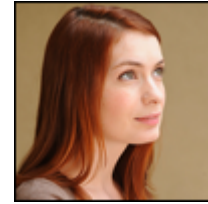


2013-12-01 10:34:00

ORDER ONLY

I've been thinking about Ridley's question -- and I'm sure it needs a great deal more thought from all of us before coming to a final decision.



 [alt_alice](#)

Sally-Anne has a good point in that we should see what she'd be willing to offer us in exchange, just to see what we'd have on the table to negotiate with.

I don't trust that she'd follow any guidelines we would ask her to abide by. We have to anticipate that she would use this for her own purposes, which would potentially be useful to us as well if she continues to target MLE and the Council, but we must anticipate that she would do so without consideration for loss of life when it comes to others caught in the cross-fire.

I agree with Poppy in that its use is fairly limited -- all one would have to do would be to walk out of the field in order to restore use of magic -- but as established in Saltash, wizards are vulnerable within the field, and if there is a large enough concentration of motivated and trained people to stop them, it could prove a challenge.

One thing to consider is that unlike her tactics at Saltash, this field makes Muggles much more capable of defending themselves, so they're less likely to be used by her as mere fodder and more likely to be seen as potentially valuable assets, which is a distinct improvement from her previous mindset.

That is one area where we have a potential advantage -- we have far greater connections within the non-magical community, and will eventually have the capacity to potentially be able to wake up Sleepers who would have military training and capabilities -- something I doubt she has spent much energy or thought on, as Muggles have not been her primary focus. Perhaps she would be willing to coordinate with us more directly in order to help muster people with hand-to-hand training who would be able to be of great use in such a situation, which gives us a little more control over how and when she uses it.

I have the impression that her lack of consideration for safety and loss of life also makes her more likely to attempt to cast this spell with a much greater frequency than I ever would. To a certain extent, this

places the burden of cost on her people instead of ours -- something worth considering if we are to think through the possible value and use of such a spell.

Does anyone have any additional thoughts? I'm sure several of you have been chewing it over all night, as I have, and I'd appreciate your insights.

On a side-note, Frank and I have been talking about what his new responsibilities might be, and what we can do to help him be more mobile and communicate more directly with all of you. One of the ideas we tossed around would be to have Colin Creevey assigned to act as Frank's secretary and to assist with his and Fu Lee's Apparation so they could both be a bit more independent. We haven't approached Colin yet with the idea, but I'm sure he'd be eager to help however he could. He's been considering going to Sherwood with Terry and the rest, but this could be a way he could be quite useful to all of us. It would entail swearing him into the Order, something I'm very willing to do, but I wanted to run this past everyone first.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-01 23:27:24](#)
(no subject)

Well, first off, it was obvious to more than Miss Perks that the only appropriate way to open negotiation with Ridley, if we were going to do, was to ask what she's prepared to offer in exchange, and what she has in mind to do if we strike a bargain. I'd be interested in doing that even if we have no intention of telling her about the spell, for a number of reasons:

- It tells us what she thinks she has that's valuable - or that she thinks we would find of value;
- It tells us how desperate she is (or isn't) to get her hands on a new spell;
- It tells us how valuable she thinks the effect would be to her group if she gets her hands on it;
- It tells us what *she* thinks she might be able to do with it.

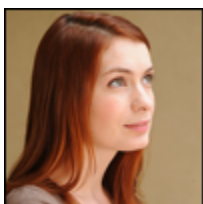
As for what she could or couldn't do, we clearly need to hold our cards close to the vest to find out what she thinks it is. (There were already clues in her message, such as whether it was a variant of the Sleeper spell itself. I think she might be hinting that she thinks it's a combination of Sleeper spell and Fidelius.) The less we can tell her early on, the more she'll tell us. That will help us determine if she's


planning something we couldn't condone - though as you say, Allie, there's no guarantee she'd keep any promise she made, even if we asked her to make one. All I'm saying is that if she's trying to guess its uses, she's more likely to say things that will betray her plans.

With that in mind, it also makes sense not to let on that anything has happened to Frank, not at first. I can simply tell her he's delegated the task to me, if she even asks. She might assume he's dead, which would not necessarily be a disadvantage in negotiating with her. Element of surprise, and all that.

Now. As for our own applications, I think we all agree that the cost is too high to risk casting it again, unless we're assured that doing so would end this conflict completely. Even then, I'm not sure who among us who is capable of casting the spell would be willing - I mean, sorry, not that we wouldn't be willing in order to end the war and free the camps, put an end to Voldemort. Merlin, I'd think rendering Voldemort helpless would be a fair trade. But. If we can somehow convince one of Ridley's people to do it, well, I'm not going to argue. The real trick, far as I'm concerned, would be making sure that the wizard or witch who's undertaking that kamikaze mission is doing so completely voluntarily, without any coercion. I'm not sure we'd have any way to know that, unless we did try to work *with* Ridley to affect some scenario in which the spell's deployed in conjunction with a coordinated strike against Voldemort, before he could leave the zone and regain his powers.

If we're not going to come up with that sort of scenario, and unless someone can think of an equally compelling reason for one of us to undertake the spell I think the best possible 'use' for it is to try to draw Ridley out in conversation and then tell her the, er, 'hidden cost' of what she's trying to buy.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-02 00:25:29](#)**
(no subject)

I agree that it may be worth while to see what she'd be willing to trade for it, and that we can hold our cards close in the meantime. We have a distinct advantage here, and I'm willing to test the extent of it.

Holding her to some sort of coordination or shared effort would be

difficult, but if we can bring to the table a significant number of people who would be incredibly effective at fighting in a null zone, that might make her more likely to work with us and make it possible for us to have a larger say in how and when it is used.



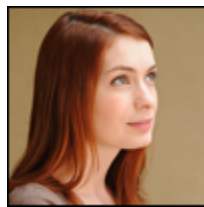
 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-02 00:53:10](#)**

Private Message to Alice and Frank

The plan with Colin helping you to Apparate sounds like a good one. Do you good, Frank, to get off your arse before it's as big as your thick head.

Fu's going to teach you how to fire cannons or what?

The only thing about Colin as a clerk is it would make addressing private messages difficult. But we'd manage if we had to do it.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-02 00:56:02](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

We were thinking it might work if one addressed private messages to both Frank and Colin, for instance. Or if it was something that someone didn't want Colin to read, it could be only to

Frank, who could read it but couldn't write an answer.

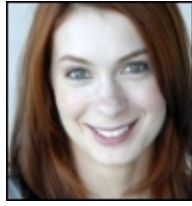
Which is complicated, but a better system than what we have at the moment.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-02 00:57:44](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

Yes, I assumed that's how you meant the messages to work. I was thinking it's back to the days when we had to include Harry on any message to Hermione. Not quite the same reason, but the same restriction.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-02 01:09:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

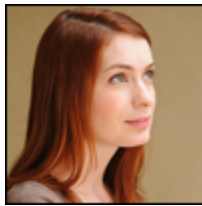
Frank says that his arse is getting rather shapely now that he can't up and Apparate everywhere, thank you very much, and that he's learning about crossbows and axes at the moment, but a cannon would be 'pretty ace.'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-02 01:11:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice and Frank

Oh, so that means he'll be back in his kilts soon? I can't wait.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-02 00:57:17](#)

(no subject)

I also agree that it isn't inevitable that we must ultimately share this fully with Dogstar -- not by any means. If we do know more about how she'd think about using it, we might be better able to make that decision, though.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-03 04:51:26](#)

(no subject)

I think having Colin in that role is rather a brilliant idea. We use to tease him about how neat his penmanship is. Finally it's good for something. I know he'd do anything to help Mr Longbottom and the Order, too.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-01 23:33:56](#)

(no subject)

Dad used this spell for a particular reason. And it's a reason I think a lot of people could see the value in.

I mean, not every wizard sees Muggle people as worth saving, but there's enough of them out there who would, I think.

But this is harder all around, isn't it? Because people can look at Saltash and think that it might not have been wrong, but something like the Quidditch World Cup bombing is another thing altogether, because a lot of people got hurt and scared and felt unsafe, and there's only a small number of magical people who'd see that as a good thing.

And if Dogstar used this spell like it was a weapon, and a lot of normal everyday magical people got hurt by it, or got really scared about something bad happening like they did after the bomb went off at the World Cup


I could just see how it'd be hard for them to see the good in it.

I guess I thought part of what we're trying to do is to show people that our way is better, and I'm not sure this is the way to do it. It'd help us do other things, but I can see how it'd make it a lot harder for magical people to want to help us, or to see what we're doing as helping them.

And I know they're not the only people we have to think about. And that it could be really helpful for non-magical people.

I don't know. We're trying to get people at school to think about the Protectorate as wrong. I think we'd have a harder time of it if Dogstar were using this to hurt people. That's all.




 **alt_evelyn** at **2013-12-02 00:37:27**
(no subject)

They're going to hurt people no matter what. I know that. But we'd certainly be making it easier for them.

And I can see a lot of magical people being really frightened by knowing we can make places where magic doesn't work. And that they could get stuck in one.

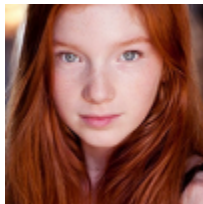


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-02 00:48:00](#)
(no subject)

It's a fair point, except that if I understand the spell correctly, no one's 'stuck' in the zone. If the people in Saltash were to walk outside its boundary, they'd recover their magic. Tonks and Kingsley have been in and out of the null zone a few times with no ill effects. The thing about it is that they need to know how to get back *inside*, which is the responsibility of the Secret Keeper. If they don't know it, then it's more likely they'd get 'stuck' *outside* of the area, do you see.

The way I think it would work as a weapon is if one deployed it around, say, Marlborough House, on a night when we knew Voldemort and all his friends would be visiting; then before they could leave, storm in with Muggle weapons at the ready and capture all their wands. We'd have to have a plan beyond that, but you see my meaning. Otherwise they'd leave the house and we'd be no better off than we were - in fact, worse, in a number of ways.

Which is precisely why I don't think it makes much sense to weaponise the spell - and why it would be next to impossible to devise a plan that DogStar would agree to enact.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-02 01:05:38](#)
(no subject)

Yes. I see. Unless they plan on using guns or bombs to make sure no-one can get out.

I suppose I was thinking about their using it at St Mungos or the Ministry or a Quidditch match, because they don't seem to have the same idea of what's reasonable. Where we might think about using it to surround a house of people who are dangerous, they might think of something like the Cup all over again, where the way they'd go about things would hurt a lot of people.

They didn't care about those people at Saltash. I don't see that sort of thing changing.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-02 01:10:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, as far as that goes, you're entirely right. We've no idea what they think would be a reasonable amount of collateral damage.

Mind you, we've been the cause of some destruction here and there, as well - but mostly unintentional, or unavoidable. We won't always be able to be so picky about it, though. Eventually, one way or another, there's always fighting. And where there's fighting, people get hurt.

Not that we'd set off a bomb at St M's, of course. But there are a lot of things I know I'd do if it meant we could save far more people than we'd lose.

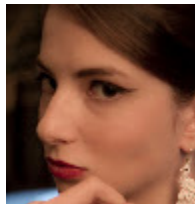


 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-02 01:18:27](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

I know.

And we can't keep everyone safe every time. I'm not that much of a Lilah. But I trust your judgment any day over Ridley's. And I'd rather we had something really powerful and didn't ever use it again than give it to her.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 01:33:34](#)
(no subject)

We could tell them what it does, and we could tell them the cost of casting it. And, we could tell them that if they have an idea for how it ought to be used, they can let us know, and tell us if they have any members willing to be the caster, and IN THAT CASE we will cooperate with them and show that person how to do it.

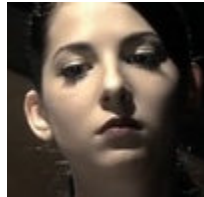
But it has to be a joint operation.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-02 01:35:59](#)
(no subject)

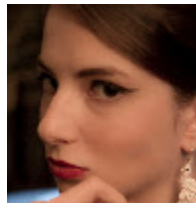
Do you think we could keep it so that the person we teach how to cast it can't teach someone else?

Like part of it is they have to agree to be obliterated after?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 01:42:19](#)
(no subject)

How are they going to stop us?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 01:43:09](#)
(no subject)

(Okay, there will probably be more than one of them, and their friends could stop us.)



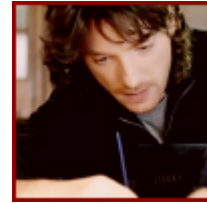
 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-03 04:57:20](#)
(no subject)

Alice, Caradoc and I are planning on stopping by tomorrow to discuss further the idea of contacting Ridley. I think you've laid out the key issues, but I should have some further thoughts by then.

Swearing in Colin for the purposes you've described is a good idea. I like the idea of Fu as well as Frank having someone assigned to assist with apparition. He's eager to get out into the field, and although I was wary at first, I think his strategic thinking could be enormously helpful. I was very much struck by some of the ideas he came up with during our Saltash post-mortem.

2013-12-01 11:18:00

Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley



 [alt_bill](#)

This isn't a Cardinal report, but it is a report of a meeting I had with Auror Lamont outside of the work arena. Since I want to keep things on the up and up with you with regard to any significant contact I have with her, I'm writing this to keep you apprised. In return, I need to ask for some delicacy on your part, with regard to Ron and Justin.

You see, she mentioned in passing to me that she appeared at Hogwarts at a YPL meeting to talk with the students about the Auror career. In the course of our exchange, she also mentioned that she'd met Ron--because he was a candidate interviewing for an internship over the winter holidays. Justin Finch-Fletchley was the other candidate. They were nominated because of their performance at CCF last summer.

Did you know this? Ron hadn't said anything to me about it.


It occurred to me that this could present an opening for me to pump her about Auror training, you know, in the guise of the big brother interested in what his younger brother was contemplating for a career. Maybe I could get her impressions of the capabilities of a number of the Aurors while I was at it. So I invited her to go with me to the zoo yesterday and we talked.

Now, as to the need for delicacy: as Ron's interview was the impetus for my meeting with Auror Lamont, and I feel I do need to report to you whenever I meet with Auror Lamont, this unfortunately thrusts me into the role of being a bit of a tale-bearer. I asked Ron about the interview when he replied to Mum's journal entry about my birthday. I told him I wouldn't tell Mum about it, as it was his business (and I haven't), but I asked if he had told you. He hasn't replied yet. I do think you should know that two members of the Junior Auxiliary are being considered for this, but if Ron (or Justin) follow through and tell you, I'd really appreciate it if you don't let on that I told you about it first. Ron can be extremely prickly when he thinks I'm doing anything that smacks of stepping into Dad's role (especially since I handled things so badly last December) or questions his choices, so it's entirely conceivable he would resent me telling you this. I don't know. Perhaps he doesn't think it's necessary because he doesn't know yet

whether he'll receive the internship--but if he doesn't Justin will (if I'm right and there are only two candidates). I'd rather you were not blindsided by this.


Anyway: I've drafted a written report of what I've gleaned from the conversation about current training procedures and her remarks about MLE personnel which I will bring to you sometime this week and we can talk further. I think you and Frank will find it interesting. Kingsley, Turner and Davidson should probably take a look at it, too.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-01 18:34:17](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Bill. I appreciate the information, and if they do decide to talk to me about it, your telling me about it in advance won't be necessary to discuss with them.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-03 04:17:41](#)**
(no subject)

Ron's written Albus and myself, and has told us about the internship.

I'd like you to find out more about it from your source, if you could. What all it entails, and what sort of potential security risks we might face.

I suggested he might talk to you about your experiences working at the Ministry, if only to get a sense of perspective about what sort of pressures he can expect to face.


I know your first impulse is to try and dissuade him from going down this particular road, but I've a feeling that would backfire rather spectacularly.

If he does talk to you, it might do you both some good if you were honest with him about some of the things you've found difficult, and what you've struggled with, and let him come to his own conclusions about his suitability for that sort of environment.

Remember, love, part of what you're trying to work through is your desire for control -- and Ron has been part of that. He's an Order

member in his own right, and as such has the right to make decisions about his future.

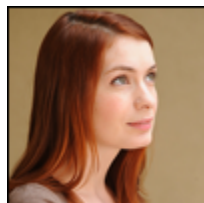



 **alt_bill** at [2013-12-03 05:00:03](#)
(no subject)

This may astonish you, but my first impulse isn't to try to talk him out of it. Ron's made it clear that he doesn't want me trying to act as if I know better than him. He wants badly to help and to be treated as the near-adult that he is. A two or three week stint observing MLE in an office setting is a lot less hair-raising than any number of schemes he could dream up on his own. If it whets his appetite for more rubbing shoulders with MLE, well, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

I am *trying* to become less of a control freak, I promise, Alice. I want a better relationship with my brother while I'm at it, and if that means opening myself up to share some of the things I've had to do, even the more ugly ones, so be it. He *was* one of the best in the CCF class.

And Dad taught him how to play chess, same as me.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-12-03 05:02:27](#)
(no subject)


Good to hear.

Keep in mind that part of this involves giving him space to tell me things in his own time, rather than telling me things on his behalf.

I know, you wanted to check in about your source, and your intentions were to keep me informed and prepared, but it'd be to your benefit in the future to trust Ron's instincts and let him speak for himself without the need for prompting.

And to be fair, Bill, he might not be of legal age yet, but he has adult responsibilities and duties, and is a full member of the Order. I'd say adult, full-stop.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-03 16:14:20](#)**
(no subject)

Ouch.

All right, so noted. In my own defence, I wouldn't have said anything if it hadn't been that I felt I had to report on my meeting with Rachel, and the reason for it.

Bloody hell. Negotiating the lines here is tricky. Like I said, I'm *trying*.

2013-12-01 19:52:00

Private message to Ron

RON I JUST GOT AN OWL.

From my friend at Purest Sparkle, the one who sent me the book.



 [alt_ginny](#)

She said it's been banned. The book. That MLE is going to come and get it and I need to give it to them BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN READ IT YET Ron what am I going to do?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-12-02 02:03:55**

(no subject)

It got banned?

Wait.

Gin. That's a really lame story if you think it's going to get me to give it back to you.

You said not to give it to you no matter WHAT you say.

You DID, y'know.

So, no way, no how.



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2013-12-02 02:06:58**

(no subject)

RON I AM NOT JOKING. THIS IS NOT AN EXCUSE, THEY TOLD ME MLE IS COMING. PROBABLY TONIGHT.



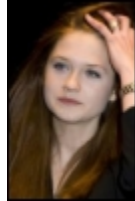
 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-12-02 02:14:30**

(no subject)

Okay.

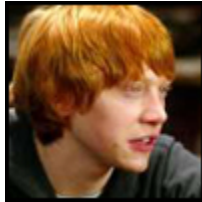
I'm definitely not giving it back to you, then. (So if you ARE having me on, it's not going to work.)


Um. How far did that rumour get about you having a preview copy?



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-12-02 02:15:33](#)
(no subject)

As far as I can tell, everyone at the entire school knows, including Moaning Myrtle. (How did Moaning Myrtle even READ the first two books? can ghosts turn pages?)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:18:45](#)
(no subject)

Ugh. Alright.

Does anyone know you gave it to me? Besides Honoria. I guess you told her.

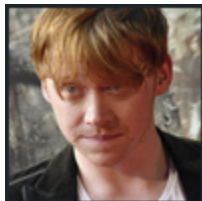
I didn't even tell Sally Anne that I've got it.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-12-02 02:20:16](#)
(no subject)

No, I didn't tell that to anyone but Honoria, because then they'd have started hounding you. (That especially didn't seem fair with Sally-Anne,

I didn't want to make her cross with you!)

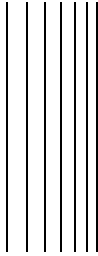


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:47:30](#)
(no subject)

Look. Gin.

You're going to be cross, I know. But the thing is, I had a look at that book and it looked like it crossed some lines.

The thing is... you can't have it back even if I wanted to give it to you. I gave it to Harry Marvolo and asked him to have a look at it and see what he thought. Anywiz, he kept it.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2013-12-02 02:48:50](#)**
(no subject)

Marvolo has it?!? But I asked YOU to

I'll write to him, then, I guess.

2013-12-01 19:53:00

Order Only Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Albus Dumbledore



Um.

I need some advice.

 [alt_ron](#)

Last Sunday I had to go to meet two Aurors who came up to Hogwarts for a YPL presentation. I got a letter at supper Saturday telling me to meet them on Sunday. So I did, and it was about my being nominated for an internship with them during hols. I was nominated by Desai, who was head of CCF last summer along with Dolohov. Professor Dolohov also gave me a strong evaluation, I think, and they had statements from the enforcers who came out to Stretton's farm last summer the night Sally Anne and I caught those thieves trying to steal plants out of the fields.

Anywiz. I was as surprised as you'd guess, so I don't know how I did in the interview. They weren't really impressed with my marks, but they said my OWLs were alright. I really don't know anything else about it yet besides that they said certain students with strong aptitude (that's what they said, really) sometimes get invited to intern with the Aurors over Christmas hols. Sandoval said that's how she got her first introduction to the department. She was one of the people who interviewed me, I mean, and she said this is a way to get a foot in the door that could boost chances of getting accepted to the training programme. They said the next training class is likely to be formed two summers from now, which is why they're looking at current NEWT students.

So. Maybe nothing'll come out of this. Because I'm not ranked highly enough, probably, and I only got the one O in Defence. But I did take the interview seriously, and I tried to make them think I was honoured, and, um, I did try to make it sound like I'd always wanted to grow up and become an Auror, reading all the comics, and the Auror Brightwand books, which I did read some of--once I got to school, mostly, but I made it sound as if I'd really liked them.

Do you think I should do it if they invite me to apply for this internship? Professor Dumbledore, I know I'd have to be solid with Occlumency for it to be worth risking.

I'm not sure when I'll hear, but maybe tomorrow since today's the first

of the month and tomorrow's Monday. I thought about waiting and only saying anything about it if I actually hear back from them, but then I guess I don't know how much time they'll give me to decide.



 [alt_albus](#) at [2013-12-02 02:25:27](#)
(no subject)


Indeed.

The Occlumency is a challenge, yes.

The invitation is an opportunity, yes, but also a great risk. Not, I would think, the internship so much as what might be offered after.

Alice, do you have thoughts?




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-02 08:28:29](#)
Private Message to Albus

You work more closely with him than I do. I know you prefer to keep your own council on most things, but I'd appreciate your perspective.

How capable is he when it comes to his Occlumency? Would it ever improve to the point at which he'd need it to be? Do you think he'd have the right sort of temperament for this?



 [alt_albus](#) at [2013-12-02 13:56:16](#)
Re: Private Message to Albus

Slow progress on the Occlumency, I fear, though there is some. He might learn enough in two years time. Certainly, not enough before the holidays to protect himself sufficiently from a skilled


Legilimens.

I rather think the question is whether anyone would try during the internship.

As to temperament, ah - his maturity comes and goes, as one would expect at his age, but I believe that if he committed to this course, improved his skills in specific areas, and gave careful thought to what he would be asked to do, he could be successful.

Whether that would be the best choice, however, is entirely another question.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-02 19:49:56**

Re: Private Message to Albus

Bill can see what the internship might entail, to see how risky it would be.

My first impulse is to say that it isn't the best choice, by far -- I've seen the toll the Ministry has taken on Arthur and Bill, and his challenges would be far greater. I know he isn't his older brother, but it's a thankless, difficult task and I'm not sure any of us would have the fortitude to make it through such a trial unscathed and unchanged.

I think we might talk more to him as we go, the both of us. I'm hoping we might all be able to either seriously determine whether he is suited and weigh our choices, or help him change his own mind to an option that would be less fraught but still of great use.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2013-12-02 22:51:05**

Private Message to Professor Dumbledore

I keep wondering what Dad would say. And what he'd ask me. You know how some of those memories keep coming out when we practise? I just really wish I could talk to him. Could we- I mean, if I could just remember more, it would almost be like talking to him. Because he always knew how to talk stuff through.

And... Mrs Longbottom says I should be talking to Bill, but that's just not-- He's not like Dad at all, but he wants me to pretend he is, and I can't. I mean, it just muddles everything, and then I won't want to do this because he's got himself involved in it. Even if, really, I should do it. D'you see?

Cause, well. I admit one of the things that makes me want to do it is that it would be dead useful Ministry work that wouldn't ever be in Bill's department. I mean, dead useful to the Order. I want to do something that will make a difference, and if this is something I have a chance to do that no one else does, then I should do it, I think.

Oh. And. Do you think I could learn the Animagus transformation? ~~Sally Anne thinks~~— It would be a different way of solving the Occlumency problem, wouldn't it? Because I'm actually, y'know, good at Transfig. Anywiz, it's just something I've been thinking about.



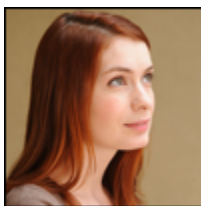
 **alt_albus** at **2013-12-02 23:36:35**

Re: Private Message to Professor Dumbledore

I believe we might have some options for your memory, Mr Weasley. If you are free after classes tomorrow, or tomorrow evening, we might talk more then.

As to your brother, well, brothers can be difficult, yes. If talking with your eldest brother is too difficult, have you considered talking to one of your other brothers in the Order? They might have some insight for you without the same pressure of expectation.

The Animagus transformation is not one I had actively considered. You understand it is a great deal of work, I am certain. Perhaps you might find time to talk to our established Animagi, and see what advice they have for you. It would indeed solve the Occlumency problem, and have other uses beside.



 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-02 07:20:18**

(no subject)

That sort of position would be useful, no doubt, but you would be asked to do things regularly that you might find most difficult.

Is this something you genuinely wish to pursue? Duty can help one push through rough spots, but if you would be utterly miserable at this job, that would make a difficult situation worse.

This is an initial step down that particular path, of course, not a final one, and there would certainly be opportunities to better assess your suitability and desire to continue as you learn more about the requirements. I think if you're interested enough in this potential opportunity to learn more, an internship would be a reasonable way

to do that.

I'd ask that as you consider this possibility, you do some soul-searching about what your potential weaknesses could be, and where you would draw the line in terms of what you might have to be prepared to do. There's no way to know everything right away, of course, but you can certainly give serious thought to whether this would be something you could honestly see yourself doing on a daily basis, and what sort of obstacles you might encounter along the way.


You don't have to come up with a proper answer right away -- these things take time, and, as I've said, this internship might be a way to help you be able to more accurately weigh your options. I don't want you to feel as if you have no choice in the matter, or that you're automatically obligated to take advantage of this opportunity.

I'm not sure what they'd have you do during this internship -- Bill might be able to find out more -- but I agree with Albus that your work on Occlumency would have to be stepped up in preparation for it, as you'd be walking into the dragon's nest as it were.

I'd talk to Bill a bit about the pressures he's under at work, to start thinking about what it would be like for you -- there'd be some things that would be drastically different, of course, but he regularly has to do things he finds distasteful or difficult, and you might find that gives a bit of context to what challenges you might face.


Lastly, I apologise for the personal nature of this question, but have you ever had a powerful reaction to Dark Magic? Do you find it to be incredibly unpleasant or enjoyable?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-02 08:13:59](#)**
(no subject)

And may I say that regardless of what you decide, the fact that you were selected to be interviewed for this opportunity is quite an accomplishment. It comes along with some very difficult choices to be sure, but you have every right to be proud.

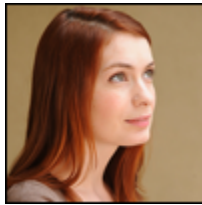



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-02 22:54:03](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks.

And yeah, I know this is a serious thing and that it's dangerous. But if I'm the only one we've got who's going to get a chance like this, then I think I should go on with it.

If I do get the chance, y'know?



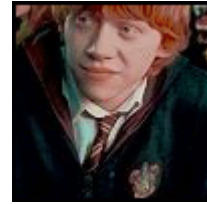
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:51:29](#)**
(no subject)

Just because one can doesn't always mean one should. This is one of many possibilities for you that we might consider, and it's an important enough possibility that I think it's worth serious

thought.

2013-12-01 20:20:00

Order Only Private Message to Harry Potter and Sally Anne Perks



This is important.

Ginny just sent me a private message to say she heard from the friend that sent her that book and MLE is going around confiscating all the preview copies. They've banned the book.

 [alt_ron](#)

So I told her I'm not giving it back to her. Only, I just realised. Her message is a PM, and MLE can read those. If they're looking into what she did with her book.

What should I do? I mean, I've been asking her how many people know she gave it to me.

Ugh.

If she's messing about, trying to get me to give her the book back, I'll hex her.

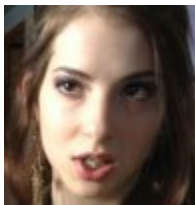


 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-02 02:28:55**

(no subject)

If she's saying MLE is involved, I'd take it seriously. Just in case.

I mean, if she gave it to you because she wanted to hold off reading it or something, then there are easier ways to get it back.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-02 02:30:10**

(no subject)

Yeah like wait two more days? The book was supposed to come out on Wednesday! We'd have all had our books by Wednesday morning!



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:32:09](#)
(no subject)

Why would they send MLE to collect the book two days before it was supposed to come out?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:34:21](#)
(no subject)

Because Efrain turned out to be a reclassified mudblood after all?

Ron said Ginny said they'd banned it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:29:25](#)
(no subject)

'That book,' you mean Pure Victory? MLE is CONFISCATING the preview copies of Pure Victory?

Now I REALLY want to read it.

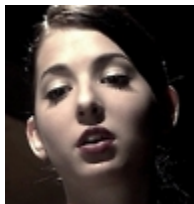
Tell her you burned it.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:30:49](#)
(no subject)

Not sure that'd work, though.

They might not believe him. Especially because everyone really wants to read it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:32:30](#)
(no subject)

Let's tell her that YOU burned it. Harry if YOU say that you burned it no one will dare question it.

~~WE CAN'T GIVE IT TO MLE BECAUSE THEN I WILL NEVER GET TO~~



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:33:55](#)
(no subject)

I could get you the book and you can really burn it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:34:59](#)
(no subject)

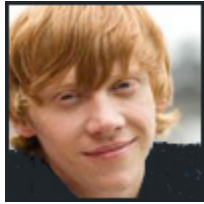
Do you think?


If they really did ban it, I'd want to know why. And that means reading it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:36:33](#)
(no subject)

We are NOT burning it. OR handing it over to MLE.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:39:04](#)
(no subject)

You're that keen to read it?

Daft.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:37:59](#)
(no subject)

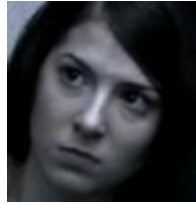
Well, I'll give it to you and you can read it first and then burn it. Only you'd better be quick if they really are coming to get it.

D'you think they'd come tonight?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:44:05](#)
(no subject)

I do NOT read that fast. At all.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:47:24](#)
(no subject)

Even if they're coming tomorrow and even if you read that fast, I want to read it, and Hermione does, and Hydra, and Ginny for that matter, and Honoria...we're not all going to get through it in a night.

Look, Ron can tell Ginny he loaned it to you, and you can say you burned it. And then after MLE's gone we can tell Ginny actually we saved it and she can read it now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:50:30](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. I told her I gave it to Harry because I thought it looked queer and wanted him to have a look.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:51:09](#)
(no subject)

Right. Yeah.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:50:54](#)
(no subject)

Right.

So he loaned it to me, I read it and saw that it had some stuff in it that it shouldn't, and then I decided to burn it on my own? Before Ginny heard from MLE?

I guess that means I have to read part of it in case they ask me what I read that made me want to burn it.

So Ron, maybe you can write me and say, 'Hey, I need that book back,' and I can say, 'It's bad news, mate. I burned it.'



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:52:32](#)
(no subject)

Never mind. She wrote me.

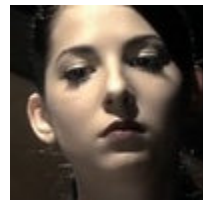
I'll just tell her I burned it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:53:34](#)
(no subject)

I haven't read any of the books. At all.

I guess I'll just sort of say it seemed off?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 03:01:32](#)
(no subject)

Sure.

We don't really have to convince Ginny. She can just send MLE to you.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:06:00](#)
(no subject)

I told her that I burned it yesterday, because Ron was right and it was off and I didn't think it was safe for other people to read.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:10:23](#)
(no subject)

She wants to talk to me? Tomorrow?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:16:52](#)
(no subject)

She said she wanted to explain things in person. Instead of over the journals.


Only that's sort of a stupid reason because she knows MLE is reading, and she'd want to show loyal in writing.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:18:43](#)
(no subject)

Ron? Do you know what she wants?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 03:25:30](#)
(no subject)

Um.

No?

I mean, I think she's really worked up about this. And scared about MLE. Assuming it's true.

Only, ugh. Maybe she was just playing a game to get me to give her the book back and all this came of it instead. If that's it, she probably wants to apologise to you for being so daft.

Though, I don't think that's it. I mean, I'd totally believe they are banning that book. (And you really should read that last bit. Even though you won't know who any of them are. Or care.)

So. Now we're just waiting for MLE to come banging in? Lovely.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:36:44](#)**
(no subject)

How do you make ashes look older? How do day-old ashes even look?


I think we've got them cool enough.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:37:54](#)**
(no subject)

We can just put a preservation charm on them, I guess.

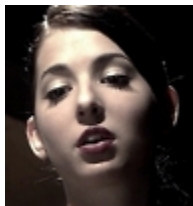


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:40:11](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yeah.

Because you figured you were going to have to show them to Gin when we apologized to her, and you didn't want them getting all over everything in your dormitory until you could give it all back to me.

Or sommat.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-02 04:02:41](#)**
(no subject)

She probably wants the book back.


I mean given you organised 'let's all talk about the Protectorate and how bad it is' sessions for everyone and she was invited, I doubt she really believes you that you burned it because it seemed 'off.'



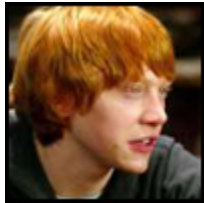
 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:06:25](#)
(no subject)


And I should probably read the first chapter or something just in case.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:06:51](#)
(no subject)

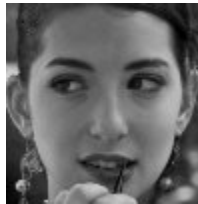
you too, Ron.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 03:08:35](#)
(no subject)

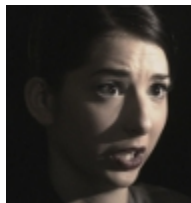
Actually, I think it's the last chapter you want.

That's the one I read.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 03:09:45](#)
(no subject)

Give to me and Hermione, we'll read the whole thing and tell you what happened.

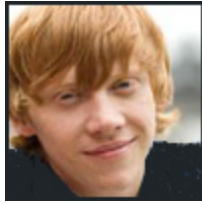



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 03:11:06](#)
(no subject)

WAIT

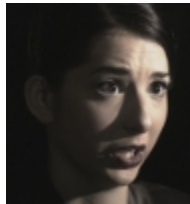
You have it?

YOU have it. YOU'VE HAD IT ALL WEEK?



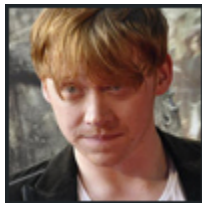
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:15:21](#)**
(no subject)


I don't have it anymore.



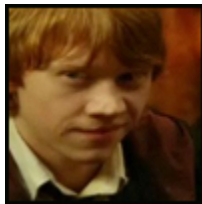
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:11:35](#)**
(no subject)


WHY DID YOU HAVE IT?!???



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:12:16](#)**
(no subject)

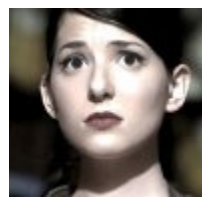
Um. Because Ginny gave it to me so she couldn't get it back and read it?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-02 03:17:05](#)**
(no subject)

Anywiz. Now you'll have to get Harry to let you have it so you can find out who's alive at the end.

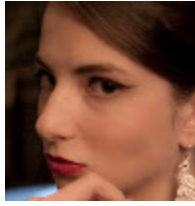
Or did you want me to tell you?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-02 04:01:32](#)**
(no subject)

NO. I want to read it.

Harry, did you give it to Hermione already? Maybe we can share? I don't read quite as fast as she does but I'm close. I'll bring biscuits.

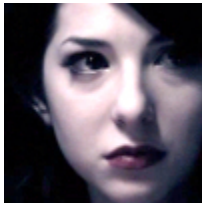


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:35:28](#)
(no subject)

Okay

There's got to be a book around here that's the right size, we could burn that one and hand over the scorched bits and say it was Pure Victory.

Let me go get Hermione.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:30:50](#)
(no subject)

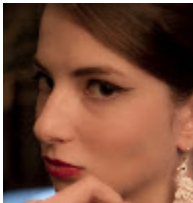
Maybe we should burn a book. Just in case.

Um. Harry, do you have any books you really don't like? Ron how thick is it?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:35:55](#)
(no subject)

Um. Ten times as thick as Quidditch Through the Ages. I don't know.



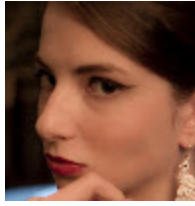
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:39:48](#)
(no subject)

Right. We'll meet you. DON'T SHOW ANYONE YOU HAVE IT.



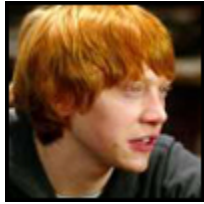
 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:44:58](#)
(no subject)


Should we have Ron write me a real PM saying that he needs to show me something he's worried about so we can have a cover?



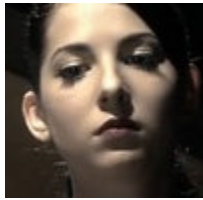
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:51:07](#)
(no subject)

Ginny's already writing to you. Ron must have told her he gave it to you already.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 02:51:45](#)
(no subject)


Well, I told Gin I'd already given it to you. So I think I should have given it to you before now. Y'know. If anyone asks.



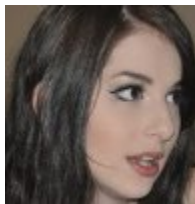
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:40:53](#)
(no subject)

Hermione says she can't believe we'd burn a book, she'll transfigure something else so it looks just like the book, we'll burn THAT, no one will know any better.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 02:43:28](#)
(no subject)

We can tear off the cover, maybe, and show them that and the burned bits?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 02:44:29](#)
(no subject)

I'll let you be the one to suggest that to Hermione.

2013-12-01 20:30:00

Private Message to Hydra Lestrangle

Hydra,

I'm so sorry it's been ages since I wrote. Your last letter seemed to indicate you were working so hard at revising that you didn't need any other distractions.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

However, I'm fairly certain there's one distraction you did not resist. Now, don't try to deny it: I know from Celia Harkiss that you received a special, advance copy of that new *Pure Starvation* nonsense. I was actually thinking of including a copy in your Christmas stocking but Celia told me I needn't bother: She'd got a copy for the magazine to read and review and she decided to give it to her own little one. There was a list of the other recipients enclosed for her, in case she wanted to obtain quotes for the review, and I saw your name.

Now, I'm sure you've simply devoured the little page-turner but my dear, you must send it to your mother immediately. The publisher is about to be indicted for sedition and the book has been summarily denied publication by Protectorate Affairs.

I know your mother probably hasn't thought to warn you herself, so unfortunately there's nothing one can do about the fact that you've already read it. But I'm sure you only ever thought of it as a forbidden, guilty pleasure and not at all as a deeper statement of any kind. Perhaps you ought to write to your parents to set the record straight, as well. Of course, we know that the first two really were harmless fantasy. But I'm told that this third one lays out a bald statement which ought never have been allowed in print.


Only do tell me you've already returned your copy, or better still, thought to send it to your mother at MLE your own self.

Oh, and if you've any ideas of what you'd like for Christmas, do send them along.

Your loving,

Aunt Narcissa



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2013-12-02 02:53:22](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, it's been a very busy term, with O.W.L.s and all.

I'm sorry to hear that the third book isn't going to come out, now. But I can honestly say I haven't read it. I never got a delivery.

I suppose that means we'll never know what happened to Amaranth.

Have you asked Mummy? Maybe they didn't send it to school. Or they decided not to give me one, after all.

From,
Hydra

2013-12-01 20:48:00

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Excuse me, but Ron says he passed along my book to you.




I need to get it back, because MLE is coming, I guess -- they want all the copies. Because it's been banned.

 [alt_ginny](#)

Do you want to give it to me so I can give it to them, or should I tell them to come to you?



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-02 03:02:47**
(no subject)

Yeah.


I'm not surprised that it's banned.

The bit that I read was really off, and I thought it wasn't safe for other people to read, so I burned it yesterday.

I was going to tell Ron that he was right, it was a bit fishy like he thought, but I figured you'd be hacked off at him, so I was going to wait until Wednesday, cause that's when you wanted it back by.

I kept the burned bits and the cover, just in case. You can tell them to talk to me if they want to know what happened.



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2013-12-02 03:04:02**
(no subject)

Did you REALLY

Okay.

I'll tell them to talk to you.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-12-02 03:05:59](#)
(no subject)


Also I'd like to talk to you. Soon. If possible.

Because I want to explain in person that I only had the book because it was sent to me by my old editor. And I think it would be better to discuss that in person. Instead of over the journals.

Okay?

I mean right now I should probably stay here in case MLE is coming but maybe tomorrow?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:09:29](#)
(no subject)


Okay.

Yeah, tomorrow probably is better.

Ron did the right thing, bringing it to me.

And I know you gave it to him so you could wait to read it, so you couldn't have known it was off.

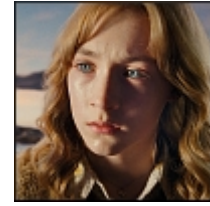


 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-02 03:13:19](#)
(no subject)

For what it's worth, I'm sorry.

2013-12-01 22:00:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Pure Victory



 [alt_hydra](#)

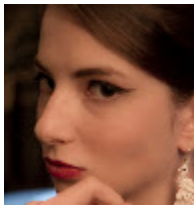
Does anyone know if Ginny still has her copy of *Pure Victory*?

Aunt Narcissa just wrote to tell me it's to be banned. She thought I had a copy already but I never got one. I mean, I was supposed to get a copy, according to her.

But I didn't.

If she has hers, maybe we could *pretend* that we'd destroyed it and really keep it?

I'd very much like to read it, especially to know why it was banned.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-02 04:05:21**
(no subject)


Well AS IT HAPPENS Ginny had given it to Ron.

So we told her that Ron gave it to Harry because it seemed 'off' and then Harry burnt it. And there's ashes and the cover all ready for MLE, if they come calling (and it sounds like they will). But the book's fine. Harry has it. I've been trying to get him to lend it to me, although I know Hermione also wants it and if she doesn't get it tonight she'll be waiting a long time while everyone passes it around.

Anyway it's fine.

Why do you suppose you were supposed to get a copy? Ginny got hers from a friend at Purest Sparkle.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2013-12-02 04:18:14**
(no subject)

I don't know. Aunt Narcissa said her publisher had a list of people who were meant to get copies. She mentioned 'quotes' so maybe the publisher was trying to get prominent people to read it? And she

knows I was a fan of the first two.

So perhaps the publisher thought if Bellatrix Lestrange's daughter liked the book, they wouldn't dare not publish it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-12-02 04:22:15](#)
(no subject)

But maybe the publisher decided better not, at the last minute.

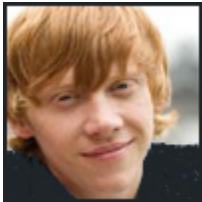
Or...


Oh. I have a feeling I know why I didn't get it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 04:39:34](#)
(no subject)

What do you think happened?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-02 04:35:40](#)
(no subject)

Honestly. You should just all go off somewhere and read it to each other.

Then you could stop moaning about how you want to know whether Amawhosit ends up with- never mind.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-02 05:46:02](#)
(no subject)

You know that's not a bad idea.

There are LOADS of people who were waiting for this book. We could do a galleon meeting, and read it aloud. At least to the people who want to hear it.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-02 05:37:52](#)**
(no subject)

I have to read enough of it to be able to say why I'd decide to burn it, and I haven't read any of the other books, and I don't read fast, so yeah.

2013-12-02 18:01:00

ORDER ONLY

I just wanted to let the Order know that we talked to Cedric on Saturday. We showed him Hermione's wand, and he sort of looked a bit gobsmacked and then said that he thought we might've been involved in something bigger than just Umbridge.



 [alt_harry](#)

We asked him why he was working with Professor Dolohov. He said it was mostly because he offered him a job that got him out of the house, and he thought it'd help him get good connections, but that it was practical rather than because he's keen on the subject. And we also asked him about what he thought about the Protectorate, and muggleborns, and he said that he didn't want to just put a new person in charge and keep everything the way that it was, but he wanted people to be judged by what they did not who they knew. And that the current system was wrong, and the official line on muggleborns and muggles was wrong too. He was still sort of figuring out what he thought about that, but he said he'd been thinking about it a lot since this summer, and that if there was going to be a revolution, he wanted things to change.

Anyways. We haven't told him anything about the Order yet, but now that he knows there's something bigger out there to be a part of, he wants to be a part of it. Which is what I thought he'd say.

So. What should we tell him next? Mrs Longbottom, Sirius, he can leave school over weekends and things if you want him to come and talk to you or something.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-03 02:18:39**

ISS business

The person that came from MLE today just sort of walked up to me at breakfast and asked about the book, and when I said I'd read a little bit of it and thought it was traitorous so I burned it, he seemed fine with it. He didn't even ask to look at the ashes or anything.

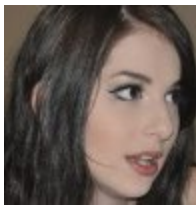
And I talked to Ginny today, and Sally-Anne was right -- she didn't believe I'd burned the book, and wanted it back.

I said I thought it was important to find out why it was banned, and

that there might only be the one copy left if they'd been destroying them, and she said that we ought to read it aloud then, so lots of people would get to find out about it all at once and that way we could talk about it too.

And she also said that the galleon people would probably all be interested, but that she knew loads of other people who were dying to read it, and we might find out a way to include them too.

Anyways. What do you all think?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-03 02:36:05](#)

Re: ISS business

Yes.

I think that's an excellent idea. We can tell the galleon holders to spread the word. But we shouldn't meet in the secret room, in that case. We'll need somewhere else, and Mr Snape and the Headmistress will need to just make sure not to catch any of us.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-03 03:54:42](#)

Re: ISS business

We could make sure Daphs could be there.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-03 02:37:12](#)

Re: ISS business

Well, you know what I think. I think it's a brilliant idea.

So long as you don't give it back to her before tomorrow night. I'm on chapter six. (Sorry, Sally-Anne and Hydra, I just figured that even if you lot read it aloud, I won't be there and then Ginny will take it back and, well, I won't spoil it for you. So don't ask.)



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-12-03 02:40:41](#)


Re: ISS business

Oh, yes, let's. Please.

I was meant to get a copy, according to my Aunt Narcissa. I think perhaps they must have sent it to St James and Mummy probably decided not to let me have it until I got home.

So I would very much like to have it read.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-03 03:58:48](#)

(no subject)

Good to hear, Harry.

Poppy, Pomona, might you be able to meet with him? I'd rather not sit on this too long, and Pomona, you've worked with him a great deal and would be able to read him best.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2013-12-03 14:20:52](#)

(no subject)

Of course. I'm scarcely unbiased, mind. And it might be a day or three before we can make our schedules line up.

Poppy, let me have a word with him and see when he's free, and then I'll let you know.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-03 15:08:39](#)

(no subject)

Of course. I'm certain it will be an interesting conversation.

I assume that we will Obliviate him if all does not go as planned. I wonder if Albus or Severus might make themselves available for that should it be needed.

[2013-12-02 20:38:00](#)

Private message to Padma




 [alt_seamus](#)

So rumour has it not only did they ban Pure Victory and confiscate all the copies (apparently the Weaslette gave hers to Marvolo to burn -- quite the gesture) I heard the author's been arrested for sedition. That wasn't in the paper, I heard it from Demelza Robins; her mum's friends with the author's cousin. Or maybe she's her neighbor. Something like that.

What on earth? I mean those first two books were utterly silly, what on earth could she have put in that was bad enough to get arrested?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-03 03:23:47](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, Desai knew something about it before those Enforcers showed up this morning, because of her mum. Or maybe her aunt. Either one, really. Did you see they left with another copy? I didn't catch whose it was.


I only read the first one because everyone was going on and on about how good it was. ~~And then I read the second one because I couldn't put the first one down~~ I mean, they were okay. Silly's a good word, it was so unrealistic.

But Lakshmi (Desai, that is) said there's all this stuff starting about chapter three, of the new one, where Amaranth and the others are given code names and told that they're only going to know how to contact a handful of people, so that if they're caught they can't tell the authorities all about the whole organisation. And supposedly there's a section where that Irish bloke whose name I can never spell correctly, he writes up leaflets and the group magically transport them into every kitchen in the kingdom.

She said that her mum said Auror Lestrage was *positively livid* when she saw that part. Did you know that Auror Lestrage herself is the one who called the ban? Desai told me that one of those advance copies was for Hydra Lestrage but her mother received it instead. And she flipped through and almost immediately found one of those passages.

She found out the author's real name (because I mean, obviously, that's a pseudonym, right? Who would be daft enough to write *Drivel* like that in their real name?) and had her arrested practically by supertime that same day.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:25:52](#)**
(no subject)

Uh. I would not want to be on the wrong side of Auror LeStrange.

What was she thinking? Did she really think she'd get away with it? I mean do you suppose she was just trying to tell an exciting story?



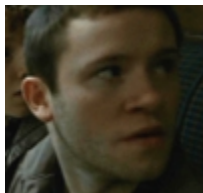
 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:33:59](#)**
(no subject)

I think she thought she'd just bat her eyes and tell everyone it was just a story. And I think they were sending round all those copies so important people would talk about how much they loved it and then

MLE would think it was all right and not notice.

But yeah, it's probably the most ridiculous plan I've ever heard.

Except for the plan Desai said was in the book. If you can believe this, that Irish bloke--Cucullain, is that it?--he writes something that they manage to get sent round to America. And then the American wizards all flood into the country and take over. I mean, how completely Squib is that?



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:36:00](#)**
(no subject)

Huh.

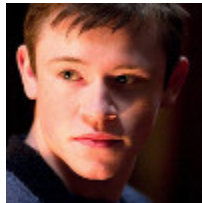
Do you think the Aurors are worried about someone trying that? I mean, they'd have to get the wards down...



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-03 03:38:08](#)
(no subject)

But they can't. Right? Not after ~~that spell you~~ last Solstice. I mean, the wards are stronger than ever now.

Though it's kind of funny to think about loads of American wizards all sitting on brooms all around the borders and bouncing off the warding.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-03 03:42:42](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, there's no way.


Although Mr



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-03 03:36:59](#)
(no subject)

And it's Cúchulainn in the books but there are loads of different spellings.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-03 03:39:08](#)
(no subject)

Well, fine. Him. The one who's supposed to be a legend from Irish mythology, reincarnated. Or whatever, I wasn't paying much attention to him because he seemed so impressed with his own

hair.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-03 03:45:01](#)
(no subject)

Well, he was supposed to be an utterly brilliant and persuasive writer but the times you got to see what he'd written, he sounded a bit like Astra Morganstern. Or like Amaranth. I mean, I was willing to just go with it, you know, because the rest was pretty exciting, but --

hmm

I was going to quote this one bit that was particularly stupid but I suppose I don't really want to get it out of my trunk. Do you know if the other two are going to get banned? Even if they aren't I probably don't want to be seen reading them.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:54:50](#)**

(no subject)

I think if they were planning to ban them, the Enforcer would have asked for all the others this morning.

Or maybe they've decided they want to review them more carefully first.

It doesn't matter, anyway. We agree he's a stupid character. And I didn't like the way he kept trying to flirt with Amaranth, it was sort of creepy.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:56:53](#)**

(no subject)

Well yeah, given that she's supposed to be fifteen and he's fifty? (Okay, actually, I don't think the books ever said how old he was. But he was a grownup and Amaranth is a

teenager.)



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-03 03:26:25](#)**

(no subject)

No idea who had the other copy?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-03 03:36:22](#)
(no subject)

No. I think it was a Gryffindor, you'd have had a better chance to see than I had.

Maybe it was Vivian Harkiss?




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-03 03:39:35](#)
(no subject)

Harkiss? From her mum, I suppose.

I'm a little annoyed I won't find out what happened. I mean it makes sense they wouldn't want mad idiots to read it but they could let you read it, or me, we're not going to say, 'code names! brilliant idea! let's revolt!' you know?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-03 03:40:42](#)
(no subject)

Oh, don't be silly. This way you can write your own ending. You could even decide that Phoebus and Efrain wind up together, and Amaranth dies, if you liked.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-03 03:46:00](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Amaranth doesn't have to DIE. She can go off and be angstful on a mountaintop on the rain or some such. Phoebus and Efrain can live happily ever after.

[2013-12-03 10:59:00](#)

(no subject)

It's sort of hard to believe that we're only two and a half weeks away from Christmas hols. I still haven't sorted out shopping. I guess that's what Hogsmeade is for.



 **[alt_harry](#)**

Linus, Draco and me were talking about adding some more meetings before hols to get as much done as we could on our Noble Arts project before having to go home. I figure your schedule is pretty busy, so you can let us know when you're free and we'll go from there. I'm hoping we can put together a reading list for over hols, too.

The Defence revision sessions have been going really well, I think we'll keep them up for the next two Sundays at least and see whether people would be interested in picking up again after Christmas. And anyone who wants to can come. And it's been really great to pick up the Duelling club again this term, too. I wish I had more time for Quidditch Club stuff, but I guess that's easier to pull off in the summer anyways, when people aren't getting ready for matches.



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-03 19:49:51](#)**

Private Message to Mr Barkwith

Are the tutors going to be ready for the people whose names I sent along? Just checking. I wanted to send them all a note letting them know they'll have access to one over hols, so they could write them and set up their schedules and things.

Thanks for getting that together.

-Harry Marvolo



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-03 19:50:43](#)**


Private Message to Cedric

Hey.

Thanks for talking over the weekend.

We'll talk more soon.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-04 01:22:43](#)

Re: Private Message to Cedric

I appreciated it very much.

~~An adult
Just you lot or someone else?~~

~~Thank you. for trusting me~~



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-03 19:52:57](#)

ORDER ONLY

Mr Snape, Headmistress McGonagall, we're thinking of holding a reading for the Pure Hunger book thing on Saturday night. I'm thinking we could have it in the Defence classroom, cause that might be big enough. Does that work for everyone?

Could you make sure we don't get caught? We'll have enough prefects there to keep an eye out, but it'd be good if you could too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-03 21:48:07](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Does Professor Lestrage have something going on that'll keep him out of the way? Because it is HIS CLASSROOM. It would be rather suspicious if Mr Snape had to keep him out of it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-04 01:18:16](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

We could always meet in the transfig classroom instead. That'd be easier.

2013-12-03 22:31:00

Private Message to Lav

If my favourite and most incomparable Gryffindor is awake and would step outside her Common Room for a moment, I have got a piece of chocolate for you. One of our third-years received a package from home this evening, and she gave me several. I believe she was suffused with gratitude over a bit of assistance offered when she was making some tricky class selection decisions some time ago. It is so gratifying to see the young being so appreciative of the guidance of their Prefects and elders. In any case, I think you will quite enjoy it: a bit of lovely chocolate cunningly shaped into the likeness of a Galleon.



 [alt_linus](#)

The student in question said they are some sort of tradition, no doubt harking back to wherever her family is from, rather like those Mummings Plays and the Weasleys and all. The Protectorate does have a wealth of quaint customs in its odd corners, doesn't it? Some of them are quite charming, and this one is, I must say, scrumptious. She put a few out for the general populace in the Ravenclaw Common Room this evening, and they've all been snaffled up, but I've saved one of the ones she gave me, and will bring it to you directly if you but say the word, fair damsel.

2013-12-04 18:45:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Testing, testing, 1, 2, 3

Did I do the code all right, Mrs L?



 [alt_frank](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-05 02:48:12](#)

(no subject)

Yes. That should do. And can you both read this reply, Colin?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-05 02:49:14](#)

(no subject)

Yes. Looks like.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-05 02:49:57](#)

Private Message to Frank

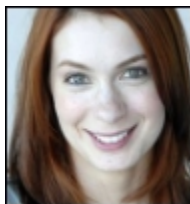
And now?




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-05 02:51:23](#)

(no subject)

Right, just like we thought. He can read the one you wrote below, and I can't.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-05 02:52:04](#)

(no subject)

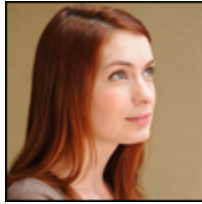
All right, then.


Nicely done.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-05 02:54:47](#)**
(no subject)

I mean above. Of course. I thought it'd be below.
Sorry sorry.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-05 02:56:01](#)**
(no subject)

It takes a bit of getting used to, but you'll get the
hang of things quick enough.

The most important thing is getting the lock
right, and doing it right each and every time.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-05 02:56:25](#)**
(no subject)

Yes ma'am.

2013-12-04 19:40:00

(no subject)

We have a copy of Pure Victory! Read-aloud Sat
7 pm, Transfig classroom. Bring something to sit
on and



 **alt_galleon**

2013-12-04 19:42:00

(no subject)

...if you want to invite TRUSTWORTHY friends
who want to hear it, you can bring them.
Trustworthy only! No tattletales! Transfig 7 pm
Sat.



 [alt_galleon](#)

2013-12-04 21:29:00

Order Only

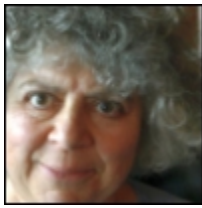
It's my great pleasure to actually get to announce one of these, and for one of my own badgers, too.



 [alt_pomona](#)

Poppy and I had a very pleasant and helpful conversation with Mr Diggory and Albus took his oath a few minutes ago. Mr Diggory - Cedric - I'm sure it'll take you some time to catch up with everything, but do feel free to ask questions. And you'll be able to talk more easily and privately with a number of others now.

Many welcomes, really.



 [alt_pomona](#) at **2013-12-05 02:40:27**

Private message to Alice and Poppy

Alice, dear -

Poppy and I weren't quite sure about going ahead, but when we asked one of the elves, Minerva couldn't get free, it sounded like. I hope you don't think we overstepped, but really, no one seemed to have objections other than the concerns we'd already discussed about his work.

Poppy and I (and Albus) were all quite satisfied with his answers in the end. I rather thought it better to have his oath and commitment before he started work tomorrow. Easier on him, and less fussing. (Well, you know how we are, the sett, we're better when our commitments are clear to us.)

Alice, I don't think he'll think to tell you himself while he's sorting it all out, but he's under no magical compulsion to loyalty or anything like that, just been given clear instructions that some private correspondence is to stay entirely private. (Not unreasonable, really.) Also quite definite this is something he sees as a temporary position, until he can take his NEWTs and figure out how far his recovery will stretch.

I believe Poppy has more comments on that, but the short answer is that you shouldn't count on him for anything involving exertion or stamina for a good while yet, though he is improving.

Oh. And Albus was not exactly forthcoming about anything (blasted man) but at least amiable about helping here. Make of that what you will.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-05 03:25:55**


Re: Private message to Alice and Poppy

Well done, both of you. From what I know about him, he seems like a good, solid person. Neville and Evelyn both had nothing but the best to say in terms of his character, and I have faith in your judgment on the matter.

Thank you so much for taking this in hand. I'm just glad Albus was available and willing.

I know Harry's been having his eye on this for a while, and I can see how it might benefit them both to be able to work more closely together.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2013-12-05 05:50:19**

Re: Private message to Alice and Poppy

I was, indeed, quite satisfied with the conversation we had with Mr Diggory. He's plainspoken and direct, which is a pleasant change from all the guarded, subtle characters one seems to have to deal with most of the time in this wretched Protectorate. I do not, of course, mean that Mr Diggory is not careful to keep his own counsel, but his lack of nuance was refreshing.

I remain concerned about his entanglement with Antonin Dolohov, as much for his health's sake as for his safety or ours. It is, undeniably, an opportunity for us to have a pair of eyes looking over that man's shoulder, though it will take some cultivating before we could ask the boy to be more than a passive spy for us.

His recovery is still a work in progress, so Pomona is quite right that we must not imagine him a candidate for physical tasks yet.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2013-12-05 02:45:07](#)**


Private message to Minerva and Poppy

Minerva, we did think to send an elf to check in with you, but it sounded like you couldn't get free. (Something about a follow up about that book? Anyway, we didn't want to disturb.)

He, ah, he was a bit surprised when we told him about you, so if you can find some excuse to chat with him in private in the coming days, it might do you both some good.

And if there's anything we can answer, I'm glad to, and I'm sure Poppy will chime in, too.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2013-12-05 03:46:53](#)**

Re: Private message to Minerva and Poppy

I trust you're not being dragged over the coals for the presence of those books here. As if you could have done a thing to stop their being sent to a student by a parent!

In any case, we thought it better not to wait once we'd burdened Mr Diggory with our secrets. And Albus was to hand, so we imposed on him for the oath.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-05 03:27:59](#)**

(no subject)

Good to hear, Professor Sprout.

Thanks.

And welcome to the Order, Ced.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-05 03:38:30](#)**

(no subject)

Very good news.

Welcome, Cedric. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you better.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-05 03:39:38](#)
(no subject)

Welcome, Cedric.

And, um, Colin Creevey? Did he also get sworn in? I saw Mrs Longbottom wrote him a PM. And Mr Longbottom.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-05 03:54:21](#)
(no subject)

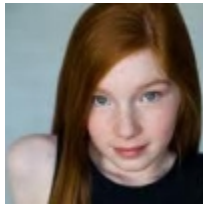
I swore him in this afternoon. We were just testing to see if it would work to have him writing in Frank's journal.

They both are working through how best to approach this, as Colin's never taken dictation before and Frank isn't one for dictating, really, and there's distinguishing Frank's words from Colin's too, but I'm sure they'll get it sorted out by tomorrow.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-05 04:34:02](#)
(no subject)

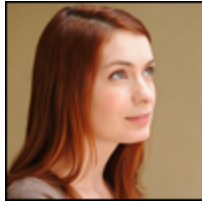
That's very good to hear.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-05 04:38:28](#)
Private Message to Mum

I'm sorry I was so cross earlier.

There's nothing that needs forgiving. You did what you had to do, and I understand why you did it that way.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-05 04:40:39**

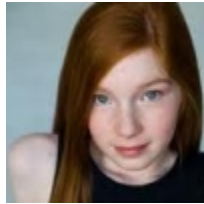
Re: Private Message to Mum


Oh, lovie.

I know when I've bungled things, and that was one of them.

Thank you for being gracious about it.

I know how much you're looking forward to talking with your father, and in a few weeks, you'll be able to see him face to face again too.




 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2013-12-05 04:41:44**

Re: Private Message to Mum

And I'll get to see you too. Which I am also very much looking forward to.



 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2013-12-05 03:41:32**


(no subject)

Thank you. I look forward to meeting some of you, honestly meeting some others and getting to talk to people without dancing around topics will be greatly appreciated.

I see I have a great deal more reading to do now. I think I may need to delay massive reading otherwise someone might wonder why I'm sitting in the library all evening reading my journal rather than revising or looking tired the next day after staying up too late.

There are so many surprises just in the little bit of reading I've been able to do and who I met today.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2013-12-05 03:52:21**

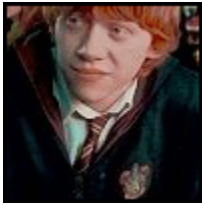
(no subject)


Cedric,

Welcome. I say, it's good to have you on the side!

As each of us have discovered, there are more than a few 'surprises' within the Order's posts and comments--and some are sure to be downright shocks. It's jolly well easy to be overwhelmed. But everyone is also quite understanding of that, what.

-F-F



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-05 04:08:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Ask them questions.

They don't mind. Too much.

Glad you're here, mate.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-05 04:34:53](#)
(no subject)


I'm glad you're here too.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-05 05:56:47](#)
(no subject)

It's absolutely spiffing that you're here! We'll be sure to fire off some rockets at the first opportunity in your honour.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-05 05:50:56](#)
(no subject)

There'll be lots of them. You'll sort it out, but it'll take time.


Welcome to the Order.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2013-12-05 05:54:13](#)**
(no subject)


Welcome, Cedric. I know Arthur would have been just as happy to see you join as I am.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2013-12-05 05:55:52](#)**
(no subject)

I'm very happy you've joined us.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2013-12-05 06:00:09](#)**
(no subject)

Welcome. You know about Hermione's wand. I have one, too.


I don't go by boot anymore. I'm Terry.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2013-12-05 05:51:24](#)**
(no subject)

Welcome, son.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-05 21:42:37](#)**
Private Message to Professor Sprout

It's wonderful to be able to write like this with the knowledge that someone isn't reading over my shoulder.

I didn't expect to run into ethical issues so quickly. If I had taken my current job with the intention to spy, I would feel differently however that isn't the case. At the time I told Professor Dolohov I wouldn't gab, I really meant it.

I did more reading than I really planned last night. Your group was responsible for the magical mystery at Saltash, correct? He's investigating it. Intensely. At this time I don't know any significant details other than who he's communicating with about it. Obviously if

he told me he was about to go bust it open and lead an attack I would scream on the lock at the first moment I could, but reporting on his progress... I don't know how I feel.



 **[alt_pomona](#) at 2013-12-05 22:09:21**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sprout

It is so good to be able to talk honestly, isn't it? I resisted the journals entire for years, and there are still times I wonder, but this - well. Makes up for a lot.

I respect your commitment to your word, and I'm quite sure Alice will understand too. She's been very careful about some of the competing loyalties of others in the Order, and I expect she'll be the same for you. (And Minerva will understand for her own reasons, I think, but doesn't come at it like one of the sett does.)

But briefly, yes, we were, or rather Albus and Frank were. (You've read enough to understand the cost, I hope.) I'm inclined to think that warning if they try to break it is substantailly more than we'd have had before, and a quite generous offer on your part, but Alice can sort that out handily.

You're all right though? Rather a shock, really, to find out all of this, and what we've been keeping from so many people. You'll find more as you go back. There are some exceptionally sticky parts from, oh, about January of this year back through the previous November, that I'd recommend you save for the weekend.

Do feel you can ask me more at any time, really. Which, speaking off, you're in such an odd place this year, neither student or staff. If you'd rather be formal, that's quite all right, but I'm just as happy if you use my first name. And if you'd rather one or the other yourself, just say so.




 **[alt_jeremy](#) at 2013-12-06 02:28:13**

(no subject)

From one new member to another, welcome to the side.

Also a welcome goes to Colin, yeah?

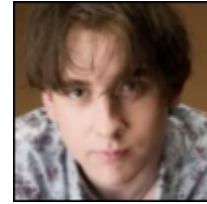


 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-06 03:35:01](#)**
(no subject)

(Ta!)

2013-12-04 22:38:00

Order Only: Private message to Frank Longbottom and Colin Creevey



 **alt_neville**

Hullo, Colin. Thanks for agreeing to do this to help out my Dad.

Hullo, Dad.

(I just realised: I can write a private message to both you and Mum, but then you can't answer. Well, I suppose Mum could reply for you. Or I can write a private message to you and Colin, and you can have Colin reply for you, but Mum can't read it. I reckon eventually we'll figure out the best way to handle things.)

I've mentally started and scratched out this journal entry a bunch of times in my mind. I'm sitting in my dorm room with the curtains drawn round my bed. Dean's down in the Common Room, Seamus is working on an essay, and Ron's already asleep, and I'm thinking of you and wishing I could see you. I dunno why it seems harder to write to you than usual (well, except knowing that Colin's reading it. No offence, Colin, but it'll take a little time getting used to that). But I *don't* want you to think that it's harder to write to you because you can't do magic. Which makes writing to you seem even more important, which ties me up even more trying to write to you.

Which sounds really stupid, when you think about it.

Ev and I have had a couple of days now to absorb the news. Both of us want you to know that we're dead proud of what you did, all those people you saved. I know that you did it knowing you were willing to bear the cost, whatever it was. We're just sorry that cost was so high.

I've been thinking a lot about that, the last couple of days. Counting the cost. A lot of us in the Order have had to face questions like that. Even us still here at school. It's not the same, but I had to give up being in CCF. Some of the kids had to give up being honest with their families (glad mine's all in the Order).

You and Mum had to do that years ago, when you left Evelyn and me up to Gran to raise. It was hard for all of us, even if it was Gran. But when I saw Moddey Dhoo for the first time, I was so glad and so proud of you. Don't see how you could have got the sanctuary up and running if you were trying to protect two little kids while you were on

the run. Seeing Moddey Dhoo and meeting all those kids you've saved made the sacrifice seem worth it. Remembering that makes me trust your judgement on this one, too.

I have more to say about school and all, and stuff going on in the Order, but I'm getting sleepy, so I'll save that for another time.

Love you, Dad. Give my love to Mum, too.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-06 02:33:40](#)

(no subject)

Oh, and also: Colin, I realise I didn't say it before, but congratulations on being formally sworn into the Order.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 03:22:10](#)

(no subject)

(Thanks, mate. I completely understand about your needing to get used to things. I'll do my best to be discreet. And as I've said on Mr Longbottom's journal, it's an honour to do whatever I can.)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 03:44:05](#)

(no subject)

Hey, kid.

Good to hear from you.

There's no easy way to do this sort of thing. It took me a good day and a half to sort out what I was going to say to everyone. Nothing to feel badly about.

Besides, I figure now that we've started, it'll be easier to keep it up. Right?

It's easy to second-guess things after the fact. But the truth is, knowing what it's led to, if I had another chance to re-think things I'd still do what I did again in a heartbeat.

So that makes all of this a little easier to deal with.

The tough part is figuring out what I'm going to do now. But I'm working on that.

2013-12-04 22:53:00

Private Message to D Forney and M Travers



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

F. You're certain you'll have all ten of the Maidstone subjects delivered on Friday as agreed? Without Mulciber's catching wind of it?

Understand they can't be pulled until after the noon feeding. What time can we expect them at NL82? Four o'clock? Half-four? Later?

Need you to be specific. With a range if you can't make an absolute guarantee.

T. Trust you to bait Maule. Bella and I will be ready.

2013-12-04 23:16:00

Private Message to L Malfoy

L. Have confirmation from Forney re. Maidstone. Bait for trap to be delivered Friday late afternoon.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Bella, Mord & I ready to spring as soon as all parties arrive.

Could give you further detail in the morning. Breakfast with Pennifold at Cabochon, half-six. Join us if you want.

2013-12-05 19:14:00

ORDER ONLY



 [alt_frank](#)

Right. So this is probably going to be rough until we get the hang of it, but it's better than what we had. Bloody awkward to be doing this through dictation. Bloody awkward isn't the half of it. You don't have to oh never mind it's fine. We'll just have to work on it a bit.

I'm still kicking, and I figure we've got too much going on to sit on my thumbs.

I've been working more with Fu lately, sorting out strategies of fighting in null fields versus active magical areas and what that looks like. There's also the notion of what Saltash can do from inside the field, and whether it'd be effective at all. Guns are a thought, but ammo is a challenge. The bullets that've already been made are probably too old and unstable to use, and the bullets or shot I think they're different things but not sure how anyways the ammo we'd make ourselves would only work for certain kinds of guns, and they'd have a limited number of rounds, and getting our hands on the guns themselves would be tricky. We're also talking cross bows. He can make those, but it takes time. Maybe there's a museum somewhere that has that sort of stuff lying around?

Poppy, Severus, thanks for your help with the potions. Now that Fu and me have Colin, we've been thinking through what we can do and where. Should I steer clear of Saltash, or do you think it'll make much difference? Other than the obvious security risk of getting in, I mean.

Tonks, when are we meeting up again ~~so I can kick your just cross that~~ so I can try some of these weapons out? How are the slowdown camps coming along? Get a chance to smuggle anyone out yet? I know there isn't much to be done on this end of things, but I can head over to Sherwood and work on some logistics. Just say the word.

Anyways. I just wanted to let you lot know that I'm a stubborn bastard, yes, it's all right, I meant it, and it'll take a hell of a lot more than this to take me out of the fight.

We'll get this dictation sorted out. Looking forward to working with you, kiddo. (Oh. Apologies. That last bit was directed to me. -CC.)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 03:18:54](#)
(no subject)

(Hello hello, this is Colin Creevey, writing on Mr Longbottom's behalf. I'm the quill pusher and people mover. Sort of a butler and chauffeur combined, hey? I've been properly sworn in and everything, and I just wanted to take a moment to let you all know that it is a great honour to be a member of this organisation, and to give back a little to people who've given me so much. Anyways, it's not my job to extemporise on at length, it's to write what Mr Longbottom wants to say to you. Things work the way they ought, I'll stick in the background of things unless you want to talk directly to me, in which case, I'll answer. If you want to write Mr Longbottom a private message that he can reply to, we figure you'll have to add my name to the address. If you want to write him a message that's truly private, which I'd completely understand, you can leave me off. He'll be able to read it, but replying to it might be tricky and will probably involve sending along an owl. Truly happy to be of help. -CC)




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-06 04:13:26](#)
(no subject)

Entirely pleased to have you with us, Mr Creevey.

Have you continued with the botanical drawings? Or have you shifted to something else? I look forward to seeing as much as you'll share when I'm next at Moddey.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 04:49:47](#)
(no subject)

I'm trying my hand at portraits now, Madame P, but they're a great deal harder than plants. Especially shading. And noses.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 04:55:36](#)
(no subject)

(Sorry sorry, meant to keep up with parentheses. I mean, you knew it was me well enough, but I can see how it'd get downright confusing if I don't.)



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-06 04:19:28](#)
(no subject)

Frank, given that our medicinals have offered precious little in the way of help and given that you have acquiesced to all of my instructions, I would say we've come to the point where you may make your own judicious decisions about what to do. If you wish to go to Saltash, then by all means exercise due caution in getting there, but I won't oppose it on health grounds.

I'm very glad to see you making plans and taking decisions.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 04:52:00](#)
(no subject)

Good to hear.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-06 04:27:19](#)
(no subject)

I thought I'd come your way on Saturday if that's all right. I'll come tomorrow, though, if you're thinking of heading off to Saltash this weekend.

As for the camps, we've not managed to get anyone out yet, but I think we're coming close to being able to stage some 'deaths'. I believe I'll see if Charlie or Remus would like to come with me to have a look this week.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 04:54:08](#)
(no subject)

Saturday's fine. Saltash can wait until Sunday.

And you let me know if there's anything I can do to help you out.




 **alt_charlie** at [2013-12-06 13:37:37](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm up for it. Anything I can use to distract myself from

Good to see you up and about, Frank.



 **alt_evelyn** at [2013-12-06 08:17:22](#)
Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey

Hello, dad.

(Hello, Colin.)

This is very odd.

Colin doesn't write like you do, he uses punctuation and everything and his handwriting's much better, but I can almost hear you standing there talking to me, which is lovely.

I can't wait until Christmas hols, when we'll get a chance to see you up and about properly.

I know you've been reading up on things, but it's very exciting about our getting together and reading the banned book on Saturday. I'm nervous and excited all at the same time, because it's a book I very much want to read, and we're slowly spreading the word, but have no idea how many people will actually show. I think it'll be quite a few.

I'm also going to start up the Tea I was telling you about. I'm sending out invites during hols. Lunes was talking about how the invite the girls in her Tea made for her was so clever and funny, and I'm not really good at that sort of thing, but I'm hoping to make it properly mysterious just to make people interested enough to show up. I'm sort of nervous it won't work out, and no-one will want to come, or once they find out I've done the inviting they won't want to be a part of it. But we'll see. I figure it's far better to try for it and have it not work than just sit around and not do anything.

See, I figure there aren't nearly enough people in my year and below who we know and trust well enough to ask to join things like the galleons, and this is one way to start. And even if it doesn't end up

working out like that, just getting together some girls from different houses to meet and have tea sounds like it could be fun just by itself. At least it always sounded that way when the older girls talked about their Tea.

So here's hoping.

Artie's on the galleons now. And he's been walking me to all my classes. Nev's probably told you as much, but anyways, I wanted you to know that he's a good sort of person, and I hope you'll have the chance to meet him some day.

Tell Mrs Perks that I hope her projects are going well next time you see her.



 **alt_frank** at [2013-12-06 16:11:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey

(Hello hello. Sorry about all this intermediary stuff. I know this is awkward for you, but I'm just the quill. Don't pay me any mind.)



 **alt_frank** at [2013-12-06 17:32:44](#)

Re: Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey

You're being quite the night owl, Evie.

I think the book idea is a great one, and I hope you lot get a good turnout. If Harry's the one spearheading it, that packs a pretty powerful punch, and it's good he's stepping up like that.

As far as the Tea goes, I think that sounds pretty great too. Don't worry about over thinking things. If it works out, you've made some new friends. If it doesn't, you've given it a good honest try, and might try again with a younger group who'll be more likely to get on board. And Evie, you're worth knowing. Trust me on this. The sort of people who look at your last name and don't look any further are missing out, and aren't worth your time.

Seems like your Mr Ross knows as much. You just need to know it yourself.

Make sure you're getting enough sleep, sweet heart.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 17:32:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey

Oh! I nearly forgot. When Celia got your letter with your maps and things, she flipped through them a bit and said, 'Hm. Well, now that's something I hadn't thought of.' She's still sorting everything out, and might need some help from us later, but you're certainly clever enough to give someone like her an idea they wouldn't have had otherwise. I'm sure those invites will be brilliant.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 15:10:05](#)

(no subject)

I've gained an immense respect for Fu in the past couple of months, thanks to my own private talks with him. It was one of the best gambles the Order ever took, to add him and Regina to the Sanctuary staff.

The man's a veritable fountain of ideas, and no doubt he'll find something dead useful for the two of you to work on to harness your energy.

Frank, it's good to have your voice back among us. (Thanks, Colin, for your assistance. Welcome to the Order.)



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 15:11:59](#)

(no subject)

I'll be interested to consult with you about some of your ideas. Caradoc, Dorcas and I are at Sherwood today, but we can come by this weekend to sit down with the two of you to thrash out some thoughts if you

like.

Good to have you back, Frank.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 17:31:37](#)

(no subject)

Good to be back. Saturday would be best -- Tonks can sit in too.

2013-12-05 22:29:00

Private Message to B Crouch, Jr

Tomorrow.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

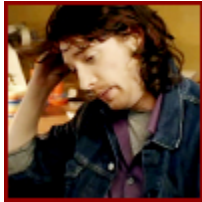
2013-12-05 22:56:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

You still up?



 [alt_rachel](#)




 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-06 05:00:43**

(no subject)

I am. I brought work home from the office and am eying the last stack of reports with loathing. What's on your mind?



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-12-06 05:04:01**

(no subject)

Just one of those evenings when I have too much energy and nothing to do with it.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-06 05:05:25**

(no subject)

I have a goat shed you could muck out.

Doubtless not the sort of thing you're looking for, though.




 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-12-06 05:06:48**

(no subject)

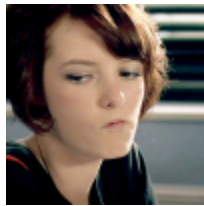
That is a weirdly tempting offer!




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:10:29](#)
(no subject)

If you took me up on it, you probably wouldn't try it twice.

It can certainly be entertaining at times. Fail to pay attention and the goat tries to eat part of your clothing.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:12:32](#)
(no subject)

I have this lovely knitted hat my mum sent me last week. Perhaps a goat would like it for a late-night snack.

(It's hideous. She has this friend who knits for money, you know, and she likes to buy things from her because she NEEDS the money. Only none of it's at all to my taste. This hat looks rather like a strawberry, for instance. All the better for snacking on, right?)




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:22:30](#)
(no subject)

My Mum knits, too. She always gives us knitted jumpers for Christmas, and she made all the afghans around our house on the sofas.


Rather nice of your Mum, helping out her friend anyway, even if it doesn't improve your wardrobe. I'd offer to let you donate it to the goats, but wool isn't really good for their digestion.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:25:29](#)
(no subject)

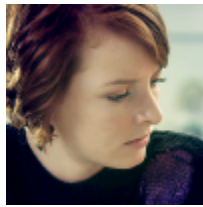
My Mum's a good person. Nicer than most people I know. Never treated




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:31:50](#)
(no subject)

My Mum's the same way, actually. Never known anyone better at looking out for neighbours.

What ways do you figure you're like your Mum? People say I remind them of my Dad all the time, but I get things from Mum, too. She taught me how to squeeze every Knut: I learned everything about bargain shopping from her.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:35:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm really not that much like her. But

Her house is always neat as a pin. You've seen my flat. She sleeps well at night and I'm usually up half the night with insomnia even when I'm not working absurd hours.

She was a Hufflepuff, I was a Ravenclaw. She's a homebody, doesn't much care for excitement. I wouldn't know who I was, if I lived like that.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:39:21](#)
(no subject)

Mothers can surprise you as their situations change. I thought I knew everything about my Mum. But when Dad died, I moved home to be with her, and it feels like quite a different relationship, since I'd been on my own for awhile. She's changing, now that she's a widow, and that's part of it. I've gained a whole new respect for her in the last year.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:40:28](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I just --

Well

Yeah.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:07:49](#)
(no subject)

I like my job a lot. I like the risky bits a lot, too (not too many of those, in MEU, but it does happen). They make me feel alive -- you know? (Maybe you don't know. I'm told normal people

mostly DON'T like that feeling!)

Every now and then it all just catches up with me and it feels like my mind is chasing itself in circles.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:14:53](#)
(no subject)

There are parts of my job I like, too, although I don't have the sorts of day-to-day risk that you do. But I certainly feel I'm making a difference.

But I know exactly what you mean about how the mind can get caught up in things and refuse to let go.

My Dad had the same problem, with his job. The two of us would sometimes deal with it by playing chess late at night when we couldn't sleep. I still play with my brother Charlie, when we get the chance.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:23:42](#)
(no subject)

Chess, hmm. I think when I get like this I'm too wound up to concentrate on something quiet and slow like chess.

Maybe exploding snap.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:26:51](#)
(no subject)


For me, when I'm really wound up, nothing clears the head like a good game of pick up Quidditch with my brothers. We're all mad for it. Dodge Bludgers hit by Fred and George clears the head like nothing else.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:28:51](#)
(no subject)

Oh now QUIDDITCH would be PERFECT, although finding myself a side at almost midnight on a whim would be difficult.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:33:20](#)
(no subject)

My brother Ron has hosted pick up Quidditch days at our home for his friends. Do you have any friends who do that sort of thing?

Harder to do that sort of thing when you live in a flat in New London, I suppose.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:36:50](#)
(no subject)

I do not have NEARLY enough quidditch-playing friends, apparently!




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:31:59](#)
(no subject)

There should be a journal where I could post for a midnight quidditch get-together.


WANTED: 4 beaters, 2 keepers, 5 chasers, and a standard assortment of quidditch equipment. Meet me at midnight, Hampstead Heath. P.S.: I am an attractive young woman, if that sweetens the pot. Not fussy about skill levels, just want a nice, vigorous game.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:32:29](#)
(no subject)

(I suppose that sounds dreadfully conceited.)




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-06 05:35:49](#)
(no subject)

It happens to be true.

I'd respond to something like that, except for these reports.

Oh, bloody hell, I should admit defeat and acknowledge I'm not going to finish these tonight.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-06 05:41:14](#)
(no subject)

I won't keep you from your reports, or your bed.

Thank you for indulging me a bit with conversation. ~~Even if you won't~~

I'll see you tomorrow at the office, most likely.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-06 05:43:20](#)**
(no subject)

I'm glad you checked my willingness to indulge in a little late night conversation. I enjoyed it.

See you tomorrow.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-06 05:10:32](#)**
(no subject)

Do you get that feeling? Where all the things that COULD go wrong (sometime! not even necessarily SOON) kind of fall on you at once?

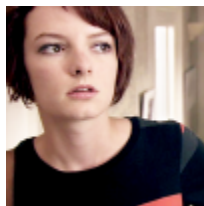
(It's utterly mad. It's not even 'I could fail to be alert, and get killed by someone I'm coming to arrest' that I'm going over in my mind: it's the fact that I lost a scarf the other day so I'm obsessing about losing things. MAD.)



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-06 05:16:36](#)**
(no subject)

I do.

Well, more lately, honestly, with Mulciber looking over my shoulder. He certainly keeps me on my toes.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-06 05:27:11](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. From crucio to birthday firewhiskey, you never, ever know what's going to happen when he demands you stop by his office.

I think he likes it that way.

2013-12-06 00:01:00

Private Message to Barty Crouch

Breakfast was illuminating, Barty, my thanks. As was adding Ned to my sparring session!



 **alt_lucius**

Have cleared calendar for the day after 9:00. Can rendez-vous with your team once trap is sprung.

Heard from source this after-noon that Harkiss has been known to breach protocols re: classified discussion in semi-public venues. Have you had any similar report?

Then again, same source thought Gibbon a potential security risk as well, which is more amusing than concerning.

Your man plans to tip off Maule when, again? And there's no question about the tale he plans to tell to draw him out? You're certain it will compel him to take your bait?

If we can remove M from the board before Christmas it will be a very jolly yuletide indeed.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2013-12-06 13:34:07**

(no subject)

Harkiss. One of these days Bella's going to disassemble Harkiss piece by piece. Yaxley always maintained H had her uses. Has been keeping out Bella's path since Y's demise.

Re. Maule.

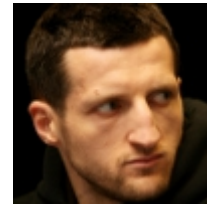
Will notify you as soon as we have signal from Forney.

2013-12-06 11:34:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Weasley. You're to go to Maidstone's main office.

There's a gaggle of muggle girls up in the holding cells. They ought to be staying put. Apparently some of the idiots in the Auror office think they're Auror property rather than Protectorate Affairs property.




 [alt_corax](#)



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-12-06 17:35:51**
(no subject)


Obviously I don't expect you to fend off a pack of Aurors with your wand.



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-12-06 17:37:07**
(no subject)


Fend them off with paperwork. That ought to be easy enough. Whatever the forms are for muggle transfers, they need to be filled out. In the proper colour of ink the appropriate number of times. Correctly. All the i's dotted and the t's crossed.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-06 17:39:21**
(no subject)


Right, bureaucracy. I can do that.
On my way.



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-12-06 17:37:26**
(no subject)

Write me, of course, while they're at it.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-12-06 17:40:21**
(no subject)

Yes, sir, I'll check in.

2013-12-06 12:10:00

Order only: Urgent

I just received a patronus from Bill which said this: Kingsley, you can save ten lives right now if you swallow polyjuice and come immediately with Caradoc and Dorcas to the detention area at this patronus's point of origin at Maidstone. Keep quiet, wands out, but don't hex Auror Lamont when you see her.'



 [alt_kingsley](#)

Another one followed fifteen seconds later which added, 'Just do it. Trust me.'

What in *blazes*?! Molly, what does Bill's hand on the clock say? Is it at Mortal Peril?

Added: Apparating now.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 18:15:56](#)

(no subject)

My goodness.

No, his clock hand is at 'Working.' It's been there since he left.

Who on earth is Auror Lamont?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-06 18:17:25](#)

(no subject)

Presumably an Auror, which is...

interesting.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 18:20:07](#)

(no subject)

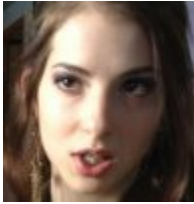
Just received another quick one, begging me to come.

Hell. Caradoc, Dorcas and I are downing Polyjuice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-06 18:24:10](#)
(no subject)

Good luck.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-06 18:18:35](#)
(no subject)

She's his MLE contact. I mean judging from the fact that they PM each other all the time.


Also she's one of the Aurors who came to Hogwarts the other week. She works in MEU, Malfesance Elimination.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 18:23:36](#)
(no subject)

Yes, she is his contact.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 18:24:04](#)
(no subject)

You KNOW this?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 18:24:29](#)
(no subject)

We've met her.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 18:26:49](#)
(no subject)

Boys, I want you to come home now. In case...in case we need to evacuate.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-06 18:59:20](#)**
(no subject)

Well, um. Just so people know. We're going to Herbology because it's about to start.

So let Professor Sprout know if we all need to flee for our lives.

Okay?



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2013-12-06 19:28:38](#)**
(no subject)

Miss Perks, I know it's difficult, but do pay attention to class.

If you need to flee, I will tell you.

Snargaluff pods are quite difficult enough without other distractions.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2013-12-06 18:38:26](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, is SHE the one you were talking about this week?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-06 18:41:11](#)**
(no subject)

Yes.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-06 18:20:04](#)**
(no subject)

Mr Shackbolt, do you need to know what she looks like or anything, or do you think you can work out who you're not supposed to hex? If you go, which -- well -- how good is Bill at resisting the Imperius curse?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 18:21:27](#)
(no subject)

Give me a description.

And no, I have no idea about his response to Imperio. The fact that the clock hand indicates no danger is reassuring. Slightly.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-06 18:23:44](#)
(no subject)

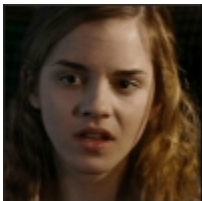
She's young, Bill or Charlie's age. I think she was between them, she did tell us when she was at Hogwarts. Tall and thin. Short hair, reddish-brown but not ginger.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-06 18:22:26](#)
(no subject)

Although if it were a trap -- I mean, if you've been cursed you have to follow orders, so if she'd realised he was in the Order she could have said, 'Send a message to some of your fellows and make them come' but surely she'd have tried for Alice. 'Send a message to the leader of your group and persuade her to come.'

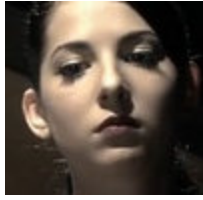
Also she wouldn't say, 'don't hex Auror Lamont' because that would just tip you off. There'd be loads of extra Aurors there and they'd figure they could take you all down. Or something. I mean, unless she's an idiot she wouldn't warn you before you came that she was there.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-06 19:00:19](#)
Private Message to Sally-Anne

Why would an Auror want to save lives, though?

Unless maybe Bill wasn't completely wrong about her. I mean, maybe his instincts weren't all about how fit she is.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-06 19:01:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Maybe he had HER under Imperius, come to think of it.

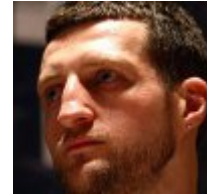
I mean we found out he's been casting Cardinals. That would be a good use of one, you know? At least until it wore off.

2013-12-06 12:59:00

Private message to Bill Weasley


Update, Weasley?

I was expecting to hear from you around now.



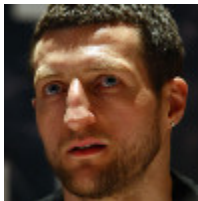
 [alt_corax](#)



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-07 00:08:35**
(no subject)

The Enforcer at St Mungo's told me he would bring you up to speed

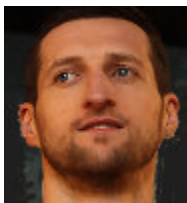
I'm sorry. They hit me from behind, and there wasn't anything I could have done.



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-12-07 00:16:18**
(no subject)

Got the update from the Enforcer, yeah.

Enjoy your weekend.



 [alt_corax](#) at **2013-12-07 00:16:33**
(no subject)

I'll see you Monday.

2013-12-06 13:02:00

Order Only

To the best of my judgement, Bill wasn't under Imperio.



I don't know how it happened, but somehow Bill and Auror Lamont showed up simultaneously at the detention center at Maidstone. There were ten Muggle girls being held from the brothel/game reserve which was recently shut down, and they were supposed to be fetched later today by MLE to use as bait for a trap intended to catch Sebastian Maule. Their survival was not particularly a priority for the people setting the trap.

 [alt_kingsley](#)

Bill was ordered there by Corax Mulciber: apparently, Corax wasn't too inclined to allow MLE to take custody of property under his jurisdiction, and so he sent Bill to gum up the works. Lamont showed up on her own personal mission, I guess, stunned the guard downstairs, came up to the holding area, and found Bill there.

I don't know what the hell they said to each other, but somehow she managed to convince him that she didn't want the girls killed any more than he did. That's when he called me. We couldn't exactly spend much time on introductions and explanations: the guard downstairs could wake up at any time, and we had to get the girls out.

We've provided the evacuation for the girls, and she provided the cover story. Molly, I'm sorry, but the guise is that Maule got wind of the sting, and he sent some goons who attacked Bill and stole the girls away. Bill consented to receive some injuries consistent with the story.

That's it in brief; I wanted to get this up, because I know everyone wanted word.

Bill's hurt, and I am sure Alice will want a piece of his hide, but we managed to evacuate ten prisoners.

And Auror Lamont, according to Bill, is loyal to Dogstar.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-06 19:33:12](#)
(no subject)

She's WHAT

I mean


Bill said

but she

WILLIAM ARTHUR WEASLEY WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU UP TO.


sorry mum



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 19:58:32](#)
(no subject)

Do YOU know about her? What has he told you?!




 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 20:01:24](#)
(no subject)

He'll be questioned! What on earth is he going to say to MLE?!

What if they use veritaserum, or legilimancy?!




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-06 20:02:30](#)
(no subject)

I hope it's convincing enough that they won't see anything suspicious to warrant such close questioning, Molly.

We shall have to see.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-06 20:07:25](#)
Private Message to Kingsley and Sirius

As much as I hate to admit it, if Ms Lamont truly is highly motivated to adequately cover her tracks here, that might be useful for Bill.

Although she is rather cold-blooded in what we've seen of her so far, which makes me wonder whether she'd particularly care one way or the other about whether Bill gets in trouble, and makes me question her interest in these girls as well.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 20:26:18](#)
Re: Private Message to Kingsley and Sirius

Cold-blooded...maybe.

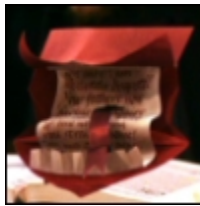
She told him what to expect, positioned him so that he'd fall in the right way. She looked impassive when she did the hits. Not like she enjoyed it, but not as if it tore her up to do it, either.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 20:03:11](#)
(no subject)

Molly, the hope is that it won't come to that.

The injuries will indicate he was blinded and hit from behind and he didn't see anything.



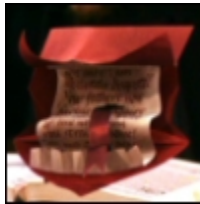
 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 20:03:46](#)
(no subject)

He's BLIND?!



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 20:05:27](#)
(no subject)


Reversible. The hex she It's reversable. Trust me.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 20:07:31](#)
(no subject)

**TRUST YOU! THAT'S WHAT BILL SAID,
AND NOW LOOK WHAT A FIX WE'RE IN!**




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 21:51:55](#)
Private message to Charlie Weasley

We've been in to see him. He's in pain and looks like a wreck, but they're going to release him in a couple of hours.

Mum's still furious. In a sleepy sort of way.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-06 22:01:39](#)
Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I've run out of words, really I have. Sometimes I want to hit him over the head and drag him off somewhere for a nice holiday AWAY FROM ALL THIS AND WITHOUT HIS JOURNAL for a week or two so he CAN'T GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE. FOR AT LEAST A LITTLE WHILE.

I'm finishing up as much as I can here, I'll be along in an hour or two. I'll bring the takeaway, don't let Mum OR Bill near a kitchen.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-07 00:38:08](#)
Private Message to Charlie

She wants to meet him tonight.

Her motives are still extraordinarily unclear to me when it comes to her actions with the Muggle girls

(not typical of Dogstar mentality, which gives me pause)and towards Bill.

This entire situation is

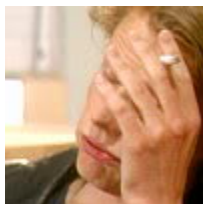
I won't go down that road right now. Nevertheless, given what little we know, everything is monumentally difficult to assess, and as much as I hate to admit to this, I fear that I do not trust Bill to be impartial, nor do I feel as if he'd be safe. He may be deeply compromised -- Kingsley seemed to think not in their brief encounter, but I can't rule it out. If she's leading him by the nose, I want to know about it. And if this Dogstar allegiance is a cover to try and milk him for information before arresting him, I want to be able to put a stop to it.

They're meeting at the Ottery St Catchpole fishing hole at 2 am.

Charlie.

Will you listen in on them? Without Bill knowing you're there?

If he is compromised, knowing someone's watching would make him change his behaviour, and while I strongly dislike the necessity of keeping it hidden from him for now, I believe it's needed in this particular case. I wouldn't ask you to do it otherwise. If you disagree strongly about keeping your observation hidden from him, I'd be willing to listen to your reasoning, but regardless of the method, he shouldn't meet with her unsupervised, and I'm at a loss in terms of what else to do to find out what we need.



 **alt_charlie** at **2013-12-07 01:15:30**

Re: Private Message to Charlie


Yeah. I can do that.

And no, I don't mind keeping it from him. You're right that knowing someone's there might change things, even though I don't think it would -- I don't think he's compromised, just letting his prick do a little more of the thinking than it should be -- and I am willing to tentatively trust his judgement, especially since some of the things he's said to me make me pretty confident he's not only thinking with his prick, but I also know how suspicious this all looks and I damn well want to make sure. And if he's not compromised and not just thinking with

his prick, well, I want to be able to stand up to everyone else and say so.

So yeah. I'll go be your witness. And my brother's external common sense, since it seems he could use a spot or two extra.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-07 01:20:12**

Re: Private Message to Charlie

I need to be able to trust him, and right now, his telling me I can is not going to be enough. Having a set of impartial eyes will help, as you've said, and confirming he's not compromised is important even if you don't believe he is.

This is my call, and I'm willing to take the responsibility for it.

Thank you.



 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2013-12-07 01:25:28**

Re: Private Message to Charlie

Don't think I count as impartial, but yeah. And don't worry too much about responsibility. I'd do this even if you hadn't asked me, if I'd found out about his plans, so.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2013-12-06 19:36:10**

Private message to Kingsley and Alice

If she's supposed to be on our side, why did she kill one of our people at Saltash?

Kingsley, how badly is Bill hurt? And who inflicted the injuries?



 **[alt_kingsley](#) at 2013-12-06 19:46:59**

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

Pretty bad, Sirius, although it's stuff that a healer at St Mungo's can reverse quickly. I offered to do it, but he chose to have *her* do it, because she pointed out that she knew the type of injuries that Maule's thugs

administer. For God's sake, don't tell Molly.

She started with a blinding hex: the hope is that MLE will quickly decide it won't do much good to question him because he saw very little. She broke his wand hand to 'disarm' him, and then followed that with two curses, an impact spell that broke a lot of his bones, and another that raised second degree burns. Then she stunned him, so he's out of pain for the moment.

I stood there and watched, and checked him over afterward. God, I hated leaving him there like that, but they both insisted.

As for why she killed Stephen, the subject didn't come up.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-06 19:48:38](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

You stood there and watched --

Well.

I hope you're both right about her.

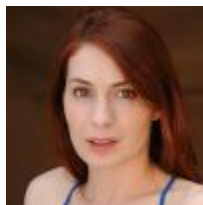


 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 19:57:09](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

She was sitting there on top of the desk, cool as a cucumber, when we apparated in. Just raised an eyebrow at us, and Bill immediately ordered us not to hurt her.

She certainly has nerve, but other than that, I don't know what to think. I want to hear the whole story from Bill.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-06 20:00:24](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

Oh, believe me. I want to hear from him as well.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 20:09:07](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

He anticipated that, believe me.

When the question of administering the injuries was raised, he said, 'I might as well get the spanking in early.'



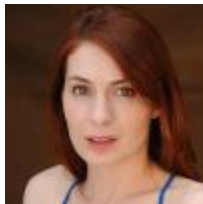
 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-06 20:40:47](#)


Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

Merlin.

I am going to withhold judgement until I have a chance to talk to him further, and determine whether he's coming from a place I can trust and believe, as well as whether he will be able to continue to be a person I can depend upon.

Nevertheless, a verbal lashing from me will solve nothing, regardless of how very much it appeals to me at the moment.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-06 19:58:14](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

I see.

I can understand the heat of the moment, and having to make some decisions rather quickly.

I wouldn't say I would have made the same, but what's done is done, and now we must handle the fallout.

Are we sure Lamont isn't just attempting a sting of her own? Claiming to be Dogstar at the end of a long game, because she suspects Bill was working for a reactionary group?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-06 20:06:27](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

Even if she IS Dogstar -- MLE infiltrated them once before, and brought them down!



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 20:15:20](#)

Re: Private message to Kingsley and Alice

I know that, trust me.

Part of me's livid that he brought the three of us into the middle of this. At least he did what he could to make sure that none of us were compromised but him.

And I admit we probably wouldn't evacuated those kids otherwise. They're in pretty rough shape.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 19:48:31](#)

(no subject)

Looks like Bill Weasley, according to Auror Lamont, is loyal to the Order.

The fact she's Dogstar makes her less likely to turn him in outright.

Still. I don't trust her as far as I can hex her. Throw her. Whatever.

You said she was on a personal mission. So it was not something she was ordered to do by Dogstar? She was on her own here? What was her interest in all of this?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-06 19:50:53](#)

(no subject)

What exactly does she know as of now about Bill and his associates? Kingsley, did your lot use your names in her presence? What did he tell her?

I suppose that part will have to wait until he's able.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 19:54:50](#)
(no subject)

Bill told us to take Polyjuice before we arrived, remember, and we did. He called me by my code name, Royal, and he didn't give any names to Dorcas and Caradoc. So I'm hoping that means he hasn't completely lost his head.

He argued enough with her that it's clear he wasn't under Imperio.

I'm not clear what Dogstar's part was in all this.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-06 19:49:17](#)
(no subject)

His clock hand just switched to 'Hospital.'

HOW BADLY IS HE HURT?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 19:51:50](#)
(no subject)

Don't go there, Molly! It's essential that you don't let on that you know anything about this until they inform you through official channels.

Fred, George, sit on her if you have to.

He's going to be all right. A healer will be able to fix him in a couple of hours.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 20:10:50](#)
(no subject)

St Mungo's just called on Mum's Floo. She's talking with them right now. Looks like Bill's been found, and she's been told he's alive and the healers are looking him over now.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 20:45:49](#)
(no subject)

We're at St Mungo's now. Mum's arguing with the Healers, but they won't let us in to see him. Someone from MLE is talking to him now.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-06 20:50:05](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that didn't go over well.

They tried to put a calming charm on her, but she knocked the wand out of the Healer's hand. Then they put Imperio on her and made her drink a sedative.

She's calm now. Practically comatose.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-06 20:50:05](#)
(no subject)

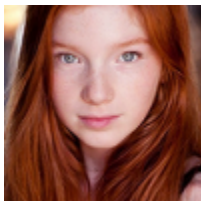
Brilliant. Just brilliant.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-06 20:06:22](#)
(no subject)

The girls are safe, though. You got them out in time, it seems like.

So there's that, at least.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-06 20:32:43](#)
Private Message to Cedric and Colin

Sometimes, it's like this.

I'm sorry you had to come across this part of it so soon. It isn't easy to read, and it's even harder to not be able to know what will happen next.

But when something happens that's unexpected, it's important to

face the things that might go wrong and plan for them, just so we're not left unprepared, even though it's frightening to think of. And nearly every time we've had to think about what could go wrong, it ends up far less dire than we'd thought.

Anyways. I just wanted to let you know that it isn't always this way. Most of the time, what we do is a bit dangerous, but it's the sort of danger we've planned out ahead of time.

And we saved ten girls today who would've died otherwise, ten girls who will have a second chance at a decent life in a place where they can be free, which is a good thing.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-06 20:44:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Cedric and Colin

I'm imagining what it would have been like if we had more than the galleons when we were getting Sarah out of Hogwarts. I haven't read far enough back to see what all was said here when we were getting

her out.

I'm also imagining what Mum & Dad would have been like if they were stuck at home getting bits and pieces of information right after I'd been hit and was rushed off to the healers, but they couldn't come see me yet.

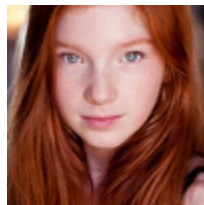
It's not like we haven't all taken bludger hits for our side before. All of us.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-06 20:46:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Cedric and Colin

and I have to sit here doing my job like nothing's wrong. I think that may be the hardest.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-06 20:53:21](#)

Re: Private Message to Cedric and Colin

I know you haven't had the chance to meet Mr Snape yet, not really, but he's been able to help me a great deal with my calmness. I might make introductions if you'd be interested. He's currently

disguised as Mr Milland, so you've seen him about before.

And it helps to talk to the other people here at Hogwarts, too.

Sometimes we all just sort of clump together in the Secret room to keep an eye on things and share a bit, and you're certainly welcome to join in when we do.



 **alt_cedric** at **2013-12-06 22:06:26**

Re: Private Message to Cedric and Colin

I think I'm glad I was unconscious as long as I was. It gave everyone time to calm down. And that the littles were young enough to not really understand what was going on. Jaspur mostly understood, but I think not just how close to death I was.

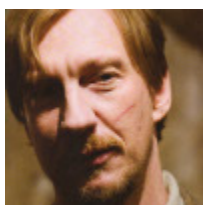
If you are meeting in the room, I'll come up after putting an hour or so in at the library. Close enough to my normal schedule no one should notice.



 **alt_frank** at **2013-12-06 22:36:20**

(no subject)

(Sorry sorry, E, turns out private messages to me have to be addressed to your dad too so I can reply to them using this journal. But I could read what you wrote, and it was appreciated. Here's to having better days, hey? From what I understand, the girls are all safe at Sherwood. We're sending along some basic potions we've got on hand to help patch them up, and Mr Longbottom said we'd go out and visit them in a day or two.)




 **alt_lupin** at **2013-12-06 21:06:52**

(no subject)

And now she's writing him a private message.


Can't wait to hear your explanation for all this, Bill!



 **alt_bill** at [2013-12-06 22:46:25](#)
(no subject)

The private message is cover. She's heard gossip at the office and is inquiring, since we've established that we're friendly.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-12-06 22:48:32](#)
Private message to Alice Longbottom

But she makes it clear she wants to meet with me.

Alice, I think I should. Tonight, ideally. But I don't want Mum to know. She's taking this hard.

If you give me permission, I'm going to suggest the Ottery St. Catchpole fishing hole at 2 am. That's where we met when she tutored me on doing the cardinals. It's certainly more neutral than her flat.

2013-12-06 13:23:00

Private message to D Forney

Dammit, Forney! Where are you?

Check in ASAP

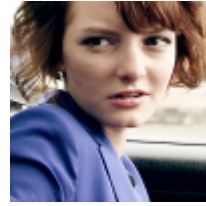


 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2013-12-06 14:53:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Rumours round the office claim you had some sort of unfortunate encounter on that errand Corax Mulciber sent you on. I hope the one about the entrail-expelling curse is an exaggeration.




 [alt_rachel](#)

Corax blew his door off its hinges in fury. You can imagine how eager Maintenance is to send a repairman up. I think they're planning to do it after he goes home tonight.

Have you got weekend plans? I'd like the reassurance of seeing your intact entrails for myself. I imagine you might not be quite up for wandering round the zoo again, or anything energetic back at my flat. So name the time and the place.

I'll come meet you.




 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-07 04:09:29**

(no subject)

I still have my entrails, thanks. Meet tonight? How about the spot where you gave me the little tutorial?

2 am work for you? I know you're a night owl.



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2013-12-07 04:33:29**

(no subject)

I'll be there.

[2013-12-06 14:58:00](#)

Order Only

I'm here. I'm alive.

MLE had questions about what happened today--just finished speaking with the Enforcer--but I think they believed my answers, that I didn't see anything.




 **[alt_bill](#)**

She's been in contact with Ridley recently, yet Ridley remains unarrested. She knew about the trick that Ridley used to get free, the pepper on the eggs. She knows what Ridley's familiar is.

Her real name is Rachel Brodie.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-06 21:14:14](#)**
(no subject)

So, the child sent away by Antonin Dolohov while murder was committed in her kitchen grew up to be an Auror with complicated loyalties.

Fascinating.


Did she tell you why she killed Stephen?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-06 21:19:45](#)**
(no subject)

She said, 'I would have killed you, too, to keep you out of Bella Lestrangle's hands, or Truncheon's, and I hope to god you would have done the same for me.'



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-06 21:25:03](#)**
(no subject)


Will write more later. Bones are still knitting now.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-12-06 22:06:57](#)
(no subject)

It is a rather compelling argument.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-06 21:29:20](#)
Private message to Kingsley

You were there, you saw what she did to him.

Is there ANY chance she cast Imperius on him?
...silently, maybe, or after you left.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 21:42:34](#)
Re: Private message to Kingsley

It's possible. She also could have put it on him before he sent the patronus. For that matter, why didn't she call for backup of her own?

But she didn't. The patronus clearly warned us that she was there.

Strategically, it doesn't quite fit their modus operandi. They took down Dogstar with Polyjuice instead, remember, because infiltrating with Imperius is really goddamn risky. She took the risk of sending him away to rejoin his group instead of having him taken apart by Bella and Trunccheon.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-06 21:48:33](#)
Re: Private message to Kingsley

It's clear that Bill took a huge risk here, but she just may be exactly what he says.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-07 01:38:54](#)**

Private Message to Bill

I don't know quite what to say, Bill. About any of this.

What are you planning on telling her about us? About you? How much does she know already? How badly do you think you are exposed here?

What are you thinking of asking her?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-07 03:22:20](#)**

Re: Private Message to Bill

As far as what she's gleaned from me, it's very little, as best as I can tell. I was in the holding area with the cell holding the prisoners when she arrived. I'd been sent to stall MLE, and there were forms to be filled out, and so the guard left it to me to go check the prisoners' condition while he went back to his post. She stunned the guard downstairs, came up, and found me. It's not as if I could have avoided her; there was only one entrance.

It was almost--comical. I'd heard the prisoners had little chance of survival from the guard, whereas she knew that Corax had sent me, which made her plenty suspicious of my motives. Both of us had our wands out and there was some fast talking going on from both sides before we determined that neither of us wanted to hurt those girls, and both of us wanted to get them out of there.

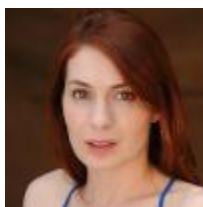
So she decided to try to recruit me for Dogstar. That's how it all came out. I was there where I wasn't supposed to be, so she tried to win me to her side.

We couldn't talk long, so I sent for Kingsley and the rest. I tried to protect their identities as best I could.

As for what I'll ask her, my purpose is to try to find out as much as I can about her and her motives while giving away as little about the Order as I can. I want to know how long she's been in Dogstar, who recruited her, and what she intends to do now that she knows about me.

I won't reveal any others among our membership if I can possibly

prevent it, but I can't say for sure what else she already knows. Maybe I can find out.



 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-07 03:58:10**

Re: Private Message to Bill

So she does know you're affiliated with the Order, then. Depending on what Ridley has told her, she might know quite a bit. Albus, Kingsley, Frank, and Stephen all worked closely with Ridley, as did Scott Brownmiller. I'll have to revisit my notes on the matter, but I wouldn't be surprised if she's put quite a lot of things together as a result of her time with us.

I know you've built a rapport with Auror Lamont, but remember, she is gifted at deception and interrogation, and ought not to be underestimated in terms of the information she could learn from you. Your safety is also certainly not guaranteed. In the past, Dogstar has tended to push forward without much consideration for collateral damage, and you very well might be leverage or a potential scapegoat she could use to save her own hide.

Ridley's recent demands might save your neck there, even though we haven't been on good terms with her lately.

That assumes things are what they appear to be, of course, which I am not convinced of.

Let's just say I'm not a fan of coincidences, and your continued connection with Ms Lamont is something I find deeply problematic.

I do not like having you meet up with her without a full debriefing first. There are many things about this that I do not like, which probably comes as little surprise to you.

But I can see how time is of the essence, and how we must learn more and see what we can do with it.

This is far less than ideal. I assume you will be as careful as possible, and will be on guard for possible Legitimacy and other ways she may take advantage of her newly-found information.



 **[alt_bill at 2013-12-07 04:02:14](#)**

Re: Private Message to Bill

Alice, I understand I am on a very tight leash here, and I will act accordingly. I will do my utmost to protect both myself and the rest of the Order.

Just so you know...I will be taking my protective backup measure. As Aloysius did. So I'm ready if it all goes to hell.



 **[alt_alice at 2013-12-07 04:08:30](#)**

Re: Private Message to Bill

I very much hope it will not come to that.

And regardless of what comes of this, and my rather extreme reservations, your actions today did save lives which is something that ought not be lost sight of.

Be careful, Bill. Report back once you're done.



 **[alt_bill at 2013-12-07 04:11:04](#)**

Re: Private Message to Bill

I will.



 **[alt_bill at 2013-12-07 09:16:07](#)**

Re: Private Message to Bill

I've returned safely. Bushed...crashing for some sleep and will report in later.

2013-12-06 23:00:00


Private message to L Malfoy and M Travers

Forney sure Mulciber tipped Maule. Evidence at Maidstone: Maule's work.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-12-07 15:47:57](#)

(no subject)

Received report early this morning. No wish to draw undue attention by taking personal interest in Maidstone but understand he has re-acquired bait without getting caught on the hook. Slippery fish,

indeed.

Expect he has disposed of them as assurance but might do to think about an alert should one turn up back in circulation.

Any thoughts on Mulciber's motives? Simple interference or something more nefarious?

[2013-12-06 23:10:00](#)

Private message to Ginny and Ron

Just so you two know, Bill wound up getting hurt at work today, and spent the afternoon at St M's. He's fine, just a bit worn out and banged up. Mum went to see him at StM's and got a bit overwrought, but the healers there had her take a calming potion and she's okay now, too. (And a bit stoned off her arse, but that's more funny than anything else!)



 **[alt_charlie](#)**

The twins and I have been taking care of them both, and I'll let you know if anything goes south, although I highly doubt it will. I didn't want you to hear it from somebody else or see it in the journals before you heard it from one of us, though!



 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2013-12-07 04:19:50**

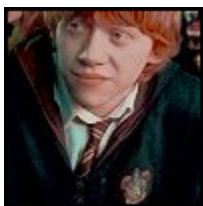
Order Only: Private message to Ron

There, now you can know things officially without having to worry.

He really is fine. Cranky about the broken arm and the healing burns are at the point of itching like hell (and the burn paste we use up at the Reserve doesn't go with the potion they use at St M's so I can't give him anything to stop the itch) but that's all.

Will you let the rest of your lot know that things aren't as dire as they looked this afternoon? I think you all can stand down for now. I'll let you know if that changes, too.

(It's nice to be able to write to you under the Order Only lock in a situation like this, you know. I feel much better that we have a way to alert you all quickly, and ... I don't know, it's just comforting that when things have the potential to go south, I can talk about them with you.)



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2013-12-07 05:37:00**


Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Thanks. I was with Sally Anne when I saw this, so she knows and now Pans and Harry and Malfoy probably know.

Yeah. I agree.

Speaking of... I have something I want to ask you about soon, but not tonight.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-08 00:11:11](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron

Sure, whenever you want. Or if it's the kind of thing that's better face to face and not in writing, we can work out something once you're on hols.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-12-07 05:04:56](#)

(no subject)

Bill had to go to St Mungo's? And he was hurt badly enough to pull you away from the dragons?

That doesn't sound like 'just a bit worn out and banged up.' What happened???



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-07 05:12:48](#)

(no subject)

I'm honestly not sure about all the details. All I know is that his boss sent him out on an errand outside the Ministry, and somebody attacked him from behind -- I'm not sure why. (I don't think he is either.)

They got the drop on him but good, but it was all mendable, thank Merlin.

I'm sure there'll be an investigation, but Bill doesn't remember a lot of what happened. I just didn't want you to hear anything from somebody else and worry.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2013-12-07 05:23:56](#)

(no subject)

~~If it was all mendable then why isn't BILL the one~~

Well, thank you. I guess.

How long are you staying at the Burrow?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-07 05:30:55](#)
(no subject)

I just popped 'round to grab the takeaway for dinner and make sure the twins didn't blow up the kitchen trying to cook, since I had the night free.

I'll probably stick around until morning to do some of the chores -- I'm not sure the calming potion will have worn off Mum by then! (She tried starting the laundry earlier and kept getting distracted. It was hysterical.)

2013-12-07 09:21:00

Order Only

Alice, I will be at Moddey Dhoo this morning to give you my report in person. Kingsley, can you make yourself available, too?



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2013-12-07 15:29:58**

(no subject)

I'll be there, son.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-12-09 07:13:32**

Private Message to Bill

I've had a chance to look through all of this information and process it a bit.

Hopefully, you've been doing the same.

What are your thoughts on what's happened?



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-10 02:42:39**

Re: Private Message to Bill

It helped to talk it out, definitely. I'm glad Kingsley was there, too. I value his calm, good sense, and I think after our talk he's looking at me with a tad less suspicion. For the most part, anyway.

I hope he's not the only one? It *was* a bloody hair-raising decision to make, under pressure, with an auror holding me at wandpoint and glaring at me. One of my most difficult ever in the field, really, and I'm sorry for the position it put Kingsley in. I know the initial message sounded completely mad, and it took a lot of nerve for him to apparate in to meet me there. (But thank Merlin he did.)

I've found it to be rather a shock, really, after all the work I've done recruiting for the Order, to have the tables turned and have someone trying to recruit *me* for Dogstar.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-10 06:18:32](#)


Re: Private Message to Bill

Yes. I value his input as well.

And our conversation did help to assure me of what we were dealing with, which helps us all move forward.

I know you've had a rather busy few days, but I would like to talk to you more directly about some concerns I had regarding your actions, and how I addressed those concerns. Perhaps we can meet up tomorrow?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 13:08:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Bill

Okay. I'll make myself available after work today (Tuesday).

2013-12-07 18:25:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice

Sorry about the delay in reporting, Alice, you wouldn't believe the day it's been. This is probably going to be disjointed, I'm remembering it all out of order.



 [alt_charlie](#)

Let's see. First off, Bill told me this morning about the meeting, and he didn't seem to be holding anything back. Remembered a few things differently than I did, that was all, but I don't blame him, since it was pretty emotional and there were a few places he wasn't listening all that great. (So I guess the core of my report is, yes, he is thinking with his prick, but not only, and only when he can't help himself.)

Assuming he told you what he told me this morning, he told me she said that she wouldn't have wanted to recruit him if he hadn't been working for Mulciber, but I remember that she said she got interested in him a while back, when she was looking through some memories Massopust saved and saw something in Bill's face right after Archer's death. (She said she destroyed that memory, and a few others. So at least it's not something somebody else could do too.)

She's an animagus, so nobody's going to read her mind and blow things that way. (Oh! And "the other Legilimens" in the Aurors is, oh Merlin, I told myself not to forget the name, I told myself -- Penderyn. Gwyn Penderyn. You might have already known that.)

She made a few very pointed guesses at names from our end. (Sirius, for instance, but that's not a big stretch. Frank. The other people she guessed were Dad and Archer. Nobody else who's got a public identity that would be at risk, other than Bill.) She didn't give away anyone else from Dogstar, although she started to -- whoever Dogstar had in Saltash knew her and could have identified her, and she started to say his name but caught himself. She admitted she was the one who killed Stephen, and that it was against her standing orders (well, her standing orders as an Auror) -- she said she didn't even know he was one of ours, that it was before she realized there was another group there and she was using Dogstar's standard rules of "leave no one to be captured".


Um, what else. Bill mentioned Terry, not by name but as "a muggleborn who learned the animagus transformation", and she was

fascinated, called it impressive. So that's another wand pointing to her telling the truth on all this, I don't think somebody who believed in the Protectorate party line well enough could fake that kind of sincerity.

Oh! Did you know the part about Ron and an Auror internship? (Bill didn't mention that to me this morning and I didn't want to ask, since, well.) That knocked me for a loop.

Anyway. I didn't hear anything that really concerned me, and I do think she's genuine and not trying to trap him. Unfortunately, she also sort of has a death wish a mile wide. Well, "death wish" isn't quite the word for it, more like -- she doesn't see a way through this in which she doesn't get killed because of her actions for one side or the other, and she's okay with that. I don't know if we could recruit her away from Dogstar by giving her another way of looking at things, or if she's with Dogstar because she doesn't want another way of looking at things, you know what I mean?



 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-08 02:03:21**
(no subject)

Those are my impressions as well.

And from his report, your story does match up with Bill's, which is good to hear, as it's clear he's emotionally involved, and she might be as well. That can be problematic, of course, but a far lesser problem than I'd originally anticipated. And I'm not sure they would've been able to have this discussion (or have been able to convince one another to stand down the other day) without it.

I've got quite a lot to sort through the next few days, but I'm willing to accept this entire thing at face value and proceed forward.

Thank you.

And yes, I know of Ron's selection. He's been talking to Albus and me about his options. I'm still not sure what I think about it. He sees being recruited for and perhaps eventually placed with the Aurors as something that could be of great use, and something no-one else currently in our organisation could achieve. I see the heavy cost and risk, which gives me significant pause. Ms Lamont's mindset is particularly relevant here, I imagine.

I don't want to dismiss this out of hand, but I do not want him to believe this is his only choice. It's a fine line. I'll try to do my best by him, Charlie.




 **alt_charlie** at [2013-12-08 02:12:51](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. She said a few things about what Auror training consists of these days, like having to demonstrate you can do all three of the Cardinals -- dammit, Unforgivables, even I'm slipping.

Half of me thinks Ron would be great at it. Half of me thinks, not my brother.

He said he has something to talk to me about, maybe it's that. I'll listen, at least.



 **alt_charlie** at [2013-12-08 05:59:22](#)
(no subject)

Also, I've had a thought. I'd forgot until just now that Remus pointed a finger at her being the girl in that Grim Truth Sirius wrote. I don't remember all the details, but didn't you and Frank know her father?

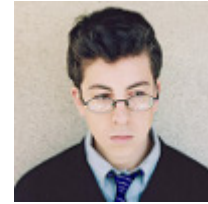
Because if you used to work with him before everything went to shit, you might be able to offer her something she might want. I know that if my dad had been killed when I was that young I'd probably give anything for stories about him or a glimpse of him in somebody else's memories.

I don't think "here, have these memories of your dead da" would necessarily be good coming out of nowhere, but who knows, the offer might mean a lot to her.

2013-12-07 20:02:00

Admirable attention to duty

I must commend the students of Hogwarts for their devotion to their studies this weekend. When making my perfectly rounds, I heard no wild horseplay, no unseemly displays of raucous rowdiness. Nothing disturbed these venerable halls; rather, Hogwarts is a blissful colony of quiet activity where every bee has presumably taken him or herself off to some secluded part of the hive to get on with the gathering of studious pollen which leads to the honey of knowledge. Well done, all of you!



 [alt_linus](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-08 06:19:41](#)

Order Only

I cannot BELIEVE we have to wait a WEEK to read more.

A WEEK. ARGH. I really thought we'd get through it tonight but we are not even half way!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-08 07:27:21](#)

Re: Order Only

It was rather exciting, though, hearing everyone gasp out loud like that.

2013-12-08 10:22:00

Private message to Johnny

I need to see you. I tried to get a new bloke into my bed and it turned out he'd heard gossip that makes me think the two of us need to have a serious conversation before -- well. Let's save it for in-person, shall we? Likely to be fewer misunderstandings.



 **alt_rachel**

Usually, I get on quite well with my exes. Sometimes I even still sleep with them. You're the exception -- frankly, the most difficult and annoying ex I have ever had.

I'm available today but really not for the rest of the week. Let's get this over with.

2013-12-08 23:06:00

Order Only

I've done so much reading this weekend, much of it hard, much of it revealing.




 **alt_cedric**

Given how the Prophet and others have covered me in the past, I shouldn't need any additional reminders, but the holes in the public explanations for nearly everything are staggering. The holes in my recent conversations with some of you are also substantial, for far better reasons. I hope to fill some of those holes in the near future. I'm also going to have to think hard about what my public face will be after this year. Even if it would not be the most useful job to have, whether or not I am physically fit enough I have to keep working toward and eventually trying out for professional Quidditch. Too many questions would be asked otherwise. If that doesn't work out I need to figure out what to do. I've talked with several of you about some of my other potential ideas.

Thank you all for bringing me in.



 **alt_jeremy** at **2013-12-09 05:00:53**
(no subject)

Know what you mean about all the reading. That first week or two I think I slept four hours per night.

Too right about the holes in the public explanations, mate. Finding out what was really happening... well. Right.

That's why we're here then, isn't it?




 **alt_cedric** at **2013-12-09 05:25:53**
(no subject)

Yes, that's why were here. And to see what wrongs can be righted.

Sleep is not one of my problems these days. The dreams on the other hand...



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2013-12-09 05:56:42](#)
private message to Ced

Seeing what wrongs can be righted, yeah. And righting them in, well the right way.

Look, there was this girl. Woman. You know what I mean. Thing is, she's muggleborn. And I have feelings for her. Serious feelings. But you know this if you've read what Sally-Anne wrote about when I cornered her desperate to know if M

if she was safe, or dead, or what.

So glad she's safe.

But now I'm here in the Order and Alice has been talking to me and I'm thinking. I haven't gone and talked to Maureen because she deserves some peace without one Stretton or another asking her things. Telling her things, telling her what to do. Because I can't. I don't own her.


Problem is, I sort of did, or my family did anyway. And even though I felt how I felt about her, I didn't make sense of the important thing before those talks with Alice, and reading what Terry wrote, and Hermione. Which is that Maureen owns herself.

And if the only thing I can do to show I realise she owns herself is to NOT go make her talk to me about how she's feeling and what she wants, then that's the pattern I'm flying.

~~She knows where I am. If she ever wants to~~

Well, sorry to go wittering on like this, mate. Just, wrongs to be righted. Yeah. But the right way. For everybody.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-10 05:57:35](#)
Re: private message to Ced

There was a bunch of other stuff first, but it was my family's muggleborn nanny that really kicked my blinders off.


We didn't have her when I was at home, so I didn't grow up around that. They acquired her after Shelley was born. It was last

spring, after I'd been talking with Harry about blood status and how slippery it is. After the Fleets. After Sarah Fawcett.

I was sitting outside watching Jasper and Shelley play. Jenni came out and Shelley went screaming up to her "JENNI!!!!!!" slamming into her legs, laughing and hugging her knees. Five minutes later Mum came out and she went screaming up to her "MUMMY!!!!!!" slamming into her legs, laughing and hugging her knees.

It hit me like a screaming thundering toddler, the littles treated Jenni and Mum exactly the same. Everything I'd been thinking so hard about trapped under Umbridge took this crashing, wrenching expansion. Then I had to go hide by myself for awhile and pretend to revise. Because the crushing realization that 'mudbloods' were people too, then their definition and status was just as arbitrary just as slippery and illusionary as 'half-blood' or 'pure-blood'. I'd been given ample evidence over last year that those concepts were manipulated at whim by those in power. And I had no one to talk to about it. As scary things go that tops throwing yourself under a dying giant spider.



 **alt_cedric** at [2013-12-09 05:21:36](#)

Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

I believe you are the best person to talk to about future job and how it can be useful to the Order. I will be filling in some of the holes in my conversation with the twins about business plans because I don't know how much of the plans they discussed with me was cover for research for the Order.

I don't see how useful playing Quidditch would be. Inflexible schedule, large amounts of mandated group travel, physically demanding and in the public eye. But as I said above, if I don't try people would ask questions that would be hard to answer.

The primary thing I had been considering if I didn't make pro, before I was cursed, was going into business making non-broom quidditch supplies for the casual market. I need something that has me doing things, not numbers and paperwork. The idea of a permanent job as someone's clerk or for the Ministry ... well it makes me want to fall off a broom.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-09 07:09:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

I think you've got a fair point in that there would be a lot of questions and scrutiny if you decided to not try again for a position. You could fall back on a vague lingering issue with your recovery, of course, but it's important to think through these things fully.


We might sit down and chat properly about what sort of skill sets you have that you might consider to be of use -- and those don't necessarily have to fit in to your everyday job, I just like to know what I've got to work with.

There are many different ways one can be useful. Sometimes, it's a job that allows us access to information, or gives us a certain degree of control -- like the ability to alter records, or move people around the chessboard a bit. Sometimes, it's a job that serves as cover (and pays the bills), but provides enough flexibility so that you can be on-hand should specific needs arise.

So yes, we ought to put our heads together to come up with a few options for you. I'm willing to think creatively about how a possible Quidditch position might work, and also sort out other potential avenues, perhaps with greater flexibility of schedule.

And Cedric, I know this is a bit of a shock all round -- a rather large amount of information to manage, a new way of thinking about your future and what you might do with it, and seeing first-hand the additional pressures that we sometimes encounter (as you saw with Bill's recent incident). It's something that anyone would find overwhelming. Please don't hesitate to ask questions of any of us. I'm also glad to see you talking with Jeremy and the twins -- now that you can discuss things more openly, I hope you'll get to know them better, as well as Lee and our other members still at Hogwarts. This is a shared responsibility, after all, and it's far easier to face a struggle when you know you're not in it alone.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-10 05:34:15](#)
Re: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

I very much look forward to sitting down and talking with you. I have nearly complete freedom of movement on the weekend. Dolohov has not called on me on the weekend without telling me ahead of time that we were going to need to work on something. While I've gone home many weekends, I've also stayed in many others. My orders to minimized floo travel were recently lifted. Apparation and long distance flying are still not on though. Oh, it is fine for me to be side-alonged, just not doing it myself. So I could meet anywhere near a floo I'd have a legitimate reason to travel through.

I'm taking my NEWTS in all the core classes, plus Runes. I ought to do well in all of them. I'm flat out terrible in arithmancy, so much so that it greatly limits my chances with Astronomy. I failed to earn a high enough grade to continue, not that I would have even if I'd earned it. I've loved defense class and dueling has always been of interest. I was not involved in that bloody foolish 'dueling club' last year though.


I was, and hope to be again, an excellent flier. I believe that while my team's record might not show it, I was a pretty good captain, I just ran into the twin cutters of Harry as a seeker and the Weasley clan, which doomed nearly everyone else.

If I decide I don't want to seek a quidditch career, I'm more inclined to throw my tryouts than claim lingering issues. Too many Healers are aware of my progress. I've learned my case is 'of interest' and that it gets talked about amongst their professional colleagues.

It is a huge amount of information and I'm still reading. The sorts of additional pressures you mention, I've been living many of those already. Choices I had to make as Head Boy and working for the YPL were not the choices I would have made on my own. And the Triwizard. At the root of it the Triwizard Cup, what happened around it, the kinds of social pressures put on me during it and the final decision I made are why I'm here today. I wouldn't have started talking seriously and secretly about dangerous, treasonous thoughts with Harry Marvolo, of all people, if not for the Triwizard. I don't know if I'd have been in a place to start noticing

the stuff about my family that really pushed me over the edge without it.



 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2013-12-09 05:52:30**

Private Message to Fred and George

So we should probably fill in some holes in our conversations.

How much is your business a front for the Order? If quidditch doesn't work out, would adding someone working on casual quidditch supplies be helpful or get in the way? Maybe as someone else in your mother's building development thing?

I look forward to talking to you more now that we can do so honestly.

I just realised something. Was I the only one in the room that didn't know Hermione had a wand when we were working on the masks? Merlin, I hope I wasn't too much the pureblooded idiot to her.



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2013-12-10 03:03:41**

Re: Private Message to Fred and George

We are capable of multiple purposes!

- 1) Have fun. We're in favour of running a business that allows us to experiment with setting off explosives and counting it as serious product development.
- 2) make pots of Galleons. Partly because we need to support ourselves, of course, and we could develop a taste for little luxuries like dragonhide boots and so on, but more seriously, our Mum needs extra income, since Dad passed away. The four of us, Bill, Charlie and us are chipping in to help. All but Percy, the git.
- 3) do Order R&D, developing products that can help stick a finger in the eye to the Protectorate. (Rather like our Punching Telescope, come to think of it)
- 4) serve as a front for moving supplies around, some of which may be rather dodgy.
- 5) other purposes, as we come up with them.

It dovetails rather nicely with our Mum's goals, too, in opening her building. She hopes to act as a front that will allow half-bloods, muggleborns and muggles to move their own products in a real marketplace. If we're successful enough, it could be a significant

source of income for the Order, too (Merlin knows they could use it), or maybe employment for other Order-sympathetic students leaving Hogwarts, especially the half-bloods, who have a harder time finding jobs.

Sure, we'd be open to starting a sideline for quidditch supplies, although we'd have to talk with Parkinson first, of course. Quidditch always draws traffic, which can only help. Or yeah, it could be a corner of the Emporium. Depends on what you're thinking of including, what the market will bear, and so on. We'd have to do some research.

We're dead chuffed you've joined the Order, Ced. We've been pushing for it for awhile: you always treated folks right decently, even before you had all the facts. (And yeah, you probably were the only one in the mask workroom who wasn't in the know, but no, you weren't a snob or anything. Hermione, at least, has always spoken well of you, and Parkinson doesn't suffer fools gladly, either.)



[alt_cedric](#) at 2013-12-10 04:57:12

Re: Private Message to Fred and George

Fun is always good.

Money... yeah it is an issue for me as well. Even if I don't feel so much like I need support my parents, I feel the need to not be dependent on them. Indeed, given some of the financial reading I've been doing, it might only make things worse if I was giving them money.

I'd been looking at non-broom quidditch supplies. Protective padding for kids, the balls with extra enchantments on them, preventing loss and damage and such like. Now being a member here I think about several different extra benefits. Namingly the base materials for much of that would be the same base materials for proper armour. If I'm doing research, some quantity of the exotic leather I buy is going to be destroyed and tossed in the rubbish bin, so even if someone went over my books it would just be normal loss.

I'm a little scared of some of the ideas I've come up with for what we could do with bludgers. Two words blokes. Flaming. Bludgers.

If this looks like the direction I want to go, we can talk more about

details then. If I end up doing something else, I'd be happy to come by some and help out and share ideas.

I'm glad to be in as well. I'm also glad that you don't remember me being an idiot about this stuff. I'm embarrassed to admit, I only started really thinking about the status of muggleborns last spring. I'd been thinking about how unbelievably important and slippery status is in our realm for "proper" wizards for a good while longer.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-11 00:49:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Fred and George

We like the way you think. Yeah, we've been talking with Fu about protective gear, including the hopes that there might be way to affix spell-repelling shields even if the wearer doesn't have magic. And flaming bludgers...wicked.

Hogsmeade's this weekend. Maybe we can meet up for some discussions?



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-11 04:30:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Fred and George

I'd love to talk. My plans this weekend consist of reading. More and more reading and revising. If you want to stop by let me know when and I'll be prepared. We can try our hand at bachelor cooking if it's in time for meal.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-09 16:22:54](#)

(no subject)


You're most welcome here, Mr Diggory.

As I said when we met, I find your physical recovery rather promising, though I'm sure to you it sometimes seems otherwise when you count the months and the treatments and the rehabilitation chores. Don't lose hope. I rather think that aiming for the professional Quidditch tryouts is both a reasonable and a beneficial goal.

And I'm inclined to think that someone in such a public and mobile

profession might serve our collective needs in ways we've not previously imagined. At any rate, I see no reason to think the two things outright incompatible.



 **alt_cedric** at [2013-12-10 05:07:35](#)

(no subject)

There are days I'm sure I'll be in proper flying form any day now. There are days I'm sure I'm never going to walk without a staff again. However, when I go back and look rationally and factually at where I was three months ago, I have made such substantial improvements I have comfortable knowledge I'll make at least a nearly full recovery. The problem is that I wasn't a superstar quidditcher to begin with. "Nearly Full Recovery" would mean not making the cut. I have every expectation of a full recovery for normal everyday life. Professional sport is just a whole other level.

That's an interesting take. I'll try to think about it some more. Quidditch, while great fun and one of my burning passions, seems a bit, well, frivolous when there are people out there saving babies from slavery and death.

2013-12-09 09:06:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Everything sounds quiet so far... that's not just you being stoic, is it?




How was your weekend? All healed up from being ambushed? My weekend wasn't too bad. Not to overshare, but I needed to have a chat with an ex and I was dreading it. (As to why, well, that's a complicated story.) But everyone was civil and we parted on reasonably good terms.

 **alt_rachel**

Have you done your Christmas shopping for your family yet? I need to do mine, still, and I'm fresh out of ideas. What sorts of things does YOUR family like? Maybe we could get together for lunch sometime and you could tell me? (And in the meantime you could think about it. I really need some ideas here!)



 **alt_bill** at **2013-12-09 18:25:02**
(no subject)

It's fine. No lemons required, which I admit is a bit of surprise.

I never know what to expect from him. Which, as you've pointed out, is probably how he likes it.

I'm glad to hear you value civility with exes. (I certainly appreciate it, myself, so it's good to hear you have that sort of history with yours.)

Sure, I can get together with you. I often think it helps to float ideas between two people. I'm having a mad day here with meetings and such, so maybe I'll have a clearer idea of my schedule at the end of the day. I'll get back to you, all right?



 **alt_rachel** at **2013-12-09 20:13:36**
(no subject)

Yeah, no rush. I'd like to talk before the weekend, if you can find time, since that's when I'm most likely to be able to do my shopping. (I cannot believe how close it is to Christmas!)

2013-12-09 10:23:00

Private Message to B Lestrangle

Pavonine.

Noon.

News.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2013-12-09 11:18:00

Order Only: Meeting with Auror Lamont

I've had a message from Rachel Lamont which I interpret to mean that she has been in communication with Dogstar and has permission to talk with us further. Specifically, Ridley wants to know what the Order is interested in obtaining from them.



 **alt_bill**


Rachel has asked to meet privately with me. I am toying with the idea of suggesting we meet after work at a nice little beer garden I know of where the beer is reasonably priced and the company is agreeable. Of course, she'll expect we use *muffliato* when we converse, but the owners' friendly dog just might wander over to sprawl at our feet.

I'm not sure, though. Help me think through whether this is a bad idea or not. She's said outright that she's quite sure that Sirius is part of our group, and she's broadly hinted that she hopes to meet him. She's floated the idea that perhaps she could become our liaison with Dogstar, an idea which Alice in my briefing with her this weekend has indicated she's willing to explore. I'm really not sure how hacked off Rachel will be with me in the future if she learns Sirius' form and discovers I set her up to be spied on during this conversation.

(Rachel, by the way, is an animagus herself, and thus, like Minerva, she is resistant to legilimancy.)

What should we ask for? And should I suggest Doughty Conduit as a meeting place? It might ruffle your clientele to have an auror there, come to think of it, and is the chance for the three of you to look her over worth the risk of possibly poisoning relations in the future?



 **alt_lupin** at **2013-12-09 18:03:26**
(no subject)


Well, I like the idea of Doughty Conduit simply because at this point, I'm curious about her.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-09 18:10:36](#)
(no subject)


The question of whether she'd scare off our regular clientele is a good one. How likely is she to be recognised?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-09 21:09:23](#)
(no subject)


I don't know how well known she is outside the auror circles. She's more likely to be seen at an audit than a firefight, but then she was in a firefight just recently, at Saltash. I don't know how well your customers know the aurors by sight.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-09 22:31:32](#)
(no subject)

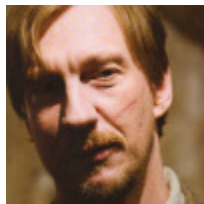
Will she be offended if you tell her not to wear her insignia?




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-09 23:36:53](#)
(no subject)

I can certainly ask. If she's offended, I can offer her another meeting place.

It does tell her something about the place I'm suggesting for the rendezvous, however. On the other hand, if she objects, I suppose in turn that tells us something about her too, doesn't it?




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-10 03:09:53](#)
(no subject)

So, here's the thing about having Sirius spy on her.

Animagi can often recognise other animagi. Not always, but -- there's frankly an excellent chance she'd spot he wasn't a real dog.

If you want Sirius to be there, it would probably be better to simply let her know that you'd be joined by another Order member, and then have it be the dog.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-10 03:18:10](#)**
(no subject)

That's a detail I wasn't clear on, that animagi can recognise others. Thanks for saving me from a misstep like that.


Hadn't thought of that, *telling* her, and having Sirius sit in.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2013-12-10 03:18:39](#)**
(no subject)

It's a thought. It does demonstrate good faith, which is a plus if we're trying to build a mutually collaborative relationship with her.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-10 03:12:27](#)**
(no subject)

Though Dora's hesitant about bringing Sirius out of the kitchen at all.

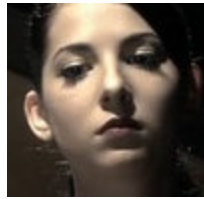
Honestly, it probably makes more sense to have it be me or Dora Tonks sitting in. So she knows who she can come find and talk to later, if she needs to tell us something and you're not readily available (which could happen easily enough). She can't very well come and demand a private chat with Sinbad, after all.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-10 03:21:36](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I did do my best to avoid naming or identifying anyone else within our ranks.


Maybe Alice should have the final word on that.
At the very least I'd like to hear her opinion.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 03:32:35](#)
(no subject)

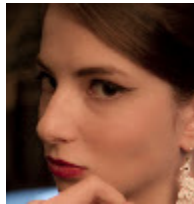
Well if you don't trust her you shouldn't take her to Doughty Conduit at all.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 03:54:00](#)
(no subject)

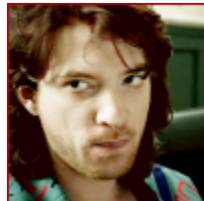
It's not just whether I trust her, it's whether I have permission from the Order to do so. I'm trying to be careful about that.


We're sort of feeling our way along here, figuring this out, you know what I mean?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 03:59:00](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, that was the plural 'you.' If the Order doesn't trust her, the Order should not invite her to Doughty Conduit.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 03:47:31](#)
(no subject)

Anyone else but me, I should clarify. She asked me point-blank if Sirius was a member, and I refused to tell her one way or another. But I think she's just about decided that he is. I did confirm Dad and Aloysius Archer, because they were already dead, and I told her that Dad recruited me.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 15:34:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, if she knows about you and your father she's probably at least wondering about Charlie, Percy, and Ron.

Especially Ron, since he's interested in a job with MLE. Don't you think?




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 23:17:46](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I certainly do.

The whole meeting was--well, the best way I can put it, I suppose, is that it was characterised as much by what was carefully left unsaid as what was said. I had to be painstaking, for example, to do nothing to tip her to the fact that the Order has just as much an interest in Justin, too.

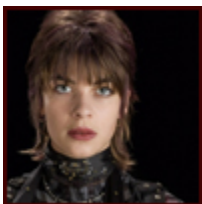
But yeah, it stands to reason she must be speculating about Ron.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-09 18:07:11](#)
Private message to Padfoot and Tonks

What do you think about having her come? Tonks, she's about your age, did you know her at all from school? Sirius -- is it true that animagi can sometimes spot other animagi when they're transformed? It's one of those things people say, but it might just be that people who can themselves transform are more aware of the possibility, and thus more inclined to be suspicious of an eavesdropping dog.

On one hand, I'd like a second set of ears. On the other...sometimes lying is more dangerous than honesty, and that might be the case here. If she guesses you're not a real dog, and thinks she's being eavesdropped on by MLE rather than by the Order, and she tried the spell that forces animagi into human form, that would be, hmm, 'awkward' doesn't even begin to cover it. It might be safer to let her know up front that the dog's another Order member.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-09 22:24:22](#)
Re: Private message to Padfoot and Tonks


Right. Lamont was a year ahead of me.

Why do you even ask? You know we weren't close. I ~~wasn't close with~~ No one wanted to be tight with the blood traitor's fostered-out daughter. Ravenclaw. Prefect. Flew straight. Had friends and seemed to enjoy being All That when we'd

got to NEWT-level. Had younger Ravenclaws hanging off her elbows, wanting to be just like her.


Of course, she should come let us have a look at her. But I agree Sirius should probably stay clear of her. For now. I mean, I expect he'll still be able to tell a bit from the scent of her.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-09 18:14:27](#)
(no subject)


She's an animagus, too?! What's her form?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-09 21:02:45](#)
(no subject)


A hedgehog. She transformed in front of me.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-09 21:03:15](#)
(no subject)

A hedgehog!?! Really?




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-09 21:03:29](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I know.

When she transformed back, she told me to sod off, I was laughing so hard.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-09 22:24:22](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private message to Ron

Well. There's one person who's never going to be able to learn to transform, unless his animagus form is suitably IMPRESSIVE.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-09 22:46:56](#)

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

Yeah. I'm imagining what you'd do if I laughed at your animagus form. ... Bite me, probably.

What do you think Bill's form would even be?

Hilarious if he turned out to be a caterpillar or a bundimun or something, yeah?



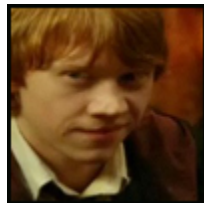
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-09 23:21:47](#)

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

Do you remember seeing the armadillo at the zoo? What if I turned into one of those? Those are EXTREMELY funny looking animals.

Or a star-nosed mole. Those are even weirder.

I don't know what Bill would turn into. How about an anteater? Or a puffskein.

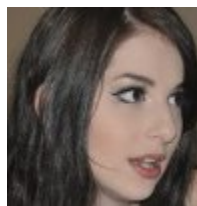


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-10 00:09:59](#)

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

Ahaha. A puffskein.

You'd make a nice armadillo. All armour-covered. Don't they roll up like hedgehogs, too? That would so be you! 'Ugh! Something dangerous is coming--quick! I'll just tuck up into a ball and they won't bother me!'

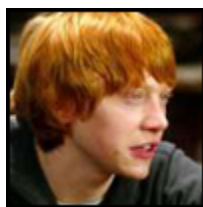


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 00:34:37](#)

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

Totally me. Plus, they look like they're a snake's first cousin.

Right, we've settled what my animagus form will be if I ever learn to transform. ARMADILLO.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-10 02:28:32](#)

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

You hope.

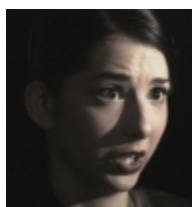
I mean you could still end up being something completely unexpected like a rhinoceros or a pelican or, um. Oh, I know! A rat, like Sebastian. Wonder what he'd do if you turned into a rat all of a sudden?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 02:32:39](#)

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

I don't know. Can animals tell animagi from actual other animals?

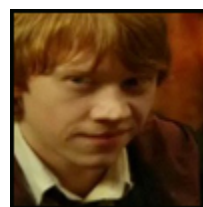



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 02:33:01](#)

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

A rhinoceros, that would be brilliant.

Or an elephant. Even better. The sort with ENORMOUS tusks.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-10 02:43:24](#)

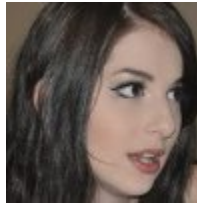
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good: Private message to Ron

'Those are some nice tusks you've got there, missy!'

I don't know. It's really tough to imagine you being something ginormous like that. And if you were an elephant, you'd probably be terrified of Sebastian and go stampeding off, crushing everything that got in your way.

I don't know if animals can tell animagi. I'll ask Professor

Dumbledore when I go for Occlumency. Or I guess we could ask Mr Black.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 02:48:55](#)

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

So.....do you think anyone else is going to have ideas about what we ought to ask them for? Maybe they don't want to say 'don't be silly, portkeys are not a priority' because they don't want me to conclude that they don't care whether we live or die? I mean maybe portkeys SHOULDN'T be a priority at this point, you know? We've done fine so far and I think everyone but me knows how to apparate now.

Anyway, yeah, it's hard to imagine being something huge. I don't think I've ever heard of an animagus that turned into something huge but maybe that was the problem, they had trouble imagining it and so they couldn't accept it and so they never learned to transform.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-09 23:23:20](#)

(no subject)

Well I think you should ask if Dogstar has someone who can make unregistered portkeys, or if they have someone in Mysteries. Once you work out where you're meeting her and whether Sirius is going to spy on her in dog form or not.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-10 04:06:21](#)

(no subject)

Oh, my....if they did have someone in Mysteries, surely they'd be interested in helping stop that dreadful Machine too, wouldn't they?


Except I doubt they know about it.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-10 04:07:13](#)
(no subject)

Good heavens. Dogstar is quite ruthless, after all. If they did know about it, THEY might want the potion, too.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 04:08:29](#)
(no subject)


I have no idea whether they would or not. But I'm rather afraid to find out.



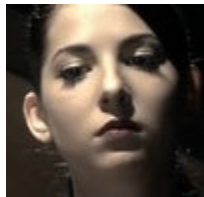
 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-10 04:10:38](#)
(no subject)

More to the point, I think it would be extremely unlikely for Dogstar to have anyone in Mysteries. In my time at the Ministry, the vetting process to join that Department was the most strenuous in the entire Ministry, and I can't imagine that it's eased up under the Protectorate.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-10 04:11:17](#)
(no subject)

They could have someone working with Portkeys. It's worth asking.

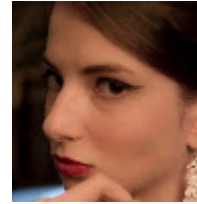


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 04:41:19](#)
(no subject)

Well they've got someone in MLE.

2013-12-09 20:49:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Justin



So.


AUROR RACHEL LAMONT is in Dogstar.

 **alt_sally_anne**

Do you think Bill at least suspected? And that's why he took up with her? (okay okay we don't actually know that he 'took up with her' but you know what everything that's come out has made me suspect it more.)

Ron, Justin, do you still want to do the internship? Because if there's a Dogstar spy in MLE and she's mates with your brother -- maybe you don't have to, you know? (Or, you could do the internship but not apply for the Auror programme.) When do you hear about whether you got in?



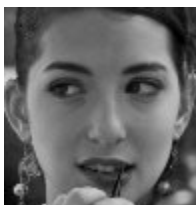
 **alt_justin** at **2013-12-10 03:12:17**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I think from what Mr Shackbolt said, Bill had no idea.

In any case, I hardly think her allegiance to Dogstar is what attracted him, what!

-Justin




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-10 03:14:24**
(no subject)

Justin Finch-Fletchley are you suggesting that perhaps Bill Weasley wants a woman who can keep him in line?

Like, by killing him in a duel if he gets her sufficiently hacked off?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-10 03:28:05](#)
(no subject)

I could not possibly speculate as to what Ron's brother seeks in a partner.

I can only comment on that which is plain for anyone to see, namely, that she is a dashed attractive and lively woman, especially for someone her age.

-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 03:59:55](#)
(no subject)

And Bill says he's been FEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEELING his way along....

(I'm sorry, Ron. Do you need someone to come Obliviate you now?)

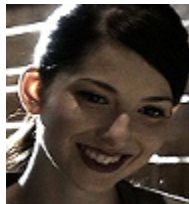


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-10 04:03:37](#)
(no subject)

Please. Yes.

Make me forget!


(Maybe you could try something other than obliviation, though.)



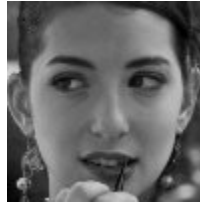
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-10 04:05:19](#)
(no subject)

I'm game for sneaking out if you are.



 **alt_ron** at [2013-12-10 04:08:16](#)
(no subject)


Totally.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2013-12-10 04:14:54](#)
(no subject)

See you soon, then!



 **alt_ron** at [2013-12-10 03:32:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

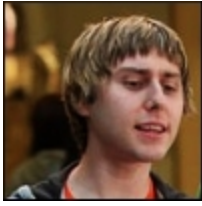
That's what I've been thinking. It means I don't have to go through with it.


I mean, I guess we have to see if she's really going to work with us. But it changes everything either way. If she's one of ours, we don't need anyone to apply to the programme. And if she's not going to work with us, it could be really bad to get into the programme with her knowing that I'm probably in the Order. I mean, she'd have a huge amount of leverage, y'know? Over me and over Bill because she could do whatever she wanted to me.

So. I'm thinking if they ask me, I'll still say yes for hols. And see what happens with Auror Lamont, yeah? And then decide when we know more.

I thought they'd have written by now, though. Maybe I'm not going to get asked to do it.

I guess that might be the luckiest thing that could happen, y'know?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-10 03:39:05](#)
(no subject)


Ron,

Well, I do think it's rather more a consideration for you than for me, what. But I think you're quite right to try it on for the holidays and then see. She's not stationed with MLE, remember, so it might still be useful for someone to be on their floor all the time. Oh, I say, also, you put on such a show of being keen that it might look *more* suspicious if you changed your mind.

Besides that, old man, I don't think there's really any danger. They'll probably just have you fetching the tea, what, but then one never pays much attention to the tea chap, does one?

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-10 04:07:47](#)
(no subject)

Good point.

Though they probably won't want me carrying the tea after I lose the levitation charm and smash the pot all over someone's desk or files or summat.

Seriously, though. You're right. I can't back out of this right now. Not for the internship if they offer it.

Did they tell you when you'd hear back from them? You haven't heard anything yet, have you?

2013-12-10 21:25:00

private message to Sally-Anne

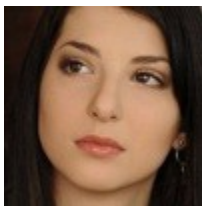


 **alt_megan**

I am starting to get excited about going to the Strettons to work, but oh dear. I don't know what to pack. Because I am not sure what is appropriate attire to work there and what will be suitable. Miss Penworthy gives me new robes each year so I do have old ones to use but they are not very smart I am afraid. And I want to look suitable. But I don't want to wear my new robes because if I ruin them with jam Miss Penworthy will be very cross. Except she is ill again, and that is worse because it will be her nephew who will be very cross, and he is even more cross than she is when there are unexpected expenditures. They are both very displeased by unexpected expenditures so I need to be very careful not to have any.

Also is there anything I should bring that I might not know about? I have been trying to think what there might be, except that is the point of not knowing. About what to bring, I mean. So if you could tell me I would be very grateful.

I hope I will do okay. Will it be very busy, do you think? It is exciting but also I am nervous.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-11 04:01:17**

(no subject)


The main work you're going to do until late Christmas Eve is deliveries, and don't worry about getting jam on your clothes, it's all in jars. Which are usually in large gift baskets, sometimes along with things like flowers. You should be fine in your new robes, although if you're really worried wear your shabby ones and maybe just wear your coat on top?

You'll floo from the Strettons to the houses that need deliveries and then you'll floo back. Sometimes you have to go to a public floo and walk a bit, so you'll have a good excuse for the coat. (If you'd rather not wear it, you'll usually know whether you'll have to walk so you'll know whether to bring it.)

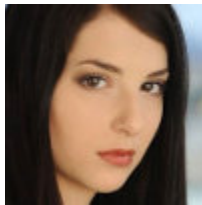
You might have to make deliveries to the families of Hogwarts students, is the thing about being too shabby.

Anyway it's not difficult work, there's just a lot of it. You'll do fine.



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2013-12-11 05:21:37](#)**
(no subject)

I hope they like me. I know how to make Miss Penworthy like me -- mostly it is polishing things and holding her embroidery silks and being very biddable as she calls it -- but new people are tricky. But at least they don't throw curses much, you said. So that is something. Because I have had enough of that to last me forever I think.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-11 05:38:00](#)**
(no subject)

I think they'll like you fine though they may not show it much until after Christmas. Mrs Stretton gets cross easily when she's busy, she won't throw curses but she'll be short with people. Shouty, sometimes. If she starts shouting just say you're sorry and don't try to explain until she stops, there's no point, she can shout louder than you can.

Oh, another thing to know is that those jams are dead cheap. So if you drop something and it breaks, don't worry, no one cares. Really. Just clean it up and go get another one of whatever it was. If you notice something in a parcel looks off, just swap it out -- you don't have to ask permission. The difficult part right before Christmas is getting everything where it's supposed to go. So if you deliver a parcel and someone complains because their jam labels are on crooked, and it needs to be replaced, THAT'S annoying because that's one more trip that has to be made. If you swap out jam because the label's on crooked and they'd never have noticed or cared and instead the jam goes in the Bad Jam cupboard, that's fine.

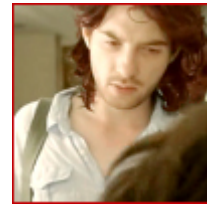
We call it the Bad Jam cupboard because that's also where Mrs Stretton puts the test batches that didn't work out quite right. Also the stuff with missing labels so you don't know what it is till you open it. If there's anyone you want to give gifts to, check the Bad Jam for the stuff that's good but the labels are on funny and you

| can grab those and send them as gifts to friends. I mean, if you
| don't mind giving them jam. (You can take it for yourself, too.)

2013-12-10 21:42:00

Order Only: tomorrow night

Heads up: Rachel Lamont has accepted my invitation to stop by the beer garden tomorrow night to talk. Expect us probably around seven or so.



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-11 03:48:13](#)

(no subject)

Alright. We'll be here, and we're always ready to sell a pint to a thirsty customer.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-11 04:33:45](#)

Private message to Bill Weasley

I don't like this, Bill.

I don't like this one little bit.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-11 04:37:08](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

I'm sorry to hear it, Mum, but I'm doing it anyway.

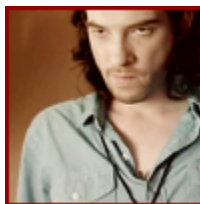
It'll be fine.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-11 04:38:40](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

The last time you met her *privately*, you ended up blind, burned, and with twenty broken bones!




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-11 04:42:00](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Aside from the fact that it was with my permission, and it was something that had to happen to cover my arse, that's not on the agenda

for tomorrow night. No, tomorrow it's just beer and some cut-throat negotiation.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-11 04:42:56](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Oh, very funny.

I can't believe Alice agreed to this.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-11 04:58:55](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

I work with Rachel every day. Besides, I'll be at Doughty Conduit, Mum. If she tries to hex me again, I'm sure Tonks can break a beer glass over her head.



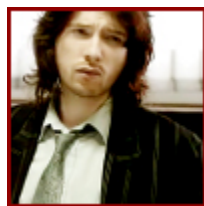
 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-11 04:59:58](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

Stop making jokes!

Do you have any idea how I felt, arriving at St Mungo's, in *December*, to the Trauma Unit?

Bill, I just couldn't bear it if anything more were to happen to you.



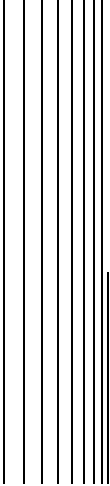
 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-11 05:00:56](#)


Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

All right, no more jokes.

I really am all right, Mum. This is something I have to do. You can't keep me wrapped in cotton wadding.

Dad wouldn't want that.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-11 05:01:44](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

William Arthur Weasley, that is a low blow.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-11 05:02:51](#)

Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

I can't help it that it just so happens to be true.

2013-12-10 22:12:00

Private Message to Megan Jones

Have you heard the rumours about Friday night? Supposed to be quite the do, I hear.



I don't suppose you'd know anything about the story so far, though. Do you? (I don't but then...well, I guess it doesn't really matter. Mostly I think it's just where everyone's supposed to be. Only don't tell Patil or Moon, right, because no one wants a lecture on what we Prefects are supposed to prevent in the school.)

 [alt_ernie](#)

Anyway. Do you want to go? F-F has something to do with it, on account of Hydra Lestrange. So I can make sure we know where it is and we can get there while there are still seats.

If you wanted.

If not, er, well, nearly everyone else will be there, I think, so we might have the sett to ourselves, practically.

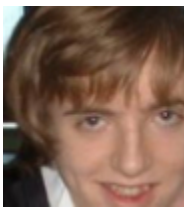


 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-11 04:46:35**
(no subject)

Yes! I read them over the summer. So I can tell you all about them. Well, there is Amaranth of course who is the main character and there is Efrain who is a demoted mudblood -- demoted to pureblood! because in the books the purebloods are subjugated by the mudbloods and cruelly oppressed. (When I first heard about the books I thought it was stupid and I didn't want to read them but I have since expanded my tastes.) AnyhowAstra Morgensen is brilliant and she writes the most powerful prose in the saga of Efrain and Amaranth and Phoebus and the tournament where they must battle to the death against other purebloods, and everything that happens and how unfair everything is. And it is quite gripping. So you will almost certainly like it.

Do let's go. And I won't tell Moon or Patil. Patil doesn't talk to me hardly anyway so that's not even a question. And I think sometimes Moon still doesn't remember my name. Perhaps if my name were an Arithmancy theorem he would. But anyhow, yes please do let's go.

Only some of it is quite suspenseful, so there may need to be hand-holding. If you didn't mind.



 **alt_ernie** at [2013-12-11 04:52:00](#)

(no subject)

I'd rather hold something else, but all right. Cheers.

I'll have a word with F-F, then.

Er, it's not a snogging book, then? Only because everyone seems to be talking about how they're either on team Phoebus or team Efrain and Zach said--well, nevermind. I suppose it doesn't matter. If you say it's exciting and about battles, then it can't be too bad.



 **alt_megan** at [2013-12-11 05:02:20](#)

(no subject)

There is ~~lots of~~ snogging but honestly the snogging is almost like a second set of battles for the characters in a way. Which makes it more interesting that people say team this and team that.

It is not so much mushy snogging as desperate snogging if you see what I mean. And also battles. And secrets and betrayals and the desperate struggle for survival in an unjust society against fearsome obstacles.

And things might get held at some point. If you play your cards right. And now my dormmates have asked what I am writing about and I didn't want to say so I told them Exploding Snap. Oh dear. And I cannot tell them why I am laughing.




 **alt_ernie** at [2013-12-11 05:08:06](#)

(no subject)

If they explode then I'm not holding them!



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2013-12-11 05:11:23](#)**
(no subject)

If they explode then you're not doing it right!

OK I have to stop laughing because nobody can sleep.

2013-12-10 22:22:00

Private Message to Rachel Lamont


Say. I'm sending out invitations for a wassailing party on Saturday. You're on my list. Shall I just say 'plus one' or is there anyone you'd like me to include so you could 'happen' to meet them there?



 [alt_lana](#)


Assuming you'd come, that is.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 04:35:46](#)
(no subject)

Saturday evening? Is it evening? I can come. Just go with 'plus-one,' I think. Unless that really fit bloke who's reserve beater for the Cannons is on your invite list, he's rather fanciable. (You'll have to introduce us once he arrives, though, as I can't actually remember his name.)



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 04:50:52](#)
(no subject)

Jenkins, you mean? Or what's the other one's name? Carter? Carsten? Crash Carsten. (Had to ask Ned.) He's the blond, isn't he?

Actually, I've always thought Mace Morrison the fanciable one on the Cannons. Shame about their record, but maybe that keeps them humble?

I've got an invitation addressed to Carsten for you. Unless you say it really is Jenkins you mean. Then I'll invite them both.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 04:56:36](#)
(no subject)

The one who was on the cover of Dish last week with 'Most Fanciable Quidditcher.....EVER?' written over his face.

I think it was Carsten. Blond. And yes, the Cannons are PATHETIC. The only quidditch team to ever score on themselves twice in one

match, aren't they? But there are several who are rather fit, and we'll be wassailing, after all, quidditch skills shouldn't be critical!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 05:19:38](#)
(no subject)

Maybe he'll share his cloak with you if you shiver a bit. Quidditchers have those lovely great wool cloaks. Mind you, his will be eye-searing orange, but I bet it's warm.

Anyone else you fancy meeting?


Sarah wanted me to invite Migliori. You know, the baritone. The one who sang Scarpia. But she's also got me inviting Montague because they may be running hot again, she hasn't decided.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 05:28:51](#)
(no subject)

Oh, MONTAGUE'S coming? Maybe I'm busy that night. (Only kidding.) Migliori will certainly improve the average musicality, although he might rather intimidate the men with his voice!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 05:40:04](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, yes. Should have told you that first? What's he done to get under your skin recently?

I still think it's baffling why he wanted to take his internship in MEU, though Desai said something last week that makes me think she sees it as a bid to broaden his experience so he can move up the ranks or out into one of the unit-bridging groups like Protectorate Defence and be able to draw on his connections across the department. I'd say he's a politician, but he lacks the charm.

Oh, say. Did you hear what happened to Forney?




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 05:43:53](#)
(no subject)

He is really not well-suited to MEU. Too much paper, not enough action, and I think Desai's right and so are you. He's lucky Gauge isn't one for cursing people who make mistakes, you know? Because he rushes.

I didn't hear what happened to Forney. Did something happen to Forney?

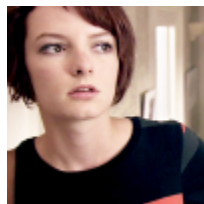



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 05:56:55](#)
(no subject)

Shame about Gauge. I wouldn't mind seeing Montague taken down a peg before he gets promoted and thinks he's all that and more. Of course, that's what Sarah sees in him. The bullishness and the ambition. Whatever. I think she knows how to knock him down when he needs it. Though, I'm fairly certain he's the one who dropped her, not the other way round. But I know better than question what Sarah thinks she wants.

And Forney, well. Mulciber had her for breakfast yesterday, is what I heard. I don't think she ended up at St M's, but I bet she was sucking lemons all last night.

And today she was reassigned to Wizengamot duty. Standing on the door. Transferring prisoners between dungeons. Announcing the time.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 05:57:48](#)
(no subject)

WIZENGAMOT duty? FORNEY?


Does Auror Crouch know?



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 05:58:05](#)
(no subject)

I mean, he must, surely.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 06:07:58](#)
(no subject)

You're lucky you're stuck over in Protectorate Affairs right now.

Crouch was LIVID. Honestly, if I wanted to make a bit of dosh, I'd start a pool on how long it will be before he kills Mulciber.

Cadmus, I mean. It's an absolutely epic pissing contest, they're having.

At any rate, we were all glad when he and BL left midday. Didn't come back until I was leaving. (Which I did as quickly as I could manage!)




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 06:17:31](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't have worked late, either, on a day those two were out for blood. Even if they weren't out for mine (as a first preference, at least.)

Did this have anything to do with the attack on Corax Mulciber's assistant? He wound up in St Mungo's with a load of broken bones.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 06:22:16](#)
(no subject)

I heard that was Sebastian Maule's thugs. So, yes. That could easily be where they were off to with the magic sizzling off their wands.

Not because they care a whit about some flunky of Mulciber-2's, of course.

But there should really be a second line in that betting pool: which will BC kill first, Maule or Mulciber-1?




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 06:27:17](#)
(no subject)

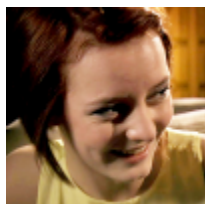
I'd put my money on Maule.

But I wouldn't get between BC and EITHER Mulciber.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 06:30:54](#)
(no subject)


Well. I can assure you none of them is on my guest list for Saturday evening. We'll gather at half-seven and start off at eight. Hope that suits.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-11 06:32:32](#)
(no subject)

Suits me fine. Especially the complete lack of Mulcibers!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-11 06:34:25](#)
(no subject)

You'll have an owl tomorrow morning with all the details.

See you then if not before!

2013-12-11 18:17:00

Private message to Ron Weasley and Pansy Parkinson



 **alt_fred**

Hallo, George here, mostly to say to both of you 'thanks' for putting sample products out in the Common Rooms, along with the flyers. It seems to be working; the owl orders keep growing. Wanted to remind you too that since this is a Hogsmeade weekend, it'd help if you mention to your friends that if they're so inclined they might stop by Zonko's to ask when they're going to be carrying our merchandise again. We figure it can only help (as long as they're polite about it.)

(Mum would be *astonished* to hear us admonishing anybody to be polite. It's amazing what new facets of character you can plumb when opening up a business.)

Parkinson, along with the next batch of samples we're sending a proposed schedule for the Grand Opening day events. Let us know what you think. Lee's going to lend a hand, but we think we might hire a couple of others from our class who wouldn't mind help ladling punch and manning the till for a day. We plan to offer door prizes on the hour, and we also applied for a one-day permit to set off some of the smaller fireworks from the roof at the end of the day. Nothing too alarming or big, like Ricochet Rockets, but some of the Saucy Salamanders and Dragon Shebangs might be nice. Don't know if we'll get permission, but it's worth a try.

Mum landed another tenant this week. She's pleased, but sort of nervy about everything. We think it'll be good when we're past the Grand Opening. Dunno if her nerves could take the strain much longer.



 **alt_pansy** at **2013-12-12 19:02:41**
ORDER ONLY

Hello, you.

Sounds brilliant. I'll keep a lookout for it. I'll try to get it turned around as fast as I can -- Mr Snape's got a lot of things he wants Hermione and me to wrap up before we leave for hols.

And I'm sure once the opening is done, things will go smoothly, and there'll be less to worry over.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-12 19:02:54](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Looking forward to seeing you at the opening, by the way.

I know things will be awfully busy, but perhaps I can swing by the shop after closing time sometime during hols and we can all celebrate properly.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-12 19:03:06](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

And I'll be sure to take Hitty aside and see what she thinks about being put on payroll. She might be a bit sensitive about it, so I'll have to tread carefully, but I'll let you know what we settle on.



 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-12-13 01:21:02](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Mum said she was going to send you a note: she talked about taking us all out to dinner. But maybe your Mum and stepdad would rather you come home rather than faff around New London after the train gets in? You'd have your trunk and stuff with you, too. So yeah, come for the opening, definitely, and we'll count on at least one other evening together during the school holiday. Maybe once with Mum and once just us. It'll be fun to talk shop.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-13 04:03:58](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I'm not sure about mum and Prospero, honestly. They got an invite to the opening, and know I'm going, but I think they're not quite sure how they feel about it and might not be in the mood to spend much time there. I can certainly make my way back to Gloss House on my own time, so I very well may be free for


dinner depending on how early they leave.

But yes, an evening with your mum is good, and an evening just us is also good.

~~Are you taking anyone to the opening?~~

I really like the light-up icicle wands, by the way. Was that your idea? Seems like something you'd think up. And I'm glad you went with the fairy light earrings instead of the ones that snowed on your shoulders. That looked a bit too much like dandruff, and got really cold besides.



 **alt_fred** at **2013-12-13 04:11:27**

Re: ORDER ONLY


Well, *multi-coloured* dandruff, but we see your point. Honestly, we're happy to leave all decisions about the, er, girly-type stuff to you. Ginny, for one, would shriek at the idea of the two of us dispensing anything like fashion advice.

(Fred and me, I mean, rather than you and me).

There's no doubt that girls like to spend their pocket money as much as boys do, so any ideas you have, keep sending 'em our way.

Is there anywhere in New London you'd like to go for dinner?




 **alt_pansy** at **2013-12-13 04:36:30**

Re: ORDER ONLY

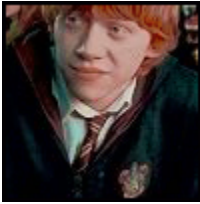
Shall.


And I can think of a few places where I'd like to be escorted by two dashing gents. Depends -- if you want to dress up and hob-nob a bit, I can see if I can get us a table at Il Bargello, or The Lanes, but if you're in the mood for just good food without the fuss, we could just go to Hedgepig and kick up our heels, or Biryani's if you'd rather have a bit more quiet.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-12 19:03:34](#)**
(no subject)

Shall do. Thanks for the heads up.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-13 05:36:26](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, say. Sorry. I didn't 't see this until just now.

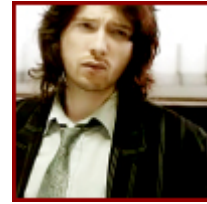
Well, until Sally Anne told me Pansy'd told her that you'd written and I hadn't answered.

Good thing is, I've already been talking to people about going by Zonko's. A bunch of us wrote them letters back when they first dropped you. And we'll all go in and let them know how disappointed we are they don't have the stuff we really want to buy. Your things, I mean. So, yeah. On it.

2013-12-11 20:08:00

Order Only: report from the beer garden

We're here, and we've been talking for awhile. Tonks had a bit of conversation with her earlier. For now, Remus and Ellie are with other customers, and Sinbad is apparently sleeping under a chair a few tables away.




 [alt_bill](#)

There's willingness to negotiate but it's slow going, since neither side wants to tip the hand prematurely. Some frustration surfaced, so we're taking a break and she's gone off to the loo.

Now the Ponds' dog is awake and up and sauntering off toward the kitchen...




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-12 03:59:41**
(no subject)

Sorry to steal her away for so long, Bill: It just seemed like it might be faster and easier to introduce myself. I think it worked, although of course she's got a limited brief on behalf of her people.

We talked for a few minutes before I sent her back out to you. I think we ought to propose a time to meet Ridley face to face. Rachel indicated that if we let Ridley pick the place, she might agree.

If it helps, I'm not sure she fits well Ridley's usual lot. She's not as gentle as some of ours but not as ruthless as Ridley herself.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-13 01:09:04**
(no subject)

I think it was a good call. She was starting to sound a little irritable at the time she stepped away, frustrated, maybe, that we weren't making much progress.

She sounded more thoughtful when she came back. She said she liked my friends.

2013-12-11 20:44:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric

Hey. Looks like you're starting to get caught up. It's a lot to get through. And I know all this isn't something you were planning on, but I'm glad you're in on it. Anyways. I saw you were talking to Mrs Longbottom, which is good. And she's actually pretty nice, I mean, sometimes she gets dead serious about things, but she's good at listening most of the time, and she cares about doing the right thing, but she also cares about all of us too, you know?




 [alt_harry](#)

My parents were a part of this, you know. Back when it first got started. People call me Potter under the lock sometimes, and it's sort of nice.

So. Do you think you'll go out for Quidditch?



 [alt_cedric](#) at **2013-12-12 05:22:54**

(no subject)


Well she's in charge and we're in some dead serious stuff. I'm talking to her mainly about what I can do to be of use to the Order. And planning a time to meet in person 'cause it's just easier to talk in person.

Harry Potter. Not sure if I want to say that out loud. Ever. So I never slip in front of someone who would know and realize what it meant.

Quidditch is a very good question. I continue to improve physically. I'm flying more, but keeping it simple and short so far. Pro Quidditch has been my dream... well forever, as long as I can remember. But I'm in here now. And I look at it and it seems, well frivolous compared to saving babies and making us a better society. But flying and quidditch make me happy. ~~For a long time my patronus thought was~~

There's no question, I have to go to tryouts come spring, otherwise people will ask nosy questions I won't be able to answer. If we decide other this would be best for a job I'll throw them if I have to. Several people have said that it could still be a useful job. I'm not sure I see why they think so but, we'll see what they say as I discuss things.



 **alt_harry** at [2013-12-12 07:19:36](#)
(no subject)

I know what you mean about things seeming sort of frivolous sometimes. When people were fighting in Saltash, and I had to sit there in my classes and just listen to professors talk, it was like everything they said was just pointless. People were dying, you know?

I think if they say it might be useful, it's worth looking into. And it's worth thinking about other stuff you can do on the side, too. Like Stretton is good at Arithmancy, and we need that sometimes, even if he's doing other stuff at work. And Sirius helps with potions sometimes. And the twins do some research, even though they've got their business to run. And sometimes, when we need a lot of people all at once, they jump in and help out too. So there's that.

And being ace at flying and strategy and things like that are really dead useful, too.



 **alt_cedric** at [2013-12-12 23:52:47](#)
(no subject)

I'm not sure how they see playing quidditch would be useful. If something like Saltash or Sarah came up most of the time I wouldn't be able to get away to the action and even if I could I'd have got get back to practice the next day. We've all seen how long Raz and Dolohov have been gone from Hogwarts when these things happen. The Cannons wouldn't take "I was off fighting against the Lord Protector. That's why I missed practice yesterday." as an excuse. Other than to sack me, report to MLE and save some galleons on my salary while praying that Dralworth isn't completely bristles before shaft for another season.

My main other idea at the moment is to work more or less closely with the twins on some ideas I have about quidditch supplies for legitimate business and ways to repurpose the same supplies to more militant ends.

Yeah, I think I was a relatively good captain, but not sure how well those skills will transfer over to combat. I was good at it for quidditch because I'm good on a broom and know the rules of the game. Until I could get combat wizardry training, above and

beyond Raz's Defence class, it wouldn't be etched onto my bones the way flying and quidditch are. For years it wouldn't be as reflexive as what to do in the middle of a firefight, like we saw Raz and Dolohov demonstrate, but it was for me in the middle of a mad dive for the snitch, where it was all twitch reflexes and what felt like prescient guesses about how it would dodge.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-13 04:11:37](#)

(no subject)

We can't all fight, you know. Like if Bill were to get seen at Saltash, that'd be a problem, but Sirius or Mr Longbottom were different.

The supplies thing might be interesting.

And I know what you mean about fighting. At the Department of Mysteries, it was like they were just sort of playing with us. And it was too easy for them.

I don't know if I'll ever be good enough.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-13 17:40:33](#)

(no subject)

I am good at Defence, I'd have been disappointed if I got less than an O. If I'm healthy by spring, I'll still be disappointed. Even if it's not my primary job, I want to be able to. Is anyone fooling themselves that the current regime will allow the kind of changes we think are necessary and right peacefully? At some point, we're all going to have to fight. Even those of us with completely normal lives that aren't wanted "criminals" are going to end up fighting.

If we want to fight and not have them playing with us, we're going to have to train like we train for quidditch. I don't know how we'll find the time here at Hogwarts to do it properly, or with a teacher that knows how. It's not like we can ask Raz to train us in small group tactics so that we can fight him and his family next time they're out murdering people. And the Order's fighters are all elsewhere. Reading about the stuff he's done was hard. I like Raz. I liked his classes. He was a good teacher and has had good advice for me in the past. I guess I ought to have


known the sort of stuff he's done, but reading it made it so much more personal. And Siz is

The difference between quidditch pads and armor is not that great and in many cases the base materials are the same. If I start a legitimate business that uses large quantities of special leather to make "Kids Kwidditch Kit! We keep your kids safe!" that means I need large quantities of special leather, some of which is going to get destroyed in creation, some of it lost during trials. If some extra gets lost and funneled to people in Moddey Dhoo where they make honest to goodness armor out of it, how would anyone know? But if Lazlo's tried to order that same leather MEU and Commerce would be all over them.

Bludgers are bloody dangerous, but I can think of a dozen different ways to make them far more dangerous as long as you can work out a system to make them not attack people on your side. There are lists and lists and lists of spells and runes and potions that are illegal to use in quidditch matches. Come Hither potions, Lizard Toe Gloves, *Hagalaz* on bludgers, the lists just go on and on and now it just looks like a list of things to do.

Clerking has been really hard to sit next to him this week and maintain the easy camaraderie that has built up over the last three months after having read about what happened in Mysteries. It was one thing to have read that Grim Truth about something that had happened years and years ago and quite another to know that just a few months ago he tried to maim my friends. He has this way of talking about just about anything that makes it sound nice and normal and fine. All academic and analytical. He doesn't torture his students. He doesn't pick on those labeled half-blood or from lesser families of dubious heritage. He pushes everyone to be the best they can be at a subject he's passionate about. I trust you and your account, it's just I don't see it day to day. It's like you are describing an evil twin in the account of what happened.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-13 17:49:20](#)
(no subject)

Those ideas about weapons and things sound really good. I'd definitely bring them up with Mrs Longbottom, and see if you can't meet up with Mr Lee. I've never really met him before,

but the twins have.

They did this brilliant training thing over Easter last term, and I'd bet they'd set something up during summer hols too.




 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-13 18:34:52](#)**
(no subject)

Is Mr Lee the one that they keep calling Fu? I thought he mostly did muggle stuff?

That sounds wonderful. I assume the winter break we haven't tried because of family and the social whirl? However, think about the first quidditch practice in the fall. And the first month or so after someone gets replaced. We're going to need something much more regular.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-13 18:42:59](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

Agreed.

Maybe we can set up something regular over next term, like we meet once or twice a week at the Shack or something and get training for an hour from an Order member.

And yes, that's the one. He does Muggle stuff, but I think he was working on armour things, and the twins like working with him.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-14 02:58:55](#)**
(no subject)

Once I'm closer to well I'd love to have a regular training and sparring session.



[alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-13 18:26:52](#)
(no subject)

But yeah.

Raz is

I told him after the ceremony where Voldemort came back that I thought I was there as a back-up plan. And he agreed with me, but he said that he didn't know about it until after, and he said that he wouldn't have let it happen. That they would've had to kill him to get to me.

And I believe him.

I mean, it's not like he'd

It's hard.

He does things. He goes out and kills people. But he'll tell me he doesn't want me doing that sort of stuff, and I think sometimes he doesn't have much of a choice. But that doesn't mean he'll up and switch sides. I know that.

It's complicated. Because most everyone isn't all good or all bad, you know? ~~And you can love someone even if they~~

Like Professor Dolohov. He was really awful in Mysteries. But once he figured out things, he left. He even gave us a book about how to fight better afterwards, and hasn't asked us once what we did with Arista and Hector. And that's not the Felix. It's him. It's not like I'm going to trust him with the Order stuff, or think that he'd take it easy on me if we were fighting in a battle or something, but I do trust him about some things, and we're not in a battle yet.

I can see how it'd be tough to work with him. Sally-Anne could barely look at him the first day we were back in class. And he is dangerous. But that doesn't change the fact that when he's teaching, he's funny. And fair. And interesting.

And Mr Snape and Mr Macnair did things before too, but now people in the Order trust them. And I trust them too. And maybe the stuff they're doing now makes up a little bit for what

||| they did before. Some people can change.

||| I don't know.

2013-12-11 22:01:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice and Remus



Well, that was ... interesting.

Alice, I do think we should perhaps simply meet Ridley for a summit. Too much back and forth is bound to lead to problems. More than a few.

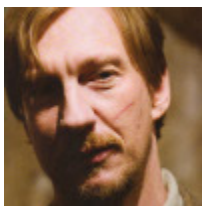
 [alt_sirius](#)


Anyway, she's not half glad to confirm that Bill's a sympathiser, she clearly fancies him more than just as an office mate, and so does he, though I think neither of them are willing to admit it.

Which means I'd be happier if neither of them were directly involved in negotiating. Particularly given how free she is with her affections. And all those middle-of-the-night private messages, if they mean what I think they meant.

She mentioned that it's 'convenient' for the two of them to converse during the day but in their eagerness to please each other we might find ourselves agreeing to something we can't afford.

We'll have to see what Dora thinks. I think she might be willing to jump from DogStar if given the right motivation. But it might be to our advantage to leave her with one foot in each group, too.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-12 04:22:58**
(no subject)

Meet her in person? Kingsley will be thrilled.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-12 04:24:28**
(no subject)


He can work perimeter security if he likes, so he doesn't have to talk to her.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 04:33:27](#)
(no subject)


He might want to wear a hat, too. In case the magpie comes, invitation or no.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-12 04:39:58](#)
(no subject)


Indeed.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 04:32:50](#)
Private message to Padfoot

Everything okay? You've got the look of a dog who thinks he's about to get swatted for the mess the toddler made.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-12 04:37:28](#)
Re: Private message to Padfoot

What?

No, I'm fine. Everything's fine.

It's just - I never know how people are going to react. To meeting me. She was entirely unlike our John Turner but no less uncomfortable.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 04:41:24](#)
Re: Private message to Padfoot

Well, I imagine she didn't fling herself out of a boat shouting 'take me with you.' We'd surely have heard about a broken arm.




 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2013-12-12 04:48:44**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Er, right.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-12 04:39:10**

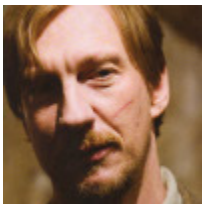
(no subject)

Thank you, Sirius.

I think that while it might be convenient for them to communicate as a point of contact, further negotiations do require a bit more direct communication with Ridley at least as we're getting started.

I'm rather ambivalent when it comes to Ms Lamont's loyalty -- I think were she to maintain her contact with Dogstar, I'd be cautious about trusting her with certain things, and would anticipate that Ridley would hold her primary allegiance. However, I see the value in having regular communication between us, and having that be potentially a real step forward.

And we're in agreement that having them working closely together might have its own set of problems and ought to be carefully thought through -- I've had enough challenges with sorting out whether Bill's head has been in the right place recently.



 **[alt_lupin](#) at 2013-12-12 04:45:58**

(no subject)

I wondered about that. (Bill, I mean, and that Auror.) They seem to chat quite a bit, rather late at night, and she's pretty and charming.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2013-12-12 04:53:04**

(no subject)

Oh, it's fairly safe to say that it was not Bill's head doing all the thinking. Most of it, perhaps. But not all.

I certainly got the feeling they were on quite familiar terms.

(Mind, it probably did Bill a world of good to have a harmless shag. Assuming he indulged.)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 04:57:53](#)

Private message to Padfoot

My galleon's on, 'he indulged.'

And you're probably right that it did him good. There are several Order members who could desperately use a good shag. Severus, for example.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-12 05:00:28](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

First off, don't give me that image.

But second, yes, I think even Snivelly should probably experience a shag at least once in his life. Not that I can think of *anyone* who'd volunteer!




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 05:02:59](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Mmm. I think Alice is telling us he slept with her while he thought she was a loyal MLE Auror. (Bill, I mean; not Severus.)

Of course, SHE slept with HIM while not knowing he was anything other than Corax's loyal assistant. Suppose Ridley knows?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-12 05:00:28](#)

(no subject)

Let's just say that were he to have had a shag with an Auror before knowing said Auror was a member of Dogstar, it would be far from harmless.



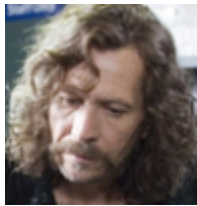
 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-12 05:06:26](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, come along, Allie. We're not all you and Frank. A shag doesn't have to mean anything and it doesn't necessarily mean he put himself in a compromising position.

In fact, even if she weren't a member of DogStar, it could have been a useful ploy.

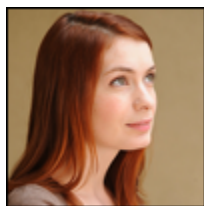
Really, it's just an extension of recruiting the Death Eaters' children to spy for us. Gaining secrets through pillow talk is a time-honoured tradition of espionage. And betraying a lover is loads easier than betraying family.


Anyway. Not that that was his plan. Sometimes a shag is a shag. And sometimes you can't control who you're attracted to.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-12 05:07:24](#)**
(no subject)

What's more, you might make the case that there was something about her that he saw despite her cover, and it's that which convinced him she was worth the risk.

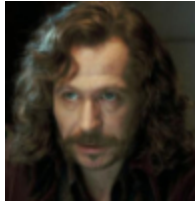


 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-12 05:14:16](#)**
(no subject)

Point taken.

However, given his challenges with Dark Arts, it was difficult to sort out why he found Ms Lamont tempting -- and how capable he'd be at compartmentalizing as one would be expected.

Things are on a decidedly firmer footing these days, however, and I'm less inclined to read much harm into it.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-12 05:18:48](#)

Private Message to Alice

And she's really quite fetching.

And a good kisser



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-12 05:21:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Alice

Yes, so I've heard.



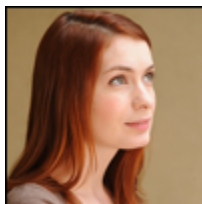
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-12 05:10:38](#)


(no subject)

I'm fairly certain her loyalty isn't all that strong to DogStar. She hasn't been with them for very long and she's such a pragmatic creature that if she were given an option which better fits her values, I think she could easily be convinced it's in her interest to jump ships.

(Not literally, Moony.)

Just as we were parting, I called her Ms Brodie. She gave a start but then, the way she smiled Let's just say her opinions about the Protectorate weren't shaped by DogStar, she merely found them before she found us.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-12 05:19:31](#)

(no subject)

Her actions with the Muggle girls were promising, I must admit. And decidedly not in the vein of what Dogstar would value.

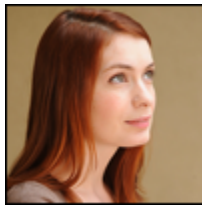



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-12 05:23:32](#)
(no subject)

I asked her about it. She said she knew it was something Ridley would never have undertaken.

The first thing she said to me was to thank me for remembering her dad. For telling that story, about Clarkson and Dolohov.

She's all right, Alice.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-12 05:35:17](#)
(no subject)

Good to know.

Very good to know.

We'll see how things go with Ridley. I think it'd be hard for her to let an Auror go from her network.



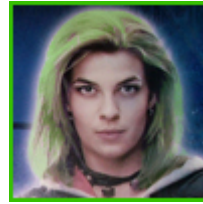
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-12 05:39:04](#)
(no subject)

It's rather a shame she didn't find us first.

But I can't imagine we'd have trusted her.

[2013-12-12 23:20:00](#)

Order Only Private Message to Charlie Weasley



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)**

Here's to another birthday with all pieces intact. Good show, you!

We sang all our favourite songs in your honour this morning at breakfast, Bea and I. And she set her toy ridgetback to zooming all around the room--until her Pa began looking a bit harassed.

Don't suppose you could get a bit of time away, so I could wish you a properly happy birthday in person?



 **[alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-13 13:26:38](#)**

(no subject)

Ta, luv. I've hid the biscuits away where there's a chance I might be able to keep them from the ravening beasts. (And you know I don't mean the dragons.)

That comic is hysterical, meanwhile. I didn't realise "dragon keeper" was a job comic book writers would treat as heroic like that! Ought to invite the writer up here for an afternoon of shoveling, shouldn't I.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-14 15:13:54](#)**

(no subject)

I hope you like peanut butter. I realised while we were making them that I have no idea what sweets you like. Well. Aside from those chocolates we had in Helmsley. You seemed to like those rather a lot. Or maybe it was the context?


That comic... I admit, it's a guilty pleasure, reading them when they come in, but this one! With that dragon on the cover! I had to read it to Bea, and she's the one said the colourist got it wrong--that he needed properly red hair or he couldn't be a real dragon tamer. She's an expert on that now, you know!

I think you should definitely invite the comic writers up to the

preserve. I expect they'd launch a new title all about the dashing dragooneers of Stornoway. Make them give you royalties, though. I promise it'll be a best seller. (And, oh! You could probably work out a product-placement deal with the twins. And they could do tie-in merchandise for you!)

Come to think of it, maybe we should quit our day jobs and write comics. What do you say?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-14 17:23:38](#)

(no subject)

Well, if we quit our day jobs to make comics, you'll have to do the illustrating. Otherwise we'd be making a comic about the adventures of Stick Figure Man and Blob Of Ink Woman. So, licensing to one of the groups of folk that know what they're doing is probably a better bet.

...I've just had the horrible realisation that someday, people are going to be writing comics about us. The Order, I mean. And there'll be thinly-veiled characters like the brilliant and daring Metamorphmagus super-agent, who can infiltrate the camps without batting an eyelash and then turn around and come straight home to bake biscuits and snuggle her daughter without missing a beat, and the handsome and easygoing dragon keeper who occasionally tags along with her and falls off brooms.

If we win, that is. (When. When we win.)

The company was definitely what I was paying more attention to than the chocolates in Helmsley, but that doesn't mean the chocolates weren't tasty, too. I don't really have a sweet tooth like some people -- if you give me the choice between a plate of perfect fresh fruit and cheese or a plate of perfect chocolate truffles and a Honeydukes assortment, I'll reach for the fruit and cheese, nine times out of ten. But I don't dislike sweets, not at all! And yes, I like peanut butter biscuits -- they make a good breakfast, actually - - and these are particularly delicious. (Don't tell Mum, but I think I like the recipe you used more than I like her recipe for peanut butter biscuits. And if you ever repeat that, I'll deny it to my dying day.)

Speaking of Mum, I had to spend fifteen minutes last night

reassuring her that I didn't resent her because she forgot my birthday until the twins said something yesterday morning. I'm so worried about her. Not that I care that she forgot, and I'm certain it's because she has so much on her mind, but it's the first time I've seen her forget one of our birthdays in, what, twenty-four years. I wish I could do more to help her. (I did write to Percy this morning and tell him that if he even thinks about contacting Mum for the rest of the year -- about the Hope Emporium, about Dad's death, about Christmas, about any of the fucked-up ideas he has about how she should be living her life -- I will be most displeased. Not that I think Percy would show up for the opening, but I had a horrible vision of him showing up on Christmas Eve and expecting to be welcomed with open arms, and just, no.)

I really hope the grand opening is a success. She's built all this up so much, and she's pinned so much on it and is so emotionally invested, and if everything gets off to a slow start the way businesses do sometimes, I don't want to think about how much we're all going to have to pick up the pieces.

2013-12-13 17:07:00

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Weasley,

Forgot to mention as I was leaving: You recall the Crabbes' Christmas party is this evening. We had accepted but earlier this after-noon Mrs Malfoy changed her mind.



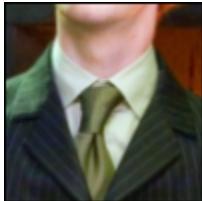
 **alt_lucius**


Dimly recall that Caesar particularly wished to speak to me to-night. How do you fancy going in my stead and conveying my regrets?

If they give you any trouble at the entrance, simply tell them I sent you as Mrs Malfoy has a headache - and if he can't tell you what it's about, then offer to find a time on the books this week.

You might as well stay and enjoy yourself once you've completed the errand.

Unless you've other plans tonight?



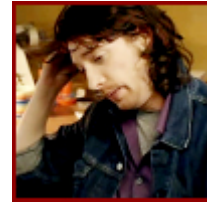
 **alt_percy** at **2013-12-14 00:42:38**
(no subject)

Not at all, sir. I would be honoured to go in your stead and discharge the errand.

2013-12-13 18:52:00

Private message to Charlie Weasley

Mum was practically in tears this morning at breakfast, and when she told me why, I felt like a total prat. Forgive me, but the auspicious occasion of your natal day as ~~Per~~ completely slipped my mind. Slipped both our minds, actually. George mentioned it in passing during a Floo call this morning. Mum's been so busy getting ready for the Grand Opening, and I've...well. I've been distracted, too. But I do feel rather badly, not the least since you've been such a support to me this year.



 [alt_bill](#)

Anyway, owl's on its way to you and should reach you tomorrow morning. Despite the fecklessness of your family, I hope you had a good time celebrating it with Dree and Em.



 [alt_charlie](#) at **2013-12-14 01:09:36**
(no subject)

Oh, Merlin, please tell Mum not to worry. I'm not fussed at all -- I didn't even remember it was my birthday until Em showed up with a cake at dinner. You and Mum both have plenty else to worry about. I'd rather have her worry about her Grand Opening than worry that I'm feeling neglected -- I'll Floo her in a few and tell her so, actually, since I'm sure she's been wondering all day how to apologise.

It was a good enough day, though! Cake at dinner, like I said, and things have been thankfully quiet here for a few days, so we're hoping to be able to get some time just the three of us for a nice supper sometime this weekend.



 [alt_charlie](#) at **2013-12-14 01:15:58**
ORDER ONLY

Right, that's the public reply in case anybody's reading.

Anyway, it really has been quiet this week. I don't want to hex us, but remember the last few years when the dragons have been right monsters, leading up to the Solstices? Nothing at all like that this year. This time last year, we were trying to wrangle

half a dozen temper fits and explosions a day, but it's been business as usual this year. So quiet it has me nervous.

How are things on your end? Has there been any more fallout with Mulciber over Maidstone? (And how are you feeling?)



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2013-12-14 01:25:22**

Re: ORDER ONLY

Have the other dragon handlers noticed the difference? I wonder if you've heard any say anything that hint they know what's going on? Because if so, they might know a little more about those visitors you've had show up from Mysteries in previous years.

Speaking of which, have you seen the visitors this time?

My dragon has been oddly quiescent, too, which is also making me nervous. I heard from Rachel that when word filtered back to the office that Maule's minions managed to get the drop on me, he was so angry at the news that he blew a door off its hinges. I figured I was getting cruciated when I returned to the office on Monday, but he acted as if I'd been off on a pleasant holiday and he was just pleased to see me back to work at my desk. Weird.

I had definite aches for a day or two at the site of the bone breaks. Which was my entire upper body, really, since she managed to crunch every rib I have. That's all worn off now, though, and I'd say I'm back to normal now.



 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2013-12-14 01:33:21**

Re: ORDER ONLY

I've heard a few people talk about how quiet it's been, but we try not to talk about things like that too loudly. You know, it's the thing where the minute you say "it's quiet", something explodes. Makes it tough to ask around, because if you "just happen" to mention, people give you shit for it unless you do it in just the right way.

Nobody visiting that I've seen, but Higgs is tucked away in his office most of the time and Merlin knows who's coming in and out

through there. He keeps to himself, that one. I've been watching, but it's hard to keep track. Em spends more time indoors, I'll see if I can pick his brain about things without sounding too suspicious.

I'm glad you're on the mend, and that Mulciber didn't take it out on you further when you went back in -- I was worried about that. Oh, and speaking of worried, that reminds me, when I wrote Ginny and Ron about what happened to you, Ginny seemed awfully concerned. I was sure to lead with "he's all right, everything will be fine", but she didn't seem to want to believe me, almost. I think hearing you were in St M's brought back some bad memories and associations for her. You might want to take a few minutes and write to her sometime in the next few days, let her see that you really are fine.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-14 01:43:45](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, any observation you can give us is golden, thanks. I'm sure both Alice and Albus will be very interested in anything you can report.

I'm not surprised to hear that Ginny had a hard time with the news, because Mum was the same way: she specifically mentioned how hard it was to come to the Trauma unit in December. It shook her rather badly, really, which is why I haven't been too fussed about her scolding and coddling me all week. I figure she needs to get it out of her system.

Anyway, I'll write to Ginny, set her mind at ease.

Speaking of which...well, if we're setting people's minds at ease I think I should tell you that I know about last Friday night, Charlie, at the fishing hole. Alice has already told me, so you don't have to fret about keeping it a secret from me.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-14 01:57:41](#)

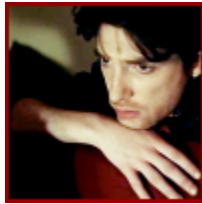
Re: ORDER ONLY

Ah, yeah.

Well.

I wasn't exactly upset at the thought of keeping it secret, since it was something Alice asked me to do, and what we do involves confidence sometimes and you know I've never had problems keeping confidences when confidences need to be kept. Still, since you do know, I want to go on the record as saying that I told Alice I'd do it not because I wanted to spy on you, but because I wanted to be able to witness what happened so that if somebody else came along and said "well, how do we know he's not under Imperius", I'd be able to speak up and say, no, he's not. That kind of thing.

I do hope you're not too hacked off at being spied on, but I'm not going to apologise for doing it, because it meant I could tell Alice you were trying to do things as well as you could.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-14 02:15:40](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

I was furiously hacked off for all of five seconds when she told me. But that evaporated immediately; I realised, *oh, of course she had to do it*. She'd be an idiot not to, and of all the things that Alice Longbottom is, she is not an idiot.

That combined with a blinding relief that she picked you for the task. I asked you to watch my back when I started down this road, and I guess this just was part of it. We both know I would do the same for you, yeah?

I had no clue, by the way, so well done. Well, I was distracted, but I really had no idea you were there. Which doesn't reflect well on me and my sense of security, I'm afraid: I should have considered the possibility, I suppose, but I didn't. Maybe I can blame the pain potions for that.

What did you think of her?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-14 02:34:09](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Well, she didn't notice me, either -- at least, I'm pretty sure she didn't -- and she's an Auror, so you can take yourself off the hook a bit. I guess I'm better at sneaking than I thought!

She's ... interesting. I can see why you like her, and I think I'd probably like her, if I got to know her a bit more. She's very determined. I just wish she wasn't so convinced she's going to get killed any day now. I mean, on the whole, she's probably right, but there's a difference between accepting that you're in a high-risk situation and not letting it get to you, and genuinely believing that you're not going to live out the next few years. Being convinced you've got a timer ticking down to your inevitable demise isn't exactly healthy, and there were a few bits where she sounded less like she's trying to find a way to overthrow the Protectorate and more like she's trying to find something she can use her death for, you know what I mean?

But then again, Dogstar. They're pretty much an organisation full of glorious martyrdoms looking for a place to happen, from everything I've seen, so I'm not sure if that's her natural inclination or if it's just the way she's used to thinking about things.

I told Alice she should offer to give Rachel some of her memories of Rachel's father, since they worked together. I can't imagine having lost Dad that young, but even worse than losing your father that young must be losing your father that young and having to pretend you hate everything he stood for.

Do you think you might get back together with her, now that you both know you're (sort of) on the same side? Or has Alice told you not to, still?



 [alt_bill at 2013-12-14 03:02:14](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

That's a wonderful idea, to offer her some memories of her father. I'd like to convince her that her death isn't inevitable. Bloody hell, I *wish* the Order had found her first.

It's been almost dizzying, actually, seeing her this week through a whole new perspective. Surreal, almost, like--like psychological whiplash. I mean, I was interested in her, and we sort of fell into things. I realised what I was doing and how stupid it was to do this with an apparently loyal auor, and

'fessed to Alice, who read me the riot act, and I tried to put her out of my mind, I honestly did.

And now this. It's almost maddening: now that I *know*, a good number of the reasons that I told myself why it was impossible suddenly evaporated. I find I'm attracted to her even more now. I can't lie to myself, dismissing it as just lust. Well, *that's* there still, believe me, maybe even more than ever, but it's mixed with admiration and pity and fascination and sympathetic fellow feeling and the sheer enjoyment of spending time in her company.

What makes it worse is that she's given me some clear signals this week that she's still interested, too.

Well, except not all the obstacles have evaporated.

There's still Lucius Malfoy. Much may also depend on how the negotiations with Dogstar go, too. If it all ends up in a big fireball, that would definitely put a crimp on things.

I don't know. I need to think about it some more, but maybe..maybe I'd like to see if we can make something work. I do feel I would need to be upfront with Alice, though.

Ugh, won't that be an embarrassing conversation. The first one was bad enough.



 **alt_charlie** at **2013-12-14 03:14:05**

Re: ORDER ONLY

Poor Alice. We put her through so much grief, don't we?

Giving it some time is probably the best option. I can imagine Alice is probably a bit fed up with trying to wrangle all of us, especially with Frank's magic still being out of commission. It's probably better to give her a few weeks without bringing it up again, and also give you and Rachel a few weeks to figure out how you're going to interact with each other now that you both know what you know. Jumping into things is never a good idea if you have the time to consider them more carefully, and all.

Especially since it would be a bad thing to risk the negotiations with Dogstar. I mean, that'll probably all end badly anyway, because I can't imagine Ridley being any more reasonable this time than she was the last, but you don't want too many brewers spoiling the potion and all. And, yeah, Malfoy. Ugh. Malfoy.

(Which reminds me -- I'm this close to dropping in on Percy and suggesting to him that if he says one word to Mum about the anniversary of Dad's death, or if he so much as shows the tip of his nose near her grand opening, or if he even thinks about coming round for Christmas, I'll introduce his face to my knuckles at high velocity. Talk me out of it?)

Anyway. Time. Time is good, and taking things slowly, and maybe letting somebody else take point on the negotiations for a bit -- I think bringing Sirius in was probably a good plan. That way you can separate negotiations on behalf of Dogstar and the Order a bit from how much you two want to get into each others' knickers.

We should try to figure out some way for you to introduce her to me, maybe. (Officially, I mean.) I'd like a chance to get to know her a bit.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-14 03:46:42](#)

Re: *ORDER ONLY*

You're certainly right about not wanting to add to Alice's burdens right now. I did tell her that the Order will always come first for me, and I meant it, which means, yeah, I have to allow some time for the negotiations with Dogstar to play out. Plus, if I show her that I'm willing to *wait* and reflect a bit before jumping back in, it might give her more reason to trust my judgement.

I honestly don't know what to think about the Malfoy issue. Maybe all this has made me figure out I'm naturally monogamous...or at least there's an atavistic caveman deep down inside me somewhere who doesn't want to share. *Especially* with Malfoy. Not to mention the danger it poses for her.


Except there's also a part of me (the more wicked part) that *likes* the idea of him unwittingly giving away intelligence to someone who's working to bring down the Protectorate. She made her move to save those girls because of information he gave her. So how could I ask her to give up that conduit?

I'd like to introduce you to her, yeah, although I'm not quite sure when or how. Maybe I can convince her to come to the grand opening. You're going to get some time off that day, aren't you? I'm not planning on going to the Ministry party this year, and if Mulciber doesn't like it, he can go stuff himself. That's just too close to the bone.

I've been worried about Percy and the opening, too. If he did show up and make a scene, that would be a nightmare. I'm sure Fred and George would be perfectly happy to chuck some fireworks at him and blow him up, but that might very well frighten away all the customers. Probably best to avoid that!

Maybe we could warn him off using the journals? Less danger of fisticuffs or explosions if neither of us is in the same room with him. Not a threat, exactly, but, mm, call it a dignified, firm request. We can maybe use his loathing of making a scene to convince him. I will say that he hasn't made any attempt to come home or visit the Gringotts vault--and yes, I checked.



 **alt_charlie** at **2013-12-14 04:00:08**
Re: ORDER ONLY

I was thinking about that, too. Giving Percy a warning via journal, I mean. I'm not sure if it would be satisfying enough for me, though.

Maybe it's my caveman, but I am just so blindingly, blazingly furious with him that I want him to realise how much he's burned his bridges. I know you all think I'm the easygoing one, and, I mean, I damn well try to be, but he crossed the line a long way back and I want him to realise he used up the last of his rope with me a long time back.

I'm glad he hasn't tried anything with the vaults, and I don't know if he'd even think of showing up for Christmas or

saying anything to Mum about it, and I'm sure that if he did Mum would come out with something about how Christmas is a time for family. And if he tries to reach out around the anniversary of Dad's death, I'm sure she wouldn't want a scene or anything. But I want him to know just how seriously I mean this: his actions show he's decided he doesn't want to be a Weasley anymore, and I'm damn well going to enforce that, because you don't get to take that decision back. Not without a hell of a lot of groveling.

I guess I will write to him. I'll write it out on separate paper first and sit on it for a bit, just to make sure I'm not saying something I shouldn't.

I'll be at the opening, yeah. Wouldn't miss it for the world.



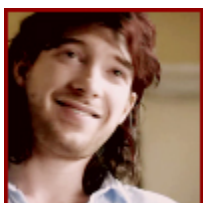
 **alt_bill at 2013-12-14 04:09:16**

Re: ORDER ONLY

No, I agree with you, and I'm sure the rest also want to do everything we can to protect Mum. It's probably just as well they *didn't* let me into the Committee Room at that licensing hearing, because if they had, once I realised what he was doing, I probably would have hexed his lights out.

If you want to take on the task of writing to him, fine. I trust you, but of course you can feel free to run it by me first if you want another opinion.

Great, I'll see you on the 21st then. It'll be best for us all to be together on that day...and if Percy's alone out in the cold, it's his own bloody fault.



 **alt_bill at 2013-12-14 01:48:58**

(no subject)

I'm glad it was a good one, then. And you have a package on its way, so your birthday celebration is being spread out over several days. Which has its own advantages!

2013-12-13 21:41:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good



 [alt_susan](#)

I wish this still included everyone!

But I'd feel silly posting on the Order lock just to say how excited I am about tonight--last time was such a success, and there's just something about hearing a wonderful book read aloud too.

I love that we're getting people to do something (however small) against the Protectorate *and* having a good time.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-14 18:17:19**
(no subject)


I think it went well last night.

Loads more people came. And I think that's a good thing. Like the people who were there last time felt safe enough to tell other people they trusted about it.

And it was sort of fun hearing everyone get all worked up when something exciting was happening.

I might have to read the first two. You know, just to understand a bit more what they were talking about in this one.




 [alt_susan](#) at **2013-12-14 18:34:40**
(no subject)

I thought so too!

And good on you for knowing what to say to calm everyone down. I can't lie, I was a little worried when Megs and Ernie showed up--even though they're my housemates and I was actually glad to see them on one level.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-14 18:40:40](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I know what you mean.

But we've been talking about how they deserve a bit of a second chance, and they didn't up and leave or anything. We'll see if they come back. But I don't think they'll tell.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 18:45:53](#)
(no subject)

Well, we're not all in detention right now, so at least they haven't told *yet*.

It's jolly good having Headmistress McGonagall back, isn't it? She'd make everyone scrub cauldrons or some such if she caught us, but at least we needn't feel as though we might get carted off to a camp or put under some awful spell.

And yes, Ma Harry, you should definitely read the first two!




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-14 18:59:46](#)
(no subject)

It's definitely got more fighting in it than I thought there would be.


And I can see why they banned it. Especially once they started talking about the resistance movement.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 19:08:52](#)
(no subject)


Yeah. It's been fun doing the reading, but I can't help wondering if Miss Morgansen is all right.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-14 18:44:49](#)
(no subject)

Amaranth was just utterly brilliant. She's just so incredibly brave, and clever, and I can't wait to see how it ends.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 18:47:07](#)
(no subject)

Right!


I know it's hard to make time to read for fun with all the revising we've got to do, but Amaranth's journey is worth it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-14 18:52:51](#)
(no subject)

Completely. And I know people are fussing over who she'll end up with in the end, but it's so much more about what she's doing than who she's snogging.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 18:58:19](#)
(no subject)

The snogging is nice, but *so* not the point.


And speaking of--I've got to dash cos I'm meeting Aurelia at Madame Puddifoot's!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-14 19:00:48](#)
(no subject)

Oooh! Tell her I said hello.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 19:07:05](#)
(no subject)

I will! I'm sure she'll want to see everyone in Slytherin too, so we'll probably swing by the Three Broomsticks after.

If we don't get held up, that is...



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-14 18:49:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh! I was walking by Zonko's earlier, and I saw Donovan make a fist just like they did in the book, and he pointed his finger at one of the Ravenclaws who was at the reading, and she pointed right back at him, and they both were laughing.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-14 18:54:29](#)
(no subject)

Brill! It'll be snitch if a bunch of them start doing it and everyone else is left wondering what they're on about.

2013-12-13 22:13:00

Private message to Diggory



 **alt_antonin**

I have now managed three times to forget to ask in person, and thus am resorting to writing: I've a spare set of tickets to the St Mungo's gala; I had already secured mine, and then was given an additional pair. Would you be interested in them? ('No, thank you' is a perfectly acceptable answer, mind you; the evening is not the sort of thing a young man would necessarily find worthwhile, it consisting mostly of wearing fancy robes and making small talk whilst being fed inadequate food, and the value is mostly in laughing at people without them noticing. Still, should you know anyone who would like to attend -- your parents, perhaps? -- the tickets are yours for the asking.)

In benefits that might be more to your liking, the manager of the Holyhead Harpies has sent along a selection of tickets, two each for the remainder of the season's matches. I will need to make at least one personal appearance myself, lest it be viewed as a snub, and there are several others who would be happy to take them off my hands as well, but Quidditch is not my game; if the reminder would not be too painful, let me know and I will give you first pick of the lot.

You have seemed much more subdued over the past week or so, meanwhile; I hope the accumulated demands upon you have not been too taxing. I've chalked it up to the incipient holidays and to the demands of your studies, and I have not wanted to pry -- please do not think I am expressing displeasure with the quality of your work -- but if the difficulty is related to anything I can help with, do let me know. I am well aware the holidays are not an unalloyed pleasure for many, and if you are having familial or social trouble of the sort that money or influence can ameliorate, I am happy to supply either.

Likewise, if your classwork is troubling you, or if you need to carve extra time from your schedule to complete it, that can be arranged. (I cannot offer tutoring in all the subjects you are studying, but of the ones in which I am qualified, I would certainly be willing to help; while I enjoy our less directed discussions, do feel free to smack me on the back of a hand with a roll of parchment and tell me to stick to something that would be of more use to you.)



 **alt_cedric** at **2013-12-14 19:02:15**
(no subject)

My parents anywhere near a charity auction would be a disaster. I, however, would enjoy going. I lack a 'plus one' so will either need to ask a friend or only take one of your extras.

I would also enjoy going to the quidditch matches and am sure that I can find some friend or other to take the second. I assume that at some point in the past one of your friends, Professor Raz perhaps, has tried to bend your ear as to the glories of the most noble sport and it sadly fell on deaf ears or I'd offer to accompany you and talk quidditch whichever date you choose to go.

At present the extra stresses are not something anyone else is going to be able to solve. The healers tell me I'm at a tricky point in my recovery. I'm well enough that normal every day life no longer tires me out leaving me incapable of even wanting outside entertainment, but extra effort exhausts me. On top of my set apart status here at Hogwarts this makes socialising hard. I am getting together with some friends today to help with that and it makes the offer of a non-family social event over the holidays very appealing. Home My parents house no longer feels quite so much like my home and I am anticipating dealing first hand with my family issues rather than at one remove. I love them dearly but it will be different from what it ever has been in the past, even from this summer during my initial recovery.

I believe that my careful measuring out of my revision, one week of my notes from sixth and seventh of one subject each and every day, is both keep me on pace to do as well as I'm able to on my NEWTs and not over extending myself. I'll admit there are days I've fallen short of that, but I'd rather fall a bit short and not overtax myself at this point in the year. However, as much as I loved ~~Raz~~ Professor Raz's instruction throughout my NEWT studies I would appreciate a different perspective on dueling and defence in general if you would be willing to discuss it with me.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2013-12-14 19:54:04](#)**
(no subject)


On the one hand I am glad to know it is only the pressures of navigating the dual paths to recovery and adulthood that have caused the downturn in your mood recently, rather than something more severe; on the other hand, as neither of those things have easy answers, nor can they be solved by force of will alone, perhaps a more emergent issue would have been better after all. My dear, attempting the transition from childhood to adulthood is bad enough without the stress and exhaustion of physical recovery atop it. You have my utmost sympathies.

I shall take you at your word that there is nothing I might do regarding the questions of adulthood, and of establishing a more adult relationship with your parents and your friends, but as it happens, I well remember the stage of physical recovery you describe, and could bend your ear with tales of how miserable I found it myself. I've kept quiet, as a man's recovery is his own business, but if you'd like I can teach you the exercises I have used; they are excellent at building stamina without leaving one utterly drained. And yes, I would be happy to provide some lessons in duelling and defence; it's easy enough to adapt the lessons to how you are feeling at any given time.

I shall leave the spare tickets to the Gala on your desk, and the Quidditch tickets are in the escritoire -- take whichever game you'd like. (You are correct, meanwhile, that Rizzer has tried -- and failed -- to instill an appreciation of the game. I admire the skill involved in the playing, but would, on the whole, prefer a calm evening with a nice book!)

Yours,
A.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-14 22:38:21](#)**
(no subject)

My family is what it is. I was rebuilding my sense of separation and then was struck by how soon I was going to be under their roof for an extended period of time. I love them all but it's going to be gift giving season, which means that in all likelihood several long

standing issues will be front and center for me.

I think I would enjoy learning the exercises you used and talking about it to someone who isn't a healer.

Thank you for the tickets, I hope to enjoy them a great deal.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2013-12-15 03:06:32](#)

(no subject)

Family is an exceptionally complicated question at the best of times. I did not know my father -- he died very shortly before I was born -- but trying to build an adult relationship with my brother, twenty years older than I and serving the paternal role in my life in many ways, was the work of several years and more than a few pitched battles, and my relationship with my mother was often fraught to begin with. You have my utmost sympathies.

I do not have an easy answer for you, nor any useful sage advice, save that you follow your instincts and stay true to yourself; you are a sensible, dutiful, and well-balanced young man, and someone possessed of those qualities is capable of handling any unpleasantness that might arise. Still, should those long-standing issues rear their ugly heads during the holidays (and, though I will not pry and will not request you to lay bare anything you are not comfortable in sharing, some things you have said allow me to make a well-informed guess as to the source of those issues), I trust you know that you may reach out to me for any assistance I might provide, even if only as a pretext. (Which is to say: make free use of my unreasonable and capricious demands upon your time as a reason to excuse yourself from the festivities until such time as you are ready to return to the fray. I will happily invent or verify any *ex post facto* rationalisation for your absence that is required.)

Add an hour into the schedule on Monday or Tuesday for us to apply ourselves to the betterment of the body, rather than the mind, then, and I will teach you the beginning forms of physical (rather than mental) meditation. I'm certain you'll have no trouble picking up at least the basics before the holidays begin, enough to get on with while we're away, and afterwards we can make a more systemic exploration.

||| Yours,
A.

[2013-12-13 23:47:00](#)

Private message to Percy and Bill

This may not be necessary, but I'd rather take the time and spell things out, so everyone involved knows the expectations and so there aren't any unpleasant scenes anytime within the next few weeks.



 **[alt_charlie](#)**

Percy: I expect you will not make an appearance at Mum's new business, for any reason, either for the grand opening or after.


I expect you will not contact her on the anniversary of Dad's death. I expect you will not make references to that anniversary anywhere she can see.

I expect you will not contact any member of the family, particularly but not limited to Mum, regarding Christmas unless they reach out to you first. I expect you will not be at the Burrow for the holiday itself or for any of the preparations. I expect that if you find yourself in the same public place or event as any member of the family, you will quietly and discreetly excuse yourself, and if that isn't possible, I expect you will do your utmost to avoid speaking to them and avoid anyone noticing you aren't speaking to them.

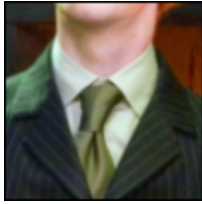
I expect that if Mum does contact you or reach out to you in any way, you will be nothing but warm, gracious, and kind to her, without any judgement about her life and her choices. I expect you will treat her as someone for who you have great respect and to who you owe a very great deal, and that you will go out of your way to make this obvious to her, no matter what your actual feelings might be.

I hope we're all clear in our expectations, because I will be very put out if my expectations aren't met.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-15 01:06:33](#)**
(no subject)

He is not the only one. Understand, Percy, that Charlie is speaking not just for himself, but on behalf of the family.



 **alt_percy** at **2013-12-15 01:23:38**
(no subject)

With regard to the opening, put your mind at ease. I have better things to do with my time than to show up at such a sordid and embarrassing affair.

I highly doubt that I shall encounter any of you the next several weeks, as we now move in *very* different social circles. Should we unexpectedly come face to face, however, I have no intention of slinking off anywhere, and you have no right to demand such a thing of me. However, I assure you that it is beneath my dignity to draw attention to any prior tie which we had with one another. You can confidently count on me ignoring you.

If ~~Mu~~ Mrs she chooses to contact me, I shall behave with appropriate pureblood propriety, but I am sure I will have other plans for the Christmas holidays which will preclude my being at the Burrow anyway.

As for the anniversary of Dad's death, do not treat it as a martyrdom which is only meaningful to *you*. I lost my father that day, too. However, it is my intention to mark the occasion in my own way. Privately.




 **alt_charlie** at **2013-12-15 01:56:33**
(no subject)

So, you'll still consider him your father, it's just the rest of us you're spitting on? The last thing he wrote in his journal before he died was a message to you about the importance of family. Give a good long think about what he'd say to what you've done, why don't you.

And, just to be clear? I'm not making demands, I'm giving you one last chance to keep that propriety you're so fond of. If you and I find ourselves at any of the same places, and you don't quietly excuse yourself and leave, you will very shortly after have a new reference for "sordid and embarrassing affair", and it won't bother me in the least.

I hope your holidays bring you everything that you deserve.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-15 01:30:09](#)

Private message to Charlie Weasley

Mum saw that you had written to him and asked me about it, since I was on the Private message, too. She went off and had a good cry after we talked, but I think she's also privately relieved that you did this.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-15 01:39:14](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I'm glad she's relieved. I didn't exactly do it for her -- well, I mean, I did, but it was more for myself -- but I'm glad she doesn't disapprove, at least.

Breathing deeply and not calling him a cold, stuck-up, heartless tosspot right now. Breathing deeply.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-15 01:45:23](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

You don't need to reply right away. Not at all, if you don't want to. It seems he's going to do what we want...and if he salves his precious pride by informing us as arrogantly as possible, fine. At least

Mum won't have to worry about him showing up next week.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-15 01:49:12](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

We are well past the point where I am willing to let him have the last word.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-15 01:52:28](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

If that's what you prefer, fine, then. Have at it. He bloody deserves it.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-15 01:58:24](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I hope his "other plans" for Christmas involve sitting alone in his apartment with leftover takeaway and nobody remembering he exists.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-15 02:03:37](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Yeah.

I sucked in a breath when I read that last bit you wrote.

Well done. Not sure it'll do any good, but...yeah. I'm glad you said it.



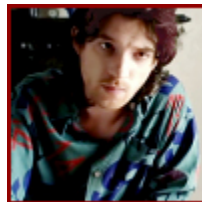
 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-15 02:19:12](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I don't care if it does any good for him or not, but it did me a world of good to say it, at least.

He's so lucky I'm a better person than he is. Because if I weren't, I wouldn't rest until every single person he interacts with regularly shunned him for the poisonous little social climbing monstrosity he really is.

Merlin and Agrippa help him if he ever makes Mum cry again. They'd better, because I sure won't. And if he replies to me and says a single word about Dad, he'd better pray I don't find him, because if I do, he'll be drinking his meals through a straw for the next four months straight.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-15 02:26:47](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I think you need to do some more of that deep breathing again. Or do you need me to come keep you company for awhile tonight? Because I can, if you like, if you're not on overnight

shift.

Mum probably has the right instinct, to have something to do that'll keep us busy that day. Still. The anniversary is going to be hard.



 **alt_charlie** at **2013-12-15 02:42:25**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

No, I'm perfectly calm, actually. I've gone through furious and come out the other side, by this point. I've just had more than enough of him, and it's time he remembered that the

Weasley temper doesn't only show in things like Howlers from Mum.

Actions have consequences. It's time he started experiencing some of his.

I'm just killing time right now until Dree comes off-shift, actually -- Em's in the kitchen putting the last touches on my birthday supper. (I tried to help, but he told me the birthday boy isn't allowed to cook.) But if you wanted to come up tomorrow, after I go off-shift at three o'clock or so, that'd be snitch.

And yeah, I'm trying to keep myself busy, too, but it isn't really helping much. Just making me tired and sad, instead of just sad.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-12-15 02:50:03**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I'm glad Em and Dree can be with you tonight. I think you need the company.

Count on seeing me tomorrow, then.

2013-12-13 23:54:00

Private Message to L Malfoy and B Lestrangle




 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Successful in my quadrant. Warded to ensure detection will be slow.

Check in when you're home.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2013-12-14 06:06:31**
(no subject)

I sent half the Enforcers on duty tonight to Hounslow in search of unruly carolers. I'm quite confident they'll decide to arrest someone. It truly doesn't matter who.

I've gone back to the office. Rodolphus is probably already snug back at L'Estrange Hill.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2013-12-14 06:20:09**
(no subject)

Sure it will delight M to think MLE was out after marauding carolers while his business went to ash.

Assume you took care of NL12?

Rod had NL27. Heard from him.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2013-12-14 06:17:24**
(no subject)

Quite successful.

Are you going to Gaude's tomorrow? Have an amusing anecdote for you regarding Runge. It would not surprise me should he turn up with a headcold.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-12-14 06:25:34](#)
(no subject)

Yes. Taking Araminta Croft.

What's Runge done?

More importantly, what did you manage at Sandwich? (Shame you drew short straw.)



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-12-14 06:41:27](#)
(no subject)

Currently, imagine he's looking for robes to wear before he Apparates home. He'll have to explain losing his hair, as well. (Perhaps whatever he was doing was too important to discontinue, despite the smoke.)

At any rate, he surely experienced the particular challenge of running bare-footed down a shingle beach in December. Rather resembled the rest of the quarry, in fact.

When MLE come to investigate, do make sure they check both up and down the shoreline - somehow several of the inhabitants took the notion of a late-night swim. Quite curious.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-12-14 07:04:49](#)
(no subject)

Hm. Suppose this is how M curries favour and gains leverage. Sorry to have missed the farce, however. R deserved all he got.

Will be sure MLE round up the stragglers. When they get a report of the incident, which I trust will not be prompt...

Rod left something for the investigators, as well: a Mackrell badge 'accidentally' lost in the chaos.

Nothing to do now but wait. And see what the dog does with his new bone.

2013-12-14 09:08:00

Order Only: Private Message to Charlie Weasley



What in blazes are you writing Humongous Bighead Boy about?!

 [alt_gredforge](#)



 [alt_charlie](#) at **2013-12-14 16:34:30**

(no subject)

Making sure he knows there are consequences to what he's done.

Let me know if he contacts you at all, directly or indirectly. I've explained a few things to him about how the world is going to work for the next few weeks until Christmas.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at **2013-12-14 16:51:58**

(no subject)

Oh. Well, that's all right then. As long as he understands it's a world where he's not particularly welcome.



 [alt_charlie](#) at **2013-12-14 16:59:43**

(no subject)

Yeah, exactly. I laid out my expectations pretty clearly, and I let him know I will be extremely disappointed if my expectations aren't met.

2013-12-14 10:34:00

Private Message to B Crouch, Jr

Sir. Desai asked me to write. We've moved on to the third site, but haven't found more than smoldering ash. (A corpse or three, but no useful evidence.) Fairly certain Maule's people have already picked the sites clean.



 [alt_lana](#)

We're not giving up, but we wanted you to know this isn't looking promising.

I'd say it's as likely he torched them himself, though obviously it looks like an attack on his financial interests in those brothels.

Still, Desai suggests asking MEU to look into whether Maule's in arrears on mortgage or assessments. (But then I'd think he owns the properties outright, so perhaps he's fallen into debt and is looking for insurance payouts?)


Anyway, we're combing through for signs he or someone else was incinerating evidence of any other kind. Or signs that it's a turf war starting up. Just not finding much at all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2013-12-14 19:04:52**
(no subject)

Find anything yet?



 [alt_lana](#) at **2013-12-14 19:08:16**
(no subject)


Only one thing that looks remotely useful. A lock box that was under the foundation at the site in Sandwich. Runes and blood magic sealing it. We haven't disturbed it at all.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-12-14 19:13:54](#)
(no subject)

Tell Desai to send you in with that box directly. I want to see it.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-14 19:17:02](#)
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

We think it may be the sort of thing Rod Lestrangle might best have a look at.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2013-12-14 19:20:47](#)
(no subject)

Do you?

I'll make that decision. If it's warranted.

Don't answer. Just bring it in.

Now.

2013-12-14 13:07:00

Private Message to Aurelia Archer

I can't believe you're here in Hogsmeade!!

So this is what you meant about getting part of my present early, you sly Slytherin you!

Yes, *of course* I'll meet you for tea.



 [alt_susan](#)

2013-12-14 13:20:00

Holiday Season

Ron, Sally-Anne, Harry, Draco - whomever else, really:



 [alt_justin](#)

I say, we're popping in to Madam Puddifoot's for a hot toddy. Anyone who'd care to join us is welcome. It's well jolly when it's not decked out in hearts and lace and such. They're serving the toddies and hot rum punch and a buttered cider, if one prefers.

It's too bad Zonko's hasn't any of the Weasley products, what? I can think of several little things in their line that would make excellent stocking stuffers.

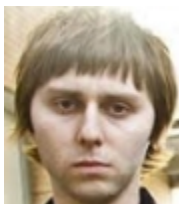
Nonetheless, the other shops here in Hogsmeade have certainly turned out for the holidays. Hydra was admiring the charmed icicles in the windows at Honeyduke's. The shopgirl said they're made of spun sugar. I think we might stop back in to get some for the tree in Hufflepuff's common room.

Gladrag's windows were also rather well done. All those charmed snowflakes.

Has everyone made good progress on Christmas shopping? I've been bally well pleased with the selection this year.

And did anyone else see the skating rink? It's just off the low road. I think some of the people who live there have charmed it for the day. I say, we might have a go after lunch.

-Justin



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-12-14 19:29:02**

Private Message to Macmillan and Jones

I say, you two, how did you enjoy last evening? I was surprised to see you but glad you decided to stay.

Ernie, I hope you'll remember what we discussed. I should be dashed disappointed if we weren't able to finish next week.

-F-F



 [alt_megan](#) at [2013-12-14 19:44:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Macmillan and Jones

I am very glad I came. Ernie was pleased that there was more adventure than snogging this time. I mean, oh you know what I mean. In the you-know. Not actual snogging. Also it helped that things were so interesting that people forgot to glare at me after the first few minutes. Mostly. So that was better than I had expected okay. So I am glad I came.

Harry was very welcoming, I thought. But then he is good at that. He is reassuring. And very sensible.



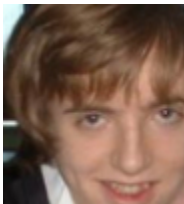
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-14 20:03:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Macmillan and Jones

Yes, quite. We did worry that there might be some objection but luckily everyone decided there were more important concerns.

I'm sure if anyone were glaring, you can appease the hard feelings most by simply proving trustworthy. Which, in this case, I daresay is in everyone's interest, what. I mean to say, you'll want to know the end of the story just as much as the next person.

-F-F



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2013-12-14 20:05:27](#)


Re: Private Message to Macmillan and Jones

Yeah, cheers. I remember. Letter of the law, spirit of the law. Not always the same thing, eh?

Besides, after everything last year, I'm not keen to find myself the odd man out.

And I guess it's worth it to show everyone I'm not such a prig as all that.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2013-12-14 20:09:23**

Private Message to Ernie

Indeed, old man.

You needn't upset Jones by telling her but we weren't well sure whether to let you stay or not. I vouched for you, personally, to Harry and the others. It's good to hear I've not misplaced my word of honour, old chap.

Why don't you and Jones come skating? We've transfigured our boots and it's really rather fun.

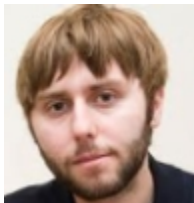
-Justin



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2013-12-14 19:34:54**

(no subject)

Sounds lovely. If I don't catch you at Madam P's, I'll certainly see you for skating!



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2013-12-14 19:53:23**

Private Message to Ron

Ron, old man,

Did I see an owl by your place at breakfast? I say, any news?

I've been asked to take an internship at the Ministry but not in MLE. Mr Pontner in International Magical Relations would like me to help in his office for the holidays. I think he's some idea of trying to develop a sort of liaison position with Education and Public Information, what, and believes my experiences will be useful.

Of course, I'm quite honoured and I'm sure the Jugsons can have no objection. Though I had almost been looking forward to two weeks with jolly well nothing to do but relax! Still, it's important to think of one's future, isn't it?

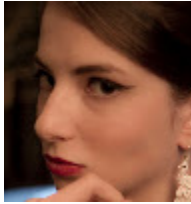
-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-14 20:38:00](#)

Private message to Justin

I am done with my shopping and I'll come find the rest of you at the skating rink!

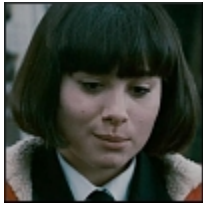


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-14 20:43:37](#)

Order Only

Is it my imagination or are people making the hand-signal from 'Pure Victory' at each other?

I saw Mandy Brocklehurst flick her finger out at Kitty Bundy and Kitty did it back and they both grinned at each other like they felt utterly wicked (in a good way).



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-14 20:52:27](#)

Re: Order Only

I was *just* telling Sue earlier that I saw Donovan making one too!



 [alt_megan](#) at [2013-12-15 01:40:44](#)

(no subject)

Skating was brilliant! Thank you for ~~letting~~ inviting us along.

I was surprised that I stayed up as much as I did. Ernie was so funny. But he was brilliant doing Leviosa on me to keep me from hitting the ice that one time. He was so very gentlemanly to try to keep me from falling even when he was falling over himself.



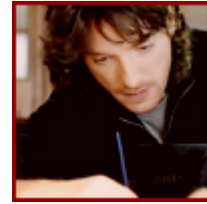
 [alt_ernie](#) at [2013-12-15 01:46:32](#)

(no subject)

I just didn't want you falling on *me!*

2013-12-15 13:15:00

Private message to Ron and Ginny Weasley



 [alt_bill](#)

Hello to you from the Weasleys on the home front. Wanted to drop you a line to check in to see how you're doing. Are you swamped with essays and exams now that the holiday's coming up? You had a Hogsmeade Day yesterday, didn't you? Fred and George mentioned it; they swung by the town to hook up for a visit with their old schoolmate Cedric Diggory. I hope you took the opportunity to get out of the castle for the afternoon and walk into town.

I wanted to touch base partly to reassure you, because I know Charlie wrote to you both to let you know I was at St Mungo's last week, and he told me that Ginny was especially concerned at the news. Well, I certainly didn't plan to end up at the hospital, but everything's fixed up with no problem and I'm entirely on the mend. Still, I imagine the news must have been rather a shock, and painful especially at this time of year. But all's well with me now, and I think I've even managed to convinced Mum of it.

Fred and George and Mum have been busy getting ready for the Grand Opening. There'll be events going on all afternoon, door prizes on the hour and such, but don't worry: Mum will slip away to meet you at the train by 4:00 and bring you back there, and we expect there will still be a gathering of our friends going on. Fred and George will be doing a small pyrotechnics display on the roof at around 6:00 (not a full fireworks rig-out, but some just rockets and Roman candles; it'll be still exciting enough that they took the trouble to get a variance permit with the city).

I think that concentrating on the preparations has been good for Mum, so she's not brooding too much about the date. It'll still be hard. I don't know how you two have been doing, but I've been having a lot of memories of Dad well up in the past week. Bittersweet, really, but I guess grief works that way. We're going to limit our efforts at cleanup when the day's events are done, because Charlie and I plan on taking us out for dinner afterwards, so we can be spend some time remembering Dad.


Good luck getting done with everything you need to finish this next week, and I'll see you on Saturday.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2013-12-16 01:55:46](#)**
(no subject)

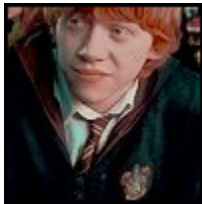
I'm glad you're still in one piece, Bill! I wouldn't have thought a job assisting the Director of Protectorate Affairs would be all that dangerous. Is it usually like this and I just didn't know?




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-16 02:59:54](#)**
(no subject)

Not usually, certainly, no. I wasn't at the Ministry itself, but off-site, at one of the camps, and I fell victim to some rather desperate individuals simply because I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It was rather an unusual instance not at all likely to reoccur.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-16 21:08:45](#)**
(no subject)

I'm glad you're better.

You know, about the train. I expect we could check our trunks at the station and just come along ourselves. I mean, there's really no need for Mum to come collect us like we're still eleven years old. We could stop back for the trunks later or the next day or summat.

Really, tell her not to fuss over it. I mean, there's a Floo at the shop, isn't there? Or, anywiz, there must be a public one near there somewhere, yeah?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-17 04:06:39](#)**
(no subject)


Thank you.

That's quite a good notion, about leaving your trunks at the station and making your way to the Hope Emporium on your own. Yes, there's a Floo in Fred and George's workspace, and I'll tell them to make sure it's left open that afternoon. It would certainly make things much easier. I'll let Mum know you prefer to come to the Opening on your own, and if

necessary, I'll enlist Fred and George and Lee's help in keeping her busy at the critical hour.

I can try telling her not to fuss, but of course you realise this is a woman who just this morning reminded me not forget my galoshes and pocket handkerchief as I was heading out the door to work.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-17 04:17:21](#)**
(no subject)

Heh.

Yeah, I reckon Mum can't help just being Mum!

[2013-12-15 18:41:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Dora

I find it singularly ironic that the man we can't wrestle out of that tatty, ragged old cardie decided that *my* robes are so shabby they needed replacing.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Not that I'm complaining! It's grand to have something new, and not nicked from my or my father's old wardrobes and refreshed.

But that *Moony* decided I'm not natty enough, given that he wears his clothes to rags - well, that's a special sort of absurdity.

In any case, I've enjoyed my birthday celebration very much. Sunday with all of you, and Bea cadging extra bits of cake in between singing. It wasn't half perfect, love.

So. Do you think now that Bill's got a young lady, you and Charlie might make yours more of a regular occurrence? (I'm not pressuring! Just wondering.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-16 20:43:07](#)
(no subject)

I can't argue that it's a bit rich for him to be worrying about the state of anyone else's comfortable clothes, but I don't really think it was the state of your old robes he was thinking of so much as the fact that you would look well in the ones he had made for you. And you do, luv.

Bea does love a celebration, doesn't she? Perhaps we could offer her out as a party service: she'll come sing adorably and help you tidy up all the left-over sweets!

I'm very pleased for Bill he's found someone. Of course, I am. Though, really, Lamont? Only- Nevermind. If he looked until he'd found someone that was friendly to me at school, his romantic life would truly be a lost cause. I'm sure she's nice enough.

And as for Charlie. Hush. What we don't want is Molly getting wind of it. Because it's not like that, see? We're just mates, which is really lovely and I don't want to spoil it.

2013-12-15 18:54:00

Order Only - Bedford Collective

Just wanted to report that Jeremy and I spent the day at the Bedford Collective, and what happened.



 [alt_lee](#)

We brought Regina and Lisa to have a look at their food stores. The farms were pretty self-supporting, but because of the shape of the Fidelius, they really want to plant things differently next year. I didn't follow all the discussion, but it's mostly stuff we've plenty of seeds and plants for.

(Professor Sprout, I think there's a few things Regina wanted to ask you about, too - something about pest control and if there's magical plants good for something specific? She's writing a letter for you.)

We also brought a few people from Aldrich, and they had a long meeting about different governance methods. Aldrich has a mayor, and I guess Bedford had talked about that, but they're still not sure they like it. They're talking about some kind of elected committee, especially since the farms all focus on different things and sometimes they squabble disagree about which one's more important. I have notes, Mrs Longbottom, and I'll drop them off when I get a break between work runs tomorrow.

Speaking of, they're looking for trade options. They've got lots of wood, but also lots of alpaca. (Alpacas are really funny looking, but sort of snitch. And they make great noises.)

I guess there's a thing where trying to sell it might be tricky now. Jeremy had a thought here, but I'm going to let him explain that bit.

They offered to trade some to Aldrich, and I think they'd like to trade some to Moddey Dhoo and Sherwood, if there's things they can use. (They said it makes really snitch blankets and cloaks - really warm and light.)

We made sure they have radios, and the reason we waited so long is so I could get the parts to set up a tower for them. They'll be trying to produce some of their own shows once they sort out power. Nice folks, though, and real happy to be free, and they seem to be settling in to managing things pretty well.




 **alt_lee** at [2013-12-16 00:06:39](#)

Private message to Jeremy Stretton

Lousy to have to rush right off after. Your parents okay? Mine wondered where I was, but at least the Twins are a good excuse right now, and helping Mrs Weasley get ready for the opening.

What'd you think, then? Lots of this is just trying to keep people focused and pointed in the same direction. And keeping out of the side arguments.



 **alt_jeremy** at [2013-12-16 04:22:09](#)


Re: Private message to Jeremy Stretton

I told them I had gone for a flight to get the dust out of my broom and then a drink with some mates. Mother's been doing her nut. She's getting some chit in to help when Sally-Anne's away second half of holidays, but Sally-Anne has to train her, which means slowdowns. And orders are already mad. She screeched at me about helping. Told her I've a right to my days out, given I'm at the Ministry from early 'til late.

She can out-howl a bloody banshee. I'm up in my room with a soundproofing spell on and the door charmed shut.

So. That Lisa. Fit, yeah? Or did you suddenly develop a fascination for the care of alpaca?



 **alt_lee** at [2013-12-16 04:26:21](#)

Re: Private message to Jeremy Stretton


Parents. Mine're a lot better than yours, sounds like, but they still want to see me. I love them, I do, but I hate lying about where I am. Except I have to. Envy the Twins sometimes, really.

They don't really expect you to be working two jobs, do they? Can't they actually hire someone in?

Lisa. Right. Um.

Yeah. Fit. Didn't get too much chance to talk, mind. D'you think anyone else noticed?



 **alt_jeremy at 2013-12-16 04:45:00**

Re: Private message to Jeremy Stretton


Dad's been bragging up my job at the Ministry to his friends, but he doesn't realise it means I'm dead tired when I come home. Even if it's not a Crucio day.

He thinks I was out today faffing about. Not like I can tell him I'm tired because I was out all day with a subversive organisation plotting the economic downfall of the Protectorate, is it?

They're always on about passing the business to me when they retire in a hundred years or so. Which means they expect me to keep a hand in. It's not just a matter of hiring someone in. But yeah. Parents.

Nobody noticed except four dozen alpaca and anyone who happened to be looking, mate.



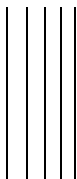
 **alt_lee at 2013-12-16 04:48:12**


Re: Private message to Jeremy Stretton

Oh, I get family businesses. (Dad's - well. Touchy subject. At least he gets that I'm not lining up for it any time soon.)

Thing is. One thing for you to know how the business runs. Totally other thing to make you prep orders, and deliver stuff or whatever that anyone could do, and that you've done a hundred times. (Thousand, yeah?) Not like you're going to learn new stuff about the business from doing more of it.


Alpacas won't talk. It's the anyone else part I wasn't paying as much attention to. Lisa's real smart, and it's rude not to listen to a girl when they're talking.



 **alt_jeremy** at [2013-12-16 05:02:21](#)
Re: Private message to Jeremy Stretton

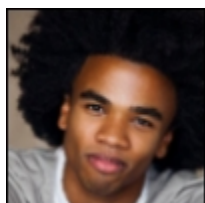
Nobody can fault your manners, mate.




 **alt_sirius** at [2013-12-16 00:38:27](#)
(no subject)

Well done, you two. The last time I managed to get there (was that already three weeks ago?), they were still sorting out reuniting families who'd been moved to other farms, and each farm in the collective was concerned primarily with securing its own compound, not to mention stores.

I'm glad to hear they listened when we told them they'd have a better chance if they worked together. Sounds as if they're still trying to decide just how, but at least they're talking about it in a more civil way.




 **alt_lee** at [2013-12-16 02:00:21](#)
(no subject)

Thanks. And yeah, they're quite - well, what you said, having troubles working together.

We at least got them all in one room talking for a bit. And I guess now they've had time to realise the individual farms don't all have everything they need, either, it helps.

Sort of funny how different places want to run things different, really.



 **alt_jeremy** at [2013-12-16 04:56:25](#)
(no subject)

Glad to do it.

Agree that it was an education in how groups communicate. Or don't sometimes. They look to be figuring it out though.

Survival does prove to be an incentive.




 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-16 03:56:55](#)**
(no subject)

Right. You'd think selling the alpaca fleece on the black market would be perfect, but it turns out not. Only a few farms in the Protectorate have the kind Bedford have, rose-grey something-or-others, very silky. Put it on the black market, anyone involved with the trade would get snaffled up by Aurors straight away. Too recognisable. Even mixed with other fibres, it says Bedford all over it. They're thinking trading amongst the other free farms and sanctuaries is the only choice.


The Aldrich people are quite interested, when they get their woolen mill switched over to water power.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-16 04:49:01](#)**
(no subject)

I suppose we'll have to acquire some more free farms, then.



 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-16 04:57:33](#)**
(no subject)

That really is the only sound business plan from the looks of it.

[2013-12-16 19:17:00](#)

Private Message to Lucius Malfoy

Dear Lucius,

I hope everything has been going well with you. Have you had the chance to look over my monthly reports? I anticipate we'll probably see a reduction in sales after Christmas, but things have been going quite well, at least on that front.




 [alt_pansy](#)

I know you and Aunt Narcissa will be preparing for your annual holiday party, and I'm not expecting you'll have the time at all to stop by the storefront for the opening, but I've sent along an invitation regardless so you'd know when things are going on in case you want to stop by, even for a minute or two.

I was very much hoping for the opportunity to see you over holidays. It's something I always look forward to, and it's just so much better to talk face-to-face instead of over letters. I miss you horribly, and feel so very keenly the need to ask for forgiveness in person. But I suppose I will have to wait for the chance, as I haven't received my invitation to the Holiday party. I understand your anger at my actions, and it pains me a great deal to have this distance between us. I still very much want to meet with you some other time during the holidays so that I can attempt to make amends for what I've done.

I know you're so very busy, and that your social calendar is quite full this time of year, but I do hope you will make time to see me. It just wouldn't be Christmas without the chance to spend some time with you.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-12-17 18:03:24](#)
(no subject)

Little B Pansy,

Yes, this season is always a busy one and moreover there are additional considerations currently occupying my attention. Nonetheless, you know that I am always happy to be remembered by you.

You are quite correct that our timetable is extremely full on the 21st

but do not take that as a slight against the occasion. Naturally, the strong showing of the business thus far is as welcome as it is surprising. One wishes every success to the entrepreneurial spirit which gives birth to such engaging products. Know that I have indeed been paying close attention to the reports you have sent and am ... pleased ... by this early response. One wonders, of course, how long the initial rush of novelty will last.

Pray understand that the financial benefits were but one consideration of many, which must be taken into account when weighing the wisdom of your association with this clan to whom you have attached yourself. Realising that you are somewhat friendly with your classmate Ron, I do know it may be difficult for you to fully comprehend how aligning with them has repercussions which may take months or even years to affect you, but affect you they surely shall.

Be assured that while we may continue to disagree on this or other topics, particularly where it concerns your future, I have only your own well-being and best interests at heart. I should not wish you to make foolish choices now that would impede your progress later. If these prognostications sound vague and formless, then take a lesson from the indiscretions your 'Aunt' Amanda committed when she was about your age. She, too, believed there could be no negative consequence to following her whim. The outcome did not go well for her, as I believe you know. It was years before she could expect to resume her former standing in society - and even now, that standing is somewhat lower than that she could have commanded had she charted a steadier, more suitable course.

But let us not quarrel at this festive season, particularly when I am sure you have exams and end-of-term projects to complete. Let us instead promise to find time during your school holidays to meet, in person as you request, and you may then see how very close I remain. For you do continue to hold a special place in my thoughts, Little Bit, one which shall always carry a tinge of concern, as if you were my own, but which I hope shall not long be stained by the shadow of this, our current discord.

Until then, I am as ever,

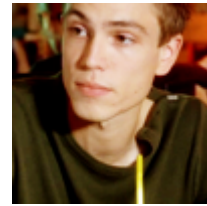
Your loving god-father,

Lucius

2013-12-16 19:33:00

Order Only

(No idea whether this is useful, but here it is. Alice, if this isn't what you had in mind when you encouraged me to report even small things, sorry.)



 [alt_jeremy](#)

Got a bit of a scare today. This bruiser comes into the office to see Mulciber. No appointment, so of course he's kept cooling his heels for a bit. Guess the waiting area held no appeal for him. He wanders around the office looking at things. He was taking such an interest over here in Muggle Detention, actually opening files, that I thought the boss was hiring some goon of a supervisor. Farming out the job of Cruciating our section of the office, maybe. Repetitive task, delegation and all that. Anyhow, Mulciber finally calls him in and closes the door. They talk maybe ten minutes. Then the fellow marches out all stone faced, with Mulciber in the doorway watching him go. Smirking. He calls out, "Tell Maule he's an idiot."

So why is Mulciber taking great pleasure in thwarting someone working for a board member of the Nimbus broom company, anyway? Bill, did you hear about this or see the fellow?




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-17 02:01:34**
(no subject)

My guess is that the work that fellow does for Maule has nothing to do with the Nimbus broom company.

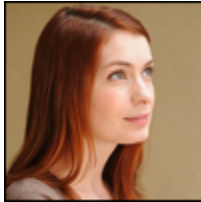
Did you happen to notice the *Prophet* talked about a spate of fires this weekend? Three were in London. I'm not sure about all the buildings but the address in Chinbrook was the brothel where we found Mary Ashton and her mother. If it wasn't one of Maule's, it's a fair bet he's worried his are next.


Maybe he came to Mulciber to see if he'd help protect his business investments.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-17 02:08:35](#)
(no subject)

Perhaps he thought he had more support from the Mulcibers than he actually does.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-17 02:07:39](#)
(no subject)

Corax did send Bill to try and stall the trap MLE was setting for Maule, which would imply some sort of conflict, perhaps between the Mulcibers and some of the others in MLE. Most likely Crouch.

It sounds like a bit of a power play. Things are still rather touchy since Selwyn's attempted coup.




 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-17 02:26:28](#)
(no subject)

I'd put a galleon on Crouch, yeah.


Between him and Bellatrix, it's a wonder Cadmus Mulciber's still in charge.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-17 15:59:18](#)
(no subject)

I'd also say it's a good hunch that the little scene we enacted in the holding area at Maidstone has set off some repercussion. Whether they will all be useful repercussions, only time will tell.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2013-12-17 02:25:42](#)
private message to Bill

Guess the boss was in a good mood after that. Lucky for McAuliffe. Mulciber found that cheerful bit of office humor he put up, the one saying "Workplace Improvement Project: It Has Been [3] Days Since The Last Cruciation Incident. Good Work!" And all he did was reset the count to zero, right then.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-17 15:16:54](#)**

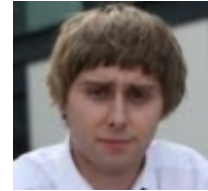
Re: private message to Bill

Ouch. I would've warned McAuliffe to put that out of sight, had I seen it. Lesson learned.

Tell him lemon in black tea helps. Send him to me if he doesn't have any lemon in his desk.

2013-12-16 19:36:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sirius and Mrs Longbottom



 **alt_justin**

Hallo,

I've had a letter from the Ministry, inviting me to spend the holidays as an intern in International Magical Relations.

I intend to accept, of course, but wanted to let you know. If there's anything I could do for the Order while I'm in the Ministry, what, I should be pleased to do it. At the very least, I thought it would present an excellent opportunity to meet Bill, Jeremy and Auror Lamont in the context of a workplace.


I say, I don't expect International Magical Relations will be fraught with intrigue but I thought perhaps I might learn more about the warding systems, which might be useful.

Of course, I don't expect to have any reason to go to MLE, but I'm quite confident that my Occlumency would be up to the task if I were to find myself faced with a Legilimens.

If there's any other information you'd like to hear about the internship, I'm happy to oblige.

-Justin




 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-17 01:51:38**
(no subject)

Nicely done, Justin! That's very good news.

I do agree that whatever you can find out about the wards would be useful, as well as sorting out whether placing someone (perhaps you) into that office would be worth our while. Just simply making professional connections is also important, too. I'd imagine that this will open some doors for you, which is good to hear. And once you've had the chance to learn more about the job, you'll be able to see if you're well-suited, and if it's a viable option for you once you leave school.

Just like any internship experience, I'd imagine -- only with slightly different priorities!

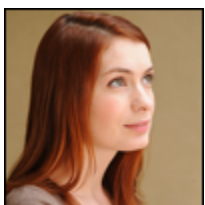



 **alt_sirius** at [2013-12-17 02:10:12](#)
(no subject)

You'll keep your nose out of MLE, if you value it. I don't care what sort of Occlumency you've been pratising, you're not to test it against Bellatrix. Understood?

But information about the wards would be useful. If International Magic know anything about them, which I doubt. You might at least be able to find out who's in charge of them, in Mysteries. But don't probe too deeply. You're there to learn about the office and impress them, so if a Ministry job opens up later, you'll be well-placed for it.

I don't have to pretend this worries me - I don't like the thought of any of you rushing in where the Cruciatus is a standard 'motivational tool.' I'm sure you'll tell me the likelihood of getting hurt in International Magical Relations is slim - and you're probably right - just mind you *stay* there and don't go nosing where an intern has no business poking about.




 **alt_alice** at [2013-12-17 02:23:11](#)
(no subject)

Yes -- I'd say there's no immediate need to go above and beyond just now in terms of gaining information, especially when you'd be just learning the ropes, and you can't expect to have much access as an intern.

Simply learning more about what the job entails would be useful in its own right.



 **alt_justin** at [2013-12-17 13:22:45](#)
(no subject)

Yes, Sirius. I'll be jolly well careful.

-Justin

2013-12-16 19:45:00

Order Only: Private Message to Harry



 [alt_justin](#)

Harry,

I say, I've just remembered that Neville wanted to read *A Christmas Carol* before the season's past us. If we wait to finish *Pure Victory* on Friday, there shan't be time for the other, what.


The story's rather short, old man. How much more of *Pure Victory* do you think we've got to go? I know we've exams for the end of term but what if we were to try to finish the book on Wednesday or Thursday, and read *A Christmas Carol* on Friday?

Wednesday might work, if we think we could finish before Astronomy.

What do you think?

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-17 01:57:37**
(no subject)

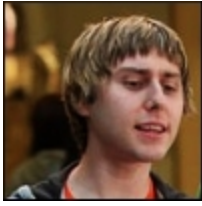
It is a lot to fit into a week. Two days back to back would be a bit much, too.


I think we could probably finish the *Pure Victory* book before 10 on Wednesday, and that'd give people the chance to talk about it plenty before they go home. Otherwise there might be a lot of journal chatter or talking on the train, and that might get people in trouble. So Wednesday might be good regardless.

And we could invite whoever comes on Wednesday to the Carol one if they feel up for it, that might be nice.

I've never read it, but I know Neville and Evs hold a lot of stock in it. Have you read it before? Would we be able to get through it in three hours or so?

If not, we might hold off for next year.



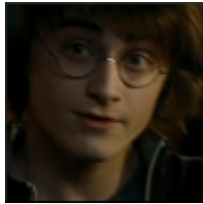
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-17 02:14:19](#)
(no subject)

Oh, we should be able to read *A Christmas Carol* in a couple of hours, I expect. As I say, it's quite short.

In fact, even if we aren't quite able to finish *Pure Victory* on Wednesday, what, I should think we could save the last chapter or two for Friday and *still* get through the Dickens.

Shall we spread the word?

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-17 02:19:00](#)
(no subject)

Good. Yeah. Let's.

2013-12-17 14:44:00

Private Message to Tyche

Hello,

I know we haven't seen each other much this fall. I've been under travel restrictions, recuperating and busy with my job. You've been occupied by finding your way post-Hogwarts. I know our friendship had some turbulence last year. All that said. I've been offered two tickets to St Mungo's Gala over the Holidays. Would you, as a friend, be interested in attending with me? I have it on good authority there will be fancy dress, dancing, food of some level of quality and amusement to be had at the expense of the highest fliers in society.

Your friend,
Cedric



 [alt_cedric](#)

[2013-12-17 15:32:00](#)

Private Message to Percival Weasley

There are far too many baskets and boxes littering the front parlour. Take what you like - only see to it that the elf removes to the pantry anything you do not claim.

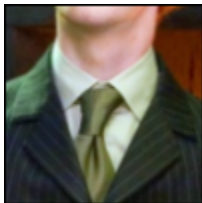



 **[alt_lucius](#)**

Have been meaning to ask if you intend to take any time away this holiday, particularly this coming Friday and Saturday. Recognise that the days may have greater significance this year.

Naturally, if you wish to spend the day in your own way, would not think of stopping you. However, should you have no other plans, might have an invitation which could interest you.

Besides this week-end, there are a number of other parties which Mrs Malfoy and I simply cannot attend and, as with Crabbe's, we ought to send some representation. Come in when you have a moment and we may look through the list.



 **[alt_percy](#) at [2013-12-18 00:00:32](#)**
(no subject)

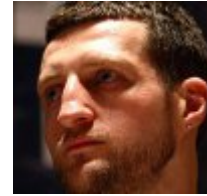
As far as the baskets and boxes, you are more than generous, and I do appreciate it. Thank you!

My plans are, of course, entirely at your disposal. I'll be in once I've set this report aside.

2013-12-17 20:18:00

Private message to Cadmus

This whole business stinks like a dead muggle left in the sun. Your people, abandoning their posts at the very moment you were attacked?



 [alt_corax](#)

And what exactly does Maule think he's playing at? Perhaps I should have entertained his man a bit longer yesterday. To see if I could have extracted anything he was instructed not to tell me.

2013-12-17 20:50:00

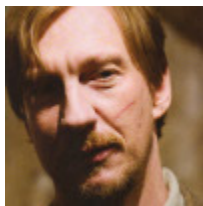
Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin and Sirius Black




Well. Have you got her asleep?

And are you two speaking to one another yet? (Without shouting or name calling? Because, honestly, all we need is more names floating down the wind.)

 [alt_nymphadora](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-18 02:55:09**

(no subject)

I'm not shouting at anyone. The two of you sent me to bed, remember?

Sirius is putting Bea to bed. Since SIRIUS BLACK SIRIUS BLACK SIRIUS BLACK is apparently the one she wanted tonight.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2013-12-18 02:59:35**

(no subject)

Seriously.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-18 03:04:07**

(no subject)

Well, she has excellent taste.

I just wish she'd waited another two or three or ten years to put everything together like that.

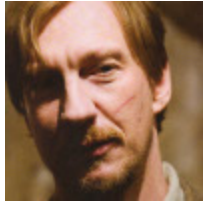


 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2013-12-18 03:12:37**

(no subject)

Yes, well.

If she asks to join the Order tomorrow, the answer is no.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:15:03](#)
(no subject)

Four year olds are not really noted for their discretion and secret-keeping abilities, either, though they're better at it than two-year-olds.

But then, Hagrid when he's sloshed is better at keeping secrets than two-year-olds. People who've just drunk bloody veritaserum are better at keeping secrets than two-year-olds!



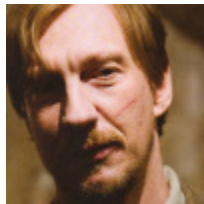
 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:21:56](#)
(no subject)


No, but four-year-olds at least have better mechanisms to discuss the importance of secrets, rather than simply screaming.

Course, she was clearly so tired it's no wonder she wouldn't behave. Or eat. Or anything we wanted her to do.

We *did* say we might have to send her to Moddey. Too bad we can't concoct a story about another relative who'll take her until she's a little older.

Maybe we'll have to rearrange duties so that she and I stay in most nights, to keep her out of the garden.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:24:01](#)
(no subject)

She was that tired because SHE NEVER NAPPED.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:27:53](#)
(no subject)


Yes, I'm aware she didn't nap.

It's not for lack of trying to get her to sleep this morning. Or this afternoon.

By rights she *should* have collapsed by morning teatime.

She's *your* child. Maybe she has a little werewolf stamina.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:29:38](#)
(no subject)

You say you're trying to wear her out, and it's entirely an excuse. You just like playing with her.

You're like a bloody two-year-old yourself sometimes, especially when you're being a dog.

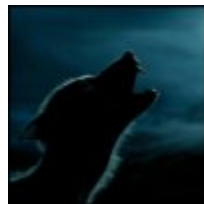



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:38:01](#)
(no subject)

I happen to be a very well-behaved dog.

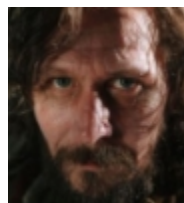
And I've told you, it's not an excuse. I tried. I kept trying to manoeuvre her into situations where she'd fall asleep. She resisted. Dead effectively.


And you're just tetchy because you didn't get a full night yourself, last night.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:42:43](#)
(no subject)

Probably won't tonight, either, unless this headache lets up.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:47:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, reading can't be very soothing for you.

Have you considered a drunken stupor?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:51:17](#)
(no subject)

You know, come to think of it, we could try that with Bea the next time she refuses to nap.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:51:39](#)
(no subject)

That was a joke.

In case you're wondering.



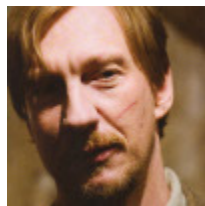
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:51:48](#)
(no subject)


Excellent idea. SHE doesn't take Wolfsbane.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 04:08:42](#)
(no subject)


Might work to keep her saying anything we don't want others to hear, too!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:51:27](#)
(no subject)

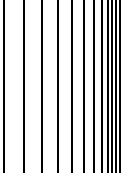
Toxic in combination with Wolfsbane, which I just took yesterday. Sadly.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:55:35](#)
(no subject)

Right, well.


Amputation. It's the only option left to you.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:58:06](#)**
(no subject)

Seriously considering that one.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-18 02:59:36](#)**
(no subject)


Yes, which I thought meant you'd also be sleeping by now.

Or is that not on the menu?

I honestly think we'll laugh about this. Someday.

Right now, though ... how do you feel about Obliviating your own daughter?




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:02:49](#)**
(no subject)

I'm in bed. In order to sleep, I'm either going to have to be a lot more tired, or my head's going to have to stop hurting, one or the other.

I don't think Obliviation is going to work. Are we going to try to wipe out every single time Kreacher's called you 'Master Sirius' in front of her?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:11:58](#)**
(no subject)

Didn't take Aunt Agatha's Anti-Ache? Or is this the kind that it doesn't help?


It's too bad I'm going to have to murder that elf, or he could bring you a compress.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:16:34](#)
(no subject)

It wouldn't have helped much. I didn't think it was worth it. At this point, I'm thinking it probably would have been worth it for the fraction of relief I'd have gotten from it, but it's too late to do any good.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 02:57:17](#)
(no subject)

She had dropped off when I tiptoed out. If she's not asleep now, I'm not going back in to find out and possibly wake her again. She *has* to lose consciousness soon, she's been awake for nearly 20 hours. Aren't toddlers supposed to sleep 80% of the time or something similarly ridiculous?

And anyway, *I* wasn't shouting. She was doing enough of that for all of us.

I was merely trying to be heard over the fracas.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 03:02:22](#)
(no subject)

Well, you were both Not Shouting very loudly. And looking like you wanted to hex each other.

And me.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:03:36](#)
(no subject)

Well this is the brilliant thing about toddlers. They'll stay up that much later when they never had a nap.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:07:23](#)**
(no subject)

Oh and you are thinking of CATS, you berk. CATS.
Not toddlers.

Eighty percent of the time is over 19 hours of sleep out of every 24. Bea didn't sleep that much even when she was a NEWBORN INFANT.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:21:42](#)**
(no subject)

Right, we need a solution.


Obliviation is one. Not a good one. I can't even imagine how many of her memories we'd have to wipe out, and I can't imagine Obliviation is good for little children, though it's a lesser evil than her betraying us all.

Sending her to Moddey Dhoo and telling people she's died. I don't like that one, either.

Something like Imperius. There are lesser versions of compulsion magic. I don't know what that would do to her, either.

Keeping her inside and away from the guests, all the time. ALL the time. We'd need a nanny, in that case, I think. And we'll still need another solution if Bellatrix decides she wants another visit between the babies.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-18 03:24:41](#)**
(no subject)

I mean the alternative is we just tell Alice and see what she thinks.

If that's the route we're going, I nominate someone who isn't me to tell Alice.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 03:25:04](#)
(no subject)

Because we're brilliant at compelling obedience.
'Kreacher is not to say the names Sirius or Black.
Ever.'

Would that have been so difficult to think of?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:32:41](#)
(no subject)


I've told him that.

But then Snivellus will come to use the stillroom
and he'll say it. Or we'll forget and use it at supper.

Much as I'd love to lay the blame entirely on that vicious little
bugger, it's not all his fault in this case.

She's also a clever thing. I've never transformed in front of her,
not once.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:36:24](#)
(no subject)

We were lucky she didn't throw her fit in front of
anyone.

Imagine if she'd done this in the garden, going
after you and demanding you transform. Ugh.

It reminds me of what Grace used to say. James' mum. About
Gryffindors.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 03:37:19](#)
(no subject)


Oh?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:39:09](#)
(no subject)

'We know there are gods, because apparently it amuses them to protect Gryffindors.'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:43:47](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but don't forget what Cyrus would always say to her whenever she said it: 'Until they decide it's more amusing NOT to. And then your luck runs out.'

I think our luck may have just run out.

(Alice is writing to us both. Shall we find out what she says?)



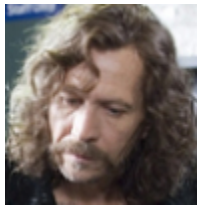
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 03:36:28](#)
(no subject)


Hm. It may be she guessed that because she knows a thing or three about transforming herself.

Or it could just be that it's clear to her from the way we talk to you whichever form you're in.

Brilliant. So it's really my fault.

Lovely.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 03:40:38](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't go that far.

It's all our faults. Thinking about it, I forgot and called Remus 'Remus' just the other day, too.

It's no wonder she's trying to straighten out her confusion. And how does a little girl do that? By throwing a tantrum.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 03:41:20](#)
(no subject)

Alice wants to know if we can host Sally-Anne Perks and her mother for a day around Christmas.


Because certainly what we need in this merry mess we've got, is house guests.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 04:04:23](#)
(no subject)

Oh, particularly the clever kind.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 04:07:24](#)
(no subject)

On the bright side, she already knows that the dog is Sirius Black. Among other things.


Anything she doesn't already know that we particularly don't want her finding out?



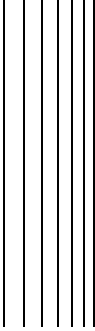
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-18 04:10:07](#)
(no subject)


That we were brilliant enough to let the two-year-old figure that out?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 04:11:02](#)
(no subject)

I suppose there's that.



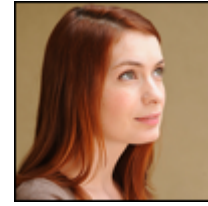
 **alt_sirius** at [2013-12-18 04:11:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, we still haven't thought of what to tell Alice.

Or how to stop Albia selling us all out to the Ministry.

2013-12-17 22:29:00

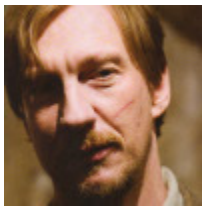
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius and Remus




 [alt_alice](#)

I've just had a request from Cecelia Perks to see her daughter at Christmas. I'm a bit hesitant to have Sally-Anne in Sherwood, as she can't Apparate yet (at least not that I know), and I know we might have to work around her schedule, as it tends to be quite full from what I recall, but I was wondering if you might be willing to host them both at Grimmauld for a day?

Please let me know what you three think.




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-18 03:44:06**
(no subject)

We'll talk it over.

Do you know which day?




 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-12-18 03:46:24**
(no subject)

I'd have to ask Sally-Anne.

It might be she's only free on Christmas eve or Christmas day, which would be burdensome, but I'm sure they'd stay out of your way and would be very appreciative.

And I haven't breathed a word of this to Sally-Anne yet, of course, so you can certainly still gracefully bow out with no harm done, and we'll sort out something else.




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-18 03:50:08**
(no subject)

Couldn't they go to Moddey

How quickly do you need an answer? Soon, I suppose, they must be leaving Hogwarts this

Saturday.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-18 13:54:09](#)**
(no subject)

The next few days, ideally.

And Remus, I meant what I said -- we can see what we could do in terms of going elsewhere. It's just that she can get to you on her own, which is why I thought to ask you first.

2013-12-17 22:45:00

Private Message to Barty and Bella

Understand the packages were delivered your end.
Assume no problems?



Our errands were successfully concluded as well.

 [alt_lucius](#)



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2013-12-18 06:16:13**

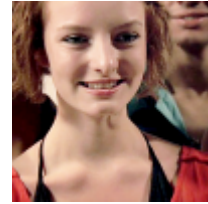
(no subject)

Breathing new life into wizard chess.

Most enjoyable.

[2013-12-18 08:58:00](#)

Private message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold




 [alt_rachel](#)

Thank you so much for the invitation to the Wassailing party. I quite enjoyed meeting Crash Carsten.

Is Sarah still doing photography? I was going to ask her what she was up to these days but I wasn't about to push past Montague to have the conversation. (If you're right that he was the one who dropped her, I think he's rethinking it.)



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-19 04:04:41](#)
(no subject)

I feel as if there should be an exclamation worthy of what's happened, but I don't know what it is.

Everyone is on tenterhooks, afraid to breathe.

You did hear what happened at Court, I hope?




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-19 04:14:14](#)
(no subject)

No -- I spent the afternoon off-site. Trying to decipher a bunch of years-old forms that had been left out in the rain (accidentally, or 'accidentally,' that was the question.)

What happened?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-19 04:41:49](#)
(no subject)

Well, it happened at Court, so I've only got it second hand. But the second hand I've got it from is Desai. Savitha, I mean. She came back afterwards to tell Nisha, and I was there, so she told us both.

Sebastian Maule challenged Cadmus Mulciber to a duel of honour.

In the middle of Court. Apparently they got into it over some skirmish their security had last night. Some of Mulciber's people went and broke into Maule's compound and smashed up the place, so Maule's people retaliated and attacked Mulciber's house. Or maybe it started the other way round. Desai didn't know. But after the fires... well, apparently Maule wasn't having any more of it.

So he challenged Mulciber. Right there in Our Lord's presence. Which, you know, is simply not done. For obvious reasons.

Mulciber didn't demur.

They just stepped out and began it there and then. And the rest of them stepped aside and let it go on.

It took Mulciber one parry and one curse. Desai said there were bits of Maule spattered everywhere in the room. A bonanza for robe cleaners, she said.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-19 04:45:09](#)
(no subject)


Cadmus Mulciber killed Maule? *In court?*

Does Auror Crouch -- oh, he must know, surely.

~~What did~~

Was Our Lord angry?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-19 05:06:38](#)
(no subject)

Desai said He was difficult to read at first. And, of course, everyone was... stunned when it began... and apprehensive about what His response might be.

But she said when it was over--and over so ~~qui-~~ decisively--He complimented Mulciber on his readiness and said He was gratified to see what prowess His best possess. Gratified.

Said He wonders if others of them could rise to that standard.

I gather the room was dead quiet after that.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-19 05:10:52](#)**
(no subject)

I would not have expected Our Lord to be so sanguine about it.

I would not have expected Cadmus Mulciber to destroy Maule with a single curse, either.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2013-12-19 05:30:55](#)**
(no subject)


No. I agree.

Both are surprising.

Desai says Mulciber's magic has been peculiar since his recovery. Seems everyone's got some story about his temper and his curses. Expect sparks will fly if he and Crouch cross paths in the next day or two.

Anywiz, you're not the only who was surprised about Our Lord's reaction. Desai said Nott looked like he was calculating his chances--goodness knows what he might be imagining--and Malfoy looked as though he couldn't decide whether to laugh or cry. Perhaps he'd have killed Maule a long time ago if he'd realised Our Lord wouldn't take it ill. Or maybe he was thinking about his robes. Apparently, his were rather thoroughly soiled.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-19 05:37:50](#)**
(no subject)

Frankly, I'd expected Auror Crouch would be the one to kill Maule. Though not in Court.

Lucius Malfoy, Ari Baddock, and Cadmus Mulciber were all in the same year at school, and all in Slytherin -- which means they were roommates -- and all became devoted servants to Our Lord in the earliest days of

His rise to power. It's always been a little odd how poorly Cadmus Mulciber gets on with the other two. Makes you wonder what things were like in the Slytherin boys' dorm that year.



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2013-12-19 05:51:58](#)**
(no subject)

We all expected that. Crouch included, I'd say.

And my guess is he's thoroughly put out that Maule's head will hang on Mulciber's wall not his. Though. I gather there's no head left to hang. Or if there is, it wouldn't make much of a trophy.

You're right about those three, too. It's always been Malfoy and Baddock, thick as thieves from all I've heard. No idea if they just never liked Mulciber or whether something happened to set them against each other.


What's interesting is how Baddock and Malfoy have fallen out. I keep hearing talk about how Baddock thinks Malfoy's ship is sinking, so he's scarpered off down the gangplank while there's time to set some distance between them.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-19 05:55:30](#)**
(no subject)


Well, so there's no head. There was surely a wand left at the end, though. Did Our Lord permit Cadmus Mulciber to take it?



 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2013-12-19 06:02:12](#)**
(no subject)


Oh. I don't know. That's an excellent question.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-19 06:04:29](#)
(no subject)

If He did -- then He was *exceedingly* pleased.
Most likely.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-19 05:15:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Crouch knows, yes.

He wasn't at Court, either, but BL stormed in and pulled him into Hopkirk's office. Of course, we didn't know it was anything more than a turn in one of their investigations. Until Desai told us.

I recommend giving Crouch a wide berth just now. He's a bit volatile, you might say. Magical Maintenance had several things to clear away.

2013-12-18 09:13:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot and Tonks



Sorry I was such an ass yesterday.

 [alt_lupin](#)




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-18 17:17:12**
(no subject)

You're allowed.

Once or twice a year, anyway. After that, I'll obviously be chucking you out.

So. What are we going to tell Alice about the Perks women?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-18 17:35:28**
(no subject)


Well, Alice says we don't have to say yes. Of course, if it's anywhere else, someone else will have to shuttle Sally-Anne to wherever it is, so.

It's not that I mind guests, even Christmas Day -- we'd talked about inviting the whole Order for a party, right, if we can work out a day most people can come without it being conspicuous. (IS there a day that works for Harry? Also, did you talk to him privately about your idea, although if you do decide to decapitate that miserable elf that certainly solves the problem one way or the other.)

It's just, yesterday was a bad day to bring it up, not that she had any way of knowing. Well, other than checking the moon schedule, I suppose.

I don't mind them coming. The more the merrier. Are we just going to keep Bea in the house, for now? Maybe Cecelia would like to come be our nanny. THAT would serve Kreacher.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 17:56:58](#)
(no subject)

Good. I wasn't going to tell her it was all right until I'd checked to make sure you'd put your head back on straight.

I think we'd better take careful checks of Albia's mood and if she even hints at an impending tantrum, whisk her back to the house. The customers will understand, surely - no one wants a pint while a sprog is shrieking her head off five feet away. And it's not even as if you've got to pretend she's going through a trouble period. They'll all just nod with sympathy.

I'd be willing to ask Cecelia but I've a feeling she'd rather be out in the woods, so long as that's where Brownmiller is.

(And no, I haven't talked to Harry other than to tell him he can come visit anytime he can get free. I was hoping to ask him in person.)



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 17:59:10](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if we can count on her not taking it into her head to tell people the dog is Sirius Black even if she's not throwing a tantrum.

She's been talking more and more. And the things she says aren't always predictable. And unfortunately she discovered yesterday that if she really wants to get people's attention, shouting 'Sirius Black!' at the top of her lungs does the trick rather nicely.

You're probably right about Cecilia. Alice might have some ideas, but...we'll have to tell her what happened.

We'll have to do that eventually in any case.

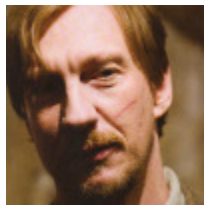



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 18:03:40](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but will people *believe* her? Particularly if you or Tonks follow right behind with 'That's a game she plays' or something to make it clear it's not actually true, it's just in her head.

I mean to say, two-year-olds ... they *do* make things up or say things that don't make any earthly sense. I think. Not that I've known too many of them. But at this point I think you could still make the case that she's part parrot.

Yes, we'll have to tell Alice. I was avoiding that for now, until we've thought through our options a bit more.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 18:12:06](#)
(no subject)


I don't know if we can risk it. (Telling people it's a game, I mean.)

Are you thinking about Justin? What his mum did, trying to cover up his magic? It wouldn't be like that, with Bea -- she WILL get older and learn to keep our secrets. And she could have outings, just -- safe places.

Everyone else in the Order with children managed to keep their secrets from the children -- the Twins and Ron both worked it out in the end but not when they were two. I think part of why I feel so frustrated is just -- how is they managed it and we couldn't? But of course, Frank and Alice managed it by leaving their children to be raised by Frank's mother. And Molly and Arthur were never fugitives.

~~It seemed so simple when she was a baby~~



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-18 18:20:00](#)
(no subject)

I think you've just answered your own questions. Arthur and Molly weren't an Animagus and werewolf, they didn't constantly


have to alter their appearance *at home* to hide from the authorities, and they kept their activities in the Order secret by not mentioning them in front of the tots, as well as not inviting all the other fugitive members to holiday parties and meetings in their home.

No, I'm not thinking of keeping her prisoner here, not at all. If we did that, you'd have to come up with a story to tell the regulars. Of course 'She's getting too disruptive' is a perfectly fine excuse but people are accustomed to seeing her about at least *some* of the time.

I dislike the idea of Compulsion magic but it might be our best option. I'm sure Mother had a few books on the subject of Compulsion in Child-Rearing.

Circe, I hate that idea.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-18 18:21:45](#)
(no subject)

I know. So do I.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-19 06:39:35](#)
(no subject)

Ugh. That's horrible.

The Crouches used to talk about using charms like that on me to get me to be more useful when I was home. I think Mrs Crouch might even have tried it once, but she wasn't good at that sort of thing. That's why she wanted me to be more help, I suppose.

It's lucky the Grouch wasn't ever there when she thought of doing it. I'm sure he'd have been delighted to Imperius me to do whatever she wanted.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 06:45:46](#)
(no subject)

We might have to do *something*. The moment you two left she started fussing. I took a hard line but now I am apparently persona non grata as far as she is concerned.

Of course that may have its benefits. If she refuses to speak altogether, problem solved!

No, it's not really any better that way.

[2013-12-18 11:00:00](#)

Private message to Molly Weasley


Mum.

Do we *have* to keep having goats?



 [alt_bill](#)



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-18 18:26:07](#)

(no subject)

Why, I have just always...

Well, the milk is certainly useful, and the cheeses always fetch a good price when I sell them. We really do need the manure for the garden, dear. It wouldn't be nearly as productive, otherwise.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-18 18:27:16](#)

(no subject)

Gah.

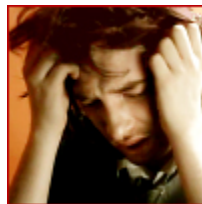
Could we just keep *fewer* of them, maybe? With all the kids off to school, maybe the garden doesn't need to be so big?



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-18 18:28:33](#)

Order Only

I suppose so, but even if I don't have as many children around, Alice and Frank can certainly use any extra I raise.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-18 18:30:36](#)

Re: Order Only

That's true.

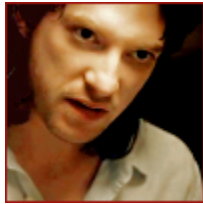
Now I feel like a prat for asking the question.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-18 18:29:51](#)
(no subject)

I suppose so. I just like having a larger garden, I'll admit.

I suppose you're finding the chores rather too much of a burden, dear?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-18 18:32:31](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't *like* them, but that's not it.


I was at work for a couple of hours this morning before anyone pointed out that I had a hole in the back of my robes. Old Toby took a bite out of the material, probably when I was pitching in the feed, and I didn't even notice.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-18 18:33:17](#)
(no subject)


Oh, dear.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-18 18:33:54](#)
(no subject)

You were able to repair them weren't you?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-18 18:36:35](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah, after someone pointed out the big gawping hole, several hours later.

I must have looked like a right idiot until I fixed it.

2013-12-18 11:30:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Did you get your robes sorted, then?



 **alt_rachel**



 **alt_bill** at **2013-12-18 18:23:21**

(no subject)

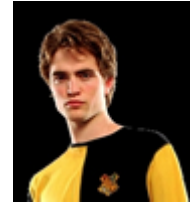
I did, and thank you so much for bringing it to my attention. I never would have lived it down if Mulciber had noticed that chomp mark on the back.

Hardly the best professional attire.

[2013-12-18 13:58:00](#)

Private Message to Pansy and Harry

Look this is sort of embarrassing. I'd asked Tyche if she would be free to go to St Mungo's Gala as a friend as my plus one with the tickets Antonin offered me. She is, apparently, dating Odysseus and understandably declined.



 [alt_cedric](#)

Harry are you still dating Katie? I don't want to step on your toes or create ~~another~~ horribly awkward situation by asking someone who's actively dating. Do you think she'd be interested, as a friend?

I assume both of you have your own invitations, but if Katie doesn't work out do you know someone else who might be interested in going with a friendly, not-a-date, escort? Socially I'm like I just spotted the snitch at the very other end of the pitch.



 [alt_cedric](#) at **[2013-12-18 19:24:51](#)**

Order Only

In part I'm floundering on who to ask that I'm not going to have to watch every other word with. I'm already going to be at home and not able to talk about well anything important there. I know it's in public so no real political discussion anyway, but I'd like a friendly evening to be friendly. Where I don't have to worry about the person I'm with spouting off that I'm an idiot squip for not knowing she's dating and then an offhand mention of the family's 'mudblood' picking up her dress tomorrow... not thinking about what anything she just said meant.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2013-12-18 20:47:14](#)**

Re: Order Only

I can see that, yes.

It's sort of funny, because I've been thinking about who to go with too. I'm in a tricky place with Lucius right now, who's still very angry at what I did with the Weasley venture. I think I hurt his feelings a bit more than I'd realised, and he's taking it quite personally, and along with all that is lecturing me about my associates that he disagrees with.

So even though I think it'd be a lot of fun to bring along Ron or Sally-Anne or George, it'd be problematic given that he'd take it as an insult. And Sally-Anne's working anyways, and this might make her father angry, so I don't want to push things.

It's all an enormous bother, because I just want to go to a ball and have a good time, but with all these other things hanging over my head, it's more complicated than that.

And I've had a bit more practise at watching what I say, but you're right, it can be exhausting.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-18 20:50:57](#)

Re: Order Only

Sue would certainly go as just a friend. I could ask Fred if Angelina is free, if you'd like. You could talk about Quidditch.

~~Or we~~

Or we could just go together. As friends.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-18 20:54:27](#)

Re: Order Only

Aurelia Archer might be game too.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-18 20:52:12](#)

Re: Order Only

Sorry, Pans.

If you'd said something earlier, I could've just asked you, and then explained things to Katie.




 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2013-12-18 20:53:31**

Re: Order Only

Oh, I'm managing. And the lecture just happened yesterday, anyways.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2013-12-18 20:55:27**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

George, huh?



 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2013-12-18 20:56:10**


Re: Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

Yes, George.

He's sweet.

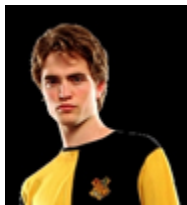
Shut it.




 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2013-12-18 21:01:10**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

Besides. You really ought to go with Katie. She's lovely, and you look so happy whenever you're with her.



 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2013-12-18 21:40:44**

Re: Order Only

I'm not going to try to steal Katie away from you Harry, even if you are casual that's more of a relationship with her than I have. I was just looking to ask as a friend.

Pansy, Would you like go with me to the party? I would be happy to escort you. Do you have an extra ticket? I'll still have one, do we know any one else who would like to go?

We should probably say something where the snoops can see so I can ask there.



 [alt_pansy at 2013-12-18 22:55:28](#)

Re: Order Only

Really? Well. I'd be happy to be your not-a-date.




 [alt_pansy at 2013-12-18 23:00:34](#)

Re: Order Only

We can ask around at school, I'd bet we could find a couple who wants to go.



 [alt_harry at 2013-12-18 20:38:36](#)

(no subject)

Sort of? I mean, I've asked her to go to St Mungo's with me already.

It's

We've talked about it, her and me. Not making it too serious. Like if she had someone else ask her, she knows it'd be okay if she really wanted to go with them, and I wouldn't be angry or anything.

I guess right now, it's good for both of us to go to these sort of things with each other, because I have someone I know I can ask who won't make a big deal out of it, and she thinks it's pretty fun, and it doesn't hurt her standing.

I mean, I like her. And I think she likes me. And we have a good time together. She's really funny, and she doesn't treat me like I'm going to explode or something.

But if we took it more serious than just going to dances every now and then or watching quidditch, it might get so she feels obligated instead of just like it's a good time.


Which is all to say you could ask her, if you wanted.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-18 21:41:38](#)**
(no subject)

No no. You take her. I was just looking to ask as a friend. If you are even casually dating, I'm not going to muck that up.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-18 22:58:52](#)**
(no subject)


If you need a friend who's unattached and you're not looking for anything serious, I'd be game.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-19 02:48:31](#)**
(no subject)

Would allow me to do you the honor the of being your friendly escort to the Gala? I promise to dance a bit and to endeavour to stay upright and not fall over on top of you like I did to poor Katie at Siz & Raz's wedding.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-19 03:19:59](#)**
(no subject)

I think I'll enjoy that.

Let's.

2013-12-18 19:24:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne



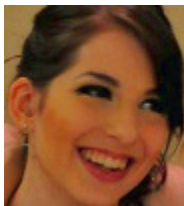
 [alt_pansy](#)


I... might be going to the St Mungo's Ball with Cedric Diggory.

As friends.

Merlin.

(If I wasn't rowing with Lucius, I'd be taking George, but if I've got to settle, well, Cedric Diggory isn't half bad.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-19 01:26:01**
(no subject)

Diggory's about everything you could ask for in a date, really -- fit, dashing, pureblooded, respectable (working for Professor Dolohov, even) AND an Order member.

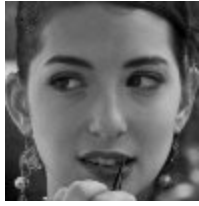
George is fit, dashing, and a pureblood. And an Order member. Buuuuuut he's a Weasley, so if you're trying not to provoke Mr Malfoy -- well, also, he's going to be right in the middle of opening the shop, I'm sure he'd go with you if you invited him but he'd spend the whole evening checking his diary to see if his brother was writing to him and he'd probably want to duck out early.

I heard it's fancy dress, what are you going to dress as?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-12-19 01:40:12**
(no subject)

I have no idea. We might fiddle with the masks we were working on last term.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 01:43:57](#)
(no subject)


Since the theme's creatures, you could go as house elves and dress in tea towels. Save you on robes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 01:44:08](#)
(no subject)

(I'm joking.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-19 01:53:00](#)
(no subject)

Stop! You're making me picture Cedric in nothing but a tea-towel, and it's not appropriate to be grinning like a bloody idiot during the middle of a terrible battle scene!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:06:20](#)
(no subject)

Or he could go as a merman. Tail on the bottom, NOTHING AT ALL on the top (though you'd need to go as a mermaid to match, and that seems like it would end up being scandalous).



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-19 02:16:03](#)
(no subject)

I'd prefer we both stay fully clothed.


The whole idea is to make Lucius less angry, not more.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:17:15](#)
(no subject)

Well, if you want a BORING costume, there's always vampires. They're supposed to look rather dashing, at least some of the time.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-19 02:28:30](#)
(no subject)

That's a thought...

2013-12-18 20:25:00

Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley and George Weasley



(George, you'll pass this along to Fred, please?)

I'd like to sit down with the four of you who are out of school sometime during the holidays, so we can take a look at my books together and try to do some brainstorming. I am wondering whether I have enough wiggle room to change things a bit.

 [alt_molly](#)

Of course, it's early days with the Emporium, too soon to say whether I'll have a very steady stream of income from it. But I've been thinking it over, and I wonder: if we shifted things around in the budget, do you think it might be possible for Bill to eventually move out so he could have a place of his own again?

Merlin knows what I would have done if I hadn't been able to lean on the four of you this past year, especially financially. I'm so grateful to you for being willing to help out your old Mum, and your father would have been very proud of your willingness to step up without a single murmur when you saw the need. But I'm starting to realise, it *must* have been particularly hard for Bill to give up his flat and move back to the Burrow. It's not that he's grumbling; he's been very patient about everything. But something he said today makes me wonder whether perhaps he's becoming restless about still hanging around the Burrow, as if he were someone years younger.

My goodness, by the time your father was his age, he already had two children and one on the way.

I haven't said anything to Bill about it yet. Perhaps he was just in a bit of a temper today, and he doesn't mind living at home. But it might be good to explore whether such a thing is even possible.

Anyway. Let's sit down and talk, when we're all together again.



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2013-12-19 06:33:21](#)**
(no subject)

Sure, Mum, I'm happy to take a look. And if you're a bit short, I can probably toss in at least few Galleons more a month -- I'm up for a raise soon anyway, and if I get it I was thinking it should go to the Order, but you've got a better claim.

Though --

Well. I know Bill doesn't mind helping, none of us do, and if I didn't live up here I'd've done the same as he did. Not just to help out with the chores. If Bill did move back out again, you'd be stuck rattling around on your own even more. I wonder, is there anyone at the Emporium who's looking for a room to let? Or someone around the edges of the Order? I'd feel much better if you had someone there to talk to, at least.




 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2013-12-19 15:37:42](#)**
(no subject)

Also, I've been meaning to ask this for a bit, and I keep forgetting -- I know we have a few family heirlooms put away, but I can't remember any of the details on what's there. That cursed dagger you inherited from Great-Uncle Ignatius, do you still have that or did you figure out a way to get rid of the wretched thing? Or do you have anything else Goblin-made in the vault that you'd be willing to part with?

The Goblins are starting to believe we aren't just out to fuck screw them over, but we still haven't got very far despite all the trying, and we might be able to move them along a bit if we made a peace offering. If we don't have anything, though, I can ask Alice instead.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2013-12-20 01:33:04](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, that awful dagger. Why, I'd almost forgotten about it--Merlin knows I never wanted it. I only took custody of it to spite Bellatrix Lestrange.

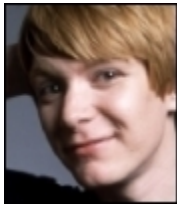
Bill has it, in a locked and warded box. I would be delighted to give it up, absolutely, and I can't think of a better reason to do so.


I'll mention it to Bill, and you can speak to him about it when you see him Saturday. I'll have to think about whether we have anything else we might have that's goblin-made. Bill might know.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-20 15:00:23](#)
(no subject)

Ta, that should do for now. Maybe that will convince them that we're interested in dealing with them honestly.




 [alt_george](#) at [2013-12-19 23:08:17](#)
Private message to Charlie Weasley

Are you thinking what we're thinking?

Bill could probably use some private space if only to give him somewhere to entertain ah, certain persons of the *female* persuasion that's not under Mum's gimlet eye.

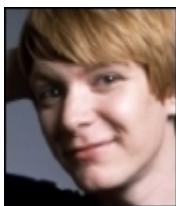
Not sure whether that's occurred to Mum yet. We won't mention it if you don't.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-20 14:52:42](#)
Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Well, she's got a flat of her own, but yeah, that's part of why he's probably getting a bit tetchy.

I'm just worried about Mum on her own without anyone else in the house. She's learned to hide it better, but I know she's lonely.



 [alt_george](#) at [2013-12-19 23:05:46](#)
(no subject)

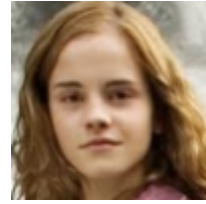
Sure, Mum, we both think it's a good idea, too, and we'd be willing to discuss.

2013-12-18 20:34:00

Order Only: Anyone in the Reading

Where are you lot in the story?

Do you think you'll finish in time? You've only got three hours until Astronomy. Harry showed me the place where you stopped last time; I think you've got a ways to go, still.

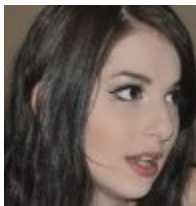


 **alt_hermione**

But I don't want to guess where you are and spoil something.

It's too bad I can't be there with you but I suppose it's useful to be on guard duty.

~~It's just rather boring.~~




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-19 01:43:07**
(no subject)

journals.)

Charybdis just threw herself in front of a killing curse and now Amaranth is thinking about how she didn't appreciate her enough while she was alive. (I kind of think good riddance, which is why I was checking the

You really don't think we'll be able to get through the rest? We HAVE to finish before we go home for hols. Maybe I can get Daphne to speed up and read a bit faster.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2013-12-19 01:49:44**
(no subject)

She's doing such a good job. Her voice just broke a bit during Amaranth's inner monologue, and I swear half of the room was sniffing.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 01:51:59](#)
(no subject)

They are! They're all pretending they just need to wipe their faces a bit because it's warm or dusty or something.

It's not warm and the elves do a fine job dusting.

I don't get it, most of them didn't even like Charybdis! (Because she's a snot!)

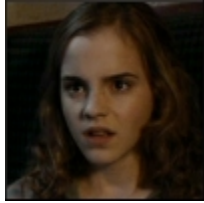


 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-19 02:23:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh! Phoebus! He's being so brave.

And they can't all die in there. The book still has a ways to go. But things don't look very good for

Agrona at all.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 02:25:16](#)
(no subject)

OH.

So, they *are* in the cave-in now?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-19 01:55:42](#)
(no subject)

You won't get Daphne to read faster. She considers this a *performance*.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 01:58:23](#)
(no subject)

Oh, but I *liked* her! Sort of.

I mean, I didn't cry or anything but it just came as such a surprise that she would do that. It made me think I want to go back and re-read the second one because some of

her actions might seem less antagonistic in retrospect. I do think she loved Phoebus but she was too proud to let him think it bothered her that he was so fixated on Amaranth.

But you're right--you've got *loads* to go yet.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-19 02:02:03](#)
(no subject)

Can't you just tell us what happens? This is taking too long.

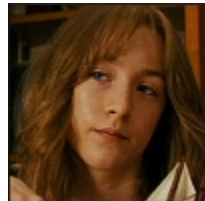
I'm right.


Also, I've got several theories and I want to know if



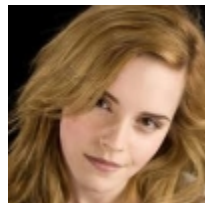
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:04:59](#)
(no subject)

Speak for yourself, Draco, she can put it in a PM to you if you really want but I want to find out from the reading!



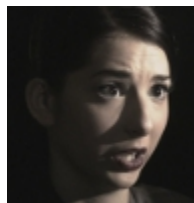
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-12-19 02:05:10](#)
(no subject)

NO, she can't!



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 02:06:11](#)
(no subject)

No! It's so much better to hear it the way she wrote it!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:03:41](#)
(no subject)

You liked her?!? But she's a complete ass to Efrain! I mean, she died very heroically but mainly I thought, 'well, if ONE of those two had to die, she'd have been my pick.'

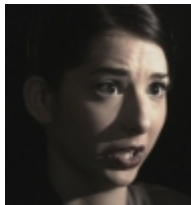
I think she'd have been Amaranth's pick too which is why she had to spend two pages feeling guilty after (I always skimmed those bits when I was reading by myself).



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 02:14:45](#)
(no subject)

Well.

She sort of reminded me of you, sometimes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:16:19](#)
(no subject)

What? She's NOTHING like me! ~~When have I ever been as nasty to anyone as Charybdis is to Efrain? Who didn't COMPLETELY deserve it~~

Well, maybe a little.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 02:23:48](#)
(no subject)

I mean, in the way she always thinks she knows the answer, and she's not afraid of speaking her mind, and she comes up with clever ideas but sometimes she doesn't say them in a way that makes people listen.

But at heart she was a good person, and she was only trying to help. That's what I mean when I say I want to go back and examine her actions in *Pure Power*.


Have they--Where are they now?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-19 02:24:35](#)
(no subject)

The cave. It's awful.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 02:27:38](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it's really, really suspenseful.

You're going to be there for a while, though.

(That's one of the times I *did* wish she would speed things up, but you can't skip ahead because that's what makes that sequence so effective. I'm not going to tell you what happens next but just *wait!*)



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-19 03:28:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Hermione.

There's got to be a trick. There just has to be. He's so clever, and he's fooled everyone before, he's just got to be all right.

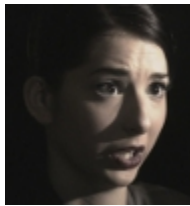


 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 03:37:32](#)
(no subject)

You're on page 711?

It's not a trick. I'm sorry.

~~I had to put the book down and cry for a bit~~




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 03:33:53](#)
(no subject)

WHAT? NO!!

I don't care if he died heroically and 'wouldn't have wanted us to waste this' and all that rot
CUCULLAIN WAS MY FAVOURITE CHARACTER!

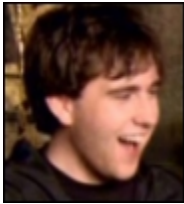


 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-19 02:21:43](#)

(no subject)

The story *is* exciting.

The one thing I find I'm really wondering about the most, though, is how in Merlin's name Morgansen ever thought she would get away with openly publishing it.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-19 02:23:49](#)

(no subject)

Maybe a bit too much of the sappy stuff, too. Occasionally.

Or maybe that's just me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 02:26:39](#)

(no subject)

Yeah. I mean Cucullain is basically Sirius Black, with the messages he writes. Even the way he writes is similar.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-19 04:43:03](#)

(no subject)

Did you see what Moon wrote?

They're storming the capitol and we *still* don't know whether Phoebus is dead or alive.



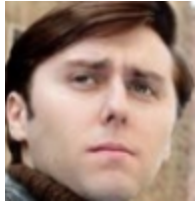
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 04:48:34](#)

(no subject)

Well, Moon's talking about the revising he offered.

But if you're still in the capitol...I don't think you'll finish tonight.

You might want to tell Harry to stop at the end of this chapter. There's a place where things calm down a bit. And then come back on Friday when exams are over.



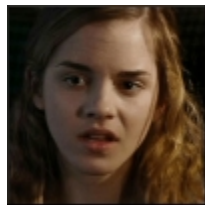
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-19 05:04:36](#)
(no subject)

Hermione,

I say, how much *is* left? Because most people seem to want to keep going until the last possible second, what, and hang the revision.

If there's even a chance we could finish, I bally well think they want to give it a go. (Personally, I'd as soon stop now, myself, so we're not all thinking about the book when we're meant to be using locational arithmancy.)

-Justin



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 05:09:19](#)
(no subject)

If you go right up to the exam time, you might get as far as the final full chapter. And there's an epilogue.


I really do think you should stop two chapters from the end (that's Chapter 36) but then, I think I stayed up most of the night when I was reading it for the first time, because once you get that far it's just so hard to stop!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 05:16:00](#)
(no subject)

Argh. I really thought we'd be able to FINISH tonight.



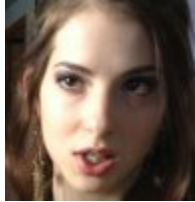
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-19 05:18:47](#)
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

This might all be for the best, what? I mean to say, if we were to finish tonight people might not come back for *A Christmas Carol*, whereas this way we'll have a

captive audience for it!

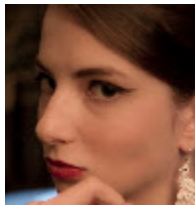
-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 05:23:03](#)
(no subject)

Brilliant.

Totally worth living in suspense for another two days.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 06:08:44](#)
(no subject)

Well, at least we found out Phoebus survived.
(And Agrona, though who cares about her? Well, PHOEBUS now, apparently, at least that's what I got from the bits about the way he was looking

at her.)

I hope you lot who needed to take the Astronomy exam made it in time. And didn't kill yourselves with exertion, running up all those stairs!

2013-12-18 20:50:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

I don't want to startle the Juniors by popping up on their thread where we're clearly not wanted.




But.

 [alt_lupin](#)


Did you know you're apparently a character in 'Pure Victory'? (The book they're all reading.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-19 02:53:30**
(no subject)

Hang on, I'll have a snoop.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-19 02:58:04**
(no subject)

She actually *named* the character Cucullain?


As in Cú Chulainn, the Hound of Ulster?

Merlin.

Half a moment, is this the book that the *Prophet* mentioned isn't coming out as anticipated? The one with the author who got arrested?


Circe, not surprising if she actually *wrote a character* based on my Grim Truths!



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-19 03:00:36**
(no subject)

Yeah, it's the same book. I'm not sure how she expected to get away with it, assuming this Cucullain character isn't a terrifying monster who eats children.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 03:03:27](#)
(no subject)

Obviously, she thought people would be so desperate for the conclusion that the authorities would pretend not to notice how iconoclastic the whole thing is.

Hm.

I wonder how many people really *are* desperate for the third book? Judging by this lot, there must be *some* people not at Hogwarts who want to read it.

2013-12-18 21:02:00

Order Only: Private message to Hermione and Padfoot



Hermione, is there REALLY a character in this book everyone's reading that's based on Sirius?

 [alt_lupin](#)



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 03:06:55](#)
(no subject)

Are you--


Yes.

Yes, he writes these pamphlets that he magically sends to every household in the land.

But

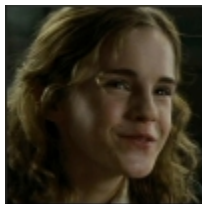
You haven't read the first one, have you? Because it's so much better to read it than to ask me about it. I can't explain it the way the author writes it.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:10:28](#)
(no subject)

I haven't read any of them. Have YOU read them? It sounds -- er, you didn't SAY that thread was only for Juniors, so I didn't think you'd mind me reading it.

It sounds like you've already read the whole thing. Just how subversive is it? Is it just the character who's basically Sirius with Grim Truths? Or...more?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 03:18:49](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yes, I read the third one already, because I'm supposed to be standing guard, you see. And it wouldn't be appropriate for me to be in with the others.


Even though this whole third book (well, really, the second one, too, but it was less obvious) is about how the purity of one's blood doesn't even matter.

There's this character, Phoebus, who's meant to be like a patrician sort of Slytherin pureblood, only in the last part of the final book, we find out that his parents were both muggleborn and he was 'demoted' to a pureblood (because everything's the opposite in these--purebloods are the oppressed class, you know, and there aren't any halfbloods, and the muggleborn are the ones who force the purebloods to fight in the arenas). Anyway, he's revealed to be the son of muggleborns and yet he goes and married Agrona in the end. (The group aren't there yet, they're just at the part where it looks like he's going to die saving Amaranth. Only he doesn't. Cucullain dies. It's so sad! He saves the others but not before some muggleborn show up to catch them, and he duels them all Amaranth gets away but his own cousin kills him.)

And then at the end it's revealed that loads of wizards are really of mixed blood but they just drew the lines in a particular way so that they'd have a minority to scapegoat. Oh, it's ever so thrilling.


The first one was dead popular and now that this one's been banned, everyone is wondering why or wanting to read it just *because* it's been banned. When Harry started the readings about 30 people were coming but tonight there are more like 50 or 60 people in there.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:21:10](#)
(no subject)

This all sounds brilliant except for the bit where they kill off the one who's meant to be Sirius, I don't like that part at all. At least he gets to die heroically.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:38:43](#)
(no subject)

Whose book is this? I mean the actual physical copy -- does it belong to an Order member?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 03:43:35](#)
(no subject)

Well, that's sort of a long story.

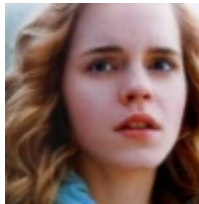
It's technically Ginny Weasley's copy. Only she gave it to Ron to hold onto for her, and then when it was about to be seized Harry pretended to burn it. But then he asked her if we could all read it together. So we could probably ask her to hold on to it but the best thing might be to make another copy of it and let her keep her copy, so she doesn't know it made its way to a printing press.

Are you really going to reprint it?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:48:44](#)
(no subject)

Do you think you could manage to make a copy before everyone leaves for holidays? And then send it home with Ron?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2013-12-19 03:56:25](#)
(no subject)

Well.

They only just got to where Siriu Cucullain died. They've still got the assault on the capitol and the bit with the Healers' ward and....

And it's...nearly eleven.

They're not going to finish it tonight.

So, yes, I'm sure I can make a copy tomorrow.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 03:11:33](#)
(no subject)

Hermione, we don't care about reading the book!

How popular do you think they are outside of the school? And what was it that got the third one banned?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:22:46](#)
(no subject)


Do you suppose Luna knows how to operate that printing press we helped her dig up last summer?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 03:24:10](#)
(no subject)

I was just about to ask Lee if he's got it put together out in Aldrich!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 03:26:02](#)
(no subject)

Great minds think alike, right?

It just strikes me that if there's this utterly subversive book that loads of impressionable young people desperately want to read, it would be a public service if we printed copies that could then be passed around.

Mind you, I'm not sure how we'd distribute them.

2013-12-18 22:29:00

Ad Astra Per Aspera!

The clarion call of scholarly endeavour has sounded! Let all who would meet tonight's exam in a state of full preparation join us now in Astronomy Tower for an hour of revising centred on Arithmancy for Astronomers!



 [alt_linus](#)

We shall be running through a few simple problem sets just to relax a bit before the exam. Come join the fun! Those of you who have been receiving a bit of extra help are especially encouraged -- nay, positively urged! -- to attend. We don't want to let Professor Sinistra down, do we?


Come up and prepare to shine!



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2013-12-19 05:01:30](#)
(no subject)

I'll be there soon, darling!



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-12-19 05:08:05](#)
(no subject)

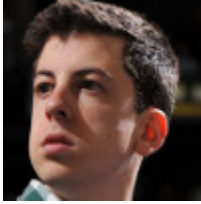
I am **deeply concerned** that some of you are missing some very important setting-up exercises, as it were, for the exam we are about to take in less than one hour. One doesn't go barreling out onto the Quidditch pitch without doing one's warm-ups, after all. In fact, I have analysis that strongly indicates that players who skimp on warm-ups do not reach higher than ten percent above their average scores, at most, in that particular match. Naturally, this is more of a concern for some than others. Jones, I am looking at you. Also Summers, Capper, and Bundy.


Honestly, one would expect people to avail themselves of every advantage possible. Then, too, exams are so much more fun when one is properly warmed up!



 [alt_megan](#) at [2013-12-19 05:17:35](#)
(no subject)


I will be there as soon as I can. But it might be a while. Because I have to catch my cat. Because he is being very naughty. And Fang can run very fast. So it might be a while.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-12-19 05:37:50](#)
(no subject)


Jones, honestly. Do try to focus. Just once, for the novelty of it, perhaps?



 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-12-19 05:12:07](#)
Private Message to Padma

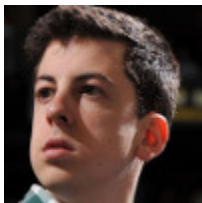
Padma, if by chance you are wending your way through these hallowed halls on the way to Astronomy Tower, could you perhaps keep an eye out for the students named above, and if they've been led astray by hinkypunks or the like, please extricate them from whatever bog they may have fallen into and bring them along with you? I should take it as a great kindness if you could.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-19 05:15:21](#)
Re: Private Message to Padma

Well, I still say you're going to way too much trouble for a few people who should be able to pull their own weight.

But fine.



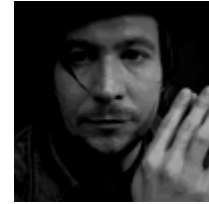
 [alt_linus](#) at [2013-12-19 05:36:37](#)
(no subject)

Well, those of us who revised are in top form and ready for an exam, once Professor Siz has had me re-set the room and get the projection stones in place and so forth.

As for the rest of you, well. On your own heads be it.

2013-12-18 22:30:00

Order Only: Private Message to Lee and Remus



 [alt_sirius](#)


Lee,

Luna's father's printing press. Remember we moved it to Aldrich back in September?

I think we may have some content to start up printing.

Has anyone there learned how to set the type yet?

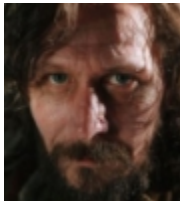


 [alt_lee](#) at **2013-12-19 03:35:46**
(no subject)

It's set up, yeah, but in one of their old barns.

The trick's the paper, more than the type. (There's someone there used to play with it for a hobby).

But the paper's got to be even and consistent to run through the press. Or we need a bunch of paper from the Prophet's supply or something. There's ink, too, but I guess that's way easier to make right.



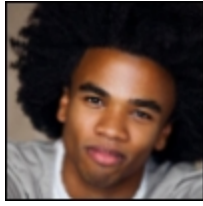
 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-19 04:32:48**
(no subject)


Anyone know who mills the *Prophet's* paper?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-19 04:34:50**
(no subject)

Jeremy Stretton might know.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2013-12-19 04:42:00](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. If he doesn't, I might be able to find out.
Take me a couple of days, though.

actually.

I'll ask him, yeah? Seeing him tomorrow for lunch,



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-19 04:55:57](#)**
(no subject)

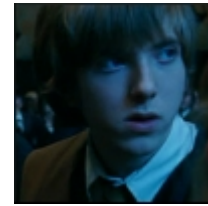
Perfect.

2013-12-18 23:21:00

Private Message to Megan Jones

Do you think we should leave?

I mean. You sort of *do* need to practise the Arithmancy.



 [alt_ernie](#)

What did you tell him, anyway? In case he asks.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-19 05:26:22**
(no subject)


I told him I had to catch my cat.

Because when Fang does go rampaging around like a tiny erumpent, it is quite difficult to catch him. So it is plausible. And anyhow Moon thinks I am an idiot, so he will believe that I would miss revising to chase Fang.

Let's do stay. Please?


You can tell him I asked you to help catch Fang, if you like.



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2013-12-19 05:31:29**
(no subject)

Up to you, treacle. It's not me that has to sit an exam tonight.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-19 05:41:55**
(no subject)

Treacle?? Well at least it is sweet. But can't you find a better thing to call me? Something less sticky at least.

I am staying. Because I cannot leave now, when we haven't found out what's going to happen!

Stop distracting me with messages and hold my hand then?

2013-12-19 01:36:00

Private message to Ari Baddock



 **alt_antonin**

My dear, I appreciate your concern, but I have been in Our Lord's service for quite some time, and I have seen the complicated dance of allegiance, factions, precedence, and gamesmanship play out over and over again. I am not the sort to bestow my affections based on whose star is ascendant at any given moment. ~~Particularly when that is apt to change on a whim~~

Our Lord bestows His favour where He finds most appropriate, as is His right, but as His hands it is beneath us to jockey for position and quarrel with each other like dogs fighting over scraps from the table. It is upon us to serve Our Lord's desires, to support His endeavours, and to do what is necessary for the good of His realm. That cannot be done if we are more concerned with pride and placement, or obsessing over which of our nearest and dearest are in favour at the moment. The winds of Our Lord's dearest favour may shift from time to time, but the bonds of brotherhood ought not be treated so cavalierly.

Yours, in service,
A.

2013-12-19 06:28:00

Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

What did Ari want with you?

This is



 [alt_lucius](#)

Thank Merlin our party is Saturday. Narcissa plans to out-do herself to make sure it is a universal success.

FUCKING

Come on Saturday whenever you like.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2013-12-19 13:03:51**

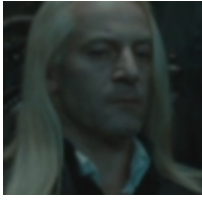
(no subject)

Think nothing of it, my dear. He wanted to make sure I was aware Our Lord's favour had fallen upon Cadmus, and inquire as to my plans regarding same. I reminded him that Our Lord's favour is His to bestow, but that does not mean we must push and shove after it like dogs begging for scraps; my allegiances are not so fickle as others' might be. It was a fishing expedition, nothing more.

~~Though I wish you had told me what you were planning; I would have liked to assist~~

Unless matters force a change of plans I will be leaving after administering my last exam Friday afternoon and returning to town; I had thought to reserve Friday night for supper with Barty and finishing my final monograph for Mysteries on the underpinnings of the spell used at Saltash. (Have I told you? I am certain it is a Fidelius variant intended to shorten the casting time and eliminate some of the more fiddling requirements, but I cannot make the details make sense. It is most vexing.)

It is nothing that cannot be set aside if you are more in need of me, though, and I am entirely free on Saturday; I will do whatever I might to be of service to you and to Narcissa, or to make it plain that I do not abandon family in times of trouble. I am entirely at your service, little brother. You have but to say the word.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2013-12-20 01:56:24](#)**
(no subject)

Fishing. Lovely. First he deliberately blanks me to rush Mulciber as if he'd just caught the snitch; then he starts sniffing round my nearest and dearest to entice them to do the same.

Have been keeping as typical an agenda to-day as possible in order not to appear perturbed by yesterday's events. Still. Have been thinking all day and Weasley has had a slew of requests to cancel or re-arrange appointments. 'On account of the season,' if you please.


Had I not been there myself, I should not have believed Cad capable of it. You know as well as I that he has always acquitted himself on the field admirably - sometimes even with inspiration - but in the thirty years we have known each other, he has *never* achieved anything like the effectiveness of that duel. I cannot accept that it was mere luck, or that Maule merely was so ill-prepared.

Which means Cad has found a way to *change* the field. Until we can counter, our position is decidedly unstable.

And then for Ari to

It is more distressing than one wishes to consider, yet consider it we must.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2013-12-20 20:06:22](#)**
(no subject)

Perhaps it is time to take a more direct approach. Both Mulciber brothers are easily goaded; I cannot imagine it would be difficult to lure them into taking a swing, and you well know how fiercely they have always underestimated me.

(Mind you, should that be the plan, it would be worth my life should either of us let slip word to Barty ahead of time, and he would then immediately storm off and take care of things for us so that I would not be in danger. He does fret so.)

That pipe-dream aside, methinks it is time that one of us bought some favour with Our Lord of our own. Has He turned His

attention in any particular direction lately? I can think of several things we might offer, but you are in His presence far more often than I.

2013-12-19 09:08:00

Order Only: Maule

Remember Sebastian Maule, our scapegoat for the disappearance of those girls at Maidstone?



 [alt_bill](#)

Well, my injuries have apparently been avenged, along with many other petty slights. Corax Mulciber brought a trophy into work today: Sebastian Maule's signet ring, which his brother Cadmus took off his body after dueling him to the death in the middle of Court yesterday, in Voldemort's presence. According to Corax, who was just *full* of boasts about his brother's performance, it was an entirely one-sided duel: Maule was dead after just one parry and return blast. Cadmus presented Maule's wand to Voldemort who graciously allowed him to keep it, with every sign of official favour. Spoke a few words of encouragement to Corax, too.

The Mulcibers' star is very much on the rise.

I'm sure you all understand, as Corax Mulciber's Senior Adjutant, how thrilled I am by this news.



 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-19 15:24:46**

Private message to Alice Longbottom and Kingsley Shacklebolt

What I'd rather not say in front of our youngest members, for fear of giving them nightmares, is that Corax has Maule's signet ring *with Maule's finger still inside it*. He has it in a fucking jar on his desk. Rachel Lamont told me that eyewitness reports say that Cadmus Mulciber's hex blew Maule's body to bits. She said that the rumour has it that Cadmus Mulciber's magic is much more powerful since his recovery, and she clearly wants to know if the Order has any theories as to why.

I could tell her that our suspicions about that are what makes us so anxious to get into the Department of Mysteries. Should I?



 **alt_alice** at [2013-12-19 16:22:24](#)

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Kingsley Shacklebolt

I think you should.

It ought to be carefully done -- this is not a new potential weapon that we might consider sharing with Dogstar. Rachel might understand this, but whether Ridley would is another matter altogether.

So I'd make it patently clear that we intend to completely destroy this device and the people associated with it, and prevent its ever being re-created again.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-12-19 15:29:36](#)

Private message to Sirius Black and Charlie Weasley

Clarification for adult ears: that's Maule's signet ring with Maule's finger still inside of it. Apparently Cadmus blew him into bits, with the shreds landing on bystanders, ruining their Court wear.

Corax was in a VERY good mood this morning.



 **alt_sirius** at [2013-12-19 16:59:43](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius Black and Charlie Weasley

Well. That's charming.

We *did* want them to squabble themselves out of existence. Shame they tend to be so drastic in their methods.



 **alt_bill** at [2013-12-19 15:34:51](#)

Private message to Minerva McGonagall and Walden Macnair

Minerva, perhaps you've heard some additional details by now from some other Council members. Macnair, apparently Mulciber blew Maule up, bodily.

According to all reports, Voldemort enjoyed the spectacle. How do you read this? I would think he would have the head of anyone who

dared to draw a wand to kill another one of his servants in his presence, but no, he didn't. Has he gone completely round the bend? Is he just setting up the Mulcibers for their own spectacular demise next week?

I'm sorry; I suppose you probably can't predict what he'll do much better than we can. But you've been in his presence more often.

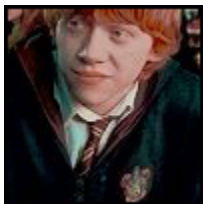
If you have any theories, send 'em Alice's way.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 15:41:27](#)
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

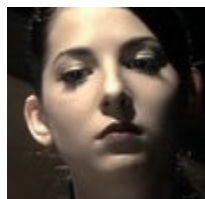
What do you suppose Bill wants ALL the adults in the Order to know but NOT us?


Do you suppose he was there when Maule got killed?



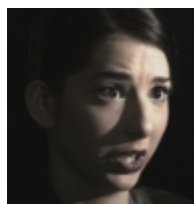
 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-19 16:33:43](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good


Maybe something about Mr Malfoy that he doesn't want Draco or Pansy or Hydra to hear from him? Maybe he wet himself when it happened. Or something about Auror Lestrangle. If it's about her, it's probably not that she was scared out of her mind.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 16:36:55](#)
Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Oh, something about Mr Malfoy would make sense.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-20 00:56:41](#)
*Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good:
Private message to Ron and Pansy*


Right. Jeremy told me.

It's that Maule's finger is still in the ring. The one that's on Corax Mulciber's desk.

Which is DISGUSTING. But I'm not sure I see why he's being so

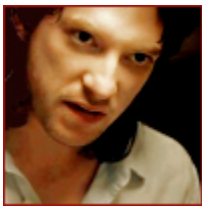
secretive? But maybe it would really upset Evelyn or something so I went with a PM.




 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-19 18:02:31](#)**
(no subject)

Maule's death is clearly causing political shifts. Dolohov has had half a dozen fire calls from people he almost never speaks to. Ari Baddock was the first, late yesterday. The only piece I caught was "He's dead?!"


When I asked if everything was alright, he was uninformative but did say he didn't think he would have to rush off and leave me with all the essays to grade. Savitha Desai called as I was leaving for the day, he waved me out the door so I didn't see any result from the conversation. ~~This morning he looked more tired and worn than I've seen him this year.~~ Pennifold, one of the Glendower's, one of the Rowles and at least two others have called today. After that initial call he has layered his silencing charms, which is very unusual. He has been pensive, angry and apprehensive by turns since. He also had a long conversation with Crouch, though that is common.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-19 23:00:26](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks for the report, Cedric. Anything more you can glean the next few days is certainly welcome.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-20 04:25:45](#)**
Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

Sirius, just so you know, Alice gave me permission to tell Rachel Lamont some of what we know about Mysteries. So I met with Rachel tonight, at her flat.

She said that it's been quite clear since Saltash that Cadmus' magic is demonstrably more powerful. There are others who are interested in getting their hands on a similar source of power, Lucius Malfoy being one.

I told her this is why we were wanting to get a window into Mysteries, because they were the ones responsible for the Mulcibers' new fighting ability. I didn't speak of a machine; I simply said it was a

process under development, a secret that's been closely held up until now. It had an ugly enough price that we thought we had common cause with Dogstar in wishing to shut this process down. The danger is that now with Cadmus Mulciber's demonstration yesterday, buyer demand is going to go up. In turn, that means it's more likely for the secret to get out and be impossible to contain.

We fenced for a bit, while we each said as little as we could get away with, but when I told her that the process required the sacrifice of magical children, she made some intuitive leaps that filled in some of the gaps. When I pointed out that if either their people or ours were captured, their children would probably be forfeit to the process, and that's why we had a common cause in stopping this, her mind jumped quickly from that to the question of how and why the Selwyn children and their mother disappeared. She was aware that there was a break in at Mysteries last June, and she asked if that was our operation. I said we didn't plan it, but we were aware of the freelancers who did, and that they passed some of this critical intelligence onto us.

She also figured out why Strangeweale had an interest in Muggleborn teenage girls.

She seemed appalled by the information and quickly agreed when I said we wanted the process and all the associated notes destroyed. I asked her point blank if she thought that Ridley would want this same power for herself, too. She said she thought Ridley wouldn't, although possibly she would if the potion could be done with adults, volunteer or not. I told her we had confirmation that adults wouldn't work, but who knows if she believed me.

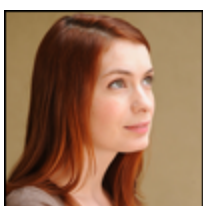
She told me that she doesn't think they have anyone in Mysteries. A disappointment, but not surprising. We talked about Strangeweale--she brought up the name, by the way, not me. Apparently, the fact that Cadmus Mulciber has been seen repeatedly in Strangeweale's company since Saltash has been noticed, so that was another deductive leap she made. She suggested that his father, Otto Strangeweale, might know about the process, too: he's at St Mungo's and had some oversight on Cadmus's care. He was Poppy's nemesis, wasn't he? We talked about the difficulties of putting the genie back in the bottle, so to speak. If we captured and questioned Strangeweale, or any co-conspirators, how could we be sure that the process for making the potion and all notes were destroyed?

She suggested that if there were any questioning to be done, that Dogstar should do it. I gather that she has the impression we're

rather soft. Besides, they have a legilimens. I said we had some in our corner who were perfectly willing to crack a few eggs to make an omelet, so to speak, and in any case, we would insist on having someone from the Order present at any interrogation.

Bottom line, I made it clear we want this process stopped cold, with absolutely no souvenirs for anybody.

Oh, and just before I left, she asked me to let Sirius know that she needs the magpie.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-20 16:16:49**

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

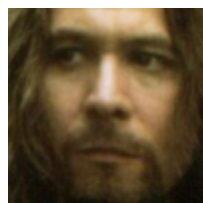
Good.

I anticipate that with this rather ostentatious display of Mulciber's, we'll have to move our timeline up. This needs to be taken care of, and soon.

Sirius, where are you with Strangeweale's servant?

Bill, did Lamont have any thoughts regarding accessing the machine (along with any records of it) in Mysteries? That's still a sticking point in our current planning.

And that's a good point about his father, too.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2013-12-21 01:46:08**

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

It's been a few days since I could get away to visit Timothy - sorry, Allie, it's just been a dead packed week. I can try again Sunday.

My hope is that he'll help us capture Strangeweale, and if Brodie wants to join in questioning him I've no objection. If they want their Legilimens to question him, fine, but Snape could do it, just as easily. We should be able to hold him in his own home, if Timothy helps us. (Though if she's got a better idea, that's fine, but clearly we can't bring him to Grimmauld and we don't want to take the time to move him to one of the country safehouses.)

Assuming we have him in custody, we should be able to use Polyjuice to get in to Mysteries. If we can find out where his notes are, surely we can find out if he uses any particular protections on his labs, and how to get round them.

I'm willing to put together a joint force to rescue any of his other prisoners but I think more than one or two people going into Mysteries (even if one of us is Polyjuiced) would draw attention to our activity.

And Bill, I haven't seen the magpie since it dropped off Ridley's first letter. But if it comes our way, we'll send it on a detour to Ms Brodie.



 **alt_alice** at [2013-12-21 02:17:07](#)

Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

Yes, a thorough questioning of Strangeweale will let us know our options regarding Polyjuice -- I recall there were some questions about the security systems in place at Mysteries.

And adding some Dogstar operatives to our list of assets would make the double issue of rescue of the prisoners and destruction of the machine more possible.

2013-12-19 09:25:00

Order Only: Private message to Misses Granger and Parkinson



 [alt_severus](#)

Your assistance in brewing for Moddey these past few weeks has been considerably appreciated. I would not have been able to take on the additional work had you not both risen to the occasion.

Miss Parkinson: the results of your benchwork have proven acceptable in practise. If you are able to free yourself from the pressures of your social calendar over holiday, you would be welcomed in the laboratory, but do not arouse suspicion if your absence would be noted. Over holidays, consider carefully whether your schedule will continue to accomodate our work; if you wish to continue, knowing as you do now the exceptional pressures upon your time it will entail and the exacting nature of my standards and requirements, I am willing to further your tutelage upon return to Hogwarts in January.

The exact nature of that tutelage is up to you: I am content both to teach you just as much as you would need to know to brew only the potions that we require, or to go beyond instruction in mere brewing mechanics and delve more deeply into the underlying theory. The latter is a far more fraught proposition. You would never be allowed to claim the experience I am offering to any representative of the Guild. Should you be interested in a further career in potioneering, you would need to repeat that work under more recognised aegis — likely stultifying, and possibly dangerous should anyone realise you have been studying under a Master of whom they do not approve. I would urge you through the bulk of the NEWT curriculum as quickly as possible, rendering your classes with Slughorn no more than review and requiring you to conceal your experience from him as much as possible. There are undoubtedly other disadvantages I cannot immediately call to mind.


Should you be interested in the proposition despite these disadvantages, you ought first ask Miss Granger about the precision, commitment, and attention to detail I require from an apprentice, and carefully consider whether you are willing to make the sacrifices that would be necessary to enter into such an arrangement. I am an exacting man who does not suffer fools gladly, has little patience with anyone who enters the laboratory with anything less than full commitment, and does not accept mediocrity no matter what the

reason. If you are willing to overlook those failings and commit yourself to the learning, however, I believe you to be teachable.

Miss Granger: should Miss Parkinson wish to continue working with us, whether in the capacity of apprentice or merely as brewer, I am minded to turn over the majority of the standard medicinals to her, once she has achieved adequate skill, and begin you brewing the more complex draughts with which you have only assisted thus far — I see no reason why you ought not be able to take over sole responsibility for the brewing of Lupin's Wolfsbane, for instance. Doing so would allow me to return to the matter of unravelling the Sleeper potion, which research I fear has fallen by the wayside without Stephen with whom to collaborate and with the necessity to assume primary responsibility for supplying Moddey's needs having come to land upon our shoulders.

Though it continues to be wholly unjust that no Protectorate authority recognises your birthright, much less your apprenticeship, you remain a student of whom any Master would be proud. I trust you realise I would not push you as fiercely, nor as quickly, if I did not believe you capable of far more than even the more advanced work I am proposing.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-19 16:07:57](#)**
(no subject)

I'll be sure to talk to Hermione, sir.

It's certainly something to give thought to. I don't think anyone has expected much of me before, at least when it comes to my having some sort of vocation, and I'd like very much to be of use and do something worth while. My father had talent, but he considered himself a hobbyist when it came to his potions work. I'd like to consider doing more. Thank you for your offer. I know it would require additional time and energy on your part, which you have precious little of. I also understand the need to keep separate the techniques you are prepared to teach me.

Although I cannot stay at the castle over hols, I may be able to come on a regular schedule. I might need help coming and going from your laboratory without attracting notice. I'll double-check my social calendar, but it could very well be possible that I could come for at least two afternoons a week if not three without much trouble.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2013-12-19 16:38:25](#)**
(no subject)

It is possible I will be working at Grimmauld rather than Hogwarts, though I cannot say for certain until I speak with Black, which I have not yet wished to had a chance to do. Regardless, do not compromise your security nor give anyone a reason to suspect you; while your assistance is welcome, it is neither urgent nor time-sensitive. Better to spend two weeks conforming to what is expected of you, then return and begin in earnest.

Your father had a fair amount of raw talent and utterly lacked the discipline necessary to transform that talent into actual skill. It was not fashionable then, nor is it fashionable now, for members of your social class to have a vocation; at most one is allowed an avocation as a charming quirk, provided one does not take oneself too seriously. I trust I need not hold forth on what a waste in which these restrictions result. If I were asked to categorise your flaws the way I have admitted to my own, foremost would be that you have internalised too much of that teaching and are too eager to win the approval of those who will only be satisfied when you have resigned yourself to being less than you are otherwise capable of being, and likely not even then.

Regardless of which option you choose, I will not allow you to settle, and I will not accept anything less than your utmost. I am not interested in pretty words and propitiation; I am offering you a chance to determine whether or not you have passion for the work, and if so, to develop it in an environment in which that passion is an asset, not a detriment. If you are unaccustomed to adults having expectations of you, you may find the process disconcerting. Expectations are one thing I do not lack.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-19 16:58:48](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I'm rather used to expectations being placed on me -- just not the sort I'd choose for myself. I'd appreciate the opportunity, and will certainly give it careful consideration.

I'm often at loose ends over holidays, and I have a feeling I will be even more so this term without my typical extended visit at St

James. If you'll be at Grimmauld, you can anticipate my regular assistance.



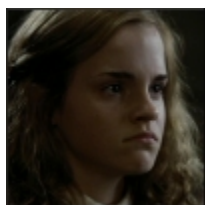
alt_pansy at 2013-12-19 18:03:02

Private Message to Hermione

I know your training is important. I'll be careful not to monopolise his time. And if it turns out that bringing me up to his standards would take too much energy away from what we're trying to accomplish, you'll be sure to let me know? It's a marvellous opportunity, but I'd rather be an assistant than an apprentice if he'd be unable to make enough progress on his research otherwise.

And

I hope you didn't take offence at the talk of expectations. I know you have more than your fair share.



alt_hermione at 2013-12-20 01:26:28

Re: Private Message to Hermione

If Mr Snape weren't always so serious sober about everything, I'd think he's having me on. I'm not ready to brew Wolfsbane, even with him supervising!

But don't worry. Did you know he actually did teach for a year or something, before everything happened with Harry's parents? I'm sure he can work with both of us without a problem.

Only, he really does mean it when he says he's not well tolerant of anything less than full concentration. So be sure that you're really prepared for him to demand loads.



alt_pansy at 2013-12-20 03:03:59

Re: Private Message to Hermione

Can you think of anyone else in the Order (besides Sirius, perhaps) who'd be able to even try? I think of all of us, you've got the best chance of being successful, and Mr Snape isn't the sort to exaggerate or say things he doesn't mean.

Besides. Didn't you brew the Polyjuice potion when you were twelve or something? You're better than all the NEWT students in our year, you know, and you're most likely better than the seventh-year students too, and I wouldn't be terribly surprised if you'd be a fair match for people in their first year of potioneer training at least.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2013-12-20 01:13:42](#)**
(no subject)

But you said Wolfsbane is a Master-level potion! I mean...if it's wrong then he'll lose control at the full moon.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2013-12-20 04:28:09](#)**
(no subject)

I will not allow you to brew it incorrectly, and I will not assign primary responsibility for the brewing to you until I am satisfied you will not make mistakes.

I can assure you that you are more than capable.

2013-12-19 09:38:00

Order Only: private message to Bill


Tell me this is NOT a new motivational technique.

Please.



 [alt_jeremy](#)




 [alt_bill](#) at **2013-12-19 17:46:07**

(no subject)

No, unfortunately it's a real finger. As you can see, he's feeling particularly cheery today, but there's no telling when or if that might change, so keep your head down.

I know it's a shock, and I'm sorry our work day started this way. If you want to talk you can try to grab me at the end of the day, although I'm not sure at this point whether I'll be available. I'm trying to line up a meeting with my MLE source but she's disappeared for the moment.



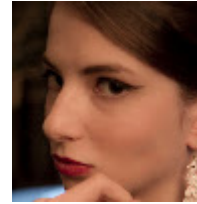
 [alt_jeremy](#) at **2013-12-19 17:47:09**

(no subject)

Right.

2013-12-19 09:47:00

Order Only: Private message to Jeremy




 **alt_sally_anne**

What's Bill Weasley not telling us about what happened with Maule? I mean he put up the big public (Order) post to say Maule's dead, and then left PMs for Sherwood (Kingsley), Doughty Conduit (Sirius), Hogwarts (Headmistress McGonagall), etc., it's clear he's trying to get something out to everyone other than the 'Juniors.'

I mean, what, did they torture Maule horribly first, did they make Bill watch, what on earth? It can't have been that they made him watch, come to think of it, because then he'd have known last night and he'd have posted last night to somebody.

Do you know?



 **alt_jeremy** at **2013-12-19 17:55:22**
(no subject)

Corax bloody Mulciber has a bloody jar on his bloody desk with Maule's bloody finger in it.

Literally. Signet ring? On the finger.

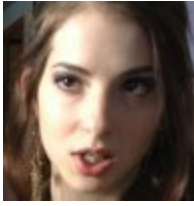


 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-19 18:34:47**
(no subject)

So it was fine to tell us that Maule got killed in a duel and that Corax Mulciber got his signet ring as a trophy...but the fact that the signet ring is still on Maule's finger was just too gruesome?

MERLIN adults are weird.

I mean. That's disgusting. But I was at the QWC when the bomb went off, it's not like I haven't ever seen a severed finger before.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-19 18:36:29](#)
(no subject)

I mean SERIOUSLY that's what he's telling people?

I can't decide which is weirder: that he thought it was important not to tell the ISS about the finger, or that he thought it was important to tell the adults.

[2013-12-19 11:06:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot and Tonks




How's Bea doing today, Padfoot? Still treating you as the public enemy you are?

 [alt_lupin](#)

The shop's a madhouse. I've never seen such a run on spices. It's a shame we won't be getting a Solstice delivery, we could mark everything up and people would still buy. (I doubled prices on the nutmeg already and no one's flinched.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at **[2013-12-19 17:15:37](#)**
(no subject)

Either I'm forgiven or she's decided that if this is the way it's going to be for the foreseeable future, she'd better make the best of it.

She's even gone for a nap without an argument. We'll see how long *that* lasts.

I've been thinking about the Solstice run, whether it's even worth *trying* to throw something together. Suspect not, not until we've got those stones round the border sorted out. It's put a crimp in my Christmas shopping, too, I'm afraid.

Anyway. Back to Albia.

You'll never believe it but ... I couldn't find anything in the library on the compulsion spells. So I asked the portrait of Mother.

I'll spare you the invective and lecture I had to endure. But she eventually admitted that she kept a Guide to Pure Parenting in the second drawer of her bureau in the drawing room.

So I've been trying to read it.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 17:20:29](#)
(no subject)

You asked the PORTRAIT? You really must have been desperate

How drastic are the spells? I mean to say -- does it straight out tell you to use the Imperius curse? Or are there milder compulsions, at least?

Do you remember any of them being used on you?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 17:30:05](#)
(no subject)

It was a moment of weakness I'm sure I'll regret for a long time to come.


There aren't too many spells, per se. Most of it's utter bollocks about discipline that I remember quite vividly.

But one or two of them do sound horrifyingly familiar. (They also fit with what the portrait said - shrieked - about my failings coming home to roost.) The 'Discretion Charm' is underlined; description says it's to 'keep little mouths closed from embarrassing the family!'

In the entry on 'Impulse Control Charms' there's a short section on side effects. Mother wrote in the margin on a few of them ('R' and 'S'). I can only assume that means we exhibited those symptoms.

Do you really think this is the answer?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 17:38:24](#)
(no subject)

I think we've got two choices. One is using that spell. The other is keeping Bea shut away from anyone not in the Order.

Which do you think would be worse?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-19 17:43:00](#)**
(no subject)

It would only be for ~~two~~ three or four -

Yeah. Yeah, maybe you're right.


I'll try it this afternoon and see how she tolerates it. Probably need a proper test, though.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-19 17:56:31](#)**
(no subject)

What sort of test do you have in mind?

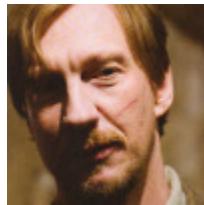


 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-19 18:00:01](#)**
(no subject)

Well, first I want to make sure it won't give her the collywobblers.

But then, we'll have to try it on her in circumstances where she might actually try telling someone the dog is really named Sirius, or whatever else we're prohibiting her from saying. Or doing, come to that.

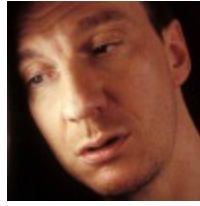
So eventually we'll have to create those circumstances, encourage her to tell the very thing we don't want her to tell, and then let her feel punished for doing what we've asked.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2013-12-19 18:01:34](#)**
(no subject)

Does it punish her, or prevent her?

I suppose from her perspective there's not much difference.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 18:15:20](#)
(no subject)

I was four, when I got bitten.

I understood I couldn't tell people I was a werewolf, but there were all sorts of things I didn't quite realise were dead giveaways. After we had to move, that first time, my mother -- well. After that, I was better about not talking about it.

I don't like that solution. But we've a good deal more at stake here than my parents did.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 17:29:15](#)
(no subject)

Also, I'd set aside spices for gift baskets for Order members.


I'm thinking now, maybe I should raid those baskets and mark all the prices WAY up. The Order could use the dosh, you know? What do you think? (Tonks?)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 17:44:08](#)
(no subject)

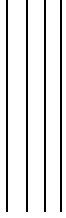
Poppy and Pomona and Molly are the only ones I can think of who'd be likely to *use* loads of spices. I say give them a more modest selection and sell the rest.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-19 17:58:18](#)
(no subject)

I'm marking new prices on the everyday stuff and keeping the really rare stuff behind the counter in the hopes of getting outrageous offers from the truly desperate. (Of GALLEONS. Get your mind out of the gutter.)

We can give everyone Exploding Snap cards, instead. Or Chocolate Frogs.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-19 18:01:18](#)
(no subject)

Right. I mean if it's *outrageous* offers you're looking for, I can supply those!

2013-12-19 18:58:00

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Professor Sinistra,

I am still working out the discrepancy between our observation of the Bright-Deverill comet and my calculations. They were off by a bit, and I'm not quite sure what I'm missing.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

Might I stop by your office hours this evening?

Evelyn Longbottom



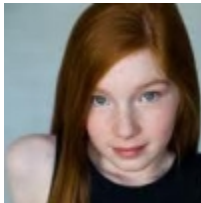
 [alt_sinistra](#) at **2013-12-20 01:10:28**


(no subject)

Please do, Miss Longbottom.

It's rather quiet, actually, so you'd be giving me a much needed and very pleasant break from my marking.

There's some interesting new observation reports from other astronomers in the Guild, too. You might find them helpful.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-12-20 01:19:33**

(no subject)

Thank you, professor.

2013-12-19 19:20:00

Private message to Auror Lamont

I was hoping to speak to you again this morning, only to be stymied by your disappearance. No wonder; I suppose your department must have been frothing a bit over recent events.



 [alt_bill](#)


Any chance we could meet? I would welcome a bit of privacy if we do.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-20 01:31:27](#)
(no subject)


You could come over here, if you want. Though keep your expectations low, I'm pretty tired.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-20 01:37:10](#)
(no subject)


Understood. I'm not looking for a lengthy conversation.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-20 01:34:01](#)
(no subject)

(I'm at my flat.)



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-20 01:37:22](#)
(no subject)

Thanks. On my way.

2013-12-20 11:33:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne Perks



Sally-Anne,


I've been elected to invite you to come spend some time at Grimmauld Place this holiday. If you let us know when you think you can get away from your foster-parents, your mother would like to see you.

 [alt_sirius](#)

So give us the date and we'll make sure she is here. Kreacher will make up the guest rooms and you're welcome to stay as long as you're able.

We even promise to keep Bea out of your trunk.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-21 05:47:54**
(no subject)

Really?!?

Okay. Um. Can Pansy come too? Because the only time I have free is from very late Christmas Eve (like, ten or eleven at night) until first thing in the morning on Boxing Day and usually I spend it with Pansy, we've made plans. But we were going to her London town house, not back to Scotland.

And I want to see Mum. But Pansy -- you know she doesn't get on all that well with her Mum and Prospero and anyway, I wouldn't want to abandon her on the holiday either.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-21 05:48:47**
(no subject)

Well, I think your mother wanted you to hers

Why not?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 06:08:05](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

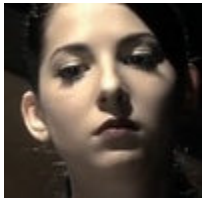
Yes, thank you, we'd like to come. Maybe just Christmas Day though because honestly I never know what time I'll be done Christmas Eve and Pansy's used to it but I hate the idea of my Mum sitting and waiting inconveniencing my hosts.

So maybe we could come Christmas morning? Ten in the morning? Though -- I know Tonks works odd hours and Bea's probably a bit young to drag you out of bed at dawn especially as she doesn't have siblings. So if ten doesn't work let me know, I don't want to be a problem.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-21 06:11:02](#)
(no subject)

Ten should be fine.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 05:49:38](#)
(no subject)


Also, I guess I should say that if you'd really rather have Grimmauld Place to yourself on Christmas Day itself I don't blame you. But the Strettons will have me delivering baskets from five minutes after I arrive tomorrow until late Christmas Eve and then I have to work on Boxing Day and probably also on the 27th and then on the 28th I have to go to my father's house and I am REALLY not going to be able to go anywhere until I go back to school. ~~If I'm lucky he~~

I wish

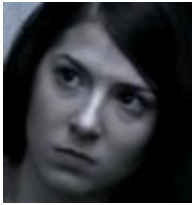
Well

I was just saying to Pansy, next year I'll be able to spend my holiday however I want.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-21 05:53:08](#)
(no subject)

Well, you'll have to cope with a two-year-old who will want to show you all her presents and want to see yours. But I think we can manage it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 05:55:26](#)
(no subject)

Well THAT'S fine. I like little kids.

I thought for a while I'd probably be someone's nanny when I grew up.

2013-12-20 15:41:00

DONE!

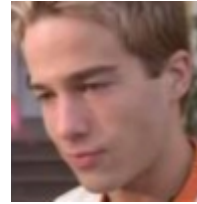
Just turned in my last bit of homework and finished my last exam.

Bring on Christmas Hols!

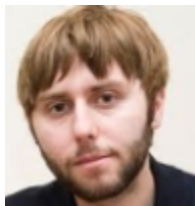
(Not a moment too soon, either.)

Sorry, all you sods who have to spend half the week on St M's Jr Aux. The rest of us will be relaxing at home with nog and roasted chestnuts and all the time in the world.

Anyone have plans to go into town? Some of the lads were thinking it'd be fun to go to a pub or two. Who's up for it?



 [alt_zacharias](#)



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-12-22 16:58:21**

(no subject)

Zach,

I'll be at the Ministry most days, I expect, but if you let me know where you're going, I'd be happy to join you

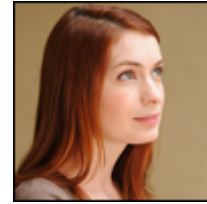
for a drink.

-Justin

2013-12-20 22:21:00

ORDER ONLY: Solstice thoughts

Charlie, I'd like you to keep a sharp eye out tomorrow.



 [alt_alice](#)

I'm wondering if some of us might be free to do ley-flying as well, to keep an eye on the magical fields? I know that Charlie will be otherwise occupied, as will the rest of the Weasleys and our ISS members. Kingsley, might you and the Players head out to the Walsingham site to monitor things from there?



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2013-12-21 05:27:49**

(no subject)

Caradoc and Dorcas and I can devote some time, yes. I did promise Terry to take him to the Opening for an hour or so around mid-afternoon (he'll be the Professor and I'll be Polyjuiced), but we can fly a run in the morning and early afternoon.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-21 05:31:30**

(no subject)

Dora has to go to Dover to our clearing house. Aleks did manage to send a load of items through the legitimate channels (right up to the legal limits) and we've had such a busy couple of days that we desperately need the stock.

(Interestingly, they were being held up in customs and suddenly we got word this afternoon that the extra influx has been authorised. Probably to do with the closure of all those other businesses Wednesday night. There was something in the paper today but it wasn't very conclusive as to why they were shuttered six days before Christmas.)

Anyway, she's volunteered to go down there in the morning, and we do all want to go and support Molly and the twins, at some point, but we might be able to manage something if we're needed.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-21 05:32:39](#)**

Private Message to Alice

Oh, and Alice? The answer to your other question is yes. Of course Cecilia and Sally-Anne can come for a visit. I'm going to let Miss Perks know if you'll take care of getting word to her mother.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-21 05:45:42](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice

Thank you, love.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-21 08:04:49](#)**

Private Message to Mrs Longbottom

I got my owl from the Aurors.

It came yesterday morning. Friday, I mean. It's Saturday already, I think, now. Not sure. Anywiz.

I'm going to go on with it. Unless Mum says I absolutely can't. I'm just meant to turn up Monday morning for a briefing. They didn't give us time to think too much, did they? I think there might be a couple of seventh years who got invited, as well. I'm not sure. Only, a few owls came in the same post that looked official like mine. I suppose I'll find out on Monday, yeah?



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2013-12-21 12:53:15](#)**

(no subject)

I think at this point we have to think that whatever they're doing to the wards, it doesn't involve the dragons anymore. Or if it does, it's not at all in the same way. It's been quiet as hell up here for the past few weeks -- nothing at all like the last few years.

2013-12-20 22:41:00

Private Message to Mum and Dad

Yes. I will be home tomorrow. I'm stopping in New London first, so it'll be late afternoon at least before I arrive. I promise to be there for dinner.



 [alt_cedric](#)

I'm busy on the 28th, virtually all day, and I should be back at my flat in Hogsmeade the evening of 29th, so that I can work on the 30th. I believe that some friends are organizing a New Year's Eve party so won't be available for anything planned then.

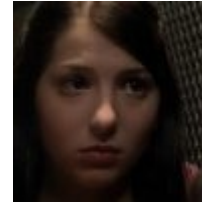
I know I've missed several weekend visits in the last month, but I promise to try my best to come ~~down to visit~~ back home once a month the rest of the year, well except maybe right in the lead up to NEWTs.

Love you and look forward to seeing everyone tomorrow.

2013-12-20 23:19:00

Private message to Pansy

Good luck tomorrow. At the grand opening, I mean. I wish I could come, but the Strettons are having me and Jones floo straight back from King's Cross.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I'll see you Christmas Eve, though, whenever they let me go for the night.

You know what I realised, though? This is the last Christmas EVER that I will have to go to the Strettons at all. ~~Or my father's~~



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-12-21 05:36:44**
(no subject)

Yes.

It's the very last one. And we'll have every other Christmas to do whatever we want.

I can't wait.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-21 05:52:40**
Order Only

Sirius just asked if I'd we'd like to come to 12GP for Christmas. My Mum wants to see me and I guess they're willing to let us come again.

Would that be okay? I mean

I haven't

Maybe for part of the day?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-21 06:02:20](#)


Re: Order Only

Of course it'd be okay.

For as long as you'd like.

I'd still get to spend time with you on Christmas, and you get to see your mum too, which is brilliant.

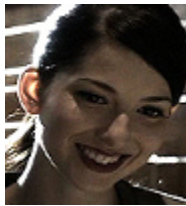


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-21 06:03:30](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm just so incredibly lucky, you know, because I get to see you almost every day.

So I can stand to share, I suppose.



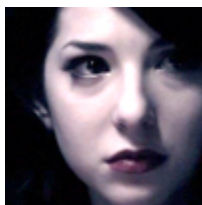
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 06:05:04](#)

Re: Order Only

I suppose that's true but holidays are different.

Okay.

I'll let Sirius know we're coming.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 06:10:28](#)

Re: Order Only

I told Sirius we'd come Christmas Day in the morning sometime.

I really like coming to your house on Christmas Eve actually. And it's true that I NEVER know what time I'm going to be done and I started thinking about my mother being there already and waiting and

Yeah I think going Christmas Day would be better.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-21 06:16:52](#)

Re: Order Only

Sounds lovely.

And just think -- in a few weeks, it'll be our house.



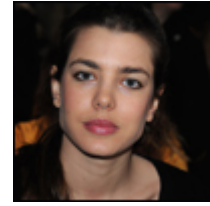
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-21 06:18:29](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah.

2013-12-21 02:17:00

Private Message to Orion Sandoval and Ned Pennifold



 [alt_lana](#)

Orion. Look, I do see you're in a tight spot and I know Papa and Abueloberto must be tearing their hair out over those deliveries being cancelled. But there's nothing I can do. If the goods have been seized, it was because the businesses were dodgy and the Protectorate was owed fines. Or they were outright illegal and the goods are forfeit. I definitely cannot ask Crouch or Lestrangle to release any of it. Even for Harrods. It's that important an investigation.

I'm sorry.

Listen, this is related: things are really mad here right now, and I don't see any chance I'll be able to make it for supper tonight. Could you please tell Mama? I know it's Honoria's first night home, but really, if she's not mature enough to understand that the rest of the world does not stop simply because she's on holiday, then she'll just have to be disappointed.

Neds, of course, you can go ahead without me. We shouldn't disappoint Mama altogether. And you might pick up some flowers to take from me. Ta.

2013-12-21 10:01:00

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne

You know I really meant it that I'll come help you at the Strettons on Sunday for as long as there's work to do. I wish I didn't have all of this business with the opening today, but I don't see any way round it. And I'll let you know what my hours are going to be with the Aurors as soon as I know, because maybe I'll be able to Floo from there to the Strettons and help you some in the evenings. Or just see you, y'know?



 [alt_ron](#)

I'm just packing, but I'll meet you in the entry hall and we can ride out to the train together, yeah? See you in a bit.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-21 16:16:54**
(no subject)

Yeah.

Just don't kill yourself trying to come some evening if the Aurors wore you out, yeah? We'll be done with hols soon enough.

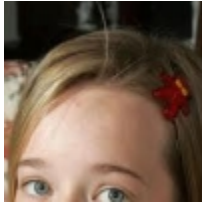
2013-12-21 10:30:00


Private message to Megan Jones

Find me when we get off the train, we can floo to the Strettons together.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



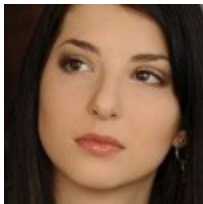
 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-21 16:54:57**

(no subject)

Okay.

I never thought to ask but they aren't going to mind Fang, are they? I can charm him to stay in my bag almost all the time. I just didn't want to leave him at Hogwarts. Because it is a long time. And even if I left food for him he would eat it all up the first day. And that would not work.

I'll charm him to stay in my bag.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-21 16:57:54**

(no subject)

You don't have to charm him to stay in your bag, but in your room would probably be good.

I bring Sebastian with me, and it hasn't been a problem.

[2013-12-21 10:49:00](#)

(no subject)

I hope everyone has a happy Christmas.



 [alt_harry](#)




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 15:57:26](#)

ORDER ONLY

I talked to Professor Dolohov about Horcruxes again yesterday after dinner. I didn't call them that, and neither did he, and he didn't really say anything different from what he did when I talked to him last term, but he did give me some books he said I might find interesting. So there's that.

He also seemed sort of distracted when we first started the meeting, but once I started talking about Horcruxes, he started paying a lot closer attention, and he was careful about what he was saying.

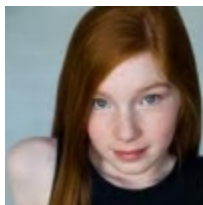


 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 16:06:05](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: ISS Business

I'm glad we finally finished Pure Victory. It takes a really long time to read things out loud.

Neville, Evs, sorry we didn't get to read more than a little bit of the Christmas story. It was sort of funny when Nearly Headless Nick started lecturing us on ghosts, though.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-21 17:24:24](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: ISS Business

Oh, don't worry about it. It was a lovely thought.

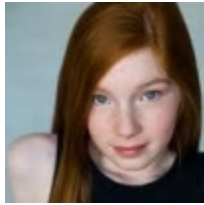
I was very surprised when Ernie Macmillan brought up the notion he'd had about the last Spirit really being a Dementor. I didn't think he'd admit to having read that sort of thing before.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 17:29:56](#)

Private Message to Evs

Hey, Evs, I've got a bit of a favour to ask. Can I borrow your copy of Christmas Carol? I'll make sure it gets back to you.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-21 17:31:06](#)


Re: Private Message to Evs

Of course, Harry.

I've just finished reading my favourite bits to Artie and Kitty, so it's yours for as long as you

need it.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 17:32:19](#)

Re: Private Message to Evs

Good. Thanks. I'll swing by and pick it up.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 15:59:32](#)

Private Message to Professor Siz and Raz

Thanks for the invite to Spence. Looking forward to it.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-21 18:13:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Siz and Raz

We really do mean any time you need want. Both of us.

Besides. The amount of baking I want to do, Raz can't possibly eat it all.

We'll see you at the Malfoys, I'm sure, but do think if there's anything you particularly want handy when you visit.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 16:26:37](#)

Private Message to Megan Jones

Thanks for the chocolate. I hope you like the book.

It was good to see you there. I'm glad you came back to finish it.

And I'm sorry we weren't able to get to more of the second thing. I guess everyone was still sort of wanting to talk about the first thing.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2013-12-21 17:03:44](#)


Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

Thank you very much for the book. It is very appropriate because I am going off to sort of an internship right now and I am sure it is full of helpful hints. The book, I mean. So thank you.

~~I don't I didn't mean to I am mortafied that I got weepy and oh dear me, Ernie was embarrassed and who wouldn't be having somebody crying on him when it was just a story but it surprised me. And I am very sorry for embarrassing him which I told him after. It just surprised me because when I was very little my father read it t~~

It's okay.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-21 17:18:17](#)


Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

If you wanted to borrow the second thing, you could, you know.

In case you wanted to look at it on your own.

I mean, if you'd rather not, you don't have to. If it was hard to hear about, I guess it'd be hard to look at too.




 **[alt_megan](#) at 2013-12-21 17:24:31**

Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

It was just that I was not expecting it and I got surprised and did not govern my emotional outburst like Miss Penworthy says.

Yes please I would like to borrow it.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2013-12-21 17:26:16**

Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

Okay.




 **[alt_harry](#) at 2013-12-21 17:10:26**

Private Message to Corner

Hey. Thanks for the chocs. Hope you have a good hols.

And. Just so you're aware. I've lined up some tutors for Lovegood and Zimmerman. But it's not because I think they'll need the extra help, if you get my meaning.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2013-12-21 18:50:49**

Re: Private Message to Corner

But if you do hear of anyone who really needs a lot of extra help going into OWLs, feel free to let me know.

2013-12-21 11:07:00

Order Only: Private Message to Dora

Er, where are you? We expected you back an age ago.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Remus is looking a little fussed by the number of times he's said, 'We're expecting more of that, Madam, before the end of the day.'

And not that you can't handle yourself but ... well, we *did* think you'd only be an hour or so. So I think he's a bit worried about that.

Check in if you're going to be much longer?

Ta, love.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2013-12-21 22:49:31**
(no subject)

Oh, I'm so sorry! Really.

Only, I've found another of those ward stones! I could feel it when I got here this morning. At first it was just a queer feeling, like I'd eaten something off, but then all of a sudden while I was negotiating price with Mosley, there was a terrific surge. It threw Mosley's scales off entirely and all his security alarms sounded. And the bells in a church began pealing. People coming in out of the high street said the street lamps had all just come blazing on and swore the church bells were ringing themselves.

And then Mosley insisted on closing the shop because he's in the local Watch and he was sure whatever it was meant he was needed. There wasn't much to do but agree to stop back, and at any rate, I had a fair idea what was afoot and that it wasn't any attack on any of their local interests, so I borrowed a broom off him and slipped off away from town.

It was definitely surges on the ley, and I was properly careful about the flying. Charlie and I learned a thing or three about what NOT to do when that's happening. Anywiz. I found the thing, and it was giving off mad bursts of magic. Now I know what you meant when you said getting close to the wards made you nauseous. And how!

Anywiz, I wasn't the only one out there, so I couldn't get too close. Wish I'd had a magnocular glass with me. (Can't think why I'd have set off so unprepared!) We'll want to go back soon and have a better look.

And now I'm back at Mosley's, waiting for him to show back up and let me have our order. I think I'll put my head in at the Foul Weather and see if he's not in there, spinning stories about what's happened.

2013-12-21 13:18:00

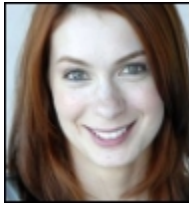
Order Only: ley lines are quiet


Caradoc, Dorcas and I apparated to the ocean and from there tried tracing the ley line that runs along the eastern shore. Flew over Kings Lynn and over Louth to a little north of Grimsby. We felt it, faintly, but steadily, but could detect no wavering or variation on the line. If there was any effect from the Solstice, we couldn't perceive it.



 [alt_kingsley](#)

Breaking away to head for Molly's opening. Sorry I don't have anything much useful to report, Alice.



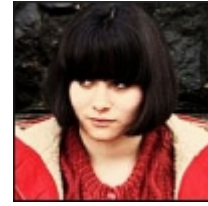
 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-21 23:26:22](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Kingsley.

I hope everything's gone well at the opening!

2013-12-21 18:26:00

Private Message to Sally-Anne



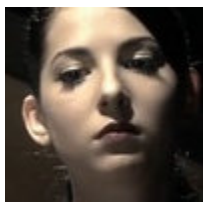
 [alt_pansy](#)


The store's still packed, and the other two stores at the Hope Emporium look like they're getting some foot traffic too. They're setting off the fireworks in half an hour or so, which should be exciting. And we're going to dinner after, because Mum and Prospero are sulking in Scotland -- mum sent along something vague about an important village holiday party she absolutely had to host tonight, which means they didn't get an invite to the Malfoy's either. I suppose I'll be spending a great deal of my time in New London depending on how sour they are about that.

Crispin stopped by before I got there and made some trouble -- he somehow set a firework off (blaming someone else, of course), and then sent off a spout of water to 'be helpful', and got an entire shelf of our product thoroughly wet in the process. Hitty was about fit to be burst. She managed to salvage some of it, though, and they'd cleaned it all up by the time I got there.

The store looks wonderful. I wish you could see it. And George and Fred have a desk set up for me in the offices in the back, and put a vase of flowers on it just to celebrate.

I miss you already. It's a good thing Christmas eve is just a few days away.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-22 02:28:53**
(no subject)

They have FINALLY decided it's too late for any more deliveries tonight so I'm sitting down for the first time since I got off the train, almost, and having some supper.

Apparently there were a whole load of businesses that got shuttered this past week, all over, and this wrecked a bunch of people's Christmas gifting plans because the Strettons got barraged with owls today. Oh ALSO it meant that Harrods cancelled a bunch of orders or offered substitutions. Anyway. I've never seen it this busy. They're lucky I suggested they hire Jones.

Anyway I wish I could see the store, too. What hours is it open? I

mean, just in case I have any free time later in the holiday and could come to London.



 **alt_pansy** at [2013-12-22 18:17:40](#)

(no subject)

Ugh. I don't suppose they're giving you *anything* for all this extra work, are they?

Wish me luck. Headed to Scotland for luncheon.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2013-12-23 03:06:17](#)

(no subject)

How was luncheon?

Mrs Stretton gave Ron a galleon today for coming to help and decided this evening that meant she probably ought to give me a galleon, too, so she DID actually pay me. Megan Jones, too. She said she'd give me five sickles for every friend I could turn up to help tomorrow and Tuesday (and she'll pay them all a galleon and let them raid the Bad Jam) but I have no idea who to ask. Sometimes it feels like I am the only person in Slytherin who doesn't have money -- except for Hydra, but she doesn't have pocket money because that's just one more way her parents have found to be awful to her. It's not that her FAMILY doesn't have money (and I can't imagine her parents letting her deliver parcels).

Anyway. My feet hurt and I'm tired. I got to sit down for fifteen minutes while I ate my lunch and I'm sitting down now but other than that I think I was on my feet from 8 a.m. onward and tomorrow's going to be more of the same.

2013-12-21 22:05:00

Private Message to Megan Jones

So, how is it so far?

Did they give you any trouble about Fang?


Pip and Laurie practically tripped over each other trying to tell Mum and Dad I've got a girlfriend. So now they want to know if they'll be able to meet you (which, honestly, is the last thing either of us need). I told them not to go jumping to conclusions, right? (Also, I'll be hexing my brothers silly as soon as possible. And maybe transfiguring their presents into coal, at least temporarily.)

But, if you're able to get to New London at all, let me know and I'll try to meet you. (Without Mum and Dad, don't worry!) And if not, I'll just send your presents there.



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-23 03:33:06**
(no subject)

Oh it has been quite a day! I have been back and forth, Floo to this house, Floo to that, well I could not tell you how many times. Because it was very many. Some people have the nicest kitchens. But the nicest kitchens do not always have the nicest people. Although when people are surprised while having a screaming fight it is probably no wonder that they get cross.


Do you like jam? Because they are giving me some. I could share with you.

Oh and there was no trouble about Fang. They have not given me trouble about anything really. It is too busy for trouble.

I do not think I can. Get to New London at all, I mean. I don't suppose you would like to come here and help out for a day? Because Mrs Stretton told me to ask my friends. And it would be all right if you came. Because Ron came today and helped and she was happy about that. Mrs Stretton I mean. Well Sally-Anne was happy about it too I think. But I don't suppose you could. Anyhow I don't think there will be time for me to get out. Because there are more baskets

stacked up to deliver than there were when I got here because people are still ordering more.



 **alt_ernie** at [2013-12-23 04:58:47](#)
(no subject)


Sorry, Megs, the twins were mad hyperactive today, with Pip and Laurie and me all home. Plus they're just old enough now to know what Christmas means, and they're dead excited. Mum keeps telling them it's not for another three days!

Anyway, it took ages to get them to bed and then Dad wanted to talk to the three of us about school.

So.

I think I could come tomorrow. Do I need a broom?



 **alt_megan** at [2013-12-23 05:25:27](#)
(no subject)

You don't need a broom but you had better wear robes that are not your best ones because the Flooing leaves one untidy sometimes. Though it is important to look businesslike if doing deliveries. But Mrs Stretton is so busy she doesn't know which end of her wand is which I think so you can probably wear anything and it would work.

It will be brilliant!

2013-12-21 23:31:00

Order Only: Private message to Arthur Weasley



If only you could have been there today, to see it. You would have enjoyed it, and oh, you would have been so proud.

 [alt_molly](#)

If you had lingered, I would have asked you to be with Percy, to try to make him see sense and turn his heart toward home. I think you were the only one who could have done it. But I've never seen your ghost, and now that it's been a year even that treacherous little hope is fading. When I can see beyond the grief, I tell myself it's better that you've gone on. Even if means Percy is lost to us all now.

I know seeing me writing to you will make them worry, but dearest man, I can't help it.

There are days when it's a bit easier, but still....I do miss you so dreadfully sometimes.

[2013-12-22 12:50:00](#)

Thanks for coming to the Opening!



 **[alt_gredforge](#)**

The turn out was terrific, and we were delighted with the opportunity to meet many of our owl order customers. We were interested in all of your comments on our merchandise, and don't worry: we'll be incorporating many of your suggestions in our upcoming designs. Thanks to you, Weasley Wizarding Whizbangs is off to a great running start, and we more than met our sales goals for the day.

Hogwarts students, we are offering a **10% discount** throughout the hols, so check out our advertisement in the *Daily Prophet*. There are still a few days left before Christmas to stop on by to check out our holiday product line!

In addition to the already announced door prize winners, we'd like to proffer special thanks to Mr Virgil Crispin for his timely assistance in quelling some momentary excitement partway through the afternoon. We're sending you a £25 gift certificate for the Hope Emporium, as well as a complimentary six month subscription of Weasley Wizarding Whizbangs Gift Baskets.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-12-22 19:02:48](#)**

Order Only

Six months of complimentary Dung Bombs, coming your way, Crispin. Enjoy, you stupid prat.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2013-12-22 19:13:31](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

I nearly bit him when it happened, I was so angry. It's probably a good thing Mr Shackbolt had me on a leash.

Don't tell him I said that.

I was SO glad I could come, and that I was able to see you. The

space looks so wonderful, and I was so excited to see the store. Congratulations again.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-22 19:18:20](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

We'll have you come in at night sometime when the building's closed so you don't have to be transformed, and you really check everything out.

Tell Kingsley thanks for bringing you.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-22 19:20:13](#)

(no subject)

Congratulations again, gents! And to your partner, Pansy, too. Really wonderful to see your success. Great crowd.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-22 19:21:23](#)

(no subject)

Thanks to you and Charlie for dinner afterwards.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-22 19:27:18](#)

Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley

We saw Mum chatting with Miss French Lilac for awhile. She seemed to like her all right...until Ron came over and said something, and then Mum realised who she is. Poked right up then, didn't

she?




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-22 19:27:46](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley

Uh.


I missed that.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-22 20:03:40](#)
(no subject)


Thanks, Bill. Much appreciated.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-22 20:05:47](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations, all around. Nicely done.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-22 20:12:12](#)
Private Message to George and Fred

I'm scheduling meetings with Kelpington's and Powell's for wedding and party fireworks and favours. I'll let you know once they're available -- most likely not until after Christmas day. I've tried getting in touch with Robins, but I'm not sure she'll ever get back to me -- I think we might have to build up more of a reputation first.

And have I said lately that you're both absolutely brilliant? Because you are.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-23 13:31:19](#)
Re: Private Message to George and Fred

Brilliant. Our schedule's available for whenever you determine is best.

backer!
Couldn't have done much without our faithful



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-23 04:22:01](#)
(no subject)

I wish we could have stayed longer, but my little brother Pete thought the opening was dead brilliant!

I'm pretty sure he's already thinking about placing a journal order.



 **alt_gredforge** at **[2013-12-23 13:31:54](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent! He won't be sorry if he does.

Thanks again for stopping by.

2013-12-22 16:53:00

Tis the Season

Splendid party at the Manor last night - Mother outdid herself, as ever. The winter garden was particularly festive, with an arrangement of lights, charms, and other delights. The band played until the sun came up, since everyone was loathe to stop dancing and celebrating, so you might say that the party didn't actually end until after breakfast.



 [alt_draco](#)

Many of the usual faces in attendance, of course, and it was good to see all of you.

Of course, those who were unable to make it were, with a few exceptions, missed. Best wishes for a Happy Christmas to you and yours.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-12-23 00:25:46**

(no subject)

Draco,

Yes, it was quite a jolly get-together, what! Mr and Mrs Jugson have been talking all day about what a thrill it was to be invited.

(I think Remy well enjoyed being there, too. I say, perhaps had a smidge too much punch, if you ask me.)

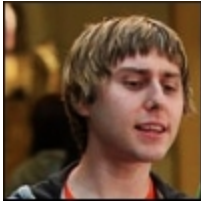
-Justin



 [alt_draco](#) at **2013-12-23 00:30:22**

(no subject)

Glad you could make it, Finch-Fletchley, but sorry that you couldn't stay for the after-hours party. That was a rather exclusive group of the Malfoy's dearest and nearest, though - I'm sure you understand.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 00:37:57](#)
(no subject)

Not at all, old chap! The hospitality of the Malfoys is well-known but there's no reason to think you aren't entitled to a more intimate gathering.

I say, I hope your holidays are off to a good start, what?

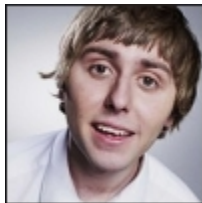
-F-F




 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-23 00:53:55](#)
(no subject)

Well, they certainly appear to be anything but boring. So there's that, isn't there?

I'm sure that I'll see you again before we head back to school.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 00:56:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh, indeed! I shall look forward to it.

Have you any particular plans? You know I'm to spend some time at the Ministry; Smith has a hope of getting some of us lads together at a pub, probably after working hours. I've told him I'll try to go along.

-F-F



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 00:39:10](#)
Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

I say, what happened when the others were all gone, then?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-23 00:49:30](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

Mother seemed particularly concerned that everything be as jolly as possible, with any potential aggression or adversarial behaviour diverted to something other than the curtains, so she arranged to have some "animals" hiding in the garden. It wasn't a planned hunt - just something set up for the fun of anyone who might stumble upon it.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 00:57:48](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

I say.

I take it some of them walked on two legs?

-J



 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-23 01:04:01](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

Of course.

Hydra wanted us to do something. Save them, or something. Though obviously there was very little that the two of us could do, given the company we were in.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2013-12-23 01:06:07](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

Not save them, I'm not that foolish. But we couldn't let them all be killed, you know that.



 **alt_draco** at [2013-12-23 01:08:09](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

Of course I know that, why else would I have tried to stun so many?

I just don't know about letting everyone else in the Order know about this. The last thing I want is Black going on about how we could have done more, or raised the alarm, or some other rubbish like that.



 **alt_justin** at [2013-12-23 01:08:49](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

How ghastly.

Did you manage anything? What *could* you have done?

Do you know, Bill thought we ickle juniors couldn't stomach the idea of Maule's finger in a jar on Mulciber's desk, what; I wonder what he'd do if he knew we were routinely faced with situations in which we're expected to torture or hunt Muggles. Next to that, a finger's bally well nothing.

-J



 **alt_draco** at [2013-12-23 01:19:31](#)


Re: Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Hydra

No one was really expected to hunt, fortunately. It was a lark, not a planned event. But I hadn't had anything to drink, nor any of the charmed food, so we were able to find a good deal of the muggles before the others did, and stun them.

I probably missed a few - they were trying to hide, after all. Hydra did better than I did because of her legilimency, and the fact that she's a girl and looks about as deadly as a sugarplum faerie.

The food must have had some kind of amiability charm in it, because no one seemed to terribly enragated that they didn't have much prey to prey on. After a while they all decided to fly over to Stroud and burn things.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2013-12-23 00:44:39](#)
(no subject)

Well I certainly had a wonderful time! The papers say your mother's robes were couture Rossignol, and I have to say that they were positively stunning. You and your father looked very handsome as well, of

course.

Thank you for a lovely evening.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2013-12-23 00:50:56](#)
(no subject)

I will pass along your compliments to Mother. You looked beautiful, as well.

Thank *you* for allowing me to escort you.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-23 01:11:08](#)
(no subject)

Ooh, Rossignol? She's *ever* so sophisticated. Mum adores her.

Who did *you* wear, Daphs?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2013-12-23 01:24:54](#)
(no subject)

I was wearing "K," I just know she's going to be massive!

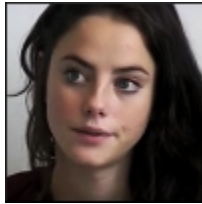


 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-23 01:36:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you mean Phina K? She trained with Joosh!
She's got a wonderful eye, I think.

But of course, you'd know her! She's Mr Krumgold's sister, isn't she? I remember Mum talking about how she and Gerard Joosh told her she couldn't possibly use 'Krumgold' in her line. Mum thought 'Seraphina K' would make a smashing label but she said that Ms Krumgold laughed and said she hasn't used 'Seraphina' in society in ages. And she thought, there are so few really quality designers in the Protectorate, why not go as simple as possible?

Yes, I think she's going to go far, too. It's that kind of vision that makes a really amazing designer. What colour were they? I bet you looked divine.




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2013-12-23 01:44:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes, Phina. Since I know her I was fortunate enough to get couture.

The robes were a combination of cream lace and metallic silks. She does very intriguing things with contrasting textures. Quite edgy for some, but that's what I like, you know!

I think there's a photograph of Draco and I in the *Prophet*, if you'd like to see them.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-23 02:07:25](#)
(no subject)

The photo in the *Prophet* probably didn't do it justice by half, but you looked stunning, Daphs.

[2013-12-22 18:41:00](#)

Order Only

Fred and George, and Mrs Weasley: Well done, all of you! The shop is jolly well brilliant. I'm glad I was able to convince the Jugsons to let me catch them up, so I could visit however briefly.



 **[alt_justin](#)**

Bill, I say, you needn't have worried about not telling us the details regarding Maule and Mulciber: It was all over the school by the time the train pulled out of Hogsmeade Station, what.

Alfie Jugson's been boring us with his 'severed finger' trick all day. He's particularly proud of the charm the other boys in his year worked out that turns the finger into a worm while one stares at it.

He *did* tell us that Philip Stretton put them all to shame by reminding them that his brother works in the same department where 'The Finger' is on display. I say, it would be almost funny if it weren't also so gruesome, what. One has to remember that to a twelve-year-old boy, anything involving blood is appealing. Still, it has been difficult not to remind him that there was a person attached to that finger until not too long ago. Sally-Anne, Jeremy, have you seen Philip doing anything similar? I've been debating taking him to one side and explaining but I'm not certain how he'd receive the advice. One doesn't wish to come off a horrible prig.

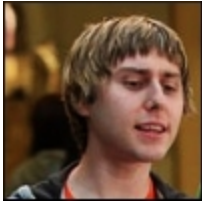
I hope everyone else's holidays are off to a good start.

-F-F



 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-23 01:18:11](#)**
(no subject)

He'd better not do. Not in front of Mother anyway. She'll hex him blue for slowing down deliveries.



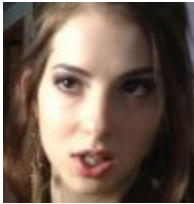
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 01:28:19](#)

(no subject)

Oh, that's right, you're probably bally well engrossed in that between now and Christmas!

Well, you might expect him to trot it out once the working day's over, I daresay. Or when your mother's not looking. (Mrs Jugson has told Alfie twice to put it away and he waits until her back's turned.)

-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 02:32:42](#)

(no subject)

I'm in the kitchen with my feet up, FINALLY. I thought we'd never get through today's deliveries.

Aaaaand Val just came in shrieking because Philip scared her with his finger, so thanks, Justin, now I know exactly what she's talking about.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 03:01:01](#)

(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

You know I'm always bally well pleased to be helpful!

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:20:32](#)

(no subject)

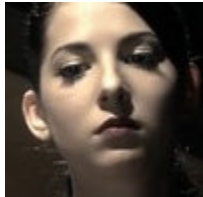
Yes Justin. I believe that you are the most conscientiously consistently helpful person I know.



 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-23 03:44:07](#)**
(no subject)

Shall I go quench Philip properly? If he sets that Jones girl off again I'm going to petrify him.

Didn't know the mousy thing could scream that loudly. Merlin.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-23 04:09:32](#)**
(no subject)

It is not impossible that Megan can scream more loudly than anyone else presently at Hogwarts.

I don't think Philip will get her with that trick again, though.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2013-12-23 01:49:54](#)**
(no subject)


Thank you so much for stopping by. It was lovely to see you again, and I hope you have a wonderful holiday.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-12-23 01:53:03](#)**
(no subject)

Well done taking advantage of your Hogwarts discount! And thanks. We're dead proud of how all our work has paid off.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-23 02:00:02](#)**
(no subject)

Hmm. Thinking back to the discussions I used to delight in with my schoolmates, I'm not surprised. We occasionally displayed a taste for bloodthirstiness that ran to the macabre.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-23 02:12:38](#)

Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

I didn't intend any filtering as an insult or disparagement to our most recent members, believe me. To tell the truth, I was thinking primarily of the youngest in our group, Luna Lovegood and particularly Evelyn Longbottom. During one of our recent meetings, Alice said something to me in passing that gave me the impression that Evelyn has had some painful difficulty in processing some of the uglier news on the Order lock in the past few months, such as Maidstone and Saltash.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 02:52:12](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Bill,

I appreciate your attempt at discretion but I rather think you're not giving either of them nearly enough credit. They're made of far sterner stuff than you imagine.

Also, I believe you may be misinterpreting the source of their reactions: I could be wrong of course, but it seems to me that what upset them about Maidstone was the thought that those poor girls are the same age as our schoolmates, what, or even Luna and Evelyn themselves. It's only natural for them to identify with the victims.

And what was upsetting about Saltash for Evelyn--and for Neville, I daresay--was learning that their father had lost their magic, and learning in so abrupt a manner. One can debate the validity of their reaction, or the rest of the Order's, and of course it's for Mr and Mrs Longbottom to decide how to address matters of family, but it must not be ignored that the situation was made much worse by the Order's penchant for not sharing openly with its 'Junior' members, as you call us.

I say, have you forgotten that Luna *asked* to be Cruciated by Carrow? Or that Evelyn's cat was killed in what one assumes was an act of retaliation or hatred against her family, not to mention the indignities she's endured at the hands of boys who ought to know how to behave as gentlemen?

But you jolly well *will* insist on treating us all as if we're still in short trousers, what, despite that we face danger every day in just as immediate a way as the rest of you, or more.

-Finch-Fletchley

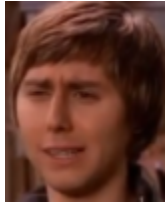


 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-23 04:37:01](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

You say at the beginning of your comment that you appreciate my attempt at discretion, but the rest of what you write makes it clear you really don't.

I will keep that in mind in the future. As I said, I meant no insult, and I'm only sorry it was interpreted that way. But sometimes good intentions are simply not enough.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-23 04:47:07](#)

Re: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley

Not at all, old chap. I do certainly appreciate the attempt and the chivalry from which it sprung; I did not say that it succeeded, what.

I'm merely questioning the assumption that we require that discretion, nothing more. But I'm jolly glad to hear you'll keep it in mind, next time your impulse is to protect us from some horror that measures up short against things we've already suffered.

Cheers.

-F-F

2013-12-22 20:34:00

Order Only: ISS Business

I mean, I suppose it doesn't really matter if the grownups read this but they either have proper jobs or they're fugitives so it's not as if they could actually take advantage of this.

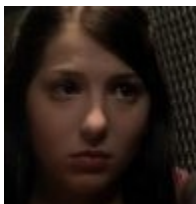


 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Ron came to the Strettons today to help me deliver baskets and Mrs Stretton was positively delighted, she paid him a galleon and let him help himself to whatever he wanted from the Bad Jam cupboard (which isn't just jam, there's all sorts of interesting stuff that winds up in there. Also, it's not actually BAD, we just call it that because it doesn't go in the baskets. Mostly it's things where the label's crooked or whatever.)

Anyway Ron can't come tomorrow or Tuesday because of his internship. But Mrs Stretton would LOVE some extra helpers and said that if I can get any friends to come in, she'll pay them a galleon per day plus a box of stuff from the Bad Jam cupboard. (There are also tips sometimes, but don't tell Mrs Stretton that.) If going through the floo makes you sneeze, though, forget it, because that's what you do, you floo over and over with baskets and deliver them to people.

I told her I'd see what I could do. She's utterly swamped this year, I think it has something to do with those businesses that all got closed down. I don't quite get it -- people were planning to give a gift certificate to a brothel, but now the brothel's closed, so they're giving a basket of oranges and pears instead? But, whatever it is, we're drowning in orders. Anyway. The trouble is, Slytherin is full of rich kids and delivering baskets over hols for a galleon a day plus tips and free jam is not exactly high on their list of holiday priorities. So I'm not sure who to ask.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-23 02:54:12**

Private message to Ron

Thank you for coming today.

I'm sorry we barely got to see each other.

Good luck tomorrow.

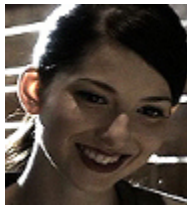


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 03:13:28](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks.

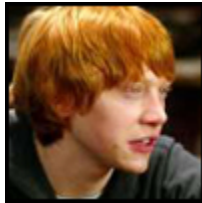
It was sort of mad today, wasn't it? Not all bad, but some of my deliveries were a bit... uncomfortable. I hadn't really thought about what it would be like to pop out of someone's Floo into their kitchen or lounge out of the blue. I mean, they knew we'd be coming sometime today, I reckon, but some of them weren't really expecting me to arrive right when I did. At all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:19:27](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I interrupted a quarrel, did you interrupt a quarrel or was it something worse? (Or, um. More embarrassing?)



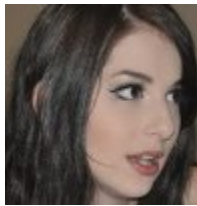
 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 04:02:43](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Well, when I got to Jacobson's house, her parents were rowing with her about her marks. And they started asking me what I thought of Acton's exams and whether it's really all that difficult to take decent notes on Brutka's material. That was awkward.

But not as much as when I popped out of the Floo and found Mrs Halliwell snogging some wizard, who's not Mr H. They were surprised to see me, I can tell you.

Best tip I got all day, though.



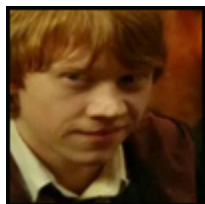
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 04:08:06](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I popped in on worse than snogging once. Only once. I didn't wait for a tip, I just dropped my basket on the kitchen table, said, "Happy Christmas!" and got back in the floo as fast as I could!

It was excruciating. I'm really glad I didn't know them. I imagine it's ten times as awkward when you do. If that bloke wasn't the woman's husband, I really wasn't in any position to know!

I kind of think that anyone who'd get up to that sort of thing right in front of the floo -- the possibility of someone popping in must be part of the thrill, you know? It's not as if they didn't have OTHER ROOMS IN THE HOUSE.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 04:26:56](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Well, I got the idea that they just had been a bit too involved to think of going off to any other room. And if I'd come along any later, I might've got a real eyeful.

You didn't have any really awkward ones today, then?

I did have one witch who thought she had to pay me and got all worked up because she didn't have the money. It was her husband who ordered it, and she was going on about how he never thinks about their budget and is always laying out for things they shouldn't buy, and she wanted me to take it back. I told her it was prepaid, but she was totally going to make me return it. Until all of a sudden, she changed her mind and said to leave it, she didn't care. I was glad I didn't have to hear what she's going to say to him tonight.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 04:30:14](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

The most awkward today was the quarrel, although I've seen a lot worse, they were just shouting -- no hexes (or dishes). Let's see.

There was also some woman who was so drunk I'm a bit surprised she was able to come open the door for me (that was a 'special handling' one so I didn't have to pop into her kitchen). And another bloke who got a 'special handling' basket who opened the door in his pants and nothing else. He was very, very hairy. VERY hairy. Like if it were after dark and a full moon I'd have dropped the basket and run for my life quantities of hair.

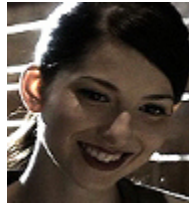


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 04:31:58](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Hang on.

What sort of 'special handling' did that bloke think he'd paid for? You didn't have to hex him, did you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 04:38:03](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

No! He just took the basket and said thanks and then he did actually tip me but of course he didn't have any pockets so he summoned some sickles, it was ... well, it was fine.

But really, who answers the door when they're not dressed, is it THAT hard to put on some robes?

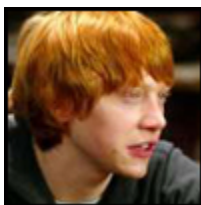


 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 04:51:00](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Exactly. Ugh.

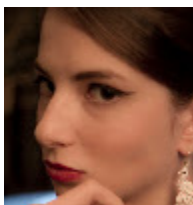
I'm sorry I can't come help tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-23 03:05:38](#)

(no subject)

Say, did you want me to ask Ginny if she'd like to come tomorrow? My other thought is Bundy. I expect she might like to earn a bit of pocket money and it didn't sound as if she had any particular plans for hols the last I talked to her.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:08:37](#)

(no subject)

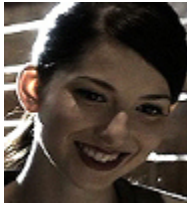
Ginny, right, good idea. Yes, ask her. Bundy's also a good idea. I think I might firecall her, though, I don't know if I can count on her looking at her journal before 8 a.m. tomorrow.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-23 03:22:08](#)
(no subject)

Sally-Anne, if you still need someone, Ed and I could both come!


And if Ginny & Kit Bundy want tomorrow, we can do later in the week.



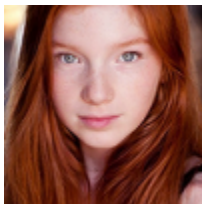
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:28:17](#)
(no subject)

No no no, she wants as many people as possible tomorrow and also Tuesday. You can all come both days, if you want. THE MORE THE BETTER.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-23 04:07:20](#)
(no subject)

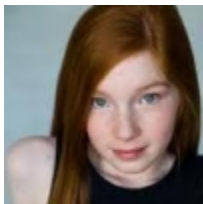
Excellent! Megan PMed me about it too, so I told her I'd come as well.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-23 03:23:45](#)
(no subject)

Lucas O'Leary might need some pocket money. I could ask him for you, if you'd like.

Most of the fifth years I know who might benefit are focused on their OWLs.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-23 03:25:58](#)
(no subject)

And I could spare a hand, too.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:30:44](#)
(no subject)

Only if you want the dosh! If Mrs Stretton has a nervous breakdown because she's taken too many orders and can't fulfill them all that's not MY lookout.

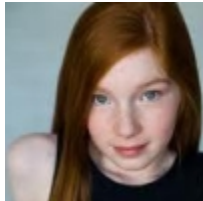
(Er, sorry, Jeremy, if you're reading this. But you KNOW she should have known we never could deliver this many baskets when she took the orders -- it's her problem not ours!)

Anyway if Lucas O'Leary wants pocket money then that's perfect. Fifth years should probably be revising, you're quite right, but anyone old enough to manage a floo can do this.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-23 03:35:13](#)
(no subject)

Or, I suppose, if you'd like to get away from your family. (Kitty says she'll be here at 7:30 and is Mrs Stretton sure she doesn't want her staying the night? I think she was joking, but only sort of.)




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-23 04:23:01](#)
(no subject)

I'll pass along word to Lucas, certainly.


And I'll think about taking a shift if things get slow at Gran's.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-23 04:52:31](#)
(no subject)

I have some chores Gran's wanting me to do, and I still have some shopping to do and presents to wrap, so not me. But I hope you get the help you need.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-12-23 04:54:23](#)**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I'm due at the Ministry tomorrow morning, as well.
Otherwise I'd be happy to help, what.

I asked Remy but he pulled a jolly well awful face. I suppose pocket money and jam don't matter to him, if you follow me.

Sounds as if you'll be getting loads of assistance, however.

-J

2013-12-22 21:33:00

private message to Susan



 **alt_megan**

I don't suppose you would like to come help deliver jam and fruit baskets with me at the Strettons? Because Mrs Stretton said she would pay and also there is jam involved. As payment I mean. In part, anyway. So if you came and helped it would be fun, well not fun but interesting anyhow. You should see some of these kitchens. And Sally-Anne turns out to be good to learn things from and I am sure you would pick it up right away.

Also sometimes there are tips but don't tell Mrs Stretton.

Anyhow she told me to ask my friends so I am asking you.



 **alt_susan** at **2013-12-23 04:05:48**

(no subject)

Of course! I'd be happy to. Do you mind if Ed comes along?

Mmm, jam.



 **alt_megan** at **2013-12-23 04:11:10**

(no subject)

I asked Mrs Stretton and she said yes do bring him. Come as early as you like. It will be lovely fun to work with you!

There are SO MANY BASKETS piled up for delivery tomorrow.

The jam is quite good actually. Wait til you see the Bad Jam cupboard. It is not really bad, it is just wrong labels and things. Also there was a pineapple but I think Sally-Anne gave it to somebody already.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-23 04:16:05](#)
(no subject)

We might as well make some dosh and have a good time too! We'll be Flooing all over, sounds like.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2013-12-23 04:29:13](#)
(no subject)

You certainly will! It's almost all Flooing. Though I think Jeremy Stretton does a few Apparating deliveries but those are special and they cost people a lot more so there are not many of them.


Anyhow we do not have anything to do with those. We Floo. But you and Ed should be sure to wear your second-best robes because Flooing is sometimes a messy business.

Oh! Sally-Anne got me new robes!! I mean they are secondhand but they are new to me and they are quite nice. For delivering things. Because it is important to look appropriate because this is work. But sometimes you get dirty because Flooing is that way. And I guess she knew I didn't have any nice second-best robes. Anyhow she gave them to me at the you know, when we were talking about Christmas stories, but I forgot to show you. But you will see them tomorrow!

I only got her a handkerchief. But I embroidered snakes all around the border and worked a very elegant Slytherin crest at one corner so it is at least nice. But not as nice as robes. So I hope it's all right.

I will see you tomorrow!



 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-23 04:37:02](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure it'll be fine--your embroidery's lovely!

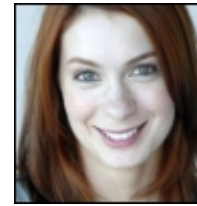
And thanks for the tip about second-best robes--Mum'll be thrilled that we've got a way to make

||| some money, but she'd be dead cross if we came home with robes all dusty from the Floo.

2013-12-23 11:39:00

ORDER ONLY

Christmas seems to have snuck up on me quite suddenly. It seems like only yesterday, we were celebrating Halloween. I'd like for us to get together, if possible, if only to give a bit of Christmas cheer, and we're in need of a general meeting as well -- perhaps Boxing Day at Moddey would work?



 [alt_alice](#)

There's quite a few things to keep on top of the next few weeks or so - top on my list is the matter of our sit-down with Ridley. I'd like that to happen sooner rather than later, so we can move forward with Strangeweale. Bill and I will be there, of course. Sirius, I'd like you there as well if possible. Severus, I'm anticipating she might bring a Legilimens -- would you be available to help balance things out? I'm thinking we might sit down after Christmas -- possibly the 27th.

Tonks, thank you for your report -- that was an excellent find at Dover. Apparently, there is another Octoboros there, and it was generating an odd magical field during the Solstice. As Kingsley, Dorcas, and Caradoc were unable to feel anything out of the ordinary during their flying sessions, we can assume it was localised, which gives us something new to work with.

I know that several of us are otherwise being kept quite busy, but I was wondering if anyone would be free to go flying around Dover and Walsingham after Christmas to see if we can't get a bit more information about the specific trajectories of the fields generated by the two octobori we've found thus far and do some more extensive mapping of the ley lines around them and how they might have been altered -- I know Cecelia would appreciate it for her research.

Charlie, Mac, now that Hogwarts is a bit more accessible, I'm assuming you'll be attempting to renew conversations with the centaurs. Is there anything you want to bring as a gesture that we can provide? I've been holding on to a variety of poisons that Stephen made up for Fu's research -- perhaps they might use some for their arrows, if you think they'd respond well to that. Would they appreciate cross bows?

And Tonks, Kingsley, let us know if you need a few extra hands as you move forward to extract the people from the camps under starvation

rations.

Those are the most immediate concerns I can think of for the time being -- and most certainly can wait until we've had a chance to enjoy the holiday season for a bit.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-23 21:34:21](#)**

Private Message to Ron


Ron -- how has your first day at the Ministry been treating you so far? Anything concerning in terms of security?

I've been thinking about the possibility of your talking to Auror Lamont, if you think it would be worth your while, that is. If she were to be open with you about her experiences, we'd have to show a bit of our hand and let her know that you were part of our organisation, but given that she already knows that several of your family members were involved, I don't see it as too much of a danger. What do you think?

She is in a similar position to what you're considering, and is an animagus, and she might have some useful information when it comes to her experiences.

I realise that she's connected with Bill, which might make you reconsider whether to seek her advice. If you do decide that you'd want to talk with her, however, I'd be more than happy to help you set it up.



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-25 00:48:12](#)**

Re: Private Message to Ron

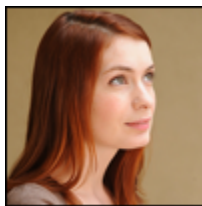
Oh, say! Sally Anne just told me you'd left me a private message here. I hadn't seen it. I'm sorry. And I'm just in between deliveries for the Strettons now, so I can't write much.

So far it hasn't been too bad. Yesterday was just parchment-signing and listening to all the rules. Today I met people in all the Auror units, and that was interesting. Not sure it's really anything you don't already know, but I'll tell you anything I can.

Um. Sure, I could talk to Auror Lamont, but I think I want to wait a

few days to see what they're going to have me do. Today Auror Desai put me through a defence test, which was interesting. And tough. And I did okay, but wasn't brilliant, but she didn't seem disappointed, either, so I reckon it was fine. She said I did fine.

Anywiz, I don't know if I have to work for Auror Lamont or if she's going to be evaluating me at all, and that would make it a bit queer if I'd talked to her about other things, y'know? I mean. I don't want to risk looking like I already know her or know her differently than I ought to or- yeah. I'd like to wait a bit. And see what's what before I do that.

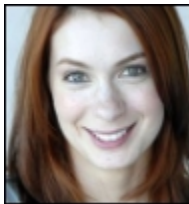



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-25 02:55:54**

Re: Private Message to Ron

I agree that it'd be worth your while to evaluate things at first, and you're right that it probably wouldn't be in our best interest to seem overly familiar.

If you do decide that you'd be interested in talking to her openly about her experiences in Dogstar, let me know, and I could see what could be arranged.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-23 22:28:33**

Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

Your father and I are very much hoping to get the chance to see you both over hols. I've talked with your Gran about spending some of Christmas day over at Moddey, and we'd like to see you for a longer visit once things have calmed down a bit.




 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2013-12-24 02:51:14**

Re: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

Mum! Mum! Professor Sinistra just invited me to a *lecture* about the Bright-Deverill comet, and Guild Master Bright, one of the people who *discovered* it will present, and it's just so very exciting!

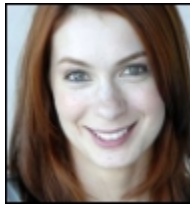


 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-24 02:52:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

And of course seeing you both at Christmas will be utterly brilliant, and I can't wait. Will we be splitting time between Moddey and Grimmauld?

Only it looks like Mr Snape won't be there, and I was hoping he would be, but I might pass along something for you to give him from me later?



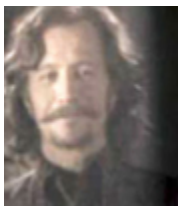
 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-24 03:05:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

That is exciting. And before you've reached your OWL levels, too. You ought to be very pleased with yourself -- I know I am!

I think we'll spend an hour or two at Moddey before heading over to Grimmauld, so we're looking at a very busy day, filled with people we love. And I very much want to be able to sit down with you after Christmas and our negotiations are over and done so you can tell me all about what you've been up to in all your classes, and what you've been learning about this comet.

And yes, I'll make sure to pass along whatever you want. That's very thoughtful of you, lovie.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-23 22:46:34](#)

(no subject)

Alice -

We've been discussing things here re: Christmas. What with Mrs Perks, Sally-Anne and Pansy all coming on Christmas Day (the only time they're available, apparently), we decided we might as well invite *everyone* to ours for Christmas Dinner. Everyone who can come, that is - Molly, I know things might be difficult for the Weasleys since you've got Ginny to consider. Others of you might not be able to get away from family celebrations, either.

But for anyone else at loose ends on Wednesday, we'll be serving

around 3:00.

(That doesn't preclude Moddey on Boxing Day, if that's better for you!)

Oh, and ... if you do come, there are some new ... precautions. We discovered that Bea's language and observation skills are developed enough that we need to be extra careful around her. So, we're asking for the following rules:

1. No real names of fugitives in front of Bea ever
2. No Animagus transformations in front of Bea ever
3. If you come under Polyjuice, stay that way for the duration of your visit
4. The words 'Animagus,' 'Werewolf' and any other compromising word must be spelled or not said anywhere Bea might hear
5. No Order business in front of Bea
6. Even if you don't think she's listening

Essentially, if it would be dangerous for her to repeat it, do not say it. She's turning into a right parrot. We're taking measures to ensure she can't repeat anything outside Grimmauld but we'd much rather not expose her to anything she'd be tempted to say to strangers.

Well. That's it, basically.

(Alice, of course I'll come. Just tell me when.)




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-12-24 00:07:24](#)
(no subject)

While I will not impose my presence upon you for the holiday, do let me know if my presence at Grimmauld would likewise be an imposition throughout the next weeks until Hogwarts resumes classes. While I have wrangled my stolen space at Hogwarts into


something resembling a laboratory, your cold-room is significantly better for certain types of work.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-24 01:16:58](#)**
(no subject)


Apparently our Floo is always open. Hermione sent an owl to say she's planning to come a few days, too.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-24 00:47:05](#)**
(no subject)

Oh! That would be lovely. As we won't be discussing Order business at Grimmauld, we might save that for a business meeting at Moddey on Boxing Day for those who can make it.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-24 05:42:00](#)**
Private Message to Sirius

Sounds like you've been having an interesting time of it with Bea. These all sound like good first steps to take, and it seems like you've got everything well in hand, but let me know if you need any help, or someone to brainstorm with.

If it'd be useful, we'd be happy to have her at Moddey to work more on her out-of-home skills in a safe environment.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2013-12-23 23:56:00](#)**
(no subject)

I am of course at your disposal. I have no plans for the holiday other than research and brewing.

If you care to make an updated list of what Moddey requires, I believe that, with the assistance I have arranged for, I should be able to meet most of the demand until you are able to find someone to take over the work.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-24 02:30:17](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Severus. Much appreciated.



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2013-12-24 00:19:51](#)**
(no subject)

Honestly, we've been concentrating more on the goblins than the centaurs, since the goblins at least make sense when you talk to them. But yes, with Hogwarts out of session, it's a better time to reach out to the centaurs. Last time we talked, they were still a bit hacked off at being blamed for the death of Sarah Fawcett back in the spring, but we'll give it another try.

Thinking about the gifts -- I think crossbows would be an insult, since they'd take it as us saying our crafting is better than theirs, and they're sensitive about that. Last time we spoke with them, though, one of them mentioned in passing that it was a very bad year for the mallowsweet crop in the Forest. Pomona, do you have any mature plants you could spare?



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2013-12-24 00:29:46](#)**
(no subject)

Likely, yes. I'm at Tilda's at the moment, and I'd rather not raise suspicions with others here about where I am, but I'll make a list of whatever we can easily send for you when I'm back in my greenhouses.

I'd also be quite willing to see about starting seedlings for your bargaining, if you can find out from them what plants would be useful, and we can arrange seeds or cuttings.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-24 01:05:55](#)
(no subject)

My crew can be part of that ley flying and mapping group, yeah.


As for camp extractions, yes, will let you know. We have the button networks well in place and very tightly disciplined in the worst hit camps now. (If anything, the buttons have given people the hope they're not entirely forgotten.) I think it will give a real boost to the spirits if we can quietly start smuggling the hungriest out.



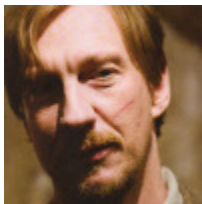
 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-24 02:47:28](#)
(no subject)


I might be able to take some people with the distance flying club depending, too.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-24 01:08:43](#)
(no subject)


I'm flexible for several days between Christmas and New Years if the 27th is too soon for setting things up.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-24 02:06:59](#)
(no subject)

With Ridley, are you going to want me there to take notes?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-24 02:29:38](#)
(no subject)

If you'd be willing, love. I've a feeling we'll all be doing quite a bit of back and forth, and having a record of it would no doubt be exceedingly useful.




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-24 04:09:22](#)
(no subject)

As long as I make the major family meals, I should be able to get away for a few hours each day. The later in the day on Christmas the better.

How should I arrange to get to these places?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-24 04:23:19](#)
(no subject)

That's right.

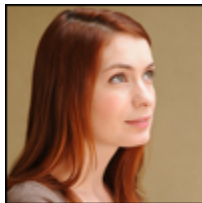
It'll be easier to get both done at once -- I'll send along some coordinates to Apparate to, and you can meet me and Arabella there to get the locations of Grimmauld and Moddey Dhoo. Would you be free tomorrow for half an hour?




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-24 04:40:25](#)
(no subject)

Yes I can be free for an hour or so. Is there a time I could claim to be visiting the Twins?

Unfortunately, the Healers have not yet cleared me for Apparation. I could fly toward the Weasleys, meet someone and be side-alonged?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-24 05:06:23](#)
(no subject)

Yes, of course. And they'll know exactly where to take you.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2013-12-24 16:21:19](#)
(no subject)

Sorry, Alice. I meant to answer yesterday. Just wanted you to know we made a quick run this morning and pulled another three people who've 'starved to death'. It's a few here and a few there, since we want to keep

it realistic and we've got to work out timing with the shifts of people we can trust in the camp facilities. But we are getting people out. And, yes! We could use a few volunteers for the job if there're wands available.

Say, would you tell Frank I've been trying that new agility drill he set me... and it's wiping the mat with me. Seventeen times I've gone arse over elbows now, and I've only managed to get off the last of the spells once. Mostly, I end up flat on the mat wondering what day it is. You can tell him for me that I'm going to learn this if it kills me, but it's on his head if it does.

2013-12-23 12:53:00

Private Message to Megan and Sally-Anne

I'm taking a quick breather over by the Bad Jam cupboard if you want to join me.




Have you tried this apricot-mincemeat blend? *I* like it, but I can see why Mrs Stretton thought it was a little too strong.

 [alt_susan](#)

I still can't believe she actually hired Pete and put him on basket-filling duty. I thought she'd take one look and send him straight home to Mum!



 [alt_megan](#) at **2013-12-23 19:56:43**

(no subject)

What I can't believe is that she didn't send him home after the thing. With the soapsuds. Soapfoam. Whatever it was. Because that was really a mess.

But funny. But a mess.

I'm glad she didn't send him home though. Because it's helping, to have him fill baskets. Otherwise we would be even more behind.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2013-12-23 20:11:23**

(no subject)

Yeah, I know! They're lucky we managed to get most of it cleared away before Mrs Stretton came down with luncheon.

But the sheepish expressions on his and Philip's faces *were* pretty funny!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-23 22:37:51**

(no subject)

I was a little frightened of the apricot mincemeat but I tried it because of what you said and you're right. It's kind of nice. But it is WEIRD. I think she made a good call not selling it.

I was a little startled when Pete showed up, he's TINY. But she has Gemma on basket duty today and she's even younger, so... Lucky for him those soapsuds or whatever on earth that was were easy to dispel and didn't ruin any baskets!



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-24 03:46:23](#)**
(no subject)

It was so much less hectic today than it usually is! I hope Mrs Stretton starts hiring extra assistants regularly. If she had Philip spread the word in early December she'd have plenty of extra hands those last few days before the holiday.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2013-12-26 03:27:35](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe you could plant that idea in her head! I bet you could convince her that she thought of it herself.

Pete is still over the moon about having earned a whole Galleon!

And delivering wasn't *that* difficult, apart from that one old gentleman whose enormous Crups chased me back into the Floo.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-26 03:51:32](#)**
(no subject)

What is WITH some people? I had someone with an attack goose. (That was in their front yard, though, it was a special delivery.)

At least it's done for the year! Thank you and Pete and Ed for coming, it made Christmas Eve so much less hectic.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2013-12-26 04:24:12](#)**
(no subject)

Attack *goose*! I just started laughing and Carrie wanted to know why. I'm sorry--I'm sure it wasn't funny at the time!

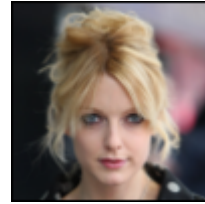
I'm glad we could help, and the extra pocket money's no hardship either.

Oh, one other thing that was a bit odd--I delivered to the Forneys, and Delia picked it up. I thought sure she'd give me some cheek, since it's not as if I'm a Prefect over hols, but she seemed really quiet and subdued.

[2013-12-23 18:20:00](#)

Comets

I've been asked to spread the word that the Astronomy Guild will be hosting a special presentation about the Bright-Deverill comet in February. Discovered last year by Guild Master Georg Bright and Guild member Cantus Deverill, it is expected to be quite bright when it approaches its closest point to the earth this April.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

The lecture is intended for a general audience, as comets have particularly interesting implications for Potions, Divination, Herbology, and various subbranches of magic. Several Guild members will present on different aspects of the comet's discovery, path, and implications. Specific topic details will be announced in Georg Bright's journal as they are made.

The general presentation will begin at 7pm on Monday, February 10th, at the New London Guild Hall at Burlington House, Piccadilly. There will be some additional smaller topical discussions led by specialists from various fields beginning around 9pm, and if the weather is clear, the country Guild Hall in Cornwall will also be open for observation with assistance from various Guild members. You can reserve a seat by contacting the Guild - someone is by the floo during business hours.

My students know we have been discussing the comet in class this year as relevant to the curriculum. While attending this lecture is by no means required or expected, there is some room for students who wish to attend. If you are interested, please let me know below, or in person by January 15th, so we can consider arrangements.

I do hope everyone has a merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-23 23:34:09](#)**

Private message to Georg Bright

There. I've posted it. And really, thank you for the excuse.

It's just - well, I told you, last you asked, how to figure out what to say that won't get picked at. Or that I think people won't pick at. And yes, I'll see about bringing along some likely students for

you to consider encouraging. (I know I still owe you my seasonal summary, but that's got to wait for my return to Hogwarts.)

I'll definitely be at your party, I promise, and maybe Raz, if his Quidditch mates can ever figure out when they're getting together. It will be a lovely break for me, between the other obligations. (One down. Rather a lot to go, really.)

As to the summer - I'd much rather a consulting role, than anything that would keep me out at the Guild Hall even overnight. Raz and I still get much less time together than I'd like to just relax, and I'm exceedingly reluctant to give it up. Things I can come out and do for a few hours, though, I might let you talk me into.

Fröhliche Weihnachten, Georg.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2013-12-23 23:50:00](#)**

Private message to Tosha

Toshenka -

I am so very glad we managed a solstice vigil this year (even if it was a day late). It was a delight to host you, and have plenty of time to talk, and a chance to cook properly. I feel much more settled for the rest of the holidays now.

And it was fascinating to hear your liturgy for the Christmas vigil. I keep getting echoes of the text, and yet thinking about how much context I'm missing. (Which, yes, you can continue to explain to me, please.) The language, and the metaphors, and the things that stick in your head when you're doing something else. Though, I suppose that's the point. If you don't think about it between the ritual observances, it can't do you much good, maybe?

I do also hope you'll be able to come to the lecture - besides the content, it might give you some interesting contacts outside your usual circles. And, what we were talking about, about my deliberately cultivating those sorts of connections. Georg only sent his note over this afternoon, or I'd have laid out more of who might come while you were here. (Plenty of time to do that on a Friday before the lecture, mind.)

I plan to see if Cedric's interested, and I'm sure our Mr Moon will be, but if there are students of yours who'd find it useful, please do

encourage them to talk to me. Georg says I can bring ten or so without any fuss, and more than that would just take a bit of coordination.

Very merry Christmas, Tosha.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2013-12-24 01:46:19**

Re: Private message to Tosha

My dear, it was my utmost pleasure. I only regret that you cannot hear any of the choral settings of the All-Night Vigil as they ought to be heard, but of course the greatest are doubly out of favour, being both Muggle and religious, and I do not have any wizarding recordings. Perhaps next year I shall commission a private performance.

The readers' version of the Vigil is different than that performed when a priest is available, of course, but it is still something. I hadn't realised how much I missed attending services. Christmas is not the liturgical holiday that speaks to me most -- that would be Easter, and its deepest mysteries -- but 'settled' is a good description of how I feel as well. I would be happy to continue explaining; my faith is more syncretic than most, but no less sincerely held for all that.

I would not miss the lecture -- if nothing else, you have shown me there is more to astronomy than the bits I have forgot from my school days. (And, if I haven't said it recently, your assistance in those matters is much appreciated. As are the books you have sent; your annotations are a delight.) I shall think of which students I will encourage to attendance. As will I continue to think of those to whom I ought introduce you. I have told you before, and I will tell you again: you do not reflect poorly on Raz, little star. There is room for all sorts.

Your,
T



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 02:22:34](#)

Re: Private message to Tosha

Toshenka -

Let us add the mysteries of Easter to our topics for Fridays, then. The ever-expanding list that it is. (As you have said, at least we will never be bored.) And the liturgy really was beautiful. I keep rolling bits of it around in my head, but you're right, I suspect I'd find the music even better.

As to the books, it would be a shame if I allowed the astronomy section of your library to linger in the rather distressing state it's been in when I can have any part in solving it. I enjoy doing the annotations a great deal - you've rather improved my teaching on several topics in the process. (Which is to say, I expect to do more for you given time, so if there are topics you'd like, please do tell me.)

On the connections, ah, well. I am becoming more convinced, the more I chew on it, that what I said last night - there being so few models for what I want to be - is the core of the issue. I have no desire to focus on the social circuit, even without the logistical complications (managing the necessary parties, yes, but seeking out more, really not.) And I am clearly not cut from the same cloth as my sister-in-law, for which we are probably all grateful, really.

But among the Council wives - ah, it is hard to find a middle ground. And especially to find a place I can be of use - to Raz, to you, to a few others - beyond my teaching. (Which I think is of great use, but this is rather the season where I am reminded how few people think much of my field.) So, yes, thinking about how I might do more - or more deliberately - is rather on my mind.

As to the lecture, I'm delighted. And I really do want to get you and Georg properly talking sometime, as I think you'd find each other of great interest. He's making noises about a small supper beforehand, just a few people, and if so, I'll make sure you get an invitation.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 00:05:28](#)

Private message to Cedric Diggory

I didn't get a chance to catch you before the holidays, but I do hope they're every bit as pleasant as you deserve. (And you should have a note, waiting in your rooms at Hogsmeade about something to make your study time a little more pleasant.)

The lecture, above, might be quite interesting for you. Chance to meet people from different fields, and I'd be glad to help introduce you around. At any rate, I do hope you have a very merry Christmas, and that the time with your family is as pleasant as can be.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2013-12-24 20:57:58](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

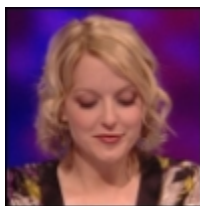
Yes I would definitely enjoy attending.

I look forward to the gift. I'll be back in Hogsmeade before New Years. December became rather full, so I didn't finish my shopping in time. Therefore I'll be returning with gifts for people. I guess I'll call them Twelfth Night gifts.

Enjoying my time with the littles (Jaspar doesn't like that anymore, but he can't hear me here). I haven't seen anything too extravagant, so haven't had to bite my tongue yet. Dad's still been working, so I've only been reminded five times how honored I need to feel for working with a Council Wizard. Only six times that Dralworth let down the side so of course the Cannons are still interested, and have I talked to Bones this week.

Taking time to go see friends as well, skipping out a couple hours every day.

I also look forward to seeing you at St Mungo's Gala!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 22:14:46](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric Diggory

Excellent, on all counts. And I'm glad your family is being reasonably moderate, all things considered. That's rather better than I feared it might be. In all

directions.

Tosha mentioned that he'd passed along tickets to St M's. (He was here for solstice on the 22nd, and we had almost enough time to talk for once.) I'm certainly looking forward to having a wider range of people I know I enjoy talking to there (and yes, that includes you.) He's also said he'll be at the Guild presentation, but I expect he'll be charming at least half the Guild once I point him the right direction, so you needn't feel you're on duty or anything.

We're about to head out for my family's Christmas eve, so I'm rather looking forward to seeing various of my younger relatives as well. (My brother's young daughter is particularly adorable, and I have indulged in the world's most wonderful doll for her this year.) Really, there's nothing like young children sometimes to remind one of simple enjoyment.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2013-12-24 00:09:49**


Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Miss Longbottom -

You are, of course, one of the students I most particularly thought of. If you'd be interested in attending, I would be delighted to include you. The lecture itself is likely to avoid most of the discussion of the arithmancy, but Guild Master Bright has let me know there'll be some discussions following that you should find manageable, perhaps with a little preparatory reading I'd be glad to lend you when we get back.

I do hope you have a merry Christmas and happy New Year. And the bookmark is lovely, thank you. I've got it in my current book.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2013-12-24 02:35:41**

Re: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Oh!

It would be a great honour, Professor. I'd enjoy that very much.

Thank you.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 03:49:25](#)

Re: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom

Excellent. I'll have some more reading for you, then, when we get back, of the kind I'm sure you'll find interesting.

It's truly a pleasure to be able to encourage someone who's so interested in the topic.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 00:18:46](#)

Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Pansy -

I'm writing both because I think you might find the above lecture of some interest, for its overlap with various fields, and because - well. I missed seeing you on Saturday, and wanted you to know I did. I still appreciate your efforts last year, particularly. I heard there were a few challenges with the opening, but you all seem to have handled them nobly.

I do hope I'll get a chance to talk to you at the St M's Gala - congratulations on the Junior Auxiliary, by the by. Or some other event, if not there. And in the meantime, I hope you have an excellent holiday.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-24 03:42:43](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

I got your letter, and how very thoughtful of you! It's much appreciated. We'll be certain to make good use of your gift, and I do hope you'll have a chance to stop by once things have settled down.

I missed seeing you as well. My hope is that this entire situation is temporary, and that when we've had enough distance, hindsight will show a sharp business decision rather than petty rebellion. I'll certainly be at St Mungo's, and am very much looking forward to seeing you there, and might have to arrange to bump into you elsewhere for tea some time as well.

And the lecture does look like it would be interesting -- I'd like to go

along. I hadn't even thought about the implications for Potions, and would certainly want to hear more about that. I wonder -- since Ron Weasley started the distance flying club last summer, I've been learning more about ley flying -- would it impact that at all?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-24 03:45:16](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

And may I just say again, I'm so very sorry for showing up late the other day to your test. It's not something I plan to make a habit of.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 04:47:41](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Oh, excellent. It seemed the least I could do. I was so impressed by the twins and the mask work last year. And while part of me can scarcely encourage certain of their pranks, the rest of me would far rather have good humoured amusements and entertainments than other kinds, and I entirely appreciate their creativity and skill. (I keep thinking back to the fireworks, especially.)

I do hope the situation's temporary for you. I never quite went through that estrangement with my parents, but I did with other people in my family, and it is rather difficult, isn't it? But mine wasn't petty rebellion, and I'm sure yours isn't either, but instead a way of finding your own place in the world. Which, really, is what it means to grow up, and certainly part of what I'm supposed to be encouraging you to do as one of your teachers. (~~Which tells you a bit about my own loyalties, I suppose, but I've never hid that one.~~)

I'm glad, about the lecture, and I've got your name on my list. You know, there's at something about the ley flying in one of my books that wasn't all idiotic tosh - I'll have a rummage, and if I turn up anything, I'll get Georg to add it as one of the discussion topics after the main presentation. (People have some exceedingly odd ideas about comets, and part of the point of this is to educate them about the actuality. The more variety we can offer, the better.)

As to the exam - ah. I was more than a little upset frustrated, but I really do appreciate the apology, and I know it's exceedingly unlike you. On a far happier note, seeing you will make the St M's gala

entirely more pleasant, and I'd certainly love tea if we can arrange that.



alt_linus at **2013-12-24 03:54:04**

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

It is infinitely delightful to have the lecture to look forward to. I shall of course be watching Guild Master Bright's journal, as always these days, for more information. It is hard to believe that at this time last year I had not yet been introduced to the cabinet of wonders that is the Astronomy Guild. Thank you again so very much for directing me to that internship! My father is quite pleased, and told me recently that he has spoken highly of your guidance to some of the other Governors. And so he should!

If any of the smaller topical discussions should focus upon locational magic as it might relate to or be affected by the comet, I shall be most eager to attend. Thank you again for the loan of that locational magic text; the intricacies involved in the generation of area effects begin to come clear clear to me, although there is still considerable fog in the farther reaches of the landscape, as it were. And of course comets are all in the foggy bits. I remain in hope that the vista shall clear -- and with such illustrious and capable guidance as you and the Guild provide, I have no doubt that it will.

Really, Professor Siz, this has been the best year ever. I've learned so much. I can hardly wait to see what the New Year brings.



alt_sinistra at **2013-12-24 04:57:20**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I had already added your name to my list, Linus, and we'll be delighted to have you. And I'm delighted your father's pleased. (There may be something else of the kind possible next summer, should you be interested, and I'll certainly be looking to you to set an example for other students at the lecture. Tosha's delighted to come, as well, he says.)

As to the locational magic, Georg is still settling on the smaller discussions, but I believe that's one of the possibilities. Certainly, you and I can discuss in more detail as makes sense, and I'd be glad to talk over the locational magics, in particular. Or spend a bit of

time doing some demonstrations, if you'd like, and we can get a day without rain when we're both actually free.

I am so very glad you've enjoyed your work for me and for the Guild. And thank you again for the extra help you've provided about the arithmancy in class. Merry Christmas, and I indeed hope your New Year is even brighter.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-24 21:17:33](#)

Private message to Professor Sinistra

Of course your NEWTs should have first priority but if there is space and it's possible, I would like to attend.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-24 21:58:20](#)

Re: Private message to Professor Sinistra

Sally-Anne -

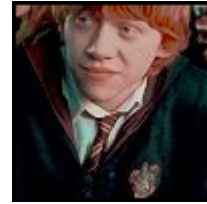
I would be delighted, and I will make quite sure it is possible. (Pansy's already said she'd like to come, as well.) We - the Guild - are hoping there'll be some more of these, and I hope you'll be just as comfortable asking if any of those are of interest.

I'd be a poor teacher indeed if I thought all knowledge ended in NEWTs - one of my great hopes is that all of you go out and can admire the sky, no matter what else you do with your lives.

I do hope your Christmas is as excellent as it can possibly be, and that you get time with your friends. And you're always welcome to come up for tea and biscuits in my office hours, even if you don't have questions about class any more. I do hope you know that.

2013-12-24 07:19:00

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne and Justin Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_ron](#)

Sorry I didn't write last night. I came home and had to answer all Mum's questions and then I went upstairs to change and fell asleep. I mean totally asleep for the night.

It's not like they even made me do anything yesterday. It was just filling out loads of forms--that took all morning between listening to all the instructions for every question and switching to all the different special inks they make you use for different forms--and listening to all the rules and laws and protocols and chain of command details that I'd already promised to follow in all those forms. And then I got a tour.

That's it. Oh, and I got a badge.

Today I get introduced to all the Auror units and learn what they do. And then Desai's going to take me down to the sparring dungeons to see what I can do.

So, yeah. Hope you did alright yesterday, both of you.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-12-24 13:36:38**

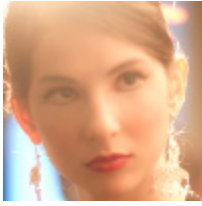
Private Message to Sally Anne

Sorry I didn't call last night. I told Mum I'm going to go to the Strettons after work, so I'll see you then.

Mum's really been better about it than I thought she'd be. So far.

I've got to get going, I guess. At least Desai didn't want me to come for any of the early morning sparring they all do. I've just got to be there by eight, but there's always a jam up for the Floos, so yeah. Got to start a bit early.

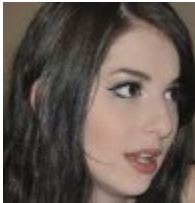
See you tonight. After Mrs S closes things down for the night, probably, since I expect it's still mad, isn't it?. Anywiz, before you go to Pansy's. I want to give you your present.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-12-24 16:02:56**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

With all the extra help I might be done at almost a civilised hour tonight. I have a present for you, too -- actually I made a basket for your family, I'm just going to drop that off sometime today with my other deliveries, probably, but I don't want to leave your present on your kitchen table with the pineapple.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-12-24 16:45:01**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Wait I just realised that wasn't clear.

I have a basket that's a present for All the Weasleys and I'm going to drop it off sometime today.

I also have a present that's specifically for YOU and I don't want to leave it with the basket. ~~Because I want to explain~~

Anyway I'll see you later, don't fall asleep tonight! I want to see you!



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2013-12-24 15:55:42**

(no subject)

Ron,

I say, mine was much the same! Tonnes of policies to read, a tour, introductions to loads of people whose names I can barely remember today and then I was put to some filing. Do you suppose they have a manual for orienting new interns that all departments follow?

I'm well curious to see what this place is like when it's not a holiday. So far this morning the division have exchanged presents and all raided a conference room on the third floor because they heard there were scones and tea. Mr Pontner is taking them all to lunch later and he said I should come. There are only five people in his office proper but they said they work with other departments all the time. In fact, one of the chaps I met yesterday is in Communications, what. He said he has a project for next week for me but he's not ready to hand it over just yet.

I'm sure your brother knows him but after our exchange last night, I am not bally we keen to consult him. I expect I might do better not taking his assessment of his former coworkers, what. I say, is he always so...testy? Sally-Anne, I can't think much of Auror Lamont if you're correct about them.

At any rate, there hasn't been much work done today but they seem a cosy lot. One witch even told me that although it's an out-of-the-way department, the advantages are clear. 'For one thing, no Councilwizards looming about!' she said. Then she blushed and apologised hastily, what, and said she hoped I wasn't offended. I suppose the whole Ministry know about my association to Hydra. I say, I expect that's a jolly good thing as it presumes loyalty. They obviously believe she and her mother are more alike than complete opposites, what!

Well, I hope today's deliveries go well for you, Sally-Anne. And Ron, maybe we could manage a tea break together Thursday or Friday?

-Justin

2013-12-24 20:59:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy




Two more baskets and I will be DONE.

Argh, wait, I take it back, she just added another one to the table. THREE MORE BASKETS. But I'm still almost done.

 **alt_sally_anne**



 **alt_pansy at 2013-12-25 04:46:04**
(no subject)

Hoorah! Your cocoa and fuzzy slippers are waiting for you!

2013-12-25 08:31:00

(no subject)

A joyous Christmas to you all, and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous year beneath Our Lord's mighty and benevolent outstretched hand.



 **alt_antonin**



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-26 03:53:52**

(no subject)

Happy Christmas, Professor. Thank you so much for the book! Also the box, which is lovely.



 **alt_antonin** at **2013-12-27 13:14:50**

(no subject)

You are quite welcome, Miss Perks. Giving tokens at Christmas-time to all and sundry is one of my small joys in life.

The boxes my NEWT students received, in addition to being suitable for the blood-locking charm, were made by Professor Sinistra's brother; he does do excellent work, does he not?

2013-12-25 21:54:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron



 **alt_sally_anne**

I wish you could have come to 12GP today. It wound up not being just me and Mum and Pansy and the people who actually live there, Sirius invited anyone from the Order who wanted to come. So the Longbottoms were there -- Mr Longbottom still LOOKS perfectly fine. I noticed though that he doesn't even reach for his wand, at this point, he just does everything the muggle way. Sometimes people notice and do things for him which sometimes is a relief and sometimes it's just awkward.


Mr Snape came, without the polyjuice for once. It's really odd seeing him looking like he actually looks. He and Sirius managed not to quarrel horribly and Bea was taken enough by her presents that she didn't throw any fits.

And Mum. Well that was also odd, honestly. But having lots of people around made it a little less so.

Anyway I'm back at Pansy's for the night, going to the Stretton's first thing in the morning for Boxing Day.

Thank you again for the necklace. I'm wearing it right now. I think I felt the charms keep me from falling down the stairs when I tripped today -- is one of the protective charms supposed to protect me from my own clumsiness?



 **alt_ron at 2013-12-27 06:27:51**
(no subject)

Hiya. Today was long. When I got there this morning, Desai said to report to the sparring floor, and when I got down there it was all top-ranked people, which...well. Anywiz, it turned out all right because Auror Travers called me over to bring him a towel, and then one of the others wanted water. And that was all I had to do until they all cleared out and Catchlove, who's one of the trainees, came down. He was good, but I got some hits in, and did well anticipating, so I pulled off some clever parries. Desai saw the end of it, and she had some suggestions, but some compliments, too, so I reckon I did well enough.

Anywiz, after that she took me up to the department that handles propaganda and something called anti-fomentation, which I think basically means that they counter stuff that's meant to encourage rebellion, so like propaganda to fight propaganda, yeah? One of the things they do is write journals that catch people trying to commit fraud or fence stolen property or traffic stolen muggles or sell illegal potions, really all sorts of things.

Apparently they've got a big new project starting up and I may get asked to help, which pretty much has to be loads more interesting than what I did the rest of today--inventory everything in a giant cupboard full of field kit--boots, gloves, helmets, line, rucksacks, that sort of thing. The worst of it was the smell--perfectly foul. Honestly.

So, how was Boxing Day? Any interesting bits?

Thanks for the charm. I've been wearing it, only I can't remember what all the colours mean when the stone shifts, y'know? Like this afternoon, I could tell it was shifting, and when I looked the stone was glowing sort of orange, but I didn't know if that meant you were cross or something else.

It's funny we had sort of the same idea what to give, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-27 06:37:37](#)
(no subject)


It is funny.

Orange, okay, let me look at the little card that came with the necklace. Orange means 'cross' -- huh. I don't remember being cross. The important ones to remember are blue ('all's well'), red ('hurt'), and green ('afraid'). Also, it'll go cold if anything's really wrong.

Fetching towels and drinks for people sparring doesn't sound too terrible. And getting to spar.

Boxing Day, well, it was the usual. There was a couple that wanted permission to divorce, that was interesting. Mostly LOADS of people who wanted things healed, because word gets around.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-27 06:52:21](#)
(no subject)

They'll be sorry when you aren't there next Boxing Day.

That's sort of sad to think about. Not that I think you should go on with the Strettons when you don't have to anymore. But still. Those people.

Er. Does the necklace have a colour that means 'thinking about your bloke'? I'd've thought that might be red, actually.

[2013-12-26 12:54:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson's



Pansy,

Bad news. We had a special delivery by a special messenger owl this morning from some officious bloke claiming to be Virgil Crispin's boss. He's had a report from Crispin that we tried to bribe him (!). Apparently, the reason we gave for the gift certificate is absolute rot, because Crispin denies even *being* at the opening; he can produce a half-dozen witnesses that'll affirm he was at the Malfoys' that afternoon.

 [alt_gredforge](#)

Even the bleeding owl was cheeky. It came close to pecking George's eye out while he was trying to get the message off its leg.


We're going to have to respond, we reckon. Any ideas? We're sorry, Pans. We should have never tried to twist his tail with that journal entry thanking him for being such a tosspot.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-26 18:58:14](#)
(no subject)

Had an idea. But we need to talk with Lee Jordan.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-26 19:56:57](#)
(no subject)


Okay. Just remember, public declarations probably wouldn't work in our favour. Perhaps dealing privately with the boss might be a way to go over his head a bit, and take the broom out from under him.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-27 03:08:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, that's more or less what we have in mind.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-27 03:41:48](#)
(no subject)

And what, exactly, do you have in mind?


I'd rather not 'twist his tail' any more -- and if they're not going to pursue things legally, we should probably just go with a rather thorough apology -- and not posted where everyone can see, either.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-27 04:38:32](#)
(no subject)

Sent you an owl with a draft of the letter we're planning on sending. You should have it by now; what do you think?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-27 03:57:14](#)
(no subject)

We really ought to get a solicitor.

Or at least I ought to get one, and then pester him whenever small things like this come along.

It has been incredibly inconvenient to not be able to talk to Mr Baddock.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-27 04:46:51](#)
(no subject)

Well, we're glad you think it's small.

Let's hope that in the long run Crispin's boss does, too.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-26 19:54:08](#)**
(no subject)

Bribe him to what end?

Ugh.

Was there any talk of pursuing legal action? Any indication of what they wanted?




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2013-12-27 02:46:58](#)**
(no subject)

Exactly. Crispin must think everyone's just dying to have him on bribe retainer.

No, the letter cited a bunch of legal mumble mumble about libel laws, but otherwise didn't have any specific threats. In fact, it said Crispin asked for them to go lightly on us (SO big of him) so they're letting us off with just a warning this time. We'll drafting a groveling letter to be sent tomorrow which we're sure the tosspot will enjoy; just waiting on one thing first.


As for what they want, isn't it obvious? To make trouble for us and Mum.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:14:46](#)**
(no subject)

Crispin does. His boss might not want to get too much more involved than he already is.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-27 04:37:40](#)**
(no subject)

Got your owl.

The letter is fine, but I'd leave off the postscript entirely -- and expect Crispin to be displeased regardless. You are entirely too cheeky for your own good, you know.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-27 04:39:24](#)
(no subject)

Awwww, you're no fun.

Right then. We will play it totally, totally straight.
Butter won't melt in our mouths.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-27 04:40:33](#)
(no subject)

Remember. I've had to kiss Lucius Malfoy's arse for months now. It's hard work. Don't want all that to go to waste, now, do we?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-27 04:44:27](#)
(no subject)

Urgh. Definitely not.

2013-12-26 19:55:00

Order Only: Need a hand

Quickly, anyone who's available: What do we know about loyalty compulsions?




I've stupefied Strangeweale. He was supposed to be visiting his father but it turns out he's safeguarded his home by keeping Timothy under some sort of compulsion that makes him unnaturally loyal whenever his 'master's' safety is threatened. (It's almost admirable how effective it was: he went from complaining about Strangeweale to the friendly hound, to hounding the dangerous fugitive while setting off a notification spell on his wrist, in about a second and a half.)

 [alt_sirius](#)

I had to stun him. Fortunately it wasn't much of a fight. But by then, Strangeweale had come through the Floo. Of course, Timothy was no longer awake to warn the bastard that I was standing ready to stun him.

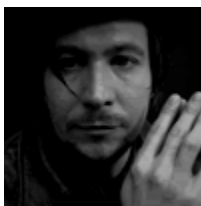
So, anyway. I've got an unconscious Strangeweale here to be interrogated when we like. But meanwhile we've got to do something to reverse what he's done to Timothy. I don't dare let him wake up, either, until we've got an idea how to keep him from fighting us all the way.




 [alt_lupin](#) at **2013-12-27 01:59:10**
(no subject)

Are you still at Strangeweale's house? We should get all of you out of there, surely. Are there any other servants?

As for loyalty compulsions -- funny you should ask, that book we found last week has a whole chapter on them. Did it seem to be specifically triggered by danger?



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-27 02:03:35**
(no subject)

Yeah, still here. He's the only servant, remember? And Strangeweale can easily disappear from the Ministry for a few days - tomorrow's Friday and it's a

holiday week. He keeps his own hours, anyway.

There is the question of whether his father might try to find out if everything's okay. I think keeping them locked up here is better than moving them, for the moment.

If we could get word to Rachel she'd have a chance at that interrogation she wants.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-27 02:11:10](#)

(no subject)

So loyalty compulsions: there are loads of possibilities, unfortunately. There are charms (curses, really), which usually have to be periodically renewed or they fade in strength. You can make someone wear an item -- check him for jewelry, but if you find something don't take it off, sometimes it's cursed in such a way that the person will die if the item is removed. There are potions.

I can come right now if you need me. Otherwise I'll come when the beer garden's shut up.

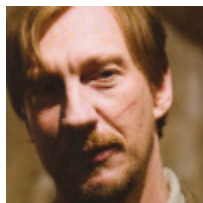


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:25:26](#)

(no subject)

For jewellery, there's the bracelet he touched to signal Strangeweale for a strong candidate. Also a talisman on a leather cord round his neck.

I don't think there's an urgent need; I've tied them up for now, in different rooms, and reinforced the stunning spells.

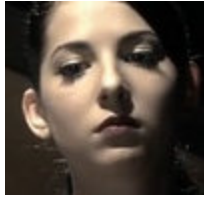


 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-27 02:27:33](#)

(no subject)

Mm. You probably don't want to touch the bracelet.

What does the talisman look like? (Don't touch it, either.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-27 02:45:55](#)
(no subject)

It MIGHT be the talisman but it's not going to be the bracelet because the imperatives are too conflictory, 'loyalty' and 'message sending,' the magics get in each others' way and there's no particular reason it would HAVE to do both, you know?

It probably is not the talisman because this sort of magic works best if it's something that encloses. Like a bracelet, or a ring. Although the talisman might reinforce some other magic on him.

But if I wanted to put a loyalty spell on someone with an object it would always be a ring. Rings are much better suited to that sort of magic than pretty much anything else. Oh, wait, or an earring. Something that went INTO your body like an earring might also work pretty well.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:49:57](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but he's also a muggleborn. No earrings, no rings.

The talisman looks like the head of a bull. Maybe it's his astrological sign? Hard to tell.

I've a feeling it's not something he's wearing, too. He seemed to be fighting himself when he was alerting Strangeweale, as if he really wished he weren't doing it.

It did remind me of a house-elf going against orders.



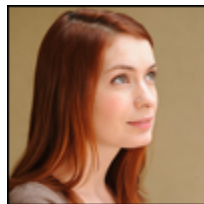
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-27 02:58:10](#)
(no subject)


It wouldn't matter if the person were a muggle, muggleborn, pureblood, if you were giving them a magical object to make them loyal the same principles apply. You want it to be worn

constantly, you want it to be difficult to take off, the circular nature of a ring or a bracelet significantly enhances the magic because it 'encloses,' and -- oh, the other reason it wouldn't be the bracelet he used to send an alarm is that the materials would be different. For loyalty magic you want gold or iron and you want a pure metal whereas for communications magic there are loads of things that will work but you usually want a MIX of materials and not pure gold or pure iron.

The talisman, hm, I mean you CAN make a talisman with that sort of magic on it but I also don't think you'd use a bull. And especially if the person were able to fight AT ALL a talisman would just be stupid, because they could pull it off. Rings, you can make them impossible to take off. (You can make them really hard to take off even WITHOUT magic.)


Anyway my point is just that it's probably not an object. Unless -- well it could be invisible or with a VERY strong notice-me-not charm but then you wouldn't be able to tell without touching. If you DO want to check him over with your hands use a silk cloth so you don't touch the item accidentally and DO NOT touch the bracelet even with the silk cloth.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-27 03:19:23](#)**
(no subject)

It could enclose something else, though -- an ankle, perhaps, or a toe.



 **[alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-27 02:17:02](#)**
Private message to Padfoot

The person who would probably be the most help to you is Severus, I'm sorry to say. He's a legilimens AND if it's a potion-based loyalty compulsion there's no one better for working out how to reverse it.

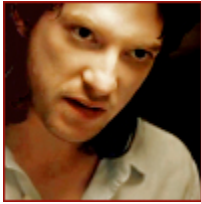
If it's a spell or something he's wearing -- I'm not even sure, but you could certainly do worse than Severus.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:26:02](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

If he volunteers to come I'm not telling him to nose out.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-27 02:25:26](#)

(no subject)

I'll get word to her.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-27 02:34:15](#)

(no subject)

I've established contact with her and am on my way to meet her. Sirius, should I bring her?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:35:44](#)

(no subject)

I suppose. If Snape comes we've got our Legilimens.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-27 02:38:16](#)

(no subject)

Right. On our way.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-27 02:26:06](#)

(no subject)

I can come help, too, Sirius, if need be. Let me know.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:46:26](#)
(no subject)

Kingsley,


Thanks. Probably when we've woken Strangeweale and questioned him, we'll need to decide what to do next. Might be better for him not to see you until then, though.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-27 02:48:14](#)
(no subject)

I'll be standing by, my friend. Just let me know.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-27 03:18:27](#)
(no subject)

Keep us informed, Sirius.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-12-27 02:30:22](#)
(no subject)

There are many, many options it could be. ~~The easiest option is to leave the servant unconscious while interrogating Strangeweale, then kill him to break the spell once you are certain you've learned everything~~
you need

A legilimantic examination could rule out many options. I am free if Albus is not.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-27 02:32:42](#)
(no subject)

Right, well, since Albus is so consistently available, I expect he'll be along any minute.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2013-12-27 02:38:56](#)**
(no subject)

Touché.

I will be along shortly.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:21:00](#)**
(no subject)

We're assembled and moving to one of the safehouses to interrogate him. We'll take Timothy, too, but keep him in another room.


More soon.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:22:53](#)**
(no subject)

I'd be a liability here -- do you want us to get some Sherwood people in to lend a hand?



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:27:03](#)**
(no subject)

I think we're covered at the moment. Rachel Brodie's here, Snape's here. We're going to question him and see where we get.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:29:22](#)**
(no subject)

Good.

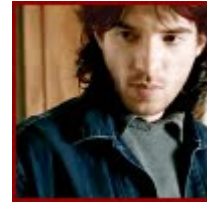
Be careful. Be thorough.

2013-12-26 20:27:00

Private message to Auror Lamont


Wondering if I can see you tonight.

Have some spreadsheets that badly need to be ignored. Okay if I swing by your place?



 **alt_bill**




 **alt_rachel** at **2013-12-27 02:31:48**

(no subject)

Well that sounds intriguing.

Yes. I'm home now. (Was in Scotland yesterday, visiting Mum.) Come on over.




 **alt_rachel** at **2013-12-27 05:47:50**

(no subject)

You do know how to show a girl a good time, Bill Weasley.

Thank you for that lovely (if slightly late) Christmas gift.



 **alt_bill** at **2013-12-27 06:11:40**

(no subject)

Glad you were open to taking advantage of the opportunity. Definitely a night to remember.

2013-12-26 20:46:00

Private message to Padma Patil

How are your holidays going?

Mine have been ... interesting. Mr Rosier took me to a gathering today at Aunt Druella's. (His sister, you know. Mrs Black.) It's probably the first time -- well the thing is, I've known for years that Mr Rosier thinks I might be a Councilwizard someday.



 [alt_seamus](#)

But today was the first time I didn't think everyone around him thought this was a completely mad idea.

It's been a year



 [alt_padma](#) at [2013-12-27 02:59:27](#)
(no subject)

Hello!

It's been well boring, actually, with everyone off doing family things.

I wasn't sure I'd hear from you until the St Mungo's luncheon tomorrow. You are going, right? Oh, that's right, sorry. I can't *believe* they blanked you.

This was the Boxing Day dinner with the Malfoys, Lestranges and all? Were Lana and Ned there? What happened?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2013-12-27 03:08:20](#)
(no subject)

Lana and Ned stopped in really briefly. I only ever saw Lana from across the room.

The interesting thing was that when everyone went off to discuss politics and so on over firewhiskey, Mr Rosier brought me along. And no one objected.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-12-27 03:24:36](#)**
(no subject)

Oh.

So they talked about Council business?

That must have been really exciting.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-27 04:07:36](#)**
(no subject)

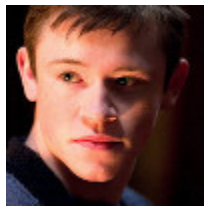
Yeah, they did. It was dead interesting.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2013-12-27 04:20:48](#)**
(no subject)

I don't suppose you can write about it.

And I've got the luncheon tomorrow. And the gala Saturday. Are you going to that, at least? Oh, but that's a terrible place to try to talk privately.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2013-12-27 04:41:16](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

Well, there were loads of people in the room, honestly. Harry and Draco as well as me. I don't think it would be TOO terrible to tell you they were talking about the business with Maule and Mulciber.

Only, here's the thing -- Maule was convinced that Mulciber was after him, that's why he challenged him in court. But in fact, there were some private messages that LOOKED AS IF they were from Mulciber but were not really. They were just designed to make him think Mulciber was after him.

So of course the way he reacted, he really did set Mulciber after him.

|||| Sort of a brilliant plan, actually. Maule was no loss to anyone.

[2013-12-26 23:24:00](#)

Order Only

Sirius sent me a patronus with the location of the safehouse -- he was there with Severus, Bill, and Rachel Brodie, as well as Strangeweale and his muggleborn servant Timothy.



 [alt_lupin](#)

I brought a book of information about compulsion charms related to loyalty and took him to another part of the house to see what I could figure out. My best guess is that it's potion-related -- I'd have brought Severus up but he was rather focused on legitimising Strangeweale. Sirius, Severus, and Rachel interrogated the prisoner.

Assuming we have accurate information, we should be able to get into Mysteries with polyjuice. This weekend ought to be extremely quiet -- they may keep their own hours, but even Unspeakables have families and holiday obligations. We have the location where the muggleborn women and their infants are being held prisoner, we have a list of locations where we'll find copies of his notes, and we have a ~~stomach-turning~~ thorough explanation of the process.

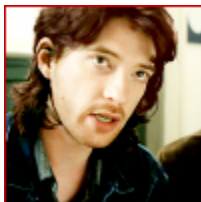
He has extensive notes in his house; we'll need to clean it out, and I would recommend burning it to the ground just to ensure we didn't miss anything. That should be simple enough.


Less simple: retrieving the report he gave recently to Cadmus Mulciber. He believed it was at Mulciber's house.

There's also a copy of his notes in a Gringott's vault.

We're keeping him alive for the polyjuice for now.

The meeting with Ridley is tomorrow; Miss Brodie left when the interrogation was concluded, presumably to report in.



 [alt_bill](#) at **[2013-12-27 06:07:18](#)**

(no subject)


Maybe that's one thing we can ask for in our negotiations with the goblins: that they never allow that vault to be opened again.

It's the sort of thing they wouldn't mind being asked for, and Merlin

knows they're stubborn enough to make it stick.

Good work, Sirius and Severus. Thank you to you both. I had the distinct impression Ms Brodie was impressed.



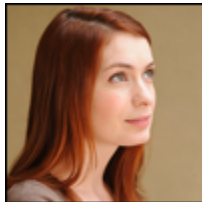
 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-27 07:37:19](#)
(no subject)


That's a good point, Bill. If we do our jobs properly, I have a feeling many of the Council will be anxious to access that vault.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2013-12-27 13:06:10](#)
(no subject)


We can do that. We were going to go back and talk to the Centaurs today, but Mum's donated a goblin-made artifact to the cause, so I'll head on over to Gringott's today and open another round of talks.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-27 20:06:01](#)
(no subject)

Excellent. I'd send someone over to clear it out polyjuiced as him, but I'd rather not show our hand until absolutely necessary, and limit where he would be seen.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-27 07:35:40](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Remus.

I very much hope Dogstar is as amenable to assisting with what remains to be done as Ms Brodie has suggested. The fact we can infiltrate with Polyjuice is better news than we'd hoped for.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-27 07:43:52](#)**

Private Message to Sirius and Remus

I'd rather send a team of two to Mysteries. Would it seem unusual to have a child or Timothy accompany Strangeweale there? What about one of the Black Wands? It's short notice, but if necessary, we could track one down using the buttons.

[2013-12-27 06:59:00](#)

The store has been doing so well!


Not only did we have so many people come to the Grand Opening, they've kept coming back. Our after Christmas sale has already had a nice amount of foot traffic.



 [alt_molly](#)

And I see that our press release about the opening made the paper today. Maybe that will bring more people in again today.




 [alt_molly](#) at **[2013-12-27 13:04:52](#)**

Private message to Fred and George Weasley

I don't quite understand why you chose *that* picture though. It isn't framed quite as well, and George looks a little blurry. The one taken with Fred tying the balloons was much better, I thought.

Well, it's still very exciting that they printed it.



 [alt_molly](#) at **[2013-12-27 13:05:38](#)**

Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

I hoped you've thanked Lee for taking them all. I should send him a thank you note myself.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at **[2013-12-27 13:06:12](#)**

Re: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Trust us, Mum. That one's exactly the right picture.

2013-12-27 07:06:00

Order Only: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson



 [alt_gredforge](#)

Right, so the *Prophet's* come through (three cheers for once), so we've sent the letter off. We followed your advice to cut the postscript mentioning the publication of the press release and the photo, so the final version now reads:

Dear Sir,

We received your owl of yesterday, and we are sure you can imagine our consternation. You're right; we are very new to business, and there is much we need to learn concerning proper lines and all that. We are most humbly grateful for your forbearance and deeply apologise for any misunderstandings. Our opening was a whirlwind, and so many customers passed through our doors that we must have been mistaken. Of course, Mr Crispin was at the Malfoys if he says this is the case, and we were mistaken. Once again, apologies.

**Sincerely,
Fred and George Weasley
Weasley Wizarding Whizbangs**

You know, we bet Crispin's really going to squirm when he sees that picture. It's really not his best side, is it? Makes his nose look as big as a hippogriff's honk and everything!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-12-27 20:01:32**

(no subject)

The letter is fine.

As far as the picture goes...


Well, as I've said, he certainly won't be pleased.

If you'd run it past me before sending it in, I would've asked you not to use it -- tattling him isn't going to make him go away, it's only going

to make him more likely to retaliate again.

Just be prepared, is all.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-27 20:04:08](#)**

(no subject)

It looks like it'll be a busy few days for the Order, and I've got St Mungo's things too, so it might be best to hold off until after the weekend. Would you be up for dinner on Monday?

2013-12-27 15:56:00

ORDER ONLY

Meeting going all right?

~~Sitting on my damn no that wasn't~~



 [alt_frank](#)

Anyways. Thought I'd take the time to catch everyone up. Fu and me have been making the rounds to Bedford and Aldrich, setting up some workshops for crank radios, Fu's armour, and some of the less advanced weaponry we've been working up. Aldrich's better suited for radios, and Bedford's in a good place for helping us make the armour as they've got a supply of leather and they can get a forge up and running quicker. Fu's decided to keep making the more dangerous things like his nonlethals on his own at Moddey because of safety protocols. It's easier to make a bolt for a crossbow than a timed explosive, because if you get the bolt wrong, it doesn't blow up in your face.

We've also scheduled trainings twice a month at Aldrich and Bedford to brush up on Defence. Sherwood's designated some folks to come and help, too. We've been sorting through different fighting strategies depending on whether the person who's fighting has a wand, doesn't have one yet but has wandless magic, doesn't have any magic at all, and how it all changes up in a null field. Not to mention differences in fighting in a city versus an open area. We'll have our work cut out for us. Most of the magical people in Aldrich have wands now, and we're getting there with Bedford, and each site has some people who went through at least a few years of schooling who can teach the basics, but they've got a lot of work to do.

Making it into Saltash is difficult. Kingsley managed to get me over there for the day, seemed like they were getting on pretty well. Can't risk Colin taking me just yet -- he doesn't have the secret, which would take time to sort out, and there's always a risk someone would be waiting to take potshots at us because we can't Apparate right in. They're still working on their underground access, though, and once they've got that done, it'll be easier to get there, and their people will be better able to take things outside of the field for quick fixes. It was good to go there, see it for myself. Once they sort out their access tunnel, I think we'll make it out there more often so we can set up defence training there too. They gave us some wands they'd confiscated from the wizards who were stuck in the field, and we got them to Melli, who'll strip them down and use their cores.

There's also the notion of trying to get our hands on some guns that we can modify. Fu doesn't want to risk building his own. From what we've seen, they did a fairly thorough job of cleaning out the guns from sporting stores after that assassination attempt, but they might not have looked in all the abandoned farmhouses, or thought to take them out of museums. Fu says some of the older ones that just fire shot might be dead useful, because we can make our own ammunition with scrap metal, and see if we can't experiment with iron shards or other modifications to cause a bit more damage.

That's all for now. Keeping busy. Colin's been a real help.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-28 00:47:58](#)**

Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey

I know you're sorting out a lot right now, and playing more than one game of chess, but I still don't think we should risk our Queen at Mysteries.

Hope everything's going well.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-28 02:42:47](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Everyone was remarkably civil.

We're having a tea at Grimmauld and going over our meeting notes. I'll be back soon.

And what good is a Queen if she can't move around the board at all?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-28 02:45:22](#)**

Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey


So I'm not the best at analogies.

Still.

I know I'm not out in the field in the same way, but that doesn't

mean that you should have to pick up my slack. And last I checked, there are several good reasons for you staying out of fieldwork.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-28 02:46:52**

Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey

I know.

It's one option of many.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2013-12-28 00:49:39**

Private Message to Tonks and Colin Creevey

Sounds like your feet are getting in the way again. Try thinking about where you want them to end up.

Good to hear that getting people out of the camps is going well.

I'd be there with you if I could.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2013-12-28 00:53:11**

Private Message to Poppy and Colin Creevey

Good to see you at Grimmauld, Poppy.

There hasn't been any changes.

Going to Saltash was good though.

It felt like I could breathe better, if that makes sense. Probably all up in my head, though.

[2013-12-28 10:37:00](#)

Order Only: the Dogstar meeting

Order members present: Alice, Sirius, Severus, Bill, Remus.

Dogstar members present: Ridley, Rachel, two masked bodyguards whose names we were not told.



 [alt_lupin](#)

Strangeweale/Mysteries Plans

Everyone agreed we should move forward on this as quickly as possible -- which is to say, TODAY.

The Order will infiltrate Mysteries, polyjuiced as Strangeweale and a potential victim. (I think Alice has decided on Kingsley and Severus.) Please note that Mysteries takes a variety of precautions against polyjuice, but our interrogation of Strangeweale revealed at least the precautions he was aware of. Severus, Sirius, and Rachel Brodie were fairly certain he was not holding information back.

Strangeweale also revealed he'd given a report to Cadmus Mulciber; Dogstar will handle that retrieval. He also gave us the names of four people who acted as research assistants or otherwise had detailed information about his process. Dogstar will also handle the elimination of those individuals.

The Order will raid Strangeweale's breeding farm and rescue the people there and with the assistance of Timothy (Strangeweale's muggleborn servant, now free from compulsion magics) will clear out and destroy his house. We'll also work on persuading the goblins not to let anyone into his vault.

Ridley requested polyjuice for her people, to get them into Mulciber's house undetected and to get close to their other targets. Alice agreed.

The Neo-Fidelius

Ridley requested that these negotiations be closed to everyone but her and the leader of the Order. She started out the meeting believing that this was Sirius, and we all did our best to play along, but at this point she made it clear we'd given Alice away. So the rest of us cleared out and left Alice to talk with her. Bill apparated away to fetch some polyjuice and the rest of us sat around awkwardly for a while. So this next bit is based on what Alice told me happened, I wasn't there

to take notes.

Alice told Ridley about the costs and precise effect of the neofidelius and said that if Dogstar wants to run a joint operation, they can provide a target and a volunteer and the Order will help that person cast it, and then obliviate them. (If they survive. No guarantees.)

Ridley revealed that they have a way to get portkeys. In exchange for the actual casting instructions for the neo-fidelius, she offered a dozen unregistered portkeys to whatever destinations (within the Protectorate) we'd like. We can think this over. In the meantime, she'll ponder possible targets and people who might be willing to cast the spell.

Bill, it sounds as though Ridley cleared the room in part because she doesn't want Rachel knowing that they have someone in the portkey office. I would assume this is because she thinks Rachel's in a high-risk position, and too likely to get caught.

Rachel's Role

(Everyone got to come back in for this bit. I kept looking at Miss Brodie's face while she was being discussed but she's rather unreadable.)

Ridley said that she was willing to have Rachel share the MLE intel with the Order on a routine basis, and Rachel could officially be a liaison between our two groups.

If we'd actually like her as a member, Ridley offered to trade Rachel for an ongoing supply of polyjuice. (She would still want Rachel to share her MLE intel with Dogstar.)

Alice noted we're down a potioneer (she refrained from pointing out that this was due to Rachel) and polyjuice is not exactly a plentiful resource for us, either. She offered fluxweed, instead.

Ridley said that in exchange for two fluxweed plants and a strip of boomslang skin, she will cede Rachel BUT not until the plants successfully propagate. (She would prefer actual potion.)

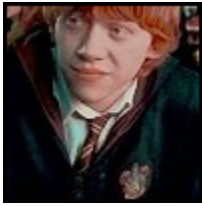
I think that covers most of it.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-12-28 17:19:18**
(no subject)

Well if everything goes to hell today and we're all going to have to go into hiding or on the run, you should come to my father's house in Bagwyllidiart to find me, I might not be able to check the journals.

And good luck, all of you, I guess.



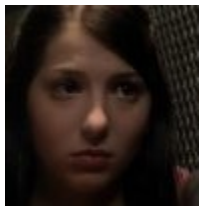
 **[alt_ron](#) at 2013-12-28 23:01:54**
(no subject)

Know you may not see this. I'll come for you if anything goes wrong. I remember just where to Apparate to--actually, I came out there this morning just to be sure I remembered. So.

And I'm wearing my half of the charm. So you'll know if anything dire happens.

I'm going along to help side-along people to safety. Loads of us are going to help, I think, so it should go quickly. I hope.

Hope things are alright there at your dad's. Let me know if you need me to come because I will. Straight away. No matter what.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-12-29 04:31:41**
Private message to Ron

Everything's fine here. My Dad ~~got~~ went to sleep early.

I feel a bit useless. But, I suppose so do the people at the gala, and they couldn't very well skip out without it being noticed.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-28 17:23:36](#)
(no subject)

Interesting.

Regarding Ms Brodie, do we have any compelling interest in making her fully a member of the Order? Ridley is quite right about the risks of her position and the odds of her being discovered one day. It seems to me a very poor idea to put Ms Brodie in a position to bring down not one but two significant resistance organisations. We already stand to lose Bill and expose several other key pieces of our operations. I see little to be gained for our side in making her privy to more of our secrets--and there is potential gain in allowing Ridley to 'keep' her if she's willing to serve as our connection with Dogstar. Better yet if Bill can cultivate her as a spy for us in Ridley's camp.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-28 20:05:23](#)
(no subject)

My preference would be not to induct her fully, not just yet.

I think we can continue to work with her on a regular basis and in those meetings, we can give her certain details on the backgrounds of our people so that if and when she's allowed to join, she won't find our way of doing things such a shock.

Ridley has to realise Ms Brodie will certainly begin passing information to us about DogStar, just as much as she will be expected to tell them about us. It can't hurt to keep her at arm's length for a while yet.



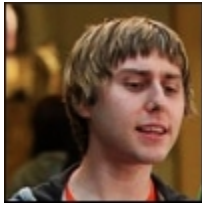
 [alt_bill](#) at [2013-12-28 20:10:57](#)
(no subject)


It's true that we would have to carefully consider the security issues. Yet, I think it would be more to the point to have her spying for us on *MLE* rather than on Ridley's people, and quicker for our own purposes in bringing the Protectorate down. Let's keep in mind who the real enemy is, here.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2013-12-28 20:18:43](#)**
(no subject)

That her primary value is as a source of information from within MLE is a thing we are all in agreement about--in agreement even with Ridley.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-12-28 17:28:46](#)**
(no subject)

Mr Lupin,

I say, several of us are involved in the St Mungo's gala, what (in point of fact, some of us are already here, decorating), but is there anything we might do to help? Perhaps make certain that the key Ministry staff are sufficiently diverted at the party?

-Justin



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2013-12-28 17:43:30](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe some of us who aren't involved at St M's could help with the rescues? Those of us who can Apparate, anyway.

Since Harry's at the luncheon I wanted to come to Grimmauld to start a new batch of polyjuice, if that's all right. Sounds like we'll need more.




 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-28 18:57:53](#)**
(no subject)

I'll echo this. Anything for us to do other than yell if all the Council Wizards bolt for the door?


Remember it's fancy dress, so easier to slip in and out for either side. I know what Dolohov will look like but not Crouch or others.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-28 18:59:01](#)**
(no subject)

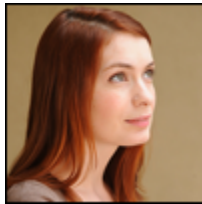
I anticipate we'll need all the help we can get to move everyone out once the site is secured.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-28 19:12:09](#)**
Private Message to Alice

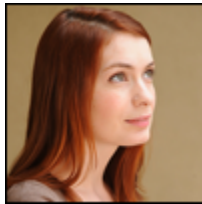
It occurs to me that we do need to get hold of Strangeweale's father, Otto. He's a Healer (if one can call him that) and I'd bet he'll be at the gala this evening.


It might be advantageous to get him to leave there with one or two of ours. Think Cedric can manage without drawing attention to himself?



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-28 19:37:30](#)**
Re: Private Message to Alice

I believe he could, yes -- especially with so many of the ISS around to provide cover.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-28 19:40:09](#)**
Re: Private Message to Alice

He's not cleared to Apparate yet -- perhaps Justin could lend a hand in that area.



 **[alt_pomona](#)** at **[2013-12-28 17:52:02](#)**
(no subject)


I agree with Poppy's comments, though I can see there would be an advantage to having someone in the Aurors whose loyalty was to us. Has anyone *asked* Rachel her preference, or was this presented to her as if she's merely a chess piece?

(It would be rather one thing to bargain for her if her inclinations are

more like ours than Dogstar's, and quite another to force her choice for her.)

As to the actual practical question: the fluxweed at Hogwarts is doing well, and last I heard from Regina, the crop at Moddey Dhoo was solidly re-established from the starters a year or so ago. Not that we don't need to continue being cautious, but I think we can readily enough spare two plants, if someone would figure out how to get them to Ridley. I'd rather prefer she not know we've got people at Hogwarts in any more detail than absolutely necessary.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-28 17:55:01](#)**
(no subject)

I asked her afterwards for exactly that reason, yes. I told her that we wouldn't want her if that wasn't her wish.

She told me that given the choice, she would prefer to be with the Order.



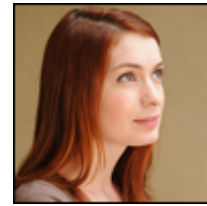
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-28 17:56:16](#)**
(no subject)

I'm about to leave to get together with some school friends in a very public place. If there is to be mayhem going on today, I need a very clear alibi.

2013-12-28 11:04:00

ORDER ONLY

Kingsley and Severus are currently preparing for the Department of Mysteries. They've been talking rather extensively with Timothy about how to pass as Strangeweale and poring over maps of the layout, and I brought along a hair sample from one of our children at Moddey to use for the victim-apparent.

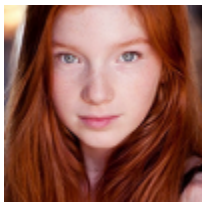


 [alt_alice](#)

Sirius, Tonks, Mac, Dorcas, and Caradoc will be going to the site where the prisoners are being held. Once everything is secure, we'll need help Apparating everyone to the London safehouse -- Laszlo's storage rooms. Everyone who can Apparate and who is not expected at St Mungo's events or otherwise needs to maintain their covers should meet at Grimmauld within the hour to go over our plan and safety protocols, and then we'll be preparing the safehouse for arrivals. Poppy, we might need you on call in case we have any complications -- I know you have professional obligations today, but side-alonging so many expectant mothers is less than ideal to say the least.

Justin, you have a good point -- anyone at St Mungo's events today can certainly keep their eyes open for unusual behaviour or sudden absences of Council members, especially MLE and Corax Mulciber. We're also going to try and get our hands on Otto Strangeweale, as he'll be at the event. Cedric, Justin, if you have the opportunity, discreetly take him somewhere private, stun him, and bring him to the London safehouse. We'll take it from there. (Justin, I might show you the location if you can slip away from your preparations and come briefly by Grimmauld.) The rest of you can help by providing cover and serving as lookouts.

Remus, please let us know if you and Timothy run into any difficulties while going through Strangeweale's house.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-12-28 19:55:26**

Private Message to Mum

I could be useful at the safe house. I can help get people settled, and make sure they haven't splinched. And we'll need to keep the Apparating area clear, and they'll need food and water.

Can Neville bring me along?

I'd really like to be there.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-28 19:56:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Mum

Yes.

You're right.

You would be of use.

Thank you, Evie. Yes, you should come along too.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2013-12-28 19:57:11](#)

(no subject)

We had a bit of an argument, but I think we've settled that Severus will go as Strangeweale and I'll go as the victim. I'm agreeing because I believe he can pull off that autocratic personality better than I can. He has better baseline knowledge if we run into any Deatheaters, too.

Wish us luck.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-28 20:15:11](#)

(no subject)

Please stay safe, and good luck to both of you.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-28 20:17:59](#)

(no subject)

Yes.

Please do.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-28 19:58:30](#)

Private message to Mum

Evie told me. Thanks, Mum. We'll be there shortly.

Good luck for all of us.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-28 20:00:48](#)

(no subject)

Evie raised the point that even those who could not Apparate might help at the receiving end of things. Luna, if you could easily get away and make your way to Grimmauld, your help would be appreciated.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2013-12-28 20:01:58](#)

(no subject)

Yes, I can do that. No one will miss me.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-28 20:01:12](#)

(no subject)

I'm coming, Alice, to help with the prisoners.

I hope I'll be able to hold Arthur Tanisbee by the end of the day.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-28 20:10:42](#)

(no subject)

(Ma'am, I'm available to come as well. -CC)



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-28 20:12:03**

Private Message to Colin and Frank

Colin, love, much appreciated.

Frank, we could use someone with basic field medicine training on site as well.



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2013-12-28 20:12:39**

Re: Private Message to Colin and Frank

All right then.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2013-12-28 20:12:47**

(no subject)


Mrs Longbottom,

Yes, of course. We're about to break for the afternoon so that everyone can dress. I'll come directly.

I'm sure we can all take a turn or two during the ball, what. It shouldn't take long to pop off and help transport a few of the refugees and then pop back to the gala. We'll simply need a discreet signal.

-Justin




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-28 20:15:15**

(no subject)

Otto Strangeweale is a priority, of course, but I'm sure you'd all be quite capable at covering for one another to slip out from time to time -- after all, Mr Diggory did quite an admirable job doing as much at

the wedding.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-28 20:14:05](#)
(no subject)

I can help with apparition, too. Or just to give a hand with anyone who's been injured, since I've assisted Madam Pomfrey in the hospital wing before.



 [alt_pomona](#) at [2013-12-28 20:18:16](#)
(no subject)


I'll be along shortly, though I'll need a bit of a break to recover from the apparition to New London. Not as young as I used to be, to do that distance. And I've helped Poppy enough to lend a hand with the basics of care, at least.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2013-12-28 22:48:05](#)
(no subject)

Supplies collected. On my way, Alice.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2013-12-28 23:57:24](#)
Private message to Alice and Sirius

Timothy wanted to know what was going to happen to Strangeweale. I told him that I expect we're going to kill him when we're done with this.

He wants to know if he can be the executioner.

I told him we might be drawing lots. But Alice, I think Timothy has better claim on this job than anyone in the Order.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-29 00:04:21](#)
Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius

He does, yes.

I will be sure to talk to him once we've finished our work today.

[2013-12-28 11:45:00](#)

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

How are your holidays going? Lots of eggnog and presents and parties?



 [alt_rachel](#)

I spent Christmas Day up in Scotland with my mother -- then came back to work because there's nothing like a nearly-empty office to help me get caught up on work. Even if Thursdays feel very long when I've no excuse to skip out early! I'm all current with my filing, though, that's the good news.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2013-12-28 18:01:27](#)
(no subject)

Of parties, eggnog and presents: More than necessary; too much and generally with not enough rum to balance the sweet; and I seem to have at least one gift still to give.

Our holidays are always over-run with obligations - to family, to country, in today's case to charity. Do you go to the gala, ever? This year's 'theme' leaves me rather wishing one could claim a prior commitment. It's too bad there's never an 'emergency filing' incident when one needs one.

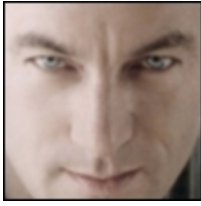
How empty are the offices this week? Would anyone object if you 'skipped out' on Monday or Tuesday?



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-28 18:15:55](#)
(no subject)

Frankly it's been such a wasteland I imagine no one would even notice if I skipped out altogether.

As to the gala -- I believe I helped with security arrangements during one of my intensives and that is the one and only time I've been there. No fancy dress that year, at least! I imagine that would make the security arrangements rather more tedious for everyone concerned.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2013-12-28 18:20:40](#)**
(no subject)

An entire day's holiday? Bounty, indeed. Unfortunately, my own obligations would never allow an entire day - not at this juncture - but one could certainly run to an after-noon, perhaps. A

luncheon?

Am curious to know how you spent the rest of your holiday.

Have been ... thinking about you.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-29 00:01:04](#)**
(no subject)

A luncheon on Monday or Tuesday sounds lovely.

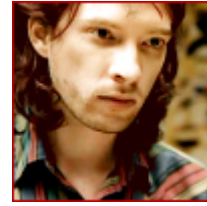
There's an Auror superstition against ever EVER using the phrase 'it's been very quiet' so I'll just say it's been quite a bit less nerve-wracking than last year at this time (ugh). I caught up on sleep a bit and while I was up visiting my mother I took her krup for a long walk in the rain, which was more pleasant than it sounds.

Enjoy the gala! I'm hoping for pictures in the Prophet of everyone in their costume.

2013-12-28 11:51:00

Private message to Walter Kirke and Simon Matthews

About time for old roommates to get together for a drink, eh? Are you available this afternoon? Or perhaps dinner? We could meet at Pumblechook's



 **alt_bill**

2013-12-28 18:12:00

Order Only

Very briefly.

So far, so good. We're in, and we've encountered no one who's suspicious. We've put up muffling charms in preparation for disassembling the machine, so we can miniaturise it and take it out of here. We don't intend to leave any bits for them to use as guidance for reconstructing it.



 **alt_kingsley**

Have the notes, but we're going to do another sweep before we leave, just to be sure.

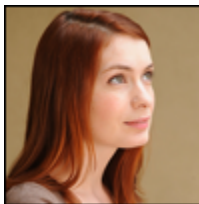
Hope the other parts of the operations are going as well as ours. Alice, we hope to see you within the hour.




 **alt_molly** at **2013-12-29 00:26:33**

(no subject)

Good. I can't wait to get word that wretched thing is destroyed.



 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-29 00:35:58**

(no subject)

Thank you, Kingsley.

Be thorough, and be careful on your way out.

2013-12-28 19:47:00

Party!

The gala is getting underway! Everything looks smashing. It is a wonderfully fantastic landscape, many of the prizes are floating around the hall in little golden cages with descriptive cards hanging below.



 [alt_cedric](#)

Pansy, your dress looks smashing, but I'm sure you'll be hard to catch. I on the other hand will be the world's slowest snitch and am totally catchable, but only for every other dance as half my card is full of Cedric and the Benches.



 [alt_cedric](#) at **2013-12-29 00:49:53**

Order Only

I've scouted several secluded corners between the main hall and the gents that we ought to be able to ambush him from on his way back.

If we can't catch him wandering off, near the end of the evening I'll make a show of leaving, alter my mask and costume a bit come back in and lure him out with some excuse into a trap of whoever we can round up.

Keep an eye here for Team Otto coordination.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-29 00:57:52**

Re: Order Only

Right. I'll help however I can.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-12-29 03:41:56**

Re: Order Only

Harry -- ask Lav for a dance so Ced can get away.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-29 03:42:26](#)**

Re: Order Only

Okay.




 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-29 03:54:44](#)**

Re: Order Only

Justin, he's headed out alone. Let's go. Thanks Harry.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:16:41](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Cedric

I did have a rather good time despite everything.

Thank you for being an excellent not-date.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 00:56:10](#)**

(no subject)

It is lovely, isn't it? I've already seen some absolutely beautiful costumes.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2013-12-29 02:25:44](#)**

(no subject)

If you're willing, I'd be happy to fill your card for a dance or two!


It's good to see you taking part in the social whirl
around hols.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-29 02:31:41](#)
(no subject)

You're looking quite regal tonight, Lavender! I was trying to place your and Linus's costumes earlier -- is it Greek?




 [alt_lavender](#) at [2013-12-29 02:39:03](#)
(no subject)

A good guess, but not quite!

It's quite a classic figure in Divination--Strength from the Tarot, with the lion she's tamed.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-29 02:59:38](#)
(no subject)

Oh! How very fitting.



 [alt_lavender](#) at [2013-12-29 03:16:17](#)
(no subject)

We thought so! It combines Linus's love of history and mine for Divination.

You and Diggory look quite glittering yourselves!



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2013-12-29 02:37:29](#)
(no subject)


I think it looks lovely this year - and you're quite right about the variety of costumes.

(And the variety of interpretations: I admit I'm rather preferring the more subtle and conceptual to the ones that seem to take up rather a lot of space. I've been thinking wings are a horribly inconvenient sort of thing in company.)

I keep seeing more people I really must try and catch, so if I don't

manage to see you in person, I do hope we'll get a chance to chat before everything gets going at school again.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2013-12-29 03:50:15](#)**
(no subject)

A slow snitch you may be, Ced old bean, but you still have the presence of mind and alacrity to capture a dance with the fairest maiden at the ball! Make no mistake, I am applauding; only a boor would begrudge his lady fair the chance to bestow her radiant smile and a dance upon such a good fellow, particularly one whose dancing days are only lately returning.

Oh I say, now Marvolo's cut in. Well.

I should be complimented indeed on my choice of partner, as she is apparently irresistible.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 04:10:29](#)**
(no subject)

If you're free for a spin, I'm game, Lionus.

You and Lavender really do make for an excellent couple.



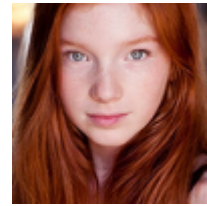
 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2013-12-29 04:14:00](#)**
(no subject)

Ah, the speedier snitch! I should be honoured to dance with your golden presence, of course. Let us join the gay throng.

2013-12-28 20:16:00

ORDER ONLY

We've been awfully busy. I know there are some people who can't be here, so I thought I'd let you all know that Mr Snape and Mr Kingsley arrived here safely.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

Now that the Polyjuice's worn off, Mr Kingsley's helping with Apparation, and Mr Snape's gone to Grimmauld to make more blood-replenishing potion, but they're both safe, and got the machine out of Mysteries without being caught. They had to split it up into pieces and shrink it down, which took a while.

It's starting to get rather crowded here, even though we cleared a lot of space earlier in the day. There's been one splinch so far, but Madame P is working on it, and I hope they will be all right. I've been passing out tea and bottles of milk and blankets and things, and some of the women want to ask loads of questions, like who we are, where they're going, what'll happen to their babies, and others want to hold hands with someone and cry a bit, and there are a few who are very quiet and don't want to talk or be touched really at all. I think it helps greatly that they know each other, and can take comfort from one another.

Anyways, I need to get back to it.

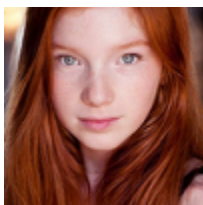


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-29 04:28:48](#)
(no subject)

Thanks Ev.

The splinch is the lady Jeremy wrote about, yeah?

I feel utterly




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-29 04:32:16](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

They've been trying to be very careful, but I guess

sometimes things like this happen, which is why it isn't safe to Apparate while you're pregnant.



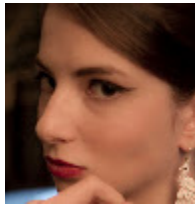
 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2013-12-29 04:33:26**

Private Message to Sally-Anne

I wish you could be here. You'd be ever so much more helpful.

I know you wish you could be here too.

I'm very glad Madame P can help, though.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2013-12-29 05:30:50**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I want to come.

I think maybe I COULD come. My father's passed out drunk. I'll leave some pillows under my covers, he won't check.

If he DOES wake up (he won't) and check (he won't) and asks me later, I'll tell him I sneaked out to meet my boyfriend. He'll be furious but he won't suspect I was off committing treason.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2013-12-29 04:40:27**

(no subject)

Good. That's good.

The news about Mr Snape and Kingsley, I mean.

Thanks.



 **[alt_molly](#) at 2013-12-29 04:44:47**

(no subject)

Well, the splinch patient has been stabilised. For the moment. But I'm afraid the baby's coming early, perhaps tonight. The poor dear is nearly full term though, at least, so that's a blessing.

They're all wearing these horrid iron bracelets, which they're reluctant to let anyone touch. I wonder if it's safe to remove them, but I'd like someone with more knowledge/experience with objects like these to look at them and make a determination.

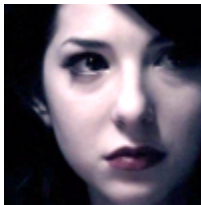


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-29 05:25:17](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Those might be for a compulsion. Like not to run away, or --

I wish I cou



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-29 05:27:49](#)
(no subject)

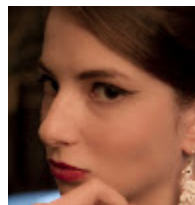
My father's asleep and not likely to wake up before morning, if Ron could come get me I could come help.

I think I could get them off.



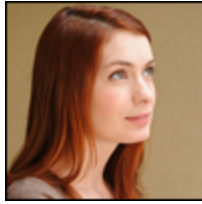
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-29 05:34:00](#)
(no subject)


I'll come get you. About time I had a chance to slip away, after all, and Ron needs all the Apparating he can get.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-29 05:34:57](#)
(no subject)


Right. I have my Healing kits (thank you again) and my shoes and cloak and I'll meet you out in the yard.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 05:36:50](#)**
(no subject)

That's fine. Go to Charing Cross. We'll have someone meet you both there.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-29 05:32:55](#)**
Private message to Mrs Weasley and Mrs Longbottom

My father's passed out drunk. He won't wake up.

If he does wake up and wants to know later where I was I'll tell him I went out to meet my boyfriend. Which might make him angry but won't make him SUSPICIOUS if you know what I mean.

If you can send someone to get me, that is. Or -- you know what he is actually BACK ON THE FLOO NETWORK (we were NEVER on floo, because of Mum), I could even FLOO to you. Or somewhere near. Straight to you is risky.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 05:38:09](#)**
Re: Private message to Mrs Weasley and Mrs Longbottom

I can't guarantee when we'll be done.

We'll try to have you back before dawn.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2013-12-29 04:49:25](#)**
(no subject)

I can come for awhile without rousing the familial suspicions.

At the least, I'm another pair of hands & can follow instructions. It sounds pretty grim.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2013-12-29 04:58:57](#)**
(no subject)

Sue, if you could, it would help.

We need more girls, because they really don't want anyone male getting too near them.

With what they've been through, I can hardly blame them.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2013-12-29 05:20:44](#)**
(no subject)

I can't imagine.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2013-12-29 04:59:51](#)**
(no subject)

We're in a small warehouse of sorts on the Strand. I can meet you at the Charing Cross floo and walk you there.



 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2013-12-29 05:21:22](#)**
(no subject)

I'm on my way.




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2013-12-29 06:32:56](#)**
Private Message to Mr Snape

Sir, some Calming Draughts would be useful.

Sally-Anne managed to sort out how to get the bracelets off, but I think part of the compulsion was not to cry too much, or to keep calm and sedated, because the people who've had them removed aren't doing very well.



 **alt_evelyn** at **2013-12-29 06:34:10**

Re: Private Message to Mr Snape

And I'm glad you're back.

Very glad.



 **alt_severus** at **2013-12-29 06:36:53**

Re: Private Message to Mr Snape

Understood.

2013-12-28 21:35:00

ORDER ONLY

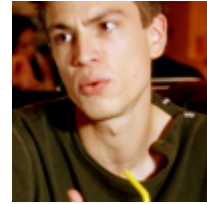
MADAM POMFREY COME AT ONCE PLEASE
HURRY

It's a splinch only we don't know how to use
dittany on two people at once especially when
one is inside the other

only not for long


Just get here all right?

there's a lot of blood



 [alt_jeremy](#)




 [alt_poppy](#) at **2013-12-29 03:41:11**
(no subject)

Gracious.

Keep calm.

I'll be there immediately.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-12-29 04:04:32**
MUM


Mum!

Look at your book! Please!

Madam P says she needs you to get here to the safe house right
away. She needs extra help with this and Pro-

Just come quickly, yeah?!



 **[alt_molly](#) at 2013-12-29 04:08:33**

Re: MUM

Oh, my.

Tell her I'm coming immediately.

[2013-12-28 22:23:00](#)

Splendid

If you are not spending this evening celebrating the lifesaving work of St Mungo's hospital, you are not only forsaking your duty to support this most necessary institution, you are missing a simply splendid party. This year's committee has surpassed all previous efforts!

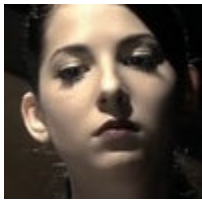



 [alt_lana](#)

The Serengeti theme in the buffet is so realistic, I wondered if we'd be expected to hunt our own game in order to eat! And the oceanscape in the witches' lounge is marvelous. Ned reports the wizard's facilities are done up as an owlery!

And the ballroom is a masterpiece! It certainly puts last year's to shame. The lights and the music--The Ocelots are simply the sharpest band of the year, and to think they agreed to donate their set!

And so many enchanting costumes!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **[2013-12-29 05:14:05](#)**
I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Someday we're going to free everyone in the Protectorate from tyranny. Everyone, not just a bunch of women who've been locked up and raped and forced to bear babies that can be murdered. All the muggles from camps and all the muggleborns from slavery and people will be able to read whatever books they like and criticise the government and anyone who wants to leave will be able to and the Sleepers will all wake up.

And we'll try you for war crimes (that's what it's called, yeah? war crimes are things that YOU think are legal but are so horrifying and atrocious that once your repulsive group leaves power the rest of us get to charge you with crimes for).

And you'll probably expect to be fed to Dementors. But even though you think you're incredibly important and the world basically revolves around you, you probably won't even be sent to Azkaban for life. We'll send you there for, oh, ten years. Maybe twenty. And then we'll let you out but you won't be allowed to own a wand. And you'll be considered a disgrace to your family and they'll all pretend they

don't have any idea how you went so utterly wrong.

You're a terrible person but you're a petty sort of terrible person, you WISH you were Bellatrix Lestrange but you never will be.



 **[alt_terry](#) at [2013-12-29 05:32:28](#)**

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

I like that idea, a lot, her not being allowed to own a wand. There are worse punishments for her that I can imagine, but that's about the best. Which would make it the worst for her. If that makes sense.



 **[alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 05:16:04](#)**

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley and Emilia Cuthbert

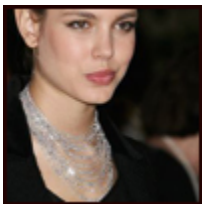
Have you seen Bobolis? Honestly, a fox? An elephant, more like. I mean she looks as if she going to pop that sprog any second. Fellowes can't manage her anymore than her father ever did.



 **[alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-29 05:19:26](#)**

Private message to Lana

Sounds brilliant! (Totally forsaking my duty here, sorry. Maybe next year? I'd need a proper date, which always seems to require a bit too much planning.)



 **[alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 05:37:13](#)**

Re: Private message to Lana

If you'd said, I could have put in a word with Carsten for you. He liked you, you know. I think he was just intimidated by the Auror business--nothing a little encouragement wouldn't cure.

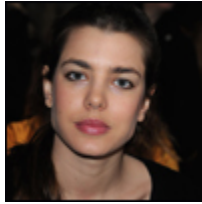
Truly, you're missing out. This is the most gorgeous party.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-29 05:40:24](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

I just didn't even think about it until it was too late!
Shame, because it really does sound amazing.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 05:50:03](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

You aren't working tonight, are you?

Ugh. Such a shame. I mean, obviously, some of us
have to pull those shifts, but still. Next year, I'm
seeing you've got tickets and a fit escort!




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-29 06:16:50](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

I'm not at the office now but I'm on call. I've
actually worked the night of the gala for three
years in a row now so I'd say I'm due a night off if
you remind me next year in time to buy tickets!



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 06:24:10](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

I will consider it my mission to see you here and
enjoying yourself well and truly next year!



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-29 05:40:51](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

Does anyone have a truly dreadful costume?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 06:01:12](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

Oh, you wouldn't believe!

Deirdre Osterman is here as a flamingo. Only she's not got the figure for it. Nor the complexion. Looks like a giant pink poof!

Royce Hart. Not sure what he meant that costume to be, but the feathered headpiece makes him look like stuffed pheasant. Over-stuffed.

And Torrance Shoemake. Do you know him? Nearly seven feet tall, I think. Apparently he didn't pay attention to the theme. He's here dressed as a Maypole.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2013-12-29 06:15:30](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

I don't precisely know him but I've definitely seen him (he's hard to miss) and a MAYPOLE? Are you serious? A Maypole.

Did he bring a troupe of children to dance around him with ribbons?



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 06:21:36](#)

Re: Private message to Lana

No children, but he's got the ribbons flowing down from his hat and he's been going around trying to entice groups of witches to dance with him.



 [alt_lana](#) at [2013-12-29 05:29:35](#)

Private Message to Isobel Sandoval

Mama. If Honoria can't comport herself with proper maturity, she ought to be sent home. I've just found her running down the stairs, being utterly silly. It won't do.

2013-12-28 22:42:00

ORDER ONLY

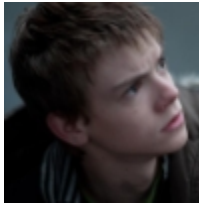
Something's happened.

A bunch of MLE just left the party.

Is everyone okay?



 [alt_harry](#)




 [alt_frank](#) at **2013-12-29 06:43:21**

(no subject)

(no-one's showed up here.)



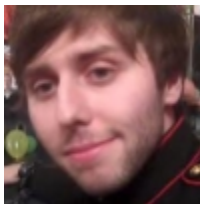
 [alt_ron](#) at **2013-12-29 06:48:17**

(no subject)

Wait. What?

Right. We'll get more wands on watch here.

Thanks!



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-12-29 06:50:21**

(no subject)


Ron,

I say, we've come home from the gala and the Jugsons are all abed.

I'll come back and help, shall I? I'm not a bit tired and I haven't been Apparating nearly as much as some of you.

-Justin




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-29 06:59:18](#)**
(no subject)

True enough, but the smart thing might be to stay put if the Council have just all left the ball.

You might want to ask Mrs L if she wants more of us in one place or another.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:12:16](#)**
(no subject)

I believe that's Dogstar holding up their end.

Remus, I'm assuming all is quiet on your front.



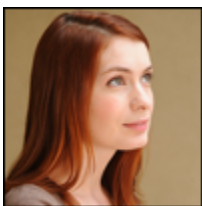
 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:20:10](#)**
(no subject)


Quiet here.

Well, not quiet as in noise-free. One baby starts and the rest join in. Or a mother does, and it's worse. But

no MLE.

Alice, I'm here for the night if you like. My parents will believe easily enough I've been out 'til morning with mates.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:21:50](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Jeremy.

Much appreciated.

2013-12-28 23:26:00

Private Message to Linus


Do I see your splendid mane over by the punch? It's so dreadfully easy to lose track of one another in such a large ballroom!



 **alt_lavender**

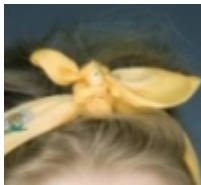
If you are, could you be a dear and bring me some? Marvolo's nearly run me off my feet!




 **alt_linus** at **2013-12-29 04:37:50**
(no subject)

Were there ten thousand here tonight, still I would fight my way to your side to lay my docile head in your lap as depicted in the venerable Tarot. Or a cup of punch -- Your wish is my command, o puissant

maiden fair!




 **alt_lavender** at **2013-12-29 04:41:40**
(no subject)

I wouldn't mind if you were to lay your head in my lap really--though we'd need a bit more privacy for that!

As it is, I think a respite for some punch sounds just the thing.



 **alt_linus** at **2013-12-29 06:46:50**
(no subject)

That last dance has me craving punch again. Shall I get us a bit more to quaff?

It appears that others are finding some of these terpsichorean antics rather exhausting as well. Have you noticed that a number of the older dancers have decided to make an early night of it, and presumably retired to more sedentary pleasures?

Given a bit more punch, however, I daresay I could glide the floor once more with you in my arms. Give me Strength, and I shall essay any feat of derring-do tonight!

2013-12-28 23:29:00


Order Only It's done

Corridor was empty. We caught him unawares, never got his wand out. Stunned him. Justin's apparated out with him. I'm on my way back to the Hall.



 [alt_cedric](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **2013-12-29 05:03:14**
(no subject)

Thank you, Cedric.

Justin's safely arrived, and will be rejoining you again in a few more minutes.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2013-12-29 05:07:58**
(no subject)

Excellent news. Very well done, and thanks to your team of distracters, too.

We've taken custody of the prisoner and he's secured.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2013-12-29 07:02:40**
(no subject)


Mrs Longbottom,

The Jugsons had just brought us home about half an hour ago and they've all gone to bed.

Do you still require assistance? I could easily pop back round the warehouse if that's at all helpful - or I'm sure I could manage a long-range Apparition if it's needed anywhere.

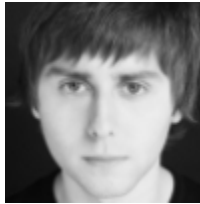
-Justin




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:11:19](#)**
(no subject)

Justin --

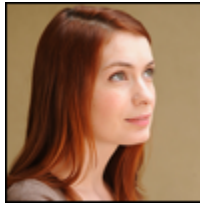
Thank you for your offer. We're all a bit frayed around the edges, but otherwise secure, and I'm sending home some people who would otherwise be missed. The warehouse isn't terribly secure, and we have both Strangeweales here to keep an eye on as well, so if you want to take a turn standing guard for an hour or two, that would be much appreciated.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:13:20](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, of course. On my way, what.

-Justin



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:13:30](#)**
(no subject)

And someone needs to take Ms Perks back as well.




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:14:21](#)**
(no subject)

I told mum I'd be spending the night in New London.

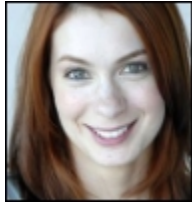
I'm on my way too.

And I can take her back.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:18:53](#)**
(no subject)

Breakfast is on me and Hitty, by the way.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-29 07:19:29](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you. Both of you.

2013-12-29 00:33:00

Private Message to B Lestrangle and M Travers

Assemble NL24. ASAP.

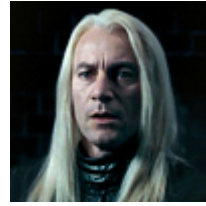
Have got N Desai, Pandya, Sandoval-P, and Braithewaite. Bring whomever's to hand without creating a scene.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

2013-12-29 00:52:00

*Private Message to Barty Crouch and
Bellatrix Lestrange*




Have just heard about the light show in NL24. Not something anyone expected - or was it?

 **alt_lucius**

Going to check Kensington for similar before returning to Manor. Presume one of the elves would have informed us had any incident occurred but one never knows.

Watch your backs.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2013-12-29 07:10:10**
(no subject)

Eyes open.

Nothing to do here but watch, meanwhile. Fiendfyre. Have given it bounds, but the house is a dead loss.

Didn't think Maule had anyone likely to avenge him, but will pursue that. Tomorrow.

Quite a sight, Fiendfyre. Appealing.

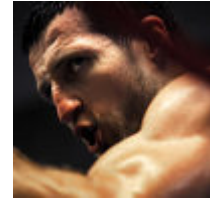
2013-12-29 00:53:00

Private message to Cadmus

Whoever did this

WHOEVER did this

They'll pay.



 **alt_corax**

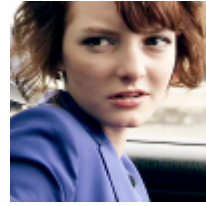
2013-12-29 00:54:00

Private message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold

So speaking of being on-call...just heard from Mafalda Hopkirk and I'm on my way to Cadmus Mulciber's house.

She said it's Fiendfyre.

Are you there? Watch your back.



 [alt_rachel](#)

2013-12-29 09:25:00

Order Only

I'm almost falling over, I'm so tired.



 [alt_molly](#)

Beatrice Knowles' baby was born a little after 5:00 am. They're both stable, but the splinch....well. He's missing his left forearm. Poppy estimates she was at about eight months term, so he's able to breathe quite well. She assures me that her spells are managing any pain the poor boy suffered. Beatrice is sleeping now, which is a blessing.

The women and the children are settled for a few hours sleep, and so we have some peace for now. Fortunately, Poppy had plenty of Calming Draught. Some of these mothers are barely out of girlhood, themselves. We've managed to remove those horrible bracelets, to everyone's relief. One of the mothers told me they were put on them after one of the women managed to kill herself; their purpose was to prevent them from harming themselves.


The three men rescued with them are being kept in a separate room. Easier for everyone. Strangeweale used Imperius to force them, but despite the fact that they had no choice, they still feel dreadful about it. Kingsley is talking with them; he's particularly concerned about one of them, who has said he has little reason to live. He wants to get them to Sherwood soon if possible.

There have been so many tears tonight. I must confess that I cried a little myself when I finally held Arthur Tanisbee. Jane *did* name him after my Arthur. She told me about their meeting; she's never forgotten how kind he was to her. She cried, too, when I told her he was gone.

Arthur was right. She looks so much like Ginny.

Lee's off to Aldrich and Fred and George to Bedford and Caradoc to Sherwood, to see about arranging accommodations for all these lost chicks. Alice, do you think some of the youngest of the mothers might be able to come to Moddey Dhoo?



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2013-12-29 16:38:32](#)**
(no subject)

Mrs Weasley,

Very glad to hear they're going to be all right.

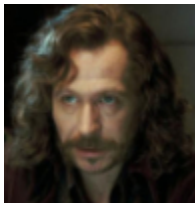
I'm bally well happy to know we all did some good last night, what. It was rather an ordeal but compared to what those young ladies have had to endure, well worth any discomfort.


I hope no one else had any trouble getting back; I say, I had a small spot of bother because Alfie tried to come into my room to ask about the ball--but when he saw I wasn't there, he assumed I'd sneaked out to meet Hydra, so no harm done there.

I did have a brief conversation with Maggie this morning. She'd like to come, if she could, to help take care of the girls and their children. We've a plan to get out of the house, what, if that's all right.

Can anyone say, have DogStar come to collect the Strangeweales yet? I say, it was jolly exciting to nab the elder Strangeweale! That's probably dashed inappropriate but it's true, particularly knowing how important it was to neutralise him.

-F-F



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2013-12-29 16:54:36](#)**
(no subject)

You told Maggie about it? Why?

DogStar aren't coming for the Strangeweales. We'll take care of them as soon as we're sure we don't need them anymore. (It might be useful to have one or the other turn up in a particular place or time, not sure yet.)

Everyone did a splendid job and you're right, Justin: Sometimes we're able to score a clear win. That's worth a world of discomfort.



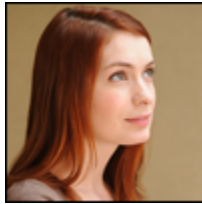
 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-29 17:01:22](#)
(no subject)


Sirius,

I told her because--well, I know she's still quite undecided as to whether or not to trust us to help her escape. And I thought if she could see first-hand the sorts of things we're doing to improve the situations of others, it might influence her opinion, what.

Ought I not to have told her? She already knows that I'm connected to a group with muggleborn interests at heart and that Mr Macnair is in contact with the Ponds at Doughty Conduit. I jolly well didn't tell her anything else about the Order she didn't already know.

-Justin



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-29 18:52:00](#)
(no subject)


Although there's an argument to be made for there being not much additional risk to you or the Ponds, there are an awful lot of other Order members popping in and out, and a lot that's being discussed in terms of our future plans, Moddey, Sherwood, and other things we'd have to censor. I appreciate the offer, but unless she's planning to defect today, we shouldn't take the risk.



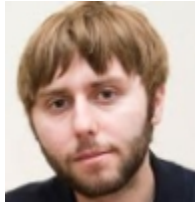
 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-29 17:00:55](#)
(no subject)


No, Dogstar hasn't taken them. We still have them here at the Laszlo warehouse space, in a small utility closet. They're tied up and out with stunning spells, but Dad and I guarded them through the night. We're turning the guard shift over to Miss Meadows and Mrs Ponds now though.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2013-12-30 01:43:37](#)
(no subject)

She all right, then?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-30 01:53:02](#)
(no subject)


Mr Macnair,

Yes, she's quite well, so far as I can tell. I was able to get her the gift Hydra and I got for her--I say, it wasn't much but we did want to be sure to remember her--and she seemed far less suspicious of it than over the summer.

Shall I tell her to find an excuse to visit Mrs Ponds next week, when you bring Hermione the boomslang skin?

-F-F



 [alt_molly](#) at [2013-12-29 17:53:17](#)
Private message to Tonks Ponds

I don't know if Dorcas has said anything to you. I'm sure she feels dreadfully, but Beatrice has only said she's glad to be free. Considering she thought her baby was fated to be killed in that machine, I'm sure I can understand the lack of blame. I don't know if that will continue to be the case, but it's early days yet.

Please tell her I want her to know that Beatrice isn't angry. I'm sure Alice will speak to her when she has a chance.

[2013-12-29 11:06:00](#)

Private message to Bill Weasley

Hope your night was more peaceful than mine. I assume you saw the morning Prophet, with the news about Cadmus Mulciber's house. I was called in, of course, so I got no sleep at all.



 **[alt_rachel](#)**


However! The good news is, I was working last night -- well, THAT'S not good news, given it was a Saturday. But. With everyone off on holiday, the office is always really quiet and I had a checklist of very specific things I wanted to get done yesterday evening. I had promised myself I'd get through all of them (and I do try my best to keep my commitments, you know!)

And all my tasks got checked off. So, at least I was productive before I got called in -- there was absolutely nothing to be done, you know? I helped set up wards to keep it contained but it was Fiendfyre and that stuff's nearly impossible to put out once it really gets going. Nothing's left this morning but ash. Cadmus Mulciber was at the Gala. We think some of his people were killed but we're still trying to chase those down.

Anyway, exhausting! I'm going to bed.

Do you have any New Year's Eve plans?



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-29 23:04:26](#)**
(no subject)

I saw the *Prophet* article, yes. Merlin...Fiendfyre?! I've heard of it, but I've never seen it. Is there any idea what caused it?

I didn't have as exciting a night as you (and three cheers for productivity, by the way; well done, you) although it was certainly pleasant; I met up with a few of my mates from school and we stayed out rather late, splitting pitchers of beer.

My mum was the one who had the exciting evening. Fox in the hen house, but it's all sorted now, fortunately, with very little loss, all things considered. One hen was injured, but the whole flock is safe now. Good thing, because there were more than three dozen (hens, chicks and roosters).

Mum was all in a dither, but we caught the fox. Tracked down and destroyed its den, too, so hopefully no other foxes will be moving in and taking over where that one left off.


I don't have plans for New Year's Eve...yet. Are you open to making some together?



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2013-12-31 17:19:17](#)**
(no subject)

I was planning to go watch fireworks. (Sorry not to get back to you more quickly. As you can imagine, it's been an *interesting* couple of days.)




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2013-12-31 20:36:01](#)**
(no subject)

If it's the River Thames display you had in mind, I know a place that serves coffee and decadent desserts, with excellent window views over the Museum of Curiosities. It's a good location for watching the New Year's Eve fireworks. (I prefer not shivering out in the cold myself).

If you like the idea, why don't you suggest a time that's convenient for you? We can meet at the bench in front of the Ministry where we've eaten lunch together, and apparate to the restaurant from there. However, I know it's last minute, and perhaps you've made other plans? If so, I'll entirely understand.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-01-01 06:22:51](#)**
(no subject)

I'm glad you got my owl.

I hope you're not sorry we missed the fireworks.

Happy New Year.

2013-12-29 11:14:00

Order Only: Oh, no!

Mr Snape, Mr Macnair:

Yesterday I went to Grimmauld Place to start more Polyjuice Potion because it sounded like we were going to go through loads of it. And I thought there were two clay jars of dried boomslang skin so I used most of one of them. I was going to tell you, Mr Macnair, when we were down to the last jar.



 **alt_hermione**

But this morning I just came back to check on things and the other jar is already empty!

We need more boomslang, as soon as possible. I think there's only enough left for about half a batch after the two cauldrons I'm making now.

I'm sorry, I should have actually checked both jars but I was in a hurry to get everything together and brewing and I just didn't and now there's not enough for more and we'll run out of potion. Or at least we'll have to prioritise the potion really, really carefully. And this isn't a good time for that, I know.



 **alt_severus** at **2013-12-29 23:53:12**


(no subject)

I see.

I have a very small amount set aside at Hogwarts, but you are correct, this is not a good time for shortages.

I will see what can be done.



 **alt_alice** at **2013-12-30 00:29:42**

(no subject)

Fletcher might be able to track down some, if anyone can get in touch with him. I've tried a few times to send him letters, but he's rather difficult to track down. He's still probably skulking around

Knockturn, or the seedier areas of New London -- Remus, Sirius, perhaps you might try to pin him down?



 **[alt_alice at 2013-12-30 00:55:45](#)**

Private Message to Severus

If you need to minimize your presence at Hogwarts to reduce your use for the time being, you are certainly welcome to stay here for the rest of hols.




 **[alt_severus at 2013-12-30 01:02:53](#)**

Re: Private Message to Severus

I have been judicious in my use when I am alone, but you are correct that minimising both need and risk would be wise.



 **[alt_alice at 2013-12-30 01:11:19](#)**

Re: Private Message to Severus

I'm not asking you to come here to work, mind. You've got enough to handle at Grimmauld, and the children are enjoying a break from their classes at the moment.

I very much expect you to use your time to rest up, and will get very cross with you if you don't.



 **[alt_macnair at 2013-12-30 01:42:45](#)**

(no subject)

No need to fret too much. I'll harvest more. Got two healthy ones now and one looking about to shed. Give us a couple of weeks and you should be able to refill the jar.

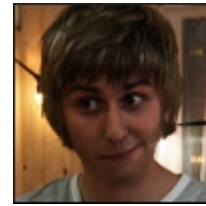
Be at least another three months before they shed again, though.

2013-12-29 12:54:00

Order Only: Usefulness

Hallo, all,

I say, I said before but I wanted to make it plain to everyone: I can't speak for anyone else, what, but I for one felt jolly useful last night. I wanted to say how much I appreciated the chance to contribute.



 [alt_justin](#)

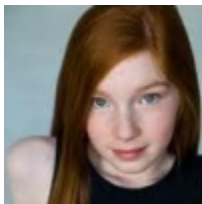
Diggory, were you all right? I know it was a bit nerve-wracking with Strangeweale in just that moment before you stunned him but I assure you we couldn't have done better had we taken another dose of Felix Felicis. I looked for you after returning but didn't see you until much later. You still looked a little keyed up, old chap.

My only problem was that I found out that Alfie Jugson had come into my room while I was helping guard the warehouse in the early hours this morning. Luckily, he assumed I'd popped out to meet Hydra and I didn't disabuse him, what.

Still, it was bally well smashing to be of some use, even in a small way. I'm sure not all missions are so successful but we can only improve the more closely we work together.

(It's well ironic that our CCF training has prepared us for this sort of thing, what! Of course, we've said that all along but to see it turning the tide is jolly gratifying.)

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2013-12-29 18:21:09**

(no subject)

I know. It was hard, but the good kind. And ever so much better than sitting in my room and reading about it. Even though I couldn't do much, what I could do felt worth while.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2013-12-29 18:43:58](#)**
(no subject)


Yeah, I was very happy to be helpful and that I got through it all without any of my post injury problems. I know it's not all cleared up because I can't get through any of my pre-cursing exercise routines and every once in a while the shakes still hit.

Do we have plans to work on group training for combat? I found myself thinking about it all as quidditch plays and sport teamwork. That worked last night, but we got lucky catching him without a crowd. Of course I also fell back on Raz's training as well, though clearly this wasn't a duel, but all the training about selecting your terrain and taking what advantage you can I think we put to good use. All the signals and commands I know for coordinating people are directly quidditch related. Not so much for small group combat.

I was really worried someone was going to walk around a corner at the wrong moment. We'd selected our ground to minimize that and I guess we could have fallen back on the old 'supporting a drunk friend' but that's so chancy. We got really lucky.

If I'm doing stuff like that again in the future, where I have to be in public afterwards, I think I may need some help or discussion about how to get a grip afterwards. I felt like I'd just caught the snitch and normally I'd be jumping around screaming my fool head off. But I couldn't, I had to go be social and dance and talk, when I felt like screaming. ~~I got some of the shakes then~~



 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2013-12-29 19:56:58](#)**
(no subject)

Group training? I'd be game for it.


Start up again with pick-up Quidditch games at the Weasleys, or some such, as a cover, yeah?



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2013-12-29 23:12:46](#)
(no subject)

Hey, it sounds like a great idea. Count us in, too.




 [alt_lee](#) at [2013-12-29 20:55:35](#)
(no subject)

I'd like more training too. I'm doing okay with the talking to people parts (maybe better than okay, dunno. Aldrich went well this time, anyway.) But I feel like I don't know how to do more active things safely.

And Fred and George and I didn't get even what some of you got with CCF. (Well, or Jeremy or Cedric, either.) I know there's a lot I don't know about how not to get in someone's way, or how to work together to do things I couldn't do on my own, or even just how to think through what we should plan for.

I've told Mrs Longbottom, but might as well say here: Aldrich is glad to take people in, but they'd like either women or men, if the men don't want to go to Sherwood, not both, because they only have so much space, and they'd have to interact.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2013-12-29 22:06:05](#)
(no subject)

We've got a set-up at Moddey for outdoor training. Added to it for Finbar and Tim when they first got here, and some of the older kids and Tonks have made good use of it since.

If you want to come over and give it a try, think about making it a regular thing, I'd be willing to supervise and show you some drills, talk strategy. And maybe Tonks or Kingsley could come by now and then to demonstrate.



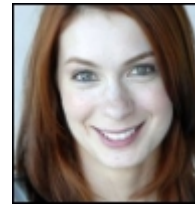
 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-29 22:07:48](#)**
(no subject)

(It really is a good set-up, and Alec and me could use some new sparring partners. And Mr Longbottom is a really good teacher when it comes to defence. But you could probably already guess as much. -CC)

2013-12-30 12:48:00

ORDER ONLY

First of all, I wanted to thank all of you. We accomplished an incredibly complicated set of tasks, and freed over forty souls from great pain and suffering, all while preventing this from ever happening again. I am so very proud of the way we worked together. It gives me great hope for our future.



 [alt_alice](#)

We must now begin to move our people to their locations of choice. This is much more easily done for some than others - we can't risk floo or a second Apparation of even longer distance for our pregnant women.

Sylvia, one of the older women in the group, has become a leader of sorts, and has proposed that the women establish a home together in Bedford. She seems to have a great deal of support - over half of the women have decided to go there together, all either with babes in arms or currently pregnant. Emily Ashton has requested we bring her Mary to her from Moddey once they've had a chance to get settled, and I'm very glad she'll be reunited with her mum. Ten of the women who are going to Bedford are pregnant, and would need to be escorted over land. Hiring carts is a possibility, although it would take at least two days of travel to get there from London.

Two of the women -- Jeanne Harris and Laurel Sinclair -- want to be with their sisters at Sherwood, so would need separate over land transport.

Pilar Mishraput and Clara Foster, two of the younger girls (they think they're around fifteen, but aren't sure - I expect they were just old enough to avoid the machine themselves) are interested in going to Moddey, and we're certainly willing to take them. James Armstrong was also surrendered to us as well, to be raised by us at Moddey. We can Apparate with them, so that won't prove too much difficulty at all.

A few of the women made the decision to go to Saltash - I can see how being in a place without magic might appeal to them. There's also a few who are going to Aldrich to see what they can do there. We'll be Apparating them to their desired locations as well.

The men have all decided to go to Sherwood, and will be making their

way there today. One, Jason Crenshaw, is actually a half-blooded wizard. He got sent to the camps for hiding his neighbour, who ended up at Sherwood, so he'll have a friendly face to look forward to. And Scott Brownmiller came back from Sherwood this morning in a tizzy - apparently, Delancy Ambleston, one of the other men, is actually related to Cecelia and Sally-Anne - his mother is Cecelia's sister. We'd asked for everyone to make lists of their immediate family members in the off-chance that there might be a relative who'd be willing to take them in, and it's a good thing we did. Vincent, the remaining man, also decided to go to Sherwood after some persuading - Jason insisted that he'd be welcome to stay with his neighbour too. He's still a little in shock from what's happened, and I'm glad he'll have someone to keep an eye out for him.

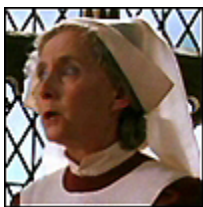
Are there any ideas on how we might get our group to Bedford? I believe if we put them in nice coats, they'd be able to pass fairly easily in public, and if we're careful and space them out in groups of three or four, it shouldn't appear too suspicious.




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-30 20:53:10**

Private Message to Poppy

Thank you for helping the women who didn't wish to bring their pregnancies to term. Several have come up to me today in tears telling me to thank you again for your kindness and discretion. Most of them are going to Aldrich or Saltash rather than stay with the group at Bedford, except for Clara, of course. How long might they need to recover before Apparation?



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2013-12-31 04:54:22**

Re: Private Message to Poppy

I'm sorry I had to run off this morning, Alice. I did get all my errands accomplished, hither and yon, and I will be there first thing tomorrow to see to the ones needing follow-on care.

I recommend giving them another day before we subject them to Apparating. It takes a while to recover one's sense of one's own boundaries and internal constitution after a pregnancy. You remember, I'm sure. At the very least, it would be kind to give them a day to find some inner stability, and then we'll want to listen carefully to how they say they are feeling.

That's assuming we have the luxury of time for a conservative approach. If, for whatever reason, it seems unsafe to keep them there, then I would say the risk of complications is diminishing hourly and by tomorrow it's unlikely anything truly dire would ensue if we needed to move them. In that case, I'd expect them to be quite nauseous--likely beyond help of the usual potions--but a choice between safety and sickness is an easy one to make.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-30 21:09:47](#)

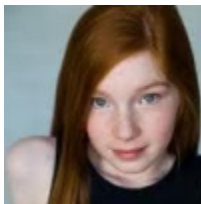
Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

One of the proudest moments I've ever had was seeing both of you at work the other day.

Neville, when you were standing guard with your father, I was struck by how much you look like him, and how you've grown. Thank you for being so tireless in your duties.

And Evie, running to Charing Cross and back again, and constantly ready with just what was needed, whether it was a handkerchief or a cup of tea or just some kind words. You were a great helpmeet, and I'll have you know, Clara and Pilar are going to Moddey because of your conversations with them.

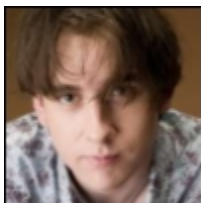
Thank you, both of you, for working so hard. I love you so much.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-31 03:41:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

I'm glad I could help. And I'm so very glad to hear about Pilar and Clara. I hope we'll get to see more of each other next time we visit.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2013-12-31 20:59:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn

Honestly, I was dead proud to be asked to do it, and it was a wonderful feeling to be actually taking a shift for the Order together with him. Yeah, I *am* looking more like him these days, and the resemblance is really noticeable now. I think my face is narrowing, ever since I shot up last summer. Ron said something about it at the

end of the August, in fact.

I was really proud of this mission. The lifesaving ones are the best.

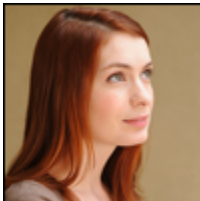



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2013-12-30 21:52:38](#)**
(no subject)

His mother is my

So he's my cousin? My first cousin.

And



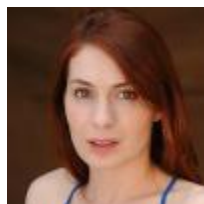
 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-30 22:27:50](#)**
Private Message to Sally-Anne


You might not remember him from your brief visit, as you were quite occupied, but he was the youngest of the men -- he's only just turned 19.

He's not sure if your aunt, Marguerite, is still alive -- he was separated from his parents when he was found to have magical abilities at the age of 11, and entered into service at the Ministry until Strangeweale took him for his own uses.

All of them are victims in their own ways. I think he'll bear the mental scars of what he's been made to do for a good long while. Kind words seem to hurt him more than help him, as if he thinks he's utterly undeserving.

I'm very glad your mum is willing to take him in.

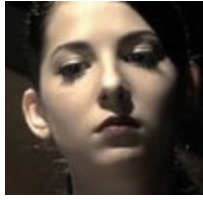


 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-30 22:30:10](#)**
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

The more stories I hear from them all, the more I regret not being able to act sooner.

What he's done to these people

I'm sorry, Sally-Anne.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-30 22:32:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

My mum had nine brothers and sisters and I actually know all their names but I don't remember where Marguerite was in the order. (She was older than Mum, though. Mum was the second-youngest.)

Everyone in Slytherin can practically reel off their whole family tree -- I could tell you exactly how Ron is related to Draco (even though they'd both prefer to pretend they're not). So I used to wonder if I had any cousins on my muggle side.

Anyway I am pretty sure I got his bracelet off for him but I don't remember anything else about him.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-30 22:43:56](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne

I'm so sorry.

How awful.

And sad.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-30 22:49:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I feel like I ought to be thinking 'how awful' but mostly I'm thinking, 'I have a cousin. A wizard cousin.'

Which makes me feel guilty actually, that I'm thinking about how nice it is we've found him instead of how horrifying it is what happened to him.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-30 23:14:19](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well, I suppose there are many ways to take it -- and thinking of the good side of things is probably better.

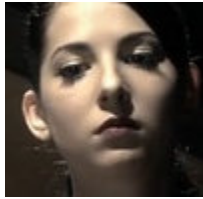
It is nice you've found him. It's sort of amazing, if you think about it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-30 23:15:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

And just think. You got to be one of the people who rescued him.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-30 22:50:51](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

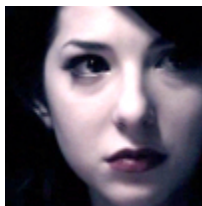
I really probably do have loads and loads and loads of cousins. In muggle camps. Because my mother had NINE brothers and sisters.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2013-12-30 23:15:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I wonder. He can't be the only other muggleborn wizard besides your mum. I mean, it does run in families, doesn't it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-30 23:27:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

It does -- I mean look at those two babies that got named after Bellatrix and Barty, and all the other siblings at Moddey. But there's no guarantee either.



 [alt_pansy at 2013-12-30 23:24:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Ten kids is a lot.

And I thought having seven was insane.



 [alt_sally_anne at 2013-12-30 23:36:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well it's clear Mrs Weasley wanted a daughter. I mean she had Bill and Charlie, fine. And then she had a third and that was Percy. And then she had a fourth and that was the TWINS and instead of saying 'Merlin help me, what was I thinking having these two?' she had Ron -- and with the spacing they must have gotten started with Ron right around the same time the Twins started WALKING, which -- yeah, I don't know.

She had Ron, and then a year later she had Ginny, and then Ginny was the last.

I mean I suppose it might have been Mr Weasley who wanted a daughter except no, if you think about it for five minutes you know it was Mrs Weasley and Mr Weasley's contribution to the decision was 'yes dear,' and sperm.

(Don't tell Ron I said this, I mean I do LIKE his family ~~even~~ though and -- well, just don't tell him.)

Anyway with my grandparents -- I have no idea, actually, because when I was little I thought having nine siblings sounded utterly wizard. I didn't have any and I was desperately jealous of people who had them. So I never asked.




 [alt_pansy at 2013-12-31 02:31:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Of course I won't!

I still can't imagine. Your gran was pregnant for almost eight years. That's a year longer than we'll be in school.




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2013-12-31 01:05:11](#)**
(no subject)

If the men going to Sherwood end up in my group, I'd be happy to get to know them and keep an eye out for them. I'm in Settlement Four, Charlie Company, remember.

But I suppose where they end up depends on which company Mr Crenshaw's neighbour is in.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-31 05:58:26](#)**
(no subject)


I'm sure they'd appreciate a kind word, Terry.



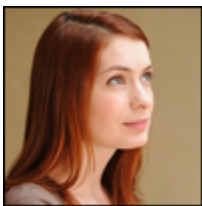
 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2013-12-31 02:15:01](#)**
(no subject)


Despite your best efforts to force me to idleness, I have never coped well with inactivity; I have several doses available of an improved Calming Draught that reduces the risk of dependency and, I hope, will blur the severity of the worst of the memories without removing them entirely. Should any of the poor unfortunates we have rescued continue having nightmares, see me for dispensation.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-31 02:34:36](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, Severus. Much appreciated.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2013-12-31 02:49:04](#)**
Private Message to Severus

Please do try and get some sleep. You've had precious little of it lately, and you know your work will be the better for it.

You've certainly earned it, love.

I can't thank you enough for what you've done in this past week alone.

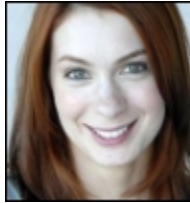


 [alt_severus](#) at [2013-12-31 03:02:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Severus

I did nothing more than what needed to be done. My training for such missions might not have been what you lot would recognise, but there is a certain satisfaction to using skills I learnt as one of them against them.

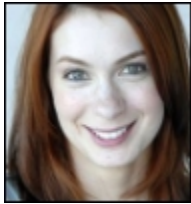
And speaking of rest: if you attempt a fourth sleepless night, I shall drug your tea.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-31 03:11:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Severus

Duly noted.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2013-12-31 03:04:00](#)

Private Message to Sirius

You were brilliant, by the way.

Everyone was brilliant.

But you were extraordinarily brilliant.

I couldn't have done this without you.

Thank you.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2013-12-31 04:04:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Sirius

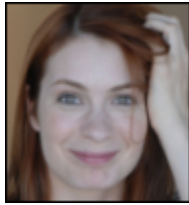
Are you drunk, love?


Oh, Merlin. You're not up the duff again, yourself,

are you?

Or... If Charlie had a blunt and didn't share I'll murder him.

(By the way, I'm writing to Terrie about the women who want to go to Bedford, see if she has ideas about getting them from the train to the farms.)



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-31 04:10:41**

Re: Private Message to Sirius

Well, I'm obviously rather tired, because you just made me laugh until I cried.

And I am surrounded by babies! All the time! People just keep handing them to me. I hardly need to make my own.

Thank you.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2013-12-31 03:07:40**

Private Message to Pansy Parkinson

Thank you for the food, Pansy. It's something one doesn't think about when one is in the middle of things, but it must be costing you quite a great deal to come up with three meals for forty people, and it's very thoughtful of you to be so generous.

And Hitty is a marvel. I'm so glad I got the chance to meet her.

2013-12-30 16:27:00

Private message to Ron

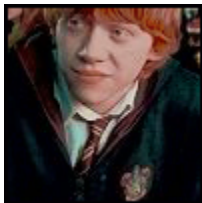
Are you working on New Year's Day? I mean for your internship.



If you're free you could come over. My father says he ~~wants a look at~~ wants to meet you.

 **alt_sally_anne**

You don't have to, though, I mean if you're busy.



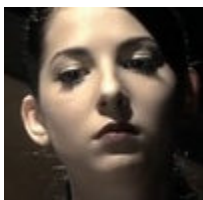
 **alt_ron** at **2013-12-31 02:32:54**

(no subject)

I've got to work in the morning, but Desai said I can go at noon on Wednesday. I think the most important part of the internship in her opinion is our physical training sessions, and those are first thing. I'm working on a project--or observing, really--with one of the units, but I'm still allowed a half-day on New Year's, so yeah. I could come.

Should I bring something with me? I mean, like a gift for your father for inviting me? Mum'll know, I guess, but I reckon you know what he'd think was nice--or wouldn't.

Do you think he'll like me?



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2013-12-31 06:38:48**


(no subject)

You could bring something if you wanted, maybe Christmas cookies? Not jam, and not alcohol. It doesn't really matter so long as it's not either of those.

I -- no, actually. I don't think he'll like you.

But don't worry about it.



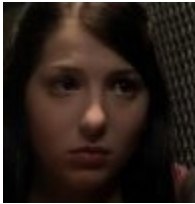
 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-31 02:35:48](#)

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

The project I'm assigned to... it's to do with Astra Morgansen.

They're making her rewrite Pure Victory.

It's really terrible. She just sits there and writes and writes, and then they interrupt her and make her read out what she's written, and then they argue with each other about whether it's setting things up properly, and all of them have ideas about what she should do--this kind of scene or a speech by that character or maybe they should have started off by having Amaranth hear a long Proclamation read by some official for Our Lord that would set up something or other that they think should be the Inciting Incident or some rubbish like that.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2013-12-31 06:39:13](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

They're WHAT?

Oh, ugh. UGH, how horrid.

2013-12-30 18:51:00

ORDER ONLY

I was thinking we might do a Flying Club thing after the New Year to help map out some of the Octoboros routes. If anyone's up for it, let me know.



 [alt_harry](#)

And. If we could do a Tea Appreciation, that'd be nice too.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-31 02:58:19**

Private Message to Sirius

Hermione passed along your card and the Broom Maintenance kit. It's really ace. Thanks. I hope we can get some people together for Tea Appreciation so I can come to Grimmauld for a bit.

That'd be nice.

And maybe I could get away some time on New Years Eve? They're always really busy, and I could just Apparate over for like an hour or something, I don't think I'd be missed, and Hermione could keep an eye out.

Anyways. I hope you had a Happy Christmas.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2013-12-31 03:02:57**

Re: Private Message to Sirius

Anytime you want to visit, Harry. For as long as you can stay.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2013-12-31 03:19:18**

Re: Private Message to Sirius

If it was anytime I wanted, it'd be a lot more often. Now that I can Apparate, it'll be easier, though.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-31 03:12:13](#)
(no subject)

Harry,


I say, Tea Appreciation would be smashing. I shan't have to go to the Ministry on Wednesday, would that do?

Do you think people would be interested in continuing readings, in the new term? It might be a bit of a crush if we're also starting up defence practice again but it did seem an ideal venue to bring in new blood, if you follow me.

I've a few ideas about titles we might try to find, what, should we make a regular occurrence of it.

-Justin




 [alt_harry](#) at [2013-12-31 03:21:12](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

That might be good. It takes a really, really long time to read stuff out loud, though. A lot longer than I thought. So it might be hard to get people to come regularly, unless it's one you can do in a few hours, or it's super exciting.

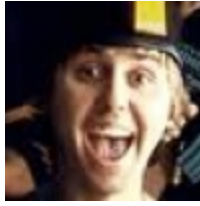
And Wednesday would be great. Thanks.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2013-12-31 03:31:18](#)
(no subject)

My parents have some contraband stuff in the attic that I could maybe bring.

There's this one author, Tolken something, whose books are pretty snitch.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-31 03:44:13](#)
(no subject)

Suze,

Tolkien, yes. You've copies? I say, that's jolly brilliant! He's just who I was thinking might do well. Oh, I say, good show, old girl. See if you've a copy of *The Hobbit*--that's the best one to start.

I've the copies of Brontë (if Sally-Anne can stomach reading *Jane Eyre* again, what!) and Austen--although, I rather think perhaps those might not be best until the group is well and truly committed, if you follow me.


Luna's read LeGuin and that's another excellent choice, what.

I say, have a look in your attic and see what else there is.

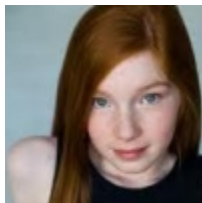
I wonder how many others have a secret trove of books? I mean to say, the way Ernie and Megan knew *A Christmas Carol*, and that sort of thing. It might make selecting titles more...more collaborative, if they thought they could bring their own...guilty pleasures.


-J



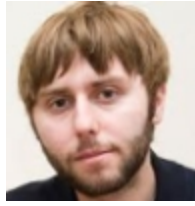
 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-31 03:45:12](#)
(no subject)

Mum's sent me some Austen. I'd no idea you read her! *Sense & Sensibility* was lovely, but *Pride & Prejudice* is my favourite so far. I've just started *Emma*, and she's ever so funny.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-31 03:47:07](#)
(no subject)

And I think you're right about people bringing their own books from home. Which would be *brilliant*.

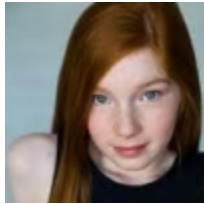


 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-31 03:57:33](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I wonder whether we should let them know, what? They'd have to look round for anything they want to bring between now and Sunday, or else wait until Easter if they're going home then.

Perhaps we might send round a Galleon about it and encourage spreading the word from there.


-Justin



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-31 04:05:37](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I think that'd be just the thing we ought to do.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-31 03:55:38](#)
(no subject)


Evs,

Yes, my mother reads her Austen almost once a year, or used to do, at any rate.

I do enjoy them, what, but in the case of *Emma*, what, I find that my sympathies rest entirely with Mr Knightley for most of the novel. One can only hope he successfully curbs her worse qualities beyond the limits of what the page tells.

-Justin




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2013-12-31 04:05:03](#)
(no subject)

I'm currently feeling rather sorry for poor Harriet, and Emma is terribly short on common sense.

I wonder if Miss Austen had a young friend like Emma? She so clearly likes her, but finds her utterly silly. As do I.



 **alt_susan** at [2013-12-31 04:30:20](#)
(no subject)


I've not read that one! She sounds a little bit like Brown, except less horrid.



 **alt_evelyn** at [2013-12-31 05:41:17](#)
(no subject)

I'll lend it once I'm done, if you'd like.



 **alt_susan** at [2013-12-31 04:25:12](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, that's one! With the dragon and all.

My parents know I know what's in that trunk-- they'd be well cross about my taking it school, but there's always the switch-the-dust-jacket trick.

Now I'm wondering who else might have stuff. I mean, I'd never have guessed that Megan knew anything like that, and we've been dormmates for six years.

Brocklehurst, maybe? Or Corner??



 **alt_pansy** at [2013-12-31 03:27:02](#)
(no subject)


I can't guarantee I wouldn't slow you down, but I'd be up for flying if you need enough of us to make it a proper Club outing.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2013-12-31 03:28:24](#)**
(no subject)

I could be available too, Harry.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2013-12-31 04:06:52](#)**
(no subject)

If we could wait until Saturday, I'm keen to go hunting for Octobori. But you shouldn't wait if you can go before that, especially since Saturday's the last day of hols and people will be wanting to do family things and pack and wotnot.

Maybe we could try to get away on a Saturday this term and see if we can find any of them in the north. There must be one--maybe more, y'know? But we'd have to think about how we'd get permission to go and not have anyone go with us we couldn't trust.

Anywiz. Sorry I'm not able to get away this week unless it's night flying. But I don't reckon that's the best way to go hunting for ward stones.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2013-12-31 05:40:06](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, we'll probably go before that. But you're doing important stuff, so you've got a pass. Maybe we'll head out again on Saturday too, if we have the chance. I'll let you know.

And maybe we can make it a project for CCF or something? For later in the year, I mean.

2013-12-30 19:58:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne



I JUST SNOGGED GEORGE WEASLEY.

We were going out. For business. And to celebrate properly. Because we had a lot to celebrate! And! We were getting sort of silly, and one point, Fred leaned over and just sort of kissed me on the cheek, like it was all in fun, you know? And when George leaned over to do the same, I just sort of went for it, and he broke it off and just got this enormous smile on his face and then we had a lovely proper snog and it's been ages since I was really truly kissed and George is rather fit and I'm so glad he smiled and I'm all butterflies and perhaps just a little tipsy too but anyways. Snogging! !!!


 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2013-12-31 04:03:01**
(no subject)

Brilliant!



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2013-12-31 04:14:15**
(no subject)

It so very is.

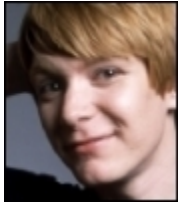
2013-12-30 22:21:00


Order Only: Private message to George Weasley

So?



 [alt_fred](#)




 [alt_george](#) at [2013-12-31 04:22:20](#)

(no subject)

Yeah.

Apparently, she can tell us apart after all.

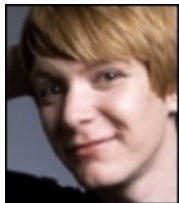


 [alt_fred](#) at [2013-12-31 04:23:49](#)

(no subject)

And how.

Took you long enough.



 [alt_george](#) at [2013-12-31 04:24:21](#)

(no subject)

Oi!

2013-12-31 00:13:00

Order Only: Goblins

Right, then, realised I hadn't updated everyone on where we stand with the goblins.



 [alt_charlie](#)

Mum had a cursed dagger that she inherited a few years ago, and I went to present it to the goblins at Gringott's to ask them to find the owner and give it back. (For those of you who don't remember, goblin sense of ownership's different than ours. To them, the person who made the thing owns it, and 'buying' it from them doesn't transfer the ownership, it's only renting it for the life of the buyer. So, by inheriting the dagger, we were actually stealing it from the goblins, in their view.)

Griphook, the goblin we've been talking to most of the time -- he's not one of the Clan Elders, that much I know, but I don't know exactly what his status is, except that the Elders sent us to him when we tried to talk to them -- was very surprised when I brought it, but surprised in the good sort of way. We had a very nice talk about many things, including goblin grievances with wizardkind, the main ones being the Code of Wand Use and the disagreement about how 'ownership' works.

I told him I couldn't speak for everyone, but as far as I was concerned, "if I were ever in charge" I'd be happy to change the Wand Ban but changes in the definition of 'ownership' would be a much harder thing to bring about. (We haven't yet said outright that we're trying to overthrow the Lord Protector, or even that we're a "we", but Griphook's no idiot and our conversations have been full of careful hypotheticals on both ends.) He was listening, at least.

The one good thing is that I 'happened' to mention that it would suit my purposes if access to Strangeweale's vault was blocked after he died. We went back and forth on that one a bit, with Griphook arguing that if I wasn't prepared to say that goblin rules of inheritance applied to all goblin-made items, I couldn't ask them to not use human rules of inheritance for things humans put in their vault, but eventually we agreed that the presentation of the dagger was enough to trade for the Gringotts goblins blocking any attempts to open the vault for as long as possible, just this once. He said he can't guarantee forever, but he can definitely make sure it's a while.

So, more goblin artefacts to deliver as presents would help there, as well as wands or wand-lore -- if Melli is willing to teach them, that might be something we could trade for very high price. And, of course, once we overthrow His Noselessness, somebody has to make sure to put "removing the Wand Ban" on the priority list.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2013-12-31 19:13:30](#)**
(no subject)

Wands would be difficult to spare, but we might be able to swing one or two as a symbolic gesture, depending how the negotiations with the centaurs go. And between the wands at Saltash and the ones we took from the guards during the breakout, we've got a little more to work with than we did before.

Could always be better, though.

Melli's certainly willing to teach wandlore. She's taken Patty into apprenticeship, so she's had some experience with that. Perhaps we could convince her to apprentice a goblin, too. There might be a problem with ownership, though -- they'd want to keep the wands they made, wouldn't they? Perhaps they have to bring their own supplies or something? And we'd have to figure out what we'd ask in return and what it'd be worth to them -- maybe just have a really enormous favour in reserve. I figure they wouldn't like to have an unpaid debt.

I wonder if the centaurs'd be more likely to help with supplies if they knew we were sharing some of it with non-humans?

How do they feel about goblins, anyways?



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-01-01 12:11:01](#)**
(no subject)

You know what, I think the idea of seeing if Melli would be interested in a goblin apprentice is a really strong one. You're right that ownership of the resulting wands would be an issue -- although I'm not a hundred percent sure, I think there's something murky about apprenticeships and who owns what's made during them, but that's something I'd be able to ask Griphook about as part of the discussions we've been having about goblin culture. But if we tell

them that we're offering instruction only, and any wands their chosen apprentice made would have to be made with materials they provided, it might be a huge advantage for us with relatively little risk or outlay on our part. Just Melli's time, and if she's already teaching Patty, she might be able to incorporate another person into the lessons with less trouble.

I haven't dared bring up wand supplies with the centaurs yet. They're so much more upset by us using material from living creatures as wand cores than the goblins are. (At least, I think that's what Magorian was saying when he said that wizards' adoption of the outer shell causes Andromeda to weep. Sometimes it's hard to tell.) I don't know for absolute certain what they think of the goblins, but I've never heard there's animosity there.

I'll see what else I can get the centaurs to tell me plain enough for me to understand, since I was planning to head up to the Forest this afternoon while it's quiet.

2013-12-31 09:45:00

Private Message to Ron Weasley



 [alt_justin](#)

Hullo, Ron, old chap!

I say, how's it going on your end? I don't half think that no work at all gets done round here during these two weeks, what. Honestly, it's a wonder they bother with an internship at Christmas.

Mr Pontner does seem to know where all the good parties are, however. I say, if we go to many more I bally well shan't be able to fit my robes.

However, some of the lads are going for a pint after lunch today (we've been told we're released after 1:00. You?). Wonder if you'd fancy joining us, if you can break away.

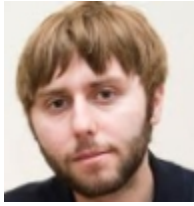
It hasn't been *all* food and fun, of course. Only it does seem that way when we're forever popping off to another department to sit in on their meetings and Mrs So-and-so has baked and Mr So-and-so brought in a box of crackers and everyone seems quite content to stay merry right through Twelfth Night. Particularly with the official Ministry party being postponed. Oh, and I should say there's been *quite* the discussion about that, these past two weeks, what! One would think it's the event of the season the way they were going on. I'm sure it's lovely but how can it compare to anything Our Lord puts on during the season? Are you going to the fireworks tonight? Mr Pontner hopes they'll be visible in Belgium--he's had an ongoing debate with the Belgian minister regarding trade embargoes. (I've done a little translation for him, as well, via the Floo. I say, that was an education in itself!)


But truly, I have learned quite a bit and met all sorts of hard-working people.

They've asked if I'd come back at Easter hols. I can't imagine it's all baskets and colouring eggs, what--I hope very much it's a bit more serious. I'm sure it will be, for by then, Mr Harvey will have his project well underway and it might make more sense.

Must dash. Let me know if you're able to step out and I'll make sure you know where we're going, old man.

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt_justin](#) at [2013-12-31 15:53:28](#)

Order Only

I've got loads to tell Sirius tomorrow. That Floo call to Belgium alone was bally well worth taking this post. Though it's true there are spates that have been frightfully dull.

But also, I asked about the wards. The answers were one thing, and the *way* they answered was another. I say, I just might have to put the memory in a Pensieve to truly analyse it.

Are they letting you go early? It's true that the chaps here are taking me for a drink but I'd like to excuse myself quickly and it would be easier if I had a mate along, what.

-J



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-31 16:41:36](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, sorry about that. And I'm missing tea at Laszlo's, too.

I told Sally Anne I'd go out to her father's when I'm done tomorrow so he can meet me. It's too bad because I've got some stories to tell. But, uh- yeah, I've got to go now. I'll write more tonight, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2013-12-31 16:43:58](#)

(no subject)

Sorry, mate. I don't get off until noon tomorrow. Well, I mean, I work a full day today and a half-day tomorrow.

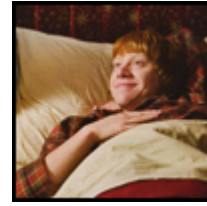
I'm just done with morning training now, and cleaning up so I can go up and join in on a project with one of the Auror units. I'd say they're as busy this time of year as ever. Maybe more so, but I don't have anything to compare it with.

Shame about this afternoon, though. Enjoy yourselves!

2013-12-31 23:06:00

Private Message to Sally Anne

I just told Mum I needed to go to bed so I could get up in the morning. How wrong is that?!



But really, we've been sitting around not saying anything. Thinking. About this year without Dad. And other things.

 [alt_ron](#)

The way things changed with us is the best thing that happened to me this year. I mean it.

Happy New Year, you. I can't wait to see you tomorrow.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-01 06:19:40**
(no subject)

You went to bed? My Dad wanted to go see the fireworks so we did. He took me by side-along. I think the Twins' fireworks are better, actually, but it was fun seeing the ones over the Thames.

I'm looking forward to tomorrow.