I would not wish to advise you on the proper proportions before I've the chance to do the calculations in greater detail, and have them checked over at least once. Preferably twice, given that we are clearly missing something.

Do let me know if you are in need of a visit from Poppy.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-10 01:34:06](#)
(no subject)

Calculating twice. There's a thought.

I was done for the night, anyway: That cracked the cauldron right in half and 'Reparo' just won't do it - not at least to my satisfaction. The others in the house aren't suitable (as we've already discovered).

I'll have Remus get another half-dozen tomorrow and we can start over. I'll have Kreacher bring you the notes on versions 1-6 so far, with the effects and resulting modifications.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-10 01:46:02](#)
(no subject)

The more detail you are able to provide, the better.

And you needn't continue to be snide about the measurements, to me or to Alice — it was your unsteady hand that dumped the entire batch of verbena in all at once when I was very clear about needing to add it gradually.

Do not trouble Lupin; I have found several forgotten closets here. Despite the best efforts of ~~my profession~~ potion-makers through the ages, cauldron specifications have shifted slightly; most contemporary receipts have been altered along with the shifts in the equipment, but this one has not, and clearly it is sensitive enough that perhaps a contemporaneous cauldron might serve better. At very least, it is a straw at which we have not yet grasped; it is worth a try.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-10 01:59:39](#)

(no subject)

Oh, for the last time, I didn't hear you say anything about adding it gradually. And I wouldn't have 'dumped' it anyway if you hadn't jostled my elbow on your way to the mortar

and pestle.

Don't worry: The notes are comprehensive. ~~You missed your calling; you're worse than Sluggy when it comes to~~



 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-09-10 02:29:27](#)

(no subject)

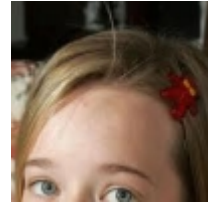
Let us hope for Mr Weasley's sake that your notes are as comprehensive as you purport.

~~And for the sake of getting this over with so I do not have to continue to put up with~~

2013-09-09 22:10:00

Another year at Hogwarts

It is good to be back. But also it is odd. Because sometimes it seems like we were never gone at all, and other times it seems like a million years have gone by between our OWLs and now.




 [alt_megan](#)

Does anyone else feel like this ever?

Oh, and who else has a kitten from last year? Fang is looking quite the grown up cat these days.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-09-10 03:20:54**

private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I talked with Mrs Stretton by Floo after we exchanged messages by owl. But only a little while because she was very ~~eross~~ distracted and busy with filling out paperwork for a new mudblood. Something went wrong with the last one, but I do not know what. She did not say exactly. But I think the Floo call went well and she does want to talk further about Christmas time help.

But there is
I don't mean to be

Does Mrs Stretton curse people very often? People who are helping her, I mean. Because I do not want ~~another~~ a situation like that if I can help it. So I hope I can ask you. And that you will tell me. Because I can handle a few curses now and then but not all the time. And if she's like that, I want to know so I can stay out of her way. Or not go at all.

I hope this was all right to ask.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-10 03:58:26**

Re: private message to Sally-Anne Perks

It's all right to ask.


Mrs Stretton doesn't curse people very often. The one time she tried to cast cruciatus on me, she

couldn't. So instead, she shut me up in a cellar with nothing to eat for two days, which wasn't much better.

What happened that time was, some of their muggles had measles, and I went to try to help, and I wrote to Madam P for advice, and the result was that St Mungo's found out and there were Healers who came and the Strettons had to pay a fine because they hadn't followed the rules properly about this sort of thing. Mrs Stretton was extremely cross with me.

Ordinarily, she might get a little short when she's busy and irritated, and sometimes she shouts. (Mostly, though, the shouting is between Mr and Mrs Stretton and also between them and Jeremy.) I wouldn't expect her to treat you as a friend. But she doesn't curse people much.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-11 03:31:07](#)**
(no subject)

Hey, Jones.


Did you take Fang home over the summer?

I didn't get one of the kittens. Well, one tried to adopt me, but Thomas said he's allergic, so someone else took it. So it wouldn't be in our room, you know. And that one's gone now anyway, because it was Towler who kept it.

So, yeah. I think there were seven or eight of the kittens here in Gryffindor last spring, and now there are just four. And I think three of those went home with people who came back this year, but one of them stayed in the castle and was still here when we got back. He's getting to be a bit of a bandy-legged Tom now. That's what we call him, too. Tom O'Gryffindor.

What's your Fang like now?




 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2013-09-11 04:51:26](#)**
(no subject)

I did take him with me. Miss Penworthy permitted me to keep him only if he stayed locked up in my room at all times, because there are a great many china ornaments in the house. He is very glad to be

back at Hogwarts where he can run. Because my room at Miss Penworthy's house is too small for him to properly tear about. He is very good at tearing about. It is his greatest accomplishment. Well, that and hiding things beneath my bed. He has the oddest collection of bits and pieces. I am always having to return things he has nicked from my room-mates. So I hope he gives that up at some point, because I do not like to get glared at. By my room-mates, I mean. Though Fang also glares when I take away his plunder.

Does Tom O'Gryffindor like to tear about?




 **alt_ron** at **2013-09-11 13:17:42**
(no subject)

Yeah. He does. In the common room. That's usually when someone opens the portrait hole and throws him out to go mousing.

Whenever we tried adopting kittens at home, Mum always did that, too, when they started tearing around and knocking things over. Or sharpening their claws on the curtains and furniture. Mum says cats want to live outside where they can hunt.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2013-09-11 18:48:01**
(no subject)

Felix tends to sleep a great deal, although she does enjoy going out of doors and roaming. Now that we're back in school I tend to take her out when I've got a free hour and can sit and read or something while she sniffs at things.

2013-09-10 21:27:00

Private message to Rachel Lamont

If I spend another minute revising this memo, my eyes will get stuck in the crossed position.



 [alt_bill](#)

I have a hankering for some take-out curry. Interesting in fighting off the spreadsheets and making a getaway? At least for awhile, anyway. There's a new place that's just opened up about three streets over, and I've heard several comments that the food's quite good.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-11 03:11:54](#)

(no subject)

What are you doing here this late? Don't you have goats to feed?

I'm up for curry. CELEBRATORY CURRY. Some of my obsessive expense-form checking is FINALLY paying off.

2013-09-10 21:50:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To
No Good: Private message to Justin*




 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I thought the whole reason of planning out our groups was that so no one would end up with Patil and Zabini?

Are they going to drive you mad?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-11 03:07:34**
(no subject)

Hullo, Sally-Anne,

I say, I... *C'est la vie, n'est-ce pas?*

I shall be quite all right, thanks. I do feel somewhat sorry for Thomas, however, throwing in with Nott, Goyle and Crabbe, what. It could be a great deal worse.

-Justin

2013-09-10 22:15:00

Private message to Mafalda Hopkirk and Barty Crouch



I found an embezzler.

Cassian Winborn. He's the head administrator at the Adur muggle and mudblood camp. I found a pattern of complaints from people who'd hired work gangs from there, saying the muggles arrived in such poor health that some were unable to work, and all were noticeably underweight. Since the food budget for the camp is the same as every other camp, this raised my suspicions, and I went through the receipts and expense reports for the camp.

 [alt_rachel](#)

They don't add up. At all. He's been diverting a good 25% of the food budget into his personal vault.

I haven't said anything to Corax Mulciber. Let me know if you want me to make a personal report to him about this, and if so, what time. (It's your call whether an Enforcer should go first, or if Mulciber should know first.) Or if you'd like me to arrest Winborn myself and bring him into MLE for further questioning.

Economy is one thing; lining your pockets is an entirely different matter, especially when it renders a supposed labour force completely unfit for actual labour.

There's no evidence to suggest that Winborn's subordinates were in on it, although certainly they might have noticed something and brought it to MEU's attention, and none did.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2013-09-11 04:18:40**

(no subject)

Make the arrest yourself. And put priority where it belongs: enforcement first, reporting to Protectorate Affairs second.

As for interrogating Winborn, it's not likely to yield much, but it's worth going through the exercise. Never know what he might like to share with us about others, given the right incentive.



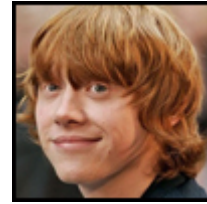
 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-11 14:20:15](#)**
(no subject)

I brought him in last night and will inform Mulciber shortly.

2013-09-10 22:36:00

Order Only Message for Arista Selwyn

Mrs Longbottom, could you share a message with Arista for me, please?



 [alt_ron](#)

I was just talking with someone here about all the kittens that we've had at Hogwarts since last spring and how they've grown up a lot, and it made me think that I never wrote you back after your last owl. I guess I was packing to leave for CCF and didn't really have time, but then I got back and didn't have time then before leaving for school. It's been sort of busy for a while, I guess!

Anywiz, now I'm back at school and all I've got is homework and lessons and more homework, so that means I've got loads of time for letters again! Receiving them, too!

I hope you're having lessons where you are, too. Are you learning anything really nift?


Is Satsuma helping you study the way he always helped me? I remember he always liked to lie right on top of whatever book I was meant to be reading. Or wanted to sit or sharpen his claws on whatever parchment I was trying to write. I bet those are still favourite things for him to do, yeah?

How's Hector? He's got over that cold he had when you wrote before, I hope? And you didn't catch it, did you? It really reeks to get sick in the summertime. What's autumn like where you are? You can already tell winter's on its way here in Scotland. I mean, the mornings are really chilly. And I always want a blanket on when I go to sleep. But that's Scotland for you. And this castle. I think the castle makes its own drafts just to amuse itself with how it makes us shiver.

I guess I don't have much to tell you. I just wanted to say I'm thinking about you, and it's always really nice to hear from you, so feel free to write me any time. But, um. Maybe you should have Mrs Longbottom copy out what you say here in the journals because it wouldn't be good if one of my dormitory mates found letters from you to me, y'know? It's not the same as it was during the summer.


Your friend,
Ron Weasley



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-11 23:58:23](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Ron. I've made her a copy so she can keep it with her, and she's working rather diligently on her reply.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-12 03:45:44](#)
(no subject)

We decided that my taking dictation would work best, so here's what she had to say:

Hullo Ron. I'm really glad you are one of the people who can use the special journal secret writing because that way you can still write to me from school even though I live in a secret hiding place! Today I had a herbology lesson and I got to visit the Greenhouse and did you know that your friend Neville comes here sometimes because I saw something he planted when he was here. Also Mr and Mrs Longbottom are his mum and dad and Kevin is his brother. Anyway we had a lesson about storing seeds and how it's very important how you plant things, some seeds you want to just sprinkle on top of the earth and some seeds you push down as far as your finger will go and SOME seeds you have to use runes or plant at the right time of day or during the right phase of the moon if you ever want to use them for potions. I don't know how anyone ever remembers all of it but today we planted basil in pots.

We also had a Latin lesson but I'm very good at that so I didn't have to go. My best friend is Lucy Smith who has lived here since she was a BABY and doesn't ever remember living anywhere else although she has a picture of her parents that changes as they get older. She was born in a muggle camp and her parents still live there. Sarah Fawcett who used to go to Hogwarts is also very nice to me and today she braided my hair with ribbons and Lucy wanted her hair braided with ribbons too and in the end EVERYONE got their hair braided except Sarah Little whose hair is too short.

We're trying to teach Hector his letters but he can't even tell A from Z yet. I don't think I could at his age either though. Sarah Little said maybe he's slow and I told her he's NOT slow. And then she said

maybe he's a squib but she was just trying to aggravate me. She's very aggravating sometimes. Mummy said that Hector had showed his magic when he was still in the cradle but I didn't actually see him do it so maybe she just said that because some people think if you show your magic really young it's better and that means you're going to be especially powerful. Mummy lied sometimes, you know. People here sometimes lie but most of them aren't very good at it. I can always tell when Sarah Little is trying to aggravate me.

ANYWAY ENOUGH ABOUT SARAH LITTLE.


Tonight we're going to stay up late and look at the stars! But only if the sky stays clear. We were going to look at the stars last night but then the clouds came in and Mrs Longbottom found this aggravating because we'd all already stayed up late. Also in Muggle Culture class we are learning about muggle aeroplanes, I wish I could see an aeroplane! and in History we are learning about the Goblin Wars and you'd think it would be interesting because it has goblins AND wars in it but it isn't actually. Especially compared to aeroplanes.

Ron can you come visit me? I want to introduce you to Lucy and I promise I will try not to let Sarah Little aggravate you. You could see Sarah Fawcett again! She said she would like that.

Satsuma says hullo too.


Arista



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-12 03:46:43](#)**
(no subject)

And I'm sure she'd love if you could come by during Christmas hols to say hello. It's just fine by me, but check with your mum, of course.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-13 03:32:15](#)**
(no subject)

Heh.

It sounds like Sarah LITTLE is a ginormous pain in the porridge, yeah?

Don't let her wind you up, Arista. Especially about Hector. He's

going to come along. You'll see. And then you'll probably think he's aggravating because that's what brothers are for. That's what my sister, Ginny, would tell you. For sures.

And you're totally right about History, y'know? It seems like it should be dead interesting and then it always... isn't.

My friend Sally Anne knows something about aeroplanes. I think her grandfather used to fly them. You can ask her about it if we come visit you. I definitely want to come see where you live and meet all your friends and see the gardens there, especially the memorial one. And Mrs Longbottom says maybe over Christmas hols. I have to check with my mum, but I bet she'll say yes, and that would be nice, yeah? I could bring you and Satsuma your presents.

And that's not so far off. So take care and have a good term of lessons. Learn lots so you can tell me all about it!

Your friend,
Ron

2013-09-11 15:10:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony

I'm going spare with this blasted potion.

Tell me there's something else we can do today. Even if it's as simple as 'Mr Ponds takes his dog to the park.'




 [alt_sirius](#)

Nothing's ruddy *working* and I'd rather bury myself alive than tell Snively.


There's got to be a mission, right? Flying up the ley line? A muggleborn to rescue? *Anything*.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-09-11 23:41:19**
(no subject)

I could take you for a run, if that would help. You could protect me from any thugs or pickpockets, oh loyal hound.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-09-11 23:56:57**
(no subject)

Circe, yes. Anything to get out for a while.

2013-09-11 17:40:00

Wizengamot

To-day's docket reminded one of the tireless efforts MLE undertake for the well-being of the Protectorate's subjects.



 **alt_lucius**

Three theft cases; two accusations of slander; a blood-traitor and collaborator; and of course, sentencing for the remains of the smuggling ring apprehended by MLE's own Aurors nearly two weeks ago.

It's truly a comfort to know that no matter who is heading the Department, Our Lord's Enforcers remain steadfast to their duty.

Luckily it was a short session, if an eventful one, which provided ample opportunity to pay long overdue visits to several colleagues at the Ministry.

Barty, heard your division had an eventful evening last night. If you are not working the festival at the week-end, you must join us and tell us all about it.



 **alt_lucius** at **2013-09-11 22:58:18**

Private Message to Percy Weasley

Need meeting with Rookwood some time in the next week.

Also require time for camp inspections at Cheadle, Doncaster and Harlow. Sometime in the next three weeks. Include Revanche or Sawers-Cumming in the parties as well as Plympton or his representative - but make it clear that he's to appoint a senior staff member if he's unavailable himself. (Same goes for Revance or Sawers-Cumming; they may bring their trainees but not *send* them.)

Kindly ensure that the reports for Magical Commerce are on my desk by to-morrow noon.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2013-09-11 23:00:33](#)**

Private Message to Toshenka

Board of Governors meets the 26th. Includes voting on the replacement Governors.

Supper? Have the distinct feeling I shall need a stiff drink afterward.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2013-09-12 02:39:25](#)**

Re: Private Message to Toshenka

Yes, of course. And if you need anyone to be charming and reasonable at people, you know where to find me.

Do you think there will be any issues with the vote?



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2013-09-11 23:03:53](#)**

Private Message to Auror Lamont

Glad you liked it.

And that I wandered by your office this after-noon.

Congratulations, again, on your breakthrough.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-11 23:40:08](#)**

Re: Private Message to Auror Lamont

Thank you again. It's lovely, and definitely not something I'd ever have bought for myself.

As for the breakthrough, there is nothing quite as satisfying as nailing someone who richly deserves it to the evidence of their crimes! I knew I'd find the proof I needed if I kept looking.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-09-11 23:49:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Auror Lamont

Do you know, I had that impression when I saw you walk past that booth three times in the space of two hours.

Call it a celebratory present on the occasion of your success (or at least, it's convenient to think of it as such).

And thank you for luncheon. If only all meals at the Ministry were so delicious.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-12 03:43:51](#)

(no subject)

Eventful, yes. And productive. Four investigations paying fruit at once.

Think you were briefed last night re. the camp admin, Winborn? By noon, Truncheon had gathered quite a list of names and accusations. Some of that is presumably nonsense. Good work for several units, including MEU, separating fact from lies. Gauge was on point from the start, obviously: had his people inserted at Adur overnight. Imagine there's quite a lot to investigate there.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2013-09-15 02:45:20](#)

(no subject)

Barty, I'm so glad you came and found us this evening in time for the fireworks. They really were tremendous, weren't they?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-15 02:56:34](#)

(no subject)

Every bit as impressive as the display on Freedom Day. Staging them over the water rather than over Buckingham and the parks, though, adds to the drama. The reflection off the water.

Apparently one of the gondolas overturned during the finale, though. Someone's night ended at St M's.

In general, though, Crowd Control are managing things remarkably well. Very few reports of any kind.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-09-15 02:58:07](#)
(no subject)

Better than those whose nights are ending in Azkaban.

Was briefed this morning on the progress at Adur.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-15 03:23:18](#)
(no subject)

Just had more from Gauge's crew:
Adur presently short 526 Muggles.
No record of which ones dead vs. escaped.
Shoddy does not describe the record-keeping, apparently.

Have, however, compiled draft list of those unaccounted for.

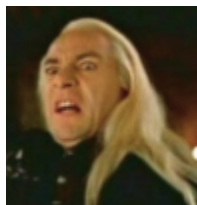
Additional 230 supposed lent to other camps. MEU cross-checking to confirm whereabouts.


And fiddling with calculations meant to sort out likely magnitude of escapes.

Ten percent would be over 50 escaped. And with no apparent oversight... no reason to hope the number is that low.

Dammit.

Trust you'll find the right candidates to insert there. Righting that ship will challenge whoever takes up the position.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-09-15 03:41:28](#)
Private Message to Barty

Seven-hundred and fifty unaccounted for? *That* many?

How the bloody -

Nevermind. Know how.

They're lucky we don't wipe the camp out of existence, and everyone associated with it.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-15 02:57:36](#)

Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

Firelight becomes you.

[2013-09-11 21:17:00](#)

The busiest time of the canning season is winding down



 **[alt_molly](#)**

June brought the earliest crop: cabbages, beets, broccoli and green peas. We finish up the onions and spinach and then the berries start coming in. We had a good crop of strawberries this year, and I managed to trade some of my blackberries for raspberries. Then as July slides into August and September, my days are the busiest as we're putting up the main part of the garden: tomatoes in sauces and tomato jam, corn, beans, squash, and peppers. And okra. Yes, I planted okra this spring as usual, and it wasn't until harvest time that I remembered that none of us really like it except for my dear Arthur. So I put the cans up and traded them all away. I won't plant it next year.

So silly to get teary-eyed over a glass half quart of okra.

After the stone fruit (plums and cherries, if I can save the latter from those dratted birds), then it's time to dig for potatoes and sweet potatoes when the cooler weather sets in. Pumpkins round out the season. I also start my cider operation at the end of September. I have to remember to dig my press out of the cellar in the next week so I can sterilise it and make sure it's in working order. It looks as though we will also be having a fine apple crop this year. Then things settle down and I concentrate on harvesting walnuts and deciding what I can trade when our neighbours start butchering their pigs and start making sausage and putting up fletches of bacon.

All the while we're trying to get the emporium up and running, too. My goodness, I'm as busy as can be from sunrise to sunset. I'll certainly be ready to sit by the fire and do nothing but my knitting come November!




 **[alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-12 02:34:33](#)**

Order Only

Plus there were the days I snuck off to Moddey Dhoo to help you with the harvest there. Those days were certainly a pleasant break at least.

I don't know...it just all felt so much busier than usual this year.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-13 02:44:15](#)**
(no subject)

Hiya, Mum.

It made me really hungry to read this! And thirsty for your cider. Are you planning to juice the pumpkins this year? Or just make pies and biscuits? If you do, could you send some of the nice iced spice biscuits? I can taste them just thinking about it!

Miss you.

Your favourite son,
Ronald



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2013-09-13 22:43:09](#)**
(no subject)


I'm looking forward to the cider, too! I'm running low this time of year, until the harvest comes in.

I'll juice a bit of the pumpkin, so you'll have some when you are home for the holidays. But you know that I don't like pumpkin juice quite as much as you do. So I do plan to use it mostly for baking, yes.

Of course I'll send you some spice biscuits! And you'll get some shortbread and some molasses biscuits by owl tomorrow to tide you over until the pumpkins are ready. Don't forget to share them with your friends and your sister!

How are classes going, dear?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-14 03:39:14](#)**
(no subject)

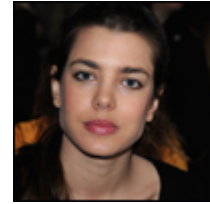
Thanks, Mum. You're the best!

Er, classes? Well enough, I reckon. Nothing but homework, homework, and more homework, though. But I'm managing.

2013-09-14 13:32:00

Thames Festival

We went along last evening to Richmond for the rowing prelims. Ned has two mates who are in top boats for their clubs--Martyn and Roche. Before the racing, we got a tour of the host club's boat house and were able to ask questions. I enjoyed learning about it, though there's an awful lot of jargon they use for the parts of the boats and the fine points of racing and strategy. And after the racing we all went along with Martyn and his club for drinks.



 [alt_lana](#)

Best luck to Oliver's Island B.C. and Leader's Gardens R.C. May the best boats win this afternoon! (I do hope they start the coxed fours before I have to leave for my shift.)


This morning we came early to see the school groups racing their model boats. Vani: your lot were darling. Especially the little witch who'd decked her boat all in flowers. It's a shame none of yours placed, but surely that wasn't really the point?

Of course, we browsed all the stalls this afternoon and watched some terribly silly puppet shows and some mediocre jugglers, fire-eaters, and slight-of-hand types. Oh, there was one amazing act by a witch who danced with veils and ensorcelled volunteers from the audience to come dance with her--really an entrancing performance.

We spent a solid two hours touring galleries along the south bank. If you're at all interested in art, you really must see Sarah Yaxley's new show: she's got a prime space in County Hall and her whimsical photos of abandoned artefacts at sites in Sussex and Dorset are quite striking.

All in all, it's been a wonderful festival so far, and I hope all of you plan to come out for tonight's festivities.



 [alt_lana](#) at **2013-09-15 01:15:16**
Private Message to Shivani Johns

Vani.


I know we haven't connected for a while, ~~but~~

~~Honestly, I can't see you've any reason for—~~

I'm sure I don't know what I've done to make you cut me dead like you did this evening. I know you saw me. I know you heard me. How long have we been friends?

~~The least you could do is—~~



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2013-09-15 04:10:17](#)**

Private Message to Vani

It can't be about Higgs.

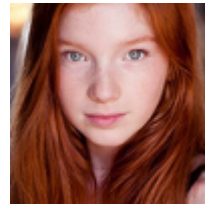
I mean you weren't serious about him at all.

And, anyway, it's nothing to be sour with me about. It's nothing at all to do with me.

2013-09-14 16:15:00

(no subject)


I hope everyone is settling in after their hols. Mine were quite relaxing, but I'm glad to be back with all my friends, and I've missed taking classes too. And we're getting into some really interesting things now that we're specialising more in our classes.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

And it's lovely to be able to do magic at Hogwarts again. I missed it so very much last term.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-09-14 23:42:40**

Private Message to Artemus Ross

Do you want to revise together in the library tomorrow? And if you're up for it and it's not too late, perhaps we could go for a walk after?

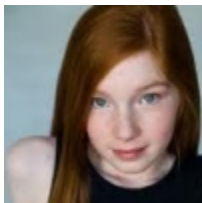
You'll do just fine on your OWLs. I know you will, because you're brilliant. Your schedule looks very comprehensive, too, as does your planned reading list.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-09-14 23:51:29**

Re: Private Message to Artemus Ross

And remember, Artie, more than four hours of revision a day is entirely counterproductive.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-09-14 23:43:22**

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private Message to Ron Weasley

Free for chess tonight?



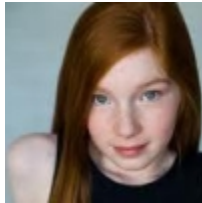
 **alt_ron** at [2013-09-15 04:14:14](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Ron Weasley*

Oh, say. Evyls.

I'm sorry. I was, er-

Could we play tomorrow afternoon, maybe?



 **alt_evelyn** at [2013-09-15 04:29:26](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Ron Weasley*

Yes please. As long as it's before dinner.



 **alt_ron** at [2013-09-15 04:41:01](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Ron Weasley*

Let's say three o'clock, then. Will that suit?



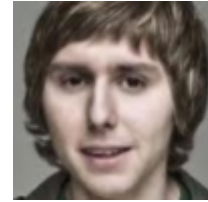
 **alt_evelyn** at [2013-09-15 19:03:02](#)

*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private Message to Ron Weasley*

Brilliant.

2013-09-14 19:59:00

Order Only: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne



Hullo,

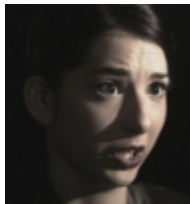
Sorry to disturb, but Hydra and I were wondering if perhaps you two might like to, er, double-date, what. Sometime.

 [alt_justin](#)

I say, the thing is that we're meant to see each other with chaperones, if you follow me. But we thought perhaps you two wouldn't mind, seeing as--well. Seeing as you'd want to be alone just as much as we do.

Unless I'm much mistaken, in which case, we'll think of an alternative. It's no trouble.

-F-F



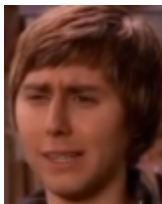
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-15 01:13:10**

(no subject)

So are you thinking we'd all cram ourselves into your stairwell to snog? Or an empty classroom? Or did you have some other place in mind or were you actually thinking four-way exploding snap in the Great Hall or

what?

Also did anyone define 'chaperone?' I mean would we qualify, because if Professor Lestrage is the one meant to be deciding he wasn't born yesterday (though obviously he's never minded you seeing Hydra, but now Hydra's father knows it's a bit different, right?)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-15 01:18:11**

(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

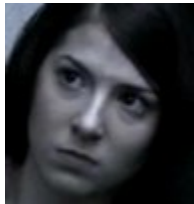
Our restrictions are dashed maddeningly unspecific. Hydra said her father expects us to 'behave with decorum' or some such. No one's said one way or another what

we're allowed or not allowed to do.

But Hydra's been concerned that if we're really truly 'alone' we might be caught.

Her stairwell's not big enough for two couples--I say, it's barely big enough for the two of us, what!--but we might be able to find a snug spot where you and Ron could be a little ways away for privacy and so could we do. But then if anyone should ask, we were revising together.

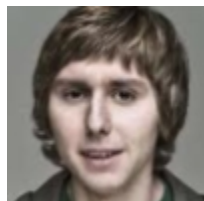
-F-F




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:27:52](#)
(no subject)

A snug spot with a little privacy wouldn't be too bad. You don't think Hydra's got any more jewelry that spies on her and will tell her father if she's alone with you?

Here's the thing I'm wondering about the stairwell, aren't there also stairs? I mean the base of the stairwell would be really small but if there's stairs going up isn't there also a spot at the top, or you could just sit on the stairs, right, and if there's a whole flight of stairs there'd be enough space for two couples, even if they're really narrow. It would be awkward if they're revolving stairs rather than a straight staircase but not impossible.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 01:37:24](#)
(no subject)

I think the stairs *used* to lead somewhere but no longer do. Some sort of repair or renovation, what.

The entrance isn't private enough for a tryst, at any rate. Hydra doesn't generally care to sit *on* the stairs but if you don't, that might provide enough separation.

I say, there's a corridor near the kitchens that I think used to have an extra cistern in, a long time ago. That might do as well.

-J

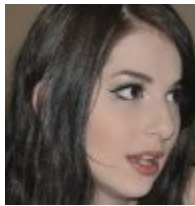



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 01:44:27](#)
(no subject)

And no, Hydra has no other cursed jewellery. Well, not that sort, at any rate.

I think Mr Lestrage finds it much more satisfying to make us *worry* what he'll do rather than actually *do* anything. (Or he ought to have simply forced us to separate, what.) After all, the 'damage' is done, and it's not as if we'll get into family trouble while we're at school.

-J




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:57:08](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if you should count on the castle keeping that from happening, actually. They don't exactly understand what's involved in the protections but since you're betrothed the Castle might think you WANT to

oh wait. You DID mean pregnancy when you said 'family trouble,' didn't you? It just occurred to me you might mean Mr Lestrage turning up.

Anyway you should use the charms, they're really not that difficult. Or have Hydra ask Madam P for the potion.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 02:00:47](#)
(no subject)

Er. Yes, thank you. We already use protection, anyway. It's not a habit one wishes to break, what.

At any rate, we can hardly be the first couple ever to become engaged while at school. My point was that Mr Lestrage can presume we'll not create any complications because the school won't let us, what.

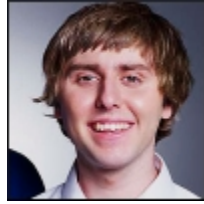
-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:22:49](#)
(no subject)

Right, I suppose.

Anyway. We can all 'meet up for a bit of revision' tomorrow if you can think of a spot.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 02:28:21](#)
(no subject)

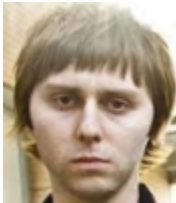
Oh, jolly good! We'll find something, I'm sure.


-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:15:27](#)
(no subject)

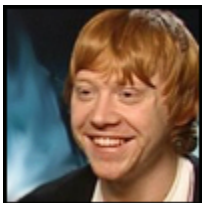
If you're thinking of Madam Puddlifoot's on the next Hogsmeade weekend, I'm not sure anything short of the Imperius curse would get Ron in there. But that's public anyway, so would you need a chaperone?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 01:19:16](#)
(no subject)

Hogsmeade's weeks and weeks away. No, I wasn't thinking of that.

-J



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-15 01:30:53](#)
(no subject)

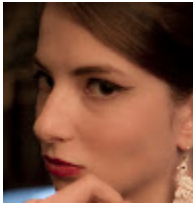
Oh, ha ha.


I wish there were some place in Hogsmeade we could go that not many people do. But, y'know. Once we're in Hogsmeade, we could Apparate and go anywhere, yeah? Who would know? No one! As long as we got back in time.



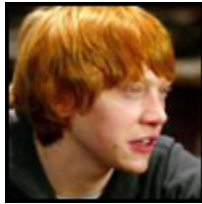
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:33:29](#)
(no subject)


You'd have to side-along me both ways. And Justin would have to side-along Hydra. But! It's true, we could do that. If we were caught we would be in HUGE trouble, though, not only for apparating under age but for leaving Hogsmeade, I'm sure that's not allowed.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:35:00](#)
(no subject)

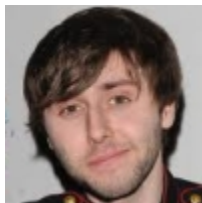
Oh and there's always the Hog's Head. I know people who've gone in but they say it smells funny and the dishes are sort of grimy and it's just not very pleasant. We probably wouldn't run into any other students there. (We might, however, run into Mr Lestrangle.)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-15 02:05:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that doesn't sound like a good idea.

There's the place Percy went sometimes with Clearwater. The Protector's Circle. Only I think that'd be a daft waste of galleons.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-15 02:15:29](#)
(no subject)

Ron,

The problem there, again, is that Hogsmeade weekends are few and far between.

Besides, last year Bundy (Eric, that is) made certain all the lads in Hufflepuff knew that *everyone* assumes when one goes to the Protector's Circle, it's for one thing.

In fact, in our experience it's far better to stay behind on a Hogsmeade day than to go to the village, what.


-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:21:19](#)
(no subject)

That place costs SO much money. I've heard some of the older students talking about it. And Justin's right, if you go there, people talk. So it's out of the question for Justin and Hydra.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-15 02:23:51](#)
(no subject)

Heh.

We are the older students now, you know. But, yeah. Everyone does totally know what you're doing if they see you go there. That's what I told Percy back when he did.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:30:44](#)
(no subject)

I know, I started to say 'the NEWT students' and then I realised we ARE the NEWT students now.

I'm thinking of conversations I overheard, oh, third year? or maybe fourth? back when the NEWT students were old.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 01:24:54](#)
Private message to Ron

What do you think? I can see why he's suggesting it. I don't really want to snog in front of other people but if we were, oh, around a corner or something, maybe it wouldn't be too bad?

Honestly my biggest worry is Mr Lestrangle somehow finding out and showing up and being cross with us (you and me, I mean -- Justin, it just goes without saying but those are his risks to worry about).



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2013-09-15 01:39:50**

Re: Private message to Ron

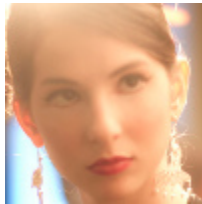
Uh.

Yeah. I guess that's right. I mean, it's one thing if they get caught, but it could be a whole other thing if we got Mr Lestrage hacked off at you. It wouldn't be so great for my family, either, mind you, but he could do-

Look. We won't do it if you don't want to.

Or we could tell them that we'll only try it if we can test it first in a way that wouldn't get any of us in trouble if there was some surveillance charm on Hydra that's going to tell her father they're on a date. Only, I don't have any idea really what that would mean exactly to test it but not be doing anything that would actually get any of us in trouble if her father came crashing in.

...

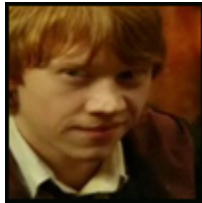


 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-09-15 01:54:08**

Re: Private message to Ron

Well to be honest I think Hydra knows a lot more hiding places around the school than I do so if they can find a good spot where we'd also have some privacy that would be rather nice.

I think it would be good to test it but I'm not sure how.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2013-09-15 02:06:14**

Re: Private message to Ron

And that would be the Slytherin way to think about it.

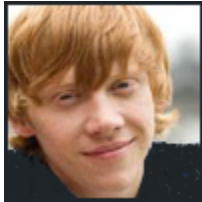
Sometimes I really like the way your mind works, you know?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:16:43](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I knew with time you would come to appreciate the virtues of my House!



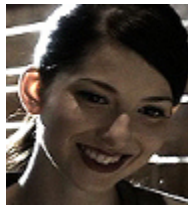
 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-15 02:24:29](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Yes, well.

That's not all I appreciate.

A-hem.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:31:44](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Well I have many virtues, after all.

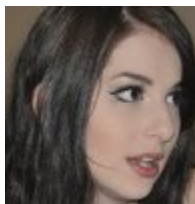
As do you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-15 02:13:08](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

So. Is it all right to tell him we'll try a date with them? We could plan something for tomorrow, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 02:17:11](#)

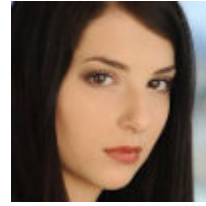
Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah, sure. If he can figure out a spot, anyway.

2013-09-14 21:53:00

Order Only

I got an owl from Mrs Stretton today. They applied for a muggleborn to replace Maureen but were denied by the Ministry, officially on the grounds that if they couldn't keep track of the last one they shouldn't get another, but it sounds as if Mrs Stretton called to argue about it and there's a shortage.




 [alt_sally_anne](#)

(She also wanted to know if I knew anyone who'd left school who might be interested in a job as a nanny. I'd recommended Megan Jones for the job she'd offered me and I guess that got her thinking that I might have other referrals.)


Anyway I thought I'd mention the shortage. I don't know how long that's been happening but you didn't have trouble getting Ellie, did you?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-09-15 03:39:45**
(no subject)


We did not. However, there were quite a few formalities, and I'm not surprised they wouldn't hand over another one to someone who'd been careless with her first.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-09-15 03:42:44**
(no subject)


No, in fact, they gave you a few names, didn't they?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-09-15 03:46:39**
(no subject)

No -- Arthur and Kingsley got the names. We tailored the application to try to get them to assign us Ellie, and it worked.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-15 03:49:02](#)
(no subject)

Didn't YOU fill it out, come to think of it?



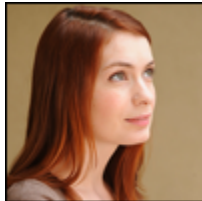
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-15 03:52:18](#)
(no subject)


Oh, yeah. I did.

That's right. Kingsley and Arthur *did* get us the names of likely young people. Mostly friends or relations of people in Sherwood.

There was Ellie and ... Bugger all. Now I can't remember the others. Can you?

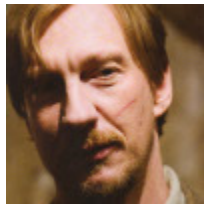
I suppose I ought to go back and look. We might be able to get them out, now that it's been a while.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-15 04:00:12](#)
(no subject)

There's Laurel Sinclair -- the one who's been 'called into service' and is nowhere to be found.

I don't recall the others, though.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-15 04:05:45](#)
(no subject)

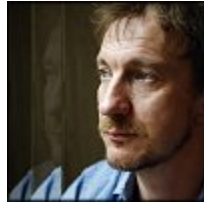
Jeanne Harris and Midge Gardner. (I didn't remember either, but I looked them up, after we realised Laurel might be the mother of the child in the book.) Jeanne was 16, Midge was 12, so I suppose they'd be 17 and 13 now.


It's worth looking them up.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-15 04:30:26](#)
(no subject)


Which camps were they from? Or wasn't that specified?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-15 04:51:24](#)
(no subject)

Kingsley didn't say.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-15 04:33:48](#)
(no subject)

Right. And I knew that, too, and Laurel and all.

It's hard to concentrate properly with Sniv
Snape being so chatty and cheerful round the

house.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-15 03:47:32](#)
(no subject)

Were the Strettons investigated for Maureen's going missing? I'd have thought surely they would have been.

Only, I'm surprised the Strettons thought there was any chance of getting another--or even that they'd dare bring it up, so maybe they weren't dragged over the coals for her running off.

What do you suppose?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 03:50:14](#)
(no subject)

From what she said, I think she paid someone off.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-15 03:54:09](#)
(no subject)

Yes, well. I suppose there is a different standard for people who run a necessary operation like that farm of theirs. The economy depends on people like them, so it's a matter of passing the right number of galleons to the right official and trouble looks the other way.

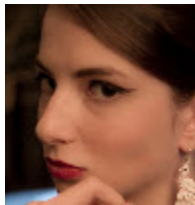
Lovely.

More reason to be glad they got told no about hiring another muggleborn.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-15 04:52:15](#)
(no subject)


Sally-Anne, do you know if they wound up getting in any trouble over the Diviner's Mint?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-15 04:53:29](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if you'd call it a fine or a bribe but they had to pay a load of money and they don't get to keep the Diviner's Mint.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-15 03:58:27](#)
(no subject)

A shortage of Muggleborn is rather interesting, if that's what's really going on.

I know we've put a sizable dent in younger Muggleborns, but I'd imagine she was looking for someone closer to Maureen's age.

I wonder if the richer families taking on servants instead of using house elves are suddenly leading to a greater demand? Or if the smuggling Beth has been doing has made that large a dent in their population?

2013-09-14 22:22:00

*Order Only: Bill, your boss just
firecalled you*




 [alt_gredforge](#)

He says you're to go to the Adur Muggle camp. As in, right now.

Everyone else: we don't know what it's about; Corax Mulciber didn't say. Bill, do you?

Wow, he's a stone-cold bloke. Obviously, he wasn't doing anything fun with his Saturday night.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-15 03:39:47**
(no subject)


Bloody hell.

I think this might have something to do with an investigation being conducted by that Auror who's been working in our department, from Malfeasance.

Bugger all, I hope he doesn't want me to--

Mum, don't wait up. No idea how late I'll be.



 [alt_molly](#) at **2013-09-15 03:42:50**
(no subject)

Oh, for goodness sakes! Whatever it is couldn't have waited? I expect them to drag MLE personnel out of bed at all hours or on the weekends, but you? Really!

2013-09-14 23:07:00

Private message to Barty Crouch and Mafalda Hopkirk



 [alt_rachel](#)

Right. So, that bloke from Adur who's been so thoroughly helpful, the one I was supposed to arrest later tonight once we were certain he'd turned up all the records from the creative places they'd been stashed? Corax Mulciber turned up tonight with his aide, cruciated him repeatedly, and put a curse designed to ensure he won't ever be fathering any children.

I think he might have found out that instead of pocketing money, Bawsley had a taste for muggle girls.

Anyway, I took Bawsley to St Mungo's to get him stabilised and I'm going to bring him in to MLE once they're done with him, assuming he survives.

I'm going to guess that Cadmus Mulciber passed the word to Corax about the impending arrest -- the last thing I was expecting to see, while working on a Saturday night, was Corax and his aide.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2013-09-15 04:26:04**
(no subject)

What the-

Assuming he survives?

What were you doing while Mulciber made mince of your mark?

Sending Penderyn to St M's. See they give him time to legitimise Bawsley.



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-09-15 04:46:34**
(no subject)

I'll be sure of it, sir.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-15 04:57:07](#)
(no subject)

Good.

Nothing to gain by having it out with Mulciber. Either of them. And not yours to do when it comes to it. Assume you realise that.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-15 04:58:40](#)
(no subject)


I do, sir.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-09-15 05:01:12](#)
(no subject)

Good.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-15 15:32:57](#)
(no subject)

Penderyn spent some time with him last night; I assume he gave you his report.

Bawsley was transferred to MLE custody at around 4 in the morning; I saw him put into a cell.

I'm back sifting records now. Montague made a little progress last night, along with Corax Mulciber's aide, who got left behind to assist by way of apology for inconveniencing us. Of the 526 unaccounted for in the census, there are 187 that I think we can presume dead. (They were under the age of 10 and no other family members went missing, they were over the age of 70 and again, no other family members went missing; they were the mother of a small child, and the small child didn't go missing; etc.)

Record-keeping went completely to hell at Adur during the tail end

of Black's epidemic -- that was probably true at a lot of camps, but here, they just decided to quit worrying about it. I've also identified 36 that I think are likely candidates for having escaped, because I found references to them in records kept after the epidemic had finished, and it includes groups that might have all slipped out together. (Families, couples, and the like.)

Montague was apparently at it all night; I've sent him home for some sleep. Weasley, too. (Corax Mulciber's aide.)

2013-09-15 12:40:00

Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley



 **alt_gredforge**

George was feeding the goats this morning, and he heard you--sounded like you were kicking the crap out of stuff in Dad's shed. Must have been shortly after you got back at dawn.

Want to talk about it? We're willing to listen. Privately, of course.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-15 17:44:43**

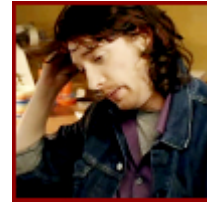
(no subject)

Not yet. But soon, I promise. Tonight, probably.

Thanks.

2013-09-15 17:09:00

Order Only: Adur and Charles Bawsley



 [alt_bill](#)

I received a firecall from my boss last night ordering me to show up at Adur camp immediately. My source in MLE had revealed that they were honing in on several in the camp administration personnel there who had been caught in pecuniary offences. Raiding the camp's funds for personal gain, fudging on expense reports, that sort of thing. Apparently, camp management is rotten to the core.

You may remember the name of one of them, Charles Bawsley, the Camp Administrator. Dad ran across him a few years ago, when Bawsley was the Assistant Camp Administrator, and Dad wrote one of his Order Only journal entries about him. Dad described him as a 'thug,' which sounds accurate. Bawsley killed a muggleborn because the poor sod tried to use wandless magic to defend a woman Bawsley was cruciating. She was...less than accommodating when Bawsley tried to rape her.

Anyway. Bawlsej has been apparently been cooperating with the investigation, maybe hoping for leniency for himself, I don't know. But Corax Mulciber must have received a tip Bawsley was about to be arrested, now that the investigation was winding up--from his brother in MLE, I suspect. So the two of us showed up at the camp, as best as I can tell, to make the point that Bawsley was his meat--he would magnanimously allow MLE to take the man into custody, but only when Mulciber was finished with him.

The Auror on duty was obviously not happy with the decision that Bawlsej should get cruciated. She protested that this was 'extremely unhelpful; we need him to be able to answer questions.' Mulciber just ignored her. As a last flourish, he cursed, uh, Bawsley's private parts. He'd told me on the way in that he'd learned that Bawsley had 'a taste for bestiality' (meaning, I guess, that he'd learned of Bawsley's penchant for raping muggle women, too). It wasn't that he sympathised with the women in any way, mind you. Rather, it offended his rigid standards of blood purity.

The Auror who'd protested eventually hauled Bawlsej off, whimpering, to St. Mungo's. Mulciber ordered me to stay to help the assistant Auror on the investigation go through the camp records (which are apparently in a total shambles) to look for any possible

escapees. He then left.

I don't believe any of the kids at Moddey Dhoo are from that camp, which is fortunate, because the records are now drawing such scrutiny, but I'm afraid that the assistant searching with me flagged cards of some of the people who ended up in Sherwood.

I stayed until shortly before dawn when the senior Auror returned from overseeing Bawsley's transfer to MLE custody. She sent us both home.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-16 00:03:44**

Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley

Cardinal report: Cruciatu

Mulciber started out his private entertainment by ordering me to Cruciate Bawsley. He didn't tell me how long I should do it.

I chose to hold the curse for twenty seconds. It was less time than what I was ordered to do last time (thirty seconds) but more than the ten second least-possible burst that he calls a 'taste.' I knew Mulciber wanted to cruciate Bawsley, too. When I finished, to forestall any protests that I hadn't held it long enough, I turned to Mulciber and said, 'Your turn,' as coldly as I could. He eyed me for a moment and then he started and held it for--I don't know. Maybe two minutes. I wasn't counting the seconds in my head. Just trying to block out the screams.

I'd hoped that would be it, but Mulciber ordered me to do it again, the bastard. So I did it for another twenty seconds. Mulciber went again, about as long as the first time, and then unleashed his special curse. He looked rather savagely pleased when he was done.

Full disclosure: the curse was different this time. For me. I knew about Bawsley. I remembered Dad's journal entry about him, when Mulciber was going on about bestiality. I think it made a difference that I didn't feel as though I was cursing someone totally innocent.

I made a mistake, and I'm afraid it was a big one. I forgot, maybe because I was flustered since Mulciber was watching. But I didn't use the trigger phrase for the Curse *the Order needs me to do this*

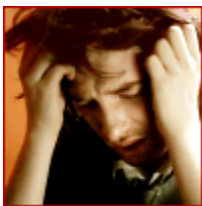
that I've used earlier. Instead, I thought: *he deserves this*.

Perhaps that's why the curse came so much more easily.

I felt differently afterward, too. I mean, I kept it together as long as I was at Adur. Playing it as cold as possible while I was going through the records. But when I got home, I wasn't sad or sick so much as furious. Angry at Mulciber for making me his personal bully boy.

I don't know how to conjure up any empathy for Bawsley. I'm doing some of the cleansing rituals Severus and Terry suggested tonight.

Don't know if it'll be enough. But it's all I have.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-09-16 00:16:16](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley


The rage didn't last too long. Not as long as what happened with the rite. Maybe a half an hour. But it was impossible to squash while I was in the middle of it. Volcanic. I went into Dad's shed when I got home and I kicked a basket of old radio parts to smithereens, and when I was done, I looked at the metal shards all over the floor and I was scared out of my mind.

George heard me. The twins sent me a message asking if I want to talk. I think I'm going to take them up on it, tonight.

I think I have to decide whether I should tell Mum. It's obvious this is going to continue. It'll be like a kick in the gut to her, but I won't be able to hide it from her forever. Especially if I, well, start to show any effects. You know how she can sense when things aren't right, yeah? She'll be gutted if she finds out without me telling her, or if it goes on for months before I admit it. She's clever enough to know that I would tell Dad right away.

Merlin, Charlie, I want to quit this job so badly.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-16 04:19:08**

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley

Thank you, Bill.

Sirius and Severus are continuing their work, and seem to be making progress. There is nothing concrete, and no definite timeline, but they aren't giving up on it, and believe it still is possible. And seeing as one of them is very decidedly not an optimist and neither tend to overstate their chances of success, I'm inclined to believe them.

I know you're struggling with this, Bill. We've all had our demons, some fiercer than others, but know that the fact that you're recognising it and giving it a name is important, and necessary, and takes a great deal of inner strength.

Hold on to that strength, love.



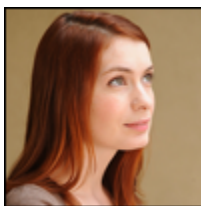
 **[alt_bill](#) at 2013-09-16 20:35:02**

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley

Thanks, Alice.

I think I was a little too proud to beg ask for reassurance directly. Which makes me all the more grateful to receive it anyway.

Please also thank Severus and Sirius for their efforts on my behalf.




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-16 04:08:37**

(no subject)

Would it be possible (given the increase in scrutiny) to take advantage of the messy records to lose a few more, make it seem as though they'd already been lost?

If you're working closely with the Auror you mentioned, it might not be possible. I trust your judgement to be careful. But it's a thought.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-16 18:23:52](#)**
(no subject)

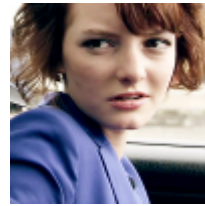
I haven't been sent back to the camp; MLE has the investigation firmly in their grasp now.

I thought of trying to palm some of the record cards the night I was there, but I was parked right next to that assistant Auror, elbow to elbow. In my best judgement, it would have been too dangerous to try.

2013-09-15 22:16:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Hey, are you around? I mean, awake and not busy.



 [alt_rachel](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-16 03:19:26**

(no subject)

Yes to both. What's up?

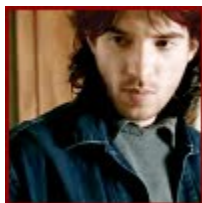


 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-09-16 03:22:16**

(no subject)

You know how last week I was tired of looking at expense reports?

This week I'm tired of looking at camp census counts.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-16 03:26:28**

(no subject)

I've never had much appreciation for camp census counts myself.

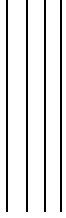
In fact, I have a particularly strong dislike for them right now.




 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-09-16 03:28:07**

(no subject)

Perfect. Come over.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-16 03:31:18**
(no subject)

See you in five minutes. We can dislike them together.

[2013-09-16 09:34:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley




 **[alt_gredforge](#)**

You know, if you don't want Mum to suss out that you had female companionship when you're out ALL NIGHT LONG, it's probably a strategic error to come down to the breakfast table gently wafting the fragrance of French lilac soap behind you. It's hardly your usual manly odour.

Just a friendly little tip.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-16 14:38:39](#)**
(no subject)


Bloody hell.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-09-16 14:40:38](#)**
(no subject)

The jaunty little whistle was rather a giveaway, too.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-16 14:41:59](#)**
(no subject)

Bloody hell!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-09-16 14:43:31](#)**
(no subject)

Hope you had fun, anyway!

2013-09-16 16:49:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Fred and George



 [alt_pansy](#)

I got the samples. The trainers are really brill. I think you ought to tell the Order about them. And the rest of the ISS, too. For the version we plan on selling, you ought to make them in complimentary colours to the edible laces line so people will want to buy both. And maybe it'd be a good idea to make the ones we sell a bit less powerful. Like... they wear off after five minutes. Or you can only get eight feet up before they start to lose suction. Or they have a weight requirement, so only kids can use them.

The one thing I thought of was if someone in the Order was caught wearing the more powerful version, it could be trouble if it's traced back to us. Unless we make it seem like the more powerful versions are just modified from the original shoe, and that someone with a good understanding of charms and runes could've done it on their own. If that makes sense. Like we could paint over the colourful trainers or something, and make the modifications look like someone else did it. Or am I over thinking it?

The edible laces are definitely looking good -- I'd work a bit more on the flavours, though. The berry one was a bit off-tasting. In terms of names for the Laces line, I was thinking something like Lickety Split Laces and Not a Trace Laces. Does that sound like it'd work?

I'm working through disclaimers for the love potion chocs, just to make sure everything's included. Did you ever get round to making an antidote? And you've really got to fire test the Sparking Super Balls to make sure they won't set things on fire if they land in a stack of papers or something.

Weren't you working on the superball things for the Order too? Making them magic seeking or something? I remember that in one of the planning meetings, but it was months ago.

Oh, and I've got quotes from both Demeter and Hermes, and they're both very reasonable. I'm still waiting on their packaging to come in, and I'll let you know once they come through. I'm expecting them by the end of the week.

I think the trainers really are brilliant, by the way. I think Mrs Longbottom should know about them, if she doesn't already.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 00:20:25](#)
(no subject)

See, we knew we were right to bring you in on this. Some excellent suggestions here.

Right, we like the idea of using complimentary colours on the edible laces and trainers. And no, you're not overthinking: obviously, we don't want any Order use of our products to lead to trouble. Maybe we could use Chameleon Cloth for the Order trainers. After all, if you're using them to sneak up a wall, blending in a little could be helpful, too.

Also sensible to have the products sold to the public be a lower-power prototype. You can't run quite so fast with the public Lickety Split Laces, and the featherlight charm isn't quite as strong on the Not a Trace Laces. (Great names, by the way). Putting a weight limitation on the trainers for the public would also be smart for liability reasons, too. It wouldn't do to have some less-than-pint-sized kid fall off a wall because he's been stuffing in too many chocolate frogs lately. We can charm 'em so that a kid that's too heavy literally can't walk in 'em.

Oh, the sparks on the Sparking Superballs are just an magical illusion. No actual fire involved. And yeah, you remembered correctly. The Order application on those little gizmos is quite brilliant, if we do say so ourselves. If you carve a certain rune on them, then they are magic-seeking missiles. Uh, don't know if you know the word 'missile,' it's a Muggle term that Fu taught us. It's an object that forcibly flies at a target. Anyway, once the rune's carved in, if you give it a hard bounce on the floor, it'll fly from there right to the wand tip of the nearest wand you're not holding. Engulfs the tip, and delays any spell your opponent may fire at you for five seconds. Which could save your life if it's a really dark curse they're flinging at you--gives you time to dodge. And if the room's dark, the sparks will show you where the wand tip of your enemy IS, which could be crucial information in a firefight.

Of course, you have to be careful that when you bounce it, the nearest wand isn't being held by one of your allies.


Glad both Demeter and Hermes are willing to give us a bid. We'll be eager to hear your report of which packaging sample you like best.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 00:39:26](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and antidotes for the love potion chocs. Yeah, we're working on those. We can bear swoony looks for only so long.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 00:50:52](#)
(no subject)

Duly noted.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 01:09:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, we meant the general public, you understand.

Swoony looks from personal acquaintances (or to personal acquaintances) are in another class

entirely.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 03:19:40](#)
(no subject)

Also duly noted.

I tend to prefer mutual admiration over out and out swooning, myself. The latter tends to lead to rather awful poetry. Just as a word to the wise.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 19:52:10](#)
(no subject)

Pans:

We need to let you know that Percy stopped at the Burrow this morning absolutely fuming at the two of us. Lucius Malfoy tore a piece out of him yesterday because he was taken by surprise at a Magical Commerce meeting where our business licence application was discussed.

Your name's listed on the parchmentwork as a backer. Percy was told by Malfoy to convey the message that we're in big, big trouble for telling a lie like that on our application.


You need to be prepared: we expect that there may be an even bigger fuss when they discover that it's actually true.

Don't want you to be in an ugly spot for backing us, so tell us: is there anything we can do to help? We're willing to talk with Malfoy or Baddock if you think it's best.

Sorry.

F & G



 **alt_pansy** at **2013-09-17 20:22:33**
(no subject)

Oh.

I'll talk to them both.

I'll let you know what he says. And I'll try my best to smooth things over. You have nothing to be sorry about. This is my fault.

It wouldn't be good for you to talk to him until I've got a chance to first.

Just get together all the materials you can. All the letters, all the budget proposals, the expense books, everything you can think of to show a record of what we've done together because they will be gone over. The lease for the building too. And the patent applications. Make copies of everything. And make sure you've accounted for every knut of the investment capitol on the books, or shown what it's budgeted for.

Make sure they're the clean copies. Make TRIPLY sure. Make sure you've got the version of the budget in my handwriting, along with the letter I sent with it, and check to see whether you've put my name on the notes from our planning meetings over hols and the end of last term.

I'll clean up what I wrote yesterday about the trainers and the

laces and send it off by owl today so that you can have a record.

If I've

I hope everything turns out.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 20:24:27](#)
(no subject)

I invested in this for a reason. And it's not just because you're friends. It's because you're utterly brilliant, and I believe in what you're trying to do, and I think what you're doing could make a real difference and I wanted to help.

And yeah, all he'll see is the rubber chicken wands and the edible laces, but I know what you're really all about, and it's so much more. And it was worth it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 20:29:51](#)
(no subject)

And while we're at it, you might as well send an owl express that says just what you wrote up here.

I'll write him just as soon as I've got it.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 20:32:37](#)
(no subject)

Right-o. Errol'll be on his way with it in a minute.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-17 20:34:26](#)
(no subject)

And we'll get the documents together. To make doubly sure, we'll have Mum check 'em over, too. Nothing slips by her.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-18 23:17:49](#)
(no subject)

I've offered to have him look at our materials, so be prepared. And. He's angry. Just don't give him reason to be angry with *you*.

He's suggested that I pull out as partner and you repay me by a certain date. I've told him that I won't change my mind about it, but if that's what he's put on the table, I think there might be some negotiating possible. It means he's not looking to break it up and sell it piece by piece. At least that's what I think it means. And he's not talking about suing any more.

~~I may vomit.~~



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 03:23:53](#)
(no subject)

How much testing have you done on the superball things yet? To see if they'd work in a proper duel? I'd bet Mr Longbottom and Sirius could take them out for a go.

Can Muggles use them?

2013-09-16 17:40:00

Private Message to Percival Weasley



Weasley.

Have just come from Magical Commerce. (Kindly see to it that the meeting returns to its normal time next month; cannot re-arrange the rest of the timetable every Monday. Remind Macmillan before it happens again.)

 [alt_lucius](#)

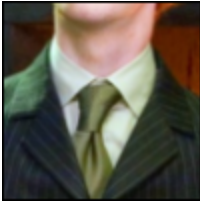
Is it possible - could it be remotely *conceivable* - that those imbecilic brothers of yours are attempting to obtain premises for the purpose of embarking on some sort of business venture?

No. It could not. Because if it were, surely you would have known about it. And *had* you known, you would of course have mentioned it to your employer, knowing that he sits on the committee for Magical Commerce. Is that not correct?

And yet. The committee to-day reviewed papers submitted by Messrs Fred and George Weasley in request of a licence for commercial enterprise, to wit: One shopfront with full storage and laboratory, living space included.

Shall be returning after supper and need to know the progress toward the camp inspections.

Meanwhile, you had best think of a reason you were unable to save me the embarrassment of being unprepared for this ... revelation. *And* you had better hope that their partner's name on some of the parchments was one of your brothers' infamous practical jokes. Miss Parkinson has no intention of backing them. Baddock would have stopped it, if nothing else. Falsifying permit applications is *no joke*, as they will learn shortly - despite whatever ridiculous products they propose to manufacture. However clever they may think they are, if their inventions are as uproariously un-funny as their fraud, their 'business' is sure to fail within weeks. Possibly days.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2013-09-16 23:34:12](#)**
(no subject)

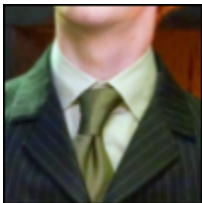
Sir, I--


First of all, duly noted regarding future scheduling of Magical Commerce.

As for my brothers, I'm--I'm stunned. I would never wish you to be taken by surprise and would do my utmost to prevent it. I'm surprised. I have no knowledge of anything about any possible involvement of Miss Parkinson.

As for the idea of them setting up business for themselves, why, I suppose I heard chatter about their opening a joke shop for years. But it was very idle chatter, considered a mere family joke by all of us, I assure you! If they have made more formal plans, it must have only been very recently. But I do not live with them, you'll remember, and to be frank, I've been avoiding the usual Sunday evening family gathering for dinner for the past couple of months. So I've heard no talk of any application to Magical Commerce. I am exceedingly sorry that I did not get wind of this mad scheme in time to give you notice.

Believe me, sir, I will make the magnitude of their--their presumption regarding Miss Parkinson crystal clear to them. Immediately, and as forcefully as I can.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2013-09-16 23:37:42](#)**
(no subject)

I will have a report regarding camp inspections ready and waiting for you on your desk.

2013-09-16 23:15:00

Order Only: Private message to Harry and Draco

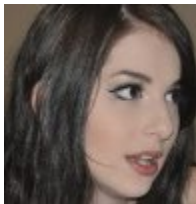


Hermione's birthday is this week. Thursday. She's aging off the lock, in fact.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Are either of you planning anything? We could meet up in the secret room, ~~just like~~ last the one where we had meetings and so on last year. I mean, it's quite willing to make itself a nice room for a party.


Last year, Justin talked to the elves to get cake -- it was before Umbridge made all the rules against food so it was quite easy.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-17 04:34:05**
(no subject)

It's also Professor Siz's birthday, the same day. Draco do you give your teachers cards or anything? I've always wondered. (I do, of course, because it's an easy way to build goodwill. You need that less than I do, though, obviously. But you might do it anyway because extra goodwill from people who give you marks never hurts. Besides, then you have the option of NOT remembering people's birthdays if you want them to worry that you're cross with them.)



 [alt_draco](#) at **2013-09-18 00:49:01**
(no subject)

One of the elves at home is in charge of keeping up with my non-essential correspondence, which includes gifts and cards to teachers, on most occasions.


Siz is family, sort of, so I suppose I ought to send in the order myself.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-17 06:46:29](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. That'd be nice. I mean, I've been thinking about what to do, to make it special and all, but having a party in the room would be nice.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-17 18:33:37](#)
Private Message to Draco

It's going to be weird.

Not having her on it any more.


I don't think we should use it any more if she can't. Not unless it's an emergency or something. So she won't get left out of things.

And.

I've been thinking about what I could do. You know. For her birthday. And I've got some ideas, but I don't know what she'd think about it.

Because this one is special, you know? And because she's losing something too.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-18 00:46:53](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco

She's already left out of loads of things. Lessons at Hogwarts, for one. The right to carry a wand in public, for two. And I could go on listing things but you get the idea. Are you going to stop going to lessons and carrying a wand, as well?

It's a well-meaning gesture, but I'm not sure it resonates, much.

And I already know what I'd give her but unfortunately, it's not in my power.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-18 03:23:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Yeah. Well. I guess we'll have to work on the rest of it, won't we?

It's not going to be enough. I don't think it's ever going to be enough.

What would you give her?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-18 03:31:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Set her free, of course. But you're the only one who can do that.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-18 03:45:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

I've thought about that too, I guess.

Only

I mean, would she think of it like it was just like a gesture or something? Just words?

Do you think she'd be offended?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-18 12:18:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

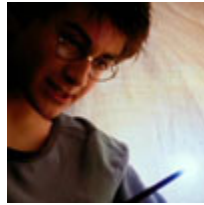
It is just a gesture, because it obviously doesn't change her standing with the rest of the Protectorate, but I'd say it's a significantly more meaningful one than to stop writing under the


ISS Lock.

Honestly, she might be. One never knows, with her. Maybe in

that regard it's really more a gift to yourself. Do you really like owning somebody?

I think if you did it in a way that was no big deal, it might work. No "VIOLA! I set you free!" speeches, or heartfelt words. Just "Hey, you're not my slave anymore, and look, I got you a jumper."



 **alt_harry** at **2013-09-18 16:45:43**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Yeah.

Yeah. That works.

And no, I don't like it. I mean, I don't think about her like that. Like someone I own. But even if I don't think that way, and I don't like the idea of her being like that, I guess that doesn't change the fact that she's owned by me. And that's something I can change.

What would I do? Other than say it? Do you think that'd be enough?

Would it change the PMs? So they could be really private?



 **alt_draco** at **2013-09-18 22:53:56**

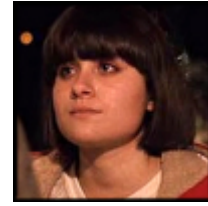
Re: Private Message to Draco

You're the one who owns her, so I reckon you can do it however you like - tell her, or write it down, or knit it in that jumper (don't really, though).

The journals have their own magic, so I suppose the PMs might change, too. Which - I don't know if other people would notice, or not. No one in the Order would care, obviously, and I don't know if anyone would write her a PM other than people in the Order. Maybe a teacher who was looking for you, but then they'd automatically put your name in, anyway.

2013-09-17 14:46:00

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

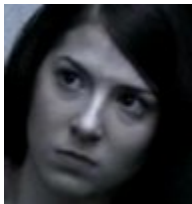


 [alt_pansy](#)

Lucius found out about the shop. And he's not happy about it.

Can you help me sort out what I should say?

I'm overthinking everything.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-09-17 22:07:21**

(no subject)

Mm.

Probably 'it's my bloody money, not yours' wouldn't go over well.

What are you actually afraid of him doing? Can he stop you from making the loan?




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-09-17 22:19:35**

(no subject)

A good enough part of it has already been spoken for that I'm not sure he'd be able to do that.

Worst case, he'd make them sell everything wholesale to pay me back right away.



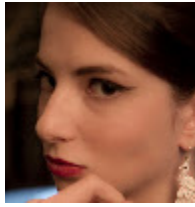
 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-09-17 22:25:04**

(no subject)

I'd hope that we could use profits for reinvestment, especially at the beginning, but maybe if I need to, I could work out a repayment schedule so that I'd technically get the money back?

I'd have to work out the sums to see just how much we'd have to make as a bare minimum, and that's not even allowing for purchasing raw materials or overhead.

See what I mean about overthinking?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-18 00:51:39](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

Sorry to be nosey but what percentage of your fortune did you invest with them? I mean if it's not a huge amount, you could try telling him that if they go bankrupt (which they won't) you'll make some personal sacrifice (sell something you like, give up something you enjoy that costs money) to make up the difference.

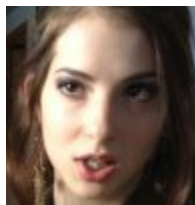
I mean fundamentally why shouldn't you invest in a joke shop? You go to Hogwarts. Everyone at Hogwarts has seen Zonko's stuff, they've made enormous PILES of galleons selling things to 13-year-old boys. Obviously there's a market, and Fred and George have some new ideas.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-18 03:33:09](#)
(no subject)

That's the thing. I didn't go out or buy as much new clothing as I usually do, and socked away my allowance, and I asked for extra each month over summer hols to make up the difference we needed to put a security deposit on the building and buy some rare ingredients that got pricey.

It's still just the interest. And even when you take the extra into account, it's certainly far less than Mum ever spent.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-18 03:36:03](#)
(no subject)

Well for Merlin's sake why is this even a problem? Other than that he dislikes the Weasleys.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-18 03:38:59](#)
(no subject)

I think it's because he thought they were taking advantage.

Or that I asked for extra and didn't tell exactly why.


Or that he really doesn't like getting surprises.



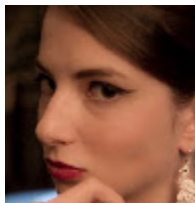
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-17 22:07:52](#)
(no subject)

Or are you afraid of him going after the Twins?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 22:18:03](#)
(no subject)

I'm going to try my best to make sure that doesn't happen.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-17 22:22:07](#)
(no subject)


Okay.

It might calm him down a little bit if you start by apologising for not consulting him because of course he's so expert on everything and wise and brilliant and so on and so forth. (Not, 'because I did the wrong thing by not' but 'because I could have drawn on your expertise and I didn't.')

Also you could tell him that you didn't want him to think you were trying to use your influence with him to get their business license approved or to get them favourable rents or anything.

Really if you want to protect the Twins the thing to remember is that it's better if he's furiously angry at you than at them. Because he's unlikely to do anything really awful to you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-17 22:26:12](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

That's what I'm hoping for.


Which is sort of funny, only it really isn't.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-18 01:10:38](#)
(no subject)

I see he wrote you, what did he say?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-18 03:08:47](#)
(no subject)

To explain the sums, and to ask whether we should sue for libel.

He's also asking about why I didn't tell Mr Baddock more specifics.

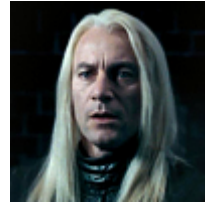


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-18 17:16:26](#)
(no subject)

He hasn't answered me yet.

2013-09-17 19:23:00

Private Message to Pansy Parkinson and Ari Baddock



Pansy,

Allegations have reached us that you've agreed to enter into business with Fred and George Weasley.


 **alt_lucius**

Shall give you this one chance to deny any truth to these rumours. As you know, Mr Baddock and I take tea every Tuesday, as we have done for many years, and he is fully aware of the situation. We have reviewed your last year's transactions and he has confirmed that at no time did you and he discuss an inclination to embark in commerce as a financial backer.

However. We did note a number of requests which in retrospect add to something somewhat ... irregular.

Have you anything to say to us? What explanation can you give for these unusually large sums - and shall we pursue the Weasleys to the fullest extent possible for their libel and fraud?



 **alt_pansy** at **2013-09-18 03:34:43**
(no subject)

Lucius;

I've just received an owl from my partners that passes along the message that you gave to their older brother just yesterday. If I'd received the message sooner, I would have written you myself to explain rather than putting you in the position of having to ask.

I am in a business partnership with Fred and George Weasley. They've been developing a line of products for the last three years, and after meeting with them several times last year and seeing what they were capable of, I decided that their products would be a good investment. We've been working together as equal partners, and I've been involved in everything from sorting out a budget to writing up marketing plans. I think it's a worthwhile use of my time, and I've been learning quite a bit about how to start a proper business.

I was hoping to share my investment with you once we'd launched properly, so we'd have something to show for it, and I didn't want you to think that I was using your reputation to get special favours when it came to getting licences and patents, or setting up the building.

You know so very much about business and investments, as does Mr Baddock, and I know that you would have been willing to share your advice, but I wanted to be able to show that I could do this on my own and be successful. And I do believe that we will be.

I can understand how you'd prefer to hear about this before you found out at the Commerce meeting, and I apologise for making you worry, and for making you unprepared in front of other people. That was not my intention at all, and I would hate to think that I've made you concerned and taken time out of your day to address this.

If you'd like to see a full accounting of how we've budgeted our funds, I can ask George and Fred to show you our budget and our book of expenses so far.

And once again, I'm so sorry for the confusion.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2013-09-18 18:54:30](#)**
(no subject)

Have read this countless times in the last day and still cannot quite believe it.

You value our advice so much that you decided to surprise us by not needing it?

You had no intention of surprising me so you concealed your involvement until such time as it came to light in a semi-public manner?

You did not wish to make a liar of me, so you ensured that when your name appeared on their parchment I would naturally deny your participation in their plans?

You were so confident in their success that you lied to Mr Baddock about your need for the funds to partner with them?

Above all, that you chose as 'expert mentors' two young wizards whose only claim to fame or expertise thus far in their young lives is

the ability to disrupt an entire school with their childish pranks and to achieve the minimum of academic success necessary to become qualified? Exactly what makes you so certain that they are teaching you anything 'proper' about the world of entrepreneurship?

It is patently clear that you planned your deception, which can only mean that you knew we would forbid it. Why? Because you must have known how foolhardy a choice this was.

I cannot understand why you should do this - to me, or to yourself. Why you should act in so headstrong and deceitful a manner. Pansy, you *took pains* to circumvent the safeguards which were put in place to protect your future - precautions, I might point out, that your father enacted precisely so that you could *not* squander his legacy on a fruitless, frivolous 'investment' such as this.

The Weasley twins.

Might as well have thrown your gold to street mountebanks. What's next? Some shady understreet hag who promises she can grow a silver tree from Sickles planted under a crescent moon? Mail-order spells? Discount time-turners ten-to-a-knut?

Where has your mother been in all this? Has she encouraged you to put your faith in empty cauldrons? No doubt this flight of fancy is just the sort of thing she believes counts as charitable work. Believe me, Little Bit, there are better recipients of your charity - those with greater need and those more deserving of it.

I am seriously disappointed in you.

Well, it's not too late. You'll simply tell them that you've changed your mind, that on the better advice of your solicitor you would like to withdraw. If they can't return the whole investment sum immediately, they may work out a payment plan with Mr Baddock. You can still remove your name from this doomed venture and call yourself wiser for the lesson.

If you are interested in business investment, we can discuss what options might appeal to you and pick out a portfolio that will bring a reasonable return. Not this ... joke shop nonsense.

Meanwhile, it's clear you cannot be trusted with as much control over your finances as has been allowed you. Rest assured we shall

discuss with your mother what steps may be taken to ensure that this incident cannot be repeated.



 **alt_pansy** at **2013-09-18 19:42:13**
(no subject)

Lucius;

Fred and George are not my mentors. They are not teaching me how to run a business, and I am not being taken advantage of. We are all working together on this project as equal partners, and we're all learning about this as we go. It was my decision to invest, and I believe our venture holds a great deal of promise. It isn't charity, and it isn't something I've done just to spite you. There's a market for what we're planning to sell, and people who will want our products.

I am taking a risk, but it's one I've chosen to take, and one I believe is reasonable. I haven't touched the principle, which has grown since I've taken over the accounts. The amount I've spent has been far below what my mother would go through on a regular basis, and I've been sure to stay within the range that we've discussed until the last few months.

I know you are more experienced than I am, but you haven't seen any of our materials yet. Please don't assume that we're automatically going to fail. And if we do, I'll have learned my lesson and will accept my losses.

I'm in my sixth year. It won't be long until I leave school. And I think it's only right that I start making decisions about what I want to do with my life. You see it as my being headstrong, I see it as taking a step towards independence and investing in my future. I can understand if you think differently, but part of letting me grow up is to let me make some decisions that you might not agree with. And yes, I spent some time with Mother over summer hols, and yes, I did talk about this project with her and tell her what I was working on. She saw it as mostly harmless, and although she wasn't sure if it would amount to anything, she said she'd let me handle my business how I saw fit and left it at that.

All of this is to say that I respect your opinion, Lucius, but I'm not going to change my mind.

If you wish to talk to Mr Baddock and my mother about how my finances should be handled from this point until I reach majority, I will accept the decision you come to.

And if you wish to talk about the investment I've made, my partners should also be a part of that conversation.

2013-09-18 10:50:00

Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra




It's Hermione's birthday tomorrow. I was thinking we could throw a party for her again in the secret room. Justin, do you think you could talk to the elves again about a cake? Her favourite sort is carrot cake, if you can talk them into that. (I don't understand wanting vegetables in your pudding. I mean vegetables are fine and all, but in cake? but it's her birthday.)

 **alt_sally_anne**

Also, you know, spread the word. I told Ron, so he'll let the Gryffindors know. Hydra, are you in any classes with Luna this year? If not, one of us could send her a separate message. She's the hardest one to catch, though, since she's not in my year OR in my House.



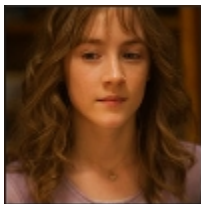
 **alt_justin** at **2013-09-18 18:21:31**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Yes, of course. I'll go to the kitchens directly after our Potions lesson.

I remember last year asking for a second cake; perhaps they'll oblige this time, as well, what.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2013-09-18 22:49:41**
(no subject)

I like Carrot Cake, too. It's nice.

And yes, I'll pass it along to Luna.

2013-09-18 11:10:00

Order Only: Private message to Molly Weasley

Mum? Will you be home tonight? There's something work-related I'd like to discuss with you.



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-18 16:15:45](#)

(no subject)

Why, I thought I'd go to Doughty Conduit, actually, to drop off a cake. It's Tonks' birthday, you know.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-18 16:20:28](#)

(no subject)

So it is. Blast, that slipped my mind.

I don't suppose you could drop it off a little earlier?
If you're there when I get off work, I could meet you.

We could have dinner there and raise a glass for Tonks, but then we could go home and have plenty of time to talk.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-18 16:23:23](#)

(no subject)

Why, I suppose so, if you don't think we can talk there. What is this about?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-18 16:25:59](#)

(no subject)

I'll tell you about it when we're home. I think it's a conversation best held in person in private, rather than through the journals.

2013-09-18 13:57:00

*Private Message to Percival Weasley and
Virgil Crispin*



 [alt_lucius](#)

Need all available information on Hamilton House.
Or Hamilton Building. Cross-streets are Mabledon
Place, Bidborough and Hastings Streets.

Current owners; number of tenants; current or pending leases;
everything.

Crispin, still on for lunch Monday? Sorry to have had to put it off the
week. If you can bring what you've found then, would be ... most
grateful.

Weasley. Get Rosa Campbell here as soon as possible. Come to my
study when you've reached her.

2013-09-18 16:39:00

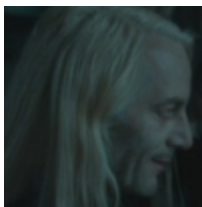
Private message to Lucius Malfoy

I've got some odds and ends to tell you about, from the current investigation. It could all certainly wait until tomorrow, but if you happen to find yourself at loose ends this evening, by all means let me know. (By journal, elf or floo; I expect I'll be easy to find.)



 [alt_rachel](#)

I could do with an early Thursday.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-09-19 03:24:47](#)

(no subject)

Could not reply until now; we had plans this evening that have only just concluded.

But I can break away now, if you are still awake. Shall be up for a few hours yet.

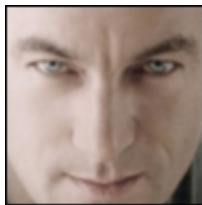
If not, then perhaps we might meet an hour earlier to-morrow.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-19 04:15:49](#)

(no subject)

I'm still up. Usual place?



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-09-19 04:18:34](#)

(no subject)

With great pleasure.

2013-09-18 19:27:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Tonks

many happy returns.

hope they're treating you proper at grimmauld tonight.



 [alt_frank](#)

you up for another round of camp visits this week?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2013-09-19 03:50:51**
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

They're being entirely decent to me around here tonight. If you don't count Bea's tantrum during supper, which could surely have been heard across London. I'm surprised sometimes that we don't have the child welfare witches serving us with summonses for making her howl like she does. It makes Padfoot put his tail between his legs and leave the room or the garden straightaway.

Anywiz. Tonight's been lovely, really. Molly brought chocolate cake and a basket of other things she'd baked and two jars of pickles, and then Bill came for a bit and had a toast. And people here in the garden have been singing mad songs to me all evening, and trying to buy me drinks. I tell them they can drink in my honour, but I can't be getting soused before going off to the Ministry, can I.

Speaking of which. Bill made a point of mentioning something to me about DIRRT tonight. Says he's hearing rumours that Mulciber's stirred the cauldron in that department and they're doubling down, investigating people all through the Ministry. It's news to me. Well, not entirely: I've heard rumours, too, but the thing is that where Yaxley's man, Vladimir, expected us in Magical Maintenance to be his eyes and ears, Cadmus Mulciber sacked him weeks ago, and we haven't heard who's taken his place. We haven't heard much of anything from DIRRT since then. Or I haven't. So far as I know, none of us have been called in to answer questions, and no one's come round to suggest where they'd like us to 'put in a bit of extra attention'. That's what they always called it when they wanted someone's drawers and cupboards gone through and the floorboards or flagstones lifted. But if what Bill's hearing is right, it's not because

Mulciber's got no use for DIRRT. Maybe the new DIRRT has new ways of collecting its information, though.

I could do Friday or Saturday in the camps. Whichever's best for you.



 **alt_frank** at **2013-09-19 19:17:52**
(no subject)

sounds like a good day. wish I could've been there.

and I've told al about DIRRT. it'd be worth finding out if they're using some other method of surveillance, or have other people working on it. maybe they figured that if there was a change in power, the people who used to get intel wouldn't be as loyal.

either those days are fine. which one would get you more sleep?

2013-09-18 21:30:00

Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson



Pansy:

 [alt_gredforge](#)

We're sorry your godfather gave you a hard time over the business. We've been working to pull together the records you want to provide to him. Do you want us to forward them to you to send to him? Or do you think they should be presented to him in person?


It occurs to us that if he's angry enough, he might come by the premises to harangue us. Or more likely, send a minion or something, come to think of it. Don't worry, we won't let him play divide-and-conquer. We'll be polite, promise, but very firm that we'll be more than happy to speak to him as long as our partner Miss Parkinson can be present at the meeting, too. That may delay a confrontation until the next school break. Will he be patient enough to wait that long?

Any tips as to what to say or how to act if he does come looking for us? Painfully polite, deferential to his experience, that sort of thing? Any advice or other approach you can suggest we'd certainly appreciate.

We're going to be moving into the building soon. It's bare bones, but we don't mind roughing it at first, and at least that way it'll be easier for us to work on product development and keep an eye on the place as we get on with retrofitting. (Not to mention we can escape goat-and-chicken chores! It's a win-win.)

The work counters were delivered today. A little bigger than we expected, but they fit in the space and can be easily sectioned and moved if we decide to rearrange. It looks like it'll work.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-19 02:46:17](#)
(no subject)

Good.

Yes.

I've done similarly -- I told him that if we were to talk about the money that's been invested any more, than you should be present for

it.

I'm trying to do my best to convince him that you're not taking advantage of me, and that we're all working on it together. So if you do end up talking, play up what I've been helping with a bit.

If we're going to show him that we won't be pushed around, appearing too deferential might be a wrong move. I'd be polite and respectful, but keep it firm and direct. That's what I'm trying to do right now. I've no idea if I'm pulling it off, because the entire time I want to run away and hide, but I'm trying my best.


He doesn't think it'll be successful, and he's assuming that starting a joke shop is going to be a waste of money. I don't know if we'd be able to say anything to change his mind about that, so I wouldn't try overly hard to convince him of it. Focus on how thorough we've been with keeping track of expenses and budgets, ask that he give us a fair chance to try it, and maybe imply that some of the things you're currently working on would be for a non-joke-shop market as well, in case that helps him take you more seriously.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-09-19 23:29:56](#)**
(no subject)

That helps. Thanks!



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-09-19 02:52:51](#)**
(no subject)

And it's good to hear that you're keeping up with things. I think we ought to continue as planned until we hear otherwise.

Camping in the shop sounds like it'll be interesting. And a bit drafty. I could send Hitty round to make sure you lot don't starve without regular access to your mum's cooking -- she's always looking for things to do while I'm away at school, and I'm sure she'd be rather happy for the chance to help.

Unless it'd be weird. You can tell me if it'd be weird.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-19 23:39:05](#)


(no subject)

We like camping. Dad took us every so often, so we're used to it. We bet Mum will give us a bunch of quarts of stuff from the garden she put up this summer, and she won't be able to resist sending a home-cooked dinner, probably about once a week. And we'll be going home for Sunday dinners. Sort of a family tradition, although Percy's starting to ignore it, the plonker.

As for Hitty, well, we wouldn't want to presume. She's your house elf, yeah? But the more hands the merrier and if she's interested in helping, we'd be glad of it. We make sure she'll be happy here...especially by telling her that this is partly Miss Pansy's business, and we're all working to make it a success.

Thanks for offering.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-19 23:47:36](#)

(no subject)

She's heard all about the business, and you, so I'm sure she'd love to lend a hand however she can. I'll write her to see what she thinks about popping over.

2013-09-18 21:33:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley: Rachel Lamont



 [alt_bill](#)

I think it's a good policy that I'm checking in with both of you every time I have to do one of the cardinals. It forces me think through my decisions and options, and it keeps me accountable. Alice, upon mulling it over, I realise there's another situation I've become enmeshed with that by rights, as the Head of the Order and my commanding officer, so to speak, you should be monitoring carefully.

Once that occurred to me, my immediate impulse was to want to *hide* the information from you--which makes me suspect I really need to tell you immediately. You do need to know, and it would be a very bad idea to blindside you with this.

Charlie already knows a little about this, which is why he's included on this message, too, and I trust him to keep me honest.

Right. So, then.

I reckon I'm screwing up my nerve.

I've mentioned that I've developed a source within MLE. Things have, ah, developed a little more quickly than I'd planned. Or I even intended, at least at first.

She's an Auror by the name of Rachel Lamont with the Malfeasance Elimination Unit who has been embedded with my division to do audits and investigations. Her role is to root out both corruption and traitors. House Ravenclaw. She left Hogwarts in 1990. Well regarded in her unit, and already occasionally assuming a supervisory role. Intelligent, with a sarcastic sense of humour that I rather like.

She is the one I turned to when I needed someone to coach me on how to do the curses in the first place.

We've been thrown together, in a way, since we both started in our positions at around the same time, and we office close to one another. She assisted me when Mulciber cast Cruciatius on me, and I did the

same for her. She has been willing to share information with me, and she's interested in my observations concerning events at the Ministry and the people we encounter there.

We've become quite friendly together. Then, rather unexpectedly, she propositioned me. Um, intimately. You understand, I trust.

I took her up on her offer. This has reoccurred more than once.

I assure you I haven't *completely* lost my head. Obviously, I have done my best to observe security protocols and I remain wary around her. I have not yet accepted any food or drink from her (bringing take out curry when I visit her, for example. When I've had breakfast at her place, I've gone out to bring food in.)

Well. That's it, that's what I felt I had to report.

I should also let you know that I spoke with Mum tonight to let her know I've been forced by Mulciber to perform the cardinals, and that each time I've checked in with the two of you. I just felt I had to tell her the truth. I imagine either one of you may hear from her soon. She took it as well as could be expected, I suppose. Really, I believe she was trying rather desperately not to react in front of me.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-19 02:53:40](#)

(no subject)

I see.




 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-19 02:54:10](#)

(no subject)

I need to give this some thought.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-19 03:17:23](#)
(no subject)

Bill;

Rachel Lamont is an Auror whose job is to find traitors within the Ministry. And never forget that you are a traitor, Bill. One of the highest degree. Her superiours are Barty Crouch and Bellatrix Lestrange. She was thoroughly indoctrinated and vetted during her training, which has happened under the shadow of the Protectorate. Is she trained at all in Legilimency? Is she trying to find evidence against you? If she's good at her job, you won't know until they take you in.


I can't help but question your judgement in this matter.

And I have reason to call this into question, as your recent struggles with the Cardinals and your entering into a relationship with Lamont directly coincide. Have you ever considered that this could be a symptom? That your attraction to the Dark Arts is clouding your ability to make appropriate choices?

This is not what the Bill I know would do. And although you may have convinced yourself that you're being careful and safe, I assure you, your deciding to enter into an intimate relationship with an Auror in the first place is neither careful or safe. Trying not to eat her food ought to be the least of your concerns. And regardless of how wary you might think you're being, you are showing yourself to her at your most vulnerable.

To say that I am concerned is an understatement.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-09-19 03:59:44](#)
(no subject)

I do realise what a danger she poses, not only to me but to all of us. I won't excuse myself by saying that I've elicited more information from her in a month than I have in the previous four years of trying to find a crack in the MLE fortress.

Of course you question my judgement. *I'm* questioning my judgement, which is why I brought this to you in the first place, once I stopped and really thought about what's been going on.

Because yes, I've considered that this could be due to what Mulciber's forcing on me. Using my own vulnerabilities to put me in a position to betray myself, as well as everyone I care about.

So I guess it's best that you know what I think those vulnerabilities are.

I've realised in the past year that I'm--I'm more of a control freak than I like, than I think is appropriate. There's a lot more of Percy in me that I thought. So maybe, if the Dark Arts are doing this to me, they're causing me to...to shake things up. Try something dangerous.

Besides that, working at the Ministry and always having to maintain a facade has taken its toll. I hate my job. I have no words to tell you what a terrifying ogre Corax Mulciber is, but I walk around my office in a constant state of stress, and sometimes outright terror. Sorry, I'm not trying to whine, I'm just trying to explain.

Another thing. Merlin, this is really stripping myself bare-arsed naked, so I hope you appreciate it. I feel like a fool saying this, but I've been goddamned lonely, for years, Alice. I never felt there was anyone I could be with, because of the role I play. No one I could trust. Then I stupidly went and fell in love with Tonks, because--because she was safe and I could trust her. Except she wasn't even interested. I made an idiot of myself over her last December, and she's been kind about it, but I decided I had to get over her.

So then I start casting Cardinals and coincidentally I get involved with the most dangerous woman in my orbit.

You're right, this is not what the Bill you know would do. Maybe that's because you don't quite know the Bill I really am. With the way Mulciber's messing with me, *I* don't even know who I am anymore.


So. That's why I'm coming clean now, because I honestly need help sorting out this situation.

She's not--she's not trying to put a claim on me, or trying to worm personal stuff out about me. As far as I can tell, it's rather casual for her.

Concerned--yeah. I understand that's an understatement, all right. You're the Head of the Order. By all rights, you should be furious.

Alice, I'm sorry.



 **alt_alice** at **2013-09-19 04:58:09**
(no subject)

I am furious.

But I am also concerned. And yelling will do very little good at this point and time.

You're important, Bill. I depend on you. Your network at the Ministry, your position... I know you hate your job, but now that your father's gone, there is no-one else left in the Order who can accomplish what you could, or who could get your level of access.

I need you with all your wits about you. And I know you've been under more pressure now than you ever have been, but all of this muddies the waters and makes it more likely that something will slip. Even if you don't mean for it to happen.

I know you're unhappy. I can see how you'd be lonely. But you need to start minimizing your risks. And that means stopping your current arrangement with the Auror. I don't care how casual it is. Am I understood?

We'll continue to try and sort out this business with the Cardinals. There's only so much we can do about replacing Mulciber. You can certainly look within Ministry to see if you can transfer and maintain your current capabilities. Perhaps putting up with Mulciber for a bit longer can be leveraged into a promotion.

The work we have to do... it can wear. And we all have our scars to show for it. Some more than others. But your work is vital, Bill.

I wouldn't make you go through this if it weren't. I hope you know that.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-09-19 09:47:10](#)
(no subject)

Alice, don't you think that breaking it off with the woman out of the blue would make her more suspicious than anything Bill could do or say otherwise? Especially just after the operation at that camp. We didn't do anything to intervene there, so it wouldn't necessarily lead to uncovering any Order details, but if I were her, I'd find it a lot more suspicious if someone who'd been friendly and outgoing suddenly stopped wanting to hang out with me once something big had happened. If Bill were lucky she might assume he had just been out for gossip, but do you really want to depend on luck?

And we don't have anyone with an oar in with the Aurors.

That having been said, yeah, it's dangerous. And yeah, Bill, I'm worried about you. But Bill's job has been dangerous at least since Mulciber came in, and he spends eight hours a day or more with him.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-19 12:39:05](#)
Private message to Charlie Weasley

Thanks for speaking up. Giving her a reason to think about allowing it to continue. Because, to be honest, I *want* it to continue. Am I just mental?

I won't disobey her if she insists, though.

Merlin, this is so freaking *humiliating*.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-09-19 15:25:55](#)
Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Don't get me wrong, I'm worried too.

But if you are being affected by Dark magic, well, keeping you away from somebody you're starting to care for isn't exactly the best way to go about

keeping you okay. And we really don't have anybody else who can get even a little bit of insight into the Aurors.



 **alt_bill at 2013-09-19 16:20:38**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I keep thinking about what Terry said. That Dark Magic twists things, so it ends up using your own nature against you. Both the best of your nature and the worst. A wish to do my job for the Order, to find out information, to avoid the shite Mulciber's handing out. My pride, my stubbornness, my reluctance to look like an idiot.

And with her, it can use my wish to be no longer being lonely.

Either way, Terry told me, it can lead you step by step--with every forward movement feeling *sensible and well-considered*--to the worst possible outcome, the one that'll hurt you the most. Eventually, the one that'll destroy you.

I'm starting to see how wicked clever the Arts are at trapping people. If that's really what's going on.

Of course, maybe it isn't the Arts at all. Maybe I became involved with her because I'm simply the world's biggest idiot.

All right, I hate this, but I'm still glad I told Alice.

Well, not *happy* glad. But thankful.



 **alt_bill at 2013-09-19 22:54:15**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Well. Breaking up with her now seems even more the right thing to do. She told me from the beginning that she didn't envision anything exclusive. I just put the pieces together finally this afternoon.

Lucius Malfoy stopped by the Division today. I was on my way to Rachel's office, but I caught a glimpse of him, so I stepped back quickly just behind a corner. He disappeared in her office. A few minutes later he headed out again without

stopping to speak with anyone else, and then another minute, she left, too. I tried to catch her, but she brushed me off, something about being on her way to a meeting.

They have been private messaging. Just yesterday was the last. She takes off a couple hours early every Thursday afternoon. And the last time I went to her flat, there was a brand new acquisition: a very expensive tapestry mounted on an easel. Didn't fit with anything in the flat; obviously way over her usual budget.

I am an idiot. Her other lover is Lucius Malfoy.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-19 22:57:08**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Shite, Charlie. Even if it weren't completely mental to continue now that I know this, how could I possibly compete with him anyway? Of course she would choose the business leader with pots of money and the favour of the LP, who can pull every possible string to help her career.

As opposed to the ginger quill-pusher with goat shite on his boots.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-09-19 23:00:32**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

So I figure all I have to do is go to her and say, 'Sorry, I've been thinking it over, and I said it was all right, but I've realised I really do only want an exclusive relationship. This sort of thing isn't for me.'

It'll be perfectly easy. She'll break up with me.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-19 23:04:17](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Bugger.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-09-20 00:23:41](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Oh, Bill.

I'm sorry it all went to shite. I wish it hadn't.

And you're worth ten of that arsehole.



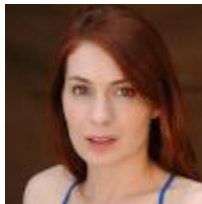
 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-20 02:15:08](#)


Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Yeah.

He's still the one who ends up with everything, so I imagine he doesn't give a

toss.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-19 17:19:30](#)

(no subject)

I agree that suddenly ceasing contact might be a suspicious move. I also recognise that, at least from Bill's perspective, she views this as a casual arrangement.


Bill is currently emotionally compromised and hates his job. Sleeping with an Auror when at the peak of one's facilities is a rather dangerous move, but given that he's got so many extra cauldrons on the fire, not to mention the unstable and delicate atmosphere of constantly shifting politics at the Ministry, it increases the chances that he might slip.

And to further increase those chances, I'm concerned he's using this liaison to provide an emotional balm, which would be fine... if she weren't an Auror. Seeking a bit of comfort in times of

stress is human. I understand that. But seeking comfort from such a dangerous source, where you're constantly watching every word you say... that isn't going to do one any favours.

And yes, getting an 'oar in' is potentially valuable. However, I would never have ordered that he pursue this contact in the way he's chosen.



 **alt_charlie** at [2013-09-19 17:50:49](#)

Private Message to Alice

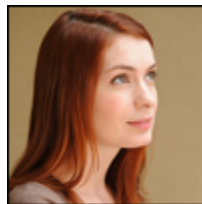
I don't think you know just how lonely he's been, Alice. There have been a few nights I'd even go so far as to use the word 'despair'. And it's not that I think he's going to waver from his commitment to the Order because he's lonely -- at least, I hope I don't think that -- but if you tell him he can't see her anymore, he'll listen to you. And I haven't the faintest idea what it will do to him.




 **alt_charlie** at [2013-09-19 18:03:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice

I mean. I know you have to worry about the Order. But I have to worry about my brother, you know?



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-19 18:14:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice

I know, Charlie.

I do.

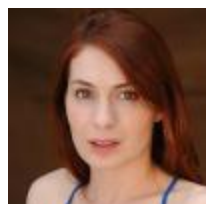
Believe me.

I've seen the toll this job took on Arthur. And I've patched together my Frank and pulled him back from the edge of things more times than I can count. And the support he's given me in return is something I don't think I would've survived without.

I understand the strain he's under. I can also tell that he likes

her. Which also means that he's even more likely to let down his guard around her.

I don't want to tell him to remain celibate. But for Merlin's sake, Charlie, of all the people to have sex with...



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-19 18:17:33**

Re: Private Message to Alice

...And I'm going to be spending my afternoon trying to convince your mum that her son is handling everything in a responsible way.

Because telling her my actual doubts and concerns about his recent behaviour would take this and blow it sky high, and neither of them need the additional stress it would cause were she to confront him about it.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2013-09-19 22:40:34**

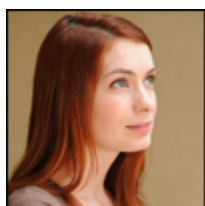
(no subject)

Alice:

I accept your decision. I will break things off with her. Something has happened this afternoon that makes me think of an approach I can take which will allow me to do it without arousing suspicion or ill-will on her part. If I play it just right, I hope that she'll still be willing to let tidbits of information drop occasionally. But although I'll remain friendly, I won't seek out her company.

I won't be able to avoid her entirely, understand. Mulciber often assigns us tasks to do together. But I will my utmost to step back and keep it on a pleasant but entirely professional level.

Will that suffice?



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-09-19 22:48:34**

(no subject)


Yes.

While we're sorting out your reactions to the

Cardinals, I do think it would be best.

I'm sorry, Bill.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-19 23:00:11](#)**
(no subject)


For the record, I don't want to rule over your personal habits, or make you feel as if you need to check with someone every time you enter into an intimate relationship.

What I'm weighing here is a combination of your current mental state and job pressure with the risks involved in your choice in partner.

If one of those things were to resolve, it'd be a different sort of conversation. But I can't help but wonder if the two aren't connected, which is worrisome.

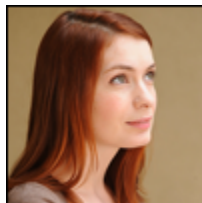
I also can't help but think that the former will decrease your effectiveness at maintaining a high enough level of security that would be needed to successfully navigate the latter.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-19 23:12:20](#)**
(no subject)

The Order must come first. I want you to know it always does for me.

And I hope if I work long and hard enough, I can restore your faith in me.

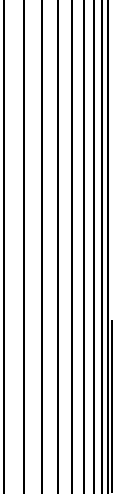



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-20 02:11:17](#)**
(no subject)

I know, love.

I know it with all my heart.

Can you swing by Moddey in the next few days? I think talking things over with Fu a bit more would do you some good.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-20 02:16:04](#)**
(no subject)

Then...with your permission, I'll come on Saturday.

Unless Mulciber pulls me in for the weekend.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-20 02:17:49](#)**
(no subject)

Of course.

2013-09-19 02:48:00

Order Only: private message to Alice Longbottom




 [alt_molly](#)

Alice,

It wouldn't be a problem for me to stop by the Sanctuary today, would it?

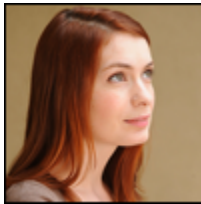
I need to rock some babies.




 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-09-19 17:36:15**
(no subject)

Of course not, love.

You're always welcome here.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-09-19 17:36:54**
(no subject)

And I'd enjoy a spot of tea as well, if you'd like to chat a bit.

2013-09-19 07:22:00

Order Only: Happy birthday, Hermione

Congratulations on your coming of age. I wish so much that I could be there with you to help celebrate, but since I can't, I hereby delegate our friends at Hogwarts to do it for me.



 [alt_terry](#)

Take good care of her today, all of you.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-19 12:54:31](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Terry!


It feels so strange to not be able to use the other lock anymore.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-19 17:40:19](#)
(no subject)


Yes, happy birthday, sweet heart, and many congratulations for your coming of age. You're an accomplished witch and a brave soul, and I'm so very glad to know you.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-19 17:40:47](#)
(no subject)

hear hear




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-19 17:41:23](#)
Private Message to Terry

all right there, professor?

was thinking of going for a bit of a walk later if you want to come along.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-09-19 18:13:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

I'd like that, thanks.

I just wish I could be with her.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-19 18:50:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

yeah.

figured as much.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-19 18:26:56](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday, Hermione.

And don't worry, Terry, we've got it covered.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 01:46:15](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne

Thanks for doing everything.

And look! I know it's silly to be so excited over something so simple but I CAN POST PRIVATE MESSAGES THANKS TO HARRY!

Which means I can write to you *and* Pansy or Justin *and* Hydra or just Tonks or Tonks and Mrs Longbottom or--well, anyone!

Isn't that...brilliant?

I know, I know, you lot are used to it. But it's just the best thing.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-20 02:44:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Okay, this is really brilliant. I didn't even know he **COULD** do that -- I mean in Terry's case Carrow died. I didn't realise it was something Harry could just do.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-19 23:25:39](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday, dear Hermione.

Oh my, Arthur would have been so proud of you on this day. We are all exceedingly proud of you. All our love from the Weasleys. Including Arthur's.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-09-19 23:26:32](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday, Hermione. Glad we can still keep talking on the Order lock.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2013-09-19 23:27:36](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 00:37:39](#)

Private Message to Terry

I just have to test this with someone who'll understand.

Look!

No '(and Harry)' required!

I think. That is, if it worked. Did it work?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 00:38:33](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

IT WORKED!



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-09-20 01:12:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

HOW did you DO that? Hermione, that's absolutely fantastic!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 01:32:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

It's really much simpler than you might expect: Harry gave me an official letter stating that I'm no longer in service to him, or to anyone else.

Actually he was very sweet about it. I'm so proud of him for thinking of it.

I guess he could have done it anytime, but he was afraid someone important might notice. But...it's so important. And I'm sure he wasn't sure how I'd feel about it. But how could I not be pleased? And happy that he thought of it. Mostly on his own, even.

And I suppose I could have asked before now, but--well, it just didn't seem right. To ask. Somehow. I mean...on the one hand, it probably should have been obvious but on the other, it wasn't like Harry was ever mean or bad and it was just sort of the way things were, you know? But it means so much to have it be real. Really real.

We'll still have to pretend otherwise, in front of people. And Harry wanted to write it in the journals to make sure it would work but I told him that might make trouble.

But I'm free where it counts. Really free.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-09-20 01:37:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

That's brilliant thing for Marvolo to do. You're right, it is important.

Being free is wonderful. You'll love it. I'm sorry you still have to pretend in some ways. But good on Marvolo.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-20 01:31:29](#)

(no subject)

Many happy returns, Hermione.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 01:33:57](#)

Private Message to Draco

Thank you.

And for the other thing.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-09-20 01:44:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

What other thing is that?

Well, I'm sure it doesn't matter. Don't mention it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-09-20 01:32:19](#)

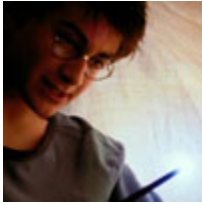
(no subject)


Wishing you a very happy birthday, and many more besides.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-20 01:58:06](#)
(no subject)


Happy birthday, Hermione.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-20 01:59:59](#)
Private Message to Hermione

Glad it worked.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-20 02:15:54](#)
Re: Private Message to Hermione


It works perfectly!

But now people will have to remember to add you on when they're writing where anyone could see.

Not that they will. I mean, most everyone writes me under the Order lock, anyway.

You can go on using the ISS, you know. I don't mind. I think it's brilliant that Fred and George made it up and I think it's a shame to waste it. Evelyn might have mates she wants to include, or Luna, or someone else.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-09-20 03:45:34](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Hermione.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-09-20 03:47:43](#)
(no subject)

I hope you had a lovely day today, Hermione! Many happy returns.

2013-09-19 10:42:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Hermione

Hey.

I'd like to give you your present before the party, if that's okay. Can you meet me at four? In the secret room?



 [alt_harry](#)

2013-09-19 16:14:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank



I feel awful.

I want to slap him silly and then give him a cuppa and an enormous hug.

 [alt_alice](#)

He's hurting and tired and heartsore and I took away something that made it feel a bit better and I'm just so worried that he might be crumbling while I stand there and watch. Oh, there's a potion that we're pinning all our hopes on but hasn't actually been used in Merlin knows how long. Or we could always assassinate Mulciber, which might actually help a great deal on several fronts, but would be massively difficult to pull off and impossible to do safely.

I don't know if I'm making it worse or stopping a disaster, and I never thought in a million years I'd have to tell Bill sodding Weasley not to sleep with an Auror. And when I told him that I was starting to seriously question his judgement, I could see Arthur's face in my mind's eye and it broke my heart two times over.

I wish he was here to help Bill. And me. And all of us. Merlin, I miss him.

What I do know is that I'm in charge of this good person, this person I know and love who's already sacrificed so much of his happiness, and I'm pushing him to keep doing something he loathes because we need him there. I might push him so hard that he'll break. And I hate it.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2013-09-20 01:17:49**

(no subject)


hey.

the professor's chasing some waves and I'm taking a bit of a load off. should be home soon.

you made the right choice, al. hard, but right. and he told you about it, which was a good call on his part too. from what you said last night, he's been doing some soul searching, which he needs. he knows what he was doing was risky, which was why he came clean.

it took a bit of humble pie, didn't it? just like fu was talking about.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-20 01:23:11](#)
(no subject)

Humiliating pie is probably more fitting. But yes, you're right about that.

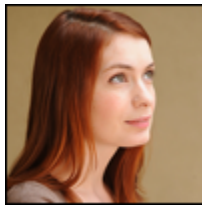
And thank goodness he had the wherewithal to tell me. It would've been far more concerning if he'd have tried to hide it.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-20 01:32:12](#)
(no subject)

this road we've chosen is a hard one. no mistake. but it's not your fault that it's hard.

besides. you're a damn fine general. you don't put people at risk unless you've got reason, you know what we're each good for, and you keep us all pointed due north.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-20 01:37:07](#)
(no subject)

And I have you to help me through the roughest bits, and remind me what it's all for.

Maybe he could come by and talk to Fu a bit more.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-20 01:37:53](#)
(no subject)

hopefully by the time he gets here you'll be less likely to slap him and more likely to give him the cuppa.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-20 01:38:25](#)
(no subject)

although I'd be careful with that hug.

I hear he's got a thing for aurors.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-20 01:38:54](#)**
(no subject)

Frank!



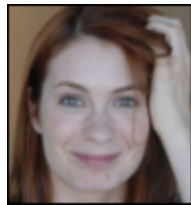
 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-09-20 01:43:26](#)**
(no subject)


seem to remember a certain order member
back in the day who went after an auror even
though his supervisor warned him not to.

he just couldn't help himself.

see, her arse was just absolutely amazing. I mean stunning.
work of art.

still is.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-09-20 01:43:57](#)**
(no subject)

Hush!

Silly man.

2013-09-19 20:43:00

Order Only: Private message to Harry Marvolo




Thank you for what you did for Hermione.

I don't think you could have given her anything better.

 [alt_terra](#)



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-09-20 02:06:19**
(no subject)

It doesn't feel quite right, getting thanked for doing something I ought to have done a long time ago. But thanks for saying so anyways.

And you can just call me Harry.

2013-09-20 16:28:00

Really glad it's Friday

Who's going to watch Quidditch tryouts tomorrow? Chang's been talking to just about anyone who can sit a broom, wondering if they're coming out for the Ravenclaw side.



 [alt_padma](#)

Seamus, are you trying for one of Gryffindor's Beaters? I think they're using the pitch right after we are, so if you are, I'll stay and cheer you on.

If not, it'll be back to the books for me. In fact, I might have to bring my copy of Brandt with me, we've do much reading to do.

Oh, that reminds me: F-F, you said in our revision group that you've got a different translation of the Calidus. How different is it? Bring it along to Monday's session and we'll take a look.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2013-09-20 21:56:55**

Private message to Padma

Yeah, I'm going out for Beater. Now that it's not Team Weasley (top to bottom, almost) anymore.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2013-09-21 01:12:40**

Re: Private message to Padma

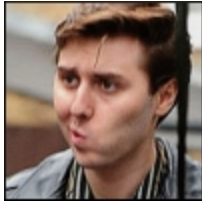
Will Mr Rosier let you play as long as you keep up your marks, then?




 [alt_seamus](#) at **2013-09-21 03:30:30**

Re: Private message to Padma

Yeah, I think so. I guess if he writes and says no, I can't, I won't. But I think it'll be okay.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-20 23:59:08](#)**
(no subject)


Patil,

I say, I know just what you mean about the weekend. Our lessons really are well mad this year, aren't they? You've Herbology, as well, what, which at least I haven't got.

Regarding my Calidus, I say, it's not a good translation at all. It's one I picked up last year when Flourish and Blott's had little choice in stock. Fortunately, the original Latin is included so I've been using that to translate the sections as we need them. It's bally well tedious but I've had better results than with the other translation I found over Christmas holidays.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-09-21 01:22:32](#)**
Private Message to Finch-Fletchley

You're *translating* the Latin?

No wonder Dolohov favours you. And people call *me* swotty.

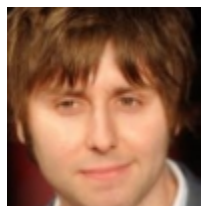
Well, so long as it gets us top marks, fine. Bring it along anyway, we've got that chapter to analyse.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2013-09-21 01:39:58](#)**
(no subject)

It's got the Latin? That's excellent.

I knew you'd be useful.

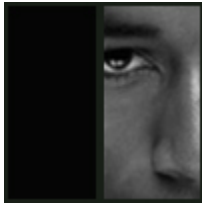



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-21 03:09:12](#)**
(no subject)

Er, yes.

Quite.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2013-09-21 01:43:23**


Private Message to Padma

I need a bit of a walk to stretch my legs. Want to come along?

You can't work all Friday night, can you?

Even if it's just a break and you go back to the library after, it will help if you get the blood flowing. If you know what I mean.

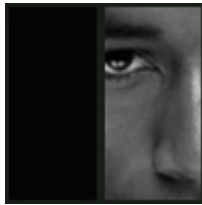


 **[alt_padma](#) at 2013-09-21 01:47:53**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Lakshmi, yes.

I was thinking of writing you, actually.



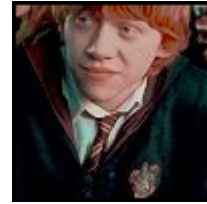
 **[alt_blaise](#) at 2013-09-21 01:56:40**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Good. I'll come find you.

2013-09-20 17:56:00

Order Only: Private Message to Hermione Granger



Say. That was a great party yesterday. Thanks for having a birthday so we could celebrate!

 [alt_ron](#)

It's going to be odd without you on the lock, though. How does that feel, anyway? Have you been looking for messages and wondering if there've been any you couldn't see? (There haven't.) I think that's what I'm going to do when it's my turn.




 [alt_hermione](#) at **2013-09-20 23:36:05**
(no subject)

I think it would feel odd not to have the lock if you lot weren't all on the Order lock. But the best part is being able to use private messages for real, thanks to Harry.

He wanted to stop using the ISS lock altogether. I told him that wasn't necessary.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-09-21 01:35:28**
(no subject)

Well, yeah. And I bet we use the Order one more now. Only it's odd having them be able to read what we say.

Of course, I only made this private to you because I can now. Not because there was anything really secret about what I wanted to say. It's really good he did that.

2013-09-20 21:50:00

Sunday Flying

We've decided to continue open flying on Sundays. Anyone's welcome. Provided you've got a broom and you've passed basic flying, of course.



 [alt_zacharias](#)

Anywiz, leaving from the Greenhouses after lunch. Who's in?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-22 02:38:20**

(no subject)

Zach,

I say, jolly splendid notion. For those of us who aren't Quidditchers and not likely ever to be, flying on a Sunday ought to keep up one's skills, what!

Of course, it's also prime revising time, so perhaps not *every* Sunday.

-Justin

2013-09-21 19:21:00

Quidditch tryouts

Well, I suppose I wouldn't have made a very good Beater anyway. Although I was rather proud of that one hit that tore Linus Moon's hat entirely off his head.



 [alt_luna](#)

Even though I was aiming in an entirely different direction.

Anyway, now that Lee Jordan's gone, perhaps there is an opening for commentating at the matches, and they might consider me. It's worth a try at least.



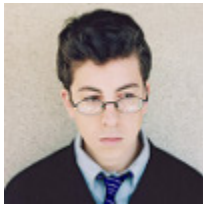
 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-22 02:36:24**


(no subject)

Luna,

Have you much experience commentating?

-Justin

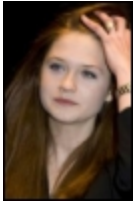


 [alt_linus](#) at **2013-09-22 02:46:22**

(no subject)

Oh, I say, Finch-Fletchley, that's a novel and intriguing thought! Luna can be absolutely top-notch in commentary on the behaviour and habits of obscure Magical Creatures, so there may indeed be possibilities should she wish to branch out into observation and commentary on the behaviour and habits of Quidditch players.


Luna, should you ever wish to discuss some of the fascinating points of Quidditch play as seen through statistical analysis, I could provide you with copious information.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2013-09-22 03:02:54](#)**
(no subject)

Really does anyone have experience commenting though, it's been just Lee Jordan for years and years. Why not have Luna try?




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-22 03:24:02](#)**
(no subject)

Miss Weasley,

I say, no, of course--I've every confidence in Lovegood, what--I was just wondering if it's something she's studied in the past, or perhaps tried before.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2013-09-22 03:18:03](#)**
(no subject)

No, but I am sure I can offer a unique perspective.

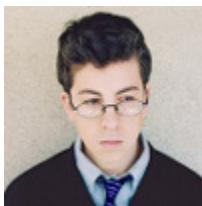



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-09-22 03:25:44](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'm well certain you'd be able to make matches highly entertaining!

I say, I might even be able to follow them, between your commentary and Zach's constant tutoring, what!


-Justin



 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2013-09-22 02:48:12](#)**
(no subject)

No harm done and no hard feelings about the hat, Lovegood. The whole thing was quite the invigorating experience!



 [alt_luna](#) at [2013-09-22 03:18:51](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it was much more fun than I expected, all things considered.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 02:58:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh, good grief.

Please, the only thing more embarrassing than the thought of you on the side, Lovegood, would be the thought of your commentary on the matches. Professor Hooch and the Headmistress would be daft to let you anywhere near that microphone.

Unless it's if *Lines* had actually *made* the squad. Honestly, I don't know what Cho was thinking, asking. (Nothing against your flying, Linus, but I can't even believe you considered it. Between Prefects and Quidditch practice, when would you have had time to revise?)



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-09-22 03:01:19](#)
(no subject)


I'd be well in favour of both Lovegood and Moon making the team. That would be brilliant.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-09-22 03:01:37](#)
(no subject)

For Gryffindor, I mean.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:05:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes, for everyone, really! Except *Ravenclaw*.


Has Bell told you yet? Whether you made the roster?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-09-22 03:32:51](#)
(no subject)


Yes, she did and I did!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:36:52](#)
(no subject)

Brilliant! Good on you!




 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:39:40](#)
Private Message to Seamus

Of course, if Loony really *does* commentate, I was thinking of not going to the matches. I can use the time for revision, anyway, I'm sure.

You wouldn't be offended, would you? I mean, we'll see. I could probably stand to come to one or two matches. Maybe not Ravenclaw's against Gryffindor, because then I don't have to worry about cheering one side or the other.


Then again, I might just want to come and listen to every daft mad thing Loony says during the match, as a sort of comedic break from homework!



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-09-22 03:43:35](#)
Re: Private Message to Seamus

You could borrow some of those earmuffs from the greenhouses and just watch the match without commentary.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:47:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus

Now you sound like Loony!

Although honestly, don't tell anyone but I laughed out loud when I saw what Smith said to

Lines.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-22 03:03:15](#)

(no subject)

Had I actually made the squad, I would have been in quite a quandary, yes. However, I estimated the likelihood of that to be relatively small. A much greater likelihood was that I might, by trying out, learn something from the experience that might serve to illuminate my work on analysis of Quidditch statistics in some unforeseen manner.

Learning and research is not always done with the mind alone, Padma; sometimes it behooves those of us in Ravenclaw to remind ourselves that there is wisdom in the learning of the body which can complement the explorations of the mind in ways that bring both to much more rewarding efflorescence.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at [2013-09-22 03:20:20](#)

(no subject)

Oi, Moon.

What you do with your right hand, mate, is better left out of the conversation entirely.

As for you, Patil, give over: Watching Moon and Lovegood here out on the pitch was a highlight of this year's tryouts.


Haven't laughed so hard in ages. Cheers, you two, for the show!



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:35:47](#)
(no subject)

Watch it, Smith. Or do you want to lose Hufflepuff five points for cheeking a Prefect?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-22 03:34:59](#)
Private Message to Linus


I see someone's following the Percy Weasley path to self-righteousness.

Seriously? You're lecturing me about discipline of the body?

Does that line work on Lav when you want to try a new kind of snogging? I hope not. Pomposity's not at all an attractive look for you.


And now you've got bloody *SMITH* taking the piss. Sometimes I wish you would think a little more about your reputation and less about kissing Professor Doves's arse.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2013-09-22 03:21:04](#)
(no subject)

Well, if it embarrasses you, you can always wear ear plugs. Some of them can be very comfortable, actually.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-22 03:04:21](#)
Private message to Luna

Just ignore them. Finnigan is really a bit of a git, he and Ron don't get on at all.

And good on you for trying out. I think they SHOULD let you comment.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2013-09-22 03:21:40](#)**

Re: Private message to Luna

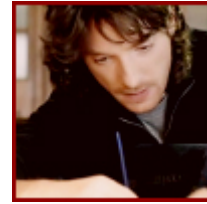
Well, I think I'd quite like to. I'll ask Professor McGonagall about it.

2013-09-22 14:13:00

Private message to Ron and Ginny Weasley

Hello to both of you,

I hope the new school year has started off well (and you are happy with the return of Professor McGonagall--but how could you not be happy with such a vast improvement?).



 [alt_bill](#)

I saw out of the corner of my eye while glancing through the journals that there were at least some Quidditch tryouts going on this weekend. You're both back on the team, right? What's the line up look like this year? Boy, it'll be hard to imagine Gryffindor taking the field without Fred and George as Beaters. It looks like Luna Lovegood even tried out as a Beater for Ravenclaw, but I get the impression she wasn't chosen, right?

Which House are you up against for your first match?

Ginny, how are the new Prefect duties shaping up for you? Do you like the other Gryffindor Prefects? In my day, they tended to pair off the firsties (especially the ones who tended to get homesick the most) with the youngest Prefects; do they still do that now? I guess the reasoning was that the younger Prefects weren't quite as intimidating for firsties to approach as the lordly Seventh Years.

Mum, Fred and George have all been busier than you can imagine. Mum's wrapping up the summer canning but starting the cider season and the root vegetables. The boys have decided to move into their workspace, so they've been sorting out what the take and what to leave and popping back and forth between the Burrow and WWW with lists and charts and boxes of exotic ingredients. They have purple shadows on their eyes from lack of sleep, but they seem ecstatically happy. I think they hope to have their packaging finalised in time to have some free samples to place in the Common Rooms the weekend before the first Hogsmeade weekend, since they've snagged some shelf space in Zonko's. The hope is that they'll whet the kids' appetites so the students will trot into town to come clean out the shelves. Eventually, owl order will be added as an option, too. Ginny, I'm letting you know this in case it's an issue for the Prefects: don't want you to get in trouble because of your brothers' marketing efforts. On the other hand, if you know of any loophole they can use, if there's any issue about getting their samples into the Common Rooms, let them

know. If it helps, they don't intend to charge for the samples. They're just hoping to drum up some pre-product release excitement. They do so want to make this whole thing a success, not the least because they're hoping they can help chip in some with Mum's support.

Ron, how are NEWT classes going? I'm particularly curious to hear what Professor Dolohov's classes are like, since Noble Arts wasn't around when I was going through NEWTs. (It would also be kind if you could relieve Mum's mind, too. You know she isn't exactly neutral about the whole thing).

Haven't heard much from Percy, lately. He's been skipping Sunday dinners home more and more. Charlie's well and sends his love. The baby dragons keep him extra busy. He never fails to tell me that Art (the one named after Dad) is thriving the best of all.

Have a good week. Would love to hear from you once you can tear your attention away from essays, tests, Quidditch, and/or Prefect rounds,

Bill



 [alt_bill](#) at 2013-09-23 12:46:18

Order Only: Private message to Ron Weasley

Ron, I was at Moddey Dhoo this weekend. Tell Sally-Anne that I saw Maureen there, and she wanted to pass along a 'hello' to Sally-Anne. She particularly wants Sally-Anne to know how grateful she is that you brought her to the Order's attention.

Alice said she's settling in about as can be expected, meaning she's quiet and is obviously nervous and feels she must be busy all the time, keeps asking for things to do. They do not give newly freed muggleborns many chores at the sanctuary, just to get them accustomed to the idea that they don't have to justify their food or bed by working all the time. It's as if the concept of 'freedom' takes quite a while to sink in. Alice assured me that they've seen this sort of behaviour before, with the group that were freed at the Quidditch World Cup, but she expects Maureen will be less uptight with more time on the island.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-23 20:32:14](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron Weasley

I'll tell her, thanks. She's been wondering how it's been for Maureen. She'll be glad to know.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-23 19:36:11](#)

Private message to Bill

Thanks for writing, Bill. Being a prefect feels rather odd because sometimes people will stop talking when I come in now and I know it's because they're getting up to some sort of mischief. Only half the time it's something I'd just ignore anyway and it bothers me a bit.

Being one of the ones looking out for firsties is harder than I thought it would be. Some of them are terribly homesick BUT they don't want to admit it because they think it will make them bad Gryffindors. Edward Bones (the other Prefect) says to just leave them alone to figure it out but I don't like that idea, especially with the ones who've been crying themselves to sleep every night! One of the criers has also been wetting the bed at night and I sent her to Madam Pomfrey because I know she's got potions for that but I don't think she has a potion for homesickness.

And of course in addition to all that I have loads of homework because we're getting ready for OWLs. It's a good thing I gave up modeling.

As far as the other prefects go, McLaggen is a bit of a git but the rest are all right. Our Head Boy and Girl this year are Lares Tamblyn (he's from Ravenclaw) and Elsie Urquhart (she's from Slytherin). Elsie's wound a little tight, I'm a bit worried she'll be fast with the curses now she's allowed to cast them. (THAT wouldn't do any favours for those of us trying to get the firsties to settle in!) Lares is an excellent student who's going for NEWTs in practically every subject, he's good at setting an example but not really much for 'leadership' unless you mean 'lead us to the library.'

Tell me what things were like when you were a fifth year? I suppose Percy's memories would be fresher. Perhaps I should ask him, too.



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2013-09-24 02:00:22**

Re: Private message to Bill

Well, the makeup of the staff was a bit different, of course. We had Sluggy, and Sprout and Vector (and Binns, but then we've ALWAYS had Binns). On the other hand, Alcor Bobbin was teaching Astronomy, and Kettleburn had COMC. Savitha Desai was teaching Defence, and Able Gander taught Transfiguration. That was the first year Acton started Charms. I really regretted it when her predecessor, Filius Flitwick stopped teaching. Couldn't be helped, considering the laws being passed and what his bloodline was, but he was a wonderful teacher.

The Prefects were a good group, the year I started with them. Didn't seem to be so much of an emphasis on 'it'll-look-good-on-your-job-applications,' more about 'we-deeply-appreciate-your-service-to-the-school.' I think the professors leaned on us quite a bit more about, uh, breaking up romantic clinches in dark corners and the Astronomy Tower. There wasn't quite so much of a separation between the Head Boy and Head Girl as I think there is nowadays, or at least that's the impression I have? Perhaps the fact that they're authorised to do the Cardinals sets them a bit more apart.

I'm glad you're willing to be kind to the homesick firsties. Don't tell Mum or my brothers because it wouldn't do much for my reputation, but I was a very homesick firstie myself. I was always grateful that Perseus Levingworth was willing to talk to me on my worst nights, and never made fun at me. I've never forgotten that.

You'll make an excellent Prefect, Gin, I've no doubt.




 **[alt_bill](#) at 2013-09-24 02:07:30**

Re: Private message to Bill

Oh, meant to tell you, too: smoked the hives and did an inventory. The queens are all there and healthy, and the workers have laid in a good supply of wax and honey. You did a great job of taking care of them this summer, Gin. Mum says it's about the best harvest we've had yet.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-23 20:28:48](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, say.


I didn't see this at all until Ginny told me you'd written. Busy weekend, I guess.

We're both back on the side for Gryffindor, yeah. I think Bell's a bit nervous about how we're going to fit together, all of us, and it's a sure thing Finnigan and Archer won't replace the twins. And putting a beater bat in Finnigan's hands makes me nervous. I may be keeping quaffles out of our goal hoops while dodging bludgers from my own side! (Kidding.)

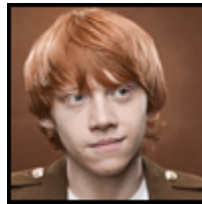
And lessons are lessons. With added heaps of homework.


So, yeah. We've got plenty to be going on with here.



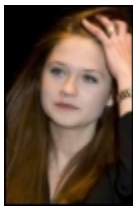
 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2013-09-23 20:37:50](#)**
(no subject)


Fortunately I think Finnigan wants to win even when he's on the outs with you.



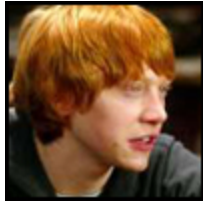
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-09-23 20:56:45](#)**
(no subject)


True. And we're still holding to our truce, Finnicky and I. We might do all right.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2013-09-23 20:39:11](#)**
(no subject)


The real question is whether he and Archer will be able to work out how to coordinate. I think we're all rather used to the Twins, who as everyone knows share a brain!



 **alt_ron** at [2013-09-23 20:58:44](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. And they don't even need to be looking at each other to keep in step or in formation. We'll miss that for sure.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-09-24 02:05:12](#)
(no subject)

It would be strange to see Gryffindor without the twins. Hope their successors can come up to the mark quickly.

On the home front tonight, Mum seems to be cooking up a storm. I should think you can expect an owl delivery of biscuits and the like. She's something on her mind, and you know how that translates to an endless stream of things coming out of the oven. Merlin knows I can't eat all of it myself, or I'd be rolling to the office instead of apparating.

Miss you two. Not the least because now that Fred and George are moving out, I'm stuck with the bulk of the chicken and goat chores.

2013-09-22 22:15:00

Order Only

Owe you all a report of what Frank and I got up to yesterday, and it's not going to write itself, is it? Sorry.



 [alt_nymphadora](#)

We started off by going out west to Llanfyllin to see if we couldn't get a step further with one of Fawcett's contacts we've been cultivating. Odell Copeland. This bloke's a bit of a celebrity in his camp--apparently he played on some Welsh sports team and was quite the thing in his day. If we can win him over, he'd draw a crowd in with him, but he's been an awfully hard nut to crack. Suspicious of us from the start and wanting all sorts of tokens of our good faith before he'd even hear what we've got to say.

Don't know, but we think he's coming round. A bit. Maybe. This time he told us he'd thought we'd been by for a visit a week ago when a pair of wizards turned up, one of them a witch, but he figured out quickly that it wasn't us. They didn't offer our pass-phrase, for one thing, and then what they wanted was for Copeland to tell them about babies that'd been born recently, including any who'd died suddenly, or any stories of oddities with people's pregnancies or with the kids. He wasn't terribly clear what they were fishing for, but he didn't like the sound of any of that. Any more than we did. And he seemed to feel we were the sort of people he could trust with news of dodgy Ministry types. We think that's progress.

We had time at the end of the day to pop out to Chipstead and check with Irene Young about Petunia Dursley, who may be going by the name 'Patty Elliot' and living there in Chipstead camp. We're still not sure.

We've been trying to go cautiously, not wanting Young to think we're a threat to Mrs Dursley-Elliot or anyone else, and we've been trying to work out a way to arrange a meeting that won't either take her by surprise and make her hostile, or give her warning and time enough to refuse to meet us. Sirius doesn't expect she's likely to want anything to do with the Order of the Phoenix, and he's told us not to be surprised if she's not willing to cooperate with any wizards for any reason at all.

As it turned out, yesterday wasn't the day for meeting her. Truly, we'd

no sooner found Mrs Young and let her know it was us, than she got word from one of her runners that there were a pair of Ministry 'black wands' in the camp, wanting to see her. She shooed us out so quickly we didn't catch the gist of what it was about, except that she was perfectly grim at the news and treated it as a full-on emergency.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-24 02:45:06](#)

Private Message to Frank

I want to go back to Chipstead. Make sure Young's alright, and try to get the story out of her about what those Ministry blokes were up to.

Talk me out of it if you think it's mad to go.

Otherwise I'm thinking I'll try to get there on Wednesday.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-24 04:28:26](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank

not mad at all.

I want to get to the bottom of this too.

let's plan on it.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-24 04:29:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank

and I don't blame her for being skittish.

given who she's related to.

and who we represent.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-09-25 05:03:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank

I'll meet you in the usual spot tomorrow.

To be honest, I'm more interested in knowing what Young can tell us about what happened there on Saturday than I am worried about whether Petunia Dursley will

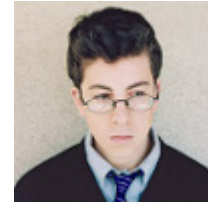
|| speak to us or not. That will have to go however it will.

|| So long as she doesn't raise the alarm when she figures out who we are. It could happen that way, you know. And we'll deal with it if it does.

[2013-09-23 21:27:00](#)

Hogwarts Life: back into the fray!

How splendid it is to be back! And yet how fleeting the joys of returning, when one is plunged immediately into the rigors of scheduling and academic endeavour. I trust all of you will put effort where effort is due, and I wish you the best as we enter fully into the joys and adventures of this academic year.

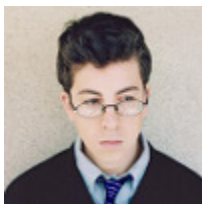


 [alt_linus](#)

Speaking briefly as a Prefect, might I remind the firsties of a particularly salient point during the first month back at school with its inevitable spate of prankery and foolishness? To wit: any of the droll amusements at the expense of your fellow students that you come up with have almost certainly been done before, and there are known penalties in the form of cleaning up messes which Mr Milland will no doubt be quite willing to explain to you in detail. Innovation, while welcomed in almost every other area of your endeavours at Hogwarts, is likely to cost you dearly here, as I understand that Mr Milland has ceased to be gratified by novelty a considerable time past.

For those of you in Ravenclaw, a particular treat awaits! See me or Miss Padma Patil for an explanation of the traditions of Ravenclaw Corner and how you might aspire to join this bastion of honoured tradition in scholastic aspiration and application.

Excelsior!



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2013-09-24 02:50:28](#)**

Private Message to Padma

I forgot to show you the completely nift set of inks that Professor Siz gave me for my birthday. Multiple colours, and all made so as to facilitate the smooth operation of certain indexing charms. I'll bring them to the Corner for show-and-tell, shall I?

You're not still put out about the Quidditch try-out thing, are you? I really did trust that I was quite safe from actually being picked, you know; it was truly research, as I mentioned. And frankly, it might also have been serendipitously useful to appear in a humorous light (as when Lovegood knocked my hat off) and prove a fellow of good nature, able to laugh at one's own predicaments -- it could set the

firsties at ease, eh what? In any case, not too much harm done, I hope.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-09-24 03:27:51](#)


Re: Private Message to Padma

I'm not cross. We had cake yesterday, didn't we?

If I'm cross about anything it's that you're inviting firsties to ask us about joining Ravenclaw Corner, as if they've got any right to it.

And you really want to be careful about being one of Siz's pets. First Diggory, now you? She's *married*, you know. And I don't think he'd be very threatened by the idea of having to kill you.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-09-25 08:47:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

Oh, dear. Padma, I was only doing my bit to uphold the House and to exhort the firsties to focus their wands and minds on the excellence that might one day permit them to join us in the inspiring Corner you yourself have built up with so much energy and thought. I had thought to take some of the burden of invitation and challenge from you, but now I see I have been most ungracious and trodden upon your toes. Quite, quite sorry!


As for Professor Siz, really, you are reading quite a bit too much into a gift of school supplies, nift though they may be. Her intentions are quite correct and appropriate. She may fall into a somewhat over-egalitarian sort of friendly manner sometimes, but she can scarcely be expected to do otherwise now and again; after all, she is a Hufflepuff.

Besides, Professor Raz is sufficiently friendly with Professor Dolohov that I think he'd be reluctant to inconvenience him by killing one of his more helpful students. Even if he did have some reason to kill said student. Which he does not. Besides, if I ever did stray (with someone more appropriate to my age and station, I hasten to add!), Lav would kill me before Professor Raz had the chance.

Speaking of such calumnies, though, is that bit of talk about

Diggory and Professor Siz still going around? Wherever did it get started, do you recall?



 **alt_linus** at **2013-09-24 03:03:37**

Private Message to Cedric Diggory

How are you doing, old man? Professor Siz taught me some absolutely wiznift indexing charms that might possibly be of use in your work for Professor Dolohov, and I'd be delighted to share them if they're of

interest.

2013-09-24 11:09:00

Private Message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

So...what do you think? I mean, did you give it any thought since last night?



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-09-24 16:13:45**

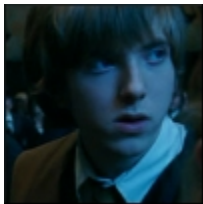
(no subject)

Ernie,

I think it's just the beginning of my Astronomy lecture, what.

I still think what I thought last night. Don't mind Zach. If you fancy her, old man, simply ask her out.

-F-F



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2013-09-24 16:22:26**

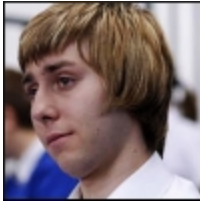
(no subject)


But. I mean. What if my parents people object? She's not--what if she thinks she has to say yes? Because she's half-blood, right? And Begy and Bobolis *also* said sometimes girls feel...beholden? Obligated?

Something like that, if a boy with purer status asks them out.

And I don't even know if she fancies me, she's never even looked as far as I can tell. Maybe I should ask Sue, sometimes she notices things like that. But it's a lot of risk, isn't it, if someone finds out and takes the mick.

Maybe I should wait for Hogsmeade, yeah?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-24 16:28:45](#)
(no subject)


I know you've a free period but could we discuss this at luncheon?

At any rate, if you think you'd be ashamed to be seen with a half-blood, Ernie, then I must reverse my recommendation and suggest that you are bally well *not* deserving of her. If you truly fancy her then you'd not care what anyone thinks.

Either way, I rather hope you decide long before our first Hogsmeade weekend, what!

-F-F

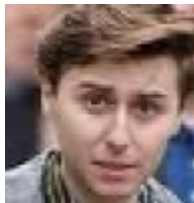



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2013-09-24 16:33:45](#)
(no subject)

Sorry. Only I don't want to discuss it around Zach-- or anyone else, really. All right? This is more private.

The thing is, you asked Hydra's father, right? But she's got a guardian. I mean, am I supposed to check with her guardian before I ask her? What if she got in trouble?

Or what if they make us get engaged? I don't know if I fancy her *that* much. She's sort of too quiet to tell.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-09-24 16:45:47](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I see. All right.

Well, I say...I shouldn't compare your situation to mine, old chap. That was a very different circumstance: The Lestranges are jolly traditional, and if you'll recall I was quite a stranger when I asked to take her to the Yule Ball. Her family still think of me as a half-blood, I daresay.

Besides that, you're simply overthinking now, what. Inventing

excuses, if you follow me. I mean to say, just what do you expect you'll do to be forced into a betrothal? (Really, you ought to stop listening to Begy and Bobolis, or Smith for that matter.)

Ernie, do yourself and, if I may say it, your roommates a favour: Ask her out. If she accepts, you'll soon discover whether you fancy her enough to put up with other people's nonsense. If she refuses, accept it gracefully. And do make sure she's free to say no, what, if you're worried she might doubt it.

Please, I've got to switch back to notes on the lesson.

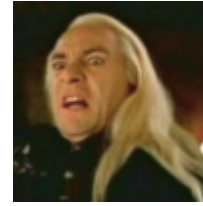
-F-F

2013-09-24 17:45:00

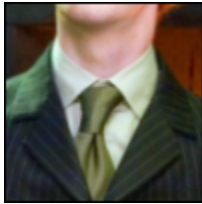
Private Message to Percival Weasley

Effective immediately: Cancel Tuesday tea at Elysian with Baddock.

For this and all future Tuesdays. Remove from calendar.



 **alt_lucius**

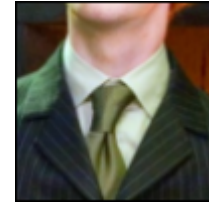


 **alt_percy** at **2013-09-24 23:26:16**
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

[2013-09-24 18:12:00](#)

Private message to Molly Weasley and Fred Weasley



 **[alt_perc](#)**


And I thought last week's embarrassment was bad enough, when Mr Malfoy informed me (in total disgust) of Fred and George's application to Magical Commerce to start their ridiculous joke shop. Luring his goddaughter into this foolishness, no less! As I informed Fred and George that night, he was extremely sharp with me because I had failed to give him any kind of warning before the meeting.

But oh, no, because I was called to the carpet again today to be confronted by another ugly surprise: this time Mr Malfoy ordered me to explain how my own mother managed to get herself wrapped up in this idiotic scheme!

Honestly, Mum, have you gone completely mental? If I understand Mr Malfoy correctly, you are not only purchasing the entire building, you're planning to turn it into, what, some sort of--of way station for wastrels and layabouts?! Do you intend to let the very dregs of society batten upon you?

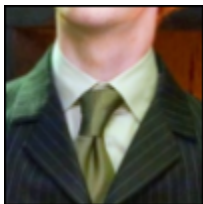
And for what? So that you can call yourself a shopkeeper?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2013-09-24 23:28:56](#)**
(no subject)

What on earth are you ranting about? My goodness, what did Mr Malfoy say?

And more to the point, how is it his business what I do with my money?




 **[alt_perc](#)** at **[2013-09-24 23:47:12](#)**
(no subject)

Is it true? Are you assuming ownership of that dump of a building? ARE you encouraging and enabling the twins in this madness rather than doing everything you can to stop them?

And is it indeed your intention to do the same bloody thing for any sort of riff-raff with whatever crackpot scheme they can float, as long as they call it 'starting a business'?

You're absolutely delusional if you think you could possibly manage something like this. It will never work in a million years!

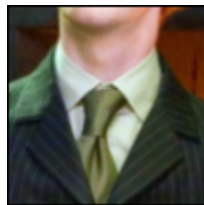



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-24 23:51:38](#)
(no subject)

And I say it can work! What, do you think I'm simply plunging into this on a whim?! As if I haven't managed a household on a shoestring, run an barter network, and researched the market

carefully?

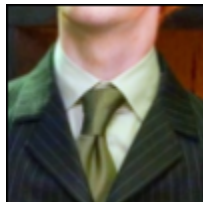
People in the Protectorate are struggling, Percy. Sometimes they simply need a hand up, or a mentor, just to give them a start, and then they can amaze you with what they can do.




 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-24 23:54:09](#)
(no subject)

You could end up losing everything! Don't you realise that? You could lose the Burrow, end up out on the street.

And what's more, you'll turn our entire family into a laughingstock.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-24 23:56:09](#)
(no subject)


It's entirely selfish of you.



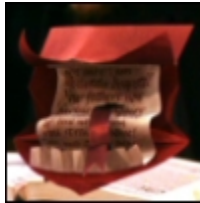
 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-24 23:58:31](#)
(no subject)

Selfish, am I?!



 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-09-24 23:59:07](#)
(no subject)

Percy, you complete and utter arse.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-25 00:11:58](#)
(no subject)

I already lost everything! I lost it last December when your father closed his eyes and bled to death on the ground right in front of me!

But no, my children gathered around me, and they put their arms around me, and they told me that I could go on. That I hadn't lost everything, that I would always have a home, that I would always have them.

Except for you, Percy. Bill moved out of his flat and turned it over to you so that he could move home and share his income to help support me. The twins are starting a business to try to help support me, too. And you? You have me a galleon here and a galleon there-- and suggested that I use them to buy clothes, apparently so that I wouldn't embarrass you so much! As if it made a bloody bit of difference if I fed the chickens or milked the goats dressed like Narcissa Malfoy! Even Dominic Selwyn the traitor gave me more help than that!


Is that your problem Percy? Do I embarrass you?



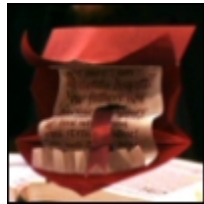
 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-25 00:14:02](#)
(no subject)


You're being absolutely absurd. There's no point in discussing this with you any further if you're simply going to lapse into hysteria.



 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-09-25 00:14:53](#)
(no subject)

Shut it. That's enough.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-25 00:16:04](#)
(no subject)

If I'm being absurd, just tell me one thing:

Why are you siding with Lucius Sodding Malfoy against your own family?




 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-09-25 00:19:05](#)
(no subject)

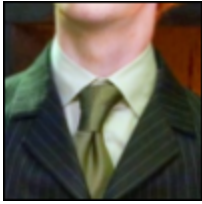
Mum. George and me are apparating back to the Burrow right now, and we'll spend the night with you and Bill. Shut your journal and just don't read anything more that this berk is spewing at you.

He's just not worth it.



 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-09-24 23:36:31](#)
(no subject)

Oi, watch the tone. That's our Mum you're speaking to, so show some respect.



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2013-09-24 23:55:08](#)**
(no subject)

It would help if she acted like she deserved respect!

2013-09-24 19:19:00

Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley and Charlie Weasley




 [alt_gredforge](#)

Bill: We don't care what excuse you have to make to cut short the working late session, but get home to the Burrow now if you possibly can. Charlie, dunno if you can get off for one night, but you'd be a welcome face right now, too.

Percy Weasley is the biggest arse in the world, and Mum needs you right now. She needs all of us.

Except Percy.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-09-25 00:52:04**
(no subject)

On my way.

[2013-09-24 21:29:00](#)

Private message to Percy

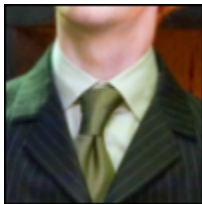
Hullo Percy. I've been meaning to write to you for most of the last three weeks! Of course, I'm terrifically busy right now between my prefect responsibilities and starting to prepare for OWLs.



 **[alt_ginny](#)**

I was wondering if you had any advice for me about being a prefect. I asked Bill the other night about comforting homesick first years and he had some good thoughts but of course you were a prefect much more recently.

How are you? I hope Mr Malfoy isn't keeping you too busy.



 **[alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-25 02:44:23](#)**
(no subject)


I am pleased that you're interested in consulting with me concerning your Prefect duties. I am proud that you've been singled out for the honour, and you'll do our family credit.

Unlike some.

Of course, you will want to demonstrate the behaviour you expect students to emulate. Show in your every day actions what it means to be a good student and worthy subject of the Protectorate.

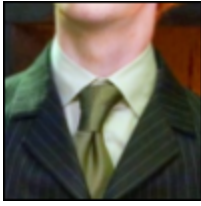
I'm sure I have other thoughts for you, but I must confess I'm rather cross at the moment. I'm extremely vexed with Fred and George, and even with Mum. They've been demonstrating some shocking behaviour lately--even Mr Malfoy says so! When I took them to task for it, their replies were rude in the extreme. Forgive me...I am sure I will be able to answer you in more useful depth a little later on, perhaps tomorrow.



 **[alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-25 02:46:19](#)**
(no subject)

You had a row with Mum and the twins?

What happened?



 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-26 01:32:39](#)
(no subject)

It's truly ridiculous. Did you know that Fred and George have launched this ill-fated attempt to open a joke shop? Mr Malfoy is extremely upset because they apparently lured Pansy Parkinson into turning over money from her trust fund to back this travesty. She's sure to lose it to the last knut. Mr Malfoy's even broken his long-term friendship with Pansy's guardian over this. Mr Aristotle Baddock. They've had tea every week for years, but now they're not even speaking to one another. All because of Fred and George. I tried to bring them to their senses, but they insist on going ahead with this madness!

And what's worse, Mum's even in on it as well. I don't know if she had any part in deceiving Pansy Parkinson, but apparently she's sunk a great deal of money into acquiring the building where the twins are trying to set up this doomed enterprise. A rent-to-own lease, I believe. She thinks she can make the place somewhere that small businesses can start up--which is absolute rot, of course. What could she possibly know about business?! It'll be a wonder if she's not simply beggared within six months.

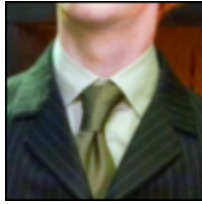
I remonstrated with her strenuously yesterday, trying to make her see the scheme was absolutely impossible, but she wouldn't listen. She was rude to me for trying to look out for her interests!

I had half-hoped for a message from Mum today apologising, but no. I haven't heard a word.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 01:40:02](#)
(no subject)

Why do you think Mum's going to fail? She ran the barter network for years, after all, but I suppose that was mostly after you'd gone away to school.




 [alt_perc](#) at [2013-09-26 01:47:04](#)
(no subject)

What, she dealt with trading wax candles for knitted sweaters?

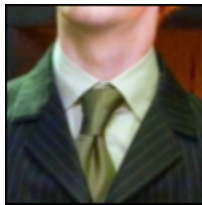
Please. She knows nothing about marketing, real estate or management.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 01:49:29](#)
(no subject)

Well YOU know nothing about the barter network SINCE AS I SAID it started after you'd gone to school.

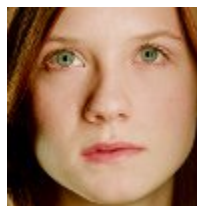
Maybe you should ASK HER about her experience instead of just assuming she's an idiot.



 [alt_perc](#) at [2013-09-26 02:00:16](#)
(no subject)

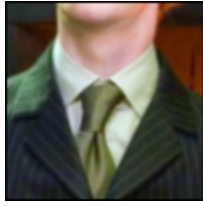
I think, to be fair, that a lot of it stems from Dad. I'll be the first to admit that he really loved her. So he flattered her over the years, allowing her to believe herself more competent than she really is. (Not that his judgement was particularly sound, for what did he ever accomplish? Working for years shuffling mudbloods around. Really.) He did her a disservice, I'm afraid, because now she's all puffed up with a false sense of her own capability.

Admit it, Ginny. She's a middle-aged, mousy housewife with a nervous temperament and a terrible temper who has no business imagining she can take on a project like this.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 02:04:38](#)
(no subject)

Well, you're a self-righteous prig willing to kiss the arse of anyone with money and you have no business passing judgment on Mum's competence!



 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-26 02:05:52](#)
(no subject)

I think we're done here. I'm sure, as you have such doubts about my judgement, you have no interest in anything I might say about dealing with prefect duties.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 02:08:04](#)
(no subject)

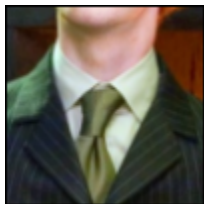
The Hat should have put you in Slytherin, since you care more about your ambitions than you do about your family.


Or Hufflepuff. Since whatever Mr Malfoy tells you, you're more than willing to dutifully think!



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 01:41:07](#)
(no subject)


And you can't be serious about Pansy Parkinson. She's a Slytherin. Worry about our brothers!



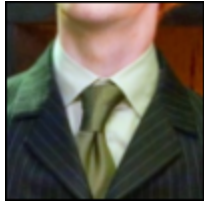
 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-26 01:45:51](#)
(no subject)

Miss Parkinson may be a Slytherin, but she is, after all, a young girl. Bound to be naive.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 01:48:11](#)
(no subject)


Fred and George are only two years older than she is!



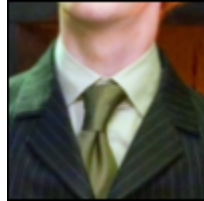
 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-26 01:52:33](#)
(no subject)

Well, Mr Malfoy has more business experience in his little finger than the three of them put together. He says they're bound to fail. And he should know.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-09-26 01:56:08](#)
(no subject)

Well it sounds like Mr Baddock didn't think they were bound to fail and I'd think he'd know, too.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2013-09-27 03:54:47](#)
(no subject)

Mr Baddock thinks nothing of the sort.

Rather, the cause of the disagreement between Mr Malfoy and Mr Baddock is that Mr Malfoy is appalled at Mr Baddock's refusal to take responsibility for failing to adequately oversee Miss Parkinson's finances. Someone like her, who is young, naive and idealistic, needs a careful trustee, one who will guard her interests rather than allow her to fritter away her resources.

2013-09-24 21:45:00

(no subject)

Thanks to everyone who came out over the weekend to try out for our team. The roster's posted in the Common Room. Make sure you get me your schedules by the end of the day tomorrow.

I think we've got a good shot at taking the Cup this year. Looking forward to playing with all of you.



 [alt_harry](#)

[2013-09-24 21:57:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Ron Weasley



Ron,

The good news is that we're moved into the new building. Well, we're camping pretty rough, but we don't mind that. Our new space is coming together just like we envisioned, pretty close to that map we sketched out for you, right before you went back to Hogwarts. We're making progress on the packaging, and we have several cool new products that we have in the prototype stage now. We reckon we'll have some samples to show around the Common Rooms right before the first Hogsmeade weekend. The Zonko's deal has been finalised, so we'll have some shelf space there, and so we hope Hogwarts students will be able to buy our products in a very short time.

 [alt_gredforge](#)


In the not-so-good news department, Lucius Malfoy seems to have taken offence at our involving Pansy in our plans. Don't know how much trouble he will cause, but he's been leaning on Percy and Percy's siding with him against us and Mum. You know about Mum's plans, to acquire the building rent-to-own, and to turn it into a place where new businesses can get started--even muggle and muggleborns, as long as we handle the books right. Lucius Malfoy found out about Mum's role sometime in the last day or two, and apparently didn't take it well. Percy launched a real scold at Mum and us in the journals tonight. Going on about how we could never make it work, and Mum's dead foolish to try it. He seems mostly bothered that Lucius Malfoy will think less of him if his mum and brothers have anything to do with keeping a shop.

Anyway, Mum didn't take it well. She's been sort of ragged this week, worried about Bill because Bill's boss is such a bastard. So when Percy started in on her, she really blew her stack.

I was in on the messages they exchanged, too (Fred) and since Mum was so upset, we came home and are spending tonight at the Burrow. Had to put some Calming Draught in her tea to get her to simmer down. We think she'll be all right.

But, yeah. Percy. He seems to be within an inch of washing his hands of the whole lot of us. Guess we aren't helping his career enough to suit him.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-25 03:38:20](#)
(no subject)

Percy did wot?! What an arse!

And what's Malfoy care if Mum's buying a building or starting a business? You don't mean he's got wind she's going to work with Muggleborns and Muggles? You can't mean that, really, can you? Never mind. If he had any notion of that... yeah, no.

All right. Look, see to Mum tonight, but it's excellent news about you moving and about Zonkos and packaging and all. And I want to hear everything about these new products you're working on. Because obviously I'll help you get them into the common rooms here. As long as they're not likely to maim anyone. They're not, are they?

Bell's missing you like mad on the pitch. Well, you and Angelina. She keeps saying Angelina made it all look so easy--as if Bell'd never noticed how much time Angelina spent fuming and shouting at us. And I think she's forgotten how often you lot were the ones making Johnson shout! She'll settle into it, though. And we've got until November before we have to play a match. It's against Slytherin, though, so no breaks there.

Well. I hope Mum calms down. He's no right telling her off like that. What a complete git.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-25 12:08:46](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, he did.

No, no, Malfoy has no notion we intend to use the consortium to help muggles and muggleborns, and we'll be very careful to keep it that way. Mum has a lot of experience at, uh, creative bookkeeping from administering the barter network. They had no notion that they had Sherwood in their network, and were really puzzled when their business went way down after Mom was removed from administration.

No, what has Malfoy in a strop is Pansy. Specifically, she used some of her money to back us, and Malfoy's fuming about it, because he doesn't believe we can make a go of things selling fake wands,

among other things. Or he just hates all Weasleys. Well, all Weasleys except Percy, apparently.

We're going to make a go of it, though. And Pansy's been brilliant. She has all sorts of marketing ideas, and she's spot on naming products. We're gonna be a good team.

We're trying to think of products that would sell well with the kids but would be dead useful to the Order, too. One of our best are these gizmos Pansy's named Sparking Super Balls. They spark colours (magical illusion, no fire included) when you bounce them on the floor. Look quite dazzling in the dark. BUT, if you carve a certain rune on them and bounce 'em on the floor, they'll become magic seekers: they fly right to the nearest wand you're not holding and engulf the tip. So you can see your opponent's wand glowing in the dark, and it'll delay spells coming from that wand by about five seconds. Until it gets pried off, of course, which takes some effort. Gives you time to dodge. Which could be critical in a firefight.


We have loads more ideas, too. We need to talk to Fu again; the man's a fountain of 'em.

We're missing Quidditch too (not to mention the rest of the team). Hey, who replaced us as Beaters? We should get together with Cedric Diggory and do some drills with him. He's missing Quidditch, too.

Mum still seems upset this morning. The pots and pans were really crashing while she was making breakfast. But she says she won't apologise to Percy.

Which is the right decision, we think. He said some things that were really unforgivable. WE don't mind what he says to us, but he was dead wrong to go after Mum like that.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-09-25 12:47:23](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Pansy's really keen on those super sparking balls. They sound dead brilliant. Y'know, you should ask Pansy to think about what your adverts should say-- if you're going to put any on the wireless, that is-- and she could probably come up with really catchy music for them, too. She's excellent with that sort of thing.

Actually, y'know. You could do something similar with a magic-seeking item that would make loud noises--maybe really annoying music, but whatever--and tell you where your opponents are hiding. What if... what if you made toy Snitches and charmed them to zoom at other players who've got wands? Like... the gag would be that it's the opposite of a real Snitch that zooms away and makes you chase it, right? This joke Snitch would zoom right at whoever you send it towards and chase them or, y'know, dog them and harass them... like Peeves would. I think kids would love something like that! And maybe it would be as easy as those balls to turn it into a magic-seeker that would go find an enemy who's hiding to ambush you or just taking cover. In the ones for the Order, you could amplify the harassment charms, too, maybe so they'd have a wicked hard time fighting you with it whizzing around them.

About Mum: why would she apologise to Percy? He's the one started it.

She didn't burn the bacon, did she?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-09-25 13:34:52](#)
(no subject)

Harrassing snitches? We like it! Or maybe even a snitch that carries a miniature Beater bat or something. We'll play with this idea a bit.

(You still haven't told us: who are the new Gryffindor Beaters?)

As for Mum, she's worried about what Percy might do if he really breaks with the family, if he ever picks up any hint about the Order. If he still cares about us, he might think twice about reporting us.

If he doesn't consider himself a Weasley anymore...well. That makes things really dangerous for us, yeah?

We think she's also feeling guilty because of Dad. She thinks Dad would have never given up on Percy. But honestly, we think this would have really tested his patience to the limit. Percy was scolding Mum--there's no other word for it, really. Fred told him to show some respect, because she's our Mum. And know what

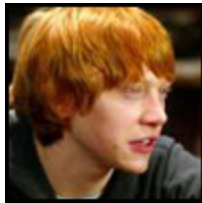
he said?!


He said it would help if she acted like she deserved respect.

Plonker.

Charlie said he'd try reaching out to him--oh, yeah, we asked him to come to the Burrow because Mum was in such a state. Anyway, Charlie's gonna try. Not because Percy deserves a second chance, the prat, but because, well, we're all worried about how far he'll slide if he's firmly in Lucius Malfoy's camp.

(And no, Mum didn't burn the bacon, but that was only because she didn't cook any this morning. She burned the sausage instead.)



 **alt_ron** at [2013-09-25 13:44:27](#)
(no subject)

Hope Charlie has luck with that.

And, yeah. The new Beaters. It's Finnigan and Archer. I mean, Bell didn't have much to choose from, really. And they're both good flyers. Only I wouldn't've picked either of them to get on with the rest of us, y'know?

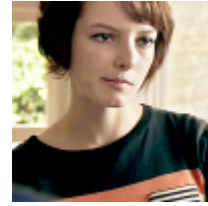
Archer's so tetchy. And Finnicky, well. He's playing nice so far this term, but you really just never know when he's going stab you in the back.

Now if you could figure out a rune that would make a super sparkler tell you if someone's about to turn on you, that would be dead useful.

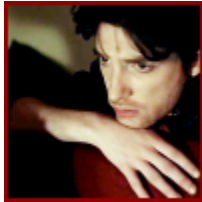
[2013-09-25 21:16:00](#)

Private message to Bill Weasley

You seemed rather preoccupied today but for once it couldn't have been Corax Mulciber. Unless he was harassing you by floo, I suppose. Everything okay?



 [alt_rachel](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-26 02:23:38](#)

(no subject)

He left me alone today. Thank Merlin. I wouldn't have been up to dealing with him.

Everything's...not. Okay. Exactly. Hazards of being part of a large family, I guess. Drama tends to slosh over on all of us. Not that it's serious--or at least, not yet.

Just unpleasant.

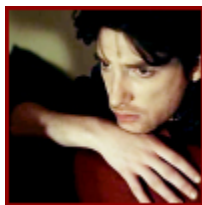


 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-26 02:26:32](#)

(no subject)

Ah.

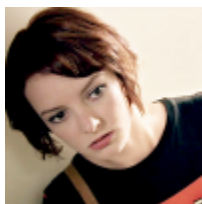
I have a tiny family but sometimes my mother seems capable of generating enough drama for a family of twelve. I try not to let it distract me but I don't always succeed.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-26 02:27:11](#)

(no subject)

Neither do I.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-26 02:33:12](#)

(no subject)

If you want to come over, this week we could perhaps ignore family drama instead of camp census counts or expense reports.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-26 02:46:01](#)
(no subject)

Rachel, I--

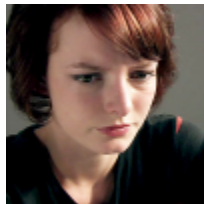
I want to, but I just can't do this.

You were very honest up front about what you wanted. No ties, and no expectations of exclusivity. I thought I was all right with that, but I've come to realise that it just isn't right for me.

I mean, you're lovely and if I could--

Oh, hell, this is bloody awkward. But I'm trying to be honest, too.

I regret it, but I think we'd better limit ourselves to camp census counts and expense reports from now on.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-26 02:46:56](#)
(no subject)

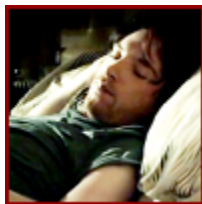
I see.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-09-26 02:47:56](#)
(no subject)

You can still come over for curry or something if you want.

I'll keep my clothes on if you will.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-09-26 02:56:24](#)
(no subject)

Honestly, I was about ready to collapse into bed when I saw your journal entry. Family drama made me miss most of last night's sleep. I'll take a pass, but hope for no hard feelings? It's not personal, it's just that I'm so bloody exhausted.

Tell you what. I'll bring curry for the two of us for lunch


tomorrow. We can sit out on the stone benches overlooking the park and mock the fashion choices of people walking by.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-26 03:02:13](#)**
(no subject)

Friday's better for lunch. Would that work for you?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-09-26 03:04:09](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'm free then. Barring some unexpected rampage from Mulciber, of course.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-09-26 03:04:59](#)**
(no subject)

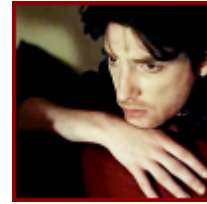
Right.

I'm holding you to the mockery.

2013-09-25 22:07:00


Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley

I have broken up with Auror Lamont. Successfully, I think: she accepted my excuses without suspicion or irk, as best as I can tell, and seems to be willing to keep the door open to a friendly collaboratively professional relationship.



 **alt_bill**



 **alt_alice** at **2013-09-26 17:50:42**
(no subject)

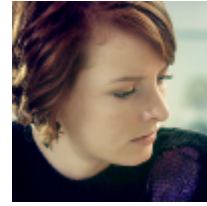
Thank you.

I'm sorry.

2013-09-26 22:23:00

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

Are you feeling any ~~calmer~~ better than you were earlier?



I hope that at least you have a sympathetic ear.

 [alt_rachel](#)



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2013-09-27 04:02:54**

(no subject)

Fear it shall be quite some time before 'feeling better' could be an accurate description. But, regardless, your attempts to provide cheer, relaxation and perspective were appreciated. *Are* appreciated.

Lest you think I am normally so ... distracted ... be assured that I plan to make amends next time.

Prefer to think of our time as a welcome distraction in and of itself, rather than an opportunity to rehash wounds, new or old.



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-09-27 04:11:36**

(no subject)

Fair enough.

Let me know if there's anything I can do.

2013-09-27 11:28:00

private message to Susan

If someone is looking at you, how do you tell why they are looking at you? Because I checked three times and nothing was wrong with my hair, that isn't wrong with it usually I mean. And there was nothing between my teeth. So I don't know. And then after that he stopped looking every time I turned around. But he still was. I think. When I wasn't watching.



 **alt_megan**

How do you tell whether someone likes you?

Oh Merlin.

2013-09-27 20:12:00

*Private Message to Rosa and Prospero
Campbell*



Dear Rosa and Prospero,

How lovely to receive not one, but two owls from you in the past week. It's quite a pleasant surprise to hear from you so early in the term -- I feel like I just left you to head to the station a few days ago. I hope Ewan is doing well, and is practicing his letters and numbers.

 [alt_pansy](#)

The business venture that I talked to you about over summer hols is coming along. I'm glad you're interested to hear more about it, as I have been working rather hard to make sure we'll be successful. We're waiting on some licences to make sure that everything goes through the proper channels, and I hope that all goes smoothly so that we're able to open on time. I am fully aware of Uncle Lucius's feelings, as you mentioned in your letters. It's kind of you to be so concerned on his behalf.

Mother, your suggestions for the London house were very interesting. I know how much you enjoy shopping in New London, and how little the London property has been used since you relocated to Gloss House. I can see how my being there would give you more reason to want to visit, which would be a welcome change from your travelling habits of the last few years. Your letter suggested that you and Ewan might even be in need of permanent quarters at the London house, as you'd be planning to come by so often. Thank you for bringing your ideas to my attention so that I could give them some thought when considering how to set up my house. Your decorating tips were also very helpful.

Prospero, I likewise appreciate your generous offer to take over my financial concerns, especially given Uncle Lucius's sudden reversal of opinion in regards to Mr Baddock. However, I think it probably best to run your idea past Uncle Lucius first. If you wish to continue to offer informal advice, I would be more than happy to receive whatever you send along.

I know this business venture and my finances have been weighing on the forefront of both your minds, which is dear of you, but you'll be pleased to hear that I have also been doing rather well in my classes thus far. I'm thoroughly enjoying my NEWT level Potions class, and

believe that I'll do rather well in Noble Arts and Defence this term as well. It's also very nice to be back amongst my friends, Sally-Anne Perks and Ron Weasley. I'll be sure to tell Draco you've asked after him. As you'll no doubt remember, we're no longer seeing one another, but have remained on friendly terms.

I'm sending along a sample of some Sparking Super Balls for Ewan to play with. I hope he enjoys them.

All of my best,

Pansy Parkinson

2013-09-27 22:43:00


Private Message to Padma

Exciting news! I have received an owl from my esteemed Father telling me that he is now a member of the Hogwarts Board of Governors!



 **alt_linus**



 **alt_padma** at **2013-09-28 16:30:21**

(no subject)

Lines, come to the library--Lares and I have been discussing a new sofa and chairs for the Ravenclaw common room. Maybe your dad could help now he's on the Board. Convince the Headmistress it's needed, you

know?

2013-09-27 23:49:00

*Order Only: Private Message to Mr
Snape and Sirius*



Hello,

I was looking through regressions this evening (well, Harry was, really, but he asked a question about them and I had to look up the answers) and I found a footnote that might apply to the potion boiling over - the one you're working on, Sirius. Mr Snape told me about it a little bit during our lessons this term. As an exercise, you know.

 [alt_hermione](#)

Well, anyway, there's a section in Nothnagle's *Guide to Philters, Draughts, Tonics and Elixirs* that mentions an obscure remedy combining spearmint and mandrake root and that it makes the potion especially susceptible to heat. It suggests diffusing the flame by means of a copper plate and a wooden trencher between the flame and the cauldron (even if the cauldron has a copper bottom itself).

Might that help with what you're working on for Bill?

(It's so wonderful to be able to write to both of you at once! And not have to include Harry. He'd think this is really really boring and it's not like he'd read it, anyway, but this way I don't have to feel as if I'm singling one of you out and not telling the other.)

[2013-09-29 19:35:00](#)

Private Message to Cedric Diggory

Hey.


You coming to Sunday flying this term at all? I mean, I could see why you'd want a proper weekend away in Hogsmeade and everything.



 [alt_harry](#)

Anyways. It looks like you're doing pretty well. So I was wondering if you wanted to go flying sometime. If you're not doing other stuff.



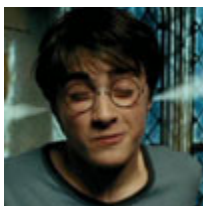
 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-09-30 02:51:58](#)


(no subject)

We'll see.

I'm getting steadier on the broom, but I'd still be one of the weakest fliers there. I'm going to give it a couple more weeks.

Even if I were feeling great, I've been giving it some space. Switching from student to ... something else. It's sort of like those first few weeks as captain. You're no longer just one of the team and the switch can be hard. I didn't even go to tryouts. I'll be at the games though, definitely looking forward to that.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:00:39](#)

(no subject)

We've all got really strong rosters. I think it'll be a good season.

We're going to kick Hufflepuff's arse, though. I mean, you're not captaining it any more. They don't stand a chance.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-09-30 03:04:36](#)

(no subject)

We'll see. We'll see.

Everyone's returning and last season was so odd in

many of the games, it's hard to judge from then to now. If Anne stay's healthy she'll be trouble for everyone else.

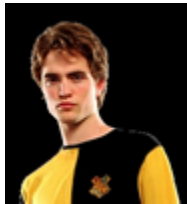



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:01:40](#)
(no subject)

And yeah. I can see how you'd want to hold off for a bit.

When you're up for it, just let me know.

How's it been? Working with Dolohov and all?



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-09-30 03:14:07](#)
(no subject)


He's interesting to work for. Very demanding, of course, but explains things well and he's rarely had to explain something more than once.

He's also very understanding about my condition. Given his history this shouldn't be a surprise.

I haven't been this exposed to his subject before, even in Defense. It can be unsettling, but even just being around it, not specifically studying it, is hugely educational. So much better than what I heard about Carrow's teaching.

His correspondence (which I absolutely can NOT talk about) is fascinating. Learning interesting things about how Slytherins and the power brokers in our realm interact. Really can't say more than that.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:24:04](#)
(no subject)

Good to know. About him being understanding, I mean.

I can see how he would be, though.

So you get to read all his mail? That must be really weird. And he must trust you a lot.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-09-30 03:34:42](#)
(no subject)

Not all. There's a list of senders I don't open, they just go in the special pile. The others I sort into piles based on importance. I send form replies to some of the least important, that still requires an actual response.

2013-09-29 21:36:00

Order Only: Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom



Dudley and I would like to formally request permission to transfer to the Sherwood Band. We'd like to join Tim and Finbar on the Band's rescue and fighting force.

 [alt_tery](#)


I know neither of us have had as much classroom time as some of the others who've been here since the Order brought them in as babies. But I can apparate now, and besides, I can do the animagus transformation. You know I've been working hard on my defence drills, and Dudley's been learning hand-to-hand combat with Mr Lee.

We both know a lot that we think could be helpful to the Band. Please don't think this has anything to do with us being unhappy here. Absolutely not. But you've been training us up so that we can do more than hide. You've also taught us that being part of a community means pitching in to help.

So. We want to pitch in on the more dangerous stuff now. But we promise to obey our squad leaders and follow all their protocols.

Will you let us go? Please?




 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-09-30 02:54:58**
(no subject)

John mentioned you'd been giving it some thought.

I must admit, I


Well. I need to give it some thought myself. But I'll let you know by tomorrow.



 [alt_tery](#) at **2013-09-30 02:59:26**
(no subject)

That's appropriate and we expected it, because we both know it's a big step. But we really do think we're ready for it.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:05:26](#)
(no subject)

You make some good points.


I can see where you're coming from. I can. I just need to chew it over a bit.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:08:26](#)
(no subject)

Thanks. We'll be waiting for your decision.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:20:31](#)
(no subject)

Honestly, love, I just wish with all my heart that you didn't have to be in this position to begin with.


You've had to grow up so very fast.

I can't change the world we're living in, but I can't help but wish I could keep you here and keep you safe, as unrealistic as all that is.

You deserve the very best, Terry.

And I know that respecting your wishes is a part of that.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:27:27](#)
(no subject)

Please, don't feel guilty or anything. I've always felt that you've given me the best. You and Mr Longbottom have been the only thing close to parents I've ever had.

Since you're good ones, you already know that a parent's job is to help kids grow up so that when they're grown, they're ready to leave the home. You've done that.

||| No matter what you decide, Dudley and I will always be grateful.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-09-30 19:53:20](#)
(no subject)


I expect to see you and Dudley back here for Sunday dinner every week. If either of you get sick or hurt, you'll tell us right away. And if you're being asked to do something that you aren't capable of, you ought to be open with your squad leader rather than put yourself and the rest of your squad at risk. There's no shame in knowing yourself fully, and being able to admit when you don't know how to do something. If there's something you'd like to continue to work on with us, we can always help you with training when you come back on Sundays.

I also expect that you'll keep an eye on Dudley, Terry, and make sure Tim and Finbar do the same. He's more vulnerable than the rest of you are, because he can't apparate on his own and is not as capable of defending himself against a magical attack.

We'll start getting together supplies for you both, and go through some extra training drills before you leave. We'll also talk to Sherwood and make sure there'll be accommodation for you both. If they're prepared to take you on, we're prepared to let you go to them.

And if you've got extra time off, love, I hope you know that you are always welcome here. You don't have to just come on Sundays.



 **alt_terry** at [2013-10-01 02:53:19](#)
(no subject)

All noted. And sure, we'll be back for dinner, count on it. Bet we'll be the envy of a lot of people at Sherwood, having the chance to come back once a week for Victor's cooking (and the company, of course).

Of course I'll keep an eye on Dudley. I do feel responsible for him, since he's here because of me.

Thanks, I'll wait to hear how long Sherwood thinks it'll take to free up a bunk for us. Or a mat on the ground, anyway.

Yes, I know. This will always be home base for both of us.



 **alt_frank at 2013-09-30 23:00:22**

Private Message to Terry


hey kiddo.

remember, you've always got a home here.

and no unnecessary heroics, yeah? you get hurt, you get hungry, you get in over your head, you just make sure you take care of yourself or get yourself to someone who can. because like Al says, you're worth it.

you've got to believe it too, though. not enough for us to say it. you've got to believe that it's worth it to keep yourself safe. you don't think that way, you end up taking too many risks. trust me on that one, alright?



 **alt_terry at 2013-10-01 02:57:40**

Re: Private Message to Terry

No unnecessary heroics, sir, I promise. However, I won't forswear necessary ones, like if I have to do something risky to save a life. I want to live till the end of this war though, believe me.

I do obey orders. Maybe there's still enough of boot in me that will be useful that way. Funny...I never thought there was much of anything about boot that could help me in my new life. But boot was hyper observant, he could move around quietly, and he never disobeyed orders. I won't be too proud to use those qualities, I promise.

I do have the Professor form, don't forget. Come to think of it--do you think I could meet with Sirius once or twice before I go? Just to talk about how an animagus form can be most useful in a dangerous situation, or even a battle if it can't be avoided?

2013-09-29 22:30:00

Order Only: Muggleborns

Professor McGonagall gave me the names in the book. There are nine--that's rather a lot since July, isn't it?



 [alt_hermione](#)

Anyway, here they are:

Dorothy Harris, New London
Emma Jenkins, Dartford, Kent
Richard Marshall, Hartlepool, Durham
George McCalman, Armitage, Staffordshire
Ifan Powys, Llanfyllin, Powys
Curtis Reinman, Ely, Cambridgeshire
Gavenia Selvaratnam, Galashiels, Scottish Borders
Arthur Tanisbee, New London
Anita Williams, Manchester

Something must have upset her about this, too--because she didn't want to post about it herself. I think it's because of the Tansibee baby. Arthur. I remembered that Mr Weasley had to bring Jane Tanisbee back to the camps because she'd been assaulted by the son of the family she worked for. But then I thought, isn't that impossible, for it to be the same Tanisbee? Because Mr Weasley made it so she wouldn't have any babies for ten years and--well, it's only been six years.

Still. It doesn't seem like it'd be coincidence, the baby being named Arthur like that. Does it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 02:33:27](#)
(no subject)

Two more babies in New London.

You didn't ever find the last one, did you? Alice Sinclair?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:37:13](#)
(no subject)

Alise Sinclair. No, no one's said that they've found her. There was a Laurel Sinclair that the Order tried to find a while ago. I think Alise might be her sister. It's a fairly common name, Sinclair, but muggleborns tend to run in families.

Oh, half a moment! Harris. Wasn't there a Harris in the past, too?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 02:39:36](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, there was.

Somewhere. I can't remember who mentioned a Harris. Maybe it was Mr Weasley?

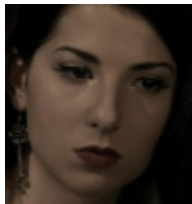


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-30 02:40:52](#)
(no subject)

Jeanne Harris.

She and Laurel were the other choices besides Ellie - the ones Davidson's people recommended we try to rescue.

And they're about the same age as Jane Tanisbee, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 02:42:40](#)
(no subject)

Right

I have a guess of what might be going on but it's pretty horrid.

Hermione are you thinking what I'm thinking?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-09-30 02:47:11](#)
(no subject)

wonder if that fits in with copeland's intel. about the pair of wizards asking a bunch of questions about past pregnancies in Llanfyllin.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:47:56](#)
(no subject)


Someone's opened a new kind of brothel with muggleborns?

Or someone wants them to be having babies. Those are the only things I can think that would explain it.

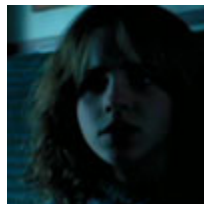
Only I think if a muggleborn brothel had opened in New London, someone would have mentioned it. I mean, in certain circles. The Council wouldn't care for that sort of thing at all. And whoever did it would have had to bribe the camps pretty heavily to get the muggleborns out for that sort of thing.

But it's possible. They told Mrs Stretton there was a shortage, didn't they?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-09-30 02:49:32](#)
(no subject)

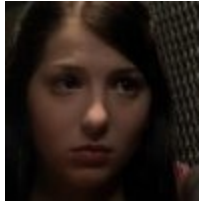
So... they're getting a bunch of muggle born girls and making them get pregnant to get more muggle borns?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:57:56](#)
(no subject)

It looks that way, yes.

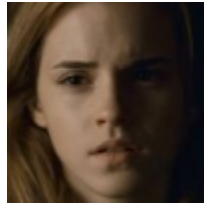
In *New London*.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 02:51:32](#)
(no subject)

Oh, a brothel! That's less horrid than

The thing is they'd have used contraceptive charms, surely. Or potions or something. Because they could get in loads of trouble and babies are a good way to get noticed what's going on, you know?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:53:55](#)
(no subject)

Well, I'm only saying it's possible. It's possible they don't care about giving them contraceptives.

I think the other thing is more likely. But I'm not sure why. Unless they want to have a whole load of




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:54:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Yes, that's much more horrid.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-30 02:58:06](#)
(no subject)

Strangeweale.

You're thinking about Strangeweale, and the device he was going to use on Arista Selwyn.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 02:59:16](#)
(no subject)

Well he also wanted 'expendable half-bloods.'


There's nobody in the Protectorate more 'expendable' than a baby born to a muggleborn girl.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:01:25](#)
(no subject)

From Strangweale's point of view, I mean.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:15:52](#)
(no subject)

I see.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-09-30 14:36:54](#)
(no subject)

Alice...if you're right, and if the poor girl named her son after my Arthur...

Oh, we can't abandon Arthur's namesake to that foul machine! Or any of the rest of them!

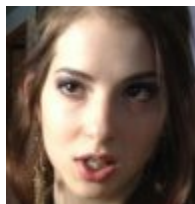


 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 02:59:18](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

Harry destroyed it. But he must have been able to rebuild it.

But that also means he must have been planning something for a long time, since last winter.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:00:54](#)
(no subject)

He must have worked out that he wouldn't get THAT many half-bloods.

And not that many muggleborns are born, usually. In fact -- well he wouldn't know ANY had been born in the last few years, right? I mean how long has it been since the Order missed one?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 03:01:51](#)
(no subject)

Or maybe he had more than one device.

They wanted Arista and Hector because they were so young. So babies would be even better, wouldn't they? Or maybe he has to wait until they manifest their magic.

Oh my goodness! Do you think they have another way to find them besides the book? Other muggleborn babies, I mean? Maybe not since they're breeding them especially.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-30 03:05:35](#)
(no subject)

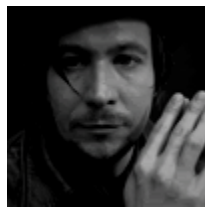
As Frank noted, we've heard rumours in the camps about wizards.

This would certainly explain them.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-30 03:08:03](#)
(no subject)

It also explains why there's a shortage of muggleborn labour at present.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-30 03:08:28](#)
(no subject)

Remus is right: If they have a source besides the book then we'd have found out when we went to get Charles or Mikhail or Mayuko. Also, we *do* know they've been asking about pregnancies and such. That's a strong argument against another source.

But we'd better get on these others as soon as possible, just in case.

Oh, bugger. If Minerva has already altered the book, we might be in trouble.

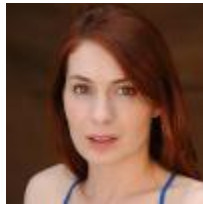



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:16:14](#)
(no subject)

Point taken, Sirius.

Minerva, any way to add those names back in?

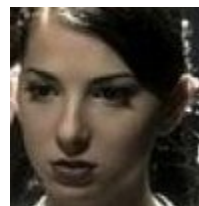
Including Sinclair?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:19:38](#)
(no subject)

And what are we to do about those in New London?

I'd like a full report on the possible location of the machine, anything you can recall about its properties, and any details about the layout of the Department of Mysteries from those who were there this summer.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:23:22](#)
(no subject)

Harry and Draco are the ones who saw it.

You might also talk to Arista about it. And see what she remembers.

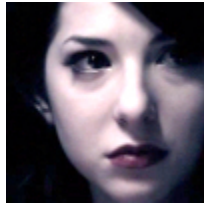
I can sketch out what I remember of the layout, that would be easier than trying to describe it in the journal. It would probably be best if I did that in either the Hospital Wing or Mr Snape's office so I could give it straight to an Order member when I was done.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-09-30 03:26:38](#)
(no subject)

We'll write up what we know.


Maybe we could all meet at Mr Snape's office and work on it together or something?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:28:35](#)
(no subject)

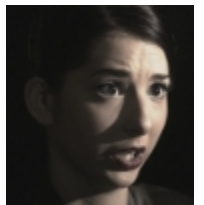
Yeah. Let's do that. Because it's been a while since I've thought about it but talking about it some might bring it back. But we need to be somewhere safe.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 03:34:24](#)
(no subject)

I'll ask her if she'll talk to me about it.

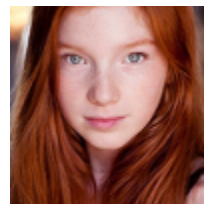
I have no doubt it will be very painful for her to revisit.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:43:54](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

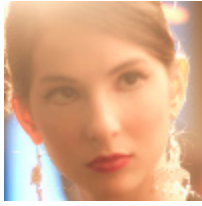
On the other hand, it's sure to be loads of fun for the rest of us!

Yes, yes, Arista is ten and we're practically of age. I KNOW. But she's also the only one Strangeweale talked to.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-09-30 03:56:16](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Maybe if Arista doesn't want to talk to mum about it, she'll talk to Ron?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-09-30 03:58:31](#)

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

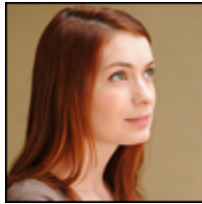
That's a good idea, you should suggest it. Maybe she'd write it in your mum's journal, like she used to write in her father's.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-09-30 04:08:59](#)

(no subject)

You can always ask if she'd rather write Ron instead.



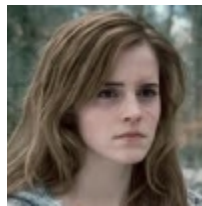
 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-09-30 04:13:00](#)

(no subject)

Yes. I could certainly do that. If he'd be amenable, of course.

I think she trusts him more than she does me.

And it's often easier to share something painful with someone who was there for it in the first place.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-09-30 03:26:28](#)

(no subject)

All right but the layout kept changing, that's the thing. And most of us were taken out pretty early once Auror Crouch and Professor Dolohov arrived.

Sally-Anne's right, we should write reports and give them directly to Madam Pomfrey, Mr Snape, Professor Sprout, Professor Brutka, or Headmistress McGonagall.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-09-30 02:42:46](#)**
(no subject)

By the way, Hermione,

Tried your suggestion to diffuse the heat of the cauldron this afternoon. It worked a treat. You're brilliant, kiddo.

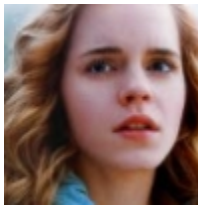
Tell his greasiness I'm sending up a sample to test.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-09-30 02:53:10](#)**
(no subject)

The charm Arthur used can be reversed.

But someone would have had to reverse it.

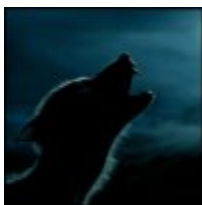



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2013-09-30 02:55:27](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, exactly.

Someone probably did.

It also explains why you can't find Alise Sinclair.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-09-30 03:04:27](#)**
Private message to Padfoot

Bloody motherfucking murderous cold blooded reptile bastard.

Forget capital letters. There isn't enough profanity in the English language to cover this situation.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-30 03:13:05](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot


Right. I've half a mind to start planning an all-out assault on the Ministry.

Beyond that, though, there's a potential concern here: If they already have Sinclair, Harris, Tanisbee - we can't leave them out of the false book.

But we've no way to know if they know about the others. And if we leave them out, we risk exposing the book. But if we don't, then we hand them over the next time Lucius bloody Malfoy sticks his nose in it. Either way, it could blow Minerva's cover wide open - and potentially the whole lot of them at Hogwarts.

Bugger all.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-09-30 03:19:38](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

I say we leave out everyone but the New London babies and hope for the best.

Has anyone other than Lucius Malfoy ever looked at the book?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-09-30 03:23:25](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

No idea.

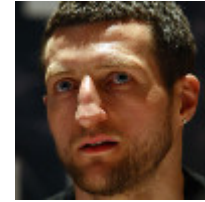
So far as I know, he looks at it because he sits on the Board of Governors and it's convenient for him to look at it. But it doesn't really matter who looks and who doesn't. Voldemort knows about it, so he could easily send someone else if he had a mind to do.

I mean, it's not like Bill could casually ask his boss if he knows there's a book that inscribes the names of all magical children, can he? As soon as he mentions it, even if Mulciber didn't know before well - he would certainly know it thereafter!

2013-09-30 10:23:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Rumour has it Lucius Malfoy's furious with Ari Baddock. Find out why.



 [alt_corax](#)



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-09-30 15:28:59**

(no subject)

Also, I've looked over the records from Adur and I think we could cut costs on muggle feed if we're judicious. Obviously, they still need to be able to work.

There's six camps in Kent. Ashford, Chipstead, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Swale, and Tunbridge Wells. We're keeping the food budget at Wells the same, for comparison. We're cutting the other five in various amounts. I sent you the specifics -- take the info over to the camp administrators and let them know the plan.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-10-01 00:30:02**

(no subject)

I looked over the figures. The benchmarks you have set are certainly ambitious. I wonder whether there are perhaps a few other factors which have not been included in your calculations?

As I understand it from recent demographic and work studies (see *Resnick and Spilling* -- I'll put the report on your desk), the relationship between food cut (and thus lowered budget) is not exactly 1:1 when it comes to diminished work capacity. Cutting the food budget by 5% will not cut output by 5%. More like 7%. The amplifying effect skews to an ever greater slope as cuts go deeper. Cut food by 10% and output goes down 13%. Cut by 15% and output drops 19%, etc.

Also, cutting over 20% definitely takes a toll on the immune system. Your costs will rise as you will be treating more disease, perhaps even deaths among the young and the old. Don't forget that disease can spread from one camp to others, as happened in the Black's epidemic--or even to the citizen (wizarding) population.

There's also an increased management risk. Hungry people become angry. That may mean more sabotage, perhaps even more camp breakouts. It will mean increased overtime for camp staff, which will in turn raise costs.

Perhaps decreasing the amount of food could be mitigated somewhat if you're increasing the quality. If you wish to serve less turnips and potatoes, then increase fruit, vegetables and meat. That might decrease both anger and diminished work capacity. A boost to the protein in the diets would certainly be beneficial in getting more work out of the labour force.

Of course, adding in a small amount of expensive food while you're cutting cheap plentiful food may mean the whole thing's a wash, budgetwise.

You might also consider that waiting to launch this experiment might be more successful, simply because winter is coming. If you cut calories now, more people will be expend more energy keeping themselves warm, which will diminish their ability to work. Especially where calories are cut the most, they very well might succumb to hypothermia, frostbite, etc. That danger could be avoided if you simply wait until next spring to cut the animal feed.

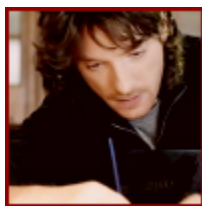


 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-10-01 01:22:20](#)

(no subject)

I'm familiar with Resnick and Spilling. Their research was done in the middle of Black's epidemic; naturally muggles were dropping like flies.

There's a distinct lack of controlled research, so we're going to create some. Surely you learned the concept of the 'experimental control' in your NEWT Potions class.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-10-01 01:28:26](#)

(no subject)

Yes, I do understand the concept of controlled research, sir. Resnick and Spilling do apply it. Yes, the research took place during Black's epidemic, but not among subjects who were ill. Rather, the

researchers studied subjects who were in pockets of the Protectorate that the epidemic did not reach, but whose rations were cut simply because of the turmoil in budgets due to the massive losses in animal die off and as well as harvest die-off due to a lack of a labour force to tend crops and then bring the harvest in.




 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:32:47](#)**
(no subject)

This is still a completely different situation, not to mention a wider range of cuts in food.

If we find the same information, that's still good to know.

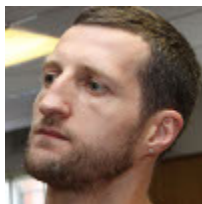



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:39:28](#)**
(no subject)

So you wish me to go ahead, I take it, and we can also write it up as an interesting cross-check to Reznick and Spilling's work. Very well, I will set up appointments with the camp admins through the remainder of the week.

I do think we should perhaps consider before we begin--at what point the experiment should be suspended, if the results are not what we would wish, i.e., if the percentage of deaths among the animals rises, at what level is the attrition no longer acceptable?

Remember that the workforce is not quite fully restored since Black's epidemic, which suggests that workforce overseers were not be pleased if the number of animals available to fill work quotas drops too low.



 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:44:01](#)**
(no subject)

I'll be wanting reports from each of them at one month, two months, and three months. I'll re-assess at three months. Adult muggles can live entirely without food for over a month, I've read

case studies. Admittedly you won't get much work out of them under such circumstances. But three months of reduced rations is only going to cull the weakest.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-10-01 01:56:34](#)

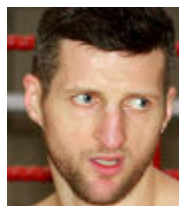
(no subject)

It would help, sir, when I talk to the camp admins if I clearly understand the purpose you have in mind in launching these experiments so that I can properly convey that purpose to them. Also, knowing exactly what you are trying to determine helps us ascertain what data to record.

Is it purely budgetary, because you wish to save as much money as possible? Are you only focusing on costs, and therefore willing to absolutely ignore the offsetting profit of work output? That might not be quite as useful a picture, for future budgetary calculations.

Is your interest more a matter of scientific curiosity, i.e., how long animals can live without food? I would have thought there were plenty of scientific studies already published which would provide such information to your satisfaction. Are there behavioural changes that you wish to have observed, or is your only interest in the speed of rising illness? Or even the death rate? (Again, we may get more resistance from those with work quotas to fill, if you simply wish to test how long it takes to starve animals to death).

Would appreciate any guidance you can give. Thank you.



 **alt_corax** at [2013-10-01 02:00:35](#)

(no subject)

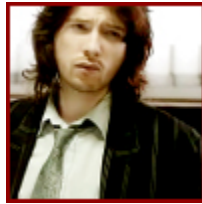
I think my instructions were entirely clear -- both in terms of the food rations and in terms of data gathering. I have no desire to bias the camp admins in giving me the information they


think I want.



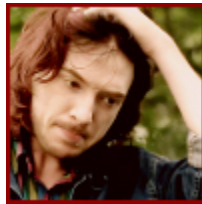
 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-10-01 02:02:11](#)
(no subject)


And you can drop the melodrama. I'm not 'starving animals to death,' you bloody idiot. None of these camps is being cut back anywhere near as much as the muggles in Adur, most of which are still on their feet.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-10-01 02:07:25](#)
(no subject)

I'll have a report for you at the end of the week regarding my meetings with the administrators, and then the one month, two months and three months reports you request.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-10-01 02:18:44](#)
Order Only

What's the point of doing this, you bloody prick? Power? The pleasure of causing misery? Killing off the weak? The thrill of saving money by killing children?

If I knew, I'd have a better chance of mitigating the effects while still not screwing up your bloody data.


And fuck you with your crack about melodrama. People are going to die because of this.



 [alt_corax](#) at [2013-09-30 15:29:44](#)
(no subject)


Also, let me know if any of the camp admins give you trouble.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-10-01 01:43:05](#)
(no subject)

Of course, sir. Although I doubt they will.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-09-30 18:14:49](#)
(no subject)

Ah. As it happens, I do know what that's about as it touches directly upon my family, too.

My brothers, Fred and George Weasley, have been deep in plans to start their own business for the past three years. They have been discussing their ideas with Mr Malfoy's goddaughter, Miss Pansy Parkinson, and she was impressed enough that she decided she wanted to invest with the company, enough to become a partner. She withdrew some monies from her allowance (NOT touching the principal, however) but was not exactly forthcoming with her trustee, Mr Baddock, concerning her planned use for the money.


Mr Malfoy first learned of the planned new business at a Magical Commerce meeting, when Fred and George's business licence was considered. He was outraged, both because he hadn't heard of this in the first place from Miss Parkinson or another brother of mine, Percy (his clerk), and because Mr Baddock had not stopped her from applying funds to join the business venture. He demanded that she immediately withdraw her funds again from the business and urged Mr Baddock to force her to do so.

Miss Parkinson refused to comply, insisting that the business has an excellent chance of success, although she offered Mr Malfoy the opportunity to look over the budget plan and budget. Then Mr Malfoy demanded that Mr Baddock force the issue as Miss Parkinson's trustee. He, too has refused to go along with Mr Malfoy's wishes, reasoning that Miss Parkinson has the right to make mistakes (if indeed this is a mistake) with her own money. As I understand, Mr Malfoy subsequently has informed Mr Baddock that their friendship is over.

Malfoy now seems to be investigating what pressure he can bring to bear on my brothers. And on my mother, who has set up a rent-to-


own arrangement on the building where the business is situated. Fred and George reported that Mr Virgil Crispin (Mr Malfoy's protegee) stopped by the building last Friday. I won't say exactly that threats were made. Mr Crispin is rather more adroit than that. Let's just say that the idea of possible future unpleasantness was suggested.



 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:23:25](#)**
(no subject)

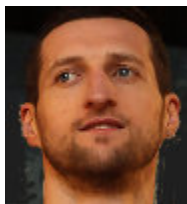
Your mother *and* two of your brothers have managed to infuriate Lucius Malfoy?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:32:20](#)**
(no subject)

Um, my mum and three of my brothers, yeah. As I said, he was also considerably hacked off at Percy, his clerk, for failing to warn him of Fred and George's licence application before that meeting. (Even though Percy's rather on Mr Malfoy's side about the whole thing).

I seem to have escaped his notice thus far. As well as my younger siblings still at school.




 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:34:36](#)**
(no subject)

Not so infuriated he's sacked his clerk, or I'd *definitely* have heard about that.

If he does take it into his head to sack your brother, you might get him to a Healer for a once-over. I've heard being sacked by Lucius Malfoy can be hazardous to a man's health.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:42:06](#)**
(no subject)

I have heard the same.

But I doubt that will happen, considering how


hard Percy is arguing to convince my brothers and Mum to give the whole thing up.



 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:44:41](#)**
(no subject)

Are they going to?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-10-01 01:59:08](#)**
(no subject)

No. They seem quite determined. Weasley stubbe

Miss Parkinson seems quite committed to the venture, too.

2013-09-30 20:19:00

ORDER ONLY

tonks and me managed to get back to Young today. turns out the black wands are a team of wizards who come sniffing around once a month. just like Llanfyllin. she told us some of the girls they ask about go missing, and she's nearly out of the sheaths we found for her a few months ago because so many folks are worried about getting pregnant. had a few health scares with one or two who've taken matters into their own hands too. so there's that.



 [alt_frank](#)

she managed to get us a meeting with Petunia too. bit of an understatement to say she wasn't happy to see us. she took a while to allow that she was Petunia, and even then, she didn't say it outright, just stopped insisting she wasn't the person we were looking for. the picture of Dudley didn't do any good. said it looked nothing like her boy, and she didn't recognise his handwriting in the note, claimed he couldn't have written it because it had decent spelling, and said we'd faked the lot.

told us to piss off. among other things.

I don't know if she really thinks we faked everything, was terrified we had some political reason for hunting her down because of her relation to Harry, or was just trying to sort through the fact that her son might still be alive.

anyways. that was a bit of a sticking point. don't know when we'll try to talk to her again, but I figure it'd be best to let her cool off a bit first. she seemed healthy enough, at least.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2013-10-01 03:52:25**

Order Only Private Message to Frank

Do you think Young's right that those Ministry black wands have a way to test babies for magic before they've manifested it at all? That's what she meant, isn't it? When she was talking about the testing.

I've never heard of any spell or device like that, and I know plenty of families would be awfully keen to pay to have someone come test their late bloomers.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-10-01 20:53:42](#)**

Re: Order Only Private Message to Frank

sounds like the department of mysteries well enough.

I can see how they could expect muggleborn girls to have magical babies. maybe they up the odds a bit by having them in some sort of breeding programme with other muggleborn.

not sure how they'd go about testing babies before they show, though. and they're not just taking muggleborn girls, either. so maybe they've got a way of testing the mother? chances of having magical kids? family histories?

whatever it is, they've got a fairly high hit rate considering.

then again, we don't know how many people they've got who have had non-magical babies on their watch either. could be they've just got numbers on their side.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2013-10-01 13:35:06](#)**

(no subject)

Frank, did you see Bill's written?

I told him we've got message buttons in all those camps so we can get word in to them. We can follow up in person. Assuming Davis at Maidstone is willing to listen. It's another visit to Chipstead, and I know Young's worried someone will get suspicious about who she's talking to all the time. But she'll want to hear this news, and I hope Poppy's right that we can offer some help.

Anywiz. Have a look at Bill's message. I think he wants to know whether the camps will rebel, and if they do, whether they've got any chance. I reckon you and Kingsley are the ones to answer that.




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-10-01 20:48:20](#)**
(no subject)

saw it.

had a meet up with davidson and turner today to see what their assessment was.

I like the idea of using the message buttons, so do they. I don't think out and out rebellion is the way to go here, but we've got options.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-10-02 03:30:53](#)**
(no subject)

Remind me never to plan strategy without you in the room.

I've got to get into the field more often, I think. Losing my touch. How could I have not thought of those buttons after spending so much time replicating the little buggers?




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2013-10-02 04:00:21](#)**
(no subject)

It's only that Frank and I've been peddling them to folks wherever we go for... nearly a year, is it? Anywiz, we've been out there trying to tell people what they could be goo for. And now here it is-- something they should be brilliant help with.

You do need to get out into the field, though. I won't argue about that. Want to make one of my runs with Frank this week?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-10-02 04:01:40](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, I'd love to.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-10-01 21:33:49](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I was afraid Petunia would balk. It's just like her to go all contrary and stubborn.

Thanks for being the ones to go to her. Under almost any other circumstances it'd make sense for it to be me, but if you think she was obstinate with you two and you're total strangers, well, if I'd shown up we'd have had the camp authorities down on us in a trice.

Though if she did start shrieking about her sister and James, that'd clear up her identity rather tidily. Not that I'm recommending it.

As for the other, Dora's right about using the buttons. It's just the sort of thing they can do with them. But it'll be tricky.

They ought to pace it. And if we work with them we might be able to fake a fair number of deaths in the worst-affected camps, as Bill suggests. Get them out and back to health.


Maybe we should see if Aldrich is ready for a few more mouths.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2013-10-02 04:06:29](#)**
(no subject)


You're right, we should see about Aldrich and whether they're ready if we send them more. If we spring very many out of these camps, though, we'll be wishing we had another place like Aldrich.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-10-02 05:04:02](#)**
(no subject)

might be about time to try for another one, then.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2013-10-02 11:25:37](#)**
(no subject)

Have you told Dudley about his Mum? He's been hoping, and I haven't asked if you have. Don't think it should be me.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-10-02 16:42:11](#)**
(no subject)

told him last night.

he's glad she's still alive, but he's a bit hurt that she didn't think his letter was real. I can see how he wouldn't have been in the mood to talk about it.

he'll come round soon enough, though. maybe you can help him with the next letter.

[2013-09-30 20:45:00](#)

Private Message to Finch-Fletchley and Seamus



Listen, Blaise and I got to chatting after this afternoon's revision session and I thought you might like to start revising Defence as well. Since it relates closely to Noble Arts, you know?

 [alt_padma](#)

Anyway. We're going to start meeting on Wednesdays instead of History Club and if you want to come, you'd be welcome. We might even invite one or two other people--*select* people, I mean, not just anyone--to use one of the empty classrooms up on the 4th floor when it's useful to practise.

Finch-Fletchley, if you come, could you bring that book you mentioned this afternoon? The one about spells that activate over long distances.

Also, Finch-Fletchley, has Macmillan gone completely mental? All through Charms he was positively *staring* at Jones. He cannot be serious. Tell me he was watching her because he was wondering what she's doing back here this year and not for the reason it looked like.

Seamus, I've got the magazine you wanted to read. I'll give it to you at lunch, all right?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-10-01 01:53:43](#)

(no subject)

If both of us stop coming to History Club it's going to fold. But, well. Revising Defense with a solid group might be worth it.

Lunch tomorrow's fine (for the magazine, I mean), no hurry.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-10-01 01:58:04](#)

(no subject)

Tell Goshal to take over History Club. Between him and Lines they'll get everything covered. It's mostly for the younger ones now, anyways.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-10-01 02:15:18](#)**
(no subject)

Patil,

I say, jolly good of you to offer. I shall have to look at my revision timetable and see if I can reorganise it. I'll let you know, what?

Either way, I'd be happy to share the Conrad-Loring. Was there a particular section that interested you?

I'm sure I couldn't possibly comment on Macmillan's intentions. Or Jones, for that matter.

-F-F

2013-09-30 21:24:00

Order Only: Corax Mulciber's latest bright idea



 [alt_bill](#)

Corax Mulciber took a look at the records of the camp at Adur (where the fiendishly corrupt staff was pocketing budgetary appropriations for food and semi-starving the residents). Now he reasons, hey, apparently Muggles don't need much food after all! How little food can we get away with giving them? What a way to save money, right? So he's ordered me to set up an 'experiment' to find out, using the six camps in Kent as test subjects.

The camps are Ashford, Chipstead, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Swale, and Tunbridge Wells. The food budget at Wells will remain the same, as a control. He's ordered me to cut the food budgets and thus the allotments for the other five in various amounts:

Ashford - 7%
Chipstead - 14%
Maidstone - 21%
Sevenoaks - 28%
Swale - 35%

So Swale will suffer the most. He wants to run this jolly little experiment for three months, and then he'll use the data to re-evaluate. For all I know, he could decide it's a great idea and cut food allotments even more, or even start in on other camps.

And lucky me, I get to implement it.

This is horrible. If we smuggle food into the camps, then it'll look as though massive food cuts don't have any effect--so they'll make even larger food cuts at the next go-around. Another option I considered would be to smuggle people out of the camps, to spread the food out between the fewer people left--except that wouldn't work either. A large pattern of escapes would surely draw MLE scrutiny. The authorities are not stupid enough to keep importing the same amount of food if people are disappearing. They do camp censuses every week. If they have less people, they'll just import less food. They very well might retaliate against the people left behind.

I don't know what's lighting his wand over this: lower budget figures, the chance to torture people with hunger, or even to get rid of some

more of those muggles which he absolutely hates, through starvation (although he snarled at me, calling me an idiot, when I asked him if that was his purpose).

Throw me a line here, somebody. What can we do? What can I do?



 **alt_sirius** at [2013-10-01 03:14:12](#)
(no subject)

Merlin's beard, Bill.

We've been discussing it here for half an hour, since you posted.

You can't shuffle the people; you can't misdirect the food - logistically that's just impractical. We might be able to supplement the food somewhat but that would still have the opposite effect you want.

Even if we did succeed in diverting say 14% of Ashford's supply and 7% of Chipstead's to Swale and Sevenoaks, so they're all operating at a 21% reduction, Mulciber will either conclude tampering *or* that there's no statistical difference between 7% and 35% - so as you say, he'd just as likely reduce them all by a third.

Failure from Mulciber's perspective isn't really possible. Either you've cut their allotment too much and Muggles die, or you haven't cut back enough and they continue to thrive. Either way, he's going to credit himself with saving the Ministry expenses.

The only productive option I can think of is to organise a full work stoppage at all the camps in the region. Which you'll never get - and there will be reprisals in the bargain.

Sorry, mate. I think you're bugged.

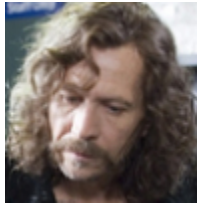



 **alt_poppy** at [2013-10-01 03:43:36](#)
(no subject)

And Sirius, I didn't see yours as I was writing mine. You may be right that even the dietary supplements would skew the data-gathering in a way that would make things worse in the end.

If that's the case, then I really have nothing to offer except to

inform the people concerned and respect their decisions should they decide to resist.



 **alt_sirius** at [2013-10-01 12:50:29](#)
(no subject)

No, Poppy, it's a good suggestion. And I woke up this morning thinking that what they really need to do is just as you say: *Appear* to be more weakened and unfit than they may be (which is not to say they won't be when they're half-starved). The data need to look worse than the actual conditions. That's the only way we have a hope of Mulciber deciding he can't cut back drastically.



 **alt_poppy** at [2013-10-01 03:39:21](#)
(no subject)

Bill. I have two or three suggestions. First, that we get word to those camps so they know what to expect and have time to prepare themselves or strategise. Second, that we offer to smuggle in whatever quantities we can of the dietary supplements we were delivering last year to Hogwarts. Those would not mask (or prevent) the weight loss that is inevitable with the sort of deprivation you're describing, but they would help offset the worst health consequences in the near- and long-term.

Surely it wouldn't be overly difficult for people in these camps to give the appearance of weakening and sickening over your three month period, gradually showing themselves listless and unfit for work.

Of course, if Frank and others believe that we're organised enough to support large-scale rebellions in those camps, then that's an entirely different matter. My suggestions suppose that we aren't yet in a position to encourage resistance.



 **alt_nymphadora** at [2013-10-01 13:24:17](#)
(no subject)


We can get word to the camps. We've got message buttons in all those camps already. I'd say we've built fair relationships with our contacts in three of those camps. Well, four if you count Tunbridge

Wells. Our contact in Maidstone, though, is wary and sometimes turns us away when we visit. And Swale is worse, unfortunately. Nell Weston is Dogstar through and through, but maybe this is just the sort of thing to bring her around to seeing why allying with us is in her interest. And her camp's.

I do have a question about Tunbridge Wells. They're the 'control', right? I think we should tell them and urge them to pick up their productivity a little bit. Not a huge amount all at once, but a little and maybe gradually more. Just enough that the argument could still be made that the improvement is down to Autumn's making work easier. But a bit of improvement there would help make the decline in other camps look more significant.

Or does that seem too likely to look like someone's been rigging the experiment?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-10-01 21:31:07](#)
(no subject)


they'd appreciate a heads up about it regardless, no doubt.

I think we can make a case for a slowdown, and how it'd be helpful for them -- and work on our end to provide them with supplements and teach those with wands to use glamours to make it look worse than it is.

so we can use the buttons to spread the word, see if we can't get everyone on the same page.


we aren't well enough armed and prepared for all out rebellions. got some pilot programmes in the camps we've got contacts in to learn how to ward buildings for safety, but there aren't enough wands to support a sustained fight, and it'd get bloody pretty quick. but this sort of thing might make them trust us more, and make it more likely they'd be on board for something bigger further down the line.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-10-01 23:32:51](#)
(no subject)

Believe me, people in the camps have all sorts of ideas on how to slow things down without their 'masters' catching on. This really could work.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-10-01 21:31:21](#)
(no subject)


maybe we can fake a few deaths, get some folks out in the process.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-10-01 23:44:05](#)
(no subject)

Could we transfigure some material to resemble ersatz corpses of the people we're smuggling out? They might not expect that as they assume no one in the camps have wands. I've seen the handling of the dead can be mighty perfunctory in the camps, too: they don't bother with autopsies in 999 out of 1000 cases, and the biggest priority seems to be simply to get rid of the bodies as quickly as possible.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-10-03 00:54:15](#)
(no subject)

Transfiguring ersatz corpses has been rather tricky in the past -- works best if we have carcasses of animals, at least. Where are the bodies buried in camp? Could we smuggle in some Draught of Living Death, and intercept the 'bodies' after they've been confirmed dead but before they're actually disposed of?




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-10-03 23:23:12](#)
(no subject)

I think that's an excellent idea, my friend. We can run it past our button contacts and see if they think it is possible; they'd probably have the best sense of whether the logistics might be possible.


Bill, how are the meetings going with the camp administrators?



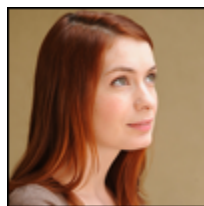
 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-10-03 23:48:40](#)
(no subject)


I'm getting varied reactions, but in general they boil down to *We're really not pleased with this*. I'll be finishing them up tomorrow, and I'll give both the Order and my delightful boss a report at that point.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-10-01 23:39:58](#)
(no subject)


Regarding Tunbridge Wells, it's have to be subtly done, but I think it's possible. I think it's worth a try. But maybe that's a decision for Alice, Davidson, and the members of the resistance in the camp itself.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-10-02 05:00:24](#)
(no subject)

It certainly is worth a try. I think if we have the other camps pass along intel to Tumbridge, so that they're the ones confirming what's happening, that'll go a long way.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-10-01 23:37:52](#)**
(no subject)

These are excellent ideas. My gut feeling coincides with Frank's, I think: we're not yet in a position to foment outright rebellion in the camps. But we can spike Mulciber's (and the Protectorate's) intentions with carefully calibrated slowdowns, or, as Tonks suggests, a subtle speedup at Tunbridge Wells.

I'm feeling a lot more hope than I felt yesterday. This is an excellent reason to use the buttons, and I hope it'll work. Depends on whose hands they're in, I suppose.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-10-03 00:50:54](#)**
(no subject)

If people don't die but their work drops off that will get everyone's attention.

I mean, assuming Muggle Domestication overall has the same attitude as the Strettons.

[2013-09-30 21:46:00](#)

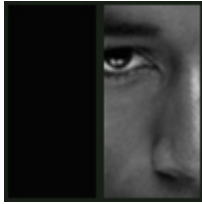
Private Message to Blaise Zabini

Well, I asked him. We'll see if he decides to come along.



I'm just about to leave the library.

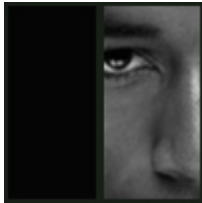
 [alt_padma](#)



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2013-10-01 01:55:26](#)

(no subject)

I was just thinking it would be nice to stretch my legs and clear my head before I try reading Brutka's chapter again. I'll meet you.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2013-10-01 01:57:10](#)

(no subject)

Finnigan's in, I assume?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-10-01 02:01:02](#)

(no subject)

He's minging about History Club. I told him Goshal would jump to take it over if we asked him.

I'm more interested in getting F-Fs. If he starts practising with us or giving us access to his notes then I'm we're practically guaranteed to be near the top in everything. Everything that matters, anyway.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2013-10-01 02:10:04](#)

(no subject)

History Club? Whatever. It's not as if that matters.

Fine if Finnigan doesn't come, really.

And maybe F-F will hand over his notes and not come along either. That would be better. I'm not sure I want to double the amount of time I spend with him.

If you see what I mean.

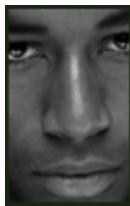



 **alt_padma** at **2013-10-01 02:19:31**
(no subject)

Yes, I know. He's so patronising. He just said he'd 'check his timetable' and let us know. Check his timetable. He's trying to decide if he'd rather be off snogging Hydra Lestrangle, isn't he.

You might be right, though, about the notes. He's offered Conrad-Loring, whether or not he comes to revise.

Ugh, well, anyway, I'm shutting the books now. See you in five.



 **alt_blaise** at **2013-10-01 02:21:46**
(no subject)

Excellent.

On my way.