

2014-01-01 00:24:00

Happy 1997 to everyone!

And happy birthday to Luna Lovegood.

(In three more years it'll be the year 2000.
Hard to believe because I remember when I
was little I thought that sounded incredibly
far away.)



 **alt_sally_anne**

[2014-01-01 12:52:00](#)

ORDER ONLY

Yesterday evening, Marston Strangeweale stood before his victims while they read an accounting of his crimes, including imprisonment, use of Imperius to commit violations of body and soul, torture, and the murders of Midge Gardener, Alise Sinclair, Melissa Siegel, and Dorothy Harris. He was also held responsible for driving Rose Watson to suicide, and for causing the injuries that contributed greatly to the death of Chloe Selwyn. He was asked if he wished to speak in his own defence. He rejected our basis of authority to try and sentence him, and stated for the record that what we were doing amounted to kidnapping, torture, and murder, whereas his actions were all considered 'perfectly legal'.




 **[alt_frank](#)**

He was then unanimously judged to be guilty of crimes against humanity by those present. Based on pre-Protectorate standards, Marston Strangeweale's crimes would have earned him a sentence of a Dementor's Kiss under the laws of the Wizengamot. The victims who were present stated that their preference was to have him hanged by the neck until dead.

His sentence will be carried out today at 5 o'clock in the evening at the Laszlo warehouses for any who wish to stand as witness.




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-01-01 21:04:48](#)**

Private Message to Neville Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Your mum and I will be standing witness.

You don't have to come, son. I'd rather you didn't, I'd be lying if I said otherwise, but I'll understand if you decide to be there. Merlin knows, it's not something we plan to do regularly.




 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-01-01 23:19:42](#)**

Re: Private Message to Neville Longbottom and Colin Creevey

I won't, most because of Evelyn. Because I don't think I can persuade her not to go if I attend myself.



 **alt_frank** at [2014-01-01 21:07:20](#)

Private Message to Evelyn Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Evie, I've just told your brother that he could come if he wanted, but I'd rather he didn't. Same goes for you, sweetie.

I know you and your brother feel a great sense of duty and responsibility, but what we're doing today isn't something you should feel obligated to see.




 **alt_frank** at [2014-01-01 21:16:32](#)

Private Message to Terry and Colin Creevey

Hey, kiddo.

Just wanted to let you know, you don't have to be here today.



 **alt_terry** at [2014-01-01 23:20:35](#)

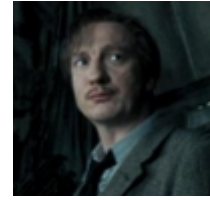
Re: Private Message to Terry and Colin Creevey

Understood. But I'll be there anyway.

2014-01-01 15:04:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

You going?



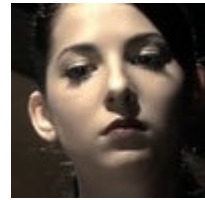
 **alt_lupin**

2014-01-01 20:39:00

Order Only

So did you kill execute Strangeweale?

I really couldn't come, because of my father.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_kingsley](#) at **2014-01-02 02:51:13**

(no subject)

The deed has been done, yes.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-02 02:54:19**

ISS business

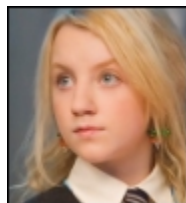
Were any of you there?




 [alt_neville](#) at **2014-01-02 03:07:48**

Re: ISS business

I wasn't, no. Dad assured me I didn't need to be, and frankly, I didn't want Evelyn to see it, so I figured if I didn't go, she wouldn't either.



 [alt_luna](#) at **2014-01-02 03:08:28**

Re: ISS business

I didn't go, either.



 [alt_terry](#) at **2014-01-02 03:15:56**

Re: ISS business

I was there.


Strangeweale was trying to be brave, you could see that. Or at least disdainful and contemptuous.

No one was crowing or jeering or anything. It was all quite solemn.

But it didn't go right. His slave, Timothy put the noose around his neck, and they had set it up so that he would drop a good distance. But I guess it wasn't enough, so he didn't die right away.

It lasted about a minute with him struggling to breathe. ~~Kicking and jerk~~ That was horrible. One of the girls watching started to swoon. I guess that's what finally made Sirius and Kingsley pull out their wands and hit him with a spell at almost the same moment. I don't know what it was; it wasn't Avada Kedavra, but that was it then. He stopped struggling instantly, and as far as I could tell, he was dead.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-02 04:28:06](#)

Re: ISS business

(I say, I know I'm not part of ISS, and I try to keep my nose out and all, but I only wanted to say that I'm glad you weren't there. -CC)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 04:30:15](#)

Re: ISS business

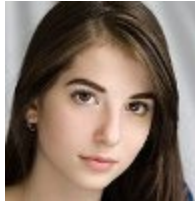
(I think you ought to be allowed, I mean, you're the same age we are. Or Luna and Evelyn, anyway, right?)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-02 04:44:10](#)

Re: ISS business

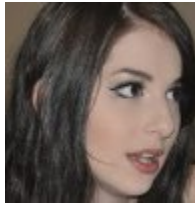
(I'll be 16 in April, yes. To tell you the truth, I was unsure whether I ought to say anything at all, as it was marked as your business and I try to respect privacy whenever I can. I don't read the journal posts that are written only for ISS, like the ones Harry puts out, because it seems a bit like eavesdropping, hey? More than usual, that is.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 05:02:22](#)
Re: ISS business

Well it's fine with me. ISS threads are for the people who are still school aged, or close and you count.


(I'm sure all the grownups read them anyway, they just pretend not to.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 05:03:04](#)
Re: ISS business


(Okay maybe not ALL the grownups but certainly some of them.)



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-02 20:48:33](#)
Re: ISS business

(I suppose so. But you lot have your own way about you, and you built this on your own, before the Order, and I certainly didn't want to presume.)



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:23:14](#)
Re: ISS business


Sally-Anne,

No, I wasn't there. I'm afraid I rather disrupted our Teatime this afternoon, as well, because when Mr Longbottom--Colin, I should say, what--wrote that Mr Strangeweale was to be executed, I...I asked Sirius if he wouldn't reconsider.

We all went round the point quite a lot, I daresay. But in the end I suppose it had to be done.

-Justin



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-02 03:28:19](#)

Re: ISS business

It wasn't disrupting.

It was important.

To talk about it, I mean.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-02 03:41:53](#)

Re: ISS business

I think that part of what made it difficult was that it wasn't entirely the Order's decision. It was the ones that he hurt the most who had the right to decide.

I sort of think, though, from the looks on some of their faces afterward, that it's beginning to sink in for them that justice isn't simple tit-for-tat retribution.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-02 03:43:12](#)

Re: ISS business

I don't guess I'd ever thought before about how what we were going to do would be different from killing someone in a battle. Or assassinating them.

And it's hard to have things be truly fair.

I mean, the Wizengamot wouldn't see any problem with what he did, even though they would have before. And if it can change that easily

it's just hard, isn't it? Like we know what he did was wrong. And there's no question he did it. And if he got out somehow, he'd try to do it again.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-01-02 04:14:16](#)

Re: ISS business


You're right.

It's especially unfair now, obviously. But here's the thing. I'm not sure if it ever *has* been fair. Really and truly fair. We've treated Muggles like they were inferior for thousands of years. And the history I've read talks about people getting treated badly just because of who they are over and over again, all over the world.

Once the dust settles, once we've truly won, we'll need to write all new rules. And those new rules might not be perfect, but we can at least try to make them better.

Anyways. That's what I think about. Whenever things seem really unfair. Or hard. Or wrong.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 04:38:25](#)

Re: ISS business

Evs,


Yes, but you see, in almost all those cases, it's because for some reason the people treating others unfairly are doing so because they *believe* themselves superior--I mean to say, because they actually believe there's something less equal about the people they oppress, what.

It's true with magic or religion or nationality or the colour of one's skin or the fact that one's father is from one tribe on one side of the river and another's father came from the opposite bank. It's well ridiculous but humans seem always to have found ways to point out difference and place a value on it.

I say, that's what needs to change.

-Justin




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-01-02 05:40:32](#)

Re: ISS business

Oh, yes, I agree.

I think that's a lot harder to do, but certainly worth trying for.



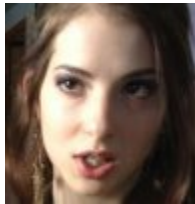
 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:26:50](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

I say, I thought about going, if only to protest again, what, but it was clear it wasn't going to make any difference.

At any rate, from Terry's description I'm well glad I didn't pour oil on the flames: It sounds as if Sirius regrets it, now that it's over. And Mrs Longbottom as well.

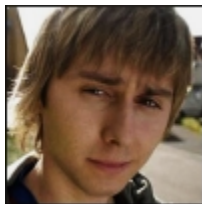
-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 03:28:54](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

You didn't want to kill him? What on earth did you think we ought to do with him instead?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:32:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Mrs Longbottom's suggesting Obliviating Mr Strangeweale's father and keeping him prisoner in Saltash. Why could we not have done the same to the son, what?

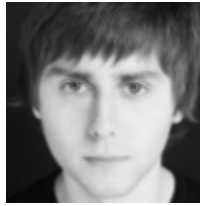
-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 03:41:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Why should Saltash have to spend resources to keep Strangeweale under guard? It would be different if we could just pack him off to Azkaban and let Dementors handle it.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:45:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yes, that's what Sirius said, or much the same.

My point isn't so much that he ought to have been handed to Dementors *or* executed but offered a chance to...to atone for what he's done. He could have been put to work at something, under guard certainly, but he could have earned his ration, what.

There are alternatives to ending a life when it's not necessary to do so.

Oh, I say, I've just read Matron's reply. That says it all much better than I could have done.

-Justin



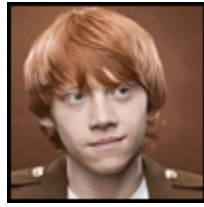
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 03:56:50](#)


Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

I guess I think it's obvious this was necessary? Because we don't own a prison full of Dementors to guard people (and I don't know why anyone thinks that's better than killing people anyway, you weren't around Second Year when there were Dementors outside Hogwarts but having Dementors anywhere nearby -- just trust me, I think anyone would rather be hung. Hanged.) There just are not that many of us! Saltash, okay, I guess Saltash kind of works, but there's still the possibility he could get away.

There are people who just have to die. I don't know why so

many people in the Order don't understand



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-02 04:06:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yeah, you're right about the Dementors. No way is it better to be Dementor-kissed than dying.

I mean, it's worse, innit? At least it's worse for anyone who cared about you. I'm not sure the person who gets the kiss knows they're not dead, y'know? But they go on. And there's something really, truly horrible about the idea of someone you loved or even someone you were related to or knew going on and on as just an empty thing like that. So who does that punish, really?

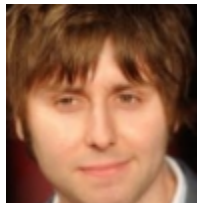
I mean, I think the point of it is actually to make other people not want to commit the sort of crimes that would get you Kissed. But I don't believe it works like that. I mean, it won't stop me fighting against the Protectorate, and I doubt it would stop anyone who was an actual criminal from doing whatever illegal thing they mean to do. They call that a deterrent in MLE, but I don't believe it. (Keeping that opinion to myself, obviously.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 03:45:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

I mean would it be better to lock him up in the Hogwarts dungeons for ever and ever (and ever and ever)?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:50:21](#)

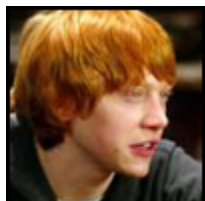
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron


It might interest you to know that we did mention that! Of course, the reason Mr Milland is locked up is that Mr Snape needs to masquerade as him and needs him alive for the polyjuice potion.

I rather suspect, from Sirius' answer, that they've had discussion about that in the past, too. The necessity of it, what. And that as soon as ever there's a way to release him, they will do.

It's still a bad business, as Sirius put this, what.

-Justin



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-02 03:54:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

I think maybe it would.

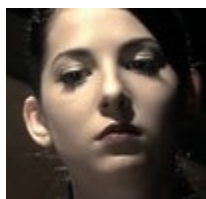
The thing is, this way he'll never change his mind or say sorry or do anything to change anyone else's mind. I mean, I don't know that he ever would change his mind, but this way it's never going to happen.

I dunno.

No, I do. The thing is killing someone because they killed people doesn't make sense. If killing's awful, then more killing doesn't make it better.

Only, of course, I think it's different when it's a fair fight. In a war we didn't start.

So, yeah. Not sure that holds up.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 03:59:47](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Well it's a shame he won't ever get to change his mind but he had lots and lots and LOTS of opportunities to look at what he was doing and think to himself, 'oi, wait -- I'm a complete and utter evil git, basically a Dementor in human form. MY GOD, I AM MURDERING CHILDREN! Maybe I should quit my job here at Mysteries and devote myself to Magical Botany or breeding pet snakes or really ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.'

And he didn't and now he's dead. And he will NEVER KILL ANOTHER CHILD.

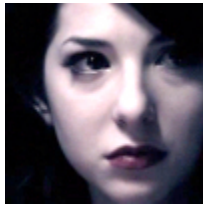


 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-02 04:09:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yeah. But he could be stopped from doing that without US killing HIM.

D'you see?

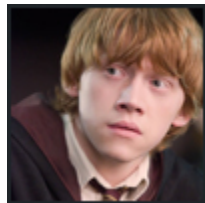


 **alt_sally_anne** at [2014-01-02 04:27:05](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Not without guarding him, really carefully, forever.

And even if you're careful, sometimes people escape. So they'd have had to use polyjuice in front of him, or else Oblivate him every day, just in case. They'd need to have people guard him even in emergencies, they'd need people guarding him instead of having a proper job, because otherwise he might escape.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-02 04:14:55](#)

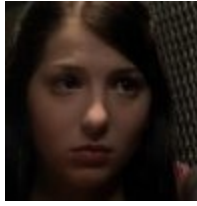
Private Message to Sally-Anne

Say.

Did your father fall asleep? Are things all right? I mean, I almost came back.

Well, I did come back. Just to listen and be sure things were... quiet.

I really didn't want to leave you there. You know? I mean, what could they do if you left and said you wouldn't go back? You could come to the Burrow. Or go to Pansy's.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 04:28:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

He's asleep now. Yeah.

It's okay. And I know, but -- I don't want to make trouble. It's only a few more days, I'll manage. ~~And he's my father, I should be~~

~~I wish he hadn't been drinking today~~

I'll see you in a few days, yeah? And I'm sorry he was a git.

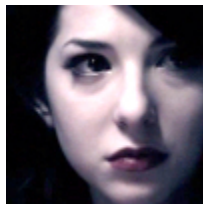


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-02 05:03:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Don't worry about me. It doesn't matter. I just don't like the way he is with you. The way he talks ~~and the~~.

I wish I could come back tomorrow. I could come after work. I wouldn't even have to come in, but you could let me know you're alright by putting up some kind of signal in the window, and I could stay where I could see it, and you could let me know if things get bad. Tense. Or anywiz, if you need help, I'd be right there.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 17:03:41](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

You don't have to come but if you're going to come anyway you should let me know what sort of signal means 'I'm fine' so you don't have to worry. It's wretched out, I don't want you thinking you have to stand out there eavesdropping, you know?

Anyway he's gone out. I think he had a job. I don't know what time he's getting back and he told me he wants me staying here and not leaving.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-02 17:46:47](#)**

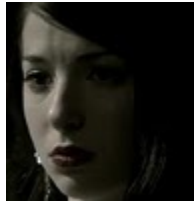
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I guess really that's what the charm you gave me is for. Except I know you've been afraid a lot while you've been staying there. It's been green almost the entire time, and it hasn't been blue at all.

I don't want to wait for it to turn red before I come help you, is all. Because then it'll be too late.

Maybe you could put that really ugly cup on the windowsill now while he's out--put it sort of behind the curtain so your father won't notice. That way if I see it, I'll know you're okay, but if he gets horrible, you can move it or accio it or just smash it with a spell. And I'll know to barge in. And if you can't do that, then just shout and I'll be there. I'll come straight from work, all right?

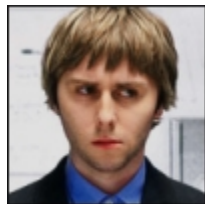
Oops. Gotta go now. Lunch is over.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-02 17:49:46](#)**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I put the cup in the window but really I'll be okay.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-01-02 04:43:16](#)**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yes, and perhaps the reason he never thought twice is because he was a reprehensible person. And perhaps it's because he never thought that the children he was murdering were human just the same as he was.

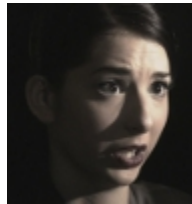
And now he'll never be able to be re-educated, what. I'm not saying it would have been successful. But there's a reason many Muggle countries have done away with a death penalty, if you follow me.

I'm not saying we had the luxury of holding him prisoner

forever, or that it would not have been a drain on whomever agreed to look after him. I do understand what a terrible dilemma that type of prisoner presents in a wartime, in the resistance and with no bally well foolproof way to check his magic.

That doesn't change the fact that it's a terrible thing to take a life, under any circumstances, what, but most especially when that life is at one's mercy and one had the power to make a different choice.

-Justin

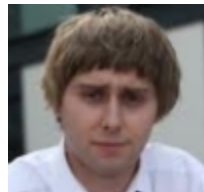


 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-02 04:49:30**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

So on a totally different subject I rather think we ought to invite Colin to participate in ISS threads. He's one of us, right? I mean he's not a grown up.

I sort of feel like we ought to discuss it though and it's going to be rather awkward discussing it in front of him. But if I put up a proper ISS thread to talk about it, you and Hermione won't be able to read.

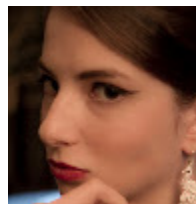


 **alt_justin** at **2014-01-02 04:52:53**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yes, of course he ought to consider himself one of us! I see he's been chatting with you; perhaps we all ought to tell him he's welcome to participate.

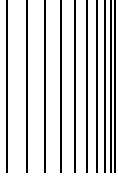
-Justin




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-02 04:56:22**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Yeah, I mean, I don't want to speak for everyone? But it's certainly fine with me.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-02 05:05:06](#)**

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

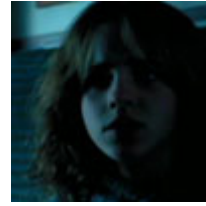
Fine with me.

2014-01-01 20:46:00

Order Only: Mr Strangeweale

Sorry tea was so...tense, for everyone.

Did anyone change their mind about him? Or did you go through with it after all?



 **alt_hermione**

Or should I not ask?


Only, I've been thinking about how some people were against it, at tea. And...and I've been thinking about it. Whether there really was no other way.



 **alt_kingsley** at **2014-01-02 02:55:56**
(no subject)

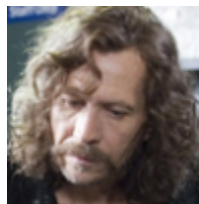
The actual act did not go...entirely smoothly. But it was carried out this afternoon.




 **alt_molly** at **2014-01-02 02:58:11**
(no subject)

What do you mean about it not going smoothly?

Oh. The witnesses, I suppose. Merlin, some of them were so young; I *knew* it would be a bad idea. I did ask my own not to go.

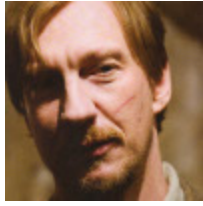


 **alt_sirius** at **2014-01-02 02:59:42**
(no subject)

No, Kingsley means the execution itself.

Hanging is...not an exact science.

We tried to do it humanely but wound up having to put him out of his misery with a spell.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:08:12](#)

Private message to Padfoot

Oh.

Is that why you've been in such a foul mood since you got home? It wasn't JUST the execution.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-02 03:29:55](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Yes. Sorry.

I'll make it up to Bea when she bounds in tomorrow morning asking if it's Christmas again.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-02 03:00:00](#)

(no subject)

Bill was there, wasn't he? I mean, he hasn't returned home, yet.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2014-01-02 03:05:24](#)

(no subject)

Yes, he was here.

I know he stayed to talk with Alice and Frank, but he should be along eventually, Molly.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-02 03:20:09](#)

(no subject)

He's just arrived now. Thank you, Kingsley.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-02 02:56:38](#)**
(no subject)

There really was no other way, Hermione. I don't like it, and I'm sorry, Justin--you made some good arguments--but we couldn't take the risk he would have stayed put if we'd moved him to Saltash or Aldrich, and we couldn't have asked them to take him in there as a prisoner, anyway.

Still. It was a bad business and on the whole I'm relieved most of you weren't there to witness it.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-01-02 03:17:14](#)**
(no subject)

Sirius,

I say, I'm sorry it was a difficult task, what. But I'm not altogether sure it ought to have been an easy one.


Of course, it's inevitable that our hands can't stay clean in all this business. Like it or not it is a war, what, and as you said this afternoon, in most cases it's them or us. I do understand that.

Just as I know why you said there was no way to keep him alive and safely incarcerated. It's most unfortunate.

I do think that every time one wrestles with the question, though, one is at least weighing the value of the life in one's hands. There's no doubt he richly deserved to pay for his crimes. It's.... Well. It's bally well dreadful there was no other way, that's all, I suppose.

-Justin




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-01-02 03:23:26](#)**
Private message to Sirius Black

Thank you for putting an end to it. An end to him.

I'm sure it's more mercy than he ever showed his own victims. If that's any comfort, but I suspect it isn't.




 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-02 02:56:56](#)
(no subject)

If there was any other way it's too late now.

Some of those women -- well.

Dunno. I hope it helps. Something, anyway.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-02 03:05:22](#)
(no subject)

What is done is done.

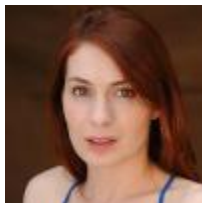
I would not choose to do it again, however.


There is something to be said for actively exploring other options so that we have more choices in the future.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-02 03:08:44](#)
(no subject)

What are we going to do with Otto, then? Surely we're not just going to Oblivate him and set him loose.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-02 03:13:07](#)
(no subject)

I was thinking more of Oblivating him and then putting him under watch at Saltash.

He's a risk, yes, but he wouldn't be able to recreate the Machine.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-01-02 03:42:57](#)**
(no subject)

I do understand how we came to this: his victims believed so firmly that they wished to witness Strangeweale's blood shed in payment for his deeds, but I would not willingly see us cognizance such an act again.


We crossed a line we ought not to have crossed. And we were complicit in allowing those young women to become the thing that harmed them. They were seeking retribution and peace, two things which are not compatible. Did you feel it? The thirst for retribution was palpable as we waited, but was there an ounce of peace in the aftermath?

I did not see anything healthy in their eyes or faces as they witnessed his dying. Indeed, I'm not certain which was more disturbing: the blood thirst that glinted in some of their eyes as he waited for the support to be knocked away or the sheer horror in so many of their faces as he struggled at the end of that rope.

And what did we achieve? We did not move Marston Strangeweale to feel remorse. We did not win any restitution for his victims. We did not change any minds amongst his compatriots. We eliminated a threat, but I feel certain there are other ways than death to have achieved that goal.

I'm not sorry I was there to stand with the Order today, and I know that we believed we were respecting the wishes of people whose suffering moved us to wish to make amends in any way we could find, but I will not acquiesce in another judicial murder. We absolutely must find another way.




 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-01-02 03:47:12](#)**
(no subject)

Madam Pomfrey,

I say, hear, hear.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-02 05:27:03](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Madame Pomfrey. I respect you so much for saying this, especially since you've spent so much time treating the pain that violent people cause. If it were me, I think I'd find it hard not to want to hurt them back.

But you really don't and I admire that so much. And I guess you can never tell what will happen--like when you saved Professor Dolohov, and then he helped save Ced later.

But those women... I don't know, even if killing him didn't give them peace, at least they know he'll never be able to hurt them again or re-create the Machine. And I don't think they'd be able to say that if we just Obliviated him & put him in prison somewhere. Obliviation can sometimes be reversed, and prisons can be escaped from. Or broken into.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-01-03 01:06:06](#)
(no subject)

You're quite right, Miss Bones: we cannot see the future; we cannot be certain a living person will not find a way to commit evil again; and indeed we cannot know whether a person to whom we extend mercy might ever perform a good or beneficial act subsequent to ours.


It was entirely unanticipated that Professor Dolohov should ever have been in a position to help Mr Diggory, and even less foreseen that he should have been so inclined. What I mean to say is that my actions did not anticipate any future return on his part, and might very well not have led to any 'good' of that sort.

I do maintain, however, that while mercy may yield no measurable good, the refusal of mercy does cause certain harm, and not only to the person to whom mercy was denied. Refusing mercy hardens the heart and nerves of the person who, wielding that power of life and death, chooses to extinguish life. And it hardens the sensibilities of those who carry out or bear witness to such brutality.

Allow me to put this to you in another way. When I think of Voldemort, our so-called 'lord protector', I think that what distinguishes him and his actions and his accomplishments is not his mastery of magic (though he is, undoubtedly, one of the most powerful sorcerers in the long history of magic). What distinguishes 'lord' Voldemort is his cruelty and his murderousness, his inclination to kill any who stand in his way or threaten his supremacy.

Each time we make a choice to take life when it could be preserved (however inconveniently), we narrow the distance between ourselves and Him.



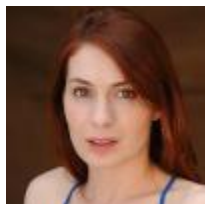
 **alt_albus** at [2014-01-03 17:06:12](#)
(no subject)


I find your articulation of the issues superb, Poppy. And much needed. Refusal of mercy makes us smaller, and harder. Poorer, individually and collectively.

I would also add the pragmatic, as well, if the moral and ethical are not sufficient. Once someone is killed, all they are - all they were, all they knew, all they held - is lost. We do not know which things might allow us to succeed in our goals, or what will be required.

I do not think we can afford such luxuries.

Clearly, we must contemplate some alternatives: this will not be the last time we are faced with this question. (Alice, my dear, I will give thought to some of the practical issues. The research that lead to the method used at Saltash might bear fruit.)



 **alt_alice** at [2014-01-03 23:44:13](#)
(no subject)

Thank you.

2014-01-02 11:05:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Sally-Anne,

I say, I ought to have asked before: How is your visit with your father going? I just realised last night that last year you were worried about using your journal, what, and this year you've been posting and commenting, so I hope that means it's better this time round.



Of course, I'm sure you could decamp to the Burrow if you needed, or Pansy's, but I'm sure if either weren't available we could make other arrangements if necessary.

One of the chaps here has charmed the window in his office to produce sunshine all the time. He says that if he doesn't get enough sun he feels peaky and depressed so he's fixed it to get something like natural light. I say, I think that's bally well clever.

Oh, I forgot: I told everyone at tea yesterday about the answer I got to my question regarding the wards. I asked, you see, in the most innocent way possible, because we had some Floo calls with Dover and with the secretaries of trade in Belgium and also the Netherlands, so it was perfectly natural to ask why we couldn't open more routes or why it was so dashed difficult to arrange for large shipments to come in through just the one or two gates that are there all the time. And of course, I asked why other countries didn't devise the same sort of protections, to make sure their wizard populations could remain safe.

Mr Pontner came over quite queer at first, what, as if he thought he might have to ask someone else if he could even answer my questions. But then he chuckled and simply said that his office has nothing to do with the wards. He went on to mumble that the new ward lines are even worse than the old ones. I asked why that was and he talked about how at least with the dragons, the effects were 'natural' but now with the new focusing lenses, the wards are *too* straight and *too* powerful where they overlap, what. I say, I told the others and we think that's why they've found so many areas where they can't fly well or where they feel that tingling Sirius and Tonks described. When the group go flying next, I think they'll start with one of the stones we've found and follow it as straight as possible.

I could only get him to say a little bit more before he realised he was probably speaking out of turn. Still, it was a good deal more information than we had, what.

There was also some interesting discussion with the Belgians but to explain that I'm afraid I shall have to imitate Miss Lamont and look for holes in the patterns and that all that rot.

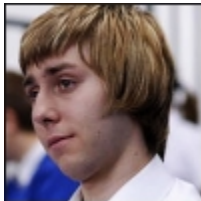
-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 16:54:27](#)
(no subject)

The visit, well, he hasn't taken my journal away this time, no. And he had me invite Ron to visit yesterday after and I don't want to complain.

He went out a little while ago for a job. And when he comes home he'll probably ~~drink himself into a~~ fall asleep.

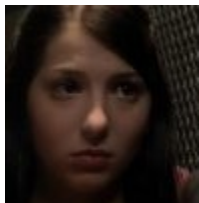


 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 17:05:53](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I see. I can well sympathise with Ron: For a bloke, meeting one's girl's father is trying even in the *best* of circumstances, what!

Sunday's not a very long way off. I've been lucky that the Jugsons have been in no hurry to tell me I've got to make my own way but I can imagine you're well anxious to be free to go wherever you like. I'd have preferred to spend Christmas with everyone at Grimmauld, myself, but had to pretend to enjoy the Jugsons' when all the while I was wondering how jolly you all must have been.

-J



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 17:26:47](#)
(no subject)

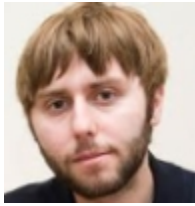
Christmas at Grimmauld was nice.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-02 16:57:36](#)
(no subject)

Oh and sunlight charms -- we have those in Slytherin part of the time. You know we're actually under the lake? It would be dreadfully gloomy if we never saw the sun but we can't just look out a window like the other houses can. If you look out the actual windows you see the lake, which is sort of green and murky. But we have some paintings that are enchanted to provide views from other parts of the castle, including sunshine during the day, and there's another painting that's actually a beautiful sunny day no matter what time it is (we actually pull a curtain over it after eight every night, because actually you don't WANT a beautiful sunny day when it's night time, usually, you know? you want stars and so on).

That's brilliant you got them talking about the wards. What do you mean about finding the holes in the patterns?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-02 17:15:54](#)
(no subject)

Well, as she said in the CCF programme, that she has to look for patterns and then find what's missing. The Belgian conversation was rather like that.

For example, Mr Pontner mentioned grain allotments and then the Belgian trade minister said something like 'If you would lower the tariff on wine, we could shift more barley' and of course, what he meant was that if they could export more wine, they would import more beer. Things like that. And loads was in the way they were talking to one another, how friendly they were (or weren't), and so on.

-Justin

2014-01-02 12:06:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

Could use a pair of eyes in DoM today. Do you have time this afternoon? Need to know when anyone there last saw Strangeweale. Would rather not show my own hand there.

Unspeakables never take questions well from Aurors.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Investigation is a complete rat's nest. Mulciber. Maule. Strangeweale. Pull one strand and it's snagged in hundreds of others. More than one of the Strangeweale snarls leads to Maule. And from there to the camps. Rogue enforcers. (Where's Mulciber in that?) Misplaced assets. Falsified records. (Not certain MEU can be trusted. Not good news if true.)



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-01-02 18:34:02**

(no subject)

'Not good news' -- your tendency towards understatement is delightful as always, my dearest of children.

Yes, I am free, and indeed have been meaning to drop by Mysteries today or tomorrow with personal invites to Saturday's salon for several of the, shall we say, less susceptible to charm and more in need of direct and personal attention. Is there anything else in particular I should be looking for, or shall I simply follow my nose?

Come tonight for supper -- bring what you have discovered. We will lay everything out in the library and try to untangle things.

Your,
T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2014-01-02 18:56:22**

(no subject)

Don't want to set them on alert by feeding you too many specific questions. However.

Need to know when Strangeweale was last there. Tracing all recent movements so far as possible for past fortnight, at least.

Anything you can pick up re. research he was funding/ conducting in DoM.

Anything re. funding, materials, other resources

Anything re. camp connections. Queer trails in that quarter.

If you catch the phrase 'black wand', follow up. (Don't use the term yourself, however.)

Any mention of Mulciber, obviously useful.

Any hint of antagonism between S and others.

Expect you'll get little in the way of information, but would be interested in your view of who in DoM it would be worth our while to question. Given that questioning any of them causes no end of trouble.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-02 19:21:51](#)

(no subject)

I'll give you my list later of the people I've been wooing. Several have already confirmed attendance on Saturday; if you hang up your Auror robes and attend with your love of esoterica firmly foregrounded, you'll likely learn more than a more formal interrogation. With Gus having not been at his best for so long, some of that lot are desperate for one of Our Lord's chosen to listen to their wildest notions; I know you are often reluctant to cede the tactical advantage conferred by people thinking you nothing but a keen wand and a pretty face, but should you be willing to demonstrate your equally keen intellect a little more blatantly, you could likely bypass the need for the trouble. (With luck, I will be able to persuade the more recalcitrant into attendance as well. Those of Time and Mind in particular are notoriously tight-lipped, but I have been dangling the promise of the library.)

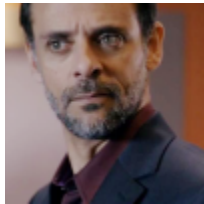
Making my call now, with my best amiable mask firmly in place. Shall report back.


Your,
T



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-01-02 19:42:49](#)
(no subject)

Consider my attendance confirmed. And your point(s) taken.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-02 23:19:42](#)
(no subject)

Back now. (And yes, I do believe I've convinced my stragglers to attend, but we shall see.)
Interesting results. You will likely be making a visit to Mysteries tomorrow, but not for the

reasons you'd thought.

Conversation was sparse, but I managed to steer the topic around well enough to pick up a few choice bits. I inquired about Strangeweale ("to make certain he'd seen the invitation") - - no one present definitively reported having seen wing nor scale of him since before Christmas, though it took some prodding and recollections were vague and casual enough that I could not force certainty, not without giving away too much of my interest. (I have written down what I recall of who said what, and there are many instances of "no, that was Tuesday, not Monday" and the like. It is exceptionally difficult to get that lot to agree on dates; when we began the discussion none of them could tell me what day today is.)

Strangeweale is not well liked in the department and reactions to him range from distaste to terror. Several people agreed that it was entirely possible S had been in his laboratory without anyone noticing ("he could be dead on the floor in there and nobody would dare to look in on him uninvited even after he'd begun to stink" was one junior researcher's comment, though I don't believe I was intended to hear it).

I allowed that I was certain S would be angry if I disturbed anything in his lab but certainly he couldn't mind me poking a head in the door to check for any problems (which caused said junior researcher to be suddenly unable to meet my eye) and discovered his laboratory is completely empty. No sign of any constructs, no sign of any of his research, visible artefacts of a hasty departure (empty phials strewn across the workbenches,

paper ash in the crucible, etc). The one duckling present who had been in the lab before said the bookshelves, the potions ingredients cupboard, and the hardware cupboard were all missing significant amounts of their contents.

No signs of foul play -- I performed all the standard spells -- but it did not look like a place anyone intended to return.

No mention of anything else on your list. Once we'd discovered the status of the lab I could not continue casual gossip; I will try again on Saturday.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-01-02 23:47:18](#)
(no subject)


A pack of damn moles down there. An entire laboratory's been cleared out and none of them realised?

Well.

Have a wager with Travers (+ Pandya) (+ Desai) whether S has absconded or been done for by his valet (or his estranged wife) (or by the pair of them). Would say this is evidence on my side. (No bets on Mulciber--odds too short to make it interesting.) Gringotts' logs show he was in his vault the day after Christmas. Working through the parchmentwork to get access, but expect it's been cleared out, as well. Mind you, Travers thinks that's on the side of the wife, if she still has her name on account. (Will check that.)

Batya. Thank you. Will be along for supper in an hour or so. Will bring the dossier.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-03 00:04:49](#)
(no subject)

Curious.

I remember hearing that he and Griselda have been separated for quite some time -- not officially, of course, but Narcissa has made pointed comments about Griselda "preferring the country air" when we've been being catty gossips with each other. If Strangeweale went to

Gringotts to make changes to the vault and one of those changes was going to be to remove her access, that certainly does speak to motive; perhaps he was no longer satisfied with the arrangement.

Mind you, getting any of that information out of the goblins will be nigh-impossible; I do not envy you that task.

Berry will have supper ready whenever you arrive. I have started pinning up cards in the library with what I know, for you to add to upon arrival; perhaps seeing everything in one place will help tease out some of those connections.

2014-01-02 20:26:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron


Are you out there?

Because I'm fine. I think my father's going to fall asleep soon.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-03 02:32:16**

(no subject)

I'm here.

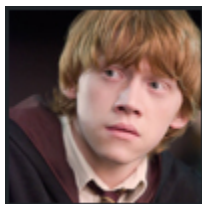
Not going anywhere, either. So don't try to talk me out of staying.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-03 02:37:55**

(no subject)

Once he falls asleep he usually stays asleep. So nothing's going to happen other than you possibly getting very cold and uncomfortable sitting out in the yard.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-03 02:40:59**

(no subject)

Well, but you can't be sure, can you? And if he woke up and was cross...

Is he about to drop off because he's tired or about to lose consciousness because he's that drunk?

Sorry. But, yeah.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-03 02:45:13**

(no subject)

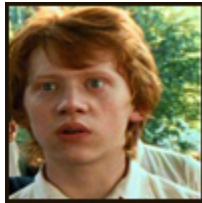
Drunk.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 02:45:52](#)
(no subject)

But that's better, in a way, because that's why he sleeps so soundly.

I mean he's past the part where he's in a bad mood and he's reached the part where he's just going to fall asleep.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 03:10:10](#)
(no subject)

Sorry. Thought I heard something.

Just the wind, I guess.

Is he really asleep?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 03:13:25](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, nothing's happening.

I think he's asleep but I'm not going to go check. He's not snoring yet.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 03:36:37](#)
(no subject)

No! Don't do anything that might wake him up.


But... once he's really asleep... do you think, well, you could come out or I could come in...



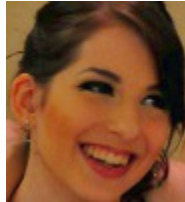
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 03:39:09](#)
(no subject)

Maybe I could sneak out?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 04:02:26](#)
(no subject)


It's really rather cold out here...



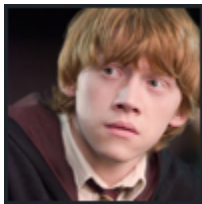
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 04:06:14](#)
(no subject)


I could bring a blanket.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 04:14:26](#)
(no subject)

You could!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 02:34:04](#)
(no subject)

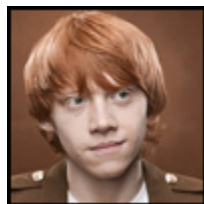
He's ~~being~~ better tonight?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 02:39:39](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, well. He came home partway through the afternoon and we talked about what to have for dinner and then I made dinner and he ate it.

And that was all fine.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 03:10:35](#)
(no subject)


So when did he start drinking?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 03:13:53](#)
(no subject)

Today? I don't know. While I was making dinner, maybe.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-03 03:34:49](#)
(no subject)

Does he always get angry when he drinks? Or does it depend? I mean, the other day, I was there and he didn't like that, so I thought maybe that's what made him get cross and then with all the firewhiskey on top of that...

He drank a long time, too, and didn't get sleepy. Yesterday, I mean. I guess he can really hold it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-03 03:46:05](#)
(no subject)


It sort of depends. But usually, yeah.

And he can drink a lot before he looks drunk, I think his body's sort of adapted to it.

When I was coming last summer, before I left school Professor Dolohov taught me a spell that could make him really sick if he drank to excess. I haven't used it because I think he'd guess I'd done something and then he'd be even angrier. Over the summer he wasn't drinking. He knows he shouldn't, it's just he always eventually starts again.

There was a potion, Madam Pomfrey and Mr Snape gave to the Headmistress, I think. There are Order posts where they mention it. The thing is I think the person has to drink that WILLINGLY. And I don't know if he would. And I don't know if I could get it for him, anyway.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:01:49](#)**
(no subject)

What do you think your dad's going to do when you don't have to go stay with him anymore?

I mean. Do you think he could get a proper job now that your mother's gone? Has he tried? Do you think he'd stop drinking if he did? Because maybe we could try to find something for him. Maybe Mum could help, or Bill if he wanted to work at the Ministry, or some of the others.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:05:50](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know. He COULD probably get a proper job now but he hasn't, you know? Probably because of the drinking.

I don't think it's a good idea to ask the Order to do him any favours. I mean, beyond what your Mum has already done for him.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:11:34](#)**
(no subject)

Why not?

I mean, I don't think his drinking would bother-

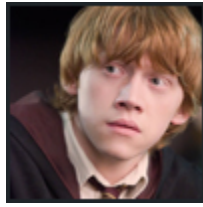
Do you not want anyone to know? It's not going to make them think badly about you or anything. If that's what you're thinking.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:13:42](#)**
(no subject)

No, I mean, I don't want him to know anything about the Order. At all. I don't want him to have any idea who might be in it and I don't want him to know I know people who might be able to do him favours.

Because I don't trust him.

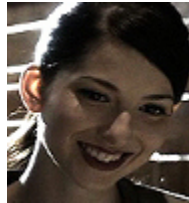


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:19:05](#)**
(no subject)

You don-

Oh.

Is he properly sleeping yet? Maybe you could cast a silencing spell or something so nothing bothers him?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-03 04:19:44](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. He's snoring.

I'll be right there.

2014-01-02 20:51:00

(no subject)

IF ANYONE HAS A BOOK THEY WANT TO
TRADE OR HAVE US READ ALOUD, BRING IT
TO SCHOOL

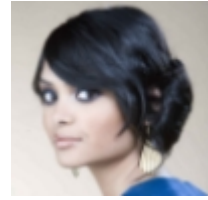


 [alt_galleon](#)

[2014-01-02 21:05:00](#)

Private Message to Blaise Zabini

Well, I spent the day in the shop with Parvati and Mum. Pavs is designing a whole line of lightweight cloaks for spring and they're putting them into production now.



 **[alt_padma](#)**

Are you done with whatever it was you said you had to do today? Tomorrow's really almost the last day of hols, so if we're going to go somewhere just the two of us, now's the time to say.

Or are you still cross over Daphs and Draco being splashed about in the papers as the newest It couple?


I mean, we could have done better ourselves if you hadn't spent so long talking to Auror Mulciber. Is it really true his house burned down this week? I can't imagine going through something like that and still looking so cheerful--I mean, he was positively *happy*. It was a little creepy, honestly. I mean he smiles and it's more like a kappa than a friendly face. Maybe he'd had loads to drink? I guess I'd have been tempted to drink everything in sight if my house had just gone up and everything in it.

Did you have to talk to him so long? I mean, he did say he was sort of your uncle so I figured whatever he had to say to you must have been important. Well, I won't go on about it again, not after your reaction Tuesday night. But if you'd wanted me to come and get you for dancing, you should have signalled or something.

And I suppose I didn't mind too much. It's not every day I get to go to Buckingham, and there were so many people to watch.

Anyway. Tomorrow? The museum or did you want to go somewhere else?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-03 03:21:27](#)**

(no subject)

He said he was my uncle? Look, Padma, you don't want him talking to you. Don't let him get the idea that you'll listen to him or that you're interested in him at all.


He's d

Mother was married to his brother once. A long time ago. That's what he meant.

Never mind. It's not important.

Which museum did you want to go to?



 **alt_padma** at [2014-01-03 03:32:04](#)
(no subject)


Oh, is he one of the ones that met an untimely end? (I think I've got a clipping from our first or second year about all your mother's past husbands and it made some horrid insinuations, you know. Though on the whole they made her sound fantastically glamorous.)

Anyway, if he's that dangerous, then why did you let him bend *your* ear for so long? Besides, everyone says he and the other Mr Mulciber are ever so important nowadays. I may not want to talk to him but I also don't want to make him cross, do I.

And *you* needn't get cross again, either.

It's the British Wizarding History Museum, of course. Daphs was saying there's a new exhibit that's splendid, all about fashion.



 **alt_blaize** at [2014-01-03 03:45:17](#)
(no subject)

Stop shoving Daphs in my face, will you?

Look, it doesn't matter what Mulciber was on about. It was nothing I wanted to hear, I promise you, and yes, he's important now. It makes him think he can do whatever he wants to people. And you don't want to be one of those people.

I don't either.


And if I had my way, Mother would decide she's done with marrying people. She could settle in the country and keep to

herself.

Which, of course, she'll never do. She likes society entirely too much. And attracting attention.

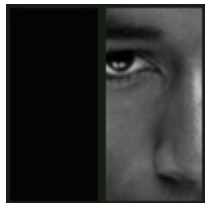
I'd rather go to the Protector's Collection instead, if that's all right with you. I hear they've got a new exhibit of ancient magical instruments from Our Lord's private holdings.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-03 03:49:26](#)**
(no subject)

So it really *is* bothering you, isn't it? The way the gossip columns are speculating that Draco will pop the question before we finish school?

No, I know. That's not it at all, is it. What did he want to do to you, then?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-03 03:56:10](#)**
(no subject)


Leave it alone, will you? Daphne's not going to marry Draco. And it doesn't matter what daft things the papers say.

I'm sorry you didn't get your picture taken as many times as she did. Being in the gossip papers isn't all you think it is. I mean, look at mother! It just reminds people like the Mulcibers that you're here when it would be better if they'd overlook you.

Seriously. You do not want people keeping albums of your press clippings.

That's what he said. They've got albums of her clippings. And Cooper's.




 **alt_padma** at [2014-01-03 04:04:54](#)
(no subject)

I said I knew that wasn't really what was setting you off. And I don't care, either, not really.

Auror Mulciber keeps clippings? I mean, isn't that the sort of thing most people grow out of when they're about thirteen?

Why would clippings about Cooper be embarrassing? I mean, isn't he a talented sculptor?




 **alt_blaise** at [2014-01-03 04:26:10](#)
(no subject)

Yes. A talented sculptor who works hard to catch commissions. From lots of bored society witches with husbands who don't pay them enough attention.

Meanwhile, he's not paying Mother as much attention as she expects, which means she's bored. And they go out and have their pictures taken with all sorts of other people and the papers love making a meal of it.

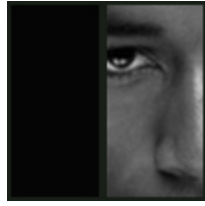
And people like the Mulcibers... let's just say it's a whole other thing when people like that keep clipping files on witches who used to be their sister-in-law.




 **alt_padma** at [2014-01-03 04:30:26](#)
(no subject)

I don't know what he expected you to do about it. She's your mother, the other way round. You know what I mean.

You're not going to be in trouble with them, are you? Because Mr Rosier or someone else--Professor Doves, maybe--might be able to help. If you were.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-03 04:57:04](#)
(no subject)

I'm not sure what he expects me to do about it, either. It's not as if Mother cares what I think of her choice of husbands.


Only...

... I'm not sure I'm the one who could be in trouble with them...

I don't know. I really don't. I've no idea what he meant or what he means to do, and that's the unnerving part of it.

I liked it better when Mr Malfoy was the one everyone looked to. Did you notice it? The way things have shifted? I suppose you might not have enough to compare it to, but it's not good that the Mulcibers are so high in Our Lord's esteem now. Not at all good.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-03 05:03:54](#)
(no subject)


Well, you said months ago that Mr M's light was 'fading' only it just didn't seem possible, you know?

But at the Gala...and then especially at Buckingham, Tuesday...yeah. You could just tell something wasn't quite right. I mean, they're still as perfect a couple as could be, and Mrs M is ever so beautiful and graceful and he's always going to be dashing, I just can't imagine him otherwise. But they weren't at the centre like one always expects them to be.

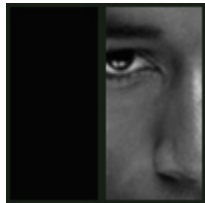
And then when the fireworks went off, did you see how they weren't standing right next to Our Lord? I don't think I've *ever* seen them not right there. Except when Mr Malfoy was hurt a couple of times. And even then, Mrs M was usually right nearby Our Lord.


Does anyone know why? I mean, they've not gone and had a row with Him or anything daft like that. Surely?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-03 05:06:23](#)
(no subject)

You know, you *can* tell me things. You don't have to think Daphne was the only person you could ever trust. You know I knew about Seamus for nearly two years before he ever made anything public and I never told a soul, not even Pavs. So even if it's something bad. It's all right to tell me about it.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-03 05:14:52](#)
(no subject)


I've told you all I know. So far.

If I knew what Mulciber was up to, it wouldn't be so worrying.

And I've no idea about the other--about the Malfoys.

I don't like things changing, I suppose.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-03 15:12:36](#)
(no subject)

I mean about the past. Your past. You don't have to pretend it was all flowers and rainbows.

Anyway, I'm heading to the Protector's Collection now, so I'll meet you outside the cloakroom. It's not half raining today - we picked a horrid day for it! It'll probably be packed.

[2014-01-02 21:14:00](#)

(no subject)


The St Mungo's Ball was fun. I wonder what the theme will be next year?



It's been a pretty nice break from classes. A couple of members of the Distance Flying Club got together today for a few hours, and that went well even though it was pretty cold out. And it's been good spending time with people. I hope everyone else's hols went well too.

 [alt_harry](#)




 [alt_harry](#) at **[2014-01-03 06:17:40](#)**

ORDER ONLY

Mrs L, I'll send along the maps. Ron, would you still be up for something on Saturday? I might be able to get away if it's just a flying thing, and I think it'd be good if we could get some more ground covered.



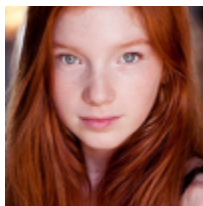
 [alt_harry](#) at **[2014-01-03 06:33:17](#)**

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

So I guess we should probably say something to Colin? I knew he was our age, but he just sort of got in right when Jeremy did and a lot's been going on.

We probably should've said something sooner. Because he doesn't think he ought to even read our stuff. Sally-Anne said she thought it was fine, and I think so too, but is everyone else okay with it?

I mean, he can't use the lock, obviously, but neither can Justin or Hermione.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **[2014-01-03 20:32:43](#)**


Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

Of course, that's quite all right by me.

I've noticed he doesn't talk much on his own at all, and maybe this will help? I know how takes his work with dad very

seriously, but he still ought to feel free to talk to us, and he is a member of the Order too.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-03 22:54:43](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I'm fine with it, Harry.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-01-04 01:53:45](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I think it would be wonderful to include Colin. Yes, please.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-04 01:58:06](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I think it would make him quite happy to let him know he's welcome.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-04 04:41:52](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

Hey, Terry, can you pass along some of the ink to Colin next time you go to Moddey, and tell him how to use it for the lock so we can test it out?

And you could tell him about the secret too. For tradition. You know.

I don't know if it'll work or not, but it's worth a try.




 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-04 04:50:46](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I can certainly do that. I'll be there the night after tomorrow; we go back for dinner at Moddey Dhoo on Sundays.

It'll be a bit...bittersweet is the word, I guess. I'm going off the I Solemnly Swear lock myself in about two weeks.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-04 05:36:48](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

Oh, yeah, that's right. This is the year for most of us, I guess.

At least we've got the Order lock. I know it's not the same, though.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-01-04 04:22:36](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

All right by me if Colin can read I Solemnly Swear entries, sure.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-04 04:35:19](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: I Solemnly Swear I Am Up To No Good

I don't know if he can or not, cause he's using Mr Longbottom's journal. But at least he can write on the ISS business stuff and know it's okay.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-03 06:37:07](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

I just wrote everyone else about Colin. Because he thinks he shouldn't even read our stuff, and we

probably should've said something sooner to make sure he knew it was okay. Does that sound all right to you?




 **[alt_hermione](#) at 2014-01-03 14:52:50**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

Yes, definitely!



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2014-01-03 14:58:01**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

Harry,


Absolutely, he ought to feel free. I told Sally-Anne as much, the other night, what.

Was it you sent the Galleon about books? I say, jolly good show.

How did flying go? Did the advice about straight lines help at all?

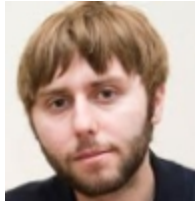
-Justin



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2014-01-03 21:24:57**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

Yeah, it totally did. We went down to Dover and flew around there, because that's the new one and we figured it'd be good to get some information on it, and you're right, it was straight as an arrow. We flew east, towards Dover, and after we followed it to the coast, it went way out over the water, so we stopped and flew back the other way to make sure it was in the same heading on the other side, and it was. We didn't run into any weird spots, though.



 **alt_justin** at **2014-01-03 21:48:32**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

Mr Pontner specifically mentioned the trouble centring where the 'lines cross' so I'd wager the Dover one must not have any points of intersection nearby, what.


I say, what we really need is to start at one, and simply stick with it as far as ever it can take us.

If I were planting a stone to focus a line, and those lines interconnect to create a straight-edged circle, what, I should think I'd want to put them as close to the edge of the land as possible.

I wonder... What might happen if one group went to Walsingham and followed it southeast and the other group went to Dover and followed it east?

-Justin

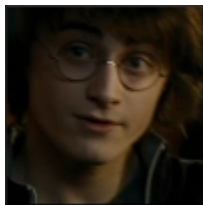


 **alt_harry** at **2014-01-03 21:58:06**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

We'd have to be careful, because it'd be mostly over water, and if stuff gets weird where they cross, it might be dangerous. But I bet we could plot out where it ought to be based on where the angles intersect, so we'd be prepared.

That'd be something to do on Saturday, maybe.




 **alt_harry** at **2014-01-03 21:45:16**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hermione

I figured we ought to say something in enough time so people could think about what to bring. And it takes such a long time to read stuff out loud, I thought it'd be good to trade books too.

I definitely want to read that one about the dragon.




 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-03 16:20:15](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY

Yeah. I am. If Mum will let me go.



 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-04 04:34:28](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Colin Creevey and Mr Longbottom


Hey, Colin.

We've been talking as a group, and, well, first off, I'm sorry for not saying anything right from the start, so you'd know you could join in if you wanted. We want you to consider yourself part of the Institute. I know you won't be able post on the lock, because you use Mr Longbottom's journal to write in, but we don't use it that much any more, and when we do, we try to let the people who can't read it know what's going on.

And I know this whole thing is sort of weird, because your job is to write in Mr Longbottom's journal for him, but you're a member of the Order, just like us, and if you have an idea or an opinion or something, that's what this is for.

Anyways. I'm looking forward to getting to know you better. And feel free to poke your nose in whenever you feel like it, yeah? I mean, I know you've got a job to do and all, and it's an important one, but letting us know what you think about stuff is important too.



 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-04 04:36:31](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Colin Creevey and Mr Longbottom


Well. Maybe you won't be able to post to the lock?

I'm not sure.

We can test it.

I'll see if Terry can get you some ink. It's under I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good.



 **alt_frank** at **2014-01-04 06:06:25**

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Colin Creevey and Mr Longbottom

(I say, Harry, no apologies needed, hey? We've had a busy month of it, no mistake. There's no hard feelings on my part.

Honestly, I didn't think writing Luna like that would raise a fuss. It wasn't my intention at all. It's just hard to know where one's place is in all of this sometimes.

I've been reading the Order's back entries at night -- Mr Longbottom lets me take the journal with me when he's off for the day, because they've got Mrs Longbottom's journal if something happens, but I can only get in an hour or so of reading a night because I've got my studies to keep up with too. It's damn impressive reading, though. And from what I've read and what Sarah and Terry have told me about you lot at Hogwarts, well, I have a great deal of respect for what you've done.

In other words, thanks for the invite, and I'd be honoured to be considered part of the Institute.)

[2014-01-02 22:34:00](#)

Private Message to Megan Jones


Happy New Year.

How's it been now that the Christmas rush is over?
Are you getting on with the Strettons?



 [alt_ernie](#)



 [alt_megan](#) at **[2014-01-03 07:15:35](#)**

(no subject)

Happy New Year, you! I meant to write you but I was so exhausted I just thought I would lie down a few minutes before writing and then I fell asleep. But then Fang jumped on me just now so I am awake. So I am answering.


I'm sorry I didn't write you more, but yes they are keeping me very busy. I suppose we are getting on fine. It is easy to get on with Mrs Stretton if you work hard and then if she gets in a yelling mood you just let her yell at you. It's not like she yells all the time anyhow. Unless you are Jeremy. But that is a family thing I guess. She only yells at me like it's business. So I do not mind so much.

Anyhow yes there is a lot to do here even though I thought the busy part would be done after Christmas. But there were a lot of New Year's parties and some people wanted baskets for guest-gifts. And then Mrs Stretton started in on the cleaning. I have not used Scourgify so much in all my life but it is very very tidy here now and all the baskets and tags and wrappings and things are organized by size and color and every possible thing you could think of.

Oh! I loved the lace-up armwarmers. They are so cunning, with that faux-leather, and lovely and black. They are just the thing. Thank you!! And the gift certificate has me thinking.

Did you get my present?



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2014-01-03 23:34:04](#)
(no subject)


I did! Only Dad's decided I'm getting too plump and he suggested I ought to limit myself to one chocolate a day. But that's good; it'll last until Valentine's at that rate!

The twins are big enough now that they're getting into all sorts of trouble. They remind me of Fang a bit. Only they're noisier.

We're going to New London tomorrow to get Pip and Laurie more quills and things, and Dad's taking us to supper. He got some good news today: He's being promoted. I guess one of the senior Healers resigned all of a sudden and it's meant that someone was promoted into his position, and someone else was promoted into *her* position, and that meant Dad was promoted into *her* position. There's a rise in salary and all.

So he's taking the whole family to supper to celebrate.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 17:12:23](#)
(no subject)

How splendid for your Dad! New London restaurants are quite exciting. All the magazines say so. Oh! Miss Penworthy said I could choose a subscription to an improving publication for my Christmas gift, so I have to decide which one I will have. If I get one that talks about beauty products perhaps it will give me advice on my gift certificate. And thank you very much again. I am so excited!

Fang may not be as noisy but he is fiercer I am sure. Unless the twins have taken to biting things. Fang has decided lately that my journal ought to have round covers so he is trying to nibble it. Silly cat.

If you don't get down to the bottom of the box of chocolates by Valentines Day then the surprise at the bottom will have to do for your valentine, is all I can say.

2014-01-03 15:58:00


Private Message to Aurelia Archer

I'd really like to see you once more before I go back to school. Are you free tonight?

Mum wants us all home for one last family dinner before we go but I could probably meet you later, around 8.

I think it would be nice to talk.



 [alt_susan](#)

2014-01-03 16:27:00

Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson




 **alt_severus**

While the past several years have given me a unique appreciation of the attention span of the average teenager, I do expect you to be capable of visiting the toilet without forgetting to return. You are fortunate both that Miss Granger noted your absence before your cauldrons exploded and that the Burn-Healing Paste does not require any of the ingredients of which we are exceptionally short and cannot afford to waste.

I do not expect immediate perfection and you will undoubtedly ruin many more batches of what I set you to brewing. I will not, however, tolerate mistakes made because of inattention or distraction. If there is something you would rather be doing other than brewing, you need but say so; I have neither time nor ingredients enough to spare in indulging a student who is not prepared to learn.



 **alt_pansy** at **2014-01-03 22:02:41**

(no subject)

I'm sorry, Mr Snape.

I'll be sure to thoroughly clean out the cauldrons and do a standard Cleansing and Purifying bath in them after I scrub them out, and I'll stay late to make a second batch.



 **alt_severus** at **2014-01-03 22:15:00**

(no subject)

That is acceptable.

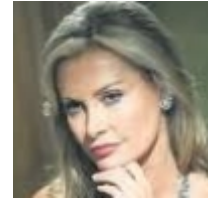
I do not wish to know what distracted you; however, should it be something that needs to be dealt with, I will not be upset should you opt to go deal with it, so long as you do not leave a cauldron unattended in mid-brewing. I am neither unreasonable nor possessed of the misapprehension that there are no priorities in life greater than the workroom. However, I will not tolerate lapses in laboratory safety and I will not tolerate waste. If you are unable to give your full attention to what you are doing, the responsible option is to go take care of what is causing your

| distraction and return when you are again able to put your full
attention to your work.

2014-01-03 19:34:00

Private Message to Bellatrix

Well, if your daughter does not now have sufficient underclothes to see her through her O.W.L.s, I cannot be responsible. We had a lovely day, on the whole. And yes, we found a few things for her Hogsmeade weekends and such.



 [alt_narcissa](#)

Though you might have told me she's acquired your talent for Legilimency. I do not mind providing her with practise but I should have appreciated the warning. If you are still sincere about testing her capabilities at the Ministry, you ought to consider apprenticing her to Penderyn over the summer. Of course, we are perfectly happy to have her at the Manor if you prefer.

I've two other reasons to write, including my duty as an Aunt to pamper your other child. When shall you be replacing Mrs Baylock with a proper governess, dear? I'm sure the woman has been the best nurse a boy could want but it seems to me she's far too indulgent. And it's likely time to begin proper magic instruction, given the evidence he's more than ready for it. I'm sure Draco's and Harry's tutors can make themselves available whenever you decide to engage them. But in the meantime, he was asking for a trip to the pantos this weekend and I can think of no better reason to attend them.

Now, the other topic that warrants discussion: Have your people made any progress on those curious holiday cards we all received? Barty mentioned he'd been collecting them from any Councilwizards who got one. They were all the same; we had occasion to ask round at the New Year's celebrations. I really do think it's time we stopped pretending, at least among ourselves, that it's any sort of impostor. Surely you recognised the handwriting as well as I did. I wouldn't say anything except that it does make the others' jobs that much harder to capture him when you will insist on terrifying anyone who dares suggest that he's still alive, despite your coming so close.

I'm not suggesting you should make a statement to the *Prophet* or any nonsense like that. But perhaps if you could at least stop glaring so fiercely at your fellows in MLE, they could focus on finding the treacherous upstart instead of looking over their shoulders in fear you'll hit *them* with the same curse you were sure would kill him in the first place? Do think about it, dear sister.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2014-01-04 02:56:56](#)
(no subject)

Hydra has no gift for legilimency, and if she told you as much then I'm afraid she was having you on. I shall speak to her at once about it.

Where you see Mrs Baylock's indulgence, I see my son's strong will, growing stronger every day. Do trust me when I say that the woman is far from soft - our Lord would never have entrusted her to wee Harry, were that the case. You are correct, however, that it is time to broaden Rigel's tutelage. I already have Rod looking into the matter; perhaps you two might put your heads together, hmm?

As for your last: I do not entertain suggestions, or even non-suggestions, from those who dare not bloody their own pretty little paws.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-01-04 03:13:45](#)
(no subject)

~~She told me nothing of the kind~~ Oh? Perhaps she's simply longing for your favour to fall on her, as it so clearly does your son.

Nor do I ignore Mrs Baylock's formidable resistance to Rigel but let us not forget the parable of the toddler and the house-elf. He has exerted his influence in such a way that I fear he shall begin to win disagreements that would be unhealthy for him. Such as that fourth helping of cake on Boxing Day.

Whose pretty little claws do you suppose are bloodless, dear? I'm only telling you things I've observed among your colleagues.



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2014-01-04 03:25:36](#)
(no subject)

Cissy, the minds of my colleagues are, with only some exception, quite transparent to me. I suppose they saddle you with the task of passing along your "observations" because they are too craven to approach me on their own.

You think they'd know by now how much I abhor a coward. At least you're not that.

Rather unfortunate that Hydra is. If she wants my favour, she could boast to me, rather than to her Auntie, of her so-called Legilimency. Though I don't know what you mean that you provided her with practise. Indulge me with a little elaboration?



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2014-01-04 03:28:00](#)**
(no subject)

No, I don't think I shall. You may try to see how transparent *my* mind is, if you are that curious.



 **[alt_bellatrix](#)** at **[2014-01-04 03:35:08](#)**
(no subject)

Ah, I'm in such an indulgent mood. You may have that small victory and enjoy it.

I'll just get it out of her, instead.

2014-01-03 20:53:00


Private message to Ronald Weasley

Ron? Where are you? When do you expect to be home?



 [alt_molly](#)




 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-04 02:55:34](#)

(no subject)

Wait a minute. I just found the note you left.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-04 02:56:53](#)

(no subject)

Except this was *yesterday's* note. I didn't see it until now.

When will you be home tonight?



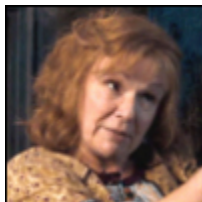
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 03:19:52](#)


(no subject)

Oh. Hullo, Mum.

I'm alright. Same as last night.

You didn't see the note I left this morning? Might have slipped inside your purse, I guess. I mean, don't turn everything out looking for it. It says the same as yesterday's, anywiz.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-04 03:48:30](#)


(no subject)

I notice that neither of them say when to expect you home.

If you're at Sally-Anne's could you ask her

whether she will be coming over for dinner tomorrow night? Why don't you ask that, dear? Although I suppose Leo might not like that, as it's the last night she'll be home.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 04:02:26](#)

(no subject)

Oh. I can't tell her be

Mum, I don't think he'd like that at all. I mean, it's not just that he wouldn't want Sally Anne to be gone on the last night before school, but-

I think it might make him really cross, and he'd think we were meddling, y'know?

But, yeah, he wouldn't want her to be gone, either... because he doesn't want to let her go anywhere at all ever.

It's not-

He's-

I dunno, Mum. It's really awful how he gets.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-04 04:19:23](#)

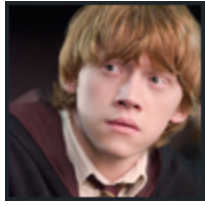
(no subject)


Oh, dear.

I think I understand. I mean, I know what Leo can be like, from having to deal with him in the barter network. Unfortunately. He made his wife perfectly miserable, and I can imagine he would do the same with his daughter.

The poor girl. Will she be all right tonight?


You don't think he might hurt her, do you?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:30:08](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know. That's why I'm staying out out here. Just in case.



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:38:16](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, my goodness.

You're *outside*? The two of you, or just you?

If you need help, Ron, do send word.

At any rate, if there's no trouble (and I hope there isn't), I will expect you home tonight, certainly sooner than you arrived last night.

2014-01-03 21:00:00

Private message to Mummy

Mummy,

Do you think you'll be home tonight? Because I was hoping I could speak with you.



 [alt_hydra](#)

If not tonight, then maybe tomorrow?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2014-01-04 04:03:00**
(no subject)

Well Hydra, what a coincidence. Here I was, hoping I could speak with *you*.

I'll be home within the hour.

Might I ask what this concerns?




 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-01-04 04:07:28**
(no subject)

Something peculiar happened today. Only, I think it might've happened before.

Tell me, when you were younger, did you ever mistake people for speaking out loud to you? Only to find out later that they weren't speaking at all, but just thinking?

From,
Hydra




 [alt_bellatrix](#) at **2014-01-04 04:07:57**
(no subject)

That is how it tends to start.

Of course, I was much younger than you are now.

Don't go to sleep. We will speak of this when I return home.



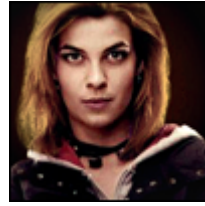
 **alt_hydra** at **2014-01-04 04:08:32**
(no subject)

Don't worry, I won't.

From,
Hydra

2014-01-03 21:29:00

Order Only: Trip to Bedford



 **alt_nymphadora**


We're making a trip to Bedford tomorrow with the group who chose to go there. The plan is we'll go in small clusters to the station. We'll catch the 10:07 to Peterborough, some of us, and the rest will take the 11:14, and we've found three proper Axminsters to carry everyone from the station to Bedford. Remus checked the disillusionment charms on them, and Sirius and Bea had a bit of fun testing the smoothness of the ride. At low altitude, mind you, and just in the garden this morning after breakfast. But they seem to be in good trim.

That said, I'm afraid the idea of flying carpets is not making all of our travellers happy. But we're trying to be reassuring and focus on the positive aspects: it'll be a smoother ride than it would be in a cart on country roads, and it should take less time, especially as there'll be less chance of making a wrong turning out in those unfamiliar lanes.

Well, I'm sure it will all be all right once we're in Peterborough and Bedford's just a short skip away.

Oh, and I meant to say! Thanks, Molly, and everyone else who sent along warm things for them. We've been having our annual cloak share here at the garden, too, and I think betwixt and between we'll have enough largish outer wraps to keep them from looking too conspicuous while we're travelling.



 **alt_pansy** at **2014-01-04 04:39:35**

(no subject)


I found some more spare mufflers and gloves I had in storage. I wish my hands weren't so small, but maybe they'll fit someone? Anyways, I'll pop over with them tonight.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:58:49](#)**
(no subject)

Ta, you! That's lovely.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:45:36](#)**
(no subject)

Carpets are great fun. We should get more in for sale, actually.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 05:01:01](#)**
(no subject)

Expensive fun, though.

Not sure how many we could sell, really. Though if we could advertise by letting people watch Bea ride them, I'm sure we couldn't keep them in stock. The two of you were too adorable!

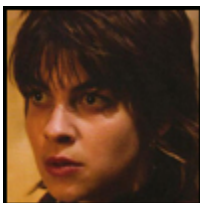


 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:51:54](#)**
(no subject)

Tonks,

I say, do you need any other assistance? Several of us were planning to fly along the wards in search of Octoboros stones but if you need more hands I'm sure we could alter our plans, what.

-Justin



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 05:04:11](#)**
(no subject)

I think we should be set unless someone simply prefers the idea of trains and carpets to Cleansweeps and Nimbuses.

Seriously. I think what you'll be doing is awfully important and you should go. Of course, if the weather changes your plans (and complicates ours if that's the case), then there might be ways you could help us.

We'll wait and see, shall we?



 **[alt_molly](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:54:55](#)**
(no subject)

I'm certainly happy what I sent will be useful. It's certainly no trouble for me to knit extra jumpers, hats and gloves. Fortunately, I had a bonanza haul of yarn with the barter network this autumn.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 05:06:22](#)**
(no subject)

You could see how they appreciated knowing that someone had knit especially for them. Not that any of them were turning away the used cloaks and sturdy shoes and other traded items. They're glad of everything we've been able to give them.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-04 04:58:50](#)**
(no subject)

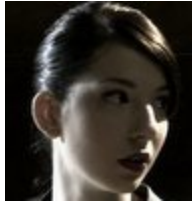
Why aren't you going earlier? Is that really the earliest train?



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 05:10:16](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. We decided it would be best if we arrived after the market day crowds had begun gathering at Peterborough. That way we can blend in and not look like four groups of mostly pregnant women all trundling off the same service from New London, you see?


Less conspicuous that way.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:12:09](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Yeah. That makes sense.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-04 04:59:41](#)
(no subject)

They're not thrilled with the flying carpets but they'll RIDE on them, surely?

I'm not sure what we'll do if they refuse.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-04 05:36:43](#)
(no subject)

I hope so.

Rebecca's the one who seems most unnerved by it-- heights, I think. And Mary's none too keen on it, either, and Eliza keeps saying she gets ill riding any kind of transport, so she's not sure about the train, even, let alone a carpet.

It's hard to guess what will upset them. Things you would never guess. Have you talked to Mary at all? She's very nervous about anything magical. Wands make her very skittish, of course, but she even looked wary about drinking water out of the self-warming kettle.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-04 15:41:36](#)
(no subject)

Harry's flying but I'd rather not. Please may I come on the train with the others? Unless you think that would make it look worse. Only I thought I could blend in but also have a wand, if that makes sense. So anyone who saw would see a group of girls and at least one had a wand.

Oh, and I've just thought: we could give a few of them some wood of the right size to look like wands, only they don't ever have to use them.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-04 16:08:12](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, do come along. We're finishing breakfast and beginning to get everyone ready now.

I like your idea about false wands. I expect we could transfigure things to look just right. Come help us do that!



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-04 18:34:48](#)**
(no subject)

Give Terrie my regards, will you?

Ellie will mind the shop and I will mind the monster.
(Why does she have to be so two? We never know if we're getting the sweet or the sour.)

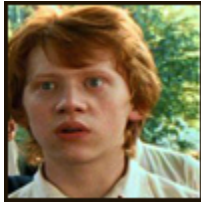
2014-01-03 22:27:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron

Are you out there again?



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 04:33:07](#)

(no subject)

Of course, I am. I told you I would.

Wait. Is anything wrong? Do you need me to come in there?

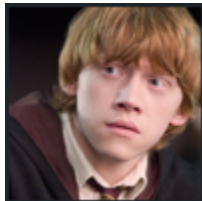



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 04:33:57](#)

(no subject)

No, everything's fine. I mean, I'm fine.

Don't worry.

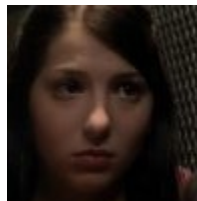


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 04:40:14](#)

(no subject)

Wait. You're not, are you? Or he's not?

What's he doing now?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 04:40:41](#)

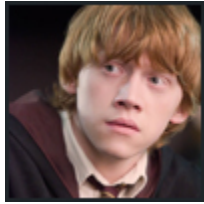
(no subject)


Pacing.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 04:49:03](#)
(no subject)

Is your mum cross? I saw she sent you a PM.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 04:54:14](#)
(no subject)

No.

But she's probably pacing, too.

She's worried about you. Too.

What's he up to now?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 04:55:39](#)
(no subject)

He's on his bed reading a book.

I think he'll fall asleep soon but I don't think I want to try to sneak out tonight.

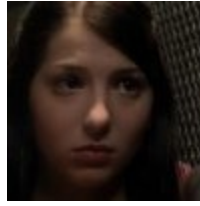


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 05:13:25](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

He didn't drink enough? To make him really sleep, I mean.


Because it was awfully nice last night when you did come out.
Didn't you think?



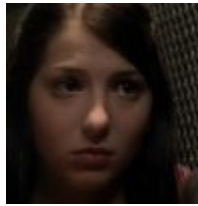
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:14:43](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. But he drank less tonight and also it was really nice but I'm tired today and I don't think I should try to sneak out again.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 05:17:45](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

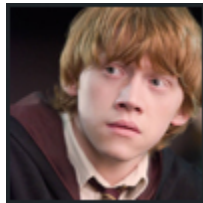



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:20:22](#)
(no subject)

~~And last night,~~ he

He's gone to sleep but he's tossing and turning instead of snoring. He's like this sometimes, I think it's part of why he drinks.

You don't have to stay. It's really cold outside. I'm probably going to go to ~~sleep~~ bed soon.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 05:24:50](#)
(no subject)

But-

Will it be okay, do you think? I mean he won't wake up and be all- y'know.

I could just stay and be sure. I mean, the. You could sleep and know I'm here, yeah?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:28:15](#)
(no subject)

Well he'll wake up and be furious if I sneak out and he sees my bed is empty but if I'm here where I'm supposed to be he's not going to wake me up or anything you know?

It'll be fine. You need a proper night's sleep and not outside in the yard (and if he comes outside for some reason and sees you he'll assume I was planning to sneak out and that really will make him angry.)

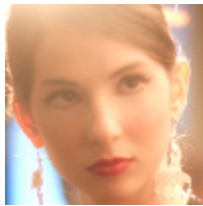


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 05:39:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

Yeah. I expect so.

You're sure Mum'll be glad if I get home before curfew, anywiz.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:42:34](#)
(no subject)

Goodnight, Ron.

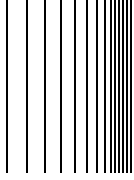
And thank you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-04 05:45:04](#)
(no subject)

Night, you.

Try to sleep, yeah?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 05:48:44](#)
(no subject)

I will.

2014-01-04 10:21:00

Order Only - Bad News



 [alt_hydra](#)

My Mother knows that I'm a legilimens.

I suppose the good news is that she thinks I've only just now discovered that I am one, but the other bad news is that it's my own fault that she knows. I had to tell her because I accidentally legilimized Auntie Narcissa when we were out shopping yesterday. You see, I thought she was speaking out loud to me, and since I haven't had something like that happen to me in a while, I responded to her.

Well, Auntie Narcissa started asking me how long I've been hearing people's thoughts like that, and I lied and said it had only happened a few times with people I'm close with, like Remy and Justin. I did not tell her that Mummy didn't know, but of course I knew Aunt Narcissa would probably bring it up with her eventually, so I pretended to be a little sad and embarrassed that my gift was so weak and pitiful. I hoped she would gather that I didn't want to talk about it, but maybe that was a bad thing to hope for, since it might have been the reason why she brought it up with Mummy.

Maybe I should have just *told* her I was keeping it a secret from Mummy until I was really, really good, because I wanted to impress her, and make her so proud that she'd ~~let me marry~~ be nice to me. Auntie Narcissa might have agreed to keep it a secret, too. She's always tried to help me when things get difficult with Mummy.

I suppose that's why it's easy for me to slip up around her. She's always felt safe.


Anyway, while I was getting ready for bed last night, a Malfoy house elf popped over and gave me a note from Auntie, warning me that Mummy would be coming to ask me about my legilmency. I decided that I would ask Mummy about it, first, so she would think I had only just figured out what was happening to me. I'm not entirely sure she believed me - it can be hard to tell, with her - but she seemed to accept it.

Trouble is, now she's very excited to discover how skilled I am, and says that I might finally "be useful." She wants me to work with Auror Penderyn over the summer, and says that if I prove skilled enough, she might want to take over my training herself!

I wish there were some way to make her think I was a bad legilimens, but I don't think that any such thing exists. They're so uncommon to begin with, especially those who have it manifest on its own.

I'm sorry to let you all down. I wanted to use my legilimency to help us, not her.



 **alt_justin** at **2014-01-04 17:59:05**

Private Message to Hydra

Hullo, love,

I'm glad you reached me last night. I tried not to worry when I saw your aunt's message--I mean, after all, you'd said she was taking you shopping--but then when I saw you write to your mother as well, I wasn't sure what to think. I do think it's a good plan to cut her off at the pass, if you follow me.

I know you're tired of me saying it but it might be a good thing to get training from someone other than your mother, what. If you worked with Mr Snape I'm sure you could even keep this Auror Penderyn from thinking you're as good as you are. It's rather like the CCF, isn't it: It can be uncomfortable to learn in the context of what they're teaching, what, but on the whole you're still learning skills that will be well useful.

I've been thinking about your aunt, too.... Do you think you could ask her about what she and your mother talked about, so you'll know what is and isn't safe to say?

Either way, train tomorrow. And then we get to be together again.

-J



 **alt_hydra** at **2014-01-04 18:17:12**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

I just don't know what to do. Do I want them to think I'm not very good, or is it better if they think I'm *very good*? I don't even really understand how good I am. The hardest part about it is trying to figure out what people's thoughts mean. They're not very clear unless I ask direct questions.

Mostly, I just keep thinking about what Tom Voldemort will do, when he finds out. I don't have to read Mummy's mind to know that she'll take great pleasure in presenting him with another legilimens.

I wish we were already back at school. I'll try to speak with Aunt Narcissa before then, or at least write to her.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-04 18:31:52](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

I should think it's much easier to make them think you're weak and not very good, because one can always reveal less of what one sees, but one can't very well know *more* than one really sees, if you

follow me.

When Voldemort had you to tea before, did he seem interested in your conversations with Tom? Do you think he might see your ability as rightfully his? Perhaps if you made him think it's merely a shadow, he'd dismiss it as an anomaly from the diary and nothing more.

I thought disguising your ring was so clever, what, but I'm sorry I didn't think about your aunt's reaction. But she did warn you about your mother, and it sounds as if she didn't tell her why she thought you were a legilimens--I mean to say, what it was that happened between you two, what. So if you can find out from her, then you'll know whether she's still trying to help. And if she is, perhaps she can help you avoid the worst of your mother's plans.

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-04 18:59:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

Yes, that was all he wanted to know about, was what Tom had said and done. Which is funny because when I wrote in the diary Tom asked me a great deal about our Great Lord Protector (as I called him, back then), and almost seemed suspicious of his grown-up self. As if there were competition between them. I don't want him to think of *me* as his shadow, lest he see me as

competition, too. Maybe it's better if he thinks I just inherited it from Mummy. I really don't know.

Mummy didn't say anything about what she and Auntie Narcissa discussed, but I suppose she might have done on purpose. I don't think Auntie would say anything about the ring or the engagement. She knows that we have to be the ones to convince Mummy, and she's frustrated that I haven't done anything about that yet.



 **[alt_justin](#) at 2014-01-04 19:18:04**


Re: Private Message to Hydra

No, not that he'd think of *you* as his shadow, what, only that your legilimency is a mere refraction of his, and nothing of much concern or worth developing.

Can you manage to get to Grimmauld later? We're flying along the ward lines but it's well cold and I think we'll all be Apparating back there for hot cocoa when we're done. It's smooth enough to write but it's a slow business, what.

-J



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-01-04 19:24:46**

Re: Private Message to Hydra

That would be very dismissive of him indeed. We can hope for it, but certainly not count on it.

I'll try but I don't know, Mummy is so terribly interested in me now... but she won't be home until later tonight, at least.



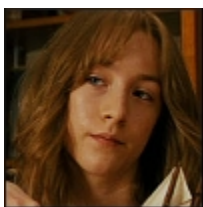
 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-01-04 18:34:19**

(no subject)

Why are you apologising? You need to stop looking at this as some kind of Azkaban sentence and see it for what it really is: you've got the golden snitch in sight.

And invitation to work with the Auror division as the daughter of the

great and feared Auror Lestrangle? Even *without* legilimency you could find out more than any of us.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-04 19:02:37](#)

(no subject)

Since you're comparing it to quidditch, I think you would find it much funner than I would.

I'd rather be cosy in Laszlo's with cousin Dora and Bea and the others.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-04 19:08:38](#)

(no subject)

That cosiness isn't real. It's just whistling in the dark. Strangeweale was hanged in the warehouses, remember?

You're reminding me of someone else who's never used his position and access to his advantage.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-04 19:15:23](#)

(no subject)

I remember. It just happened you know.

What I meant is that I don't enjoy being around those people like you do. I don't like that the only thing I have is being a Lestrangle, with frightening Lestrangle abilities. But just because I don't like it doesn't mean I won't do it.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-04 19:18:26](#)

(no subject)

You have more to offer than being a Lestrangle with creepy Lestrangle traits.

And I don't enjoy those people, either, but I do greatly enjoy the idea of getting the better of them. Relish it, in fact. I just find it regretful that you don't.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-01-04 19:21:49](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe it's good that I don't. Mummy really, really likes legitimizing people, you know.


You have more to offer than being a Malfoy, too.



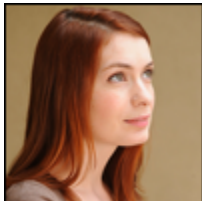
 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-04 19:22:30](#)**
(no subject)


I know where my strengths lie.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-04 19:05:06](#)**
(no subject)

This could be a potentially fruitful opportunity, I agree.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-04 19:10:59](#)**
Private Message to Hydra

I've recently been talking to Ron about his offer to intern with the Aurors, and what that might mean in terms of his future. If you'd like to talk at all, know that I'm always free.

I just want you to know that although this would be useful, it is by no means something you ought to feel is your only choice. I have no illusions about how difficult this sort of job would be, and the sort of toll it would take. I also know you're under a great deal of pressure from your parents, and must balance that as best as you can.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-01-04 19:29:56](#)**
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I always thought if I apprenticed anywhere, it would be with Department of Mysteries. Even Mummy agreed, since occlumency is so essential there. But legitimency is so sought after in the Auror division

that I'm sure Mysteries will be off the table now.

Well, I have to think about OWLs first, anyway.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-04 19:36:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Hydra

There are always options, dear. Even though it might not feel like it at the moment.

You know more than I do about how far you can push things with your mother, but if your goal is Mysteries, I think that would be something worth aiming for.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 15:55:33](#)

(no subject)

Don't be so hard on yourself, kiddo. The likelihood that you'd get all the way through this without your mother figuring out your abilities was slim, anyway.

Anyway, look on the bright side: Over Easter hols, you can come and tell us what in the world is going on in our Bea's head.

No, on a more sober level: So long as you can maintain your Occlumency, stay calm and stay focused, you'll be fine. I can't pretend to know much about how they train Legilimens nowadays but remember it's mostly going to be about working for *you* to read *others'*, not for *them* to read *you*.

And you're not letting the side down at all, pet. Particularly if you can use your time to gain any insights whatsoever as to their strategies, plans or movements. The way I see it, the more of you lot we can use to infiltrate the Ministry, the stronger our position grows.

2014-01-04 13:05:00

Private message to Daphne

Care to meet me at Blaison before we head to King's Cross? I'd rather not resort to troughing from the dreaded Hogwart's Express trolley, if I can help it.



 [alt_draco](#)




 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-01-04 20:28:56**

(no subject)

Oh, what a lovely notion, Draco. I just love those little cheese soufflés they make.

Will anyone else be there?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-01-04 20:40:41**

(no subject)

Croaker and Montague tend to load up on pastry there before boarding the train. I might have said something to Vaisey, as well, so if we see him and Stevens I wouldn't be surprised.



 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-01-04 20:46:14**

(no subject)

Oh, really? I shall endeavour to look my very best, then. Well, as much as one can in school robes.

I should warn you that Mother is thoroughly taken with all the stories that have been swirling around in the papers. So if we see her at the station with Queenie, she'll probably flutter all around you. Don't worry, though, I'll tell her we have urgent prefect's business to attend to.

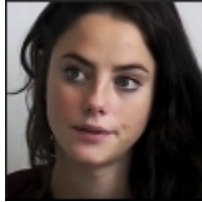


 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-01-04 20:48:07**

(no subject)

You always look amazing, so no trouble there.

And I don't mind a little fluttering. Could be amusing, really.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-01-04 20:50:05](#)
(no subject)

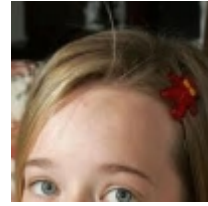
Heh, I suppose so.

Alright, see you in the morning at Blaison!

[2014-01-04 15:26:00](#)

private message to Sally-Anne Perks

I am sorry to disturb you when you are visiting your father, but there is something I need to ask you. Because I don't know what my choices are and I don't want to pick the wrong one.



 **[alt_megan](#)**

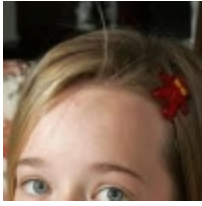
It's about when Mrs Stretton sent us out on Boxing Day. Well she went with me to the first few places. But then I had to go to the rest of the places by myself. Where the muggles live I mean. Because there were too many to do unless we split up. Anyhow giving out the clothes and scrip and little boxes was fine but then they asked me for things like they're supposed to but some of them are too hard not things I am good at comfortable enough with yet. I mean I can patch a hole in a roof, that spell is easy enough, or just put an impervious charm on the bit of wall where the mice keep getting in. But Imperius is harder. But I didn't want to tell your mother that I can't do it because everything was going so well and she was even talking about having me back some time to help out again which would be perfect. And so I don't want to disappoint her. But I am not good at Imperius. And the muggles really really need someone to renew it on this one muggle who is very troublesome.


And it's no good saying ask Jeremy. Because he already said I am stupider than a Squib for mixing an order up once. So I suppose I will have to ask Mrs Stretton. Only can you tell me how to ask? Because your advice about the yelling, I mean when she does it, was very helpful.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-04 21:45:17](#)**
(no subject)

Okay, back up. If you were supposed to cast Imperius on someone on Boxing Day why are you all tied in knots over it now? Did you cast it but it wore off, or did you not cast it, or -- what happened?



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 21:47:31](#)
(no subject)

No I tried but it did not work so I told them I would come back only I was

I was going to ask somebody else to do it but I didn't and now my time here is almost over and if I don't fix it Mrs Stretton is going to be really angry with me and not ask me back to work ever.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 21:54:42](#)
(no subject)

Oh. I see.

Okay. You probably should have

WHY did they want you to Imperius someone, what problems is he causing?




 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 22:03:41](#)
(no subject)

He has a very bad temper and a bad habit of hitting the other muggles. Which is not good. Well hitting one of them particularly. And she does an important thing with the jam and so it is inconvenient to have to go and heal her so she can work.

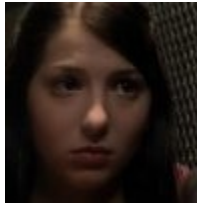
Anyhow Mrs Stretton did it last year but it needs to get done again.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 22:10:19](#)
(no subject)

And I asked if it wouldn't just be easier to send him back to the camp and then the Strettons could get a different muggle but they got scared and said then his wife wouldn't work well at all and that would be worse for everybody. (She is his wife. The one he hits sometimes I mean.)

So.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:13:30](#)
(no subject)

Oh. I remember these people now.

Okay. I was going to tell you to ask Mrs Stretton and just give it to her as part of a list of things she needs to know, like, 'I fed the owls, I inspected the pineapple jam, there's a broken loom in the cloth mill that needs repair, and Mr Brown of Farm #17 needs to be put back under the Imperius Curse,' like if you're making a report to her.


But she almost sent him away last time. That's probably why they asked you instead of sending word to her. So I'll talk to Jeremy and tell him not to be a git to you. (I don't know WHY she won't just let Mrs Stretton send him back to the camps, he's -- well, he must be pleasant enough the rest of the time.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:32:10](#)
(no subject)

He says he'll take care of it tonight. You can stop worrying about it.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 22:37:30](#)
(no subject)

Oh good, thank you! I really didn't want to ask him but it will probably really be best that he does it instead of his mother getting involved. The muggles won't be so scared anyway.


Oh. A different thing -- Mrs Stretton said I should pick out a nice basket and fill it with anything I like from the Bad Jam cupboard to take back to Hogwarts. Is there anything you want that I should be sure and not take?



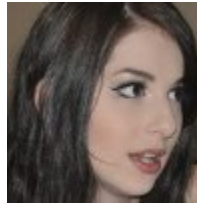
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:40:20](#)
(no subject)

I'm going straight to the train from my father's house. So no, quite the opposite, you should find a jar of blackberry jam and bring it to school for me!



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 22:49:51](#)
(no subject)

Blackberry, yes, I can do that! I am going to bring some things to share with Ernie and Susan and others as well. Maybe I could share them round the next time we get together. In a large group, I mean, for something educational. Because Mrs Stretton just came by and took the basket I picked out and gave me a much bigger one instead and told me to fill it up!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:59:16](#)
(no subject)

Ooh, see if there are any of those packets of crumpets that are charmed not to go stale until you open them. They're usually way in the back left corner, one of the shelves near the bottom.

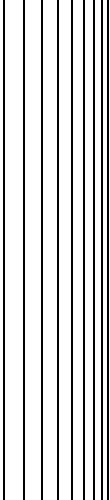
They go REALLY well with jam, if you're thinking of sharing in a group. And eating crumpets and jam while doing something educational, like for instance if someone is reading improving literature out loud, sounds pretty wizard.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-04 23:26:00](#)
(no subject)

I looked and there are five of them! And they are only a little bit crushed. So I will do that. Also there are a few packets of mixed nuts that will be nice for the train. And I got you three jars of blackberry. And I have lashings of other jams and things.

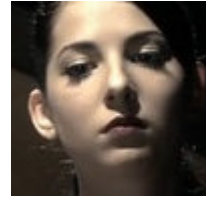
It really is a VERY big basket.



And yes, improving literature is just the thing I was thinking of. Which I will have some questions about actually. I mean about different improving literature. Because Miss Penworthy said I can pick something to have a subscription to, something improving and broadening and increasing my knowledge of how to go on in the world now that I have got a bit of work experience. Because she wants me to be able to make my way ~~when~~ after NEWTs. So I am thinking of something perhaps with fashion advice for young witches who are starting their first job. And gossip. I mean not gossip gossip, but the articles about society witches. Because they are informative.

2014-01-04 16:13:00

Private message to Jeremy Stretton



 **alt_sally_anne**

Megan Jones needs some help with a situation. John Swinton, he's one of the muggles in dorm #35 over by the sheep farm. His wife Elaine is a mechanic who keeps a bunch of things running. Anyway John's a violent git, and about a year back your mother put him under Imperius to make him keep his hands to himself -- she'd have preferred to send him away, but that upset Elaine, she really wants to keep him but she's happier when he's under the Imperius.

It's worn off and on Boxing Day they asked Megan to redo it. Only, she couldn't manage it, which isn't terribly surprising.

Someone needs to. If it's your mum, she'll probably just pack John back off to the camp, which -- well, it's not unreasonable but it'll make Elaine grieve. And she's the one that's actually useful.

Can I tell her you're on it, or will be later? She felt awkward leaving this undone and just going back to school.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-04 22:23:23**

Order Only

I actually thought about whether Elaine might like to run away to Bedford, she is EXTREMELY good with machines.

But, she absolutely would want to take John with her. I think she's mad. But whatever. Anyway, I don't know that the Order would be willing to just keep putting Imperius on him for her.

If they're going to stay at your parents' though there's really no other option. He was sort of okay with it, anyway, he knows he has a bad temper.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-04 22:31:07](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, he wouldn't exactly be an addition to Bedford.

Right, I'll get it done tonight before I go out with the lads.



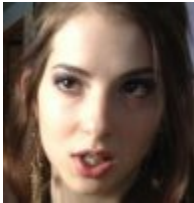
 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-04 22:27:01](#)

(no subject)

Jones? Why did she have to bother you? She could have bloody just asked me.

Hufflepuffs. Right. Always have to talk everything over with other people before getting on with it.

Sure, I'll go do it.



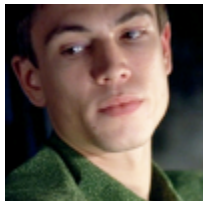
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:31:30](#)

(no subject)

She didn't ask you because you already made it clear you thought she was an idiot because she made a mistake during the holiday rush.

It doesn't take much to intimidate her. It's not because she's a Hufflepuff, it's because she got raised by a crazy old lady who alternated between treating her like a pet and treating her like dirt.

Your mother's never exactly been kind to me, but at least I usually knew what to expect.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-04 22:44:56](#)

(no subject)

As long as what you expected was yelling every so often and mild crossness much of the rest of the time, yeah.

I'll get it done. And all right, I'll try to be kinder to the timid little badger. As long as she doesn't do anything especially confounded between now and when she leaves, I should be able to manage.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-04 22:57:02](#)
(no subject)

She leaves tomorrow. Don't strain yourself or anything.

2014-01-04 19:35:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Dora



 [alt_sirius](#)

So, how did everything go? I'm guessing you had to leap straight back into delivering drinks. Sometimes I think we ought to stop replenishing the heating charms in the garden but then, we really do need the dosh.

Anyway, I hope that it was fairly straightforward.

We've had quite an exciting day here, on the other hand. Seven hours of contrariness punctuated by tossing two meals right across the kitchen, a 'nap' that I later learned consisted of popping the heads off all her dollies, tearing the pages out of three books and breaking the present Uncle Charlie gave her last year. And attendant crocodile tears, of course.


Then there was the whole scene when Harry, Justin and the other flyers came back here for a cup of cocoa and I forbade her coming down to visit them all. Last thing we need is for her to overhear their reports or to connect the faces she saw here with tea at Laszlo's.

Add to that, Snape was banging about in the still room complaining about the noise (a 'distraction from important endeavours' and other choice phrases) and bloody Kreacher acting all miserable again. No idea what he was on about this time. Wailing almost as loudly as Albia and apparently with just as little reason.

I've finally got her bathed and in bed but not without another row about it. Merlin, I've never seen hair that shade of green, or a face so purple. She even grew little horns when she was really going for effect.

When you do shut down for the evening, bring me back a pint or two, will you? If I'm still awake, I could use the drink.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:09:57](#)
(no subject)

She *grew horns*? I'll be sure to bring you back a pint.

Things went really well today. We lucked out and found ourselves in the middle of a festival, so we were even less conspicuous in the crowds.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:14:52](#)
(no subject)

No one fell off the carpets, then? Good.


Horns. I didn't half expect her to cover herself in fur and grow claws after that. Next it'll be scales in the tub, I'll reckon.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:20:25](#)
(no subject)


Now that's a really interesting question. Just how far do metamorphmagus abilities extend? Could she turn herself into a tiny, adorable werewolf regardless of the phase of the moon?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:28:35](#)
(no subject)


Right. Because it's not bad enough that she still shouts 'Sirius Black!' once in a while. Let's by all means have her impersonate her father who's supposed to be a completely normal wizard.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:31:46](#)
(no subject)

Well she's never seen me transformed, has she? So we're probably safe.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:21:06](#)
(no subject)

If she decides she wants to be a lizard, could she turn herself into one without having to learn the animagus transformation?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:26:57](#)
(no subject)

I don't know - but if I were you, I wouldn't put ideas in her head.

Especially since I'll be the one ~~Dora~~ blames for it



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:32:20](#)
(no subject)

I'd say what we really ought to worry about is that she's going to try to look like Kreacher.

Think about THAT possibility the next time she decides to grow horns.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:51:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't think it was really a question of her *deciding* to do anything. Joys of wandless magic.


And the moment she makes herself look like that ugly tosser we can trot out the chestnut that her face could freeze like that. I bet that'd put a stop to it.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:21:54](#)
(no subject)

Oh, also, I meant to say -- there were enchanted sleighs and whatnot available for hire, at the festival! So the girls who didn't want to ride on carpets didn't have to.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:25:39](#)
(no subject)

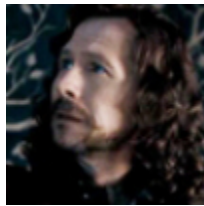
Oh, that's a stroke of luck! I wonder why Terrie didn't think to tell us about it. Maybe she thought we already knew and chose the date based on the festivities.


Is she doing all right? And her mother and the little boy? Or did you not get a chance to catch up with her?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-05 02:38:08](#)
(no subject)

I didn't really have a chance to catch up with her, sorry. Too much else going on. She seemed fine. I didn't see the kid.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 02:53:01](#)
(no subject)

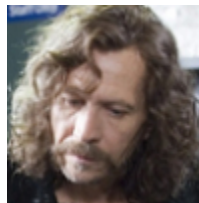
Oh, that's all right. I just hope she wasn't upset I didn't come along with everyone.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-05 04:16:30](#)
(no subject)

I think she was a bit wistful about that, actually.

We had a nice chat once everyone had got there safely and were off getting situated and settled. I hadn't thought about it before, but she pointed out we have a bit in common.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-05 05:21:36](#)
(no subject)

She always was too clever by half. Guessed right off that Moony would join the Order when he disappeared from his Hogwarts job (of course, she didn't know he'd been a member, years before). And she's the one who got us all those permits

from the camps when Arthur's source dried up.

Or were you just chatting about having children so close in age?




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-05 06:17:35](#)**
(no subject)

Hm. Yes, a bit of that. Hers seems a bit of a handful. Stubborn and smart. But she's got her mum to help with him, though I thought she may find that a bit stifling, having her mum with her. I suppose that's the way it is: she's grateful and feels burdened all at the same time.

Apparently her mum thinks Terrie missed a good thing with you. Thinks she misplayed her hand, and says so once a fortnight or so.

But that's where she was glad to have a chance to see what I'm about, I guess. Another one who got attached but wasn't the right one for her bloke. Not to worry, though. We didn't waste much breath on that sort of thing. Mostly it was thinking what might come of these things we're all doing, and hoping that we can keep it up long enough to make a real difference before we get caught and stopped.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-05 06:24:03](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I am that irresistible. But I could help explain to her mum how hopeless it would have been if that'll take one burden off Terrie. She's always been a good lass.

As for getting caught, it'll never happen. Every victory gives us momentum. If we can get the press running we'll be that much better off. Still. I missed my Christmas address this year. Think I should throw another Grim Truth out there to stir things up?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-05 06:29:47](#)
(no subject)

About Strangeweale? or something else?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-05 04:39:41](#)
(no subject)

We did have a bit of a tense moment with my group, just after we'd left the station. There was a woman who came up to us--a Roma woman--who wanted to tell our fortunes. Very insistent that we should let her read our palms or weigh our wands and she could tell us what Fate's got in store for us. Wouldn't take no for an answer. (She'd have given Bea a contest for who's harder to turn down!) And there we were with a quartet of false wands in the group.

Honestly, it occurred to me she could as easily have been MLE as an actual gypsy. And we just kept walking and saying we weren't interested, thanks. Eventually we got clear of her, but it was an anxious few minutes, I promise you. Some of the others said they'd met her, too. I suppose a midwinter fair is a rich field for fortune tellers.

As far as I know that was the most ticklish moment any of us had. Really it was quite a pleasant trip out there and back.

[2014-01-04 20:48:00](#)

Private message to Luna Lovegood

Are you ready to go back to school?

I'm not ready for holidays to be over (especially with OWLs looming in front of us). But I feel like I have hardly glimpsed my family! Mum's been busy with the shop -- and so have the Twins, obviously. Ron had an internship but he also abandoned us today to go flying AND apparently he's been sneaking off to Sally-Anne Perks' house in the evenings.




 [alt_ginny](#)

And Percy had a huge row with Mum, Bill, and Charlie and now he's not speaking to any of us at all.

I've seen Bill a few times, at least. But if you hadn't been over to visit I think I'd have spent nearly the whole holiday completely on my own!



 [alt_luna](#) at **[2014-01-05 03:10:15](#)**

(no subject)

Oh, I'm sorry you haven't seen your family as much as you'd hoped. I suppose your Mum and Fred and George can't be blamed, as they have new businesses, but of course it's disappointing.

Do you think things will be sorted out with Percy eventually?

I didn't see the Browns very often either. Well, Mrs Brown insisted I come a couple of times when she made social calls, but otherwise they left me mostly alone. I think generally Lavender pretended I wasn't even here.

I did manage to do quite a bit of sketching. I have one I drew of the Burrow that I want to show you once we're on the train. I didn't crack my books open at all for OWLS, either. I may be regretting that in a few weeks.




 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2014-01-05 03:17:20](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know about Percy. I mean there have been rows before but he didn't even come at Christmas!

And Christmas was sort of awful anyway. No one wanted to talk about how it had been a year since Dad died but everyone was thinking about it.

I did revise. I think Honoria thinks her parents will disown her if she doesn't get straight Es and Os.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-01-05 03:32:13](#)**
(no subject)


He didn't come? I suppose your Mum was rather upset about it?

Mr Brown was rather cross and grumbly through the whole holiday, and it just made me think about my own Dad. And yours, since...well, he almost became my Dad, too. I'm sure you must miss him very much, especially this time of year.

I'm certainly glad Madam Umbridge isn't the Headmistress anymore. I don't think the halfbloods at the school are as badly afraid about OWL scores as they were last year. At least not yet. Maybe it'll become worse by the end of the year.

Frankly, I think that if Honoria's parents disowned her, she might be quite a bit happier.



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2014-01-05 03:38:06](#)**
(no subject)

Honestly she didn't act as upset as I would have expected, I think because they'd rowed and she knew he probably wouldn't come. I think I was the only one who was surprised.


And too right about Honoria's parents. Maybe they'd trade her for Percy. Doesn't that sound like a good idea? We could have Honoria (because she'd be happier with us) and Percy could have

rich, important people as parents (because he'd be happier that way).

I don't know.

You know it just occurred to me that in one more year you'll be of age. (Almost EXACTLY one more year.) Are you going to come move into the Burrow? I mean at least on holidays?



 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-01-05 04:08:57](#)

(no subject)

Would you want to trade Honoria for Percy?

I'm sorry, that's not a fair question. Or do you know what the quarrel was about?

Your mum has already asked if I would like to move to the Burrow, and told her I'd think about it, but I'm quite confident I will say 'yes.'



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-05 04:18:45](#)


(no subject)

Back when I was little I felt like Percy was the one brother I could trust. Percy didn't play mean pranks on me, he didn't tell me lies because it was funny to scare me, and he didn't completely ignore me. When I was four, he liked playing school and he'd sit me down and teach me letters -- he actually taught me how to read. And how to count.

I wouldn't trade THAT version of Percy for Honoria.

But the one who testified against Mum on the Magical Commerce Committee and cuts us all dead and didn't come to Christmas -- yeah.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-01-05 04:25:19](#)
(no subject)

I'm so sorry. Perhaps he'll come around.

Although perhaps you and your brothers might not forgive him, even if your Mum would. I wonder if it might be even more difficult to forgive someone who has hurt someone you love, rather than yourself.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-05 04:27:19](#)
(no subject)

I'd forgive him.

But he'd actually have to come back.

2014-01-05 00:20:00

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks



I hope you're sleeping now.

I did stop out to check that you still had the cup in the window, but I couldn't stay. Mum would have had my head if I'd been gone tonight. I think she just sort of realised that all of hols have slipped away really quickly and tomorrow Gin and I'll be gone again.

 [alt_ron](#)

I'll save you a place on the train. Or if you get there first, save a place for me.

See you soon, yeah?

2014-01-05 13:54:00

Order only: Vincent Mitchell is dead

Alice, I received very bad news from Davidson this morning.



 [alt_kingsley](#)


It seems that Strangeweale has reached out from the grave to claim yet another victim. Vincent Mitchell was found this morning, dead by his own hand. Used a razor. It seems he couldn't live with what he'd done, even if it was due to imperius.

Bloody hell. I blame myself in part. I *knew* how distraught he was. I should have done more, made sure the people at Sherwood kept him under watch.

I think we need the people in each of the settlements where we have sent the others to be alerted to keep a careful eye on them.


Just in case.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2014-01-05 21:05:21**
(no subject)

Bad news indeed, Kingsley, but hardly your responsibility. He didn't seem to want looking after, and they were all old enough to take care of themselves. A man's entitled to his privacy, even if it does lead to an unfortunate end.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-01-05 21:45:01**
(no subject)

Oh, dear.

How very sad.

I am sorry to hear it.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-05 21:52:09](#)

Private Message to Kingsley

If you have a chance, please check in on Jason. He must feel somewhat responsible for what's happened, as he'd offered to take Victor in.

Have you talked to Scott Brownmiller yet about setting up brewing facilities at Sherwood? I'm rather concerned with how far Severus has been pushing himself to keep up with Stephen's schedule of brewing. I'm sure Scott has some basic training, as does Jason for that matter (it might be worth asking him whether he earned an OWL or NEWT in Potions), and I'd think there are others at the camp who are old enough to have gone through Hogwarts.



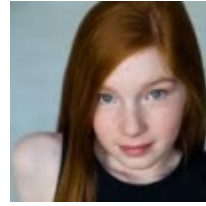
 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2014-01-07 20:45:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Kingsley

I talked with Davidson last night. He says that yes, we can set up a potions brewing facility, either out in the field with one of the Sherwood companies, or for the more complex and delicate potions, he knows of a likely location: an old abandoned muggle school with science laboratory facilities, which the muggle students used for learning their version of potions (chemistry). He feels that he would be more comfortable if he could safely secure the area around the old school a bit more, but he hopes to have that done in about a month. In the meantime, yes, Scott and Jason can begin taking some of the load off Severus' hands, at one of the Sherwood sites.

2014-01-05 14:08:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good




 **alt_evelyn**

Something happened as we were leaving the train today. Fintan McLaggen -- he's the third-year -- called me a rather nasty name while we were getting queued up for the carriages, and bumped into Artie hard enough to make him trip and fall.

Artie was gearing up for a row even though I was telling him to let it be, he was getting angry and I think he thought he had something to prove, and a few people around us were egging them both on, but Cormac came out of nowhere and grabbed his brother by the arm and said that we 'weren't worth it' before leading him off to a different place in the queue.

Anyways. I don't think I'll need that escort from Astronomy this term.



 **alt_harry** at **2014-01-05 23:56:32**
(no subject)

Still not sure about that, Evs. Better safe than sorry. At least make sure to walk back with your classmates or something.

[2014-01-05 15:05:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Pansy


Slytherin Common Room has NEVER looked so lovely.



How was the later part of your holiday?
Pretty much nothing but brewing or did you slip off for anything recreational?

 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-05 21:43:38](#)**
(no subject)

Potioneering, mostly, with some visits to Whizbang's to see how the Spring line was going, and a tea with Lucius that was slightly awkward, but not as bad as I thought it would be -- I think my going to St Mungo's with Cedric made a decent enough impression (although he seemed pleased that we were only just friends, and told me the Diggorys often 'overextended' themselves -- I think he has the same impression of the Bells as well). He still was pressing me to start socialising a more with people who are 'in your own social strata'.

And then there's my finances. Apparently, I can do what I wish with the Whizbang profits, but when it comes to the rest of it, I'm to receive an allowance controlled by him until I'm twenty-one, or get married (to someone he approves of), and unless I want to get a solicitor on my own and completely sever our relationship, I suppose that will have to do. He brought up Amanda, his sister, quite often as a cautionary tale.

Apparently, I've got quite a lot of work to do to maintain an appropriate social standing, and part of it involves Getting Involved In Things. St Mungo's was just the beginning, and apparently I ought to be grateful I made the cut. I've got a list. I'm already giving regularly to charities, of course, but there are committees and mailings and parties and all sorts of delightful ways I can do more to make an appropriate impression as a young lady of means, as apparently being a partner of a successful business is far too vulgar. (Or at least a business where the other partners' last names begin with a W and rhyme with 'Measly').

Ugh.

I am so glad to be back here, with you, where we belong.

Let's go for a lovely long walk before dinner.



[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-05 21:49:41](#)

(no subject)

Twenty-one?!? Ugh! I suppose 'Good for Amanda' wouldn't have gone over well.

I wonder if there's anyone in the Order who's respectable enough that they could start a charity that would actually funnel the money to Order activities? Sadly the one that comes to mind is Mrs Weasley and THAT'S not going to be an acceptable option. Maybe you, when you're older. You could say it's raising money for research into Dragonpox or Distressed Pureblooded Old Ladies or stray kneazles and hold all sorts of parties to raise funds and then give most of them to the Order. You'd want someone clever doing the books, though. Justin, say.

Anyway. Yes, let's.

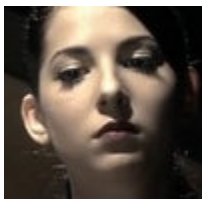
[2014-01-07 20:13:00](#)

Private Message to Sally-Anne and Daphne: Noble Arts Project



 [alt_pansy](#)

I've done some reading over hols for our project, but not as much as I would like, so I've been playing catch-up this week before we get too swamped with essays and ought to be done by Thursday, or Friday at the latest. When are you two free? We could make a tea of it if it's over the weekend.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-08 04:36:40](#)
(no subject)

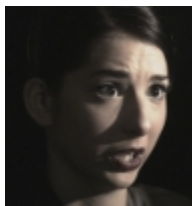
Any time.

I got no reading done. None. So if either of you want to tell me which books I most need to be reading, that might be good.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-08 04:52:43](#)
(no subject)


I've got a list. Professor Doves has a tendency to mention titles in his lectures, and I managed to find a few books over hols that have bits we could use.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-08 04:58:13](#)
(no subject)

Have you borrowed the books from him yet? (I mean, I suppose we could check the library? but of the books he's mentioned in class, there's generally about a 1-in-10 chance that they're in the library. At least he wrote us all permanent passes to the Restricted Section.)




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-08 05:32:11](#)
(no subject)

I haven't gone to him yet, no -- I wanted to see how many I could track down at home, and at the


libraries in New London first, but there's a few I couldn't find that we could ask him about.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-01-08 05:04:02](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I have Prefect duties tomorrow night, but I can swap with Draco if you'd like to do it then. I know he won't mind.

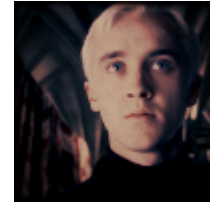


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-08 05:33:37](#)**
(no subject)

Sooner might be better than later, just to see what all we have left in terms of readings and so we'll have an idea of what to work on next. So yes, if that's all right with you.

2014-01-07 20:58:00

Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Hermione



 **alt_draco**

I've been meaning to tell you both about a few things that happened over Hols. On the night of the Gala, Teddy told me that Ned Pennifold made it clear to him that the Lord Protector is keeping an eye out for more young recruits to the council. You know how Teds is, though - I couldn't be sure it wasn't a brag or a trap, so I let it lie. But then, at Blaison on Sunday morning, before Daphs and I went to Kings Cross, Alfred Montague told me that his brother, Jason, told him the same thing: start proving your worth, the Lord Protector is watching.

Harry, if your Father is casting his net over Hogwarts, then I'm going to make myself into a fish he can't refuse.

On Saturday I more or less implied to my Father that I will be distancing myself from him publicly. Though we didn't speak of his slipping social position directly, he knew why I was warning him. He told me that he didn't want me to put myself in danger to save him, and when I pointed out to him that I've never really not been in danger, he argued that I didn't need to put myself in the Lord Protector's service so completely. He made it clear that the last thing he wants is for me to bind myself to the Lord Protector.

After a time, I think he saw that he couldn't sway me, and he said that whatever I do, don't do it for my family's standing.

Of course, he thinks that's exactly why I'm doing it.

I think it's time I ask Snape if it's possible for him to train me in legilimency.



 **alt_hermione** at **2014-01-08 04:29:20**

(no subject)

If even your father thinks you shouldn't take the Mark then why would you do it?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:32:46](#)
(no subject)

Because the only council member who associates with the Order is McGonagall.


When's the last time she gave us something useful?



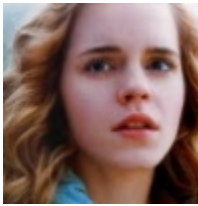
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 04:34:49](#)
(no subject)

That's really unfair, she's under such a terrible strain. And it's not as if she hears much way up here. I'm sure if she knew anything that could help, she'd tell us.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:36:41](#)
(no subject)

Imagine what Selwyn could've done if he'd known about the Horcruxes, Hermione.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 04:39:22](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but he *didn't* and she's hardly in a position to go nosing about after them.

Well. All right. It just seems so terribly risky.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:47:53](#)
(no subject)

It's all risky, though, isn't it? Ron and Hydra are looking at joining the Aurors, and I don't know what he's planning on doing with me when I get to be of age, but I have an idea it's not going to

be easy.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 04:50:18](#)

Private Message to Harry

That's not the *only* reason it's risky. I'm sorry, Harry, but Draco's changed his mind about things once. What if he decides it's easier to play along so long that he changes his mind again?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:55:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

~~He wouldn't~~

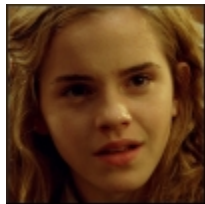
I don't think he'd do that. I really, really don't. He's not the sort of person to do something because it's easy.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:04:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

And he wouldn't do that to us.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 05:09:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

I wish I could be so certain.


If he had to choose between the Order and his family? Can you really say he wouldn't save them if he could?

Besides, it would hardly be the first time someone goes in not believing what people say and gradually comes to accept it. Maybe he wouldn't start thinking mudbloods are all animals but he could certainly start thinking it's better to keep Muggles subjugated, or some of the other things the Council wants people to think.

If you keep lying long enough it's hard not to start living the

lie. That's what Mr Snape says and I can well understand what he means.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:22:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

I don't know. The Order would give him a better chance at being able to keep them safe than trusting that Voldemort would, even if he gave him all our heads on a platter.

And Hermione, he was the one who told me I ought to free you. I mean, I'd been thinking about it before he said it, but he told me that if it was his to give, that's what he'd give you. I don't think he'd go back after all this and be able to think that way.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 16:19:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

The Order just executed someone who wasn't even Marked. So I wouldn't blame Draco if he doubts we'd be able to protect Mr Malfoy, who's done far worse things and far more of

them over the years.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:41:10](#)

(no subject)

I'm sure she would, too; therein lies the problem - she doesn't know anything. I don't know why and I'm not trying to discredit the sacrifices she's made, but having her in there alone hasn't been

enough, and it's clearly taken its toll on her.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:31:53](#)


(no subject)

I guess he's running out of Council members.

What are you going to do? To make it so he'll want you?

Is there anything I can do to help?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:37:02](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Don't act as if you're interested in joining, yourself.

Why *should* you? You're the heir, not one of the servants. You need to exude calm leadership. Like a political quidditch captain.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:42:59](#)
(no subject)

Okay...

I can do Quidditch, but I need a side. Who'd be on it?


Besides you, I mean.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 04:49:56](#)
(no subject)

And I guess it shouldn't look like I'm competing. With him.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:52:36](#)
(no subject)

All the students in the Order (that includes Hermione), and most of the galleon holders (including Daphne). By which I mean that they all know where you really stand.

And Raz, and Dolohov. By which I mean that, publicly, you want to strike the same notes they do. Embodiment of Protectorate ideology but in a measured, thoughtful way.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:02:51](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

I think I can see what you're getting at. So you'll be currying favour and I'll be sitting back and... letting people come to me?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:05:59](#)
(no subject)

Now you have the idea.

Hm. We should have brought a throne along from Buckingham.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:10:57](#)
private message to Harry

So what's she saying about me?

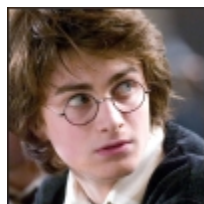
I already know it's not anything good.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:24:01](#)
Re: private message to Harry

She's worried that being on the council would change you. That you'd have to lie so much that you'd start believing it.


I told her you wouldn't.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:28:59](#)
Re: private message to Harry

And she was worried about your parents. About what you'd do to keep them safe.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:36:15](#)

Re: private message to Harry

Oh, is that all?

I'm surprised she's not actively trying to get me kicked out of the Order, if that's the case.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-08 05:38:56](#)

Re: private message to Harry

It's not like that.


I mean, with what's been going on with your parents lately

I think she's worried about you.

Your well-being, I mean.

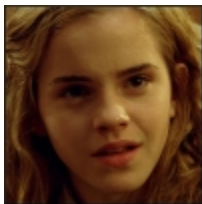
That's part of it too.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:55:31](#)

Re: private message to Harry

Worried about me? I doubt that.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 04:40:08](#)

(no subject)

And he really told you not to take the Mark? Your father, I mean?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:42:09](#)

(no subject)

Yes. Why? Are you surprised?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 04:46:54](#)
(no subject)

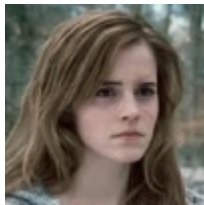
Well...yes, honestly.


I guess it's hard to imagine your father turning against Voldemort. Even if he's slightly out of favour. He's just so.... I mean, he practically runs the Ministry, he tells the Minister what to do, doesn't he? So why would he of all people want things to change?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 04:58:19](#)
(no subject)

He certainly doesn't want everything to change, but he wants things to be stable. He wants whatever idyllic Pureblood utopia the Lord Protector promised him, and I think he's starting to see that he isn't ever going to get it.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 05:14:25](#)
(no subject)

How do you know? I mean, did he tell you that?

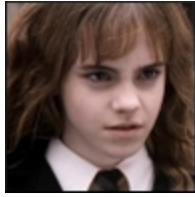
Sorry. It's not that I don't believe you, it's just.... Well, it's just hard to believe.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:17:24](#)
(no subject)

No, he didn't tell me that, I'm just speculating.

Okay, why do you need to believe it? Isn't it enough that I do? Or am I missing something?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 05:24:03](#)
(no subject)

You're right, of course. My opinion hardly matters. We should certainly take your word that your father's suddenly realised after only 20 years that he's backed the wrong broomrider.

He's always assumed you'd follow in his footsteps, that's what you've said. So if even he doesn't want you joining up, shouldn't that tell you that there might be other ways to proceed? Do you have to join Him? Couldn't you take a different sort of stand that wouldn't involve pretending to be one of them?

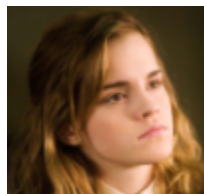


 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-08 05:34:37](#)
(no subject)

Look, I knew that neither you nor Harry would be thrilled at the notion of me voluntarily courting the council, but I thought you could both be counted on to see the practicality in it - you most of all.

And it isn't just about joining "Him," but about having access to what his followers and toadies are up to.

If you're worried that the Mark won't look good on me - well, that's what long-sleeves are for.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-08 05:39:49](#)
(no subject)

Oh, ha-bloody-ha.

You know perfectly well you'd have access to his followers and toadies just as easily if they had to court you to get your support from outside the circle as within it.

What if your father was, I don't know, just testing you or something? To see if you're getting soft?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-08 05:54:36](#)**
(no subject)

I still plan on allowing them to court me, to an extent. It's expected.

My Father has never once, not ever, tested me. He's never said I'm getting soft. Why would he start now?

He's seemed...scared, lately. For him, I mean. I know he wasn't testing me.

Is this all about you worrying I'll have too much fun with them?




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-08 06:34:52](#)**
(no subject)

~~About bloody time~~ It's hard to imagine him afraid, either, but it's good that he means it, not wanting you to be one of them.

No, I don't expect you'll find it fun.

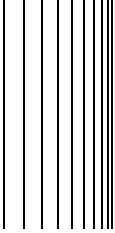
It's just...it means you'll have to go back to how you were. You'll have to behave like a prat again. And I don't want you to have to if it's avoidable.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-08 06:48:31](#)**
(no subject)

Funny, I don't recall the point when I stopped being a prat.

And you know, most of the time it really isn't about *what* you say with these people, it's how you say it. If I saw you ~~and they were saying~~ Sally Anne in the common room, for example, I'd say, "What do we have here? Why, if it isn't the cleverest little half blood at school," and they'd all think I was taking the mick on Sally Anne, but the joke's on them, see, because I'd actually be speaking the truth, and Sally Anne would know it.

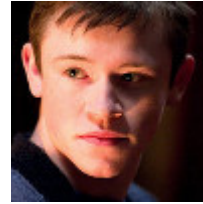


Or - remember when I told Umbridge I'd caught Fawcett in the Forest, but she'd punched me like an animal and was dragged away by centaurs, and that I hoped they'd eat her?

That's what allowed the rest of you to help her escape.

[2014-01-08 11:58:00](#)

Private message to Padma Patil



Say.


Remy told me something I think you ought to know.

 **[alt_seamus](#)**

Hydra Lestrage is a legilimens. An INCREDIBLY powerful one -- she read Remy's mind once (claimed it was an accident, but who knows) from across the room with no eye contact. Remy told me that Hydra told him on the train that Auror Lestrage found out over hols -- which means Auror Lestrage is likely training her now. I mean, she'd hardly let power like that go to waste.

Not that I have anything I NEED to hide but it's nice to have a little privacy occasionally, you know? Just like I wouldn't want someone showing up to gawk at me in the bath.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-09 01:53:35](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry I didn't answer before. I'd asked Professor Slughorn if I could come early to Potions, so I bolted lunch and didn't even check my journal. And then Lines wanted to talk about which books we should order with some money his father just got donated through his post as a Governor. So I spent a little time in the library looking over Madam Pince's catalog.

Anyway.


The way I see it, you wouldn't mind if Remy Jugson showed up to gawk at you in the bath.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-01-09 01:58:19](#)**
(no subject)


Well, sure. I don't wouldn't mind THAT.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-09 01:58:34](#)
(no subject)

Hydra Lestrage looking in my head is another matter entirely.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 03:39:44](#)
(no subject)

Are you surprised?

Honestly, I'm not sure what someone like Hydra's even doing with someone like F-F. Do you think he knows she can read his mind?

Probably doesn't matter. I doubt he'd ever allow himself to have an improper thought.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-09 03:42:41](#)
(no subject)

Presumably she likes whatever she sees in there.

So, swottiness and pretension.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 04:16:42](#)
(no subject)

Ugh, seriously. And Lines has been getting more and more affected like him, too. It's bad enough he's such an impossible plonker but to be an impossible plonker who thinks he's bloody Wensleydale Wizard the third.

Did you ever read those?

Anyway, maybe she likes that he's the submissive type.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-01-09 05:06:46](#)**
(no subject)

I haven't read them, should I?

You're probably right that she likes him being submissive.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-01-09 03:45:15](#)**
(no subject)

And I shouldn't be surprised, you're right. She's Auror Lestrange's daughter.

She's seemed like a bit of a mouse for years, though. Hard to believe she was related.

[2014-01-08 13:42:00](#)

Private Message to Padma




 **[alt_linus](#)**

Padma, I have been the recipient of excellent news by owl from my Father! When I told him about Ravenclaw Corner and the studious and diligent example we are trying to set for others who could benefit from such leadership, he was much pleased. However satisfying it is to win his approval, I could not have anticipated the delightful intelligence just received: one of his old Ravenclaw cronies, a boffin of the first water who has been rather successful in trade, has made a substantial gift to Hogwarts. Not only is it earmarked for increasing the holdings of the library, but the donor has specified that he wishes the current top Ravenclaw students to have responsibility for directing ten percent of the gift. We are talking a substantial number of Galleons, here, too!

We shall have to plot! Yes, we shall!

Seriously, I am in transports.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-09 02:14:46](#)**
(no subject)


Well done, Lines!

I asked Madam Pince to let me look through her catalog and made some notes. She also gave me the publisher's catalogs with the new titles that came out last year, and the advance supplement for spring.

We should see if there are any good texts on Legilimency. I just found out there's a rather prominent one at the school. You'll never guess who!

Are you and Lav off somewhere? A few of us are heading up to see the northern lights before Astronomy but since we'll be talking about them all during class we could get cocoa and look over the list.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-01-09 02:32:56](#)**
(no subject)

There's an author of a text on Legilimency here at Hogwarts? Do tell!

I've perused a few articles in recent Astronomy journals -- since my internship the Guild is kind enough to let me subscribe at the members' rate! -- and have gleaned the titles of several texts pertaining to locational magic with emphasis on Arithmantic analyses, so we'll want those too, no doubt. And there must be something splendid about History we can obtain. Wasn't there something just out that you were speaking about recently?

Lav is off somewhere doing something mysterious. She would not vouchsafe the merest hint as to what, but apparently it involves considerable giggling. So I shall join you post-haste. Cocoa it is.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-09 02:43:15](#)**
(no subject)

Not an author, a Legilimens. A student.

History? Well, Blaise wanted to get the book that accompanied that exhibit at the Protector's Collection, on the lore and history of the Founders. I'm sure we could get a copy. But that's probably on Madam Pince's list already, too.

By the way, why have you been speaking like a toff so much lately? You sound more and more like Finch-Fletchley, and I get quite enough of his twaddle at all those revision sessions. Honestly, if he weren't so clever at his studies I'd have chucked him to fend with the other Hufflepuffs ages ago.

[2014-01-09 07:47:00](#)

Private Message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold



Lana,

Oh, Lakshmi, what an honour! I've already pinned it on and don't worry, I'll make sure I have it on all the time. Well, except the bath. But on my dressing gown, even then.

 **[alt_padma](#)**


I won't let you down. I never dreamed--

Right. Focus. Top third.

I'll make you so proud, you'll see.

Padma




 **[alt_lana](#)** at **[2014-01-09 14:11:13](#)**
(no subject)

Some surprises are especially nice, aren't they?

Mind, this one is absolutely serious, and it will take all your powers if you want to be chosen. But it's such an opportunity, I couldn't not ask you.

If I were you, I'd put an anti-theft charm on the pin. For when you're in the bath.



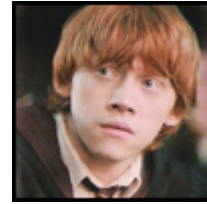
 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-09 14:17:19](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I understand. Completely.

And I've already done. I was actually trying to think if there's a spell that will let me wear it in the bath. I might use a chain or something just so I don't have to part with it.

[2014-01-09 09:34:00](#)

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks



Where are you?

Could we meet up before Charms? I mean, now? I have something I need to show you, and-

 [alt_ron](#)

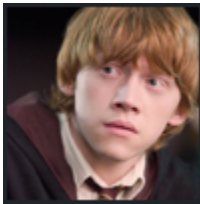
I just need to show you and see what you think, yeah?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 15:44:42](#)
(no subject)

Something to show me --

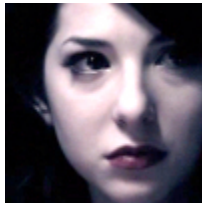
Please tell me it's not what I think it is.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 15:49:35](#)
(no subject)

Probably.

I expect there were a lot at your table, yeah? Who? Did you see?

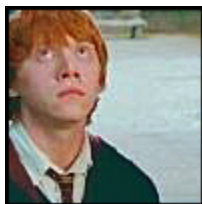



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 17:19:18](#)
(no subject)

Oh bloody HELL, Ron. ~~You CAN'T~~

Samantha Montgomery, Lizzie Stevens, Alfred Montague, and Richard Vaisey.

Draco, Blaise, Vince, Greg, Teddy, and Pansy. And Hydra.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 17:21:41](#)
(no subject)

I know.

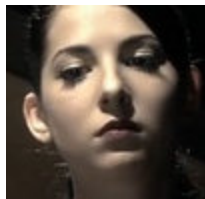
I know. I don't even want to think about telling

Mum. Let alone Mrs Longbottom. I mean, I only just sent her my report about my internship.

Ugh. I can't decide if this is an opportunity, y'know? Or just a chance to get myself killed.

Did F-F get one?

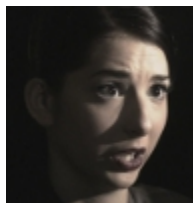
Has Pans said anything? I mean, have you had a chance to actually talk?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 17:22:45](#)**
(no subject)

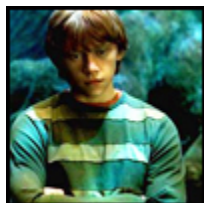
I only know for sure about Slytherins, I wasn't watching the other tables this morning. But I've heard people talking about you (because no one was expecting you) and Hydra (because she's not even through OWLs yet) and no one's mentioned F-F.


Pansy and I didn't get a chance to talk yet. She told me what it was, and put on her pin, and then about six people wanted to talk to her and I said we could talk later and to be honest I kind of wanted to get out of there. The Great Hall, I mean.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 17:23:03](#)**
(no subject)

And you've got to tell them. I mean, SOON. It's better they hear from you and it's better they hear quickly and everyone can panic and your Mum can do whatever she does when she's really upset and they'll KNOW and if you need help from them you can get it.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-09 17:44:50](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

After lessons.

2014-01-09 09:46:00

Private message to Ron

Ron, that owl you got at breakfast.


People are saying those pins mean --

Is it true? And did you really get one?



 [alt_ginny](#)




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-09 15:51:47**

(no subject)

I did. If you want to see it, maybe we could go for a walk after lunch. Or before supper? What's your timetable like today? I don't have anything past lunch. Well, reading, obviously, but no lessons.




 [alt_ginny](#) at **2014-01-09 15:58:00**

(no subject)

Mum is going to be so proud.

Yeah, I want to see it. Think the weather's good enough for a walk by the lake? I'm free after three.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-09 16:16:38**

(no subject)

I'll meet you after your last lesson.

In the entrance hall, yeah?




 [alt_ginny](#) at **2014-01-09 18:26:42**

(no subject)

Yeah, okay.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-09 15:58:48](#)
(no subject)

I sort of wish I could see Percy's face when he finds out.


If it's possible to die on the spot of jealousy, he will.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-09 16:01:08](#)
(no subject)

Who else has them? Cormac McLaggen got an owl this morning, too. And I think Katie Bell might have.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 16:10:49](#)
(no subject)

Bell did?


I don't know why I'm surprised, though. I guess that makes sense.

And McLaggen? Well. His brother— Yeah. I guess that's not a surprise, either.

Finnigan and Thomas got them. Let me know if you hear about others?

You're right about Percy. I wonder if he knows.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-09 16:25:04](#)
(no subject)

Hydra Lestrangle did. Even though she's not even an OWL student yet -- but I heard someone saying last night that she's a legilimens. An INCREDIBLY powerful one, like she could probably read your mind right now if she wanted, from across the school. So that one's not as surprising.

Percy doesn't know. If Percy knew, he'd have sent you a PM, even though he's Officially Not Talking to Any of Us.

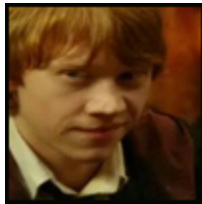



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-09 16:27:29](#)
(no subject)

Percy doesn't know YET, I mean.

You could write and be the first to tell him.

Or, you could wait until he writes because that way you'll know how long it took him to find out. Whichever you think is more devious and appropriate for a Future Member of Our Lord's Finest. (I'm sorry. I'm really not making a joke of it. It's just -- if any of us were going to be honoured that way I would have expected it to be after NEWTs, at least? Like it wouldn't be so much a surprise if it were Percy.)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 17:46:32](#)
(no subject)

Actually, I think I'll wait and see what he says if he does write.

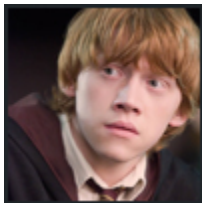
Should be interesting.


I expect Percy thought he'd be first, too.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-01-09 18:27:31](#)
(no subject)

You sure showed him.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 21:52:32](#)
(no subject)

You okay, then?

I didn't mean to upset you.



 **alt_ginny** at [2014-01-10 05:16:16](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm okay.

I wrote to Mum (you probably saw that) and Percy, too, I wanted to see what he'd say. He said, oh, I'll copy it over.

'Yes, I have heard about it from Mr Malfoy, but more than that, I learned just today that I have also been honoured with a role to play in the competition, believe it or not. I am to be the liaison between the judges at Hogwarts and the Lord Protector himself! To say that I have been stunned by this mark of favour is putting it mildly, but I am determined to do whatever I can to prove myself worthy of His notice.


Of course, given my role, I must be careful about speaking to Ronald directly, but I have no qualms in assuring you that I am absolutely delighted to learn of his nomination. Whatever disadvantages we suffered blah blah blah HURRAY WE ARE PUREBLOODS blah blah blah MUM IS SO EMBARRASSING blah blah I AM SUPER IMPORTANT blah blah and he might be coming to Hogwarts, that was the bit at the end, he's not sure yet but since he's going to be a 'judge' he thinks he might be coming.

It sounds like he's not going to talk to you and I'm sure he'll bend over backward to be 'fair' which is to say pointing out every last little thing you might have done wrong. So be sure you tie your shoes every morning because you can count on Percy to point it out to the Lord Protector if you forget.

Also, Mum sends her love and says she's sending you shortbread.

Anyone hexed you yet?



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-10 06:07:19](#)
(no subject)

Ha. Well, that figures. Obviously it's all about HIM.

Nice.

Thanks, Gin. I'm glad you could come walking today. We should do that more.

2014-01-09 09:48:00

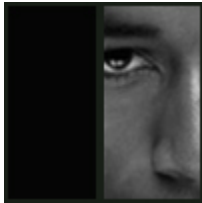
Private message to Padma Patil and Blaise Zabini




Congratulations and good luck to both of you.

I hope we're all among the final candidates.

 [alt_seamus](#)



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2014-01-09 15:54:12**

(no subject)

Cheers, Finnigan.

I expect we've got no worse chance than anyone else. Better than some.

I hear Weasley got tapped.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-01-09 15:57:39**

(no subject)

You, as well.

Who sponsored you? I mean, I'm not sure we're supposed to say, but my sponsor said we have to be in the top third of people to pass the test. And Lines counted up (honestly, he was craning his neck to see all the tables and who was pinned) and he thinks there are 21, so there'll be 7 in the end.

I'm sure there will be times we have to compete directly against one another but I think on the whole we could probably make a deal that we'll look out for each other over, say, Smith. Or McLaggen. Or Bell, that bint.




 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-01-09 16:05:22**

(no subject)

Do you think we shouldn't say? Mine didn't say top third, though he did say we'd be competing. Top third isn't as bad as I'd -- yeah.

Weasley did get a pin. Do you suppose it's bad form if I kill him in his sleep?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 16:38:47](#)
(no subject)

Well, I don't know if being top third means we'd all be favoured. But at least we won't have shamed our sponsors.

Porkinson got a pin, too. Out of respect I'm going to at least wait until the first challenge is issued. Of course, no one said whether the other sponsors would retaliate if we did permanently damage someone.

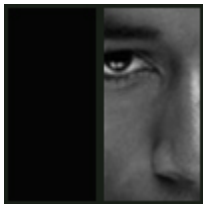
It's so hard to concentrate on lessons, isn't it? I keep expecting the next set of instructions to arrive.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-09 17:50:45](#)
(no subject)

Just about impossible.

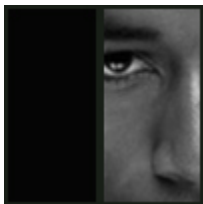
I think this is the first time I've ever been really glad to sit in the back of Charms.




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-09 16:20:42](#)
(no subject)

Moon is right. There were twenty-one sent and seven to be selected. Your letter didn't tell you that? Mine did.

What did yours say?




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-09 16:36:58](#)
(no subject)

So do we know all of them, then?

1. Malfoy
2. Me
3. Nott
4. Crabbe
5. Goyle
6. Vaisey
7. Croaker

8. Lestrangle
9. Parkinson
10. You
11. Finnigan
12. Are you saying Moon got one?
- 13? Smith (seriously?)
- 14? McLaggen
- 15? Bell (right-easy mark)
- 16? Weasley (no idea)
- who else? oh. ~~Mont~~
- 17? Montgomery
- 18? Stevens

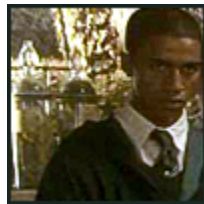



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 16:57:41](#)**
(no subject)

Tamblyn

Lestrangle oh, you said her already

That's nineteen. Not Harry? I mean, didn't he get one?



 **[alt_blaize](#) at [2014-01-09 17:06:36](#)**
(no subject)

No, obviously Marvolo didn't. He doesn't need to compete for place, does he?


Actually, I seriously doubt he'll be taking a Mark.
Interesting, that. I hadn't thought about it that way before.

Tamblyn? Really.

Now that has potential.


Who else?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-09 17:08:27](#)
(no subject)

Dean Thomas.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 17:30:39](#)
(no subject)

OH!

And Bobolis.


I just saw him in the corridor.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 17:21:46](#)
(no subject)

That does make sense about Harry. Of course, not getting a pin means nothing in his case.

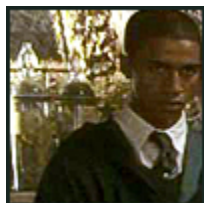



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-09 17:22:25](#)
Private Message to Blaise

That's right, you told me there was something about Tamblyn you thought would get him in hot water.

But then you got all cross and never told me what.

Are you going to discredit him? Or do you think now whatever it was might actually help him get ahead?



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-09 17:33:54](#)
Re: Private Message to Blaise

I'm not sure what I'll do.

Wait for the right moment and take advantage.
One way or another.

[2014-01-09 11:21:00](#)

A new day

I'd like to extend a hand of congratulations to my new cohort. It seems that all our school lessons and CCF training will finally result in real-life reward or consequence. About time, I say.




 [alt_draco](#)

Those of you not amongst the chosen initiates - do not distress. Remember that you can serve us who serve Him, as is the way of our great Protectorate. Daphne, for example, is a brilliant hostess, and she's told me that she's arranged for an impromptu *soirée* to take place in the Slytherin common room one hour after supper. This location only seemed appropriate, given that Slytherin House has the most representatives, as well as the youngest.

I see this as a chance for us to meet and mingle before the first challenge is upon us... or, to size up the competition. Six of one, a half-dozen of the other, eh?


I look forward to seeing you all there.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 18:24:46](#)
(no subject)


How thoughtful, Draco.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 18:30:55](#)
(no subject)

It was Daphne's notion, Pansy. I'm simply making the announcement.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-09 18:31:48](#)
Private Message to Pansy Parkinson


Lit Pansy,

May one take it that you were among the chosen?

If so, felicitations and best of luck to you. Your father would be proud.

-Lucius



 **alt_pansy at 2014-01-09 18:41:25**

Re: Private Message to Pansy Parkinson


Yes, Lucius.

It is a great honour.

I will try to conduct myself in a way that will respect my father's memory, and please you.

I believed until now that I would never have the chance to serve Our Lord in this way. I will not waste this opportunity.



 **alt_pansy at 2014-01-09 18:33:08**

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco

I don't quite know what to think. About any of it.

You're going to try for it, aren't you?

And you're going to win.



 **alt_lucius at 2014-01-09 18:28:54**

Private Message to Draco

Congratulations, Son.


Am sure you will succeed in any effort to which you bend your will.

No doubt you have earned this honour on your own and will continue to bring pride to the houses of Malfoy and Black. Given our conversation at the holidays, am aware you wish no interference on my part but know that if I may assist you, you have but to ask.

Your,

Father

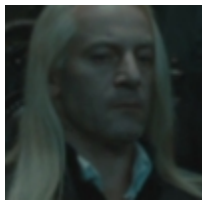



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-01-09 18:32:11**

Re: Private Message to Draco

Thank you for your confidence, Father.

Did you know this was coming?



 **[alt_lucius](#) at 2014-01-09 19:07:58**

Re: Private Message to Draco

If I had known, do you not think I would have told you?


Our Lord is, as always, pleased to present His challenges to us all. It is not merely you initiates, nor even your sponsors, who are being tested.

But you are all too aware that a Councilwizard is constantly subject to Our Lord's tests.

Yes, I am confident on your behalf. All the same: Be careful.

You might write to your mother when you have a chance. I lunched with her to give her the news: She hid it well, but there was a tear in her eye when she heard. A mother's pride, to be sure.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-01-09 19:14:09**

Re: Private Message to Draco


Of course I'm aware. I can only imagine that before now, the corresponding benefits always made those tests go down easy. Like honey in a foul-tasting potion.

Perhaps it brings you some relief to know that the choice was out of my hands, after all.

At any rate, I won't allow the opportunity to go to waste.

I'll be in touch with Mother soon.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-10 00:33:39](#)


Re: Private Message to Draco

Would hesitate to characterise the pinnacle of service to Our Lord as a foul-tasting potion. After all, there is no privacy in His presence - or among those who would hope to capture His favour.

You must have mistaken my sober advice for disappointment: Of course, membership in the Council is something we have wanted for you since your birth. If one is disappointed, it is only that your place was not, it would seem, a given, but something for which you must scrabble against patently inferior stock. Or perhaps it is a competition only because you all are, after all, still in school and thus your ability to serve Him will be limited at least for a short while yet.

You are correct, however, that the opportunity is not something to let pass, since it has come to you in this way.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 18:29:26](#)

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Sorry, both of you. I knew something was coming, that some students would probably be approached, but I had no idea either of you would be among them. Or Hydra. Though I guess that one shouldn't come as a surprise, not really.

I never imagined it would be so many, or that it would be some kind of bloody competition. They've all read *Pure Hunger* too many times, no doubt.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 18:42:45](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

I'd like to hope they'd be hacked off if we started killing each other right away.

Someone might want to tell Vince and Greg that.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 19:07:51](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Ugh, all these little private messages. I wish we were still on I Solemnly Swear so we could all talk about it together without all the adults butting in, wringing their hands into oblivion.

Anyway, what you said above - of course I'm going to try for it. I had already decided to even before they sent out those pins.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 19:19:42](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

I know what you mean about the lock.

I wish things were different. That you didn't have to. But I figure you'd feel like you had to try to get on the council even if you didn't have the Order and all of us, and something else to fight for. So I'm glad you have a purpose for doing this. If that makes sense.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 19:07:50](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Cheers, Malfoy.

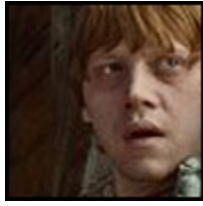
Still thinking what I'm going to do about it. I mean, beyond wearing the pin and keeping myself from getting hexed from all sides.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 19:08:58](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Yes well... I might have to hex you, just so you know.




 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-09 19:18:15](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

You can try.

And, yeah. We can talk about staging something, too. But in general, you can expect I'll be protecting myself.

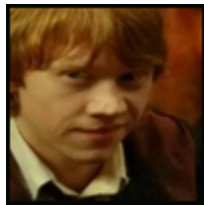



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-09 19:28:34](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Better we hex each other to keep someone else from doing it first.

Bloody nightshade, Father and Raz are making me laugh out loud with their solemn and dire concern. Did they truly think this day would never come?



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-09 19:31:00](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Heh. I'm just hoping my mother's got enough sense not to send the Howler she's going to want to write.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-09 19:32:00](#)


Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

I suppose I should tell her.

Before someone else does.

Like your father, for instance.



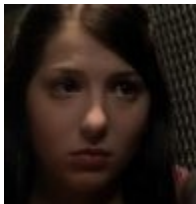
 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-01-09 19:34:33**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

We have to tell the whole Order. I'm sure they've seen bits and pieces and wonder what's going on.

I'd like it if we could all just discuss it together first, though, without the adults.

Hang on... I have an idea. Let me talk to Hydra.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-09 18:35:18**

Order Only: Private message to Draco

You make sense and Hydra makes sense but Ron and Pansy? Ron's wondering if maybe some of them were picked so they'd fail, for a laugh.

Once we know what the challenges are we should try to think of ways that Ron and Pansy can do things that will give you and Hydra an advantage. Pansy -- is really completely unsuited to be on the Council. And Ron can't even occlude properly.

I really thought

I mean even with you I thought there'd be more time before you had to do this.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-01-09 19:02:41**

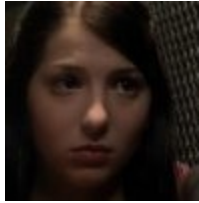
Re: Order Only: Private message to Draco

I'm trying to find out from my Father what he knows... but given how things are for him right now, it might not be much.

I just wrote a private message to Pansy and Ron. I heard from two different sources (Teddy and Alfred) that students would probably be approached this term, but I had no idea that it would be like this, or be so many, or be framed as a competition.

I fully plan to make the top third and take the mark. Ron and Pansy

will have to fail but in ways that don't cast them in total disgrace. Hydra - well, I think she's wasting her legitimacy if she doesn't take this chance, but I suppose there's always training with the Aurors, too. No one would fault her for not making the top third, seeing as she hasn't even sat her OWLs yet.



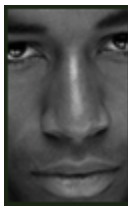
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 19:47:43](#)


Re: Order Only: Private message to Draco

I sort of agree about Hydra.

But I can't really blame her for not wanting to do it. It hasn't exactly escaped my notice that if you count deaths, being a Councilwizard is quite a bit more hazardous than being a sworn member of the Order of the Phoenix. You can be one of His Chosen Favourites one day and dead on the floor of the Buckingham audience chamber the next.

Mostly I try not to think about how dangerous things are but this one's particularly hard to not think about. I feel like if I keep thinking about it I'll come up with some brilliant idea to get everyone out of this.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-09 19:10:54](#)

(no subject)

Looking forward to it.

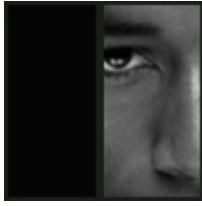


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-01-09 20:28:40](#)

(no subject)

At this rate I simply have no idea who to pull for! Draco, my cousin, my dorm-mate, or you, or... so many people to consider. Well, I'll just have to pull for all of you, then.

Bonne chance!




 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-09 19:15:35](#)

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

Have thoughts on strategy if you're interested. Not thinking of sharing them with Teds or C or G.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 19:29:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

I'm all ears, and a bit of mouth, too. Let's talk later tonight.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-09 23:41:44](#)

(no subject)

Draco,

I say, jolly good show, all of you. It must be thrilling to imagine what's ahead for you all.

You're quite right to remind the rest of the school that there are other ways to serve, just as noble, what, as the distinguished capacity for which you and your cohort are being evaluated. I say, we may all aspire to the highest echelons of society but at day's end, someone has still got to provide the support on which the others stand. One hopes only to do one's best for country and honour, what, and trust that one's actions will be appreciated in the fullness of time.

And after all, it's not as if this is the *only* opportunity our generation may ever get, is it? Of course, none of that matters at the moment, when we all ought to be celebrating the august company which you and your fellow initiates now keep.

So well done, all of you! And jolly good luck in the days ahead.

-Finch-Fletchley

2014-01-09 11:26:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy



 **alt_sally_anne**

Right, so. Pansy, Ron showed me his letter (actually he just handed it to me because we sort of needed to get to Charms. But Acton has me all the way in the back and I already know how to turn vinegar into wine, I learned from Mrs Stretton, so.) Okay. This letter.

Dear Mr Weasley,

Nice he's not overly informal. Seeing as he ignored you completely back when he was Head Boy.

It is my distinct honour to offer you the enclosed emblem to distinguish you as one in whom Our Lord may well take interest. He has tasked several of His loyal followers with a sort of quest: To find among Hogwarts' students worthy candidates for His notice.

Sounds so jolly. A QUEST. Actually, here's the thing that's sort of interesting about that -- he's not a Gryffindor but he knows YOU are. Gryffindors are supposed to be fond of QUESTS (especially GRAND QUESTS but it's hard to make this one GRAND).

This is a singular, unprecedented opportunity to belong among the most elite set you will ever have the pleasure of joining.

So does that mean that anyone who doesn't prove worth RIGHT NOW is never going to get another chance? Seems a bit unfair to Hydra, seeing as she hasn't even sat her OWL exams.

Do you suppose everyone got told the same things? Pansy, what does yours say?

Not since the days of His ascension has Our Lord offered ones so young the chance to compete for His Mark.

I'm pretty sure THAT'S true.

Frankly it's really odd they're asking you lot. There are loads of people who've finished up NEWTs who are more accomplished. A lot more. It's like the Lord Protector wants a bunch of starry-eyed youngsters

who will just eat everything he serves up with a spoon.

Dominic Selwyn had been on the Council for years and years. And Yaxley. And some of the others he's killed. Maybe he wants young people because he doesn't trust the ones who actually KNOW him, at all?

I have chosen you as a potential Councilwizard because, of all the Weasleys currently at large, you alone have, I believe, the right combination of wizarding pride and tactical skill required to excel among our number.

Oh. You'll have to be sure to quote that bit to Percy.

Also Bill.

So long as you're safely out of reach of both of them when you do.

Wear this special pin to show your pride as one of the Protectorate's finest young subjects.

He doesn't make that sound optional.

From time to time, one of our number will set challenges which you and your fellow hopefuls must meet to the best of your abilities. Knowing, as I do, of your success in the CCF and during your recent brief start in MLE's Aurors, I am sure you will find them similar in character to tasks you have already accomplished. Be prepared, however, for the stakes and the prizes to be rather more important than any school exercise.

I really don't like the sound of that at all.

I mean I think you should fail but not too obviously. You cannot possibly risk going into Our Lord's presence, he's one of the most powerful legilimens who's ever lived, I've heard people saying some mad things about Hydra in the last day (so much for THAT being a secret, I don't know how it got out but it's OUT) but those things they're saying about her are -- well I suppose I don't know that they're actually true of him. But. You can't risk it.

But this makes it sound like you don't get to just be humiliated, it might be worse than that. Ugh. UGH. It would have been nice if they'd ASKED you. Or even WARNED you...

We will be monitoring your progress--all of you--and others at Hogwarts will periodically report their observations, so be aware that even between the challenges, you are still on trial.

Oh OF COURSE you are.

Who do you suppose their spies are? Probably the other Councilwizards, Raz and Professor Doves. And the Headmistress, but --well. Maybe she can give them a report that's just bad enough to keep you safe but not bad enough to make you look bad?

At the end of the spring term, we will recommend our top contenders to Our Lord. He has stated his intention to choose among you those He deems best suited to stand as brothers and sisters in His service.

I DON'T WANT EITHER OF YOU DOING THIS. Bad enough with Draco and Hydra.

Of course, should you desire any advice, I am very happy to provide it as your sponsor in this healthy, spirited evaluation. There really are no 'rules' apart from the only one that matters: Play to win.

Brilliant.


Good luck!

Yours with very best wishes,

Julius Avery

He sounds so utterly chipper about it. He's only JUST got Marked himself, does that seem odd that he's one of the ones who's been 'tasked with a sort of quest'? I would have thought Dolohov might be given that task, although I wouldn't actually expect him to pick Pansy and while he might pick Ron he'd never pass over Justin (and Justin's not wearing a pin).



 **alt_pansy** at **2014-01-09 17:52:38**
(no subject)

Dear Pansy,

To others I might speak of the glory that can be found in submission to Our Lord's will, or the strength that

can be found in our wizarding heritage and in our magical purity. You do not need the reminder.

Our Lord has honoured those of us new to His brotherhood by asking us to choose candidates to sponsor to His attention. The pin I've enclosed is a sign of that choice. Wear it to show your pride in your wizarding heritage, in determination to showcase your strength of will, and as a symbol of your dedication to Our Lord's cause and His vision.


You will be tested, in ways both subtle and gruelling. Remember the virtues Our Lord calls on us all to embody. Remember that there are many forms of worth, but the path to righteousness lies through Our Lord's might.

If you have questions, ask them; if you need assistance there is no shame in asking me for it. Many of you have been called, but only the best and brightest will be chosen. I have put my trust in you as He puts His trust in us all, to uphold His honour and the pride of wizardkind.

Be worthy.

Yours, in His service,
Ned Pennifold



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-09 17:54:28](#)**
(no subject)


He sounds like I already

So Ned and Lana are throwing their lots in with different people.

And they're both really competitive. I wonder if they'll push us against each other?

I'll bet you a galleon Lana was the one who chose Patil.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 17:56:31](#)
(no subject)

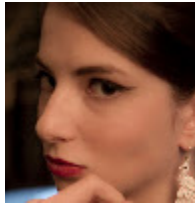
I wonder if Lucius knows. He didn't breathe a word of it at tea, and tea didn't go that badly, you'd think

He would've said something.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 17:57:15](#)
(no subject)

And why is Justin not wearing one, but Thomas is? And *Moon*?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 18:00:30](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. The Slytherins were nearly all people you'd expect -- other than you, I have to admit I think you're a really odd choice, despite having Tony Parkinson as your father, and Lucius Malfoy as

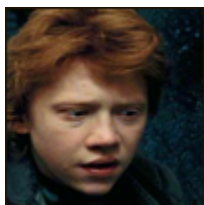
your godfather.


And Hydra, but that's just because she is SO young.

Well, and Blaise. Blaise is another weird one. Do you know who chose him? Do you think he'd tell you if you asked?

Of the other Houses -- Padma doesn't surprise me at all and I am SURE you are right about Lana. But MOON? And THOMAS? And I saw ZACH SMITH wearing one.

Clearly we know from this that they did not ask Professor Dolohov for his opinion. Maybe they didn't tell him about it at all.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 18:05:54](#)
(no subject)

I can't think what they were thinking, asking Thomas.


You don't suppose some of us are here just because it will amuse someone to see us eliminated?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 18:07:01](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

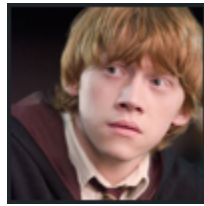



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 18:08:48](#)
(no subject)

Oh.

And Lucius is

Oh.

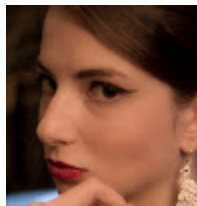


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 18:13:45](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

It could apply to you, too. You're right.

Well, that's jolly.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 18:13:16](#)
(no subject)

Though, let me think about that. It will reflect poorly on the person who chose you if you do really poorly, so they probably wouldn't choose you unless you would at least be a CREDIBLE pick and not absurd on its face, and unless your defeat and humiliation would serve them in some other way.

In Pansy's case it would also be an ugly way to strike at Lucius Malfoy. In Dean Thomas's case it would be an ugly way to strike at his guardian, Peakes. Peakes isn't a Death Eater though, he's just a School Governor. He's got some alliances, mind you, but - he'd be sort of an odd target.

In your case, though -- I don't know who'd look bad other than the person who picked you. Though, someone might have talked Avery into it, because they thought you'd fail and make Avery look bad. But Avery's a Slytherin, he'd be alert to that sort of manipulation, normally.

I think Pansy has more to worry about there than you do.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-09 18:17:16](#)**

(no subject)

I expect it depends how many people were getting to nominate us and how many went ahead of Avery. I mean, if he figured there was no one left who was a sure choice, then he might've gone for me because the rest of them would believe that he was setting me up. Because my family are y'know.

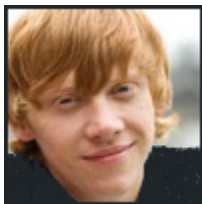


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-09 18:08:06](#)**

(no subject)

Smith got one?

Really?

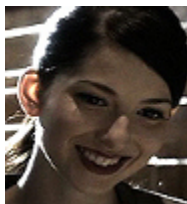


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-09 18:18:55](#)**

(no subject)

Yeah. Have you seen him?

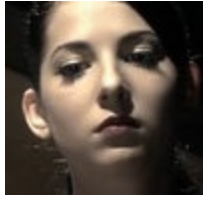
I think he put a charm on it to make it shine. So everyone would notice.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 18:20:47](#)**

(no subject)

If anyone was picked to fail amusingly it was surely Smith.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 17:57:39](#)
(no subject)

Maybe he didn't know.

Maybe He didn't tell him.



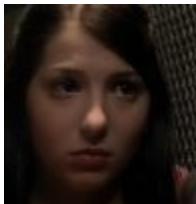
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 18:12:25](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

My favourite line is that one about the most elite set I'll ever have the pleasure of joining. Because clearly I'm so far below even dreaming that.

Sorry.

This is just pretty much the worst thing that could happen, really, isn't it? I mean, it's one thing to try to get chosen for Auror training. Dicey, but worth risking. But this? It's mad to try, but if I don't make this I'm probably destroying my chance at the other.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 18:17:38](#)
(no subject)

It depends on how you fail, and why you fail.

You could fail in a way that shows you'd be a bad Death Eater but a good Auror.

But if it comes to it you have to fail, you can't -- I mean, you can't. ~~Ron, he kills and tortures his people for fun, you remember what happened to Warrington, and what he does to Lucius Malfoy and~~ Either of you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 18:20:39](#)
(no subject)

If I could just crack Occlumency, y'know?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 18:23:29](#)
(no subject)

Well

There are three people in the Order who can do the animagus transformation.

Headmistress McGonagall

Sirius Black

Terry Boot

And that works just as well. Better, even. Maybe you should talk to them. And see if you can learn.

Two of those three are Gryffindors. Maybe it's a Gryffindor skill. More of a Gryffindor skill than occluding.

2014-01-09 12:03:00

Private Message to Percival Weasley

Shall not be returning to St James' house this after-noon. However, wished to let you know that you have been selected - personally, by Our Lord - for a special task.



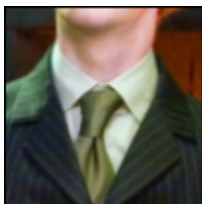
 [alt_lucius](#)


It seems He has arranged a rather important contest at Hogwarts this term. He has ~~demanded~~ decided that you shall act as liaison between the judges He has named at Hogwarts and Himself. You are to receive reports on the competitors' conduct, compile them and present them to Him at regular intervals. I am given to understand that young Marvolo shall be the chief arbiter but there are others whom He has entrusted to inform Him of the progress of His potential acolytes.

No doubt you recognise the signal honour His regard implies. Of course, anything He should require of you is to take precedence, even over my own affairs. However, should it be necessary - that is, should you find it ... impossible ... to maintain your duties in my service - then I expect you shall undertake the necessary steps to procure an assistant who *can* insure that the business of my household - and the realm, indeed - may continue apace.

Broome will contact you with the details of your audiences with Our Lord and what sorts of information He wishes you to distill. Your rôle in this may in fact be the crucible you have been seeking to prove your worth, alongside those young hopefuls Our Lord now favours with His consideration.

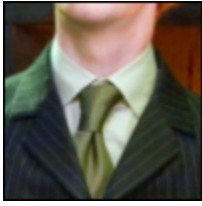
Congratulations, young man. See that you do nothing to disgrace yourself - or me.




 [alt_percy](#) at **2014-01-09 19:17:57**
(no subject)

Indeed, I am deeply aware and grateful for the trust and honour shown to me by this opportunity. I will do my utmost to discharge my duties with decorum and integrity. Thank you, sir, for your kind mentoring.


I will do my very best to make you proud.



 [alt_percy](#) at [2014-01-10 05:36:01](#)
(no subject)

Also: I have seen the full list of candidates now; Broome sent it to me. Congratulations are due to you in return, as I note that your son's name is on the list as well. Of course, it is hardly a surprise but still, you must be very proud indeed.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-10 05:49:51](#)
(no subject)

Yes, it's quite marvellous.

2014-01-09 12:34:00

Order Only - this morning's events

To all the adults in the Order -


We know you have a lot of questions about what's happened this morning at school. We will give you the details very soon, but before that happens, we all need a place to talk together, just those of us who are school-aged, or very recently school-aged. So if you could please not respond to this entry, and wait a while longer, we would very much appreciate it. All details will be provided soon.



 [alt_hydra](#)

Thank you for understanding.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-01-09 19:38:44**
(no subject)

This was my letter.

Dear Hydra,

Please accept this pin with my most sincere compliments. It is, as you know, Our Lord's emblem. Wear it boldly and with pride.

You are receiving this gift because I have added your name to a very select list of candidates for Our Lord's favour. You might like to know that you were among the first chosen and that you are the youngest of those nominated for this honour--the only one from your year.

I want you to know I am quite sincere in putting you forward for consideration. I believe you are uniquely placed and uniquely gifted to join the highest ranks of those who serve Him.

Know, however, that this opportunity comes couched as a competition. I believe it will not surprise you to learn that those wishing to present their gifts in service to Our Lord must first earn His approval and His Mark. Not everyone tapped to compete will be chosen, but I have no doubt in your abilities and I have every expectation that I will be able to welcome you to our number on the Council very soon.


In the days ahead, I advise four things: Use your natural abilities to full advantage. Expect to be challenged. Prepare to be ruthless. Give

quarter to no one.

Congratulations and best wishes,

Lana Sandoval-Pennifold



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 19:48:11](#)
(no subject)

You got Lana, and I got her wife. How charming.

It almost sounds like she chose you first, before Padma - and you know she had to be the one to choose Padma.

That line about "natural abilities..." You've surely noticed that everyone in school is talking about your being a legilimens. I don't see how that could have already reached Lana Sandoval-Pennifold's ears, but it makes me wonder.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 19:50:53](#)
(no subject)

I'd pick Hydra before I picked Padma.

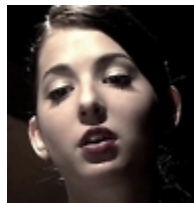
Especially if they were going in turns. Who else would choose Padma? Other than Ned, if Lana told him to.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-09 19:51:10](#)
(no subject)

I wonder what Padma would think of that.

Yes, I've noticed. Maybe it was Padma that Lana heard it from. They're close, I think.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 19:56:24](#)
(no subject)

Padma would probably say that Lana picked you first to please Auror Lestrange, since she's Auror Lestrange's protege.

And she'd say you were every bit as worthy as anyone else even though she wouldn't mean it.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-09 20:01:52](#)

(no subject)

Yes, and I'd be able to tell she didn't mean it.

Oh - I shouldn't talk like that, though.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 20:03:40](#)

(no subject)

Yes you should. Now's the time to use your gift to your advantage. Lana S-P is right about that.

If you're still uncomfortable about it, remember that you'll be doing it, in part, to help out me, Pansy, and Ron.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 20:32:55](#)

(no subject)

For what it's worth, I'm glad you're on our side, Hydra. Merlin. I would've had to avoid eye contact with you for the rest of my time at Hogwarts otherwise.

And those idiots don't know thing one about who you *really* are.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-09 20:38:10](#)

(no subject)

Oh, I ~~don't really need eye~~, yes, but I wish they didn't know that I was a legilimens, now. Now I suppose everyone will dash off to learn occlumency.

Though it will be very difficult for them to learn properly without a legilimens to work with.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 20:43:43](#)
(no subject)

Huh.

Maybe you'll spot some people we ought to recruit. As they try desperately not to think about pink elephants, or their secret desire to murder the Lord Protector and free the muggle masses.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 20:45:35](#)
(no subject)


I was actually just thinking the same thing.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 20:47:10](#)
(no subject)

Of course some of them will probably be thinking about the worst possible thing just because they know Hydra might be reading their mind, which means it might not be something they actually believe. Like everyone does when they're around Bellatrix, apparently (which is a good thing for us, it means that we're less likely to give everything away if we walk past her on the street).



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-09 21:05:31](#)
(no subject)

When I was little and Mummy questioned me about something, I would try to outsmart her by thinking of something completely inconspicuous, like sweets, or the latest book I was reading. She could tell I was trying to avoid her, though. She would say "Your thoughts are unusually tidy tonight, Hydra." Because a person's thoughts *aren't* tidy. They're every which way, until that moment when they try to force themselves to think about something.

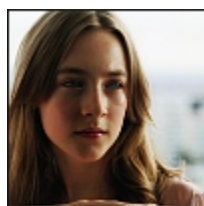
||| | And of course, as soon as she said that, I'd start to think about what it was I wasn't supposed to think about.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 19:49:23](#)**
(no subject)

Do you think your mum told her you were a legilimens? Or someone else?

Are you going to try to win, or are you going to try to fail?




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-01-09 19:53:27](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know. The only person I talked about it to recently was Remy - All I did was tell him that Mummy knew, now, about what I could do. Maybe he told Seamus, and Seamus told Padma, and now everyone knows.

I think it might be time to stop talking to Remy. About anything.

I don't want to win *or* fail. Neither sound like good options. I'm just not sure if there's room for anything in-between.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-09 19:43:55](#)**
(no subject)

Here's mine.

Dear Draco,

I do not need to speak to you of the honour that lies in being chosen for Our Lord's service, nor how He chooses the best and the most worthy to call to that honour. His strength grows with each He chooses to be His hands, and He has graced those of us new to His brotherhood with the task of separating the wheat from the chaff.

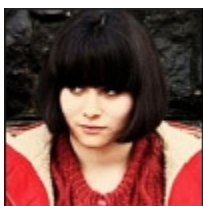
I send you this Ouroboros pin as a sign that I have chosen you as one of my candidates. Wear it with pride in your wizarding heritage, in determination to showcase your strength of will, and as a symbol of your dedication to Our Lord's cause and His vision.


You will be tested. You will be tried. You will be measured, and I have the utmost faith you will not be found wanting.

If you have questions, ask them; if you need assistance there is no shame in asking me for it. Many of you have been called, but only the best and brightest will be chosen. I have put my trust in you as He puts His trust in us all, to uphold His honour and the pride of wizardkind.

Be worthy.

Yours, in His service,
Ned Pennifold

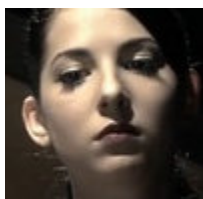


 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-09 20:18:42](#)**
(no subject)

Mine was from Ned too.

It was a bit different, but didn't say much new. Only that I didn't need a reminder about the glory of submission to Our Lord's will tow row tow row tow row.

I wonder if Ned and Lana have a wager going about Patil and me?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 19:53:33](#)**
(no subject)

So what did Harry's letter say, anyway?

He had a letter but no pin.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-09 20:13:47](#)**
(no subject)

Mine was from Avery. All very 'you should count yourself lucky any of us noticed you, Weasley'. Frankly, I'd rather they'd overlooked me.

Dear Mr Weasley,

It is my distinct honour to offer you the enclosed emblem to distinguish you as one in whom Our Lord may well take interest. He has tasked several of His loyal followers with a sort of quest: To find among Hogwarts' students worthy candidates for His notice.

This is a singular, unprecedented opportunity to belong among the most elite set you will ever have the pleasure of joining. Not since the days of His ascension has Our Lord offered ones so young the chance to compete for His Mark. I have chosen you as a potential Councilwizard because, of all the Weasleys currently at large, you alone have, I believe, the right combination of wizarding pride and tactical skill required to excel among our number.

Wear this special pin to show your pride as one of the Protectorate's finest young subjects. From time to time, one of our number will set challenges which you and your fellow hopefuls must meet to the best of your abilities. Knowing, as I do, of your success in the CCF and during your recent brief start in MLE's Aurors, I am sure you will find them similar in character to tasks you have already accomplished. Be prepared, however, for the stakes and the prizes to be rather more important than any school exercise.

We will be monitoring your progress--all of you--and others at Hogwarts will periodically report their observations, so be aware that even between the challenges, you are still on trial. At the end of the spring term, we will recommend our top contenders to Our Lord. He has stated his intention to choose among you those He deems best suited to stand as brothers and sisters in His service.

Of course, should you desire any advice, I am very happy to provide it as your sponsor in this healthy, spirited evaluation. There really are no 'rules' apart from the only one that matters: Play to win.

Good luck!


Yours with very best wishes,

Julius Avery

So. Yeah. I've pretty much decided Draco's right. And Sally Anne. I've got to try to throw this, but I'm not sure what that strategy looks like, exactly. It depends how they're really going to test us and what they mean about monitoring what we're doing all the time even between challenges. (And, really, is anyone else thinking that sounds a tiresome lot like Madam Umbridge?)

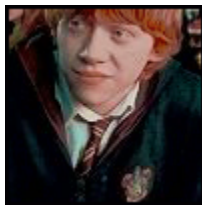
I reckon I've got an idea now what Harry felt like when his name came out of the Goblet, yeah? Not all that bloody excited to be selected, thanks.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 20:23:55](#)
(no subject)

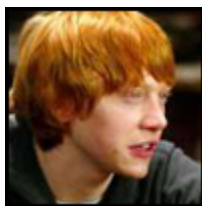
The pins - we need to check them. They might be spelled to monitor our conversations, or even project images of our interactions.


We'll have a better idea of what we're doing once we actually know what we're doing.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 20:25:53](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Exactly. The pins. I'm going to have Professor Dumbledore check mine tonight.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 20:31:54](#)
(no subject)

So, number-wise, it's almost all Slytherins, y'know. So that means you'll all be aiming for each other's backs, and making strategic alliances with the few you can trust so you can try to manage the odds against the rest of them.

You and Hydra are obvious, but I reckon you won't want anyone seeing that you're allying with Pansy. And certainly not in the way people expect. Or do you think other people will promise to throw their chance in so they can support someone else in exchange for some kind of favour later on?

Who's going to cozy up with whom, do you think?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-09 20:56:29](#)
(no subject)

I've been thinking about this. Not all Slytherins necessarily want to be on the council. I've tried to sort out who really, really wants this, who *might* want it, and who definitely does not want it.

DEFINITELY WANTS

- Teddy Nott
- Vince Crabbe
- Greg Goyle
- Alfred Montague
- Seamus Finnigan (I'm not positive on this, but that's my feeling)
- Padma Patil (I don't think it was a consideration for her before now, but you know she can't stand to lose)
- Me

MIGHT WANT

- Blaise Zabini (that lazy Euro blood holds him back at times, but he's arrogant enough to make a major play, if he can get motivated)
- Samantha Montgomery (I could tell she was surprised to get a pin - pleasantly so. She's used to being thought of as a siren, and will no doubt see this as a chance to broaden her repertoire)
- Richard Vaisey (likes to do well at everything, but I don't think this was the path he was planning on)
- Lares Tamblyn

DOES NOT WANT

- Pansy
- Ron
- Katie Bell (presumably)
- Lizzie Stevens (she wants to marry Richard and have kids as soon as they're done at school; she went twenty shades of pale when she saw her letter)


I HAVE NO IDEA

- Hydra (still weighing options)
- Dean (any bets on this?)
- Smith (will probably be an idiot and decide that he wants it)
- McLaggen (he probably doesn't want to be on the council, unless it's to forward his own agenda)
- Heph Bobolis (still no idea)

-Linus Moon (will probably also be an idiot, and decide to cut off his robe sleeves, too)

What do you lot think?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 20:59:33](#)
(no subject)

Moon might think he wants it, because he thinks it's romantic. He's just not suited for it at all.

Do you think McLaggen isn't keen? He might want to replace his brother.

Who knows about Thomas.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 21:26:22](#)
(no subject)

So there are seven of you who really want it, but I bet we can get Crabbe and Goyle out of consideration if you try it. We just need to help them look like idiots.

Of course, that would almost be helping the Protector if we made it obvious that they're too dim to be good choices. Maybe we should really want them to make it--help them get chosen, even. Because they'd be easier to fight later. And loads easier for you to manipulate.

That's really it, isn't it? We need to be thinking who you'd do best getting selected with. And who would be most dangerous to you later.

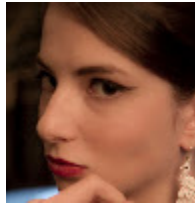
Mind you, I don't think Moon has a chance, though it would be dead useful if he were one of the ones chosen because he'd never stab you in the back. It's easy to see who you want to avoid: McLaggen, Thomas and Smith are definitely in that group.

I'd say it would be good to keep Nott out if you could, but that might be a waste of effort. What do you think about Finnigan? Where does Mr Rosier stand on the Council? Relative to you and

your father, I mean. It seems like the most dangerous ones to you are probably the ones with Council connections already, and they'll be hardest to block. Unless their connections have got crosswise with the Protector.

Merlin, this is a slippery fish.

I reckon you could control Zabini. And Patil, most likely. What about Montague?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-09 22:24:42](#)**
(no subject)

You're probably right he could control Patil. I'm less sure about Zabini. Draco, do you want to ask Daphne if she thinks Zabini really wants to do this, or would it be less awkward to have me ask


her that?

I agree that Moon has no chance. He's not cut from the right cloth, I don't know what they were thinking, whoever it was that picked him.

I would expect that Crabbe and Goyle would be easy for Draco to control.

Teddy's not really controllable but he also would be such a dangerous ally that probably no one else is likely to control him in a faction against Draco, either.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-09 22:25:49](#)**
(no subject)

Teddy's the complete wild-card. He's frequently pleasant to me, even friendly, but I don't doubt for a moment that he'd do whatever it takes and have no qualms about it. I'm certain he sees me as his biggest competition, too.

I think he used to have a weird, deviant little crush on Hydra, though. And he definitely had one on her Mother.


Finnigan is one to watch out for. Thomas has the same kind of drive as Finnigan, but his confidence is too high. Finnigan is

more aware of his weaknesses, which might make him the one to be wary of, of those two.

Montague and I are on friendly terms, and I think he'd like to have me as his fellow council-member. He also fancies Daphne, and she'll help to that end.

And you're right, there's way too much to think about here.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-01-10 00:51:42](#)

(no subject)


I'll pass along to all of you anything that might help that I can glean from Seamus or Dean, but I doubt it'll be much. For all practical purposes the two of them really stopped talking to me

months ago.

And now that I'm the only one in my dormroom *without* a pin, they consider me beneath contempt, really.

But they might drop some tidbits because they're underestimating me. I'll keep my ears open.



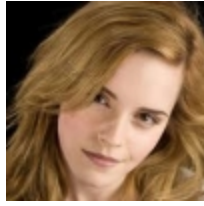
 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-10 00:58:02](#)

(no subject)

Me, too. I don't know what I can do to help, especially from far away, but if we can think of something, I'm willing to do it.

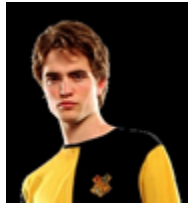
Oh. Except...


If any of you decide to really go for it, and you do make it to the end, and you get chosen, and you need help with protecting your thoughts, I'd be willing to help you try to learn to become an Animagus. Except Sirius would probably be more help with that, really.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-10 00:22:49](#)
(no subject)

Yes, that's just what I've been trying to tell Harry. His job ought to be to make sure Draco gets in, and to make sure whomever else rises to the top is someone who won't be a horrible threat to the Order.




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-10 00:08:22](#)
(no subject)

I've never seen Heph as this sort of ambitious. However, family pressure will absolutely make sure he's trying to go for the snitch. He'll do well at any physical challenge. He was involved in the silliness last year as well. We never discussed that in detail as it was what broke the closeness of our friendship, so I don't know what he might have picked up there. It may be time to try to push to renew the friendship again.

Don't count Linus out. If he knows before hand what sort of challenge or competition is coming he will have studied every last detail and know it's whole history. I would be *Stupified* if he doesn't trip someone up unexpectedly or play spoiler. He was the first person in the door to speak with Dolohov this morning. Pin on lapel. Speaking of Linus I ought to be able to get a hold of his analysis of the little club from last year. He kept copious notes.

Tamblyn's really good at charms, also in that silly club last year. Definitely ambitious, but I wouldn't have thought this was his plan. Honestly not quite sure what his plan would be. A bit artistic, likes twisty puzzles, particularly arithmetic ones. Not the kind of analysis Linus does but like those puzzles on the back page of papers along with the wizarding chess setups. His Head Boy privileges will give him lots of ability to get around school rules that might get in other's way, like the ref is a home team supporter.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-09 20:58:01](#)
(no subject)


Blaise has already written Draco. I wonder if he'll try to distance himself from Patil, or help her along? He doesn't seem the helpful type, really. And he's never seemed particularly keen on gaining entry to the council either.

Finnegan and Patil are most definitely going to be in on things together. Moon and Thomas might tag along there. Finnegan will want to win. Maybe he'll convince the others to help him get ahead, even if it means they don't make it? Patil might really want it too, though.

Vince and Greg tend to come as a unit. They should've got one pin to share between them.

I'll bet a lot of the 7th year Slyths will get together and try to take everyone else out.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-09 21:27:54](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I bet you're right about the 7th years.

You're too right about Goyle and Crabbe.



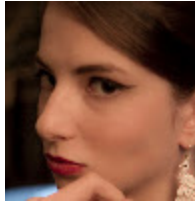
 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:28:54](#)
(no subject)

I'm one of the monitors.

That's what my letter was about.

He hasn't sent me a letter since the Triwizard, so I guess he's interested enough in what's going on.


At least for now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 20:37:02](#)
(no subject)

So you can say that Draco's brilliant and Ron and Pansy mean well but don't have the necessary mettle to cut it on the Council? That makes me a little less worried. Except Draco's also your best mate, so they might discount it. Do you know who the other monitors are?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:44:35](#)
(no subject)

No, not yet. Maybe Urquhart. Tamblyn was chosen, but she wasn't. I don't think she was, at least.

Ced, did you get a letter at all?


I'm talking to Raz after dinner tonight, I'll see what he knows.



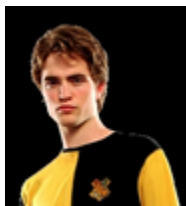
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-09 20:45:43](#)
(no subject)


He might not be reading. Hydra told the grownups to get lost. Does Cedric think of himself as a grownup or as one of us?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:53:18](#)
(no subject)

I'll write him.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-09 22:39:21](#)
(no subject)

No I did not get any sort of letter today.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-09 20:16:06](#)
(no subject)

You don't think anyone would go back and read your private messages now, the ones that aren't behind a lock, now that you're all candidates?

You can bet they'll watch what you do say very carefully from here out, at least.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:29:34](#)
(no subject)

We've got the Order lock to coordinate. And the galleons too.

So that's something.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-10 00:19:29](#)
Private Message to Hydra


Love,

I'm going for a walk. Smith has been taking the mickey more or less non-stop since he saw I did not get one of those accursed pins.

I say, secret stairwell? We can keep an eye on the journals if you want to strategise. I'm just bally well tired of humouring him.

-J



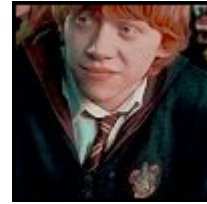
 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-10 01:54:43](#)
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I'm sorry he's being difficult. Of course I will meet you. I want to talk and be alone, anyway.

I'm still not sure what to do.

2014-01-09 13:23:00

Order Only: Private Message to Professor Dumbledore




Sir?

I think I may have a question for Professor Brutka about my Transfiguration project. Would tonight be a good time to bother him with it?

 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_albus](#) at **2014-01-09 19:34:44**
(no subject)

Certainly, my boy.

Nine, shall we say?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-09 20:18:33**
(no subject)

Thank you, sir. I'll be there.

2014-01-09 13:54:00

Private Message to Harry and Draco


I saw there was some excitement at breakfast. I imagine it was nothing less than a gob-stopping surprise. An interesting mix of recipients.



 [alt_rabastan](#)

Anything you two want to talk about, you know I'm here for you.




 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-01-09 19:25:01**

(no subject)

It appears to have been a surprise for my Father; was it the same for you and Professor Dolohov? It's odd to see such a serious demeanor cast over the entire affair. I mean, I've been looking forward to this moment since I was on training brooms. I would have thought it was the opportunity that every Father, Mother, and Uncle had dreamed of for their charges.

Oh and Hydra was chosen, too. Not sure if you noticed.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-01-09 20:34:59**

(no subject)

Yeah.

I might stop by after dinner or something.

2014-01-09 14:04:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot and Tonks



 [alt_lupin](#)

Do you read the juniors' threads? The ones where they say 'no adults allowed'?

Hydra didn't actually SAY 'don't read,' she just said, 'keep your quills to yourselves while we sort this out.' So I'm staying out, but I'm reading. Apparently the Death Eaters are recruiting new members; Draco and Hydra both received invitations to 'compete' for the 'honour.'

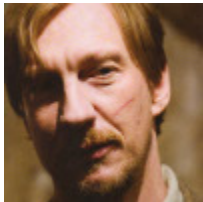
But I don't think they were the only ones. Of ours, I mean.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-09 20:16:54](#)

(no subject)

I hope Molly's not reading.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-09 20:20:02](#)

(no subject)

Quite.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-09 21:05:13](#)

(no subject)

Did you read the letters they've posted? It's interesting it's not the same letter to each of them. I mean, it's not a form letter from some official representative of the Court. ('Dear Death Eater Candidate, on the count of three, you may begin eliminating your rivals. Last one standing gets Our Lord's Mark. And probably the hot end of his wand, too.')

Some of them were given rather more specifics than others were. I guess fairness isn't exactly a cornerstone of this competition.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-10 00:44:22](#)

(no subject)

Of course I was reading. You know I read them.

Only in this case I had to put my journal away because I kept grabbing my quill.

Luckily Bea was having a good day (increasingly rare, you know) and she took my mind off things for a while.

We said we wanted to encourage in-fighting among the Death Eaters. It's inevitable that Voldemort would want to replace the members he's killed, or who have been killed for him, and besides, making the younger members become mentors to yet another generation is the best way I've heard yet of creating insecurity in the old guard.

Maybe this is all an elaborate hoax he's devised to get Mulciber, Malfoy and the others back in line. And at the end he'll say 'April Fool!' and not add anyone.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-10 00:47:00](#)

(no subject)

That would be a lovely thing to believe. I'll close my eyes tight and maybe it'll be true.

2014-01-09 14:07:00

Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Are you all right?




Because you looked...I don't know how you looked. Like you'd just eaten the most foul-tasting Bertie Bott's ever. Or like you were considering packing up and leaving for Grimmauld and never coming back. Maybe.

 [alt_hermione](#)

No one would blame you, either.

How can I help?



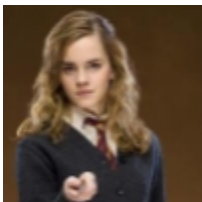
 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:15:52](#)
(no subject)

Katie got a pin, Hermione.

And Draco. And Hydra. And Pansy. And Ron. And I'm supposed to report on all of them. Be his eyes and ears. Make sure he gets nothing but the best.

I know what he does to his council.

I know that when he wants to test me, he doesn't care who gets hurt in the process.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-09 20:22:17](#)
(no subject)

Well, on the one hand that could be an incredible advantage. We don't want Pansy or Ron or Hydra to get selected. Or Katie.

You can report in ways that make them look a little too naff for the circle.


On the other hand, we'll have to be careful because all the others' letters say that there's more than one person who'll be his 'eyes and ears' so you won't be able to throw things too out of joint.

And of course he doesn't care. He never has done. It should hardly be a surprise by now.

He's not just testing you, he's testing everyone. He's testing his current council by bringing in a whole load of new blood and he's testing the newer ones by judging their choices and he's testing all the candidates.

Our job is to make sure that the people who get in *deserve* to receive his special touch. If you know what I mean. Apart from Draco, who has a reason to win. And Hydra if she wants to help like that.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:24:29](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.


And try and keep people from really seriously hurting one another in the process.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:26:01](#)
(no subject)

I don't think anyone *deserves* it. Even if they think they'd want it. But yeah. I see what you mean.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-09 20:22:50](#)
(no subject)

And the worst part of it is that it's a chance for me to do something useful.

To let us get some people in a place where they could do some real good.

I bloody hate it.

2014-01-09 14:18:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric

Did you get an owl or anything?

Did Professor Dolohov know about it?



 [alt_harry](#)




 [alt_cedric](#) at **2014-01-09 22:36:44**

(no subject)

No I got nothing.

No. Actually Raz was in here for awhile talking with him. They didn't look happy about it. In particular they were not happy about being blindsided.



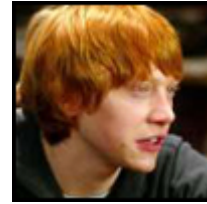
 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-01-09 22:44:46**

(no subject)

Might say the feeling is mutual.

2014-01-09 15:49:00

Order Only Private Message to Mum and Mrs Longbottom



 [alt_ron](#)

I can't think of any good way to tell you this, so I'm just going to say it. I mean, it's not as if I had any idea it was coming, and then this morning there it was. And anywiz, you've probably already been reading things, maybe even what we've all been saying in Hydra's journal, which... I mean, if you have, then you already know...

Um. Yeah. So I got one of the owls this morning. From Julius Avery, who was Head Boy after Percy. And his father's on the Council and has been a Death Eater all the way back- yeah, I guess you'd know that.

Anywiz, that's it, really. I got one of the owls. And a pin with a little Ouroboros on it. I'm going to have Professor Dumbledore check that for, well, for whatever spells might be on it. And I'm meeting with him tonight to talk about whether I've got any hope of getting good enough with Occlumency that I'd stand any chance if I made it through this and got chosen, and I'm going to tell him I want to go ahead and try the Animagus transformation, which- it's worth trying, yeah?


I don't mean I'm going to try to get selected. I'm not, Mum. Really. I promise.

But you don't know what could happen in a competition like this. I mean, there are 21 of us, supposedly. And supposedly 7 are going to be chosen. So everyone will be strategising, and a lot of them may turn against one another. Most of them are Slytherins, so it's hard to guess, but they're likely to have alliances, but also be looking to undermine each other. Because there are loads more of them than can make the cut. And, on the one hand, you'd expect all of them to try to take the Gryffindors off the board right away, but on the other hand, they might think we could wait. Either because they've got us sewn up in alliances some of them control--like Finnigan: he'll be in thick with Patil and Zabini, and Malfoy's expecting me to fall in with him, which I'm going to do. Only that means they may not think they have to do anything about us at the start because we'll be sitting ducks whenever they've got clear shots, y'know, and what they really need to worry about is the other Slytherins.

Anywiz. Yeah. I promise I wasn't looking for this to happen. I mean, it probably totally mucks up my chances with the Aurors. If I fail at this, I mean.

If I don't, then- yeah. I don't even know what would happen then.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-09 23:16:42](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for keeping us informed, Ron.

Although I have no doubt that the Aurors will be keeping an eye on your performance, not all Aurors are marked. I believe you still would have a chance.

It's worth it to pursue Animagus training regardless.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-09 23:39:23](#)
Private Message to Ron

As with the Auror programme, just because something is possible and potentially useful doesn't make it the best choice, or the only one.

You've told Molly you'll try not to be selected, but I can see how sorting through all contingencies would be important, and you very well might end up in a position where you would either have to decide to proceed and risk success, or sabotage your own chances. I would have you consider this future carefully. I'm glad you're talking to Albus about it.

Also, regardless of what your personal wishes, you cannot go before Voldemort and be judged by him unless you can be absolutely positive that you can completely close your mind to him.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-10 05:40:36](#)
Re: Private Message to Ron

I know.

Professor Dumbledore and I talked tonight. I'm going to really try with the animagus transformation. But I'm also going to be careful. About all of it.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-01-10 01:38:42](#)

Private message to Ron

I've had to let several hours go by before picking up my quill.

First of all, thank you for telling me yourself.

I'm sure you thought I was going to throw a wobbly, didn't you? Or send you a Howler. Or worse, send *Voldemort* a Howler. Well, I'm truly tempted, but I know I don't have the luxury of such emotional indulgence. At any rate, if I do want to vent, I won't burden you with it, I promise.

I know you're a true Gryffindor, Ron, someone who is brave enough to face the consequences, whatever happens. Even if you try to finesse things so that you don't end up in the top tier, you're right; you never know what might happen in the cut and thrust of the competition. You may end up facing the horrible 'prize,' despite your very best efforts. Well, we will face that somehow if it comes to it. I hope it won't.

As your mother, I must admit my selfish wish is that you try to find a way to bow out and escape this danger as soon as possible. But I realise that you can't. What's more, you're evaluating this as a full member of the Order, and so you have to think over what you should do from every possible angle: not only in terms of what help you might be to the Order, but what it might mean for your future career. I think your chess know-how will be a huge advantage, if you're thinking about strategy and alliances. After all, you did have the very best teacher in your father.

I'm not going to try to advise you. I'm too emotionally close, and that might hurt you, so I will leave that to others in the Order with the expertise to help you carefully evaluate what you should do. That could be Alice, Albus, Minerva, your brothers, your own friends, or anyone else in the Order you trust to look at the necessary decisions critically and carefully and really think them through. (Admit it: thinking things through with careful detachment isn't exactly known as my specialty, is it?) I'll put my trust in them to advise you well.


I do need some guidance from you on one point: do you want me to make a show of publicly wishing for your success and cheering you on? (Or maybe not even publicly: if I write some private messages to

you, for example, perhaps they might be monitored, if you're understood to be vying for Lord Voldemort's favour.) I am not sure whether Percy, for one, would swallow a great show of Protectorate fervour from me. What do you think would be best?

Is there anything else that you need from me, dear?

And lastly, I know that it was actually an honour to be chosen for this. Whatever happens, whatever you decide, know that I love you, dear. Always.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-10 05:38:07](#)**

Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks, Mum.

That helps.

2014-01-09 18:10:00

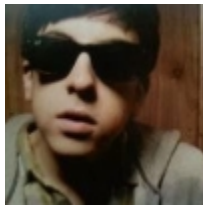
A New Year and New Opportunities!

Hogwarts really is the most educational place, is it not?

Let us all strive to make the most of it, whatever opportunities we are given.



 [alt_linus](#)



 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-01-10 00:20:07**

Private Message to Padma

For your delectation, I present:

The SELENE Report
Student Excellence: Logistical, Empirical and Noetic Evaluations

RAVENCLAW

Linus Moon - We shall see.

Padma Patil - Obviously quite a strong candidate.

Lares Tamblyn - A bit bloodthirsty, yes? Former member of that unauthorised duelling club. (I heard someone the other day refer to it as the Brotherhood of the Sleeveless Robes, though how some of the girls who participated might take that name is an unknown I would prefer to investigate only when wearing Quidditch padding.) He is someone of whom Professor Vector thinks highly. Serious contender, I feel.

SLYTHERIN

Vincent Crabbe - He's good at Noble Arts, one must give him that. And yet. Also, there is a rumour that the Protectorate Bureau of Standards has a box of rocks labeled "'Dumber Than' reference case," and that they are considering replacing this box with Crabbe.

Greg Goyle - See previous annotation.

Hydra Lestrage - Insufficient data, really, though her parentage suggests we should all be very wary indeed of her abilities. To tell the truth, I hardly know what to think about her. Given recent revelations, I should hesitate to think it anywhere near her even if I did know.

Draco Malfoy - Clearly one of the ones to beat. With OWL results like that, he could easily have been Sorted into Ravenclaw.

Alfred Montague - Not the brightest Lumos out of the wand. Determined, however.

Samantha Montgomery - Padma, if I could roll my eyes any harder I would have sprained them, when I saw she got a pin. She was a Sister of the Sleeveless Robes, but hardly all that notable.

Teddy Nott - I look forward to the earliest test at which I may petrify his sorry carcass and leave him in a rarely frequented location.

Pansy Parkinson - You've got full opinions here already, and I have nothing to add.

Lizzie Stevens - Similar to Montgomery, but with even less staying power. Not worth a thought.

Richard Vaisey - Ah, another member of the Brotherhood of the Sleeveless Robes. He's good-natured enough, for a Slytherin. Always buys a round, very Hail-Fellow-Well-Met, when it's to his advantage. Charming and all that, I suppose. Will certainly be playing to win. Best to take him out early, if possible.

Blaise Zabini - You'd know far more than I.

HUFFLEPUFF

Heph Bobolis - Throws a mean curse. Not always expert at removing one, unfortunately. (He was the one who hit Samuels with Aviculus, in the Brotherhood of the Sleeveless Robes. Hollow bird-bones do not stand up to being hit with a bludger. Merlin, what a thing that was.) Be careful of him.

Zach Smith - Charms is really his only strong suit. Rather feckless, if you ask me.

GRYFFINDOR

Katie Bell - She certainly has physical stamina, but my analysis of her House's Quidditch performance this year suggests that captaincy is not her strong suit, which in turn may imply that strategy is not her strong suit. Nevertheless, don't expect her to be an easy mark.


Seamus Finnigan - You'd know more about him than I. He's a reasonable all-rounder, I suppose.

Cormac McLaggen - Another member of the Brotherhood of the Sleeveless Robes who did not cover himself with glory, but not at all safe to underestimate. Has a bit of a temper. (He does seem to have steadied a bit this term, however, which is all to the good, really.) Nota bene: may have bad memories of that infected curse burn, so it might be possible to unnerve him with similar spells. Hmm?

Dean Thomas - Hmm. Did rather well at CCF, actually. Dark horse.

Ron Weasley - Really, you must be joking. Though I suppose he's got a certain low ginger cunning, plus animal vigour, as they say.

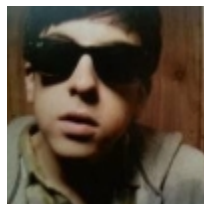


 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-10 01:00:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

It's quite a mix, isn't it? Sweet of you to prepare this, really.

Did your sponsor tell you much? Mine really didn't say a lot.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-01-10 01:11:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

I was told enough to know that it is indeed a great honour to be chosen, and that the testing will demand much of us.

Are there any areas of Defence on which you think you'd like a refresher? I have got access to some absolutely wiz-nift books that

Professor Dolohov steered me towards, and I would be happy to revise with you. What are your current concerns, if any?

2014-01-09 18:24:00

Private Message to Katie Bell

Hey.

We should talk, yeah?

Everything's going to be okay. Promise.



 [alt_harry](#)

2014-01-09 18:28:00

Private message to Mum



 **alt_ginny**

So Ron told me he'd owl you with the news. There were twenty-one students who got pins today from Councilwizards saying that they were being honoured with consideration and maybe if they were good enough they'd get to be Councilwizards, even though they're all still in school and Hydra Lestrangle hasn't even sat OWLs yet, she's the same year as me.

Ron was one of them.


We talked this afternoon, he took me for a walk down by the lake and we talked about how he ~~doesn't want this~~ never sought this sort of attention. And why he wants to be an Auror. He said all the things you'd expect but also he talked about how our family is sometimes a target and treated unfairly, and he wants people to feel like it's not safe to mess with us. And of course being a Councilwizard is even better in some ways, but --

You know sometimes it's hard being a Weasley? There are so many MANY people who think they're better than we were. Part of what I liked about ~~that~~ modeling is it made me feel like I was better than the people who snubbed me. It didn't work forever, though.

I thought for a long time it didn't bother Ron because he was a boy, but of course it does, he just hides it better. Anyway, of course mixing with the others who got pins means a lot of time spent with people who think their families are better than ours. He's not looking forward to that.

Joining the Council was never something he'd thought to try for. And I think he's frightened. Mum I didn't know what to say to him. I still don't.



 **alt_molly** at **2014-01-10 05:10:09**
(no subject)

My goodness.

Well, Ginny, I know just what you mean, because I don't quite know what to say to him, either...except

that he has all of my love and support, of course.

I'll look for Ron's owl, but if you see him tonight, please tell him that I love him, and I'll write to him more fully. (And that a big batch of shortbread will be its way to him tomorrow.)

As for what you can say to him, I think *saying* something isn't nearly as important as just being willing to listen to him. He's a Gryffindor, and a teenage boy, which may give him the illusion that he has to be without fear all the time. But you're his little sister, so he already trusts you, and in the time-honoured manner of big brothers, he probably doesn't think he needs to impress you. That puts you in a very important role: you may be one of the few people at Hogwarts he might feel safe in expressing how he really feels about this. So listen to him with all that fierce family loyalty, and let him know his confidences are safe with you.

Thank you for letting me know, dear; I'm very grateful. I feel better knowing that you're there to listen for the both of us.

2014-01-09 18:36:00

Private message to Percival Ignatius Weasley



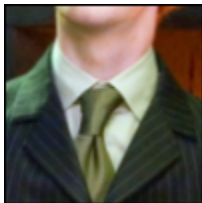
 [alt_ginny](#)


I hope you haven't resolved to never read journal PMs from the rest of your family again because I imagine you'll want to see this one.

Did you hear from Mr Malfoy that twenty-one students at Hogwarts got ouroboros pins today, and letters from Councilwizards saying that they're to be evaluated and tested and perhaps they'll be invited to become Councilwizards themselves? (Or if Mr Malfoy didn't tell you, maybe you heard from someone else? Certainly everyone HERE knows about it.)

One of the people who got a pin today was Ron.

(Draco Malfoy got one, too, and Pansy Parkinson. And Hydra Lestrangle. Mostly they were Slytherins though Dean Thomas and Seamus Finnigan and Katie Bell all got them, too, Ron wasn't the only Gryffindor.)



 [alt_percy](#) at **2014-01-10 02:15:30**
(no subject)

Yes, I have heard about it from Mr Malfoy, but more than that, I learned just today that I have also been honoured with a role to play in the competition, believe it or not. I am to be the liaison between the judges at Hogwarts and the Lord Protector himself! To say that I have been stunned by this mark of favour is putting it mildly, but I am determined to do whatever I can to prove myself worthy of His notice.

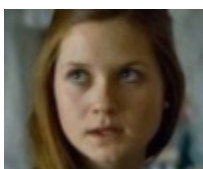
Of course, given my role, I must be careful about speaking to Ronald directly, but I have no qualms in assuring you that I am absolutely delighted to learn of his nomination. Whatever disadvantages we suffered in our upbringing, it is most gratifying to reflect that the purity of our blood has proven true in the end. I hope you will take that as a point of encouragement.


I trust that *others* in the family will have enough sense to refrain

from sabotaging Ronald's chances in any way with their own behaviour.

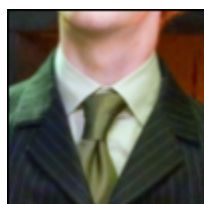
I still need to learn further details concerning the details of my rôle--although Mr Malfoy has hinted that it may present opportunities to prove my worth--but I hope that it might allow me to stop by Hogwarts occasionally. It would be pleasant to see you again.


I trust your preparations for OWLs are going well. Never underestimate the value of the work you are doing now in the months right before the tests; it may prove absolutely vital to your future career.



 **alt_ginny** at **2014-01-10 04:37:59**
(no subject)

Why would ANYONE in the family sabotage Ron? This is a great honour and incredibly exciting and I am SURE that we all wish him the best.




 **alt_percy** at **2014-01-10 04:58:15**
(no subject)

Well, I trust that no Weasley would sabotage him deliberately, because yes, it is a very great honour indeed. What worries me is that when he is evaluated, the decorum and behaviour of his family will also be taken into account. Well, of course it will! A member of the Council must have no embarrassing ties.

That, I fear, is where Ronald may be judged to fall short in comparison to some of the other potential candidates.



 **alt_ginny** at **2014-01-10 05:07:40**
(no subject)

Oh, Percy. Surely no one will hold you against Ron. Though it's good of you to be concerned.

2014-01-09 18:48:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Fred and George



 [alt_pansy](#)

Well, gents, I suppose you've heard by now of the latest plan Our Most Glorious Lord has to ruin my academics and possibly kill me.


Sally-Anne thinks someone chose me to get to Lucius, because obviously I'm not cut out for the Council, which means I'm in the lovely position of being perceived as a failure before I've even begun. Lucius has given me absolutely nothing to work with, and we have no idea what we'll be asked to do. I suppose the key will be to fail as gracefully as possible, while appearing to try very hard, but without getting too singed in the process.

I'll keep an eye out for Ron. We'll all be keeping an eye out for each other, I'd imagine.

I'm not sure what the rest of the term will be like. I'll do my best to lend a hand when I can, but I don't know how much of my time this is going to take.

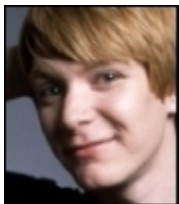
And I may be a bit late getting you that feedback for the spring line.



 [alt_fred](#) at [2014-01-10 03:07:10](#)

(no subject)

You know you didn't have to do this to impress our customer base.




 [alt_george](#) at [2014-01-10 03:07:49](#)

(no subject)

Although it can only help.




 [alt_fred](#) at [2014-01-10 03:09:26](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

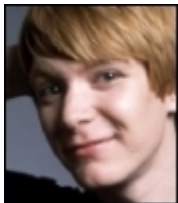
Also, consider the entire Weasley Wizard Whizbangs catalogue at your disposal for appropriate mayhem. That's for you, Ron, Hydra and Draco, too. We'd prefer, of course, if you can do it without leaving any bodies in suspicious places.


Seriously, any way we can help, count on us.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-10 03:37:12](#)
(no subject)

I was thinking advanced samples of some of the things you'll be cooking up couldn't hurt. So yes, that's good to know.




 [alt_george](#) at [2014-01-10 03:12:40](#)
Private message to Pansy Parkinson

All right then? Must have been a helluva shock.

Listen, don't worry about the spring line, or anything else. We have Hitty's help, and plenty of galleons, thanks to you, and we have enough ideas to keep us going for months. Packaging and ads are all set for the next product push, so it's really a lull where you can concentrate on this.

It'll be all right, yeah?




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-10 03:39:14](#)
Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Okay. Good.

And yes, it was.

This is not going to be pleasant.



 [alt_pansy at 2014-01-10 03:41:47](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

I suppose it's a blessing that people are most likely going to discount me from the start. It'll make it easier to focus on just saving face and keeping the rest of them from getting hurt.




 [alt_george at 2014-01-10 04:02:20](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

The journals and the Galleons will really help, too.

We can try to hit up Fu for ideas, too, come to think of it. The man knows more about the strategy of surprise than probably anyone in the Protectorate.



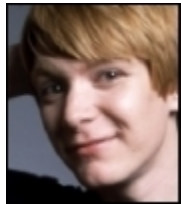
 [alt_pansy at 2014-01-10 04:06:03](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

We do have a bit of an advantage, don't we?

Thanks, you.

I feel slightly less like vomiting.



 [alt_george at 2014-01-10 04:09:22](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson


If I were there, I might suggest sneaking out for a snogging session. That would take your mind off things.

Of course, if my snogging technique weren't up to the challenge and you were to vom anyway, that would put a damper on things.

Literally.

(You can laugh. That's the point of this.)



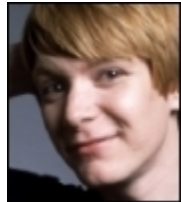
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-10 04:13:37](#)


Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

Hah! It totally worked.

I seem to remember having no complaints about your snogging technique, but as you know, any good research outcome requires multiple trials.

Might you be up for revisiting this next Hogsmeade weekend? If I'm not off tow-rowing, that is.




 [alt_george](#) at [2014-01-10 04:19:42](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

I'd be very happy to come for a Hogsmeade weekend to investigate what sorts of fireworks we can conjure up together.

So to speak.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-10 04:23:04](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson

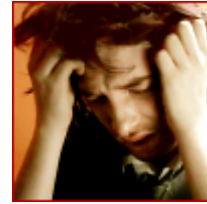
Lovely.

Something to look forward to.

If I have to go off and fight Patil or something instead, I'll be quite put out.

2014-01-09 20:33:00

Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley and Fred Weasley



I picked a fine day to ignore my journal.


When I arrived home, I found broken shards from about fifty cups and saucers, scattered all over the hearth. Guess Mum replicated a slew of them and then chucked them all at the mantelpiece, one after another. Made a hell of a mess, but I suppose it worked. She was sitting at the kitchen table, drinking a pot of tea. With red eyes but as calm as you please.

 **alt_bill**

Then I opened my journal and I discovered why.


Merlin.



 **alt_fred at 2014-01-10 02:54:36**
(no subject)

D'ye want us to come home?




 **alt_bill at 2014-01-10 02:56:06**
(no subject)

I think she's had the worst of it out of her system.

Just...just be considerate of her when you see her tomorrow? Probably knock off the usual teasing for a few days, at the very least.



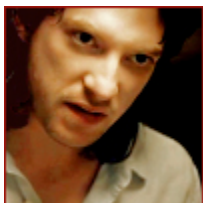
 **alt_charlie at 2014-01-10 03:05:27**
(no subject)


I have to say, I'm proud of her that she took it out on the cups and saucers rather than in the journals. 'Course, we don't know what she's said to Ron directly, but, yeah.

I don't know what to think. On the one hand, let's face it, we have been hampered by not having reliable intelligence from the Council

Death Eater side of things. Minerva hasn't been able to do it for a long time. On the other hand -- that's my brother we're talking about.

I wonder if there's anything we can do to help.



 **alt_bill** at [2014-01-10 03:58:34](#)
(no subject)


I don't think, from what little she told me, that she used the journals to harangue him in any way. As you say, she took it out on the crockery instead. I'm sure that's vastly preferable to Ron.

Yeah. I can see all sorts of horrible scenarios. This is one of those times when I wish I was blessed with a *less* active imagination. On the other hand the competitive Weasley-proud Gryffindor in me is bloody proud of him. Whatever their reasons, they think he's good enough to put up against their very best.

I wish one of us was still at school with him. To watch his back, at the very least.

Of course, the four of them have an advantage, that they can watch out for each other through the journals and with the Galleons, in a way that many of the others can't. That's something, at least.



 **alt_bill** at [2014-01-10 04:17:03](#)
(no subject)

Paging through all the journal entries today, I found the comments on Hydra Lestrangle's where Ron copied out the text of the letter he received. Saw this bit:


'I have chosen you as a potential Councilwizard because, of all the Weasleys currently at large, you alone have, I believe, the right combination of wizarding pride and tactical skill required to excel among our number.'

Well, that's put you and me in our place, hasn't it?

It's also one in the eye for Percy.

Merlin. Speaking of Percy, I wonder what he knows about this.




 **alt_charlie** at **2014-01-10 04:37:54**
(no subject)

And yeah, that made me double-take a bit. More for your sake than mine, since nobody thinks twice about me, really, which is the way I like it. But I guess it's better that people underestimate us?

I saw Ginny wrote to Percy, so I'm guessing she told him if he didn't already know. I can't imagine what would happen if Ron was invited to take the Mark before Percy was, though. I'm having trouble wrapping my head around the thought of Ron taking the Mark at all, though. Makes my skin crawl.




 **alt_bill** at **2014-01-10 04:52:34**
(no subject)

I'm having trouble wrapping my head around it, too. I've privately thought a bit about what I might do if I were offered the Mark. I never wanted it, Merlin knows, but I thought there was at least a chance it could be offered, given the way I was moving up in the Ministry. I also thought about Percy taking it.

I never thought of it being offered to Ron. Honestly, it never occurred to me. Which was bloody short-sighted of me, now that I think about it. After all, what else is that CCF programme for, but to train their future elites?



 **alt_charlie** at **2014-01-10 05:11:18**
(no subject)

And on the one hand, good on Ron, for fooling them so well, and for showing loyal so thoroughly that someone picked him as one of the best and brightest coming out of Hogwarts.


On the other hand, that's my baby brother we're talking about, and I've heard Mac and Snape talk about what's involved and it turns my stomach. And even if it's not Ron who 'wins' this thing, all the kids who are involved are, well, kids. Even though nobody gets a childhood anymore, it makes me cringe to think

of any of them doing what they'd have to do. Even Malfoy, when it all comes down to it. He's a snot and a terror, and his father's a monster, but he's still a kid when it all comes down to it and he deserves better.

Maybe something else will come up. Maybe Voldemort will get bored and forget about all this.

(Yeah, I didn't think so either.)



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-01-10 04:34:43](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I keep thinking about my first few years at Hogwarts, and how terrified I was about the war, and how everything seemed so bleak and hopeless, and how you were trying so hard to look out for me while keeping your head down too, and how I never really knew what was going on but I knew something bad was happening and Mum and Dad were terrified. I think I figured out they were in the Order a long time before I figured out what the Order even was, but I knew from the start that I couldn't talk to anyone about it. Not even you, really, any more than we already talked about things. It taught me a lot about how to keep my mouth shut and stay out of the way, but -- it was after my first year, remember, when half the Slytherin seventh-years finished up their NEWTs and walked out of Hogwarts and into the battles at Leicester and the Midlands, and at school everyone was full of all the stories Desai was filling our heads with and half my year was dreaming of the days when we could be grownups and go into glorious battle like the older kids did, and --

Do you remember the time that summer -- maybe it was the next -- when Mum caught us playing Lord Protector and the Blood-Traitors? The look on her face then? Merlin. All I remembered at the time was how she sat us down and talked about how turning it into a game disrespected the people who were fighting and dying. Looking back at it now, all I can think of is, she never said which people.

Anyway. What I mean is -- we could tell something was wrong, but we didn't have any clue what was really going on, or any sense

that what we were being taught was thestral shite, for far too long. And I listened to far more of the propaganda than I should have for far too long, because you're supposed to be able to trust your teachers and what they're teaching you. I always wanted to get to know Tonks better during school, for instance, and I never did, because she was a fostered halfblood and everything they were telling us said I should stay far away. That kind of thing.

That's something Ron and his friends don't have to worry about. Not that they don't get hefty doses of the propaganda, I mean -- but they somehow managed to see through it early on. Way earlier than we did. And they have each other, and they worked it all out together, and I can't imagine what it would have been like going through all that with somebody next to you that you could turn to and say "this is all a boat of nonsense, isn't it?"

So, yeah. You're right that they have an advantage. A big one. I think that makes me feel loads better about it than I did when I first heard. Thanks.



 **alt_bill** at **2014-01-10 04:49:58**

(no subject)


I remember that, yeah. And you're right, the full implications of what she was saying to us didn't really sink in until years later.

You're right, it's been different for you and me than it has been for Ron and his friends. And yeah, some of it's the lock--both locks--and being able to talk with friends safely. That's the good part.

But another difference is the increasing sophistication of our enemy. They're grooming the cream of the kids to step into their roles as the oppressors of the next generation. You and I missed that, as they only started the CCF curriculum after we'd left school.

I wonder what our paths would have been, if we had been faced with that.



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-01-10 05:13:33](#)**
(no subject)

I don't know. I really don't. I'd like to think I'd've seen through it all like Ron and the rest did, but I'm honest enough with myself that I can't say.

I try not to think too hard about what-ifs, though. They just depress me.

[2014-01-09 22:49:00](#)

Private Message to Rory

Don't know if you've noticed the new pins some of your seventh years had on. They're a sign they've been entered into a contest for Our Lord's favour, an invitation into the inner circle.



 [alt_rabastan](#)

I knew nothing before this morning. Tosha knew nothing. Rod knew nothing and Hydra's been included. Lucius knew nothing before being summoned to Court to be informed that much of his clerk's time will be taken up being a liaison between the competition and Our Lord himself. Each student has a sponsor - all the ones I could suss out are the latest additions to our ranks.


They've been told it will be a difficult and potentially dangerous trial, but glorious. Love, you should know, they've tapped Draco, Hydra, Pansy, Katie Bell, your Linus. Katie's got to be a test of Harry, who is expected to be one of the somewhat secret judges.

We need to talk. Harry's already come to me to talk about trying to keep everyone safe.

~~He's a better man than me sometimes~~

Can you come down, or should I wait up?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-01-10 04:16:27](#)
(no subject)

I
How
Why

Oh.


Had first and second years up here all night, none of the older ones I'd have expected. The younger ones are buzzing, but I couldn't sort out why. At all.

This. Love, I - definitely, yes, we need to talk. Do you mind very much waiting up? I don't want to cancel, sends entirely the wrong message, and it's actually clear besides.

I can't chart out what to make of none of you being told. At all. Um. Thinking through implications, I guess. You, me, Toshenka, tomorrow, at least, we can talk through some of it. Just. Thinking about the effect on the school. Easier than thinking about the effect on the people chosen, right now. A bit.


I'll be down as close to one as I can. If you do fall asleep, wake me at seven? (With coffee, please, if the talking's going to do much good.)



 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-01-10 04:24:50](#)**
(no subject)

I'll wait up. Sleep's not coming soon. Definitely a discussion tomorrow.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-01-10 04:36:44](#)**
(no subject)


Right. No. It wouldn't.

You talked to Harry or Draco or Hydra directly?

Actually, just had an idea. For a little more background. I'll explain in person, don't know if it'll come to anything tonight yet.

Going to go look at some stars, see if that helps me think, but I've got my journal.

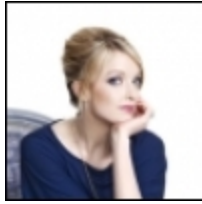


 **[alt_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-01-10 04:52:29](#)**
(no subject)

Harry, yes.

Draco, only in the journals and he was as correct as possible while being as sarcastic as possible as he always is when he's feeling defensive.

Hydra, not yet. Hopefully I'll be able to talk to her tomorrow.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-01-10 05:00:24](#)
(no subject)

Right. Doing a bit to see if I can get more useful info.

Not surprised about Draco really. We'll talk through Harry. And Hydra - look, I'll plan to stick up here until supper tomorrow. She's still much more comfortable talking if I'm not around. Not taking offense, love.

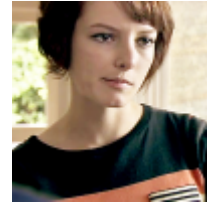
(Besides, no time for that right now. I care more about doing this right than being petty. Even if I were inclined to be petty at Hydra, which I'm not. Other people, yes. Rather a lot. But not our students.)

2014-01-09 23:02:00

Private message to Lucius Malfoy

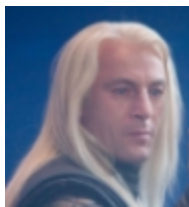
I was sorry to hear today was so busy.


I heard some bits and pieces from Montague. And of course there was a great deal of gossip.



 [alt_rachel](#)

I imagine you must be surprised (given your son's age) but proud. Surely you expected this sort of invitation to be years away yet.




 [alt_lucius](#) at **2014-01-10 05:11:18**
(no subject)

Yes, well, these upsets to the timetable do occur from time to time. Hope you were not too inconvenienced.

We are always proud of Draco. But yes, he is young for this step - they all are - and yet, Our Lord is famous for surprising us all with His audacity.

What has Montague told you?



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2014-01-10 05:24:21**
(no subject)


What I heard from Montague was that it was the youngest and newest Councilwizards who were invited to make nominations.

It sounds like they chose their initiates like they were choosing sides for quidditch. With seven teams. Montague says he felt duty-bound to choose his brother first and so Ned Pennifold beat him to Draco. I guess Ned was also the one who chose Pansy, which Montague found a little puzzling.

Montague also picked Heph Bobolis and Linus Moon -- who is one of three Ravenclaws, he said the current Head Boy was also picked, along with Padma Patil.

Your former clerk Crispin was one of the people choosing a side. Not the one who picked Ronald Weasley, though.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-10 05:33:51](#)
(no subject)


From what I have gathered, that is correct. In point of fact, if you want to know, Crispin had thought to take young Weasley as his second choice but Avery beat him to it.

Or is it Bill Weasley who wants to know?

Ned may be my own cousin but he's also a fool. Believe he may have been making choices he thought would please me. But it was always my hope that Draco's initiation to the Council would occur as a matter of course in due time, not under these somewhat philistine circumstances. Particularly when it will undoubtedly interfere with his studies.

Still, with competition the likes of Bobolis, Moon and Smith, I believe, his job ought not to be too taxing. And if I know my son, he will find ways to enhance his schooling at the same time, as well.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-01-10 05:39:36](#)
(no subject)

I haven't discussed it with Bill. Ronald interned with MLE last month; he seemed bright and enthusiastic but not what I would have considered Council material.

Moon. I thought I didn't know him, but I just realised -- he asked me some rather amusing questions when Lana and I went in for a YPL meeting. Amusing in the sense of, 'oh, you sweet child, how your professors must adore you and what a shock the real world will be to you.'

I have NO IDEA what Montague was thinking.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-10 05:48:12](#)
(no subject)

Antonin Nikolaevich was rather impressed with the Weasley lad over the summer - but like you, not quite the thing, or not without significant grooming. But then, Our Lord's point in asking the younger members of our set was to gain potentials in quarters which His mature servants would not necessarily have thought ready.

As for Montague and Moon, there I believe I can provide insight: He was thinking that Moon is enthusiastic, intelligent and gullible as a fish. Last year the Governors had to manage a sticky situation involving many of the older students (including a few on this roster) who mixed themselves up in a duelling ring, having no proper idea what they were about. Moon was their statistician.

Perhaps Montague thinks Our Lord needs a new accountant.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-01-10 05:59:11](#)
(no subject)

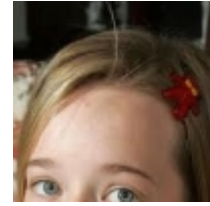
Perhaps!

Double-entry bookkeeping is supposed to have been invented by a Ravenclaw. According to what I heard when I was a student.

2014-01-09 23:11:00

private message to Harry Marvolo

I did not expect that they would be giving out pins here. Because the last time that happened was when you-know-who was Headmistress.




 [alt_megan](#)

They are not bringing someone like that to Hogwarts again, are they?

I hope it is OK to ask this but I thought that if anyone knew you would.

I hope they are not bringing anyone like that to Hogwarts again.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-01-10 06:19:17**
(no subject)


I don't think they are.

And if they did, it'd only be to oversee stuff for the people with pins. Not everyone else.

Smith got one, didn't he?

I'm going to do what I can. To keep people safe.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-01-10 14:43:13**
(no subject)

Yes he did, and Heph Bobolis too. I think those were all the Hufflepuffs that did, but a great many people in other Houses have got pins. And they are making quite a fuss about them.

It is hard to keep people safe when they don't know what picking their choices can lead to.

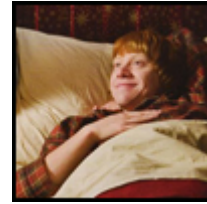
I have to stop writing now because Fang is trying to sit on my journal and get me to pet him.

2014-01-09 23:57:00

Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

You still awake? I am.


Guess that's obvious. Not letting Finnicky have an unprotected shot at me. Will have to figure out some better protection than never sleeping, though.



 [alt_ron](#)

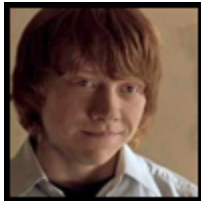
Anywiz. I'm thinking about you. So you know.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-10 06:08:09**
(no subject)

Oh yeah, I'm still awake.

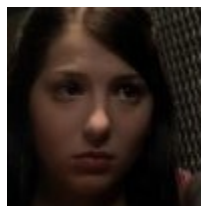
Maybe you and Nev could take turns watching? So you'd at least get to sleep for part of the night?



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-10 06:15:31**
(no subject)

Missed my chance tonight. I'll talk to him tomorrow about it, though.

You all right?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-10 06:17:45**
(no subject)

I wish I could camp outside of Gryffindor Tower and keep you safe.

Not just from Finnigan and Thomas, either, I mean, from everything.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-10 06:28:58**
(no subject)

Thanks, you.

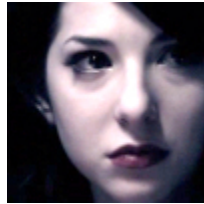


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 06:23:34](#)
Order Only

I hate that you're in danger and Pansy's in danger and you feel like you need to try to do this.

Councilwizards are powerful, right until the Lord Protector decides to blame them for something and kills them horribly.

I sat down and counted how many Councilwizards have died in the last few years. Twelve. I counted twelve. (Not all of them were killed by the Lord Protector, mind you. One of them was killed by Terry.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 06:30:45](#)
Re: Order Only

I'm sorry.

I promise I'll stop whinging about this tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-10 06:35:16](#)
Re: Order Only

No worries. You can complain all you want so I don't have to.

And yeah.

That's a lot.

Not that I wish they were still alive and being evil gits. Especially Carrow. The Carrows.

But it looks a bit different today, that figure.

[2014-01-10 00:58:00](#)

Private Message to A Dolohov and L Malfoy



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)**

Leaving this for contemplation with your breakfast.

Have intelligence Mulciber was as blindsided as any of us. Small comfort, but better than the alternative.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-01-10 08:04:05](#)**

(no subject)

I'm afraid I haven't made it to bed yet, dearest. It has been a day.

But that, at least, is good news.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2014-01-10 22:19:20](#)**

Private Message to Toshenka

Старший брат,

Прежде, чем мы слышали об этом конкурсе, Драко привил мне о своем намерении привлечь внимание Господа нашего и гарантировать, что он мог взять Марк. Он сказал мне, потому что он хотел бы предупредить меня, что он будет дистанцироваться от меня двигаться вперед.

Я уверен, что он надеется, что искал расположения, он будет ... искупить ... для моих проступки - это да ... потрясен веру - и тем самым не только восстановить честь семьи, но и повлиять на примирение между Господня и я.

Вы знаете, как я, сколько Господь наш пользуется зная, что Он вселяет страх и неуверенность в все вокруг Него. Он должен чувствовать, что радость интенсивно, когда бедного раба, кто сомневался Его вводит Его присутствие. Существует неприятное ощущение, что в любой момент может быть тот, в котором он открывает Свою определенные знания о предательстве и заставляет конец. Конечно, он находит, что справедливого наказания. Но рано или поздно, должен быть

расплата.

Таким образом, это, возможно, понятно, что оглашение Драко принес мне немного счастья, только страх он охотно ходить в ловушку наживкой специально добавить к моему наказания, и, следовательно, без надежды на успех в своем стремлении

Я понятия не имею, что делать. Ни один.

Посоветуйте мне, дорогие брат.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-10 23:37:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Toshenka

Ба́ры деру́тся, у холо́пов чубы́ трещáт, брат мой.
Не знаю, но буду делать все его защитить.

What I can, at least. When I can. Господин наш не слушает меня, not anymore. I have been working to change that, at least. I'll come by this weekend -- Sunday afternoon? -- and we'll talk.

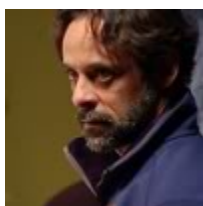


 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-10 23:44:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Toshenka

Yes.

боже мой



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-10 08:15:45](#)

Private message to Barty

I don't like any of this. At all.

It would be hypocritical of me in the utmost to object to students entering Our Lord's service, of course. I knew you were destined for greatness within months of first meeting you, and I was one of the loudest voices urging Our Lord to accept your dedication so young when He first raised the possibility. (A championing you have more than proven worthy of.) But you, my dear heart, are one in a million, and although there are some flowers of possibility in the garden that has been gathered (and others our younger comrades missed in their plucking) none of them are what I


would call ready.

The difference between war and peace, I suppose.

Still. I don't like that we were blindsided. Raz, Minerva -- none of us knew. And given that at least part of my task here is to separate the wheat from the chaff, that bodes ill. And Our Lord's favour ought not be a game, and everything I have coaxed the children into telling me says it is being treated as such.

My efforts to make myself more of a resource ought, perhaps, be increased.



 **alt_lucius** at **2014-01-10 21:30:01**
(no subject)

It would have been more comforting still had Our Lord chosen to commandeer one of the Mulcibers' clerks for this escapade, instead of allocating the task to my staff.

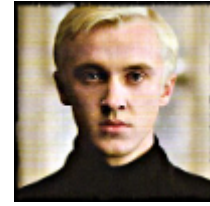
Still, there may be a bright side: With Percy Weasley shuffling all the records back and forth to Our Lord, we may retain access to the reports. And may be able to ... influence ... the results if necessary.


Competing. Like pugilists on an amateur circuit. So wretchedly common.

2014-01-10 09:27:00

Order Only - candidates and sponsors

After last night's mixer, I compared notes with a few people and was able to put together what I believe is an accurate list of council candidates and their respective sponsors. Should it be of any bloody use at all. Note that I am unsure what order each candidate was chosen in, though it is safe to speculate the order in some.



 [alt_draco](#)

Ned Pennifold

Draco Malfoy
Cormac McLaggen
Pansy Parkinson

Lana Sandavol-Pennifold

Hydra LeStrange
Padma Patil
Greg Goyle

Julius Avery

Ron Weasley
Vince Crabbe
Zach Smith

Ptolemy Baddock

Richard Vaisey
Katie Bell
Dean Thomas

Sarah Yaxley

Teddy Nott
Blaise Zabini
Lares Tamblyn

Jason Montague


Alfred Montague
Heph Bobolis
Linus Moon

Virgil Crispin

Seamus Finnigan

Samantha Montgomery
Lizzie Stevens



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-10 16:50:34](#)**

Private message to Snape

When you have a moment, I would like to meet with you about the possibility of training in legilimency.

I don't think you'll be surprised to hear that I've decided to follow this opportunity to the end, and intend to take the Mark.

It is not lost on me that some of the others may believe that I am doing this to sneak back to the side I was born on. I suspect Hermione may believe that. I am willing to endure the suspicion. If anything, it only shows me that I have just the right presence to carry this off.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-01-10 23:57:26](#)**


Re: Private message to Snape

I would be more surprised had you decided not to.

It is good that you are already prepared for suspicion and doubt. The life of a double agent is exceptionally uncertain, and often measured in months and years rather than years and decades. Be certain. Occlumency is a necessary but not sufficient protection: I endured twelve years in Azkaban for having uttered a single unguarded syllable, and it was luck alone that the Dark Lord thought me useful enough to imprison, rather than kill outright, in a gamble that he would need my skills again in the future.

Yes, I will teach you. You will need to learn both quickly and flawlessly. See me after supper, when you can get away. I recognise you will need to keep up appearances and that it is often difficult to escape the eyes of your fellow students; I will speak to Minerva about arranging a method by which we might meet without suspicion.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 00:10:59](#)

Re: Private message to Snape

I am certain, and have been for some time.

I would like to know, though, what this unguarded syllable was that ended you in Azkaban, so that I can avoid similar error. I don't think that he would find me at all useful enough to bundle away for later use.

And yes, a method to explain the meetings will be necessary. I appreciate it.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-11 01:09:00](#)

Re: Private message to Snape

The full truth of why I was imprisoned is known only to two men besides myself: Albus Dumbledore and the Dark Lord. And even Albus does not know the entirety.

I will break the silence of years and tell you, yes; I am an excellent cautionary tale. But first, we must have a conversation about secrets and trust, and whether we both can have the latter before sharing the former.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 02:19:03](#)

Re: Private message to Snape

Those are the only two people? I see.

Yes, sounds like that conversation is in order.

I should tell you that I'm not a particularly open person. You probably can tell. I'm willing to expose myself to whatever discomforts necessary to do this, though.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-11 02:22:24](#)

Re: Private message to Snape

In that desire for privacy, at least, we are similar.

I will expect you when you are able to get away.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 18:53:59](#)

(no subject)

So during the soiree last night I slipped into the boys' dorm and got a look at a few other letters. (They all say such different things, I thought it might be useful.)

Teddy's sounded like it was written by someone who'd drunk a bad batch of Dreamless Sleep:

Dear Theodore and I call you Theodore and not Nott, for if you succeed, you will be my brother in His Service),

Of all Our Lord's devoted and loyal subjects He chooses but a handful to honour, to choose for His inner circle; He trusts us with His work, graces us with His attention, and placed His Mark upon our bodies.

In this winter He has invited some of us to choose candidates we believe might be worthy. Worth is measured in many ways, not merely strength in a duel but also strength of mind and spirit and purity. Strength to know that which must be known and to see with clarity what must be seen. Worth is powerful. Worth should be treasured.

I believe you may be worthy and so I present to you this Ouroboros pin as a symbol of your worth and your willingness to prove it. To test it, to defend it, to demonstrate it before the eyes of all that look and judge. Wear your pin night and day, that all may see it, that all may know that you test yourself against others chosen to compete for this honour.

There will be challenges. There will be tests.

Walk with care. He will not Mark a corpse. Nor a fool.

Twenty-one have been called. Seven will be sent into the presence of

Our Lord. Whether He chooses to Mark or to cast aside will be His will.

Don't shame me, Teddy Nott.

Sarah Yaxley

Greg's was from Lana Sandoval but it was really different from the one Hydra got:

Dear Greg Goyle,

I'm sending you this pin to wear while you compete for a chance to take Our Lord's Mark. You will have to fight if you want to win this favour. You will notice that a number of other students will be wearing similar pins. All of them have been invited to compete for the same honour. Very few will make the cut.


My advice to you is that you do whatever it takes to crush your opponents.

I'm entirely serious.

*Your sister in Our Lord's service,
Lana Sandoval-Pennifold*

Also, I went to talk to Professor Dolohov because I thought he might know something. He didn't know anything -- well, I guess we all know that by now? But I didn't, when I went to talk to him. Anyway no one told him this was happening and he doesn't know what's being planned, why they chose candidates this way, any of it. The thing that was most striking was how very, very careful he was about exactly what he said. He's not usually terribly worried about saying the wrong thing, even to students -- he has books you aren't supposed to have, and I don't mean Dark Arts books, I mean he once loaned me a book written by an American muggleborn (at least I was pretty sure from the little biography of the author that he was a muggleborn). He was being really careful yesterday, picking his words in a way that would ensure that even if we were being watched by Bellatrix she'd find nothing to take exception about, you know? Like he feels the ground shifting under his feet, and is being very careful about where he steps until it stops moving.

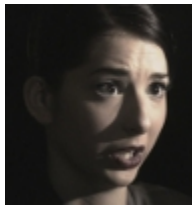


 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-10 19:34:40](#)
(no subject)

They just left those lying about? Morons.

Interesting about Dolohov. I haven't had a chance to speak with him yet. I know we've spent a lot of time speculating why the Lord Protector sees it as advantageous to have his followers off-keel, but I think I've finally sussed it out.

He wants them in a position where they feel insecure and are literally willing to do *anything* to win his favour. On top of that, he throws out the occasional reward to keep hope alive. Even if all the back-and-forth that means that a few of them might turn against him, like Mr Selwyn, he'd rather risk that than having his followers get too comfortable. If they get too comfortable they might start thinking about themselves, their own wants and needs, instead of putting him first.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 19:38:27](#)
(no subject)

I thought Greg might. I mean he left his JOURNAL lying around where Mr Snape picked it up, remember? And it was sitting on his desk, I didn't even have to touch anything.

I think Teddy's fell out of his pocket, I found it on the floor, folded into little squares.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-10 23:33:40](#)
(no subject)

Teddy's might be a fake, but then again, Sarah Yaxley is a little mad and that sounds a little mad.


And precisely, you'd think Goyle ought to have learned by now. Well at this rate he won't pose much of a threat, at least.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 23:35:48](#)
(no subject)

Well, it wasn't Teddy's handwriting. And it looked like a woman's writing, though there are men with very pretty penmanship.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-10 23:40:59](#)
(no subject)

If you're talking about me, it's my Mother's fault. Penmanship was always a part of my lessons, even from a young age.

Teddy can be quite clever. At any rate, I'm not sure that the content of the messages tells me anything useful about my competition. Surely we all know more about Goyle than Lana S-P does. But she is advising him to not hold back and to be as brutal as possible - and we know that HE knows how to do that, and do it well.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-10 23:49:29](#)
Private message to Draco

I didn't mean you, your handwriting isn't girly! Anyone who said so was looking for an excuse for his own atrocious chicken scratchings.

I was thinking of Justin. I would NEVER know he wasn't a girl, if I had just his writing to go on.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 01:10:10](#)
Private Message to Draco

I've been giving some thought to my role in all of this.


I know I don't have the same expectations placed on me as you do. I know how some people are going to perceive me. But I also know how much more important it is that you succeed.

Tell me what you need me to do, and I'll do it.

If you need me to be a visible ally, I'll be there. If you need me to appear to keep my distance, I'll do what I can behind the scenes, and would understand your reasons for it.

This is bigger than either of us. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to help you.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 02:30:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Appreciated.

I won't know what I need until we see what they want us to do.

It's a distinct possibility, however, that I will have to behave, in public, in a way that is hurtful - be it physically hurtful, or emotionally. You have to know that none of it is authentic, and convince the others if they suspect that it is. I swear I will only resort to it if I see no other option.

I might as well get accustomed to it now.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 02:30:39](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

I

Yes. I see.

And of course it wouldn't be real, Draco.

I know you.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 02:35:10](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

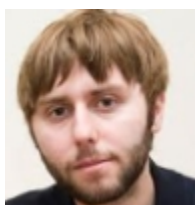
Yes. Well Well, not everyone else does.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 03:13:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Their loss.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-11 01:46:38](#)

(no subject)

Draco,

I've been looking at your list and trying to deduce their motivations, what.

Avery and Montague were the only ones to nominate Hufflepuffs, or who have more than two Houses represented. However, Heph Bobolis and, sad to say, Zach, were involved in the duelling club. (In fact, all Jason's selections were in the club. I say, it seems to me as if he's simply choosing chaps who'll work well with his brother.)

Avery chose Ron, what, but he also chose Zach and Crabbe. Perhaps he hopes that Ron will succeed and keep Crabbe out of the running for the time being? Zach's well insufferable about the whole business but I suspect he'll change his tune dramatically once you lot start up these challenges. Right now, I think he's simply bally well chuffed someone thought of him; I'm sure he never remotely considered it for himself, what.

Neither Hydra nor I are surprised Sandoval made a play for her. It's almost certainly intended to please Auror Lestrangle. As for Patil, that's another obvious choice on Sandoval's part, though I'm well surprised she rewarded Padma's loyalty all these years. I'd rather got the impression from our revision sessions last term that Sandoval had all but dropped Padma when she left school. (Today, of course, there was no escaping an endless stream of 'Sandoval says'--and dash it, it's just occurred to me that I shall be the only one in our revision group who is not in the running for this bally old 'prize'--oh, bother it. Can't be helped.) Goyle's an odd choice for her but perhaps she's hedging her bets with someone who values brawn over brain. Then again, he is frightfully clever when it comes to Dark Arts, so perhaps that's her logic as well.

I say, Ned's your cousin, isn't he? And Crispin used to work for your

father. Ned chose both you and Pansy, what, which makes me think perhaps he thought it would please Mr Malfoy to see him supporting the two of you. And McLaggen's brother was a Councilwizard so that's a safe third choice, what.

But Crispin seems to have avoided choosing you (assuming he had the choice, and wasn't he Marked prior to your cousin? Unless they used some other order besides precedence, what). Perhaps he's aware of the dangers of this sort of initiation and thought to ingratiate himself by sparing you? Or perhaps he's trying to create separation between himself and Mr Malfoy, as he'll be guiding his charges to best you. In either case, he's got a dedicated choice in Finnigan. I say, it seems to me he might have picked Lizzie and Sam because he knows they work effectively as a team? I can't think why, otherwise.


I think Yaxley's choices speak for themselves: They're all fairly flamboyant, in their way. I'm sure that appeals to her artistic spirit, what.

That leaves Baddock. Vaisey's a fairly obvious choice, of the seventh-years. Bell--perhaps he thinks her connection to Harry will work in her favour, as he's judging so many of the challenges? And Thomas....I say, he's the most unsettling candidate, what, because one never seems to be able to guess on a given day which way his head's going to turn. Sometimes he's a decent enough chap and sometimes he takes the bit in his teeth and plunges hell for leather, what. I should think Baddock's other choices being safe meant he thought he needed a wild card to show he's not wholly risk-averse.

If these seven who've chosen this lot are same people who'll be setting your challenges, one might be able to think strategically about how they'll be judging your efforts, which in turn will help us skew the results, if you follow me.

-F-F



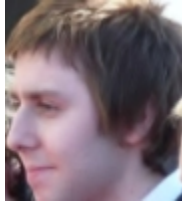
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 01:57:41](#)
(no subject)


I wonder.

They said seven would be chosen, but did they clarify that it was one from each? Or that it'd just be

seven total?

I'm inclined to think it'd be seven total -- where more than one from each person could potentially go up -- but I'm not sure.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-11 02:15:39](#)
(no subject)


Pansy,

Yes, that does rather make a difference, doesn't it. I'm inclined to think it's the sort of decision they prefer not to make until necessary, simply because the goal here is not to raise one new initiate per sponsor but to present Voldemort with the best this group can produce.

But given that so many of the letters seem to stress not bringing shame onto the sponsor, what, one presumes that each of them hope to present someone suitable. Which means they may want one 'strong' candidate apiece and let the others jolly well rot.

-F-F




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 02:22:09](#)
(no subject)

Before we go reading too much into intentions, we ought to keep in mind that these fresh young things may have been just as caught off guard as Professor Raz, Professor Dolohov, and my own Father were.

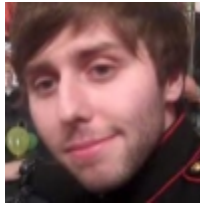
Imagine Voldemort summoning them and saying "give me the name of three Hogwarts' students you would sponsor for our council. Oh, and you have five minutes."




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-11 02:25:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but they may have had a lot of time to decide, which means that Justin's logic might have some validity.

Right?




 **alt_justin** at [2014-01-11 02:29:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I say, is that what you think happened? And was *everyone* unaware of this before it started? That might change things yet again.

Still, even if these are simply the first names that sprang to mind, it tells us something about their creativity and how well they know (or don't know) the current slate of students.

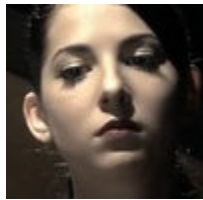
-F-F



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-11 04:00:03](#)
(no subject)

I don't know. It may be, like Hydra said, that they had time to mull and deliberate, but perhaps not.

I only have it on good authority that neither my Father, Professors Raz and Dolohov, and (I believe) the Headmistress had any advance knowledge.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2014-01-11 04:20:40](#)
(no subject)

Do you think Mr Crispin would have at least warned your father, if he'd known about it in advance?

I think your theory that they weren't given much time may explain some things.

2014-01-10 12:56:00

Private message to Mr Rosier

Dear Mr Rosier,

Thank you for your letter of encouragement that arrived this morning. As you heard, I received an Ouroboros pin from Mr Virgil Crispin as a sign of his sponsorship of me.



 [alt_seamus](#)

I was one of five Gryffindors to be so honoured, and one of two half-bloods. (The other is Dean Thomas.)

Mr Crispin addressed that point, in his letter: 'If you doubt that He could open His circle to a halfblood, then prove to Him and to all who would stand in your way that you deserve it beyond question, by any means necessary.'

I will do my best to prove myself worthy, sir, and to bring honour to you as my foster father.

In His Service,
Seamus

2014-01-10 18:55:00

Order Only: Lunch with my MLE contact



First of all:

Draco, Hydra, Pansy and Ron: if there's anything I can do to help any of you, I'm more than willing to do so.

 [alt_bill](#)

With that in mind, I angled for a lunch today with my MLE contact, Rachel Brodie (Lamont). It turns out that she was just as eager to talk with me as I was to speak with her, and so we met in a secure location, out of the Ministry Building. The topic of our conversation was Voldemort's interest in adding new faces to his Council, and that the way he is going about it has taken quite a few people by surprise.

Up until now, the two of us have always managed to avoid any discussion of who, exactly, in my family is with the Order besides me or Dad, but the subject was rather unavoidable this time. Oddly enough, she began by speaking of Percy, and it quickly became clear that she half-assumed that Percy was an Order member, put in place to spy on Lucius Malfoy. Did I think it a good idea for him to join the Council? For her own safety, I couldn't let her continue with that assumption. I told her that no, Percy was eager to prove his loyalty to the Protectorate, and was, in fact, the greatest threat to both me and Dad 'as well as the Order members to whom the two of us were closest.'

Of course, she doesn't know of my ties to any of you but Ron, but she was certainly concerned on Ron's behalf. She was ruthlessly blunt about how dangerous Council membership is, although I'm sure this isn't news to any of you. Voldemort considers the minds of his closest followers to be his personal property to rummage through. What's more, there are those on the Council who could eat a new member alive for lunch and pick their teeth with the bones afterwards. A new initiate might very well be dead within the year.

Ron: she asked how sure I was that you were ignorant of Dad's and my activities. Since you want to be an auror, maybe you've been getting practice by eavesdropping and so on; had I thought of that? Well, I wasn't going to admit that you were already an Order member. I did allow that you probably know enough information that it would be dangerous, but I was sure you wouldn't willingly betray us.

That leaves the problem of unwilling betrayal.

It's her firm opinion that there are really only two realistic options if you are to have any hope of ~~surv~~ being of any use on the Council: either occlumency or mastering the Animagus transformation. Occlumency is easier to learn, but you must have a legilimens you can absolutely trust.

So we talked about the alternative. She asked what your Transfiguration score was on your OWL (it was an 'E,' wasn't it?). If you're good at the subject, you have a better chance. It also helps to have someone in the family who has done it, too.

I asked her how long it took her to master becoming an Animagus, and the answer was not what I'd hoped to hear: it took her two years. She did say one year was spent just reading, and the chief problem was the difficulty of finding decent books on the subject. She brought me the book that had helped her the most, *The Naked Mole Rat*. Sirius, Minerva, have you ever heard of it? It's quite short, by an American publisher, and it's well thumbed--she warned me that several pages are falling out. She also cautioned me to tell you, 'Don't ever get caught with it.'

Do any of the four of you want to take a look at this book? I'll do whatever needs to be done to hand it off to you quickly. If need be, I suppose I can give it to Fred and George, and they can have Pansy's house elf deliver it.

Or do you plan to pin your hopes on Occlumency?



 [alt_bill](#) at 2014-01-11 02:30:40


Private message to Mum

Mum:

There was one other thing Rachel told me: that even if we don't have anyone in the family who was an Animagus, it still might be helpful to tell Ron that we do. Expectation helps a lot, and if he *thinks* he has a relative who mastered it, it could very well increase his chances of success.

Perhaps you could tell him so? It'd be more convincing coming from you.



 **[alt_molly](#) at 2014-01-11 03:19:30**

Re: Private message to Mum

Fib for his own good, you mean?

I suppose I could do that. A great-uncle, perhaps?
Maybe one of the Fawleys.




 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2014-01-11 03:02:30**

(no subject)

Yes, I read it back when we were working on the transformation. Took us forever to find a copy, and when we did it was damaged in shipment from America. Some of the pages were stuck together and we never could get them unstuck. It just jumped from page 47 to page 52. James declared the whole tract useless and a waste of Galleons. But that could have been just because he flatly refused to think his inner animal was a naked mole rat. (Then again, it really did the trick for Peter. I remember finding some of it convincing and thinking that the rest must have been written in between spliffs.)

Anyway, it's not a bad suggestion, Animagery, and it's certainly possible to learn with dedicated effort. It's also a lot to add on top of NEWT-level courses and whatever this fresh torture is going to entail.



 **[alt_molly](#) at 2014-01-11 03:22:40**

(no subject)

I seem to remember that my father mentioned one of his uncles was an Animagus. One of the Fawleys. Was it Lucien?

No...no, it was Octavius! Octavius Fawley. One of your great-great uncles, Ron. So it does run in the family.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 03:22:49](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, but I am fairly confident in my occlumency skills, and I have already made arrangements to work on them further with Mr Snape.


Also, the idea of being an animal repulses me quite a bit.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 03:27:39](#)
(no subject)


I rather expected that was the route you would choose to go, yes. I've heard Mr Snape say that you're quite good at it.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 03:34:35](#)
Private message to Draco Malfoy

Well, in fact what he actually said was that my skill level was 'execrable,' but that if I worked very hard then perhaps in a year I might eventually aspire to half your level of skill. Which I took as a strong commendation of your talent.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 03:39:53](#)
Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy

Ah.


Are you certain you won't be the one needing that book?



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 03:49:57](#)
Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy

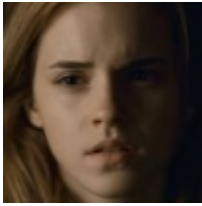
I've already speed-read it, actually.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-11 03:38:39](#)
(no subject)

It's certainly not for everyone, yeah. Better not to risk it if you don't think your inclination runs that way.

So it's good that you manage occlumency well.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 04:11:54](#)
Private Message to Draco

He's really more like Percy than he'd like to admit, isn't he?


But you don't need to be rude to the Animagi in the Order, you know.



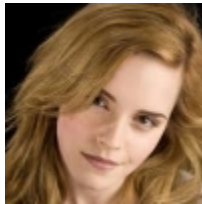
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 04:14:58](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco


How was I being rude, exactly?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 04:46:26](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco


Oh, I see. Because I said I found the idea of being an animal repulsive. I don't see how that's rude. It's not as if I said "animagis are repulsive" or anything like that. So how was it rude?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 04:54:08](#)
Re: Private Message to Draco

Well, not rude, I suppose, so much as tactless. It doesn't look like anyone took offence but you could just as easily have made them think you're bothered by the concept, not just what it would be like if *you* had fur or feathers or a hard shell, and extra legs or wings instead of arms....



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 05:07:27](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

But that's precisely what bothers me. I would look terrible in feathers or scales.

Now wings might be rather splendid.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 05:16:08](#)


Re: Private Message to Draco

Depends on the kind of wings.

You might think you're an owl or an eagle only to find out you're really a chicken, a vulture or even a dodo.

(I wonder what Rachel's book says *that* means about your personality?)

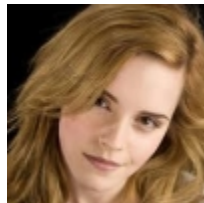


 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 05:22:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Dragons have wing, too. But I'll just have to content myself with never knowing whether I'm a dragon, vulture, or chicken, because I'll never be an animagus. And that suits me just fine.

You'd be something clever, I suppose. Maybe a pig. But that wouldn't be very useful.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 05:47:16](#)


Re: Private Message to Draco

I already explained this to Hydra: muggleborns are not related to swine.

I thought you figured that out by now.

I'm actually not interested in the transformation for myself, but I want to see what the book has to say about it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-11 05:50:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Ha, I'd forgotten about that. Even back then I knew enough to know that was mad notion.

But pigs really are clever; moreso than dogs.

Well, it's a book. With pages. Of course you're interested.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 04:08:46](#)

(no subject)

Well, Hydra, Mr Snape and Professor Dumbledore are all Legilimens, and I think nearly everyone has been working on Occlumency since last year (if they weren't before then), so everyone who can manage even rudimentary Occlumency is doing it or working on it.

Also Professor Doves assigned everyone meditations and the techniques are the foundation of the sort of control you need to Occlude.

I always thought the Animagus transformation was loads harder than just learning to focus and veil your thoughts but maybe they only say it's difficult to keep people trying and getting stuck in an animal form.

Though I can well understand it would be next to impossible if you kept thinking you were going to be, say, a giant cat and it turns out you're really more of a ferret or some kind of insect.

If none of the others want to read it, Bill, I'd like to. You could even tell Ms Lamont that I could maybe fix the binding for her.

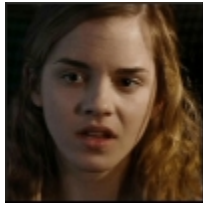


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-11 04:18:42](#)

Private message to Hermione

Ron is still pants at occlumency. After a year of work, do you think he's ever going to master it? I think he needs to either learn the animagus transformation or he HAS to fail whatever the challenges are, so

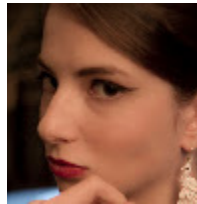
dramatically that there'll be no question he won't be pulled onto the Council. Which will probably also mean he won't be able to work for MLE.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 04:23:14](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Yes. When I said 'everyone who can manage' I was thinking that he's not good at it. But I don't know if he wants to be an Animagus, do you?

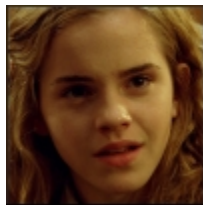


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-11 04:26:39](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

We've talked about it and he's not opposed to it, anyway, the way Draco is. I've always thought it would be nift and I think Ron feels the same way.

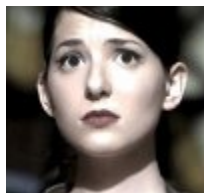
He was worried it would be too hard. But he didn't say 'ugh, how repulsive' or anything like that.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-11 04:31:01](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Well, he should definitely try it, then. But that doesn't mean he wants to read Bill's girlfriend's book, either.

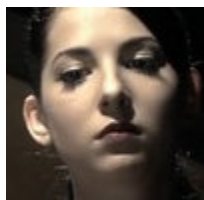


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-11 04:33:42](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Sirius said it was useful to one of his friends, so maybe it's worth a look?

I want to read it, when you're done with it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-11 04:41:21](#)


Re: Private message to Hermione

And about Ron -- you know he's cleverer than you'd ever know from his marks. He's spent his whole life being compared to his brothers, and I think sometimes in his classes he won't really

try because if he TRIES to outdo Bill (Charlie, Percy, the Twins...) and fails it'll look worse than if he just refuses to even apply himself.

But he's tried with occlumency and tried and tried and tried.
It's ~~like me with appara~~ And he still can't.

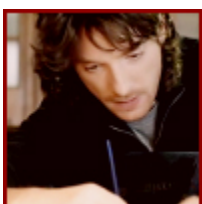



 **alt_bill** at [2014-01-11 04:42:51](#)
(no subject)

I'll hand it off to Fred tomorrow, and he'll have Hitty bring it to Pansy. You can work it out between yourselves who'll take a look at it, and I'll trust that you'll all keep it well hidden.

Unfortunately, the *duplio* spell won't work on it...part of the American publisher's protective spells on it; I already asked.

I'm sure Rachel would appreciate having the binding fixed; thanks for thinking of it, Hermione.




 **alt_bill** at [2014-01-11 05:01:25](#)
(no subject)

I'm *very* glad you've all been working at it. That head start could be critical.

I dunno about easier, but Rachel did say it was her impression that Occlumency was faster to master than the Animagus transformation. But perhaps people with a strong gift for Transfiguration could learn how to do it just as quickly.



 **alt_albus** at [2014-01-12 04:46:42](#)
(no subject)

Miss Granger, the repair offer is quite generous. I'd appreciate, however, if I might have first look at it.

I rather miss my copy, you see.

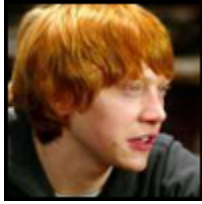
I'll make sure you've time to read it, of course, after.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-12 05:57:50](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Professor! Of course!

I only wanted to look at it after anyone who needed it had seen it.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 04:41:31](#)
(no subject)

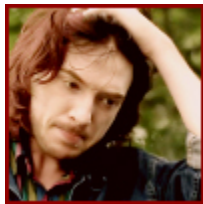
About Percy.


Ginny wrote him yesterday. And he said he's been appointed to go between us at Hogwarts and the Council or the Protector directly, I'm not sure exactly. But she said he was very pleased about it. I guess he would be.



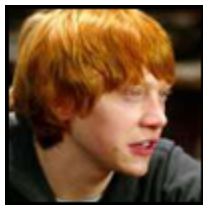
 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 04:45:01](#)
(no subject)


What? Really?!



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 04:48:38](#)
(no subject)

Blimey. Does that mean he's not working for Mr Malfoy anymore?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 04:51:31](#)
(no subject)


Oh. I don't know.

Ginny just said he was all over honoured to have been given a very important job and to be in His Lord's eye and blahblah.

Oh, and she says he's going to be completely unfair to me to keep anyone from thinking he's showing favouritism.

Nice, yeah? But it's fine. That should help, actually, just not in the way he expects.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 04:55:39](#)


(no subject)

Mmm. As far as I know, he isn't harbouring any particular grudge toward you. Unlike Fred and George, say.

He does pride himself on his fairness. Difficult to know what it might mean.

That's...unexpected. I'll try to see what I can find out about it, and I'll pass along anything I learn.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 05:50:43](#)

(no subject)

Yeah. It's awful having Fred and George harbouring a grudge. Bloody dangerous, really! You never know when something you eat will turn you into a tiny rubber chicken or a giant

moulting canary.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 05:09:38](#)


Private message to Ron

How are the four of you holding up? I've been thinking about you a lot today.

Saw that Mum private messaged you; I hope that wasn't too dire. She seemed calm enough when she talked about it to me, which I took as a good sign.

If you need me to run interference for you with her, will you let me know?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 05:42:02](#)


Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks.

It's queer, knowing something's coming, but not knowing what or when. I mean, Avery said they're going to set us challenges like in CCF or like a quest. Whatever. It'll be better after the first one happens. It's not knowing what it'll be like that's awful.

Mum's... she was terrific, actually. She knew I was expecting a Howler. (She said she thought about sending one to Buckingham!) Anywiz, it was all right, really, what she said. So maybe she's getting used to the idea I'm kind of in the middle of it a lot, what with Harry and Malfoy and all the things that have happened up here at the school while we've been here.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 17:08:45](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I'm relieved to hear that Mum took it well. (Although I have to admit I grinned at the idea of her sending a Howler to Buckingham. Maybe accompanied by some of the twins' fireworks.

Merlin, that would have been fun to hear.)

Ron...maybe you're not ready to answer this yet, but what do you think you want to come out of this? Do you want to really try for a spot on the Council, or do you want to be passed over, with the hopes you could still salvage a career as an Auror?

Both would be paths with merit. Both could be of incredible use to the Order. Both are dangerous, but I think the Council is more so. But that one might give you a personal shot at Voldemort.

Both, I'm quite sure, based on what Rachel's told me, will require you to kill. It might be muggles, it might be children. It might be people you know. Even people you care about.

I meant what I said: I'll do anything I can to help you get there, and to help you bear the cost.

I'll support whatever you decide.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 17:18:23](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

And by asking this, I don't intend to force a confidence, I promise: you don't have to talk to me about it, if that doesn't feel right. Talk to Charlie or Alice or Professor Dumbledore or someone else you trust. This decision's important enough that you probably need a sounding board, but again: whatever's right for you. If the only help you want from me is to send you a steady stream of Weasley Wizarding Whizbang products by owl post, I can do that, too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 04:46:38](#)


Private Message to Bill

And, yeah. I met with Professor Dumbledore last night. I've been studying Occlumency with him, and we've talked about the Animagus transformation as an option before. Only, it seemed like too much to start on before OWLs, so we didn't take it up last year. We're going to work on it now, though.

Actually, he talked about that book last night. I guess he used to have a copy but had to leave it behind in France when he came back-- because it's illegal, and he couldn't risk Brutka being caught with it at the border, y'know? Anywiz, he met the author when he was living in America, he said. Sounds like he'd be over the moon to have a copy again.

So, yeah. I guess I should read it. Thanks.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-11 04:52:27](#)


Re: Private Message to Bill

I'll have Fred give it to Hitty to bring to you all there tomorrow.

I really hope it helps, Ron. Also, let me know if Professor Dumbledore has any other books he might recommend on

the bsubject that aren't in the Hogwarts library. Perhaps Rachel might have a copy. I think she squirreled away a small mini collection on the subject, while she was researching it. Although she did say she found this one to be the most useful to her.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-11 05:33:47](#)**


Re: Private Message to Bill

The other one he recommended was a kid's book, actually. Funny that. But he said sometimes stories get things right when long scholars' books muddle a subject so you can't see the cat through the fog.

Anywiz, it's an old comic called Proteus about a boy who's in the last summer before going to school, and he realises he can transform, and he imagines all the possible shapes he could have until he finds the one that's his. The drawings are really great!

There were some other books he gave me, too. One about King Arthur where he's still just a boy, and he turns into animals with Merlin and learns about stuff. It's kind of long, so I haven't started it yet.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-11 06:53:32](#)**

(no subject)

I believe the current working plan for me is to try and position myself so I won't end up one of the seven.

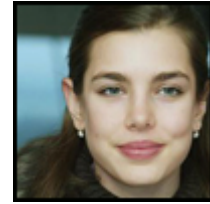
I think I'll continue on in Occlumency for the time being, as it tends to be generally useful.

Thank you, though, Bill.

2014-01-11 08:58:00

Private Message to S Yaxley

That letter from the Nott kid is hilarious. And Zabini's, too, for being so politely correct there's no telling if he was even remotely pleased. You really know how to pick them! Nothing from Tamblyn yet?



 [alt_lana](#)

I heard from Patil before she ate her breakfast, of course. Absolutely beside herself that I put her forward. Nothing from HL or Goyle. Not that I expected anything from him. Honestly, who knows if he can write an owl. He's purely a weapon: I'm counting on his causing havoc with enough of the others that Patil has a chance. He may not rise to the top this time, but it's not as if Our Lord will overlook his usefulness forever. Ned says He matched the parents specifically to breed bludgers. Suppose the fact they only managed the one shows a problem with that sort of matchmaking. (Not that I'm one to say much about not popping out a sprog a year.)

What are you about today? I was thinking of going out to Deptford to that ice sculpture festival. Want to go along? Afraid it's related to an investigation, but off-duty, and nothing to stop us appreciating the 'art'. I mean, who doesn't want to see people 'sculpting' erumpents and mountain trolls, fantasy princesses and ice replicas of Hogwarts? Oh, and portrait busts of famous people. I expect there will be rather more of some than others this year, but taking stock of that is its own excuse for going, don't you think?

Let me know. I was thinking half-eleven. We can have a bit of fun and then snatch a bite of whatever the kiosks are offering. I'll bring those letters so you can have them back.

2014-01-11 11:24:00

Order Only: I want to volunteer



 [alt_tery](#)

I stayed up all night thinking about this.

I'd like to volunteer to come to Hogwarts. If I pose in my Animagus form as, say, a pet of a staff member, I could teach the transformation to anyone willing to learn it. Pansy, I understand you're hoping you won't get picked, and Draco and Hydra, you're depending on occlumency. But if Ron and Hermione want to learn, I could work with them personally. It really helped me, when I was learning, to speak to Sirius. I think I could help short-cut the time you'd have to spend figuring it out. Maybe even dramatically.

What's more, in my form, maybe I could serve as an additional set of eyes and ears looking out for the four of you, hearing what the other candidates say. Nobody cares in the least what they say in front of a dog.

If one of the staff would agree to pose as my 'master,' I promise I won't let anyone see me in human form except someone in the Order, and we're sure that we're private. There isn't any rule at Hogwarts that says a staff member can't have a friendly, very well-trained dog, is there? Maybe the caretaker's dog might be best; that way I'd have lots of chances to move around the school freely. I won't be any bother; all I need is a corner with a blanket, and I won't trouble your privacy. I know I was a dog at Hogwarts for close to a week five years ago. But if, say, after I transformed, someone with a wand did a simple transfiguration spell over me to turn my fur all black, I bet no one would recognize me.

I come of age this week, and I've really thought this through. My friends at Hogwarts helped me when I was nothing. They gave me magic, and helped me escape from Carrow. This is a way I can pay them back.

Please let me do this.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-11 21:39:16](#)

Private message to Terry

Are you at Moddey these days or Sherwood? Has Mrs Longbottom said anything in person?

This idea makes me really nervous. Hermione has a portkey but you won't have one. If anyone recognises you you'll have no chance to talk your way out of it, you know? You can't apparate out of Hogwarts.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-11 22:48:26](#)

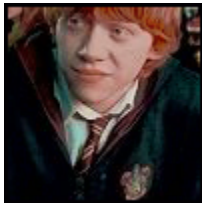
Re: Private message to Terry


I'm at Sherwood, although I come back to Moddey every Sunday night for dinner. I haven't seen her to discuss the idea in person.

I realise there are risks, but if we consider them carefully, I don't think they're too unreasonable. I really do think if the colour of my fur was altered, or maybe shortened, nobody would recognise me. I'll always have my wand with me for the very direst of emergencies, of course, since it's kept in my bracelet. And if worst comes to worst, if I could get off the grounds--and I can run quite fast as a dog--I can always apparate away. But I wouldn't be in human form very often. Just when I'm with one of you, in a safe location. I figure I'd be the Professor most of the time. Eating and sleeping. That isn't a hardship at all.

(There's a small part of it that's purely selfish, I'll admit. I would like to be back at Hogwarts. And to see all of you.)

It would be wonderful to be back there knowing I'm never going to see the git coming around a corner.)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-11 23:29:17](#)

(no subject)

I don't think it's up to me at all, but sure. I'm working with Professor Dumbledore, but it couldn't hurt to talk to you about it. Do you think you need to be here, though? Because it would be dangerous. You'd want to change what you look like, for sure. (I wouldn't want to bet that

some of the Gryffindors wouldn't remember if they saw the Professor at Hogwarts again.)




 **alt_terra** at [2014-01-12 04:05:16](#)
(no subject)

I'm going to meet with Mrs Longbottom tomorrow night, and we'll talk the idea out more fully. Obviously, I don't want to do it if it'll put me or anyone else in danger, but I really do think it might

help.

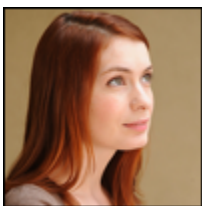
I'll let you know.




 **alt_alice** at [2014-01-11 23:35:04](#)
(no subject)

I'll have to give some thought to this, Terry. Perhaps we can talk further tomorrow, when you come to dinner?

I can see how it would be quite useful to work with Ron in person, if that's something he wishes to pursue in earnest. I'm unsure about the safety of your being there round the clock, however.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-01-11 23:42:25](#)
Private Message to Terry

There's also the matter of whether Severus would be able to take you on. He's got a considerable amount of work he's undertaking at the moment, and although I'm sure you'd make an effort to not be burdensome, it would be an additional responsibility for him to have you there.

Perhaps if you were able to assist with some of his more basic needs in the laboratory, that might help -- but Terry, if he believes it would be too much, I'm going to have to defer to him.

I'll talk to him.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-12 04:08:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

Thank you. Of course I'd be more than happy to help with brewing, sure. I helped Madam Pomfrey with the simpler stuff in the hospital wing, so I have experience. If he's worried about having me around in his quarters, you can tell him I learned to be really quiet from all the years with Carrow. But he still might not like it. I have the idea he's the sort of person who really needs his privacy.

If it doesn't seem like a good idea to him, maybe Cedric's suggestion is a better one. And if I stay with Cedric, you can tell Mr Snape I'd still be willing to help with the brewing.

We can talk about it tomorrow.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-12 14:38:19](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

I had another thought, which I just mentioned to Cedric. Is there anyone at Hogwarts who could tell I'm really a human when I'm in my Animagus form? Professor McGonagall could tell, five years ago, but I was transfigured by the git then, not an Animagus, and I'm not sure whether that's different. I am sure Professor Dumbledore probably could have told back then, too.

What I'm worried about is Professor Dolohov or Professor Rabastan. Maybe Professor Dumbledore would know? He taught them both, and he'd have an idea how good they are at Transfiguration, wouldn't he?



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-11 23:42:00](#)

(no subject)


We don't really know each other at all and this would be an adjustment on both our parts, but do you think it would be better to live on the grounds or in Hogsmeade? You'd have a good reason to be anywhere around the grounds as I'm back and forth everyday. Plus good reasons to not be on the grounds whenever you needed to be somewhere else.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-12 01:26:18](#)**
(no subject)

I think that sounds like a lovely option, and it would be wonderful to see you, Terry!




 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-01-12 04:01:25](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks!

I'm going to talk with Mrs Longbottom tomorrow night, and I think she wants to ask the staff members at Hogwarts what they think. I hadn't thought of staying with you, but it's a very good idea, too.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-01-12 14:40:36](#)**
(no subject)

I just thought of something.

When I was transformed into a dog by the git, during the first year, Professor McGonagall could tell at a glance that I was really human and changed me back. Can only someone who's worked with Transfiguration for years and years do that? I wonder if the Animagus transformation is different and no one can tell? Because there's Professor Dolohov. He wasn't at Hogwarts when I was.

If he can spot me as a transfigured human...yeah. That would be bad.

I don't suppose you can ask him. Especially if you show up with a new pet a week later. The coincidence might make him wonder.

Maybe Professor Dumbledore can tell us the answer to that.

In any case, if we do this, I should probably stay far away from Professor Dolohov. And Professor Rabastan, too. Just in case.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-12 04:05:37](#)

Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

Kingsley, are you going to mention him trying to bite that bloke at the shop's grand opening?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-12 04:09:14](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

I've been wondering that much as well.

Also, even if he does have someone alter his appearance after changing, he'll need somewhere well-protected for it and that person will need to be absolutely certain it's the same each time. Cedric's offer makes much more sense to me and is probably safer for all concerned.




 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2014-01-12 04:21:56](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

Do you think it make a big difference, to have an actual Animagus to teach you? Terry certainly seems to think so, but then, we don't know if he's a good teacher himself.

I think I like the idea of him staying with Cedric better, too.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-12 04:34:12](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley


Well I managed it on my own but that was during a summer when my father had practically imprisoned me in my room and I had nothing else to do *but* keep at it. James wasn't far behind, though I did help him with the last trick or two. And then we both helped Peter along.

From what I've seen of Ron, he's capable of it. It's just a matter of time. A coach isn't going to help on that score but it can't hurt, either.

Though one thing that gives me pause is that Terry's first transformation was in that moment of blind panic when he was fighting for his life. I'd hate to see Ron have to wait for similar circumstances.

Of course, I'm sure I could nip up there for Hogsmeade visits and we could work together then, too.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-12 04:47:24](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

Anyway, it's just occurred to me that he's got Dumbledore helping him. He taught Transfiguration for decades. If he hasn't mastered the transformation himself, then he certainly

knows the theories (what there are) inside and out.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2014-01-12 04:17:10](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

Good point, Remus. I was going to stop by Moddey tomorrow to drop off some supplies, and I'll speak to Alice.

Truthfully, the buggers probably deserved it, but still. If Terry can't control himself, this isn't a good idea.

We mustn't forget that he killed Carrow while in his Animagus form, too.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-12 04:40:52](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

I'm not worried about him killing anyone -- that was an extreme situation. But the trouble is, given the circumstances -- twenty-one students competing for the 'honour' of Death Eater initiation -- I can pretty much guarantee you that he will encounter buggers who deserve it.

If he can't control himself -- no matter what he hears them say, no matter what he sees them do -- then he can't do this.



 [alt_kingsley](#) at [2014-01-12 04:52:24](#)

Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

Agreed.

I wonder how much what happened at the opening was due to the instinct of his Animagus form. I mean, his form is a mutt, not a breed like a Shepherd or a Doberman that's bred to be a guard dog. But it was Fred and George's premises, and I suppose, as strongly as he feels toward them, he might have been extra protective. But then I imagine he might feel protective of all of his friends among the younger cohort. And yes, I'm sure there are going to be some tense situations in the castle these next few months, with this competition.

It's difficult. He can't prove a negative, that he'll never snap or snarl again, after all.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-12 05:07:07](#)

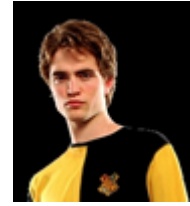
Re: Private message to Sirius and Kingsley

True enough. Alice has spent rather more time with him than most of us; she might have some insight.

[2014-01-11 14:53:00](#)

Private Message to Linus Moon


Hey,
When you get the chance next week, I'd like to talk to you about borrowing some of your notes, if you still have them.



 [alt_cedric](#)


C



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2014-01-11 23:06:01](#)**
(no subject)

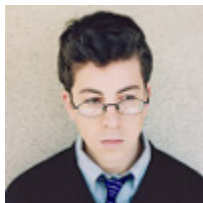
I'm quite flattered you think some of my notes might be useful in your pursuit of an excellent showing on your NEWTs. Which ones have you got in mind?




 [alt_cedric](#) at **[2014-01-13 04:55:29](#)**
(no subject)

It's not actually for NEWTs. Recent events have made me think I'd be interested in seeing your notes on the Sleeveless Club's participants and fights (or whatever you called yourselves).

Reading accounts of real life battles does have applications for NEWT Defence, but it's really because of the new contest.



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2014-01-13 20:03:39](#)**
(no subject)

Ah! Those notes. Yes, I do still have a copy of them. The colour-coding is a bit complex, and the notes themselves run to twenty-seven pages. Quite fascinating, actually; you'll no doubt see from whence the inspiration for my Quidditch statistics projects sprung.

Today's a bit busy, and I'm hoping to speak with Professor Sinistra when I get a free moment, but I shall jaunt by Professor Dolohov's office when I can, and bring you a copy.

2014-01-11 16:35:00

Order Only: Private Message to Pansy

How are you doing?


I've been following all the Order Only chatter about the pins, but I haven't really had anything to add just yet.



 [alt_susan](#)

But I've been worrying about everyone quite a lot. Not that that helps really.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-01-11 21:45:17**
(no subject)


I know how you feel.

The thing that's hardest right now is mostly not knowing what to expect, and expecting the worst. Like the Pink Toad has come back to haunt us. And this past term was just so nice and normal, too.

And I don't think it's expected I'll be in the top third, which makes it a little easier -- I just have to do well enough to be respectable, but the others

I don't know what Ron and Hydra will decide to do. But Draco's going to try to be one of the seven. And knowing him, he'll get it. And I can't help but think what that'll be like.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2014-01-11 21:52:04**
(no subject)

Yeah. It feels like a kick in the teeth after last term.


It seems to me that figuring out how to fail just the right amount might be just as hard or harder than sincerely trying to win, in a way.

I see what you mean about MDraco. He could do it, if any of us could, but...yeah.

How are you doing with that? I mean, I know you two are still close

& have a lot of history together, even though you're not seeing each other any more. It can't be easy on Harry either.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 22:21:24](#)
(no subject)

No, I imagine not. The look on Harry's face when he got his letter was one I hadn't seen for a while.


And

It's complicated. I care for him quite a bit. More than I think I'd realised, really. It's not like you can just turn that sort of feeling off entirely. But I know we're not getting back together again or anything, I'm not that foolish.

I miss the way things used to be, though.

And I'm worried about him, Sue. About what he'll have to go through.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 22:32:11](#)
(no subject)


No, I know all about not being able to turn feelings off right now.

And I feel like I might understand now, a little more than I would have done, what it must have cost you to keep things from him before he was in the Order.

And even though you weren't *together*, you've still had *this* together, lately.

At least Draco's more prepared than some--Ron, for instance.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 22:41:46](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Merlin. If I think about Ron too hard I'll get ulcers again. I just keep wondering about how this whole thing is going to change all of us once we leave school, because of what we'll have to

do, and what we'll have to live with. And how Ron might have to change the most, which would break my heart.

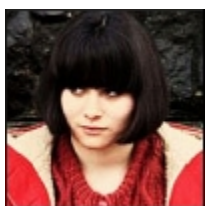



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 22:51:37](#)
(no subject)

It scares me too.

I still think about the Strangeweale execution a lot--I mean, I still think it was worth it, but I do understand what Madame Pomfrey meant.

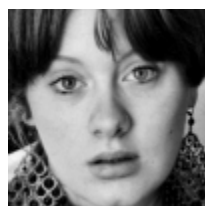
We could become not too different from them if we're not careful.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 22:54:59](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

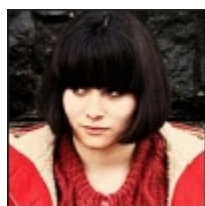
I think it's so very important that we keep that in mind. Otherwise we might wake up one day and not recognise what we've become.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:01:02](#)
(no subject)

But it's hard. Like the explosion that killed Mr. Weasley--I expect the people who planned it would have thought it worth it if it had really done for the Lord Protector.

But instead it only hurt an innocent person.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:04:20](#)
(no subject)

You're right.

And now we're working with the same people who hurt so many at the Quidditch World Cup. Which I don't like at all. I can see why we're doing it, and how

it might even make it less likely they'll do something like that again, but still.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 22:45:17](#)
(no subject)

You're right, though, it was hard keeping things from Draco. You'd know, wouldn't you?

Only

Has something happened?




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 22:53:44](#)
(no subject)

Aurelia and I broke it off last week, right before the end of hols.

And I feel like I shouldn't be thinking about that when there's so much else going on.

I still miss her, though.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 22:58:17](#)
(no subject)

Oh!

Oh, Sue!

I'm so sorry to hear that.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:01:34](#)
(no subject)

I remember when Draco broke it off with me, it felt like I'd never be able to love anyone ever again.

Because we've got so few people we can truly talk to, and trust, and share ourselves with.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:08:39](#)
(no subject)

Thanks.

I didn't tell anyone then, but we almost broke up right before she left school last year. We were snogging (and maybe doing a little more than snogging) when she noticed my ring. Because I kind of knocked into her with it.

I tried to tell her it was an heirloom from my dad's family but apparently her uncle had one and she threw an absolute wobbler because she was afraid I might off myself. And I had to absolutely lie my teeth off. And things got better again, but there was a tension--maybe a bit like how Greengrass was with Ron. She half-way knew but she didn't *want* to know.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:17:24](#)
(no subject)

I can see how she'd be like that after what happened to her uncle.

And it's very Slytherin to try one's best to ignore things that make one uncomfortable, or to know something, but keep from facing it head-on.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:26:00](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.


And she kept her Galleon--she can be really sentimental about things sometimes--so she saw some of what we've been doing with that last term, and that's what she said in her little break-up speech. That she couldn't stand to possibly lose someone close to her that way ever again--and it might be safer for me.

What's funny (in a gloomy sort of way) was that I'd been thinking of breaking up with *her* because of the same thing. And a little bit because she's moving ahead with her life and

I'm still at school. Her parents have been at her to find someone to settle down with and she hasn't decided if she'll put them off or do the traditional pureblood thing and just be with girls on the side. And I couldn't go on being her secret for too much longer.

So maybe it's for the best.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:33:06](#)
(no subject)

That certainly doesn't make it any easier though.

And I know you liked her quite a bit, but you do deserve better than to be anyone's girl on the side.

Do you want to have a music-listening party? With chocolate? I need to take my mind off of things too, and I promise we'll only listen to the sappy stuff if we're in the sort of mood to laugh at it.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:39:07](#)
(no subject)

That sounds lovely!

Just for an afternoon we can pretend we're back in 3rd or 4th year and our problems won't seem as overwhelming.

Remember when when 'Hey Hey Merlin' got played on WWN? We were all so excited!



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:49:06](#)
(no subject)

I haven't played that record in *ages*. We'll have to dust it off. I still can't believe we managed it.

And if it's just the two of us, we can pull out the really good

stuff. I fell in *love* with a Queen album I think you'd like. I nearly wore out over hols. And I don't remember whether you've heard any Pink Floyd, but it really is brill.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:51:47](#)
(no subject)

No, I haven't! Are they Muggle?

My parents have some good books but their taste in Muggle music was dead boring--lots of some bloke called Cliff Richard who's absolutely blech.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:54:01](#)
(no subject)

They are, and they're dead nift. Like sing at the top of your lungs good.

That's settled, then. Let's go to the Secret Room, so we can blast it as loud as we want.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-11 23:57:42](#)
(no subject)

Done! I'll see if I can scrouge up a few things too, and meet you there!

Merlin bless that Secret Room.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-11 23:20:56](#)
(no subject)

We've worked up to it gradually enough, but I can see how it'd be downright overwhelming to leap straight into what we do, and what we're prepared to do.

2014-01-11 17:00:00

Private Message to Auror Lamont

Narcissa's gone to accompany her mother to an early supper and the opera.



Have you plans?


 [alt_lucius](#)

Thought I might make up for missing tea on Thursday.

Before the holidays, you were speaking about the handwriting analysis on the accounts for - I'm sorry, I've forgotten the name of the chap you've been investigating. At any rate, I've a book here that might interest you on the significance of certain types of script.

If that's at all tempting.




 [alt_rachel](#) at **2014-01-11 22:12:50**
(no subject)

A book on analysing script style?


Sounds absolutely riveting. The sort of thing I could pore over for hours.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2014-01-11 22:14:32**
(no subject)


So long as you leave room for dessert.



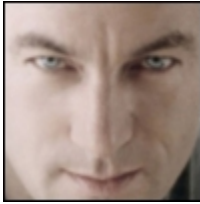
 [alt_rachel](#) at **2014-01-11 22:16:00**
(no subject)


Life is uncertain. I prefer to eat dessert first.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-01-11 22:14:06](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and no. No plans. Yet.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-11 22:29:35](#)
(no subject)

Good.

Shall we say, Alhambra? In ... one hour?



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-01-11 22:34:17](#)
(no subject)

Sounds marvellous. I'll see you then.

2014-01-11 22:11:00


Order Only: Private message to Ron

You all right then? Did anyone have ideas for warding your bed so you can sleep at night instead of watching to make sure Finnigan isn't pulling his wand out to curse you?



 **alt_sally_anne**



 **alt_ron** at **2014-01-12 04:49:22**

(no subject)

Yeah. We found a really good protection charm that a friend can put on your door or your carriage (it was a pretty old spell, but not Dark at all). Anywiz, it has to be done from the outside by someone who wishes you well or, y'know, wants to protect you. And we figured it should work on bed curtains just as well. Anywiz, Nev did it for me, and we told Finnicky and Too-much about it, and Nev offered to do it for them, as well, if we'd all go to bed before he does. Yeah. So at least for now, I guess.

Finnigan let him do it, but Thomas said he didn't trust anyone casting spells on his bedding and he'd got a fair charm to use from the inside, so no thanks very much. Actually, he didn't even say thanks. Surprised?

I've put up charms from the inside, too, obviously, and I'm sure Finnigan has as well.

And Justin gave me a foe glass that's alarmed to ping if anyone comes close. Loud enough they can hear it, too, and know you'll know they're there.

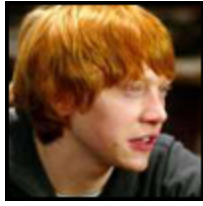
So, yeah. Safe sleeping. For now.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-12 04:52:22**

(no subject)

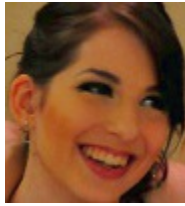
Well, that's good. Because not sleeping until June would be pretty wretched.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-12 05:03:10](#)**
(no subject)

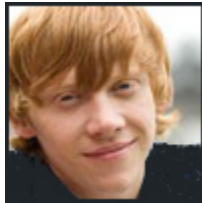
Hah. True.


And not really an option. I mean, it might save getting hexed by these two, but imagine how poor my reflexes would be during the day when everyone else is taking aim.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-12 05:04:11](#)**
(no subject)

You could sneak off to the secret room for naps, maybe.



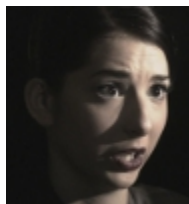
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-12 05:12:21](#)**
(no subject)

Only if you'd come, too.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-12 05:18:03](#)**
(no subject)

That sounds brilliant. And I have been feeling tired lately, maybe a nap would help?

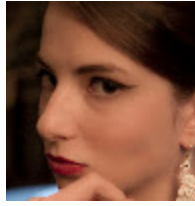


 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-12 05:19:19](#)**
(no subject)

And hold on.

Once Nev casts the protective charm, you can't leave, can you? I mean that spoils it, since you have to go to bed before he does.

That means you won't be able to sneak out and meet me! (I mean, not unless you want to sleep with one eye open the rest of the night!)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:20:33](#)
(no subject)


I mean NOT THAT I OBJECT TO YOU STAYING SAFE as that should be the priority.

But

Well

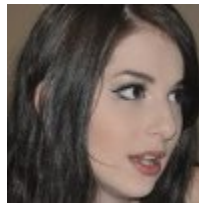
Hmm.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 05:22:54](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Hm.

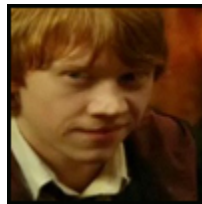
The secret room when we don't have a lesson sounds pretty good, doesn't it?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:24:14](#)
(no subject)

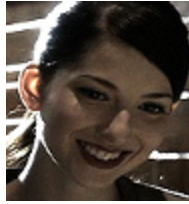
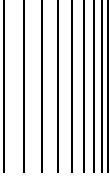
I think Hydra once told me they tried and it wouldn't let them in for that. But she probably wasn't telling it that they needed somewhere to take a nap.

Think it'll be fooled?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 05:42:43](#)
(no subject)


I think it's our duty to find out!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:51:15](#)
(no subject)

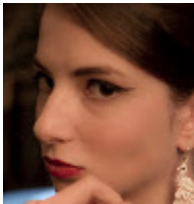
Right then. We can try it tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 04:51:25](#)
(no subject)

How are things in the dungeons?

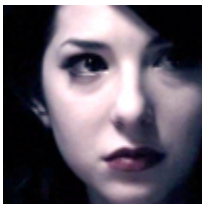
Anyone sleeping there?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 04:58:30](#)
(no subject)

Well, luckily for Pansy, she's not sharing a dorm room with anyone else with a pin. And if the boys try to get in here, the stairs turn into a slide. That does leave Samantha and Lizzie, so last night we put up a ward on the stairs that would make noise if anyone who wasn't supposed to be in here tried to come up. I like your spell better, though. I'll see if Pansy wants me to cast it.


The boys, well. Harry told them last night that if they cast anything in the dorms at night he'll give them a bad report. Don't know how long that'll work, mind you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:00:29](#)
(no subject)

I've been thinking about your internship. DO you want to be in MLE? ~~Because this would all be a lot easier if~~



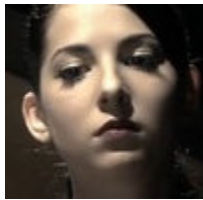
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 05:11:57](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, ask the tough questions, why don't you!

The thing is, the Aurors came after me, didn't they? And so if they're going to hand me that chance, I

don't want to walk away because I'm scared of it. Not when it really would help the Order if I got a chance, even just for hols, to train in that department. That's what I thought.

But then... well, two things, really: now it looks as if Hydra's mum wants her to be an Auror. And if she does that, it wouldn't matter so much if I do or don't. And then, even if I did go back this summer and then did get into training, it could be a long time before I'd have any chance to find out anything the Order needs to know, right? So is that worth the risks? Maybe. I mean, it could be that I'd be in the right place at the right time right away. Could happen. More likely to happen if I'm training than if I go take a job as an apprentice tea trolley bloke on one of the trains.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:17:29](#)
(no subject)

Well, you never know. Cedric's working as a clerk for Professor Dolohov, which sounds like it could lead to all sorts of useful information. Only, you know, he paid me to manage his correspondence for him for a while last year and all I learned is that loads of people send him Christmas cards and some of them are in other languages. Admittedly there were things he had me set aside without looking at them and if I'd had more gumption maybe I'd have snooped more?

You never quite know where you'll be useful and what you need to know when you get there.

How awful do you think it'll be, working there?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 05:45:06](#)
(no subject)

Awful. I mean, they do horrible things sometimes. And they don't have any compunction about it, so even if they could arrest someone without using spells that would hurt them, they do it just because they can. Auror Desai showed me loads of hexes for 'subduing' people. Yeah.

Not sure how soon I'd be asked to do those sorts of things myself, though. On real people, not just in the sparring dungeon.

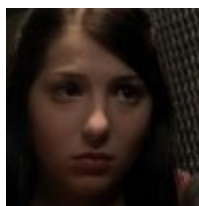
I mean, maybe not until they've got you sworn into the training programme. But, really, it could happen any time if the wrong sort of situation happened and I was there.

I mean, what I mostly did over hols was watch Auror Revanche put Imperius on Ms Morgansen and make her write stuff that he and Auror Bedell thought up. So that doesn't sound violent at all, right? And no one asked me to cast it, just to keep the log book and make note of various things. And get more parchment and quills and tea and biscuits, y'know? And handkerchiefs. Because she kept coming out of it, and she cried a whole lot whenever she did. And it was actually really horrible, because you could see her fighting it.

But they weren't hurting her. Just forcing her to do something she really, really doesn't want to do. And being really rude to her, too.

So... I don't know. I mean, I was glad that when work was over I could tell Mum I really needed to go sit outside your dad's house so I didn't have to go home and answer questions about how things had gone at the Ministry, y'know? And I knew you wouldn't make me tell you unless I wanted to. And mostly I just wanted to sit out there and not think about anything except whether you were all right.

Um. I don't know if that makes it sound like I'm going to manage things if I go on with it. What do you think?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 05:54:35](#)
(no subject)

Why did they make Astra Morgansen write it? I mean -- couldn't they have written it themselves, if they were the ones telling her what to write? They could have lied, and said she'd written it.

People like Patil will always pretend they believe things like that, just like they pretend to believe Sirius is an 'impostor' and the real Sirius was that poor half-rotted body they put on display and made everyone go stare at.

Anyway


I used to think I'd do anything that would bring down the Lord

Protector and free people like Hermione and Terry. I used to think it would be as simple as killing squirrels for dinner. But, it isn't.

But I don't want to just leave all the hard tasks, all the awful things, to other people. Like how the Order gave Dogstar a list of people to kill. And people wrung their hands over hanging Strangeweale, but do most of us even know the NAMES of those people from Mysteries that Dogstar killed for us?

(Sorry. You were probably expecting me to be helpful and I don't think that was helpful at all.)

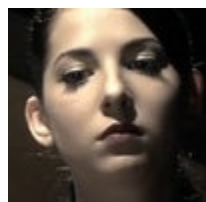


 **alt_ron** at **2014-01-12 06:05:20**
(no subject)

No, what you said about not leaving things that need doing to other people--especially people like Dogstar who won't care if they hurt loads of extra people--that's the thing, right? Somebody needs to do this, even if it means acting like what the Aurors do is completely alright with me and doing it myself for now so one of us can be there when there are chances to get information that will keep the Order from getting ambushed or give us a way to help somebody who's about to get raided or slip people out of the camps before some crackdown happens or help someone slip away before they get arrested. Those things are probably worth having to do pretty heinous stuff even to innocent people.

I guess.

Only, I haven't really had to do any of it yet, so I don't know. I might not be able to when it comes to it.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-12 06:10:51**
(no subject)

So they didn't make you do anything awful, during your internship? You were just there while other people were being awful.

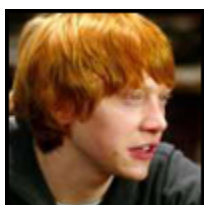
I wish you could have told her about everyone coming to hear


her book, and passing it around and reading it. I mean, I know you couldn't. I just wish she knew.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-12 06:20:10](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I know.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-12 06:19:27](#)
(no subject)

And, about Ms Morgansen. I think they're mostly doing it to punish her. You know, they gave her publisher to the Dementors to Kiss, and I think they sent some other people involved with it to Azkaban, too, maybe. But she's just being kept there and made to sit in a room and write, which is something she does pretty well, I guess. At least it's what she likes to do, yeah? Only now she has to do it, knowing what happened to those people because of her. And she has to write what they say to write even if she totally thinks the new plot's shite. Which it is.

But I think they want it to sound like her, and that's maybe not so easy for another person to mimc, yeah? And, anywiz, they wouldn't want a ghostwriter to pop up in the papers one day, saying she wrote it, because then there'd be a big fuss and MLE would look bad. They don't like to have their hands showing when they meant to do something secretly, y'know? I mean, sometimes they want everyone to know what they're doing, but with this, they want to keep it secret and have people think it's the real book when it comes out finally.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2014-01-12 06:23:58](#)
(no subject)


Ugh.

Knowing that people you'd worked with and cared about had been given to Dementors --

That's probably why she was crying all the time.

I hope the Order gets hold of some paper, and makes a load of copies off Ginny's -- though I still don't know how they'd get them to people.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-12 06:27:47](#)**
(no subject)

Maybe Hitty could deliver a load of them. I wonder how long it would take her to deliver stacks of them all over. I mean, if Pansy would let the Order use her. Only, elves can just pop in anywhere, yeah? And leave again. And no one would notice until she'd gone because people don't really notice elves much, do they?




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-12 06:29:16](#)**
(no subject)

Hitty would be PERFECT.

We still need to work out paper, though.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-12 06:31:16](#)**
(no subject)

Heh. Well, that's my quota of brilliant answers for the day. You'll have to get someone else to find enough paper to print them.

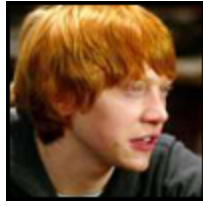



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-12 06:30:19](#)**
(no subject)

You don't suppose they'll give Astra Morgansen to the Dementors when they find out, do you? That the real book is going out.

Do you know what they were planning to do with her when she finished writing?

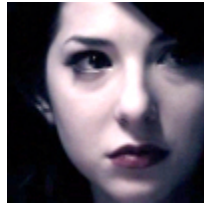
Did they have you read any of it? Was it anything like the real book?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 06:46:11](#)
(no subject)

I think they're going to send her to Azkaban when she's finished rewriting it, anyway. I don't know if she'll get the Kiss. I overheard them saying the story would be 'retired quietly' and there wouldn't be any more books from her after this one.

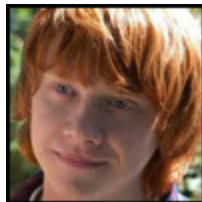
It's not much like the real book, no. They only got the first chapters done while I was there, but they had all these ideas about scenes they wanted her to stick into it. I mean, from the very beginning, they changed pretty much everything. And a lot of it was just mangled and didn't make much sense, like they'd put it all through a translation spell into Russian, then translated that into Chinese and that into Swahili and then into Norwegian and then back into English.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 06:50:51](#)
(no subject)

Well I suppose they don't think it matters because people are mostly too afraid to argue. Everyone will pretend they believe this is the book the author wrote, even though everyone knew it was supposed to come out in December. No matter how terrible the new one is.

I should really go to sleep. ~~I wish we could~~ I'll see you tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-12 07:04:09](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Tomorrow.

[2014-01-12 00:05:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Alice

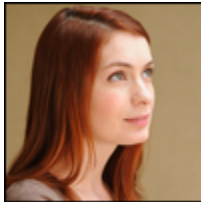
I have checked my journal to discover it being posited that I should not only babysit yet another teenager but to act as though I am overjoyed to share what little privacy I have been able to claw my way into with a four-footed mangy mutt with the mind of a teenage boy.




 **[alt_severus](#)**

I will do it if it is strategically necessary. Kindly assure me it will not be.

Malfoy and I have spoken. He will do.




 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-12 06:19:33](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I believe Cedric's offer is a far easier one for all involved.

I'm glad to hear of Draco speaking to you. I think of all of us, you are in the best position to help him, which I am grateful for.

Terry might be of some use to you, when it comes to basic potions preparation -- he does have some schooling, and is willing to offer his services -- but if that's more trouble than it's worth, I'll be sure to let him know.



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-12 06:28:45](#)**
(no subject)


Jason Crenshaw and Scott Brownmiller are in the process of setting up shop in Sherwood to handle their supply of burn salve and Pepper-up and other incidentals.

And Divyesh's potion samples are coming along, too.

I was actually working on a report to that effect just now.

I do hope you're taking care of yourself, Severus, and that your work will ease up a bit in the coming weeks.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-12 06:45:02](#)
(no subject)

I am exceptionally loath to admit it, but you are correct and I do not know how long I will be able to keep up this pace, particularly not when likewise attempting Milland's duties. Which are suffering: the children have already begun to notice Milland is less available to break up mischief, and I shudder to think about what will happen once they decide the odds of being caught are no longer sufficient deterrent.

That having been said, I do not know whether the addition of Mr Boot to the laboratory would be help or hindrance. The amount of supervision necessary to ensure quality does not suffer for the vagaries of teenage sloppiness often outweighs the benefit to the additional hands. I had hoped Miss Parkinson would be able to ease some of the burden; however, she has proven more prone to distraction than I should have liked, and her involvement with this farce does not prove promising.


Mr Brownmiller can at least be trusted not to bungle the basics; I do not know whether Mr Crenshaw can as well. Mr Shah's samples are approaching adequacy, but it will be some time before he can be relied upon for anything past the most basic of preparations, and while he is capable of following a simple receipt well enough, he does not have the necessary experience with observing the brewing and use of the more complex potions.

I am pinning my hopes on Miss Granger, who is coming along nicely — as far as I am concerned she surpassed NEWT level quite some time ago and is more than halfway to her journeywoman's examinations, though Stephen's death means I cannot arrange even the limited examination I had planned for her to undergo — but her confidence is woefully inadequate. Her skill is prodigious and her instinct for brewing is flawless, but a lack of confidence can be a fatal flaw in a master, and will hold her back in ways I cannot predict.

Malfoy, meanwhile, is better prepared for the role he plans to assume than others in the Order might think, and holds few

illusions as to the misery he has volunteered for. Should he survive, he will do quite nicely.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-12 07:03:24](#)**
(no subject)

Perhaps you could give him a trial period, and see whether he'd suit.

I trust Draco, and your judgment of him.

Merlin.

I know it's necessary, I know it's an advantage that would be foolish to waste, but his going to the council, and Hydra and Ron considering Auror work... knowing what they are facing


It hurts my heart.

They're so young, Severus.

And so eager.

It's like boys I've sent to Sherwood, too. I give them a home, train them, love them, give them weapons and a cause, and ask them to be willing to die for it, and I hate it.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-01-12 07:21:45](#)**
(no subject)

I have found myself thinking much the same sort of things. I know, intimately, what I will be sending Malfoy (and Miss LeStrange, and Mr Weasley, and even perhaps Miss Parkinson) off to do, and I would be first to argue that it is necessary and last to argue that they do not have the right to make their own choices; to do otherwise would be most hypocritical of me. And yet I find myself unable to sleep, thinking that I will be preparing that young man to go like a lamb to the slaughter before a maniac and sell his soul in the desperate hope the coin he will receive for it will be worth what he will have to endure, and I cannot even allow myself to regret the necessity.

~~I cannot help wondering if Albus had the same thoughts about~~

I suppose we have got old while we weren't looking. At least my insomnia can be put to proper use.

I will share one bit of information: Lucius Malfoy is not pleased that his son is being called. I do not know precisely what that says about the state of the Dark Lord's inner circle, but it is not a particularly encouraging sign.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-12 08:09:38](#)

(no subject)

No, it isn't. Not in the least.

I fear there are no easy answers here. For all the progress we've made in the last few years, there are mountains left to climb, and these young people very well may have to carry us over that final ridge.

I can only hope, as you do, that what we gain will be worth what is lost, and that someday we will be forgiven for it. Just know that you're not alone in bearing that weight, Severus.



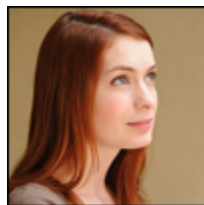
 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-12 08:15:24](#)

(no subject)

I suppose that is better than the alternative. At the very least, it gives me someone to be mawkish at in the middle of the night while tending the next stage of Minerva's

Contravinum.

Go to sleep, Alice; one of us ought to.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-12 08:24:04](#)

(no subject)

Apologies. The late hour seems to have made me a bit more blue than usual. And you're quite right -- if I don't get to bed soon, Frank will come looking, and I'd hate for his feet to get cold.

||| Good night, Severus.

[2014-01-12 14:19:00](#)

Order Only

So, during his internship with MLE last month, Ron found out what happened to Astra Morgansen -- you know, the woman who wrote 'Pure Victory.' She's in an MLE dungeon and Auror Revanche and Auror Bedell are putting her under Imperius and making her write a new version of her book. While they tell her what to put in.

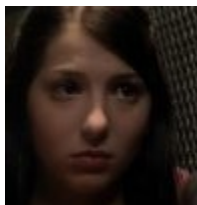


 [alt_sally_anne](#)

They gave her publisher to the Dementors and sent her editor to Azkaban.

Anyway. Is there somewhere we can get paper? Because I know it's just a book and mostly it was teenagers reading it. But I don't want what they did to have been for nothing. I want us to print it and give it to people, like by having Hitty go around to houses and leave it on people's beds while they sleep or I don't know, SOMETHING.

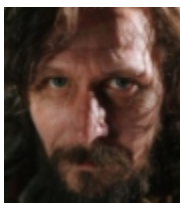
Ron says they're planning to send Astra to Azkaban anyway when they're done with her. Or give her to the Dementors to Kiss. Because they can't risk her telling people she was forced to write the new version the way she did and that the real story is different, so they're going to say she's 'retired' and just get rid of her.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-12 20:57:37](#)
(no subject)

was listening.

Also I really wish we could get her out. And take her to Bedford and let her write stories about how muggleborns and purebloods are really no different and let her read them over the radio to anyone who




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-12 21:35:24](#)
(no subject)

We're going to wear a path in the marble, spirting people out of the Ministry.

But you're right, we can't let her languish if we can help it.



 **alt_lee** at [2014-01-12 21:09:13](#)
(no subject)

Mr Black and Mr Lupin asked about that when you all were reading it.

Turns out paper's sort of complicated, yeah? I mean, the press at Aldrich is set up for newspaper printing, not books, and I guess they're alike some ways, and different some ways. We've sorted most of it out, except for how to get them bound now, I think.

Which is something one of you at Hogwarts could help with. There's a bunch of different charms for binding books, and we can't figure out why there's different ones or which one's best. Maybe Hermione could figure it out from books there, or even ask Madam Pince?

Anywiz, we've got some paper that'd work and I know where to get more (money might be a thing, 'cause you need a lot of paper for a whole book), and I think we've got enough type. But we need to know how many copies (because you set the type and then do all the copies of that page together, then reset the type for the next page). We can duplio a bunch too, but did you know that gets really tiring after a bit? And it takes someone with a wand, and there aren't many to spare at Aldrich.

There's um. Other stuff at Aldrich too. Just got back from there, will write something up in a bit. Might need to decide how to sort what they want and what we want at the same time.



 **alt_hermione** at [2014-01-12 23:55:42](#)
(no subject)


Duplio on books eventually leads to inconsistencies in the quality of the paper, and I've seen some books that are 7th- or 8th-generation duplications with transcription errors. But I read in the *Folio*

Alimentarium that Duplio *can* be used in higher numbers when the material used is similar to the original, so if we had a vat of pulp, for example, then we'd be able to extend the reach of the Duplio spell and the copies produced would also be more reliably accurate. It's not perfect, of course, but it's better than conjuring books out of

nothing.

Sorry, I would have answered before now but Mr Snape had me working on something.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-01-13 00:25:45](#)**
(no subject)

Making paper's also sort of tricky. But Bedford's got lots of trees, and so maybe we could try that. Probably not fast enough for this, though? I mean, if we want to get the books out in anything like

enough time.

What'd happen if we printed a bunch of sheets and then duplied them onto more sheets? Not lots of times over, but printing, oh, a quarter of what we need and dupliing the rest? That'd help some with the time and all. Or a third, or whatever wouldn't cause problems.

Seems like we don't need the copies to last forever (not like some things) and that some kinds of errors might be okay. (I mean, it's not a Potions book or anything, or recipes, right?)




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-13 00:30:13](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, I think duplicating the paper first, without anything on it, would be much simpler and less prone to problems later. And then you could print up the copies, or even use a second duplio to reproduce the printing, because that's less complex all round.

I wouldn't want to be the person who bought a book that suddenly disappeared or degraded, though, but I see your point.



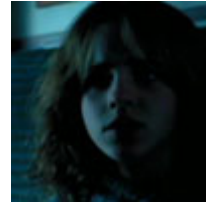
 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:32:16](#)**
(no subject)

I think that's every writer's worst nightmare.

If we can figure out the details, we should definitely do it. If we can't save her, at least her words won't be for nothing.

2014-01-12 16:35:00

Order Only: Private Message to Mr Snape



I'm sorry you'll have to remake it.

I know you were cross with Pansy over the holidays, for not staying focused on her potions and not concentrating enough. So I promise, I was concentrating, but I know I can do better. I mean, obviously, I'll have to do better. I mean, not that I left my cauldron but I did forget to grate the willowbark *before* adding the essence of pennywort, and of course I should have *known* I needed to do that during the simmer, since there's plenty of time then and there's hardly any time after adding the pennywort. It won't happen again. I mean, if there is to be an again.


 [alt_hermione](#)

And I know there's simply no excuse for losing count of the number of stirs. I can't think what happened. I know it's meant to be clockwise for three minutes at the rate of a heartbeat and not more than 200 strokes; only my pulse was racing so I just tried to count one per second since that would have been 180, only I think that wasn't reliable or else I forgot whether I was on the second minute or the third. Or something. Also, I thought I might have heard a noise outside and I wasn't sure if I would need to stop and hide. I suppose I'll have to ignore anything like that in future. If there is

In any case, I know how important it is that I be able to take on some of the more complicated potions so you're free to work on other things but now all I've done is waste ingredients and leave you with even more work. So I'll understand if you'd like me to just continue underbrewing for you on the difficult potions until I'm more capable.

Oh, and I completely forgot to say that I hope you had a pleasant birthday on Thursday, despite everyone going spare because of those wretched Ouroboros pins. (But that's not because I want you to give me another chance at the Wolfsbane, if you don't think it's a good idea, after all. I just think it's too bad that no one else ever seems to remember your birthday, but I suppose that's because it's so soon after Christmas and it must have been hard growing up, too, when they're so close together.)



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-13 01:08:04](#)
(no subject)

Miss Granger, I can assure you my first attempt at brewing Wolfsbane was far more of a disaster than your work today. While I would not have been surprised had you been successful, I likewise did plan for a less than optimal outcome; there is a reason we began the brewing a day early. I am not angry with you. Ingredients used in your tuition are not wasted: they are an investment in the future. I could not possibly accuse you of lacking diligence.

We will brew again tomorrow. Now that you are viscerally aware of the most troublesome bits of the process, you will know what portions of the process to which to pay the closest attention. To ensure Lupin will have his potion, I will do the brewing; to provide you an opportunity to begin building the reflexes necessary for the process, you will shadow my movements at the second cauldron. We will also review the timing charms that can be safely employed in brewing: until you have developed the instincts necessary to forego their use, there is no shame in employing assistance.

Your birthday wishes are appreciated, and I thank you for the gloves. I assure you, I do not object to the lack of celebration. ~~It was not Christmas that~~



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-13 01:18:35](#)
(no subject)


Oh. I suppose I should have known you had a plan. Okay.

~~I just hate failing~~

And of course, I didn't mean there should have been a party or anything. You're not really that sort. But someone could have said something, I think.

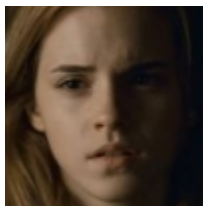
Thank you. For giving me another chance. I'm sure I'll do better. I'll reread the notes again tonight.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:40:50](#)**
(no subject)

I am not 'giving you another chance'; you do not need another chance, since you did not fail in the first one. You are an apprentice; the primary purpose of an apprenticeship is not to brew complex potions flawlessly on first attempt, it is to use the brewing of those complex potions, and the successes and failures involved, to learn as many techniques and principles as may be extrapolated for future use. It is in failure that we lay the ground for our successes. (Be grateful I have not yet forced you to perform the same exercises to which my own Master set me, namely, deconstructing each of the NEWT-level potions and varying their brewing methods and ingredients until I was able to produce kinetic reactions from each. It is exceptionally difficult to coax the Draught of Living Death to explode.)

It will take years until you have absorbed these lessons so thoroughly that you need not think about what you are doing, only react through instinct and muscle memory. Mastery is earned not through reaching the end of a checklist of specific potions one has brewed successfully, but through mastery of both the underlying principles of potion construction and the physical process of a wide variety of techniques. I find fault in neither your progress nor your attitudes: you are coming along very well indeed.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:49:33](#)**
(no subject)


So....

What you're saying is that it's just practice, not a test of skill?

Because

Oh. That's a bit different, then. Well, then...how long do you think it will take? To make it perfectly on a regular basis? Because if it's going to be ages and ages then it's not very helpful to you, is it? When there's so much else that needs doing, I mean.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-13 02:09:46](#)
(no subject)

Not precisely: I am saying that such complex work is a matter of skill and repetition in equal measure. You have both the innate skill and the learned knowledge necessary to succeed; all you are now missing is the wisdom that can only be gained through experience.

Allow me to be blunt, for all that I know you are uncomfortable with such praise: you are an exceptionally gifted witch. More so than any of the individuals who should by all rights be your peers: had you been allowed to enroll in Hogwarts properly, I have no doubts you would be at the top of the class. I count myself fortunate that I am able to have the teaching of you; you are the sort of student who comes along once in a generation. If that. You are years ahead of anyone else at Hogwarts. I am pushing you so fiercely because you have the capacity to be one of the greats, if you are only able to find the confidence to believe it possible.

To answer the question you explicitly asked, I have every confidence that you will be proficient enough to satisfy my exacting standards in very little time indeed. And the time I spend in teaching you is far from wasted.

[2014-01-12 17:02:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius

Hey. So I guess you probably know pretty much everything we do. About the pins, and who has them, and what they're for. And what I'm supposed to do, which is send off reports and things about how people are doing.



 [alt_harry](#)

He sent me a letter he'd written himself. Which he doesn't do. It was really short, and didn't say much -- just that I'd be judging people, and I'd be his eyes and ears, and it was my job to make sure that the best of the best got chosen, but he wrote it, so I guess this is really important to him. And it's sort of


I know it's not a good thing, exactly, but you know. It's an opportunity. I'm trying to think about it that way. And I'm not sure if I can make up rules. Or who the other judges will be. Or how much I can play favourites. They might *want* me to be unfair. Who knows.

Anyways.

Things are sort of tense around here. Especially in Slytherin. Everyone's eying everyone else, and someone's made a betting list with odds on it, and I'm trying to sort out ways to keep Vince and Greg from trying to do something they'd think would be clever, like messing with Draco in his sleep, or cornering Zach Smith in the loo and beating him up.

And Katie isn't happy about being on the list. At all. We didn't get much time to talk about it really. But she's really scared. And worried about her family. And angry. And I don't know how angry she is with *me*, but I think she is, even though she didn't say a lot about it, because it's my fault she's in the running. And there's some stuff I just can't tell her, and it's hard, and all I could really do is say that it was going to be okay, and she didn't have to want to be on the council, and we could work out a plan or something. Which sounds really stupid.



 **alt_sirius** at [2014-01-13 06:01:44](#)
(no subject)

Hey, kiddo,

There's not much you can do about Katie except continue to show her you care. If you lot are working together on the outcomes then perhaps the others can help provide cover for her, too, so she's not bearing the brunt of this on her own. Does she come to your Galleon meetings?


As for your part in it, it's definitely an opportunity of sorts. You've all sorts of options. Primarily I think the best route is to help ensure that anyone who makes it to the top is someone we want there, for whatever reason. The alternative is to make sure that everyone apart from Draco is so naff that Voldemort changes his mind. Now, I don't think you'll manage that without making it clear you're not playing along - at least, to a degree - but it might be worth the risk.

Harry, you can exert your influence to keep things turning murderous. I don't know what other 'judges' are supposed to be evaluating the contests but you can certainly take the lead by downgrading those who are too ruthless. You can also get a little of your own back, if anyone goes too far. No one's going to stop you deciding that someone played foul and you're taking it out of their hide as a result.

I know it's a shite position to be in, kid, but you can do it. Don't worry so much about what he's going to do. Play your game, not his.

You know that everyone in the Order has your back, Harry. Everyone.



 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-13 06:15:22](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, she has a galleon.


It's just sort of hard to know what to say sometimes without just saying everything. You know?

We've talked about how if it looked like we were serious about each other it might get to be too much, you know, too much attention, too many expectations, and now it's all of that stuff even though we've tried to keep it simple, and I want I really I really care about her.

About keeping her safe. And it's my fault she's in this mess.

I think it might be a good idea to let her know that the other Galleon holders have her back, though. That might help. If she knows we're all working towards a goal. And maybe I could convince Pans to talk to her about failing gracefully. (That's what she's been calling it, anyways.)



 **alt_harry** at **2014-01-13 06:26:00**
(no subject)

And yeah. I guess I've got a little experience when it comes to keeping people safe, and this is like that. Only it's a little more complicated, because there are people who'll think that if there's a rule, it's their job to find a way around it to show how special they are.

But I figure if people step out of line in the council, they end up dead, don't they?

So I can have high standards.

[2014-01-12 17:05:00](#)

Order Only

So here's the thing. The radio folks at Aldrich have been talking to the handful of women who ended up there, and they've got it in their heads to do this big reporting thing talking about the device and what happened, and how horrible it was. Not just brief news, but something way bigger, more involved, I guess.



 [alt_lee](#)

Only, um, yeah. Do we want that?

They've been talking about it for days, I guess, and when I turned up this morning, they grabbed me and basically said they were going to, and they were just telling me as a courtesy.

Mrs Longbottom, I asked them to wait, please, because, I didn't know if that was a good idea, and I couldn't think through all the bits on the spot. And I said I'd tell you all today, and we'd get back to them this week with whatever thoughts we had.

(The women there seem to think talking about it would help, but they're sort of not really clear about it? And I'm not sure if all of them think the same way, too, but I couldn't figure out how to ask, and they're still pretty wary of men and wizards, and I'm both, so. Maybe someone else needs to talk to them.)

I can probably get out there Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning, depending on work, or can tell you who to talk to if some other time's better. Or someone else is.



 [alt_alice](#) at **[2014-01-12 23:58:48](#)**

(no subject)

I see.


I suppose there's something to be said for popular support -- enough people would hear about it and be horrified that it might help change some minds (if they don't discount it, that is).

The first obvious problem that might crop up is that there's still some advantage to be had when it comes to others not knowing what

happened to Strangeweale. If it leads to in-fighting and fractures within the council, or takes time and energy from MLE, that's useful.

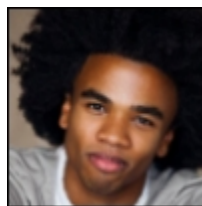
And there's also what might happen if it is widely known that there was a way of draining Muggleborn of their magic and using it to make someone else powerful -- despite our best efforts, it might give others the idea to pursue that line of research again.




 **alt_alice** at [2014-01-13 00:08:34](#)
(no subject)

My first impulse is to have them hold off, and focus that energy on other stories that might have less of a security risk. They might talk about what the Night Watch people do, for instance, or tell stories that highlight division and instability in the council, or draw attention to some of their actions that could be found objectionable?

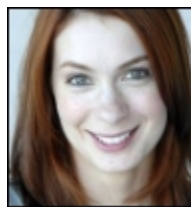
I do agree that everyday people might find great value in seeing behind the curtain from time to time, and that the role of this radio station might be to pull it back for us, but we'd be better off keeping this particular curtain tightly shut.




 **alt_lee** at [2014-01-13 00:19:49](#)
(no subject)

Someone other than me might need to point that out then. I mean, they all seem to like me okay, but they think I'm just a kid who's good with radios a lot.

Giving them some other topics instead might help. Especially if there's someone they can get specifics from. I think that's why they got so interested in the women and the device.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-01-13 02:51:42](#)
(no subject)

Yes. We're rather good when it comes to informants in the camps, but they must censor those reports carefully, and I can see how they'd want more material from outside the camps as

well.

We can help provide some of that, but I'm wondering if we might talk to Ridley too. I'm sure there'd be quite a few limitations -- she'd want to control the flow of information, and wouldn't want her sources compromised -- but she might see the value in letting some information be widely known, especially if it hurts some reputations in the process. Sam Fawcett's group might also be able to feed them things from time to time.

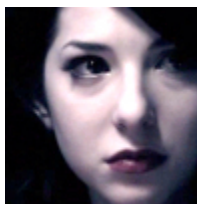


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 03:23:08](#)

(no subject)

I think Mrs Longbottom is right that there are way too many people who will try to work out how Strangweale did it, if they know it's possible. And not even just with muggleborns. Muggleborns the right age are mostly at Moddey at this point. So someone who's evil enough to want to do this might kidnap a stranger's child. Or try it on a muggle child. (Which I guess would also involve kidnapping a stranger's child...) Or try their own breeding farm, because you know they wouldn't need a witch to cooperate they could get some poor muggle woman and those babies would be half-bloods.

Now... maybe they could be a little vague about what he was doing with them? Because if people knew that someone in the Department of Mysteries was using magical babies in Dark Arts and was forcing muggleborns to breed so he could murder the babies, that might bother people, even without the details. Some people would be bothered because he was murdering babies, others would be bothered because he was breeding muggleborns.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 03:32:29](#)

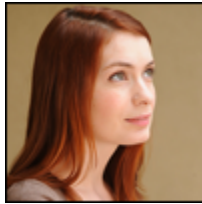
(no subject)


Anyway, other topics, yeah.

Do we have any way of what's happening in other parts of the world? Could they tell people about THAT? Because some people would probably find that interesting.

If muggles are going to listen from the camps we could have our contacts smuggle out personal letters. I mean you know how my

mum STILL doesn't know if any of her siblings are alive? There are probably loads of muggles who have family who might be in another camp, and they don't have any way to write to them. If we could let people give their messages, short messages, to someone at the camp who could give them to us, we could read them on the air. Let people know their family members were alive. Once people started listening they could probably do nothing but read those letters all day every day and they'd never run out.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-13 06:32:47](#)
(no subject)

I like the idea of catching up on international events.

I just had a thought -- would it raise any red flags if some of the packing for the more delicate objects shipped to Laszlo's were to be wrapped in newspaper? We might get quite a bit of news we can pass along that way, and even if was shredded, it's not that difficult to piece back together.

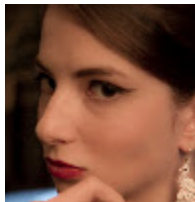


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-13 00:57:27](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

Lee, I would like to give them more content, though. I understand what you mean about needing something that captures people's interest and attention.

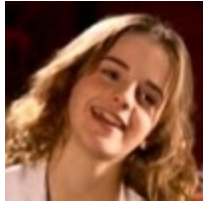
Perhaps we could focus on passive resistance techniques? Or ... things we can have learned from other sources, like warning people not to buy the new *Pure Victory* when it comes out, or commenting on the situation at Hogwarts?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 03:23:59](#)
(no subject)

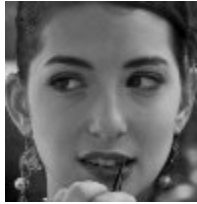
They could read the real 'Pure Victory' on the radio, out loud.

That's not news, though, that's entertainment.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-13 03:50:03](#)
(no subject)


Oh, that's a wonderful idea! Perhaps for half an hour an evening or something?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 03:58:43](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, that's what I was thinking. Or a chapter each day, or something like that.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-13 05:38:23](#)
(no subject)

(They have a Mary Poppins Story Hour, I say, this would be the thing for it. Those of us that don't have a set curfew stay up nights to listen to their broadcasts. She's nearly done with Frankenstein -- it's really ripping. I'd bet she'd read this if we got them a copy.)

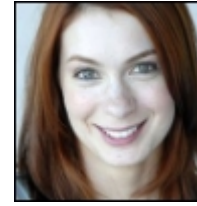


 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-13 05:41:57](#)
(no subject)

(I think it'd get a lot more people listening to their station. People who wouldn't tune in for Muggle books. And they might stick around for the news programme after.)

[2014-01-12 19:14:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: Odds and ends



 [alt_alice](#)

We got the last of the women to Sherwood early last week, and we shall see how everyone settles in their various locations. Kingsley, Mac, Lee, keep an eye on them all, please? Sylvia asked for a wand at once, as did Jason, but several of the others are holding off until they get their feet under them, and some, I feel, will be staying away from magic for a good while yet -- both Aldrich and Sherwood have enough of a mixed population that it won't be a detriment, and we don't have enough wands to spare, so that's a blessing.

Pilar and Clara are finding their way at Moddey. There's a sizable group of girls around their age there, so I'm sure they'll slip in easily enough, and it helps quite a bit that Tricia, Lisa, Maureen, and Portia were in service until recently. Judith and Laura are seeing where they'd fit best in terms of their coursework -- Clara is a bit further along with her reading and writing, but Pilar is very good at picking up on Latin as she's got a good ear for languages.

Charlie, Bill, Melli's received a missive from Ragnok the Pigeon-Toed regarding his nephew, Ragnik, who wishes to apprentice with her. He's written up a rather extensive contract (do all goblin contracts include a complete family tree? Apparently, this family traces back to Ragnuk the First, which seems to be a point of pride). I'd like at both of your eyes on it before we sign anything. Regardless, it's certainly a step in the right direction, and I'm pleased.


Frank's been talking to Saltash about keeping Otto Strangeweale there permanently. He'll be spending the next week there to sort out the remaining details, and figure out contingencies. There's a risk, of course, but even were he to get free, we'll make sure he'd be unable to recall how he ended up in Saltash, and I am convinced he'd be unable to contribute in any meaningful way to recreating the research his son was involved with. (Although, as I've said with Lee, simply knowing such experimentation is possible is quite dangerous in and of itself). He'd be isolated enough, but Order members with covers to maintain ought to be careful to not go out of their way to see him as a precaution.

Ron, Hydra, Draco, Pansy, Harry, I understand you've had quite a week of it. Please let us know what sort of help we can provide, no

matter how small. I know it's an unexpected turn, and you're facing certain decisions rather sooner than I expected, but from what I've seen so far, you all have taken a rational and thoughtful approach (as much as one can with so many unknown factors) which is much appreciated.

Lastly, thank you for all those who could make it out to our Terry's birthday dinner. It was so lovely to see all of you, and I believe we pulled off our surprise rather nicely! I know it's a few days away yet until your proper birthday, Terry, but many congratulations on your coming of age.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-13 03:19:21**

Private Message to Cedric

Cedric, thank you for your kind offer to have Terry stay with you at Hogsmeade. I do believe that would be the best scenario all round. We might talk soon about possible security protocols, just to cover all our

bases.

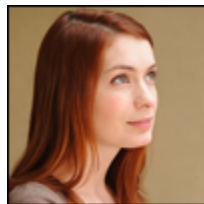


 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2014-01-13 04:36:39**

Re: Private Message to Cedric

I would be happy to host him. Would it work to meet somewhere this coming Sunday afternoon? I'm expected at my parents for the weekend, but could easily leave after lunch but not get back to

Hogsmeade until the evening.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-13 05:55:46**

Re: Private Message to Cedric

Yes, that would suit nicely.

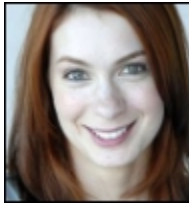
Terry and I can meet you at Grimmauld, perhaps?




 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-13 05:59:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Cedric

I can floo somewhere innocuous in New London and walk. I ought to be able to make it somewhere around half one.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-13 03:20:46](#)

Private Message to Severus

Severus, expect Divyesh to send along samples of his anti-diarrhoeal and fever reduction potions by the end of the week. He's quite confident he'll be able to make adequate improvements, given your thorough notes.

I'll keep you informed on the progress at Sherwood as well.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-13 22:16:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Severus

As it stands now, Mr Shah's work is barely acceptable. I would not wish to encourage you to rely upon him, nor would I trust the fruits of his brewing without careful inspection, but he has at least demonstrated a sufficient willingness to accept correction that I will not call the prospect impossible.

I have not informed Lupin, nor do I feel the need to, but yesterday I assigned Miss Granger the Wolfsbane to brew. As I expected, she did not succeed — I know of no one who has been able to achieve success in a first attempt no matter how closely he or she has observed the brewing of it before — but her margin of failure was exceptionally narrow indeed, and today while shadowing my motions and timing she was able to produce a finished product that was well within the margin of adequacy. I do not think it will be much longer until I can task her with its regular brewing.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-13 22:52:11**

Re: Private Message to Severus

I am glad to hear of progress on that front. How exciting for her -- we are very fortunate indeed to have an individual of her talents and calibre working with us. And likewise for her instructor, who deserves credit for helping to bring her along to this point, I have no doubt.

We'll be careful with Divyesh. Sirius is talking with me about coming by Moddey once a week to supervise the more advanced students, and if that works out, he'll have regular opportunity to improve his skill and further his knowledge.

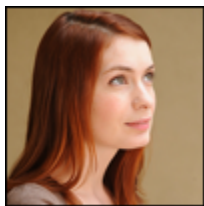



 **[alt_severus](#) at 2014-01-13 23:21:45**

Re: Private Message to Severus

I will reluctantly concede Black would do as an instructor. As I believe I have mentioned before, his mental age is roughly on par with the students in question, at least.

Miss Granger could singlehandedly disprove the Dark Lord's propaganda were she permitted to attend Hogwarts openly; I do not know if you realise how brilliant the girl truly is.




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-13 23:37:32**

Re: Private Message to Severus

I'm glad I know her, and even more pleased that she's found an outlet for her talent, along with a mentor who sees her potential as she so rightly deserves.

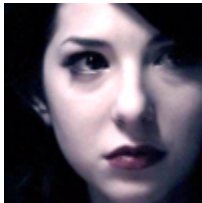
I have no doubt that Harry (and Draco, for that matter) would be very different people without her.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-01-13 04:11:41](#)
(no subject)

I made it back here without incident and seem not to have been missed any more than I would have had I really been with Minerva for visit.

It was a pleasure to see all you. Most of all, you, Mr Boot: I hope to see you again after you arrive here. Do take good care as you make your way.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 04:26:45](#)
(no subject)

Did Delancey want a wand?

How is he?




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-13 05:54:11](#)
(no subject)

I've actually been talking to Scott Brownmiller and Jason Crenshaw about setting up their own brewing operation at Sherwood -- Scott is good with plants, of course, and Jason had a NEWT in Potions, even though he's a bit rusty, and Delancey's going to be helping with that project.

It's going to take a lot of work, and from what I could see, he was eager to do what he could to help.

He didn't want a wand just yet. I think it'll take him some time to get used to the idea.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-13 05:31:22](#)
Private Message to Hydra and Pansy

As you no doubt are aware, Ron and Draco have recently spoken with Albus and Severus respectively about their potential options. This is not necessary for you to do, of course, but if you have questions or need someone to help work through things, please don't hesitate to ask. I'd be more than willing to talk with you, and I'm sure anyone else in the

Order would likewise be available.

I know this is a difficult and challenging thing you both are facing right now, and there are many ways to face it. Let me know if there's anything you need.

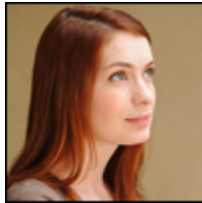


 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-01-13 23:36:56**

Re: Private Message to Hydra and Pansy

Thank you.

I feel that with any course of action one decides on, they must still be prepared to change their course at the last minute, should it be necessary.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-13 23:50:45**

Re: Private Message to Hydra and Pansy

Yes.

That is very true.

Know that whatever the future holds, you will have the full support of the Order behind you. And I know you may not have much choice in the matter when it comes down to it, and that fortunes may quickly change despite one's intentions -- but if you decide to not pursue this option, that is something I will respect and understand, and I would do whatever I could to help you make that possible.

I don't want you to think that you are automatically obligated to follow through with this simply because it would be useful.



 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2014-01-13 22:08:59**

(no subject)

Whoa.


Yes, goblin contracts for things like apprenticeships involve family trees a lot. It deals with how sacred the goblins view makership -- by accepting someone as an apprentice you're essentially taking their family line into yours, since you'll be judged by their work in the future. So when one goblin comes to

another with a petition for apprenticeship, the petitioner has to prove that they're worthy, and that they have 'stralznik' in the family line. (It's a Gobbledygook word that all the books I've read says doesn't translate, something like diligence or ability or, hm, capacity-for-craftsmanship or something. Very highly rated Goblin virtue.)

If they want to send us someone of Ragnuk's line, that's an incredibly good sign. That clan is one of the foremost Goblin maker clans. Sort of like, hrm, if we had a chance to send a wizard to learn something from the centaurs or something, and we sent Professor Dumbledore. Not only does it mean they're sending us someone who has very high status, it's a fabulous sign for future cooperation, because taking an apprentice from out-clan allies your clan with the clan of the person you're apprenticing to.

I'll read the contract, and I'm sure Bill will have something to say about it too, but that's huge.




 **alt_bill** at **2014-01-14 01:45:38**
(no subject)

Another sign of how seriously they're taking this is whether they include the mention of siblings, especially if the line is followed down to the second generation. That's a sign of increased respect and honour as it's a formal acknowledgement of more blood ties.

Makes the document more unwieldy, of course.

I think we're immensely aided by the fact that Melli is an Ollivander. The Ollivander family is itself considered as having stralznik (for wizards, that is), as they've been creating wands (an item quite coveted by goblins) for generations, too. Consequently, their family tree is very well-known and respected by the goblins. That gives a great deal of weight to the Goblins' interest in working with us.




 **alt_tery** at **2014-01-14 01:31:42**
Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom

Thank you so much for everything. I *was* surprised, especially to see other faces, besides the regular Moddey Dhoo people.

I was so quiet when I opened up the watch you gave me that I was worried you would think I didn't like it, but the truth was, I was so overwhelmed that I couldn't say anything. It's funny, but it never even occurred to me that someone would give me a watch for my coming of age birthday. I guess there are still parts of me that just expect to be treated like a mudblood, and since mudbloods are always legal minors...yeah. (I'm still rooting parts like that out of me.) But a real watch, like a parent would give--wow. I've been sneaking it out of my pocket all day just to look at it. And the seal on the fob with the crest, it really does make me feel like a part of the family. The fact that Fred and George gave me the chain made it all the better.

It was wonderful. Thank you so much.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-14 03:11:46**

Re: Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom

I am so proud of you, Terry.

You've already begun to make your way in the world, but I want you to know that you'll always have a home to come back to, and people who love you very, very much.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-01-14 03:23:03**

Re: Private message to Mr and Mrs Longbottom

(Frank has read your message, and mine, and says 'Hear hear. Happy returns, kiddo.')




 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2014-01-14 01:47:55**

(no subject)

Splendid party; thanks for including us! (Even if you nixed our idea of shooting off fireworks. We understand your reasoning, but still.)



 **[alt_tery](#)** at **[2014-01-14 01:49:24](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks for the chain; it looks brilliant with the watch.

I'm so glad you could be there.

[2014-01-12 19:19:00](#)

Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Draco



 **[alt_hermione](#)**

I just had to tell someone: You know how Mr Snape asked me to come with him this morning after breakfast? It was because he wanted me to try my hand at brewing Mr Lupin's Wolfsbane potion.

I was ever so nervous. And I didn't do very well at all. Of course, Mr Snape just said his own first attempt was worse but I'm sure he's just being kind. Anyway, he's going to have me brew it again tomorrow. Well, *he's* going to brew it and I'm supposed to brew alongside him, following what he does. (I'm not sure why he didn't do that in the first place, it would have been so much less frightening.)

Oh, and he liked his present, too.


I didn't want to say out in front of everyone, because I don't think he wants Mr Lupin to know just yet that he's teaching me to brew his potion, and because I didn't want to hurt Pansy's feelings, you know.

Draco, you went and talked to him, didn't you, about your plan? Was he really helpful?

Anyway, I've got to read over the notes again tonight but I thought also, I'd mention that you should talk about Miss Morgansen at the next reading meeting. Tell people, I mean. So they'll know how the fake one's being written.

Or do you think you'll be able to keep holding those, with this competition going on? Oh, and you know anything that anyone needs to help with that, just say so.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-13 01:46:56](#)**

(no subject)


What present? Is it his birthday, or something? He doesn't really strike me as the present type.

He *really* isn't the type to say his potion-brewing attempt was worse than yours just to be kind. If he said that, he

meant it.

We had a very frank discussion, yes. It was... illuminating. I wish I could say more about what he told me, but it was shared under most strict confidence. His history is more complex than I had imagined, and I think of all the Order, he is most suited to judge whether or not I'm fit to join the council, and, when the time comes, when I'm ready.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:53:06](#)**
(no subject)

Good.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:58:55](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, his birthday was Thursday. The same day you and Hydra and Pansy got those pins. Last year I forgot and didn't have time to do anything but a card, but I wrote it in my diary so I would remember this time. I made him a pair of gloves with the fingers off, because he was complaining at Grimmauld about how cold it gets when brewing but of course, one can't brew with gloves. So I tried to remember how to knit a pair. And they were all right, but I had to use a few charms to make sure that they didn't look too strange. But he didn't say anything so they must not be too terrible.

Well, I'm glad he was encouraging. He's ever so nice, really. Only he doesn't like anyone to realise it. Is that a Slytherin thing? You're like that as well, you know.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-13 05:46:50](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't know you could knit. You must not do so very often, or else I think I would have noticed.

I wouldn't say it's a Slytherin thing. Only I'm not sure. If you take someone like Daphne, she actually is quite nice, but people tend to think she's being nice to be mean. Once and awhile, I suppose she is.

I can actually think of one person besides you who is convinced I'm nice, and I have no idea why she thinks so. She has plenty of reasons not to. But yet she persists.

I think Slytherins find it advantageous when as few people as possible know their true feelings. But there's always someone, somewhere that they let in. Except maybe someone like Teddy, which is why he makes people so massively uncomfortable.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-13 06:10:26](#)

Private Message to Draco

Oh, I haven't knitted, not for ages. But seeing Sally-Anne reminded me that I learned how, years ago. And I was able to find a set of needles and some black yarn and...well, like I said, I wound up having to put charms on to make them the right shape. But they came out all right.


And I think mothers are supposed to always think their sons are nice. So that's not surprising.

But you didn't mean her, did you? I know. You should know how long it takes her to give up anything. I think she still hopes she'll turn the corner sometime and find Regulus standing there.

Do you know, she ruined a potion at Grimmauld Place because she slipped off to Regulus's old room? She said she was just going to run upstairs for a second but she was gone for ages. And I was paying attention to my potion, so I didn't notice she wasn't back until just seconds before her potion couldn't be saved. Mr Snape was in a right mood with her. It was rather awful. He can be ever so cross, you know, and when he's irritated he's absolutely brutal. (That's why I'm so worried about disappointing him, actually, I'd hate to have him tongue-lash me like that. I mean, I've had worse at Buckingham, even here my first few years, but not from anyone I cared about.)

So it's not surprising she's still carrying a torch. Even if she's got someone new.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-13 06:31:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Regulus is dead. And he died when she was young, so he'll be forever idolised in her mind. Unfortunately - because if you ask me he was pretty flawed, though not entirely beyond sympathy, I suppose.

I'm still alive, I'm, her ex-boyfriend, and yet she really never argues with me, or says a harsh word. Which is exactly what I used to find comforting but now it unsettles me, somehow. It just doesn't seem...right.

Yeah, I don't think I'd like to make Snape cross, and yet I can't say I "care" about him. I value the idea of having his respect, maybe.

Is that what you mean by "caring?"



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-13 06:35:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco


Oh, my goodness, is that really the time?

I've simply got to put out the light. If I don't get some sleep I'll never be able to brew anything properly, let alone something as complicated as Wolfsbane!

By the way. You *are* taking some kind of precaution, right? So that you can sleep and not worry about the others hexing you in your sleep? Because you'll probably want to add something if you haven't done.

Goodnight!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-13 06:41:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Of course I'm taking precautions. I'm in a whole dorm room full of other initiates.

So you fancy wizened old men, do you? I think Slughorn is a bachelor too, you know.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-14 00:56:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

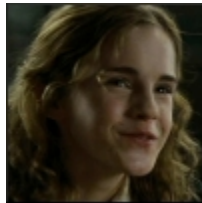
I never said I fancied him!



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-14 01:02:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

No, you didn't, but at a certain point it becomes safe to draw conclusions, doesn't it?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-14 01:18:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Well, I don't fancy him.

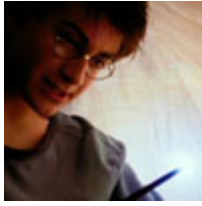
You used to have much sharper powers of deduction. Are you sure you're clever enough to join the Council?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-14 04:18:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Nice diversionary tactic, Hermione. But I have my theory and I'm sticking with it until new evidence surfaces.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-13 01:55:52](#)
(no subject)

That's brill, Hermione. Really.

And Draco's right. He doesn't give compliments. Like ever. I think he's really proud of it too. Telling the truth, I mean.

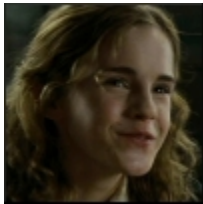


 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-13 01:57:57](#)
(no subject)

I was thinking about the next meeting too. And yeah, we should say something about it. For sure.

And I was also thinking


It's coming up on a year since Sophie got taken from Hogwarts. So we could talk about her, and about what to do if someone gets in serious trouble, you know, for the new people. And to remind everyone else, too.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-13 04:00:20](#)
(no subject)

That's a really good idea, Harry.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-13 05:45:34](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'm for that.

[2014-01-12 20:35:00](#)

Study reminders

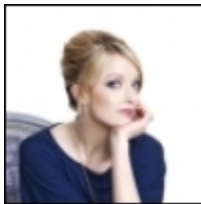
Just a reminder to students in the OWL and NEWT exam years that the projection stones make studying for the chart identification portions of the exams much more flexible. Stones can be checked out from me during my office hours, and used in the classroom at any point when I'm available to open it.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

I also intend to continue my usual spring habit of additional study sessions (starting in February this year). I'm always glad to share sample questions, to mark practice charts or locational problems, or otherwise give you more practice. As I did last year, I'm also planning brief notes in the next few weeks about where I feel you've mastered the material, and where you could best apply your study time.

For those interested in February's lecture in the Guild, we do have a few more spaces left. If you've not told me you're interested, please do so by Wednesday. I'll have some brief (and I promise interesting) preparatory reading for everyone - you can pick that up any time after Friday.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-01-13 01:47:05](#)**

Private message to Raz and Tosha


I did get a chance to talk briefly to Pomona this afternoon, but we got interrupted about 20 minutes in, and she thought it would take a while to sort through. (And then she wasn't at most of supper, so I suppose it must have.) I got the bare minimum out - that you both had no idea, neither did Minerva.

You're right, Toshenka, that without knowing the challenges, it's hard to plan. That said, when Pomona and I are both being acerbic about the potential disruption to the work of the school, it's clear we should prepare for it to be difficult. I'd rather have a plan and not need it than get caught out again. Last year is pressing rather too heavily, really.

Clearly, we need to discuss more next staff meeting. Do you want me to try and talk to Septima, Tosha, or would you rather do it? Both in general, and to make sure there's time left for it.

Did either of you get anywhere? I've got students with questions, so won't be free to come down and chat for a bit. (Plus, some of the gossip is being informative.)



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-01-13 05:09:46](#)

Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha

I have an appointment with Rolanda tomorrow after dinner to fly for a bit and talk. We'll see how it goes. She sees our charges at their rowdiest, we'll talk about keeping a lid on this mess. I hope that it'll be better working with her than against her like last year.

For all the upper years this week is going to be all about dealing with unexpected surprises and attacks in normal settings. Not the dueling pitch, not the battlefield.



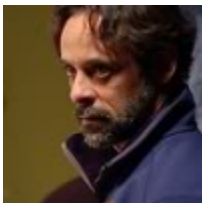
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-01-13 15:28:09](#)

Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha

Raz, love. Just realised there's a something I ought to tell you about before you talk to Hooch. Our rooms, when you're done teaching? Shouldn't take long, just, well. You should know, so you're seeing the full chart. Her seeing sense on this would go a long way to soothing some things for me, anyway.

(It's from last April, when - well, we couldn't talk at the time, and after we could, it was the nearly the last thing I wanted to revisit.)

Your plans seem rather sensible from here.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-14 00:01:00](#)

Re: Private message to Raz and Tosha

I've spoken with Mr Marvolo, who was rather surprised to discover he is expected to adjudicate. He wished to discuss the qualities Our Lord is seeking in members of His council, so that he might make wise decisions. It was a productive conversation, at least; I believe he too is worried about the disruption this might bring to school matters, and likewise concerned for the safety of his peers,

both those who have been admitted as postulants and those who have not. He is in a good position to influence the competition, at least.

I'll invite Septima to tea after supper, but it would likely be sensible for you to speak with her as well. I am not her favourite, though we've at least reached more of an understanding.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2014-01-13 01:51:50**

Private message to Pomona

Sorry we didn't get a chance to catch up more - I really do miss just talking. (Maybe we can find a planned time to chat regularly, and then if we have to miss some, we'll at least know when the next is? I'm finding that very reassuring on Tuesdays with my friends and supper in New London.)

Miss Pimm and Miss Tatterson all right? Just start of term nerves, I hope, nothing worse? I've had a swarm of fifth years suddenly realising there are exams looming this evening, but that's a different sort of thing from firsties. (And rather more predictable, really, it being January, I suppose.)

About this afternoon, I really do trust your judgement and experience a great deal. In terms of the effect on students, more than I do Tosha or Raz. (Just fair, that). I admit I'm as uneasy as you are, though I suppose Tosha has a point about putting the cart before the thestral.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2014-01-13 02:01:54**

Private message to Cedric

You doing all right? Must be very odd for you, right now, I realised when I was talking to Pomona earlier. And I rather suspect, from what Tosha said Friday night, that you're likely to be busier than ever keeping up with him for a while.

Look, I wanted to say that one of the things I'm certainly planning on, whatever else happens, is study sessions for the NEWT exam, but of course Heph Bobolis will be there. If you'd rather something else, I'll make the time, or arrange it so you needn't deal with each other. Just tell me what you'd find easiest.

And of course I'll loan you projection stones, if you'd rather work on your own - just need to make sure I don't loan you what I need for the week's classes, but that's easy enough.



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-13 04:45:48](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric

I have actually been thinking it might be time to try bring Heph off the bench of friendship. I certainly won't work to avoid him. I just hope it goes better than with Tyche

As long as the study sessions are in the evening, I'll just make that my Astronomy study night. I would also appreciate the loan of some of the projection stone and of course I'll work around your class schedule.

I hope this term doesn't turn out anything like a year ago. It was jarring to see people walking around with pins again.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-01-13 15:42:59](#)

Re: Private message to Cedric

In that case, consider yourself most welcome at whichever of the NEWT review sessions you wish to attend. They'll be evenings, no matter what, probably at 9 or so, but I may vary the days a bit to make it easier for people to juggle other things. I don't usually start them until later in the spring, but this year, I think starting early is entirely sensible. More flexibility if things come up.

I'm hoping the same, about this term. Raz and Tosha and I've been talking about the implications among ourselves, and I hope to continue talking a bit more with Pomona in the next day or two. If you happen to hear anything that'd be useful to the staff - you may hear entirely different commentary than we do - we're certainly wanting to make sure that the work of the school continues to run as smoothly as we can arrange.

2014-01-13 07:59:00

Best Wishes to the Candidates

Aspiring to a place in Our Lord's circle is, simply, the highest goal any witch or wizard may hope to achieve. All else pales in comparison to serving Him personally. Certainly, it is a day Mrs Malfoy and I have anticipated for our son since his birth. That he, and all the others of you, are being offered the opportunity to prove yourselves so early in life is honour indeed.



 [alt_lucius](#)

The last time Our Lord initiated new members of the Council while they were in school (or so close to completing it), it was wartime. Recruits were sorely needed. Perhaps it is in a fitting tribute to those days that Our Lord was inspired to devise this crucible wherein you will be tested. Be assured that not only your sponsors, but the whole of the Council will be watching the proceedings closely, ready to welcome whomever rises to the top, and making note of others along the way whose potential may not yet be tempered to perfection.

Good luck to one and all.

Draco: Anything we have needed to say has been said. Make us proud.

Hydra: You have been singled out among your class but there can be no question of your right to compete at the same level as your elders. Your aunt wished me to convey her fond hopes for your success.

Miss Parkinson: Best of luck, my dear. Remember your heritage and the traditions to which you are also heir.

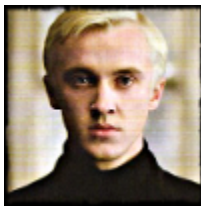
Harry: Your task is no less important. Your Father has given you a solemn responsibility. Of course you will not wish to disappoint. My best advice is to trust your instincts, knowing as you do your Father's mind (as much as any of us may presume to do that!). Do not hesitate to consult those around you, should you need it, for guidance, however.


Razzer: It seems you are to be entertained first-hand. Enjoy the

display and bring your customary sobering influence to the proceedings, for surely there will be a need to maintain discipline in the face of the contests ahead.

Minerva: You are no stranger to the imposition of chaos into the school. Trust you are aware of your duty both to Our Lord and to the Governors to balance the necessities of the challenges posed to the candidates against the need to provide a meaningful education to those not participating. Should you find yourself in a quandary, however, the Governors are prepared to forge a clearer path for you.


Antonin Nikolaevich: I should have thought it obvious what Our Lord's decision signifies. Out of deference to our long friendship, shall trouble you no more on the subject. Should you wish to reconsider your words, you know where I am. Thank you, as always, for your kind advice.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-13 16:06:14](#)
(no subject)


I thank you for your words, Father.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-13 16:55:03](#)
(no subject)

Thank you for your support, Uncle Lucius, and thank Aunt Narcissa for me as well. I will do my best to make my family proud, and to show my worth to our Lord Protector.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-13 17:15:47](#)
(no subject)

Thank you, Lucius. I have never been so proud to be the daughter of Anthony Parkinson.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:26:24](#)**

Private message to Father

Father,

Given that you recently advised me to keep Professor Dolohov, or "Tosha," as a close advisor, I'd be curious to know what warrants your sudden formality. Do you suggest I go elsewhere for council?



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:38:31](#)**

Re: Private message to Father

Draco,

You must follow your own instincts and trust what you know, from all our conversations, to be the best course of action.

At any rate, it seems that my suggestions count for less and less as the days go by. Or did you not tell me yourself that I have been more a millstone and less a phoenix feather in your aspirations? Very well, then, seek your counsel where you will.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:39:21](#)**

Order Only

He doesn't usually call Professor Dolohov anything but 'Tosha' -- does anyone know if something happened?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:47:56](#)**

Re: Order Only


Funny, I just asked him about that and he sort of told me to naff off.

Which could mean he's worried about having his private messages checked, or could mean that he actually does want me to naff off.

But I know if there were real, substantial reason for me to watch out for Professor Dolohov, he would inform me. And since I haven't


been informed of any such thing, I would cautiously propose that he's doing this for show. To what end, though, I'm not sure.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-13 21:12:37](#)
Re: Order Only


Perhaps so you can talk with Professor Dolohov and not have it linked with Lucius? Maybe he's distancing himself from Dolohov to help you.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-14 00:48:41](#)
Re: Order Only


Ugh, that sounds like something he would do.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-13 21:17:29](#)
(no subject)

I would so hate to distract you from your important work by continuing to point out the facts you clearly find so inconvenient.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-01-13 21:35:53](#)
Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

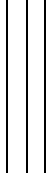
ταῦτα.


ταυτὶ δέδραται.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-13 21:42:46](#)
Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

I keep my vows.



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2014-01-13 21:46:22**
Re: Private Message to Antonin Dolohov

That remains to be seen. Brother.

2014-01-13 09:45:00

Order Only - First Challenge

We candidates received our first challenge in the owl post this morning.



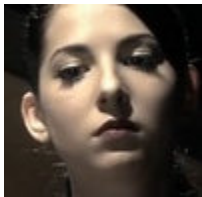
 [alt_hydra](#)


"Sometime in the next three days, create something that expresses your loyalty and obeisance to the Lord Protector and put it on display in the school."

It's not so bad as what I imagined, but it makes me wonder if the next one will be something more taxing, either physically or psychologically.

How will they judge which is the best? It sounds awfully subjective.

I guess we'll see. I'm not sure what I'll create, I'm not very artistic, though it doesn't say that it *has* to be art.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-13 17:10:48**
(no subject)

Are you allowed to get help? If anyone wants to write a song, I could help you make something that would sing it (since you have to put it on display). Either in your voice, or someone else's.

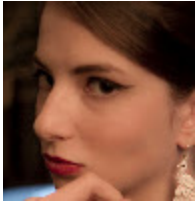
I mean, even if you aren't allowed to get help, I could do that, we'd just have to be more careful to be sure no one saw me helping you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-01-13 17:21:13**
(no subject)

I was thinking of seeing if Sue could get the choir to sing something. If I could pull it off in three days, that is. Could you record them, maybe?

I figure there'll be a tonne of people working up until the last minute, but writing a new song might justify the delay.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 17:33:15](#)
(no subject)

Oh yeah, I could record them. Though you'd be better off getting something in by owl-order for that, if you want really good sound quality.

Maybe have one of the suits of armor record it and sing it back? (I could make one of them do that. I think.) So it would be 'on display in the school.'

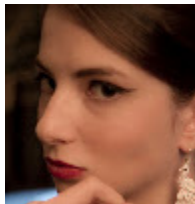


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-13 17:38:46](#)
(no subject)

Hm.

If we could get all the suits to sing it at once, it'd be more impressive.

Or maybe we could have a parchment with the words to the song on it, and it plays when you touch it or something? So at first, people would think it's a poem, but then the song comes out?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 19:06:51](#)
(no subject)

Hmm. I think in order to do THAT I'd need to make the armor from scratch, which would be a lot of work. Unless -- hmm. Maybe we could stick something INSIDE the armor...

There's probably a way, sure. Whichever you want.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-13 19:29:37](#)
(no subject)

It might sound weird if they're singing in high voices. We might have to test it out.

We could keep the parchment in mind as back-up.


I'm going to work on the song.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-14 03:38:26](#)**
(no subject)

Did you get a chance to talk to Katie yet?




 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-14 03:40:46](#)**
(no subject)

No, Harry, I haven't.

I'm a bit occupied at the moment. And so is she.


We've got several weeks to sort this out. I'll see if I can talk with her tomorrow, but if not, it can wait for a little. She'll be fine.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-14 03:59:19](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. Yeah. Okay. Sorry, Pans.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-01-13 19:35:38](#)**
(no subject)


Hello, sweetheart,

Well, I've no particular ideas myself, but at least I've a little free time to get real work done, so we can put our heads together tonight. Our revision group broke apart today because Padma, Blaise and Seamus each wanted to work on the challenge. Or rather, I should say that they told me to push off because no one wanted to talk about ideas in from of me. I'm not sure if they're working together or separately, what. I say, Zach won't tell me anything, either, because he's convinced I'd turn right round and report to you what he's thinking of doing. And naturally, he'd be correct!

Harry, have you been given any instruction about the judging?


-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-13 23:33:41](#)
(no subject)

I think I've finally come up with an idea, but it will involve being able to get into the great hall alone for at least a few hours. That might be tricky.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-13 23:50:20](#)
(no subject)

I can't be sure but I suspect tomorrow night's going to be the time when most of the others will be setting up their displays. I say, is it something you think you could do tonight? I'd stand guard if you

like.

-J




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-14 00:04:48](#)
(no subject)

It will only require some lighting charms, but I need some time to do a little research on designs, first, so I can be sure to get it right.

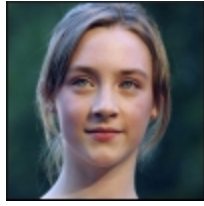
I'm skipping supper to work on this. Meet me at 9 in the corridor that leads to the dungeons?




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-14 00:19:41](#)
(no subject)

Do you want me to bring you anything from supper? Or some biscuits?


-J



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-01-14 00:33:54**
(no subject)

Yes, please, either of those. I won't be able to think about eating until I'm finished, though. After which point I'm sure to notice that I'm famished.




 **[alt_severus](#) at 2014-01-13 23:53:22**
(no subject)

This can easily be arranged.


In fact, should any of you need access to any of Hogwarts' facilities, or simply an uninterrupted period of time in which to work, simply tell me when and where and I will arrange it.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-01-14 00:09:16**
(no subject)

Oh, thank you, that would be very helpful. Would it be possible to have the great hall empty and off-limits tonight from 9-11? I'm sorry that it's short notice, but I think Justin's right, that most people won't be putting their displays up so early. So it may be an ideal time.




 **[alt_severus](#) at 2014-01-14 00:19:44**
(no subject)

Yes: send me word when you are ready, and upon your entrance to the hall, cast a blasting curse on the floor of the entryway just outside the doors. I will conduct the repair slowly enough to prevent anyone who may be out past curfew from interfering.


I cannot escort you back to your dormitory afterwards without giving away the fact that I am assisting you, so I advise the employment of disillusionment spells.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-01-14 00:34:30](#)**
(no subject)


That will work very well, thank you.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-01-14 00:44:57](#)**
(no subject)

No thanks are necessary.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-13 19:51:50](#)**
(no subject)

In a number of cases, everyone will be trying to hide what they're creating from others, so that they can't have their idea stolen or be out-done. So keep that in mind, I suppose.

I haven't testing out my painting and drawing skills in some time, but I had enough lessons when I was younger that I think I ought to be able to manage.




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:01:21](#)**
(no subject)

If it's something large and you need help, let me know.


I can also embroider things, if that is any use at all.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-13 20:10:01](#)**
(no subject)

It will be large, but I'll find somewhere in the dungeon to keep it. I'm sure Milland/Snape can find me a spot that is officially off-limits to the rest of the student body.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-01-13 23:55:16](#)
(no subject)

Hogwarts has many secrets that she only discloses to those in need.


The far reaches of the south wing are rarely disturbed. A notice-me-not on the corridor past a certain point should suffice.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 20:47:34](#)
Private message to Hydra


Do you want to succeed or fail? Have you decided?



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-13 23:34:13](#)
Re: Private message to Hydra

Oh. Was I supposed to have decided?

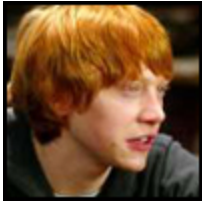



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-13 20:58:15](#)
Private message to Ron

Do you have any ideas?

You know those crackers you make every Christmas, with the little stick people walking around telling terrible jokes? I started imagining a really big one of those. Telling jokes like, 'How many muggles does it take to get a book off a high shelf?' 'Depends on how you stack them!' or 'Why did Auror Lestranger cross the road?' 'Don't question me, small one!' or 'Who's our favourite person with no nose?' 'THE LORD PROTECTOR, OF COURSE!'

You definitely shouldn't do this but now I can't stop imagining it (on a HUGE piece of parchment! hung up in the Great Hall!) and thinking up jokes they could tell and it's making me giggle.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-01-14 05:15:56**

Re: Private message to Ron

You're brilliant, you know?

I mean, of course, I didn't tell no-nose jokes about the LP, but what you said got me thinking about moving pictures and... well, you can see what I did.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-14 05:19:38**

Re: Private message to Ron

Well, that's perfect. No one can fault your loyalty and creativity and it took WAY less effort than what Draco and Pansy and the rest are getting up to.

AND there's no way for Finnigan or Thomas to mess with it.

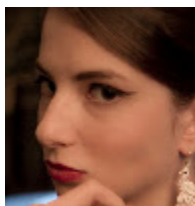


 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-01-14 05:25:41**

Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah. I worked on it this evening, but really it didn't take long. And I hardly spent any time thinking it up.

Plus. I didn't have to figure out how to do it after curfew when I'm supposed to be in bed before Nev. Wonder what Finnicky will do about that. Could be an opportunity there!




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-14 05:31:46**

Re: Private message to Ron

Do you think he's planning to sneak out after curfew for his project?

Does the spell Nev used keep you from casting spells OUT of your bed? I mean the thing is, once you dismiss the charm you'll be defenseless for the rest of the night. Though if you have to sit up all night, we could always go tell the secret room we need another nap. It wasn't quite what I was hoping for but I'm feeling really well-rested now.

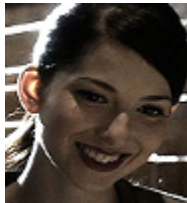


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 05:58:32](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

He's still here, so I guess he's not going anywhere tonight. Means we're all staying put, I reckon. It's a shame, yeah. I'm not very tired now. We could try the room again tomorrow after Transfig. Oh, but wait. You've got Runes, don't you? Remind me why you went on with that, exactly? Really inconvenient!

And, yeah, I don't know what happens if you try to cast from inside the protections on my bed drapes. You're probably right about it breaking them. Makes sense, doesn't it?

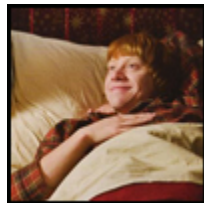


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 06:04:07](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

You and Nev could experiment a little maybe while Finnigan and Thomas aren't in the room? Maybe you CAN cast through it, and that's why it has to be cast from the outside?

Anyway, yeah, if you're not absolutely sure he's asleep he could ambush you when you came out, and that wouldn't be good. I'm free for part of the afternoon tomorrow, after Runes. There's hours before dinner, we could try again. Though if we say we need a place to nap I expect the room will make us fall asleep again, we'll have to try something else.

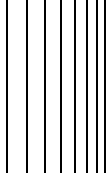


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 06:14:36](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

That gives us something to think about while we're lying here awake, I guess. Though I'm actually thinking more about what we'll do once we get the room to let us in than what we could tell it to get through the door.

Mm. Yeah.



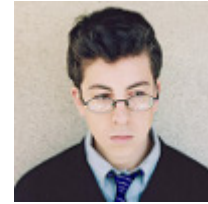
 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-14 06:33:34**
Re: Private message to Ron

Good night, Ron.

[2014-01-13 14:03:00](#)

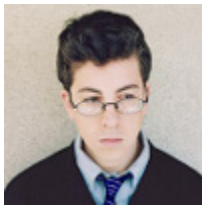
Splendid news for Hogwarts students!

Due to a recent gift facilitated by certain members of the Board of Governors, our library is being enriched by a significant number of new volumes. Madam Pince will be displaying them on a special floating shelf as they come in, and she has already obtained several volumes that are most promising. The members of Ravenclaw Corner encourage you all to come to the library and peruse these new acquisitions as they arrive.



 [alt_linus](#)

Excelsior!



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2014-01-13 20:11:02](#)**

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Might I stop up to ask you a few questions regarding that book on area effects I was reading, and borrow a copy of Klinefeldter's *On Locational Magic*? I'm working under deadline on a particular project, and time is of the essence, I'm afraid. Thank you in advance, and do let me know when it is most convenient.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **[2014-01-13 21:17:09](#)**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

You may both ask and borrow.

Though that does lead me to think about how to be fair - I'm guessing you're thinking of the project you learned of this morning. However, it's quite fair for you to ask about topics related both to your ongoing research interests and to class topics.

I'm not free this afternoon, but usual office hours at 7.



 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-01-14 22:17:55**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I am pleased to report that all spellwork finally became fully effective at half six this morning. Thank you again for vetting my plan in terms of undesirable interactions with certain Castle

magics.

It may not be the flashiest tribute, but the work in it is quite solid, which is a consolation when others take pride of place in common gossip.



 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-01-13 20:13:11**

Private Message to Madam Pince

Thank you so very much for your guidance. I shall of course endeavour to keep the expected increased number of visitors to the library from disturbing the peace of our beloved sanctuary.

[2014-01-13 14:41:00](#)

Private message to Antosha

Sounds like Our Lord has arranged for some excellent entertainment for His servants at Hogwarts.



 **[alt_corax](#)**

Have our novices been lining up to impress you? Regardless of whether Our Lord calls on you to formally pass judgment on their efforts, surely the clever ones realise that forming alliances early can only help them later.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-01-13 21:09:08](#)**

(no subject)

Things have certainly been interesting so far. I've had my own list for quite some time, of course, but would you expect anything else? The next few months should prove entertaining to watch. Half the little darlings have been in to curry favour already, and the other half are determined to go it alone so that they need not credit anyone else for whatever success they might achieve. An interesting psychological test.

Still, Our Lord's plan is already returning fruit. Let us hope it will continue to make clear who remains loyal, and who has begun to lose enthusiasm for Our Lord's wisdom.



 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2014-01-13 22:05:47](#)**

(no subject)

You've always been noted for your ability to see talent in the egg -- and your patience for the task of nurturing it.

Are any of the novices losing enthusiasm for Our Lord's wisdom? Already? Or are you speaking of someone else?




 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-01-13 22:26:30](#)**
(no subject)

Forgive me; I should not have allowed my irritation with others in Our Lord's service to spill over into our discussion. I beg you, forget my indiscretion.

I have not noticed a lack of loyalty among our postulants, either since they have been chosen or before. Some of them are more enthused about the idea of a place at Our Lord's side than others, but less out of disloyalty than the fact several of them did not believe that option available to them, and so are finding it more difficult to re-envision their futures should they succeed. I will confess some of them are not the candidates I would have chosen, and some of the ones I've had my eye upon are not on the list, but we do all see potential differently, don't we?


I am quite curious about what tasks Our Lord has in mind for them, and what He will be looking for throughout. The wide range of skills and interests among our brotherhood has always been a source of strength. Have you heard any speculation?



 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2014-01-13 22:50:55](#)**
(no subject)

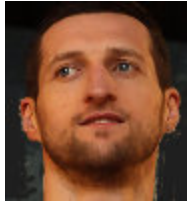
I certainly have no wish to pry; only to offer a sympathetic ear. I've always admired you, Antosha, and valued not only your loyalty to Our Lord and your steady wand, but your wisdom and vast knowledge, surely secondly only to Our Lord's.




 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-01-14 00:27:31](#)**
(no subject)

My dear, you are entirely too kind. I am nothing special: I am happy to apply my skills to the benefit of Our Lord's vision, and fortunate enough that He, and the rest of our brotherhood, can make use of those skills when they are required.

It is, at least, pleasant to be home again, and I am exceptionally pleased that Our Lord's need of me dovetails so nicely with the things that I love so well.




 [alt_corax](#) at [2014-01-13 22:57:02](#)
(no subject)

Regarding the novices -- which would you say was the most surprising? I wasn't entirely surprised by Rosier's boy, even though he's a half-blood -- he's the son of the Irish woman from last year. I'd say he proved a measure of devotion backed by fortitude when he cast the killing curse. But the OTHER half-blood, what's his name? I don't know what he ever did to distinguish himself, other than survive a mudblood camp.

Hydra LeStrange seems rather startlingly young.

Cadmus and I have a wager on Goyle and Crabbe's sons. He thinks they'll make it, I think he's wrong. Too many clever children in this mix. I don't know what the challenges are going to be but I heard the first one involved ARTISTRY -- hardly a challenge that can be solved by pure strength. Mind you, I imagine they'll reach their place at Our Lord's side eventually. Uncompromising strength and unquestioning loyalty is a combination that will always find its place. But not this time, I imagine. I'll be out a bottle of excellent firewhiskey if I'm wrong.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-14 00:42:43](#)
(no subject)

I am not entirely familiar with all of them, of course -- not all of the seventh-years are in my NEWT classes, and those who are not were among those who surprised me. Likewise, Smith -
- though capable enough, I suppose -- has never struck me as anything but a follower.

The other halfblood is Dean Thomas. He keeps his own counsel; I've never been able to figure out what's going on under that mop of hair. I do know he has difficulty working with his peers. When Savitha and I were supervising the CCF activities this summer, he was the one the children most often chose to pass to the other team or to send off alone. He did well enough, I suppose, and for all that Our Lord values cooperation among His initiates, He also values cunning -- and cunning is undoubtedly something one can learn in a mudblood camp. We shall see.

I was also surprised at the inclusion of Nott's boy. I have found him a most challenging student: his abilities with the Arts are prodigious, but his judgement is exceptionally poor. I can only hope age will bring maturity with it, and should he be chosen, that he is more willing to listen to the counsel of his elders in Our Lord's service than he is to listen to his teacher in a classroom setting.

I am more on your side of the wager than Cadmus's, I will confess. Again, both boys are capable enough with the Arts, but intellect is not the strong suit of either. Still, I suppose Our Lord has need of muscle as well as wit.

2014-01-13 19:13:00

ORDER ONLY


I'm on my way to Saltash for a few days to sort out Otto Strangeweale, so I'll be out of touch, and if you need to say something and it can't wait, you'll have to swing by and say it in person.



 [alt_frank](#)

When I get back, we could set up some training sessions at Moddey for anyone who wants brushing up on their defence and duelling skills. What day works better for you lot? We could start out next Saturday if enough of you are free to come round.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2014-01-14 03:26:08**

(no subject)

Careful, Frank, with Strangeweale, until we're sure his Obliviation will stay put. If it wears off - well, even in Saltash, he's being kept by people who were involved in killing his son.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2014-01-14 03:37:18**

(no subject)

Right.

I'll be spending most of my time there setting up security protocols -- we aren't planning on moving him there just yet.

It's not completely foolproof, and neither is putting him in a null zone, but we'll try and cover all the hoops.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2014-01-14 05:03:47**

(no subject)

I'll come next Saturday, Frank.

Best luck at Saltash.

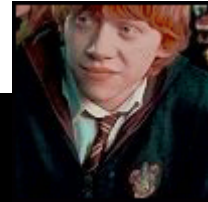


 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-14 18:51:01](#)
(no subject)

Saturday's good. Might be a bit past bright and early though. Mother has a list for me as always. Should be able to slope off mid-morning.

[2014-01-13 21:56:00](#)

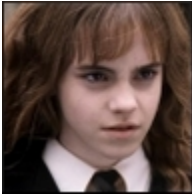
(no subject)



 [alternity](#)
 [alt_ron](#)

From Hogwarts, training ground of Our
Lord's most loyal youth, I salute the Lord
Protector! -- Ronald Weasley, YPL, CCF,
Citizen of the Protectorate





 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-14 05:35:19](#)

Order Only

You forgot to say that he's also still a stupid ponce.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 06:00:37](#)

Re: Order Only

Heh. Yeah, he is.

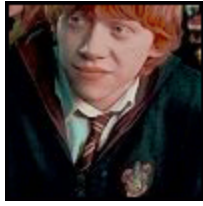
This way you got to say it instead. Felt good, I bet.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-14 18:51:07](#)

Re: Order Only

All right, that made laugh so hard I snorted tea up my nose.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 21:26:58](#)

Re: Order Only

Ha. Glad to know it's having an effect.

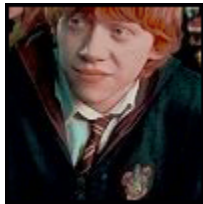
I hope Mum didn't spew when she saw it.




 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-01-14 18:52:29](#)

Re: Order Only

Glad to see you've taken our fine example to heart, Ronniekins!



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 21:28:11](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. Couldn't make it a dung bomb, but you can imagine it that way!




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-01-14 22:53:46](#)

Re: Order Only

I suspect there's an untold story there, isn't there?

Nice use of the dissolve-in-glitter charms, by the way.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 23:01:07](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, now everyone wants to know that charm. And whether it can be pink.

Oh, and you'll have to ask Themselves about that story. Not mine to tell!

2014-01-14 09:21:00

(no subject)


That's quite a tricky bit of magic at the Library doors. I think I might've blocked the entrance for a while without meaning to, because I was trying to sort out how it was done. Has anyone else tried to go to the library yet today? It's easy enough to guess what one ought to say.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

It's very interesting, seeing all the things people have been creating. I've heard rumours that there'll be some things outside later today, I hope it doesn't happen during classes so I can see what it is.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-01-14 18:10:47**

(no subject)

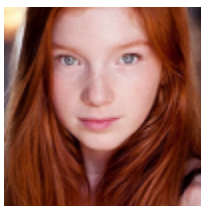
Oh! I'm glad I didn't miss the skywriting! I hope it stays up for a while yet, so everyone can see it (it's hard to miss, just look up), but watching it being written was quite fun.



 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-01-14 19:20:57**

(no subject)

Thank you for the appreciation! I might have known that another aspiring Arithmantist-in-training would notice. Some of the finer points involved in locational magic and area effects are really quite interesting. I hadn't fully appreciated the utility of combining Arithmancy and Astronomy before this past year.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-01-14 19:29:14**

(no subject)

I hadn't thought about how locational magics would factor in, but of course they would, wouldn't they? And you'd have to factor in all of the protective magic already in place, and it must've taken ages to make sure it'd work. It's quite elegant, really.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-01-14 20:24:50](#)**
(no subject)

Well, yes, it rather did take all night. In the end, the effect was quite worth it. The tricky bit was putting in the small compulsion spell with the visual and auditory effect using the Ouroboros, but having it only affect people who entered the space just before the doorway rather than everyone who passed through the corridor. If you spent time examining it, you may have noticed that the audibility of the greeting does not extend beyond the space where someone about to enter the library would hear it.

And of course it needed not to be audible within the library itself. It wouldn't do to annoy Madam Pince, you see, not to mention everyone else inside.




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-14 20:37:30](#)**
(no subject)

When are you taking it down? If you wouldn't mind terribly, I'd be interested in observing.

Or are you intending for it to stay up?




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-01-14 20:54:43](#)**
(no subject)

I shall be removing it at the very end of the day tomorrow, as that's the close of the first Challenge. If you would like to observe, I don't see why that would be a problem. Although it will be quite late, you should be fine as you will have a Prefect in attendance, as it were!

If you like this sort of thing, you might consider talking with Professor Sinistra about the uses of Astronomy with Arithmancy. I really had no idea of the possibilities until I ~~served detentions~~ spoke with her, and it's quite fascinating. This summer I hope to obtain an internship at the Ministry of Transportation -- unless the Astronomy Guild needs me again. (Guild Master Bright is one of the great scholars of our day, I must say.)




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-14 22:11:34](#)**
(no subject)

Oh. I don't think I

Yes. all right, then. If it wouldn't be too much of a bother, might Artie see it too? I think it'd interest him.

And I agree that Bright holds up to his name. I'm very much looking forward to the conference.



 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-01-14 22:22:18](#)**
(no subject)

Young Mr Ross? Certainly, that would be most acceptable. I hadn't realised he had an interest, but the more the merrier.

2014-01-14 11:15:00

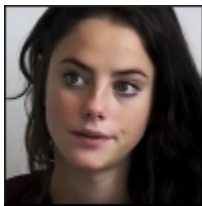
What news - thanks to the Lord Protector!



 [alt_daphne](#)

Lizzie, I knew you and Richard had some kind of secret, but I had no idea that you were expecting - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* If there's anything I can do, let me know, and I think some of the other girls and I should start planning a shower straight away - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Oh, good gracious - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* It looks like that hex is affecting my writing, too - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Greg, Vince, I don't know which of you did it, but I'm not certain that you'll make outside allies by hexing people so early on, and in such an unnecessary fashion - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* It isn't as if I object to expressing my loyalty after every sentence, be it verbally or in writing, but it will put a serious kink in my schoolwork for the day - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Also, I'm not sure it really sends a cohesive message; for example, what if I tell you that I think you both stink? - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Is that really what you want people thinking, that you both smell like odious, pus-filled, rotten-treacle, fat little dumplings? - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* If you had thought this through, you would have recognised all the ways in which it could backfire on you - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*



 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-01-14 18:50:22**

Private message to Draco - thanks to the Lord Protector!

Did you have any inkling about Lizzie and Richard? - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if it was actually planned on their part - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Lizzie is worried that Richard's family will try to keep them from getting married as soon as school is over - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* His parents wanted them to wait a little longer, I think because Richard's parents married so young and they've always seemed unhappy, like they wish they had waited - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* But no one's going to stop a couple with a baby from getting married, even if they are young - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Still, Lizzie ought to be careful - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* Not everyone in this competition will go easy on her just because she's pregnant; in fact, some of them might even see

her as a bigger target - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Where do you keep sneaking off to at night? - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* If it's to work on the first challenge, I don't mind helping, you know, even if it's just to offer encouragement - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-14 19:49:25](#)

Re: Private message to Draco - thanks to the Lord Protector!

That's really obnoxious to read, Daphs. I can only imagine how annoying it must be to write and speak. There's probably some counter for it - or will you just wait for it to wear off?

Anyroad, I had no clue about Lizzie being up the duff. I suppose it's ended up working out in their favour, though some people will try to argue that the sprog was technically "created" months ago. They did create that birth announcement, though.

Oh, and Alfred did a good job on transfiguring his robes. When I saw him in the common room this morning I thought it was his brother standing there.

I've been sneaking off to work on lots of this and that, but tonight I'm putting everything into the challenge. I actually need a place to display it in the morning, so you could help me out by finding the perfect spot. I know you have a good eye for that sort of thing. I want everyone to notice it, but not *too* much. Wherever it hangs, it should feel as if it's always belonged there. Like it's at home.

And if you want me to help you host a baby-celebration whatnot for Lizzie and Rich, I'd be more than happy to. Is that the sort of thing the school frowns upon, though? They're both of age, but unmarried and still in school. And yet it is "pureblooded procreation" so who's really going to raise a fuss?



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2014-01-14 20:32:51**

Re: Private message to Draco - thanks to the Lord Protector!

Haha, I told Alfred he looked "more handsome than Jason" - I didn't know he could actually blush like that! - *TTTLP!*

Ooh, show me what you've made so far, after supper, and I'll go off scouting for the perfect place - *TTTLP!* You've got the right idea, I think; between the sky-writing and the Ouroboros on the quidditch pitch (was that Bobolis?), everyone's been quite showy, so far - *TTTLP!*

I would love to have your help on a celebration, only first I need to see if that's what Lizzie wants, and if so, when - *TTTLP!*



 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2014-01-14 19:22:06**

Private message to Ron - thanks to the Lord Protector!

I meant to tell you that I liked your display - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* It was very you - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Ron, is this something that you want? - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*


I'm around Pansy enough to know that she doesn't - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* I haven't had a chance to ask Blaise, and feel almost awkward about doing so, but I imagine he'll do his best regardless, if only because he's competing against his swotty girlfriend - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Draco is very focused and serious, to an almost spooky degree - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* I mean, he's always competitive, and always expects to land on top, but I've never seen him quite so single-minded before - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* I realise that he's motivated by other things, things that I don't know about, but I suppose that sometimes I wonder what they are - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Sorry, you have a million matters to think about and here I am, bothering you with trifles - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Good luck, Ron! - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*



 **alt_ron at 2014-01-14 19:48:08**


Re: Private message to Ron - thanks to the Lord Protector!

It's Goyle and Crabbe that have everyone going around saying that? Hm. I suppose it could be worse if their idea was ambush and hex. Are they doing it together? I mean, like, are they not each doing something separate for this challenge? Really are joined at the hip, aren't they.

And what's this about Vaisey and Stevens? Or is someone else taking the mickey? Um. Does that mean the charms on the castle don't work?

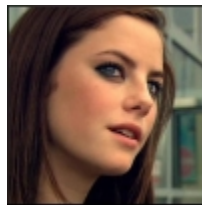
We should talk sometime. I never see you, it seems. Maybe we could go see what's blooming in the greenhouses some afternoon, y'know? Just to catch up.



 **alt_ron at 2014-01-14 19:50:18**

Re: Private message to Ron - thanks to the Lord Protector!

And thanks. About the display. I couldn't think what to do, and then that just came to me.



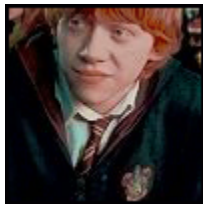
 **alt_daphne at 2014-01-14 19:59:40**

Re: Private message to Ron - thanks to the Lord Protector!

It was very well-done - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

Vince and Greg don't appear to be doing separate responses to the challenge, but I suppose one could argue the same of Lizzie and Richard - and yes, she really is pregnant - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* She told me it probably happened in Hogsmeade, and that they weren't being careful - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* If the castle charms stopped working I'm sure we'd have a much bigger epidemic on our hands - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*

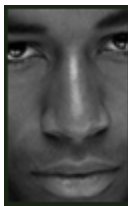
Of course we don't see each other; we're both busy, in different houses, and dating new people - *thanks to the Lord Protector!* But that doesn't mean we can't catch up in the greenhouses some afternoon - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*. I'd like that - *thanks to the Lord Protector!*




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-14 20:23:11](#)

Re: Private message to Ron - thanks to the Lord Protector!

Let's do, then. Soon.



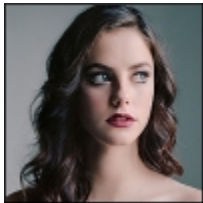
 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-14 20:08:20](#)

Private Message to Daphne

Say, Daphs. Are you in the common room by chance? Oh, blast. Never mind. You've Divination now, haven't you?

Only, I'm expecting Mother's elves to turn up with an important delivery, and I don't want any. I suppose I'll just have to go wait for it myself.

Is that verbal tic wearing off at all? It's just not really you, if you see what I mean.

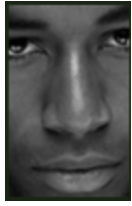



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-01-14 20:26:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphne

What do you mean, it's not really me? - *TTTLP!* I just love shouting things randomly, for no reason whatsoever - *TTTLP!* But at least I've managed a small work-around, here - *TTTLP!*

I can always pretend to swoon from a vision and be excused to go freshen up in the loo, if you really need help - *TTTLP!*



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-14 21:19:22](#)**

Re: Private Message to Daphne

Thank you, but I suppose really it needs to be me so I can send an appropriate return message with the elves. Whenever they get here.

The abbreviation is rather an improvement. Good show!



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-01-14 21:22:08](#)**

Re: Private Message to Daphne

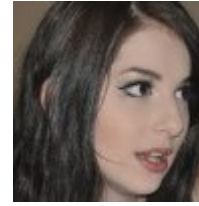
Thank you - *TTTLP!*

Well, best of luck! - *TTTLP!*

2014-01-14 11:19:00

Private message to Pansy

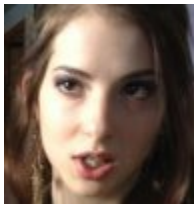
DID YOU SEE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NOTICE BOARDS?



Do you suppose Lizzie Stevens got pregnant on PURPOSE? If little 'Marvolo or Marvella Vaisey' is due in July they must have conceived in October. Given what Siz everyone says about the anti-conception runes I guess they must have been busy during the Hogsmeade weekend. Or slipped off the grounds at some point. Or gone to QUITE A LOT OF TROUBLE. Which paid off for them, if they did -- well, sort of.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

It DID say 'Sometime in the next three days, create something that expresses your loyalty and obeisance to the Lord Protector and put it on display in the school.' Not, 'Sometime in the next three days, announce something you created in October.'



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:26:51](#)

Order Only

Samantha Montgomery's chorus of sycophants is not impressing me.

I'm a little worried that with competition like this you'll actually wind up on the Council.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:28:11](#)

Re: Order Only

I will say, I think Samantha Montgomery also wants to lose.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:43:02](#)

Re: Order Only

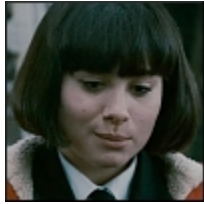
I've got to do well on the one I'm expected to do well in. Don't worry. I can stumble with the best of them when it matters.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:43:41](#)

Re: Order Only

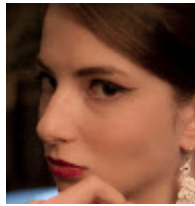
Good point.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:44:26](#)

Re: Order Only

It'd be sort of hilarious if Samantha, Katie, and me fought it out for who would lose the best, though.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:48:15](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, at one end you have people who actually want to win. And at the other end you have the people who want to come in 8th or 9th.

Do you think there are seven people who actually want to win?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:49:52](#)

Re: Order Only

I'm not sure, honestly.

And it's just the chance to go before Him. It'd almost be worse to get to that point, and be

found wanting.

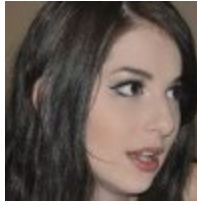


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:45:06](#)

Re: Order Only

And Lizzie Stevens has a giant sign over her head now that says

'I'm totally preggers, you shouldn't pick me!'




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:45:45](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. Though she'll be un-pregnant again in July. Lucky for her you don't have to apparate to pass your Charms NEWT.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:47:26](#)

Re: Order Only

True, but still -- can you see him picking anyone who's just had a baby, other than Bellatrix Lestrange? Think about the women he tends to favour.

Besides, it does show a rather shocking lack of judgement.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:51:00](#)

Re: Order Only

(If you can even call it favouring, that is.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-14 17:34:02](#)

(no subject)

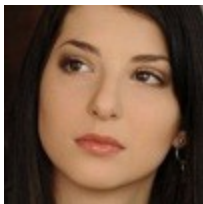
WHAT?

That's awful.

Harry's going to go completely spare.

Marvella?

Marvella?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 17:36:28](#)
(no subject)

Marvella.

Well.

I've heard worse.

[2014-01-14 12:20:00](#)

Private Message to Blaise



 **[alt_padma](#)**

Have you decided yet? Rama, Linus's is a right pain in the arse. But it was pretty funny to watch Lucas O'Leary try to walk through without wishing long life to the Lord Protector, and then practically crawl on his belly between the door and the circulation desk.

I just hope they don't think it's too similar to what I'm planning. But I don't think Lines' shows *his* loyalty, so much as it tests everyone *else's*. So probably it'll be all right.

Anyway, Seamus sent his off to his sponsor to look at before he finished it up, and I know Lares plans to unveil his in the morning. You'd better get a move on if you haven't come up with an idea yet. Not surprising Weasley's done something that required next to no effort.

(And did you *see* that little clutch of 2nd-year girls following Sam to lunch? I mean, how could you not, they were throwing rose petals and chanting all about her devotion to the Lord Protector. Still, I hardly think that's a 'creation' do you? Nor is Vaisey and Stevens' 'entry'--I mean, honestly, it's not as if they knew about this last term, and it's certainly not like she's going to produce a baby in the next 24 hours. I think that shouldn't qualify if you ask me.)



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-14 20:56:38](#)**

(no subject)

It's not as if mine was difficult to think of. Just expensive.

And inconvenient, as it turns out.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-14 21:12:42](#)**


(no subject)

Blast and damn.

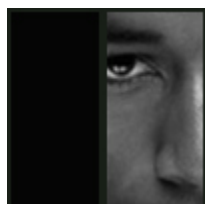
I should never have trusted Cooper with something like this, but the bloody thing was just sitting there


unsold. And you'd think he'd be over the moon, thinking that it would be presented to Buckingham. (Not that I imagine they take everything they're offered, but still. It can't hurt his reputation, can it?)



 **alt_padma** at [2014-01-14 21:18:25](#)
(no subject)

You bought something?

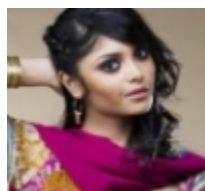



 **alt_blaise** at [2014-01-14 21:22:25](#)
(no subject)

Procured it.

Think of it as my having commissioned it after the fact.

It's perfectly on theme.




 **alt_padma** at [2014-01-14 21:25:33](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but--

We're supposed to create something, not have something created.


Well, nevermind. I don't even know why I'm fussed. If it's naff, you'll just look a prat compared to the others and it means we'll pull ahead right on the first trial.



 **alt_blaise** at [2014-01-14 21:33:51](#)
(no subject)


Who is the 'we' in that sentence? You and Finnigan?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-14 21:37:04](#)**
(no subject)

Obviously, anyone who did something that wasn't naff.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-01-14 22:34:23](#)**
(no subject)

There is nothing naff about this installation piece. Wait until you've seen it.

My creative talent lies in selecting fine purchases. Honestly, 'creating' things just smells of middle-brow arts and crafts. That's fine if you can't afford to do better.

2014-01-14 12:54:00

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good
- Goodbye to the Lock*



 [alt_tery](#)

This was the first safe place I ever had that I could remember.

This was the first place I could be Terry instead of boot.

I've stayed up late, re-reading everything. Almost wishing I could memorise it, really. Even the terrible things. Will I not be able to read things that even I wrote tomorrow?

I will miss everything you wrote to encourage me, especially Fred and George. I never would have made it through if it hadn't been for all of you.

Maybe it's better that way. When I re-read what boot wrote, it's almost as if what I'm reading was written by an entirely different person. boot and I are moving further and further apart, and once the lock closes for me, in a way it will be like leaving him behind.

Except not really, or at least not entirely. I hated boot, mostly, but one thing you can certainly say for him was that he was a survivor. That part I'll take with me, wherever I go.

Please keep questioning things, and encouraging each other, and being kind to each other here. That can make a difference even in the lives of people who *aren't* on this Lock. Venting is good, but remember not to be too hard on or impatient with the adults, or at least not all the time (and I'm not just saying that because I'll be one). I've lived close to Mr and Mrs Longbottom, and I'm starting to see that things aren't always as cut and dried as I used to think they should be. Whenever you think they're being weak or cowardly or too stupid to live, maybe consider that sometimes they do have good reasons for the things they say or do. It could be you just might not understand or know about them yet.

Tomorrow I'll be seventeen, a wizard come of age with my own wand in my hand. I'm so grateful for everything that's brought me to that point, and this Lock has been a huge part of that.


See you on the Order Lock.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-14 20:18:42](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Terry.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-01-15 01:00:46](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday.

It's a bit different than it was when Fred and George went off, since we didn't even have the Order lock then. Still, you're right, I guess. It's nice to be able to talk safely among just ourselves, and I reckon I'll miss it too when I age out myself.




 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-01-15 01:19:12](#)
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Terry!

You may not know, since you were muggleborn, but there's a tradition that says if you tie a unicorn hair around the watch face overnight (you just have to do it once) it's supposed to keep the glass from ever breaking.

People do believe the silliest things sometimes.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-15 01:21:52](#)
(no subject)

Happy Birthday, a day early.

I suppose we'll be seeing more of you soon.




 **[alt_susan](#)** at **[2014-01-15 04:34:55](#)**
(no subject)

I didn't really get to know you well when you were here, because I was still pretty afraid of everything then.

But I know you're incredibly brave and we're lucky to have you.

See you on the Order lock (and here, soon).



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-01-15 04:55:06](#)**
(no subject)

Happy returns, Terry. I'm looking forward to seeing you again at Hogwarts, this time under much more pleasant circumstances.

2014-01-14 14:56:00

Private Message to Fergus Cooper

No sign of the elves, yet. What's taking so long?

It's not as if I didn't pay you enough to expect it here when we agreed. If it's the presentation plate, then send that along tonight. I want to get it installed by supper, you know. And the light's already failing out there. It really is as straight forward as you said to resize and set the anchor charms?



 [alt_blaise](#)

I'd have thought you'd be pleased to have your work presented to Buckingham. But it's my loyalty, not yours that looks shabby if the thing doesn't arrive, isn't it, blast you.

2014-01-14 17:23:00

OI! Who wrecked my display?

Why is the first suit of armour in the Charms corridor missing? That's part of my loyalty display.



 [alt_zacharias](#)

Whoever took it better put it back like it was, before curfew.

And stay away from the other suits in that corridor, if you know what's good for you.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2014-01-15 02:22:08**

(no subject)

Keep your shirt on, Zach! It'll be back shortly.



 [alt_zacharias](#) at **2014-01-15 02:30:50**

Private Message to Sue

It's been gone nearly three hours.

Are you helping someone else? Over someone in your own *House*?

Nice, Sue.



 [alt_susan](#) at **2014-01-15 03:21:38**

Re: Private Message to Sue

They asked, mate. Wasn't meant as a dig against you.

And anyhow there's loads of armor in this castle; no idea you picked that one, honestly.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-15 03:44:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Sue

There! Just had to round him up, as he, er, escaped.

There aren't any leftover spells on him, swear to Morgana.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-15 02:32:59](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I didn't know he was planning anything with the suits of armour, honestly, we were testing out the spell to get it to sing, only it must've been confused because of the spellwork Smith put on it, because it went skipping down the hallway singing to itself and then sort of fell over in a heap.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-15 02:33:55](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I think it went up some stairs?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-15 03:22:42](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

I'm just going to go with the parchment instead, he can have the armour to himself.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-15 03:50:43](#)


Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Found and returned! Thank goodness for Wingardium Leviosa--it's heavy.

Zach's strop (which I don't totally blame him for now that I think about it) gave me an idea though.

If you ever need to publicly break it off with someone for this thing, I'm probably a good candidate.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-15 03:58:22](#)


Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Thanks.

Thanks for everything, really.

I hope that's not in the cards, though.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-15 04:21:00](#)

Re: I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

Me too.

2014-01-14 18:14:00

Constellations

Hydra,

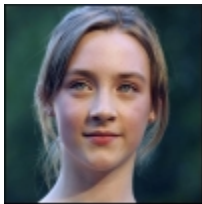
It looks spectacular! Well worth the effort, what!




 [alt_justin](#)

Is that a life-sized basilisk? Or a representation of how important Our Lord is in your life? Mind, I can well understand; He and Harry did save your life, after all!

Well done, indeed. Jolly splendid effect. If only our sky could reflect His magnificence all the time, what?




 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-01-15 01:20:45**

(no subject)

It's quite interesting, really, how I came upon the notion. Well, you already know that I was having trouble thinking up with a worthy idea. Only last night as I was laying down on my bed the image just seemed to come to me, all at once. Almost like a dream or a vision. It was strange but I'm glad that it happened.

It means many things which are inexpressible. Loyalty is about more than words.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-01-15 02:50:11**

Order Only

What's this, now?

You two trying to present Hydra as some kind of mystical, Lord Protector-chosen prophet?



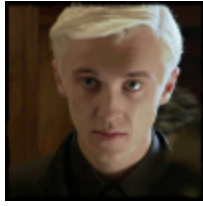
 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-01-15 03:34:48**


Re: Order Only

Draco,

If it works, it's worth it, what!

-Justin

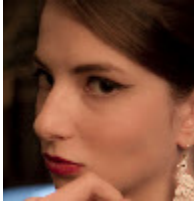


 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-15 03:37:07](#)

Re: Order Only

It might work better than you think.

He's taken prophecies pretty seriously before, you know.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-15 03:59:09](#)

Re: Order Only

That was a seriously impressive bit of spellwork, Hydra. Did you actually enchant the ceiling to show different stars? Or did you put a magical illusion in front of it?

It was actually really lovely. Almost like very slow-moving fireworks.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-01-15 04:05:17](#)

Re: Order Only

It's only an illusion. I could never change the real ceiling, I think it's built in to the castle's magic.

Thank you.

2014-01-15 00:01:00

Order Only: Terry

Happy Birthday, Terry!


Congratulations on coming of age.

I hope we see you soon!



 **alt_hermione**



 **alt_frank** at **2014-01-15 05:36:27**

(no subject)

(Congratulations, Professor, and many happy returns. You're still coming back Sundays, yeah?)



 **alt_justin** at **2014-01-15 19:04:33**

(no subject)

Happy Birthday, indeed, Terry!

How many of us are left on the ISS lock, now, what?

Evelyn, Hydra, Luna of course, and Harry, Neville.... Pansy, you're about to leave as well? Draco, Sue.... Colin, old chap, have you tried? Who am I forgetting?

-Justin

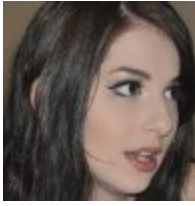


 **alt_frank** at **2014-01-15 20:56:43**

(no subject)

(Terry showed me the ink and how to write the code a little over a week ago, and told me about the lock, and what it was for. I can see how it would've been dead useful to have at Hogwarts, especially with people monitoring the private messages.


Haven't used it yet. Feels a bit late in the game to jump in, hey? Especially seeing how most everyone will age out in a few months. I'm glad you lot are on the Order lock, and we can talk there, though.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-16 17:43:31](#)
(no subject)

You're forgetting me, you prat. I don't come of age until April.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-16 17:59:30](#)
(no subject)


Sally-Anne,

Yes, of course! I knew I was leaving *someone* out; funny how one never can seem to remember a whole list of people like that, what. Just Monday, Summers was ticking off the names of the initiates and included Croaker and left off Montague as a result. Bally well ridiculous thing, what, but neither of us noticed straight off.

Of course, the way you wear your hair now does make you look quite a bit older.

-Justin



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-01-15 20:52:38](#)
(no subject)

Happy Birthday Terry!

I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming year.

2014-01-15 12:49:00

Order Only: Luncheon Theatre

I say, I thought Padma's illusion outside was in poor taste but Dean's contribution just now was...well disturbing.



 **alt_justin**

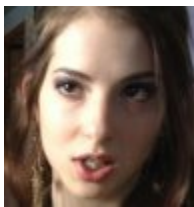
Hydra, I'm sure Jack's all right. He ran straight out when it was over. I tried to catch him but he slipped past.

Ernie said the cat with the spiked collar is Megan's. Is that right, Sue? I say, I'd seen it down the sett but hadn't taken notice of who its owner is.

I daresay one can tell Thomas has never had a pet of his own, what, or he'd never presume to use others' pets like that. Particularly when they were all running about afterward. Did anyone else notice that one of the cats upset a milk jug all down Narcissa Lonsdale's robes? I say, the poor thing's not having an easy time of it, what. Between that and Crabbe and Goyle's hex, I'm sure she wishes she'd not left Ravenclaw Tower today.

Draco, the painting's yours, isn't it? It's quite good. Rather subtle, what, particularly compared to the rest of the entries. At least it doesn't cause chaos in our midst.

-F-F




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-01-15 19:00:24**
(no subject)

What an ass. Those poor panicked cats. Could you even tell what they were meant to be spelling out?

And yes, the spiked collar one is Megan's. I hope she hexes him for messing with her cat, he certainly deserves it.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-15 21:05:16](#)**
(no subject)

It took Kitty and me ages to track down Felix and Felicis, because they don't normally go to that part of the castle, and I think they got a bit lost after they ran out of the hall. We found them on one of the staircases, though, and they don't appear to be too out of sorts.

Still. It would've been better for him to have done something else that didn't use other people's pets like that.

2014-01-15 15:18:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco and Hermione



Right. Okay. I've got notes and things.

First off, when I talked to Professor Dolohov he said some things about what he wanted in council members, and what he thought Voldemort wanted.

 [alt_harry](#)

He said he'd want future council members to be loyal to Voldemort and the ideal of a strong wizarding nation, and have intelligence and good problem solving skills, decisiveness, willingness to spot something that needs to be done and do it, and the ability to work well with the other council members.

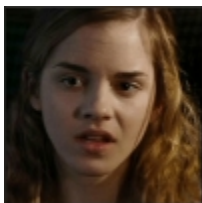
He thought Voldemort would want loyalty, dedication, and decisiveness.

So I figured I'd write about that stuff when I send off the report.

Montague's going to have to step it up. I tried to give him as much credit as I could, though. Should I say something?

What do you think about Tamblyn and Bobolis? (I can ask Ced about Bobolis too.) And do you have any more ideas about where Blaise's head is?

Finnegan, Patil, Lares, and Moon all look like they want it -- at least they're making the effort for this first one. I know you're unsure about Finnegan. I could see if I could talk to him if you think it's worth it? And I'm thinking they might all team up together. If we split them up, like only pick one or maybe two to focus on, maybe that'd be easier?



 [alt_hermione](#) at **2014-01-16 18:42:26**
(no subject)


If this were a normal contest, I'd say that as a judge you're supposed to be strictly neutral.

But it's not a normal contest, and even if it were, we want to influence the outcome for the sake of Draco and Hydra and Ron and Pansy.

But Harry, I'm not sure I understand what you're asking about Finnigan, Patil, Tambllyn and Moon. Do you want to talk to them to convince them not to help each other? I mean, honestly, if Patil wants to join the Council I say let her do it, she'll find out once she's in that it's ever so horrid and then she'll be unhappy for the rest of her life, which is really what she deserves. And Moon, too, it's not like he'll actually be a *threat* if he's chosen.

I don't think you should encourage Montague. He's far too likely to form an alliance with his brother and Jason Montague's becoming an Auror, so that could be bad for us.

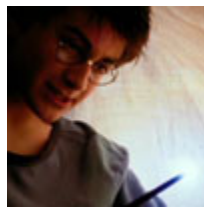



 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-16 19:18:34](#)
(no subject)

I guess I was thinking that if enough of them got in, they'd probably stick together. And Patil's in Sandoval's pocket too. So even though Moon isn't that much of a threat, he might not be as easy to work with if he was in an alliance with Patil and Finnegan and Sandoval or something. And same with Patil, or Tambllyn. By themselves, they'd be mostly okay (at least I think Tambllyn would be, I'm not sure), but as a group it might be tough.

So if we try to make sure only one of them gets in, and the others don't, it might be useful. I don't think we can convince them to not work together (well, maybe Tambllyn might, once again, not sure), but we could work on undermining the ones we don't want or something.

And Draco said Montague would be okay to work with. But yeah, he'd be loyal to his brother, so we'd have to think more about that. Who is his brother close to?




 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-16 19:24:12](#)
(no subject)

And Patil's obviously for Sandoval, but Moon or Tambllyn or Finnegan wouldn't be, at least not as much.

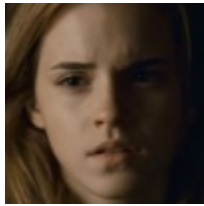
Finnegan's got Mr Rosier, of course, but he might not be that bad -
- I mean, Mr Rosier and Mr Malfoy and Professor Dolohov all

seemed like they got on well enough at the meeting over hols, so maybe he'd be okay if we worked on it.



 **alt_harry** at [2014-01-16 20:32:22](#)
(no subject)

Sandoval might work with Hydra, though. Because of her mum. Maybe.



 **alt_hermione** at [2014-01-16 23:26:22](#)
(no subject)

Yes, but Harry, the point isn't what Voldemort or Professor Dolohov or even Lana bloody Sandoval wants. It's who *Draco* and the *Order* need to be on the Council.

Sandoval's going to follow Bellatrix Lestrange but Patil would be torn between Sandoval and Draco, and besides, like I said, she might be a horrible, bigoted, spiteful cow but I don't think she's got the stomach for the sort of games the Death Eaters play. And Moon's just the same--he thinks it's all glorious and poetic but once he's part of the group he'd soon realise that he's being used by everyone. Or maybe he wouldn't, but either way he's nothing like a threat.

Nott's a threat. McLaggen's a threat. Finnigan's a threat. Montague's a threat. Merlin, even Crabbe and Goyle are threats, although Draco could probably order them about and they'd do whatever he told them. Thomas is just an idiot.

So, we don't want Ron or Pansy or Katie to have to join. We don't want Nott, McLaggen, Montague or Finnigan to succeed.


The people who won't be likely to damage the Order if they're selected are: Smith, Moon, Tambllyn, Stevens, Montgomery and Vaisey. We want Draco to be on the top, and maybe Hydra if it's really what she wants to do (at least it can't hurt because she's an Occlumens). That's eight, so maybe spread your support around among them all, so that it's a harder decision.

Other people are going to grade Nott, Patil, Thomas and the others with high marks for cruelty and abject loyalty to the Lord

Protector. You don't need to do that; you need to make sure to support the people who would otherwise not stand a chance.

That's what I think, anyway.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-17 00:11:57](#)
(no subject)

It'd be useful to know what they want when I'm writing things up, though. So I could make sure the people we wanted to be a part of it looked like they had those things going for them.

And some people are going to try their best to fail, too. Stevens might. So might Montgomery.

What about Bobolis?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-17 00:12:16](#)
(no subject)

Though I think it's useful to know what Professor Dolohov's thoughts on the candidates are, if only for the sake of knowing what they are, I agree it's our own agenda we need to

focus on.

To say nothing of the fact that we may not even be able to trust Professor Dolohov's judgment - whether he delivers it honestly or not. After all, his greatest *protégé* was Barty Crouch Jr.

I agree that Smith, Moon, Tamblyn, Stevens, Montgomery, and Vaisey are the ones we need to keep in the running. Perhaps Zabini and Bobolis, too.


Patil is one I'd like to keep out, if only because she's so driven that if she were to be on the council, she would do whatever it takes to stand out. She and Sandavol are from the same mould, that way. Finnigan is another one who is driven to prove himself, and his friendship with Patil has only strengthened that quality in him.

Agreed that Nott, McLaggen, Montague, Crabbe, and Goyle are the ones we want to squash. I've been on good terms with them

this year, but in that way that's all for show - they know it, and I know it. It's just that no one's quite ready to break character, yet.

I wish we knew what Hydra wanted, already.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-17 00:19:46](#)**
(no subject)

I can add some things to my report and mess with the rankings a little, and send it off tomorrow.

Maybe you could look it over first, though, make sure it's realistic enough.

If we prop up some of them too much, it'll be obvious we're fixing things, but maybe that'd be okay? We can also see what we can do to mess things up for the people we don't want to do well, too.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-17 00:32:25](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, you won't be able to mark Patil or Finnigan too low without it looking odd, or mark Sam, Lizzie, and Richard too highly without *that* looking odd. But you could put Tambllyn, Moon, me, and Hydra ahead of Patil, Nott, and Finnigan. And I think you'd be well-justified to put Katie, Montague, Crabbe, Goyle, and Thomas near the bottom. Everyone else will end up clumped in the middle somewhere.

2014-01-15 16:50:00

private message to horrible Dean Thomas

It is not okay that you used any of the cats for your stupid thing but I am especially angry that you used Fang. A cat cannot defend itself against magic. He does not know what you are doing. He does not even know who to bite.

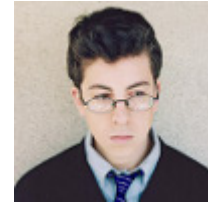


 **alt_megan**

If you mess with my cat ever again you will most sincerely wish you hadn't.

2014-01-15 19:38:00

Knowledge Builds Loyalty, Loyalty Builds Knowledge!



 [alt_linus](#)

As you have all by now seen the sigil at the library door which greets everyone with the pass-phrase, "Long Live the Lord Protector!" it falls to me now to properly unfold the context in which this felicitous phrase is uttered. It is a context specific to this great institution which cradles us in a warm cauldron of learning until we have steeped enough to absorb the knowledge necessary to become wise and strong citizens of the Protectorate.

As it is said, from those to whom much is given, much will be required. It behooves those to whom the Protectorate has smiled upon to give gratefully -- and what better gift to demonstrate that gratitude than a gift to dear old Hogwarts, a gift that will build the future of the Protectorate by building those who will do the Lord Protector's work in the coming days. My Father, Lionel Moon, in his role as one of the Governors, has made his gratitude clear by encouraging endowments that benefit our library. As a dutiful son -- nay, more than dutiful, inspired! -- it is my happiness to not only help select some of the books, but also to use my skills to place a reminder of our true focus at the door of the library, that all who enter may utter the phrase and remember Who leads us into the glorious future. I echo the work of my Father and set by the door my sigil to remind us all it is our privilege to say, "Long Live the Lord Protector!"




 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-01-16 01:58:12**

Private Message to Padma

Your beautiful tribute inspired me, Padma, as you see.

It's really quite impressive, your composition, I must say. Quite the allegory with the foot-washing and all, too. Kudos to you!



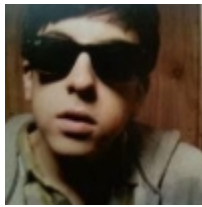
 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-16 03:32:13](#)


Re: Private Message to Padma

Thank you.

When do you think we can take them down? I mean, ours aren't hurting anything, obviously, but I've heard a few people saying they'd really like things back to normal.

And that's not half what I've heard people say about those accursed cats.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-01-16 03:56:24](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

The cats really were a bit much, weren't they? I can't imagine what Thomas was thinking -- or that he was thinking.

I'm planning on disinstalling certain of the layers of spellwork tonight, but... well, you'll see. I believe the point has been made, with the phrase. I'll wager a Galleon that half those who enter the library will still say it, even if the sigil is not talking any more -- and if they don't say it, you can depend upon it that they will be thinking it. Which, after all, is the point of such exercises of affirmation, is it not?

Actually, I'm planning to make the undoing rather a teaching moment, as some of the younger students have asked to be allowed to watch the process. Quite flattering, really. It is gratifying to have the complexities appreciated.

2014-01-15 20:21:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up to No Good

You know....

If you manage to time it just right so that you're in the Entrance way to the Great Hall beside Padma's creation when no one else is around, you can put your hand right through it, since it's incorporeal and all. I'm imagining the possibilities.



 [alt_luna](#)

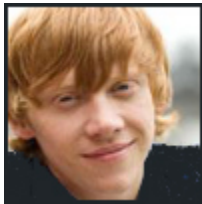



 [alt_neville](#) at **2014-01-16 02:28:42**

(no subject)

An elbow to the kidney?

"oh, sorry, I just dropped my book right over here."



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-16 04:08:07**

(no subject)

If you didn't put your hand all the way through, you could pick the bogeys out of its nose.

Hm. Wonder if we could get a bat-bogey hex to stick on the face?

Anywiz, if you do have a bit of fun with it, make sure you kick Padma in the gob. Can you believe she put herself in there, washing his feet? I mean to say, who would want her touching their feet? I bet not even Zabini. Course, I don't think she'd offer.

[2014-01-15 21:08:00](#)

Private message to Padma Patil


Your project? Was BRILLIANT. Especially the stained glass effect, and the way it changed as you walked through it.



 [alt_seamus](#)

Really put some of the others to shame.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-16 03:26:16](#)
(no subject)

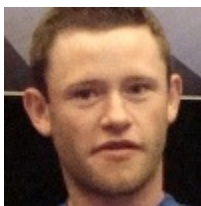
Thanks.


Are you certain everyone saw yours? It was so clever, putting it in the display case like it's always been there. That was an Irish poem form, wasn't it?

Is McLaggen still whinging about his first project being ruined? Honestly, whatever he planned couldn't have been as good as Lares', the way his scrolled across all the portraits. And I thought McLaggen's little cartoon was funny. But between him and Smith we're miles ahead.

And Blaise. I can't think what he was doing, getting something Mr Cooper had made and trying to act like it was impossibly clever to decide to install it. As if people wouldn't *know* he could just ask his step-father for some flash statue and stick it on the front doorstep.

If he's not going to take this seriously, I'm not going to feel a bit sorry leaving him in our dust.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-16 03:43:26](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it was a nift statue but everyone knows Zabini didn't sculpt it. The instructions said 'create,' not 'go shopping.'


McLaggen's still whinging, yeah. I thought his cartoon thing was fine. Better than 'oh, we're up the duff!' or a chorus of second-years, anyway.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-01-16 03:44:08](#)**
(no subject)

And it took more effort than writing a message in the journals. What a joke.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-16 03:52:43](#)**
(no subject)

Exactly.

I think it's clear who's in the bottom and who's near or at the top, so far. Do you think they'll tell us?

And when do you think we'll get the next test?




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-01-16 03:57:15](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think they'll tell us. I think they'd rather keep us guessing.

Unless they want to rub it in our faces that the purebloods whose parents are on the Council will all have an edge.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-01-16 04:10:06](#)**
(no subject)

Well, Hydra's *was* impressive, especially for a 5th-year. And Draco's.


But not everyone's got a leg up. I don't think anyone was impressed with the way Crabbe and Goyle interfered with lessons.

Lines still thinks his was perfect. He just told me that even after he takes it down he thinks people will be 'thinking' Long Live the Lord Protector whenever they walk into the library. Which *would* have been perfect, if the assignment had been find ways to make other people express their loyalty. I mean, that's really just a

more elegant version of Crabbe and Goyle's spell, isn't it?

Yours was about your loyalty. And so was mine. And so were Draco's and Hydra's and Lares's. If they have any sense they'll see that and not focus on how intricate the spell is.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-16 04:16:19](#)
(no subject)

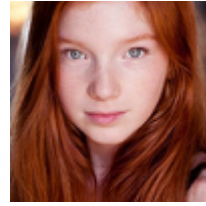
Oh, yeah. Hydra's was a little like yours -- complicated and beautiful. Draco's must have taken quite a lot of work.

Linus's -- well it was definitely more elegant than Crabbe and Goyle's but I agree, it wasn't expressing his own loyalty, exactly. Though his was better than Montague's. Honestly. Making your school robes look like an Auror's? That seemed less like showing loyalty and more like showing presumption.

2014-01-15 21:30:00

Private Message to Artemus Ross

Thank you for not needing me to explain things.
And for not thinking I was being silly about it.
Even though it was just Moon.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

Thank you for sitting so patiently through his
explanations even though you were bored and
tired and would rather be revising Charms.

Thank you for being the sort of person I knew I could depend on.


You are wonderful, and thoughtful, and quite possibly the best
boyfriend ever.

I'll help you drill counter hexes and antidotes and goblin wars for
however long you'd like tomorrow to help make up for it.

I hope you get a good night's sleep, Artie.

-Your Evie



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-01-16 06:05:48**
(no subject)

And for the record, I promise to not volunteer you to
come to any more late-night lectures!

[2014-01-16 11:37:00](#)

*Order Only: Private message to
Jeremy Stretton*




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

I don't think he's planning to tell your parents, but just in case they hear about it anyway -- you know how all the candidates were told to 'create a display,' you probably saw everyone talking about it. Vince and Greg decided to hex a bunch of students at random to make them say 'Thanks to the Lord Protector!' after every sentence. One of the students they hit yesterday was Philip. It really was random -- they didn't target him because they think he's disloyal (I mean, they got Daphne, too).

I'm not telling you because I think you need to DO anything, just -- in case it comes up.

How are things at the Ministry? Settling in to your job and all that?

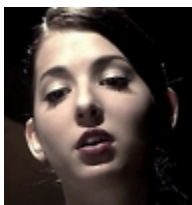


 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-01-17 05:39:30](#)**
(no subject)

What, Crabbe and Goyle? With those two, Philip is lucky it wasn't worse. I'll calm Mother if it comes up.

The Ministry? Barrel of laughs. Not sure which is worse, actually, Mulciber in a rage or Mulciber in a good mood.

It'd be easier if I felt I were actually doing some good for the Order here.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-01-17 05:45:04](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, Philip had plenty of company. I think between them they hexed nearly thirty students in all.

Just remember you're in a starter position. Bill Weasley started off in a position like yours, right? (Okay, maybe he wasn't the best example...)

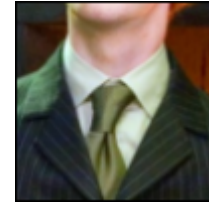


 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-01-17 17:58:51](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, well. I'll talk with Alice about it. Bill too. Must be more I can do, considering some of what comes through this office.

2014-01-16 21:17:00

Private Message to Professor Aurora Sinistra



 [alt_percy](#)

I have received your communication by owl, dated this day, but am somewhat at a loss in what reply you might wish me to make. Upon consultation of the roster, I note that you have NOT been named one of the designated monitors for the latest Challenge set by Our Lord. I suppose you hoped that your observations might bring up points that the designated monitors somehow overlooked, but rest assured, the persons chosen for that role were picked for their particular acuity and attention to detail.

Your praise is welcome, and indeed it sounds as though quite a few students rose quite well to the first challenge. On the other hand, I find myself rather taken aback that you consider some of the displays of loyalty to Our Lord Protective as 'disruptive.' (One wonders, in fact, what sorts of activities constitute the majority of the students' time, or whether you have difficulties controlling your students).

I trust your cats will recover whatever whiskers might have been bent as a result of Mr Thomas' demonstration.

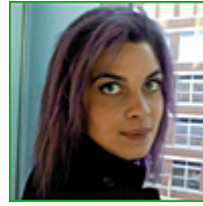
I caution you to remember that you are still a teacher and thus you have the power and responsibility of maintaining order and decorum. All school rules (no magic in the corridors during the passing period between classes, for example) should continue to be in place for the duration of the Challenges. Some of the very students you praise, in fact, broke that very rule. Do at least try to keep the eye on the Quaffle.

Yours,
in His Service
Percy Ignatius Weasley
Hogwarts Liaison to
THE LORD PROTECTOR

2014-01-16 22:50:00

Order Only

I found a cloak pin under table four. It's really a very nice one--a spreading oak tree. Did you notice whether Zella or her bloke were wearing anything like that? Or who had the table before them? It was a couple of wizards, I think, and Marysa Culp before that. Could have been hers. I've put it aside, but we should be sure to ask next time we see any of them. I'd hate for someone to lose something nice like that.




 **alt_nymphadora**

Almost finished here.

Then home to check on Little Miss. And not climb in with her. I promise. Only she makes sleeping look so lovely!




 **alt_lupin** at **2014-01-17 05:03:05**

(no subject)

Maybe put the pin in the shop, in case the owner stops by tomorrow?

I was going to ask if you wanted a nap again. We could always use an alarm charm to wake you. Or send Kreacher to scabble around under the bed. Might want to sleep in your own bed, though, you're less likely to wake Bea.



 **alt_lupin** at **2014-01-17 05:04:12**

(no subject)

I mean, Kreacher's less likely to wake Bea. We wouldn't want him under HER bed. She's touchy enough about the big-girl bed as it is, having Kreacher under there would put her off it


permanently.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:06:17](#)
(no subject)

No, you're right. I shouldn't have climbed in with her Monday night, but she was so perfectly asleep. Honestly, I think she's sleeping much more solidly than she used to. Maybe it's the new bed? Did the mattress come with charms for that?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:09:09](#)
(no subject)

Runes for sound sleep. Allegedly. But so did her cot, and they never helped.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:15:28](#)
(no subject)

True enough.

Hm. I'd hate it if Handler's right that all Bea's needed to improve her temper is a proper bedtime (and better parents). (You know that's what he means.)



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:17:13](#)
(no subject)

Well, if it's steady parental influence that does the trick, look no further!




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:21:50](#)
(no subject)

I know you're trying, luv.

And maybe you are making the difference. I mean to say, she really has had a better week or so. Don't you think?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:21:03](#)
(no subject)

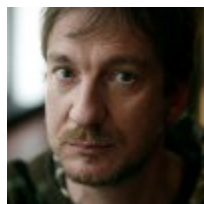
Well, they do say children sleep better as they get older. And that they outgrow the tantrums as they get better at talking.


So it's probably not the early bedtime.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:24:52](#)
(no subject)


She's always wanted to stay up with us. I know she loves being at the garden. And it's so hard to convince her to go to bed--I mean, she's a night owl. Like her parents.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:35:02](#)
(no subject)

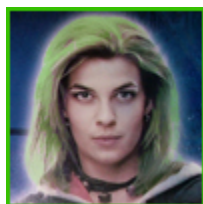
Yes -- and she's always been at her most cheerful late in the evening. Especially when she had an audience.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:14:42](#)
Private message to Tonks

I rather hated to wake you up! You looked like you could use the rest.

It's a shame the rest of us can't go to bed at 7 when Bea does.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:28:21](#)
Re: Private message to Tonks

Well, I can't see really making a habit of that, can you? But I admit it's harder to stay up without napping a bit between closing here and heading out to the ministry. Not as young as I used to be,

sadly.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:40:38](#)
(no subject)


At least she's not crawling in with us, not anymore. Scared me to death the first time she came looking for her 'Da' because you'd gone to work already.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:42:33](#)
(no subject)

Better Bea than Kreacher!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:44:56](#)
(no subject)


Better any day of the week and twice on Sundays, love!

But better she sleep all night.

I still cannot *believe* he was under our bed. Every time I've tried to corner him about what he was *doing*, he's had some fool excuse or evasion.

Merlin. I really do think he's losing what's left of his mind.

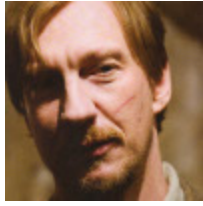



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:07:21](#)
(no subject)

Of all the ways to be woken up in the middle of the night, that's got to have been my second-least favourite.

I'm not half tempted to bar him ever going in Bea's room, if he's going to stay that creepy.

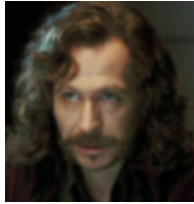
But then I'd never be able to slink back to the garden as your faithful hound. And then I'd never know who left a cloak pin lying on the table.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:09:37](#)

Private message to Padfoot

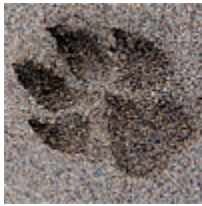
What was your absolute least favourite?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:21:12](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

The one and only time I believed a young woman who assured me she and her boyfriend (husband?) were no longer together.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:04:59](#)

(no subject)

Any other night, I might have been able to tell you.

Was Marysa Culp asking any more questions about when Bea'd be back in the garden?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:08:06](#)

(no subject)

Oh, they all want to know. All of them. Her fans miss her!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:11:14](#)

(no subject)

Well, I've been saying that we took the advice we've been getting and started putting her to bed earlier to see if it helped with the tantrums.

I was really expecting that to be just an excuse, but...




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-17 05:18:48](#)
(no subject)

I suppose they are better, really.


Not gone completely, mind you. We had a spectacular one this morning when she wanted to stack all the spoons in the drawer one on another, and they kept falling over. It was classic Albia.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:22:44](#)
(no subject)


Better mention that your 'sister' has been taking evenings with her, in case someone gets in a strop you've left the child sleeping alone in the flat while you, Dora and Ellie are all in the back garden.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:32:14](#)
(no subject)


Oh, yeah. I blamed Alice for the early bedtimes, when customers asked about her. Merlin knows I didn't want Handler thinking we'd taken HIS advice.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-17 05:36:01](#)
(no subject)


Or rather, I blamed 'Lucy,' my 'cousin.'



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-17 05:39:08](#)
(no subject)


Right. I meant to say that.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-17 05:40:26](#)**
(no subject)

Do you need Lucy to swing by for an evening? I'd be more than happy to make an appearance.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-17 17:03:41](#)**
(no subject)

Not that we don't appreciate the offer, Allie - and it's always lovely to see you! - but then who would be minding the baby?

Unfortunately our Bea is not ready to hold her tongue around familiar faces (or even strangers, for that matter). And if it is her new, earlier bedtime improving the outlook round here, then I'd hate to risk a relapse by letting her pop in for a visit.

Though if you'd not mind, you could switch with Ellie of an evening and Dora and Remus could give out she's with Bea.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-17 17:51:08](#)**
(no subject)

I can certainly do that.

2014-01-17 10:03:00

(no subject)

PPL ARE USING LEG LOCK CURSE TODAY
KEEP AN EYE ON NOTT CRABBE GOYLE TRY
TO TRIP THEM UP

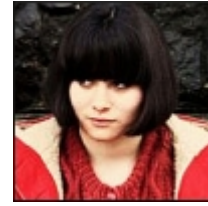


 [alt_galleon](#)

2014-01-17 12:41:00


ORDER ONLY

Harry, where are you going to be this afternoon?



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-17 20:46:07](#)


(no subject)

I'm going to the library after class.

And then I've got Quidditch until dinner.

After dinner I'll probably go back to the library until curfew. So people who need to find me to make their reports can find me.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-17 20:46:37](#)

(no subject)

Okay. Good to know.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-17 20:51:34](#)

(no subject)

And I'll sort out Crabbe and Goyle.

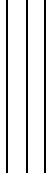



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-18 02:16:13](#)

(no subject)

You sure did.

I don't know if Goyle's hacked off or impressed.

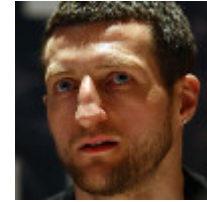


 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-01-18 02:16:49**
(no subject)

Crabbe's definitely hacked off.

2014-01-17 14:50:00

Private message to Mafalda Hopkirk and Barty Crouch Jr.



 [alt_corax](#)

Mafalda, are you aware that a half-dozen Unspeakables from the Department of Mysteries have vanished without a trace?

Not merely missing. Not on holiday. VANISHED. No bodies, no traces, no one among their families or colleagues has seen them in weeks.

I will admit to not being an expert in Magical Law Enforcement but to my amateur, inexperienced eye this does rather seem like something the Auror Department might have become aware of at some point. I would have expected that PERHAPS, having become aware, they might have informed my brother of this intriguing mystery.

Since he and I have both been kept in the dark, perhaps that's because you were convinced you could investigate this more effectively without Enforcers of any rank or skill level getting in your way. Since they disappeared in DECEMBER, and given your reputation for thoroughness and effectiveness that has afforded your department a startling degree of autonomy, no doubt at this point you can easily tell me WHERE THE FUCK THEY ARE AND WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO THEM.

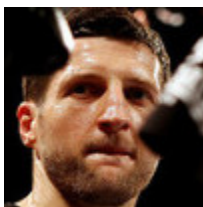



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at **2014-01-17 22:41:09**

(no subject)

No doubt we can.

Tell me why we would.



 [alt_corax](#) at **2014-01-17 22:44:07**

(no subject)

I doubt very much you can.

I think you've been well aware of the disappearances for weeks, and chose to cover them up. Which raises the question of why.

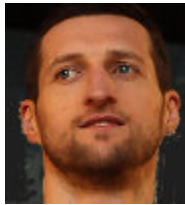



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-01-17 23:13:41](#)
(no subject)

You doubt we could tell what happened. AND you suspect we know but are covering it up.

Deductive reasoning at its finest, that.

Reason this: Unspeakables :: Those of whom one does not speak.



 [alt_corax](#) at [2014-01-17 23:17:21](#)
(no subject)

I believe you'll find that some of them have family members who think of them not as 'Unspeakables' but as 'Grandfather' or 'Uncle Marston' and are more than a little perturbed at the Auror

department's willingness to sweep this under the rug.

And Otto Strangeweale is not an Unspeakable; he is a rather senior Healer at St Mungo's. What's your excuse there?



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-01-17 23:37:37](#)
(no subject)

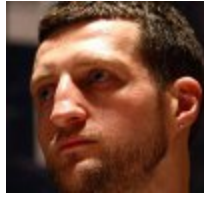
Neither Strangeweale is an Unspeakable. Properly speaking. Merely a dabbler and dilettante, the younger one. Funding research and borrowing space for vanity projects. Surely


you knew.

Have interviewed the 'beneficiaries' and found little sentiment for either party. Possibly if they'd kept family close, there would be more to report.

Assume your brother is also looking into Strangeweale's actions leading up to the fires. Has he completed his investigation, then? Or wants to ride our coat-tails and save resources in his budget?

If he thinks Strangeweale had something to do with his own property loss, suggest he pursue all leads. Have nothing to contradict that possibility.




 **[alt_corax](#)** at **[2014-01-18 04:30:19](#)**
(no subject)

We know Dogstar set fire to my brother's house. And so do you. I'm sure your stable of expert analysts found the same magical traces we did, from the same wand that made the explosive device at the Quidditch World Cup.

I assume you've kept that quiet because Bellatrix wants people to believe that Dogstar is as dead as Sirius Black.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-01-18 04:40:26](#)**
(no subject)

First Maule, then Dogstar. Expect Cadmus feels he's got a target painted on his back.

Always did enjoy attention.

2014-01-17 15:25:00

I would like to challenge anyone who's interested




 [alt_seamus](#)

to a duel this evening after dinner, in the Defence classroom, starting at 7 p.m. and going until either no one else wants to challenge me or I'm fed up with it.

You can cast whatever you like on me, within the standard Duelling Club rules. You'll know going in that my goal is to cast the Leg-Locker Curse on you. If I get it on you, you need to go to Marvolo and tell him how our duel went.

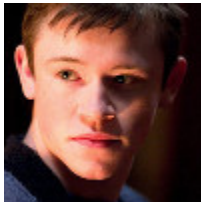
If you're fourth year or below you can team up against me, two at a time. If you're a firstie and want to play, you can come three at a time, if you want.



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2014-01-17 21:27:42**

Private message to Seamus

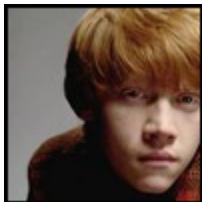
Oh, I'll be there. Count on it. You might want to blow your nose ahead of time.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-01-17 21:28:21**

Re: Private message to Seamus

I said ANYONE. As long as you're willing to GO TO MARVOLO this time.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-17 21:51:34**

(no subject)

I'll stop by if I have time. Wouldn't want you to sit around bored and lonely.


What are House-mates for?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-17 21:58:37](#)
(no subject)

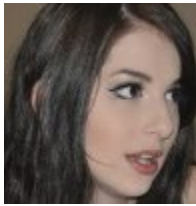
I'll look forward to it.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-18 02:18:15](#)
ORDER ONLY

Anyone watch this?

How'd he do?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-18 03:24:18](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

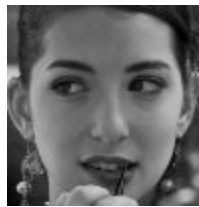
He beat Ron, Ginny, and Susan. Then Linus Moon beat him, if you can believe it. Then Philip Stretton and Amrit Gupta duelled him together and he beat both of them. Then I duelled him and beat him. Then Teddy duelled him and hit him with something that caused massive boils all over his body, it looked really painful. Professor Lestrange took him off to the hospital wing.

He got his five, though.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-18 03:50:24](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Good on you!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-18 03:53:50](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

He was tired and distracted, did you notice I went second to last?

He was really not happy when Teddy stepped up, you could tell.

2014-01-17 22:30:00

Private message to Cadmus

Right. Crouch clearly hopes we'll believe Marston Strangeweale was killed by his mudblood, even as he intimated that the Strangeweales and the missing Unspeakables might have chosen to disappear. He made it clear he had no particular interest in finding either Marston or Otto, and suggested that no one had missed any of the lot.

You were right.



 [alt_corax](#)

2014-01-17 23:50:00

Private Message to B Lestrangle and A Dolohov



Corax is full of accusations tonight.

Either they think we've made off with the Strangeweales and with Marston's clutch of junior Unspeakables, or they have them. Tried to goad me into saying we've lost the trail, but also pretended we're suppressing information. (Doesn't seem to know Croaker's gone. Interesting.)

 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

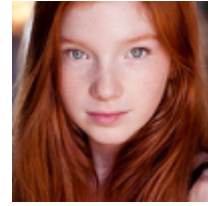
Confirmed they know Dogstar set the fiendfyre at Frogmore House. Intel courtesy of Ollivander, presumably. Lenoir wonders if they realise it was a European variant. Eastern. If so, M didn't show that card. Too eager to gloat. Threatening to leak Dogstar's regrouping. Says we've kept that quiet because 'Bellatrix wants people to believe Dogstar is as dead as Sirius Black'.

C's whole performance looks like deflecting attention. Would like to know it if they've in-housed that potion Strangeweale's been brewing.

2014-01-18 09:28:00

ORDER ONLY

Ron, do you know, has Katie got her five yet? If not, I've got two firsties who are willing to volunteer. And if she needs a third, I could go as well.

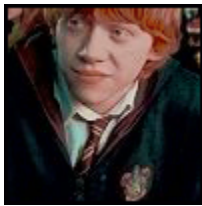



 [alt_evelyn](#)

And I'm assuming you got yours. Does anyone else need any help?

I saw Jack Sloper directing some younger students away from a hall yesterday, and he sort of waggled his eyebrows at me and winked as I passed by, so I think he was keeping people from running into Nott, or Crabbe and Goyle. Pansy, I'm terribly curious about what you managed to do yesterday to get them angry with you.

Good luck at the match today, Harry, Draco, Sally-Anne, and Susan!

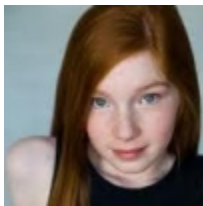



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-01-18 16:17:59**

(no subject)

Ha. Well, I just got Sloper (and McLaggen and Coote and Archer and Finnigan, who had it coming). I don't think Sloper's too hacked off, at least.

Katie was cross, though. And, yeah, I don't think she's finished hers.

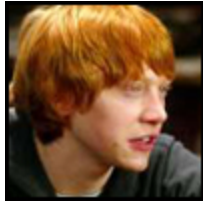



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-01-18 16:39:37**

(no subject)

He tends to have a good sense of humour about things. How did you get them? Was it while you were practising?

I'll tell Hazel and Catherine to go to her, and see if that'll finish things up.




 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-19 00:06:08](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Yeah, I got them all as they were coming down to the pitch at the end of practice. I was down already so McLoser could sub in for me. Gave me an easy shot at all of them, and Gin rammed Archer on the way down, so he was shouting at her when I hexed the first couple, and had no idea it was coming when I got him.

Brilliant team work, really!




 **alt_pansy** at [2014-01-18 16:41:56](#)
(no subject)

I followed them to where they were waiting for people to hex, and I got Crabbe, and Goyle got me.

Then I went back later and got Goyle, and got Crabbe for a second time too.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-01-19 02:28:08](#)
(no subject)

Clever.

Seriously.

Say, has Malfoy decided whether he wants them to make it or fail to make it? The thing is, it should be easy to showcase how dim they are, so if we want to see them fail, I think you've got a strategy there.

On the other hand, if he's decided that it would be more useful to have them in with him, because they'd be loyal to him and watch his back, then maybe you could use the fact that they really are that dim to wind them up against some of the people we really do want to undermine, y'know? If we could set them on Montague, say, that could be advantageous.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-19 03:11:17](#)
(no subject)

We've been talking about how Tamblyn, Smith, Moon, Stevens, Montgomery, and Vaisey are the ones who we want, and might need help from us to get in. Blaise and Bobolis are also possibly okay too.

I think Crabbe and Goyle might be sort of okay, but they're still more of a threat than some of the others. I mean, they've got their dads on the council too, and they'd be loyal to them.

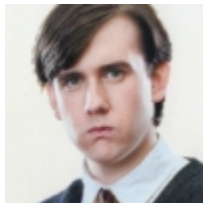
I think it'd definitely be worth it to try and sic them on Montague, though. And maybe Finnegan and McClaggen too.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-19 03:32:54](#)
(no subject)

Right. So when we know what the next challenge is, maybe we can figure out a way to make those two trolls think Montague's targeting them. And maybe that he's planning something massively unsporting to do to them.

And maybe Malfoy could convince them that McLaughable and Finnick are real threats to their place in the standings. Y'know, if he told them that their only chance of getting chosen is to be sure those two spend most of their time in the hospital wing, I bet they'd go out of their way to make sure that happened.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-01-18 16:51:54](#)
(no subject)

Has it occurred to anyone except me that this is a particularly *barmy* way of picking people to be eligible to be Our Dearest Lord's closest advisers? That's what you really want in the most senior person helping run the Protectorate, eh? The ability to glue people's legs together magically so they can't go anywhere except by hopping about, looking stupid, until they fall over.

Come to think of it...maybe it *is* appropriate.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-18 16:55:23](#)
(no subject)

I have a feeling this is just a bit of a warm-up, to see who's serious about it and who isn't.

They're probably saving the really unpleasant things for when we're all committed to it.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-18 17:09:28](#)
(no subject)

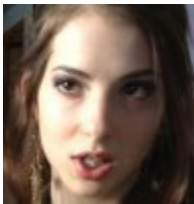
I wouldn't put it past them to ask us to crucio five people, for instance. Eventually, I mean.

I wonder how much Blaise would have to pay people for that one.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-18 23:40:29](#)
(no subject)


What an utterly horrid thought.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-18 23:42:08](#)
(no subject)

It is barmy. I sort of wonder if they aren't really testing people on how well they manage the tasks, but to see how they think. In which case Teddy and his painting made of actual blood would be a winner. And possibly also his decision to hex Milli five times in one day, instead of hexing five different people.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-19 00:11:24](#)
(no subject)

Got to say. I wish I'd thought to hex Bulstrode five times in a day.

Never appreciated his sense of humour before, but that was amusing.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-19 00:09:34](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah.


I think really they're looking to see which of us would leg-lock people at the top of a flight of stairs and make them fall. You know what I mean?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-01-19 01:41:47](#)
(no subject)

Like McClaggen. I heard he hexed Narcissa Lonsdale while she was on the stairs and just stood there and watched her fall, and then told her to go to Harry and give him his regards.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-19 02:31:58](#)
(no subject)

McLaggen is a menace.

Honestly, I should have hexed him while he was still 30 feet up. Would have served him right, the

berk.

[2014-01-18 10:18:00](#)

Private Message to Ginny W

You were brilliant.

Thanks!



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_ginny](#) at **[2014-01-18 19:02:31](#)**

(no subject)

Any time, Ron. The look on Finnigan's face definitely made it worth it. (I still wish one of us had beaten him last night, but oh well.)



 [alt_ron](#) at **[2014-01-19 00:17:03](#)**

(no subject)

Yeah. There was a good thing about his beating us both last night, actually. It got him in a mood where he said he'd make a truce not to hex each other during the night. We'll see if he's holding to that

tonight!

Anywiz, there's still Thomas, and he definitely can't be trusted even if Finnicky could be. So I expect we'll still be letting Nev charm us in for the night.

2014-01-18 12:54:00

Attention, Please

Would the following students, and any others who have been afflicted with a Leg-Locker Curse since Friday lunch, please join me, Professor Acton and Mr Marvolo in my office after supper this evening:



 [alt_horace](#)

Gareth Archer	Deirdre Lynch
Susan Bones	Cormac McLaggen
Millicent Bulstrode	Philip Macmillan
Cho Chang	Eloise Midgen
Ritchie Coote	Samantha Montgomery
Harriet Corbyn	Benedictus Oglethorpe
Vincent Crabbe	Hazel Oxley
Troy Derwent	Pansy Parkinson
Marietta Edgcombe	Jack Sloper
Maegera Featherstone	Antonius Starling
Stephanus Featherstone	Norma Stein
Seamus Finnigan	Philip Stretton
Gregory Goyle	Seporah Swangrove
Amrit Gupta	Lares Tamblyn
Vivian Harkness	Richard Vaisey
Su Li	Ginny Weasley
Evelyn Longbottom	Ronald Weasley
Neville Longbottom	

If you are not on this list but have been hexed, please come and give report.

My warmest congratulations to the Slytherin team for their victory.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-01-19 21:40:55**

ORDER ONLY


Turns out my second hex to Vince didn't count. Which means Teddy's only counted as one, so that works rather well.

And this whole business of unintentionally not quite meeting the

guidelines as a way to lose might end up being very useful for future tasks. I'll talk to Katie about it.

Harry, what all did Sluggo and Acton talk about?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-20 01:49:19](#)


Re: ORDER ONLY

Lots of stuff.

Like who was clever, who targeted older students or just firsties, who used their power (like Linus getting people on his rounds) and whether that was good or bad, who got hit by other candidates, how long everyone took. They'd ask me about what I thought too.

They argued over what to do about Teddy and you. I think they decided to give you both low marks, but add clarifying notes. And there was enough different things they said were important to consider that if some of my rankings are different from theirs I think it'd be okay, as long as I give good reasons.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-20 01:50:39](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Pans

Thanks for helping with Katie.

I really appreciate it. A lot.

[2014-01-18 19:53:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: ISS Business

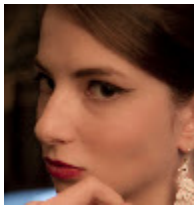
I was thinking about having a galleon meeting this week to talk about some stuff.



 [alt_harry](#)

First, it's coming up on a year since Sophie. I thought we could talk about safety. How to use the galleons in an emergency, that sort of thing. Because the new people don't know. And it's important to remind the old people that even though Umbridge is gone, we've got to be prepared in case Crouch tries something like that again.


Maybe we could talk about the challenge too, and see if we could get the galleon people to help us with it, but that might be tricky. Because we might have to talk about why it's important, and maybe they'll have questions about who we want to help, and might not want to get in the way. What should we say?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-19 04:55:10](#)
(no subject)


If you're going to talk about the candidates, then them who to sabotage rather than who to help. Tell them who the people are who we really want to keep OFF the Council, who we think really want to get on.



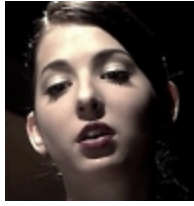
 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-19 05:00:05](#)
(no subject)

What should we say about why we want them off? Or should we just say we want them off, and leave it at that?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-19 05:23:03](#)
(no subject)

I guess lots of people would see the point in not letting Teddy get ahead, but they might think we don't want Patil or Finnegan because we don't like them. And not because we have a good reason.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-19 05:24:52](#)
(no subject)


I don't know how hard we should try with Patil, honestly. She's not cut out for it and will be utterly miserable, which serves her right. She'd be more of a threat to Draco than some (because she'll dance to Sandoval's tune, and Sandoval dances to Bellatrix Lestranger's), but quite a bit less than others, and she's not a Slytherin or a child of a Councilwizard so she's already a bit of an underdog in the contest, unlike Teddy.

I think if we're enlisting everyone with a galleon we should have them focus on sabotaging just a couple of people we really DO NOT want on the Council, at least for now. The people who will be the greatest threat. So, Teddy. Finnigan. Maybe Vince and Greg although I would expect Draco could manage them.

I don't know, maybe I'm looking at this the wrong way?

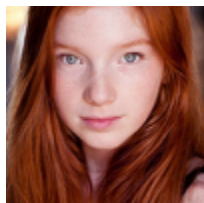
As far as people to help, I suppose you could tell them to help Draco and Hydra because they're going to 'try to change things from the inside,' remember that line from 'Pure Power'? I suppose you didn't actually read that one. I mean, in the book it was actually more or less bollocks, but it sounds plausible, don't you think?




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-19 05:33:31](#)
(no subject)

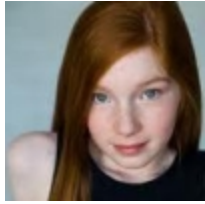
So we could tell them we don't want Finnegan or Teddy because they would make it harder for Draco and Hydra to do that?


Maybe McLaggen too.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-01-19 05:49:21](#)
(no subject)

McLaggen and Teddy aren't particularly well-liked, and I think people would trust your motives if you told them Finnegan shouldn't make it onto the council.




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-19 05:56:56](#)**
(no subject)

I mean to say, they might not understand entirely why, but I think they'd think there was good reason for your asking them to help.


They'd trust *you*, Harry.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-20 01:32:27](#)**
(no subject)

Okay.

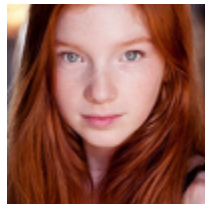



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-20 01:32:55](#)**
Private Message to Evs

And.

Thanks.

For helping with Katie.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-01-20 01:36:11](#)**
Re: Private Message to Evs

Don't worry about it, Harry. We're all keeping an eye on her.

You just be sure to let us know if there's anything specific we can do.

And I think your idea about talking about Sophie is a good one.

2014-01-19 14:41:00

Private Message to Ned Pennifold

Dear Mr Pennifold,

I hope you've received the parchment I've sent along, and have found my anthem to meet your standards. I wanted to write to you about this latest task in advance of any formal report you might receive, in order to offer some explanation. In my meeting with Professors Slughorn and Acton last night, I was informed that my cursing Vincent Crabbe twice did not count towards my five total. Unfortunately, I was told this after the time period had already elapsed for our challenge, and could not remedy the situation.



 [alt_pansy](#)

I am taking these tasks quite seriously, and my intention was to show my worth by going against two candidates who have a reputation for their strength and skill at duelling and the Noble Arts. I thought that hexing at least one of them multiple times would show my abilities to good advantage, and assumed it would count towards my total.

From what I've heard thus far, Weasley and I are the only ones who each hexed two other candidates against their will, and, of course, I caught one of the candidates I hexed off-guard more than once. My standing for this task may be poor due to technically not completing the requirements, and I accept all responsibility for my error in interpreting the boundaries of our challenge. Know that in my actions, I meant no disrespect to this enterprise, nor to you as my sponsor. I apologise, and hope to remedy the situation with my future performance, which I sincerely hope will be a more accurate reflection of my desire to follow in the footsteps of my father in service to our Lord Protector.

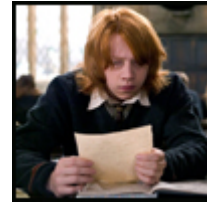
I will make sure to confirm details with you next time I am uncertain of what would count towards fulfillment of our tasks. Please keep me informed if there is anything else you would recommend I do in preparation for future tasks.

With respect,

Pansy Parkinson

2014-01-19 21:46:00

Order Only Private Message to Professor Dumbledore



Professor.

I've been reading back over the part of Proteus you were talking about, and I think I was looking at the pictures the first time and I didn't really pay attention to what he was saying about how it feels to transform. Because, yeah.


 [alt_ron](#)

That's a lot like what I was trying to explain about how it felt with the leg-locker and the thing about how it felt to get up with my legs fused like that and having to hop instead of walk, but it didn't feel like hopping usually does. More... I don't know. Like launching myself.

I almost want to try that again. The leg-locker, I mean, and maybe some other jinxes like that, just to feel what it's like to move when my body's different, y'know?

Anywiz, can we get together again soon? I don't want to wait too long. I mean, if you've got time when you could see me. I know you're busy.




 [alt_albus](#) at [2014-01-20 04:32:22](#)
(no subject)

You have an intriguing idea there, Mr Weasley. You might think of other jinxes of that kind, and I shall as well.

Certainly, we should work together again soon. It is a trifle hard to plan without knowing when your attention must be focused on these challenges. Shall we perhaps say Wednesday at nine?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-20 04:53:58](#)
(no subject)

Not til Wednesday. All right.


About the challenges, though. I mean, so far, they haven't been very difficult to work out. I expect that will change, but still, it's not as if I mean to win. I have to look like

I'm competing, and I reckon that some of them will be difficult to work out what I should do that wouldn't be horrible to other people but wouldn't give away that I'm not really serious about being considered. That's the tricky part. I want them to decide I'm not the right sort of wizard for them, but I don't want to show them that I think I'm not the right sort for them. If you see what I mean.

I should keep on with the meditation exercises, then?

And did you mean I should start reading that long book about King Arthur? Or should I just read all of Proteus again and see what I missed before? It really has terrific drawings, doesn't it? I thought it was especially great when he turned into the minnow and then into a trout. Oh, and the part where he was charging up that rocky slope as a goat, just to see if there was sweet grass at the top!




 **[alt_albus](#)** at **[2014-01-20 05:26:39](#)**
(no subject)

Tuesday at nine, then. Decide on at least three jinxes you'd like to try.

Before then, meditation exercises, yes. For reading, focus on Proteus, but I would like you to start the White as soon as you've a chance. You might well enjoy the whole thing, but you need only read through the transformation scenes for our purposes. Those scenes are a most effective direction to allow your thoughts to wander.

Regarding the challenges, you have rather hit the point. You may well find, though, that walking that line is rather more time consuming than you realise, my boy.



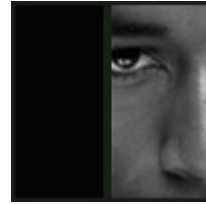
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-01-20 16:49:45](#)**
(no subject)

Tuesday night. Thank you, sir!

2014-01-20 14:14:00

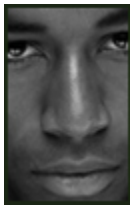
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Say, have you got anything you need to do this evening?



Only, I got an owl from Yaxley this morning, and I really need to think about what she said. With someone I can trust to have good sense. And discretion.

 **alt_blaise**



 **alt_blaise** at **2014-01-20 20:49:43**

Private Message to Daphs

Yaxley doesn't like my approach to the competition, and on the one hand, I think that's her lookout. Perhaps she shouldn't have put me forward if she didn't realise what I'd make of it. But she's put the most dire spin on it she can in order to try to manipulate me. She wants me to think about a future where I'd have to kowtow to Weasley and Moon if they get chosen and I don't.

Does anyone seriously think either one of them would be invited into the Council? Seriously? No matter how well they do at casting leg-locker curses, I can't see it. And if they were? Well, I'm not sure it changes my view of things.

Mind you, I have been thinking what will happen when Teds receives His Mark. I mean, we've always known it would happen, or anyway, that he's aiming for it where I really haven't been. But this is all just barely started and it's making him different already. Have you noticed?

I suppose I thought that we'd just go on as we've always been, and having him (and Draco) on the Council would mean I shouldn't need to be. There'd be no point competing with them for the favours they want to earn, and we'd know we could count on one another for whatever might come along. I mean, there are things I can offer without being one of His chosen, you see?

But I'm starting to be unsure. And I'd like to know what you think.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-01-20 23:45:37](#)

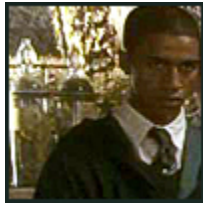
Re: Private Message to Daphs

I have some reading I need to finish. I don't suppose that will take all evening, though.

I'm a little confused, what do you mean by "we'd just go on as we've always been?" Are you speaking of all of the Slytherins in our year? You must have noticed by now, Blaise, that nothing goes as planned. Why, I remember Jason five years ago - I had no notion that he aspired to join the council, and in fact, I don't think that he *did*. But now he's there and Alfred wants to be, too.

I suppose we all knew that Teddy and Draco would end up there because of their Fathers, but their positions have shifted, haven't they? Draco would have never dreamed of having to *compete* for his spot before, and Teddy probably didn't think he would have to, either. So nothing is certain, you see.

Only what is it you're unsure about? If you should really put your all into this? Or stand aside and let the cards fall where they may?

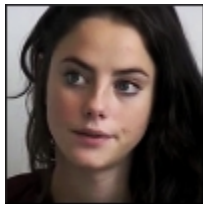


 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-01-21 02:52:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphs

What would you do if you'd got one of the pins?

You're not sorry you didn't, are you?



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-01-21 03:01:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphs

I would have done what I suppose at least half of you are doing: try not to make a fool of myself while not standing out too much, either.

And no, I'm not sorry. Do you think Padma is? That she did get one, I mean.



 **alt_blaise** at [2014-01-21 03:34:01](#)

Re: Private Message to Daphs

I've no idea. She acts as if she's thrilled. And, of course, as long as it's anything at all academic or skill-related, she won't be able to tolerate the idea of earning low marks. And if it seems to her that it's a social opportunity, she's going to grasp it, too.

That's wearing.

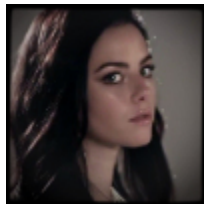
I expect we'll have a major row sooner or later over it.

She can't think why I'm not throwing my every talent into running after it.

Only that brings me back to what I was saying about Teds. I always expected it would be perfectly all right to let them follow their path and that mine was simply different. And I suppose I expected that he'd be pleased now if I'd step aside and not compete for this because I don't want to get in his way. Or Draco's. Really, it's theirs to have, isn't it?

Only, Teddy... now it's as if he thinks everyone ought to see the Council as the only path, and if one doesn't, one's beneath contempt. I don't want him thinking I'm fair game.

So then if I need to actually try for this, well. That changes everything. Rather permanently.



 **alt_daphne** at [2014-01-21 03:44:09](#)

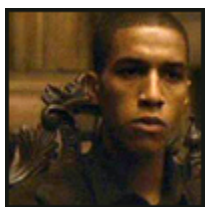
Re: Private Message to Daphs


You know, for someone so clever, Padma can be utterly daft.

Draco won't look down on you if you stand aside a little bit - though to be honest he might rather you join up with him than Teddy.

But then Teddy is only one person. And he's *Welsh*. Will you really lose all that much sleep if he decides to sneer under his

nose at you? The Blaise I've always known would have no trouble holding himself against that, not at all.



 **alt_blaise** at **2014-01-21 03:56:13**

Re: Private Message to Daphs

Well, if it were sneering, I'd laugh.

But it's likely to be eviscerating, instead. Or bloodletting. At least we're not living up a tower, because then it might be defenestrating.

As for Draco, I told him at the start that he's only to say if there's something he needs from me.

I suppose that means I have to give the next challenge a more robust effort.

Bother.

2014-01-21 20:22:00

(no subject)



 [alt_antonin](#)

Our Lord's decision to turn His eye more closely to the halls of Hogwarts has been most exciting thus far. As many of you know, I served Our Lord before His liberation of the Ministry in the capacity of tutor and mentor to many. I count those memories among my most cherished; the work I was able to do during those years, and the work of my colleague and friend Auror Savitha Desai, helped many young adults to realise their full potential and enabled them to fight for what they believed.

Those young adults helped establish the Protectorate, helped remake the wizarding world in accordance with Our Lord's vision, and have become some of our leading lights in the years since. The passion, strength, and clarity brought to an undertaking by a young adult often shames those of us who are older and slower; some things call for youth and vigour. I look forward to seeing what that youth and vigour can bring today.

Since returning to Hogwarts I have been privileged to work with most of our new postulants, and I am confident that each and every one of you will, over the coming weeks and months, showcase the virtues most valued in His council: strength, decisiveness, intelligence, cunning, loyalty, dedication, and brotherhood. (The teacher in me must offer: my door is always open to those who wish to further their knowledge, though I will not interfere with the tasks you have been and will be set. Still, though the deeds you perform during this contest must be your own, most of the Council can think of several instances where our plans were all the better for having had someone to listen to us explain them in advance to help us refine the details, and for that service I am always available.)

I urge each and every one of you reading this, Hogwarts student or no, to continue to do your utmost to serve the Protectorate and Our Lord's glorious vision, whether in this competition to earn His highest honour, should you have been fortunate enough to have been chosen, or in your day-to-day work to further His vision of a strong, powerful, united wizarding nation. I am exceptionally proud of all my students, and I look forward to the day when more of you are called to join us as part of His brotherhood.



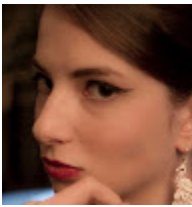
 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-22 02:37:05](#)

Private message to Raz and Auri

There; that ought get the message across to all but the dullest (or the most ambitious) of the little darlings that running their plans by a cooler head, once the competition heats up a bit, would not go

amiss.

Razzer, if you want to echo the offer, either here or in your own journal, some of them might be more comfortable going to you.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-22 04:55:37](#)

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Do you think either of you should talk to him? More for the show of things than because you'd actually want his best advice.

Pansy, I kind of wonder what he'd say to you -- I mean, on one hand, he has been teaching you for long enough to know that you're really not cut out for Council membership. On the other hand, he's a close ally of Mr Malfoy's and he would naturally assume you'd gravitate toward his faction, right? So he might WANT you on.

Although after Dark Arts today he might think you just needed that little boost in your confidence to MAKE you Council material. You were clearly having a good day for spellwork.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 04:59:55](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

It was rather fun today, wasn't it?

It's like Potions can be. Sometimes things just line up in a row and I can see how it all works, and it's

just easy.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-01-22 05:09:34**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Yeah. You were sort of fizzing and popping today in DA. Like everything was coming together.

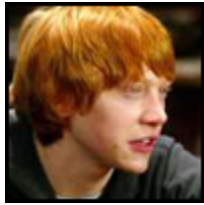
I had a hard time concentrating. Thinking about other things, really, so not my best day in there. And I don't think I'll be going in to talk to him. Not yet, anywiz.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-22 05:11:11**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

How did things go with Dumbledore?



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-01-22 05:31:25**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Absolutely excellently well! It was dead brilliant tonight!

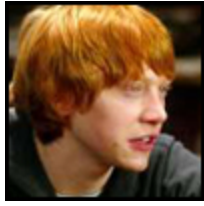
We were doing hexes that turn bits of you into different shapes or textures or sizes. The fin-finger jinx and the leg-locker and the hirsute hex. Oh, and Pans, I asked if we should try that Junior Auror blue spell, but he thought not. I reckon even Professor Dumbledore thinks that's one to avoid.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-22 05:33:41**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Well if you want one of us to cast the Leg-Locker curse on you sometime you've only to ask!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 05:37:04](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Yeah. I was in it for a while tonight, and it's just dead interesting to test all the ways your body's different when it's put together in a new way.

But I think that one would be more useful if I thought I'd turn out to be a Merman or, y'know, a fish. Since it can't be a magical creature, anywiz. Shame about that.

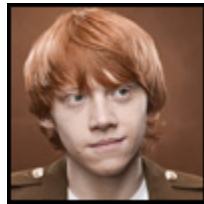


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:44:35](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Oooh.

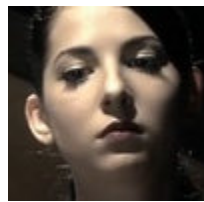
What if my calling you a fish-face all these years turns out to be prophetic?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 05:53:15](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Let's hope that's not true. Being an animagus fish would be... inconvenient. And not exactly the most useful thing ever.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-22 06:00:27](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

You'll still be able to block out a legilimens.

Admittedly there are more useful things one could transform into.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 06:03:30](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

You'd better keep a glass of water around when you start trying, though, just in case.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 06:07:02](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

There you go, assuming I'll be a minnow. What if I'm actually a TUNA?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:38:44](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Oh, I'd certainly be happy to!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 05:49:25](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Yeah.

You really are feeling it today, aren't you? Too bad we didn't have duelling club tonight. I bet you'd have cleaned the mats with everyone there.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:55:54](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

True!

I hope we get to brush up on our skills over Easter hols, like we did last term. After all, if Finnegan is a challenge, what chance are we going to have against Aurors and the Council?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 06:05:03](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Eh, Finnick. Was ever so smug after that duel, but he's been quiet since I got all of them Saturday morning. Expect he didn't like being at the bottom of the rubbish heap on a muddy pitch.

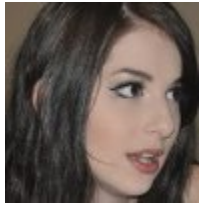


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:04:00](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

And yes, I'll go talk to him. It's rather obvious he wants us all to, and it would look odd if I didn't.

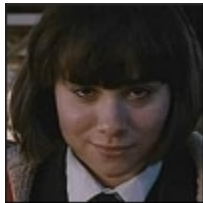
It'd be worth it to see what he had to say anyways, and it probably wouldn't be too hard to sort out what he thinks about it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-22 05:07:22](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Was that an owl from Ned Pennifold this morning?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:13:34](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

He said the rankings were one thing, but that I shouldn't be worried, because they take all sorts of other things into consideration, and that my instincts were good.

I think he was rather pleased.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-22 05:14:09](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

It's weird how competitive I feel about it on your behalf even though I don't want you to finish in the top seven.

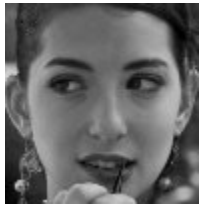


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:21:20](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

It's a bit galling to have to *try* to lose to Smith and Moon.

And Draco wants Vaisey and Stevens and Montgomery to get in. We'll have to bring them along kicking and screaming at the rate they're dragging their feet.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-22 05:25:43](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Frankly I think Vaisey, Stevens and Montgomery are even more enthusiastic about coming in near the bottom than you and Katie.

It's going to be a very weird contest.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-22 05:36:15](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

And of course Patil is lording it over everyone, and I have to stand by and take it. Because it's best for the Order for people to think I'm incompetent, I guess.

Ugh. What a bitch.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-22 05:38:59](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Yes, but it takes more skill to fake losing than to win.

Or something like that.

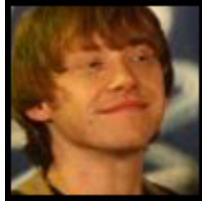


 **[alt_pansy at 2014-01-22 05:43:37](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

I suppose I'll have to comfort myself in being secretly superiour.

And I'll just have to ensure that eventually, they'll come to regret their underestimation of me.




 **[alt_ron at 2014-01-22 05:51:02](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

They will do.



 **[alt_pansy at 2014-01-22 06:10:51](#)**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

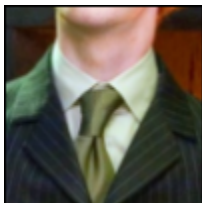
Ugh.


I'm knackered.

Sleep well, tuna lips.

You too, Sally-Anne.

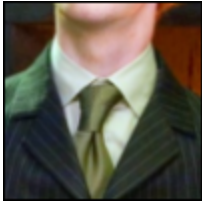
Don't stay up too late writing filthy things to each other.




 **[alt_percy at 2014-01-23 03:57:05](#)**

(no subject)

That is excellent advice, and I certainly hope all of the candidates are wise enough to heed it.



 **alt_percy** at [2014-01-23 04:33:39](#)

Private message to Antonin Nikolaevich

I have been reading with great interest the reports which have been forwarded to me as of this date from Hogwarts. It certainly sounds as though the staff has had an enlivening time of it so far (which I am aware is not always a good thing). Some of the results have been unexpected, perhaps, but it is early days yet.

I shall be conveying the first précis to Our Lord quite soon--I merely am awaiting the confirmation of the appointment time from Mr Broome. I hope you will not consider me guilty of pusillanimity if I confess to having a touch of nerves? I do so wish to make a good impression.

Naturally, the appointment time will be rather short, considering the press of the Protectorate's business. Still, if there is any advice you might offer someone being ushered into His Presence for personal interaction for the first time, I would be grateful to receive it.



 **alt_antonin** at [2014-01-23 04:45:22](#)

Re: Private message to Antonin Nikolaevich

His regard can be disconcerting for those unaccustomed to the directness of His greatness. Do not worry about making a good impression -- that will cause you to try too hard, and He does not want lackeys or lickspittles -- but rather, spend your time preparing yourself for any question He might ask; He values competence and decisiveness (and is often annoyed by flattery and toadying) and what He wants from a report is the most important information presented first.

Be calm, be concise, answer any questions He might have honestly and without pretence or artifice -- or self-aggrandisement -- and let your work speak for itself. I am certain you will do fine, my dear boy.

Meanwhile -- I would consider it a favour if you would take a look in the protective cabinet in Lueius Mr Malfoy's office for the copy of Paracelsus' *Crucibles* he borrowed from me last year and has not yet seen fit to return. (It has my crest in the bookplate, lest you

fear I am robbing him!)

In service,
Antonin

[2014-01-21 22:44:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Tonks

It's actually quiet over here -- touch wood and Felix have mercy that I haven't just jinxed us -- and all the factions I'm talking with have gone off to think for a bit, so unless Alice wants me to eat some gillyweed and go play nice with the Merfolk, I think I can actually wrangle twelve whole glorious hours with nothing to do on Thursday or Friday.



 **[alt_charlie](#)**

Got anything on your plate you need someone to tag along behind you and look big and dumb for? Or we could go Octoboros-hunting some more. Or we could just hole up somewhere and nap on each other and snog for a while. I'll rub your feet if you dig your elbows into those muscles in my shoulders, they're not speaking to me again and you're better at fixing it than anybody I know.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-22 04:30:06](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, let's do both! A bit of Octoboros-hunting and then some excellent snogging and massage. That sounds wonderful.

Do you have a bit of coast you'd especially like to explore for wardstones and ley-disturbances?



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-01-22 04:40:32](#)**
(no subject)

I'll pull out Evelyn's maps and have a look -- she's extrapolated a bunch of likely places from the ones we know about already. Kid's got quite the brain.

Mostly I'm just looking for the excuse, though. Depending on when we schedule for, snogging and massage might turn into cuddling and a nap. Merlin, but I'm tired. And I could really use an afternoon where I don't have to watch every word that comes out of my mouth. (Mind you, that's not the only reason I thought of you. Or even in the top five. Now, the thought of you in just your knickers, that's in the top five.) (Kidding, the top five are all about how much

fun it is to spend time with you. The knickers do hit number six or so, though.)

Shall we do Thursday? Probably better not to keep you out all day before the weekend rush.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 04:47:55](#)
(no subject)

Oh, say. We don't have to do anything but rest. You know, that sounds utterly wonderful. Almost beyond imagining, really, so, yes! Let's do just meet somewhere quiet and warm and cozy.

I'll see if I can't get my knickers a bit higher up your list!



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-01-22 05:07:13](#)
(no subject)

I like spending time with you in or out of your knickers! ...That came out very wrong. Or very right, depending on whether or not it made you laugh, I suppose.

Seriously, though, let's play it by ear and see what the weather's like. If it's snowing and miserable, I'm all for skiving off and holing up somewhere -- hell, we could come up here and commandeer one of the spare cabins.

Actually, that might be nice to plan for no matter what. I keep threatening to show you around the place, and for all that it's rough up here during winter, now's definitely the time if you wanted to meet people as well as seeing the facilities, since everyone's got more time free at this time of year. What do you say we go flying for a while in the early afternoon, then when it starts to get later, come back up here and I'll give you the two-knut tour, then I'll cook us dinner and we can build a fire and stretch out on the rug in front of it? And maybe I'll let you decide where my pants are on your list!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 05:19:34](#)
(no subject)

Mine's quite exclusive, and you are very high up the rankings. Extra marks for all the ways you make me laugh!

(Your pants, however, don't make the list at all.)



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-01-22 05:24:40](#)
(no subject)

Right, then, no pants it is.

Which reminds me of the story Thom likes to tell when you get him drunk enough, of the days when he was but a wee dragonkeeper and little things like safety gear wasn't standard issue yet, and how he discovered the hard way that just a pair of keeper robes with nothing on underneath is not a good idea.

There's a reason we all call the flameproof pants "Tommies", you see...




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 06:19:13](#)
(no subject)

Oh, my.

Well, that's a reminder of the sort of precautions needed up there, isn't it!

Mind you, if I'd known you've got flameproof knickers, I'd have assumed they worked the other way round.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-01-22 06:29:29](#)
(no subject)

I've heard a lot of jokes about flameproof pants and fire-red hair, that's for sure.

And yeah. We have flameproof everything. Because if you don't, you very quickly have a puddle of ash that used to be the thing. Traditional hazing of the new folk: wait a week before you teach them the charm to flameproof your hair, and did you know that the Flame-Barrier potion doesn't protect anything past your actual skin?

I look very funny without eyebrows or eyelashes. Just so you know.

Me and my flameproof pants are taking ourselves off to bed now. Night, luv. Sleep well, when you do.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-22 06:21:58](#)**
(no subject)

I've cleared it with the blokes and put it on the calendar.

Officially looking forward to it now!



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-01-22 06:37:09](#)**
(no subject)

That's lovely news. Firecall when you're ready to face the world on Thursday, and I'll grab my broom and come running as soon as you do, O my lovely lady. I can't wait.


And thanks. You're still the best person to run away from home with.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-01-22 04:49:57](#)**
(no subject)

Is it the Goblins who've got so many factions--or the Centaurs? Or have you started up with the Werewolves?



 **alt_charlie** at [2014-01-22 05:18:49](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Merlin, if Alice added the werewolves in on the list I'd have to give up sleeping until Easter. No, when we're ready to approach the werewolves I'll be picking Remus's brain first. Right now it's the goblins for the Gringotts connection and the centaurs in hopes we can negotiate better access to the Forest for wand material.

The goblins are the ones with all the clans. I'm starting to get the hang of which clans are allied to which and who you just don't mention to who, but oh, if you thought memorising Binns' litany of the commanders of the Goblin Wars was tough, this is twice as bad. If you gave Binns the wrong answer, he wouldn't threaten to behead you. (No one has threatened to behead me yet. Well. Not exactly. There was a lot of heavy hinting at first.)

Still, I'm definitely getting somewhere with the goblins -- us offering to let one of them apprentice with Melli was huge, and I think I can build on that. I like most of the clan-leaders (ugh, words. clan-elders? clan-heads?) that I've met so far. And I think they like me, for a wizard. They at least appreciate that I've been exceptionally careful to make it clear that I'm not so much trying to figure out what they can do for us as trying to learn enough that I can be a good advocate for them later, you know?

The centaurs, on the other hand, are driving me spare. I might be this close to negotiating a treaty with them! I might be this close to having them throw me out and go running straight to Voldemort to betray me! I have no bloody, blinking clue! Getting a straight answer out of a centaur is harder than getting a straight answer out of Professor Dumbledore.

2014-01-22 07:13:00

(no subject)

ONE YEAR AGO SOPHIE FLEET WAS TAKEN
FROM HOGWARTS AND KILLED. NEVER
FORGET. NEVER AGAIN. MTNG TONIGHT 7
IMPORTANT



 [alt_galleon](#)

2014-01-22 10:05:00

(no subject)

GALLEON HOLDERS ONLY TONIGHT MEET IN
SECRET ROOM



 [alt_galleon](#)

2014-01-22 17:07:00

Order Only Weekend Training Opportunities



Last weekend's training went so well, Frank and I want to do it again.

 [alt_nymphadora](#)

Open to anyone who can make it. Tell the ones who haven't got journals?

If you didn't come last week, do come along. It's an excellent chance to test yourself against new opponents and to cross-pollinate a bit--the Longbottom School of Subterfuge and Survival has a somewhat different repertoire of techniques than those taught at that castle up north. And those of us who left school before Lestrage and Dolohov arrived have a few tricks in our holsters you lot may not have tried... and vice versa. It's good fun, hard work, and a healthy challenge.

Word of warning: don't underestimate Colin. (Ask Finbar if you doubt me.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2014-01-22 23:44:23**

Private Message to Sarah Fawcett

Say. Have you had any success yet with that new grip I showed you? Just wanted to say that it may take a while to feel comfortable, but you'll only get there if you keep trying it, a bit longer every day.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at **2014-01-22 23:45:22**

Private Message to Lee Jordan

Lee. Wanted to be sure you knew that the idea was a good one, even though it went completely pearshaped. Surprise tactics are an excellent thing--but they probably take more practice than straightforward duelling strategies. I want to see what you come up with next time!



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 23:46:44](#)

Private Message to Frank Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Frank, tell Dudley, would you, that we'll keep working on it. Patience. I know that's the hardest thing.

Suppose saying so doesn't help much. And it's not just him, either. Tell them all: we're working on it because we all need to!




 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-23 01:05:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom and Colin Creevey

Will do.

And nicely done.

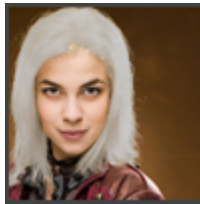


 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-23 01:26:38](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom and Colin Creevey

(I say, Mrs Tonks, coming from you, that's high praise.)

And I'll talk to Dursey next time I see him, too.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-23 05:01:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Frank Longbottom and Colin Creevey

(I meant it.)



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 23:50:25](#)

Private Message to Nick Towler

It's going to take time to get those reflexes sharpened up, so don't be hard on yourself. That's what desk work will do to you. (Not that cleaning floors and loos is much better, mind you.)

I promise it'll get easier eventually. Maybe not next time, but the

more often you come and work, the sooner you'll find your fighting form.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-22 23:55:00](#)

Private Message to Terry Boot

Be patient with yourself--but try to be a bit less patient with your opponent, right?

Aggression. That's what we're looking for, and there's no point putting it any other way. I think Frank's exactly right to get you thinking about where you're aiming. Raise your wand a bit: don't be afraid to aim body blows and hits to the head. Knee-capping a Death Eater is just going to give you an angry Death Eater, rolling on the floor, maybe, but still aiming the killing curse at your heart.



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-23 04:27:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry Boot

Thanks. I'll be there the next time for sure. Both scary as hell and exhilarating.

It's clear I have a lot to learn. Thanks for being willing to work with me--with all of us.

You're very good at this, you know?



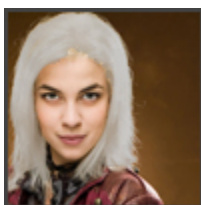
 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-23 05:00:08](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry Boot

Oh, I'm glad you'll be there. Excellent!

Frank and I were having an awfully good time.

Thanks for saying so.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-01-23 00:02:22](#)

Private Message to Fred and George Weasley

Next time, we're going to split you up. It's not punishment, at all. Only, what you need is to work out ways to partner other people. Just in case, because none of us can be certain what will happen in a fight,

and if you end up getting divided in the heat of things, we don't want you conquered. So we're going to be sure you get in some serious work with random partners and shifting stratagems. Expect you'll be all right with whatever we ask, right?

And I do know you know this, but next time let's keep the cutting up for when we're warming up or winding down. A little bit goes a long way.



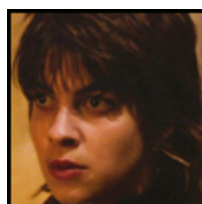
 **[alt_gredforge](#) at 2014-01-23 04:32:09**

Re: Private Message to Fred and George Weasley

Re: the last: you're right, and sorry about that.

Working with other people will be interesting. We reckon it'd be good for us to go against Finbar.

That's one scary sod when he gets hacked off.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#) at 2014-01-23 04:58:37**

Re: Private Message to Fred and George Weasley

You're right about that! (But did you see Colin make him stand down? I was impressed.)

And apology accepted. You weren't too far out of line, really. Just need to keep the lid on.



 **[alt_jeremy](#) at 2014-01-24 17:47:18**

(no subject)

Right. I'll be there. Need to keep working at swapping Quidditch reflexes for fighting reflexes. Similarities, yeah, but they're different to each other at rather crucial points. Suppose that was obvious enough last weekend.

Thanks by the way. You're good at instructing, you know?

[2014-01-22 22:20:00](#)

Order Only: Tonight's Galleon Meeting

Harry,

Well done tonight, old man. I thought several of our newer additions were quite affected by the stories of Sophie and Sarah.

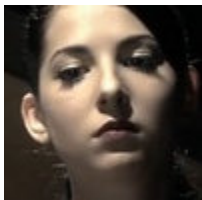


 [alt_justin](#)

I say, I hope they'll continue coming, in that same spirit.

Has anyone given you a clue when the next challenge will arrive? I imagine it's rather nerve-wracking, waiting. It's been almost a week since the last. Do you suppose the next one will be another 24-hour sort or something to last longer?

-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-23 04:29:05](#)
(no subject)

Yes. Did you see Ginny Weasley's face? She went all teary when Harry explained that Sarah was safe and not actually dead.

Anyway, about the challenges, they probably want everyone off-balance.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 05:09:20](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, she did. It bothered Honoria, too, I think. Bit harder to tell, but I think it did.

I'm glad they both came.



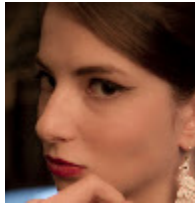
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 06:11:14](#)
Private Message to Sally Anne

Say. About Ginny.

I've been thinking about what she'd have to do to get the rest of them to trust her enough to bring her into

the Order. I mean, I really think she's alright, and it's like you've said, we're probably safer if we can get her on the inside because then she's got reasons to be loyal, but if we leave her out, she's not stupid and if she figures it out, she'll feel like we've pushed her away and expect her to turn us in. And then she might do it.

I mean, I know I'd be angry if it were me.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-23 06:17:55](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

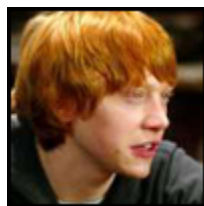
Are you thinking about Honoria, too?


Is Ginny prepared to keep secrets from Honoria?

That might be one thing she could do; you could tell her something she can't tell Honoria, and see if she keeps the secret.

But yeah. I mean here's the thing -- if you sit her down and tell her how deep everyone else (other than Percy) is, she'll keep the secret because she loves you and doesn't want you to go to the camps. I mean I think she'd keep the secret even if she thinks muggleborns are unworthy to carry wands and even if she feels terribly guilty about being a traitor to everything she's being taught is good -- you know?

Kind of like Pansy. When she found out about the Lock. She wasn't going to tell a soul, even though at first she had a lot of doubts, because keeping me safe mattered to her more than loyalty to the Lord Protector or obedience to the law. And once she was in, she was able to learn things that made her change for real.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 06:37:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

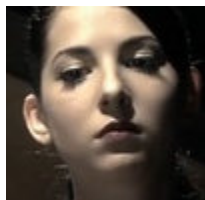
I don't know. About Honoria and Ginny. Do you think they're that tight? I mean, like you and Pans?

Maybe they are. I don't think either of them really has any other close friends. Only, Ginny... she's never been really the sort to tell anyone all about everything she thinks.

I don't think.

Yeah, so that's probably a really good plan, seeing if she would keep something secret from Honoria. But what? And how would we find out if told or didn't?

I just- I think you're right that we should try to bring her in. But I'm not sure where to start if that's what we want to have happen. I mean, I'm not sure how to get Mum and Mr Lupin and the Longbottoms and the rest to think it's a good idea. Mum won't. That's for certain.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-23 06:43:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

I don't know Ginny that well. She and Honoria seem to spend a lot of time together, but sometimes people do, and still don't tell each other much.


Anyway. You'd think the Longbottoms would be for it, given all those times they wanted to swear in Neville and Evelyn -- but they knew without a doubt that Nev and Ev were on our side, whereas with Ginny, it's harder to know.

Honestly if I were in your shoes I'd consider trying to get Bill to advocate for it. He feels completely guilty about everything that happened a year ago and he wants to prove to you that he's not a git.

A year ago we could have added her to the ISS lock without having to discuss it with the Order, but that's not really an option anymore. And a year ago I wouldn't have trusted her.

Anyway. Secrets. I'll have to think about that a bit, I'm not sure.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 06:50:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

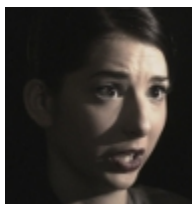
Could be about one of these challenges. Like if I told Ginny I was thinking of hexing Honoria for one of them... for some reason that had to do with the way I was being ranked in the whole thing. Hexing Sandoval's sister would be a way to either make

an impression and move up, or a way to get Sandoval hacked off at me and mark me down. (Only, I'm not sure. She might actually like that someone hexed Honoria. Honestly.) But that doesn't matter. Thing would be to convince Gin that I was doing it because I had some theory about how it would help me control my standings, AND convince her I was telling her to sort of work out whether it was really what I should do AND THEN tell her that it would only work if Honoria didn't know it was going to happen, so Gin would have to keep it secret.

And then I suppose I'd have to go through with it and hex Honoria Sandoval.

Is that mad?

Easier than asking Bill for favours, anywiz.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-01-23 06:52:28**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Pfft. Gryffindors. Hexing someone always seems easier than a little manipulation.

I suppose you could try that. Although do we want Ginny double-crossing Honoria because she thinks it'll help you get on the Council? On one hand it shows she's more loyal to her family than to other people but on the other hand it also shows she thinks you ought to get on the Council.

I don't know.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-01-23 06:57:09**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Well, actually. I was sort of thinking of setting it up the other way round, and trying to get Ginny to believe that it was a plan I had for pushing my standing lower. Since maybe Avery and the others wouldn't like me hexing Sandoval's sister. (Even if Sandoval didn't care one way or the other, which from what Ginny says, she probably wouldn't.)

Anywiz, I pretty much told Ginny from the start that I don't

want to be on the Council. So I think it only works if she thinks it's a plan to keep from getting chosen.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-23 07:00:32](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Oh, well. That's probably okay, then.

I'll see if I can think up some other secret before the next challenge comes, anyway. For now I'm too tired to think of anything clever. I think I'd better go to sleep.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 07:03:49](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Well, and who knows what the next one will even be. Probably nothing that would help with this.

You're right. You should go to sleep. And dream of me.

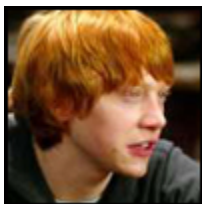
Night, you.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-23 07:05:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Goodnight.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-01-23 05:06:51](#)

(no subject)

I expect it will come on Friday again, yeah?


I'm sort of hoping it's just a day again, that was easier, really. And felt as if you could get by with something more spur-of-the-moment, yeah? If they give us too much time, it'll feel as if they mean you to use it to come up with some kind of masterpiece or whatever.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-23 06:46:42](#)**
(no subject)

I hope so too. I think it helped to tell about Sarah, because the new people could see that we meant what we said, and we've done it before.



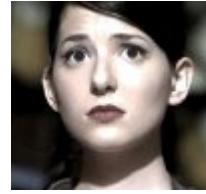
 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-01-23 06:58:57](#)**
(no subject)

Haven't heard anything about what's next, though. I'll let everyone know if I do.

2014-01-22 22:25:00

Order Only: Private message to Pansy


I'm sorry I made you cross after Potions class.



I'm sure next week will be better. ~~Everyone has off days~~ Anyway. I'm sorry.

 [alt_sally_anne](#)



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-01-23 06:29:19**
(no subject)

There's nothing to be sorry for. Honestly. It's just that I saw that Patil was pleased when I mis-timed things, and then Moon was trying to be helpful, which was just insulting, I mean, I'm pretty sure he got an E in Potions, and I'm already having to cover up what I've learned from Mr Snape and

Anyways.

This whole contest thing is ridiculous and I hate it.



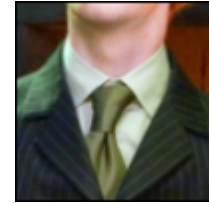
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-23 06:32:03**
(no subject)

Yeah.

[2014-01-22 22:34:00](#)

Keeping an eye on Hogwarts

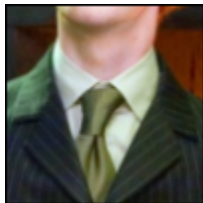
I have been watching with keen interest the process by which Our Lord is choosing to test the mettle and resolve of the small, select group at Hogwarts who have been singled out for the opportunity to demonstrate their fitness to stand within His Council. I hope that those of you who may have been disappointed not to receive an Ourboros pin of your own are still standing by your comrades and cheering them on. Only the best, of course, will be chosen, but you can still give your friends an advantage if you offer them your heartfelt encouragement and support.




 **[alt_percy](#)**

This is just a brief note to say to the candidates: *Courage, and do your best.* Many eyes are upon you, so do your utmost to strive to please Our Lord.

If you do that, you can continue to hold your head high, no matter what the outcome.




 **[alt_percy](#) at [2014-01-23 05:00:20](#)**

Private message to Harry Marvolo

Thank you for including the monitors' observations this time when sending your report on, so I didn't have to ask for it this time. I did find Professor Slughorn's observations, especially, to be rather more helpful than those of the monitors for the first challenge (although Madam Pince's comments in particular had an unintended hilarity, perhaps. One could almost draw the conclusion she doesn't *care* who might win as long as her beloved books are left in peace!)

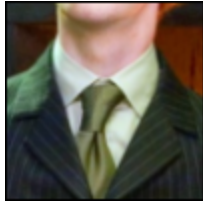



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-24 23:05:42](#)**

Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

Good to hear, Weasley.

I take my responsibilities seriously when it comes to selecting the best. What does Father have to say about the reports so far?



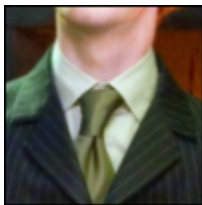
 [alt_percy at 2014-01-27 00:46:10](#)


Re: Private message to Harry Marvolo

He merely glanced over what I offered to Him, and did not ask me many questions. I, of course, do not have the experience that you might have at reading His mien. But if I could venture a guess, I think He would welcome as much information as you might venture to send Him. (He did say, once he had flipped through the pages, 'Is that all?')

You are His eyes and ears at Hogwarts, after all, and as He has requested this from you, surely He values your judgement.

Perhaps I will have a fuller impression after the next appointment.



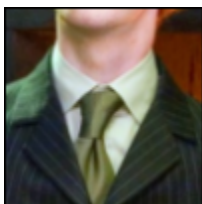
 [alt_percy at 2014-01-23 05:08:23](#)

Private message to Virgil Crispin

I think you might as well give up hope for Sam Montgomery now. She was your first pick, too, wasn't she? Madam Hooch was downright scathing.

Seamus Finnegan is holding his own, along with the middle of the pack, so he may yet do well.

And of course, Lizzie Stevens' pregnancy was a wild card no one could see, but I have a hunch it doesn't bode well for her chances. That is...I trust you *didn't* know about it?



 [alt_percy at 2014-01-23 05:14:23](#)

Private message to Julius Avery

I have my fingers crossed for my own brother, of course. He has done so well in the CCF in the past year, and of course he has a competitive scrappiness--doubtless a legacy of having so many older brothers.

Thank you for nominating him.

Perhaps Vincent Crabbe might have a more realistic chance in about ten years' time. He and his crony Goyle have always struck me as

being, well, rather slow to mature. Certainly their bloodline is impeccable, I'll give you that.

[2014-01-23 18:50:00](#)

Order Only

Our sponsors have been rather quiet this week - no word of a new challenge since the leg-locker curse.



 [alt_draco](#)

I imagine they're taking their time to think of something truly limit-testing this go, after those first two relatively easy tasks.

But then they could be a bunch of unimaginative sods, too.

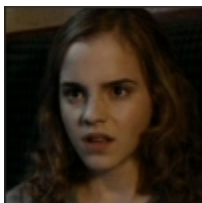
I'm bracing myself for both. Probably at the weekend, since I doubt they want to give us *too* much time off. I did get an owl from Ned, more or less telling me that I was on a good track, but that I shouldn't hold back or bide my time. The concept of subtlety is lost on him, it would seem, which isn't a surprise given that he used to be Crouch's secretary.

And - well, you might as well know the rest of it. He reminded me that because of my Father, my "position" wasn't as assured as it would have been, once upon a time.

I'm sure it will bring a smile to some of your faces to hear that bit.

At any rate, I think he's wrong. I don't believe it would do to look desperate, or as if I were dwelling on Father's situation. All of this is what I was meant for - that's what I aim to project. It is, after all, what comes naturally. I am the person the Lord Protector needs, the one that my Father couldn't be.

But this has got to look well ridiculous to those of you on the spectator end of this. You should all start a pool on who's going to make top third. Put it up on a big banner somewhere public to make everyone feel itchy. Put Teddy at the top and maybe he'll stop being such a sadistic arse - though who knows, that might make it worse.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-24 02:36:15](#)
(no subject)

It's not funny.


I mean, you know that regardless of what he's like as a father to you or an uncle to Harry or Pansy, Mr

Malfoy's still one of the chief architects of the Protectorate. So knowing that he's in an unstable position is good news in a way--but not if it means that the whole Council is destabilising. If the Mulcibers take over then in some ways it'd be as bad as if the Carrows had been in charge. So that part's not good.

And it's not good that you have to jump through all these ridiculous hoops to make Voldemort think you're keen to take the Mark. Especially compared to Nott.

But if you think all the Order members are sitting about, sniggering because you're upset, then you're wrong.

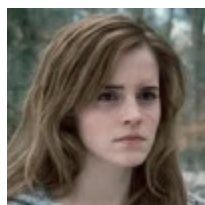


 **alt_draco** at **2014-01-24 02:45:49**
(no subject)

All of the Order? I thought I was included in this esteemed institution.

But let's not pretend that anyone held back their opinions about my Father before they knew that I could read it (and indeed, why should they have?). Or opinions about me, for that matter. I can only imagine what still goes on in private messages. I'm not upset, merely reminding everyone that I know well what they are thinking and that they ought not bother hiding it anymore.

So, everyone: don't hide it. You think my Father ought to be hanged like Strangeweale? Say so. I don't care. You have your reasons, just as I have my reasons for very much wanting him to not be hanged.



 **alt_hermione** at **2014-01-24 02:58:35**
(no subject)

I meant--oh, for goodness sakes, you know what I meant. I meant everyone at Doughty and Moddey and Sherwood.

Anyway, no, we've not held back our opinions. We didn't on the ISS lock, either. And for the most part, I think people have been fair--not always tactful, of course, but fair--given the information we've had. If you have different information, you might offer it.

As for your father, no, I don't want him hanged. At least, I don't think I do. But I *do* think he'll have to answer for all the things he's

done, and that means things even before any of us were born, right up to Ireland last year, and everything in between.

But no one's saying it's easy for you, either.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-24 03:03:29](#)
(no subject)

I don't have any information, just experience. He is my father, after all.

I know he'll have to answer for what he's done.

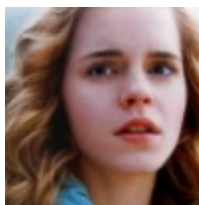
Anyway, despite how it may appear I don't particularly want to discuss the issue at length.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-24 03:09:48](#)
Private message to Hermione

I never told you or Harry, but Mrs Weasley sent me this private message, months ago, all about how sorry she was for rubbishing my father all over the Order Only journals, and how she really didn't like him, he made things so hard for her, etc., but that she wanted to be more fair to me and would stop trying to rubbish him so much. It was awkward and vaguely insulting and I never responded to it. But apparently it hasn't really left my mind.

I'll try to stop, alright? I'm really not upset, not so much.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-24 03:43:07](#)
Re: Private message to Hermione

Oh.

Well, I'm sure whatever she said, she *meant* well.

But that's the thing about Weasleys, have you noticed? Bill sometimes says things and you can just tell that he thinks he's perfectly reasonable but it just comes out so awkward and wrong and not at all how he intended.

And Mr Weasley, well, you never really knew him but he was

better than Bill or Mrs Weasley but he'd still occasionally say something about Muggles that was really odd. But he wasn't ever cruel about it, either.

Anyway. I'm sure everyone's well aware that you and Pansy and Hydra are in well awkward positions. And Harry, too, I mean, Mr Malfoy raised *him* as much as he did you.

Do you have any ideas about what to do when they make you do something terrible? Because you know they will do.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-24 04:03:17](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Yes, of course they will make me do something terrible, probably several somethings. Whether it's part of this initiation or later on.

I've been talking to Mr Snape about that. What he said was revealing. And.. very to the point, very blunt. Which I appreciate.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-24 04:13:03](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Well, yes, of course they will. And I know you'll do whatever it takes.


I mean, I know some of the others are hoping they can maybe avoid the worst.

But that's never going to work, not if you're determined to be chosen.

And look. Sooner or later, someone's going to make you do something to me. Because I'm the only mudblood in the school, so it's obviously going to happen. So.

I know Harry won't like it one bit but he has to learn not to protect me when it comes to this kind of thing. For his own good. So, when it happens, it's all right.



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-24 04:21:41](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

What

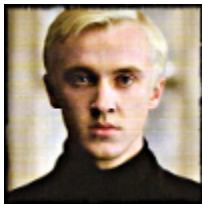
~~No, I didn't~~


He told me that I would be expected to maim, torture, and kill, all without mercy or hesitation. And that when the opportunity for mercy presented itself, I'd have to weigh mercy against possible exposure before making my decision. And that I'd only have seconds to do so.

I'll have to do all of that while guarding my true thoughts. I'll have to do it while remembering that I can't let the masquerade become the real me.

I'm the one best positioned to do this, though. He's said so himself. But it won't be easy.

So you're right, I will have to do something to you, one day. And I won't hesitate to do what needs to be done.



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-24 04:56:24](#)

Private message to Snape

Sir -

You might have noticed that I sent a private message to Hermione, above. We were discussing what I would need to do to end up on the council, and I told her a bit about what you and I discussed. Specifically, what you said about their expectations, and how I must show no hesitation and no mercy.

Hermione also told me that sooner or later, someone will likely make me do something to her, as the only mudblood in the school. Even if she is "Harry's," in the mind of others, she's still only a mudblood.

She said that when that day comes, it's all right. To do to her what I must. And I told her that I wouldn't hesitate.

I suspect my conviction is not as strong as it ought to be, though. Maybe this is something we can work on, next time we meet.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-01-24 05:16:03](#)**

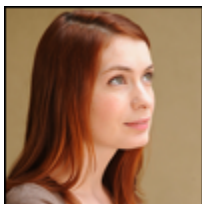
Re: Private message to Snape

You do not have the luxury of doubt. Nor do the simpering do-gooders who comprise the Order fully understand that you do not have much luxury of choice, beyond the choice to walk away completely and go into hiding — although that is your choice, and one I will argue for, should it be a choice you make in future.

That having been said, there are methods by which you might possibly postpone your ascension to the Dark Lord's fuller acquaintance, should you require more time to set your conviction more fully. I cannot say for certain what methods might be used — and, after all, my own attempts at such manipulation failed miserably, with predictable consequence — but you ought not dwell too closely on the sense of time running out. For others in this competition, this might be their only opportunity to win the Dark Lord's favour. You have slightly more options open to you.

Miss Granger is correct that she is a potential target, and knowing that she 'belongs' to Mr Potter, and of the friendship you and Mr Potter cherish, is likely to make her more a candidate for ordering you to abuse. I am not surprised that she is able to see such a future; she possesses a finely-refined clarity of insight. It is wise to prepare yourself in advance for such an eventuality.

We will speak further of this tomorrow.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-01-24 17:50:42](#)**

Private Message to Draco Malfoy

First of all, I trust your instincts here regarding your strategy for getting noticed in a positive way by the council. From what I've read so far, it's obvious that you and Harry both have things in hand (as much as you can under these circumstances) and that you have a unique understanding of the dynamics of the situation. You proceed here how you see fit, and know that I support your decisions.

Secondly -- I know that you are in an incredibly difficult position, Draco. And there's no easy way to navigate it.

I see joining the Order as a twofold process. You have pledged to

help us in our mission to overthrow the Protectorate. But we have a responsibility to you, in turn. I respect that pledge, and I respect the person who made it. I will not ask you to needlessly sacrifice yourself, or take great risk without adequate reason, I will try my best to make sure you have a say in how we move forward, and I will not ask you to stop caring for your parents.


I'll admit, Lucius Malfoy's current struggles are inconvenient to the Order, as he's a consistently predictable presence on the council, provides support to Minerva, and often serves as a moderating voice from my admittedly limited perspective. Your ability to use his connections to your and our advantage, and gain information and insight through your relationship with him are also inherently valuable. But beyond that assessment, I understand that he is your father.

I often think about the future, and what it will look like. The hard truth is that if we were to seek justice for all the wrongs that have been done here, our people would be wiped from the face of the earth. We are all guilty in varying degrees of perpetuating great injustice, and are collectively the cause of great suffering. Every camp administrator and file-clerk and overseer, every witch or wizard who's taken advantage of power, every family who owns a servant, everyone who sits back and bemoans the current state of things but does nothing, the list goes on and on. And blood is on all our hands.

Needless to say, one of the things I believe we will have to do in order to be able to survive and move forward is to face this future with forgiveness and atonement in our hearts rather than a thirst for vengeance and punishment, because that thirst will never be fully quenched. I cannot promise that we will have enough of a say in this future to make a difference, and Merlin knows that a time of war has its own rules (or lack thereof), but know that I have had my fill of hanging.

I do not expect you to feel obligated to reply, but I am listening, Draco. I trust Severus implicitly and fully, and I am pleased that you are working with him.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-24 19:38:10](#)

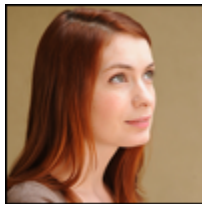
Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

That's what I was thinking about, point of fact. That as easy as it is to blame the council wizards or MLE for what the Protectorate is, it's really the ordinary witch and wizard who allowed it to happen, who stood by and accepted the changes without question. Was it because they were afraid? Or was it because a part of them was rather enchanted with the idea of a nation where wizards and witches were superior, where they would no longer have to hide from muggles? I think more people feel the latter than any of the Order realise, even if those same people don't actively enjoy torturing mudbloods and such.

So in that regard, it won't ever be like it was before.

But I've decided to stop thinking about those big picture, long-term questions. The future doesn't really matter, especially when you might not live to see it.

Anyway, you need not express sympathy for the difficult position I'm in. I don't mind it - it's what I want. It's what I know I can do.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-01-24 22:41:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy

The inaction of ordinary people has led to a great many evils in this world.

I wonder sometimes if we can depend on that complacency -- that those who won't join us will sit back and let us do our work without getting in the way. You're right to think that if people feel as if their freedoms are threatened, they'd respond with defensiveness (and in addition, no-one particularly enjoys coming to terms with their guilt). I think one key might be to show that any perceptions of freedom and safety are illusions at best, and that this false paradise comes at too high a price.

This future does have a great many unknowns. If you do survive to see it, though, you'll have a chance to help write it, Merlin willing.

And I know sympathy isn't terribly useful to you at the moment, but I do want you to know that I will try my best to honour the

sacrifices you're willing to make, and make them worth the price you'll pay.

We look out for our own, Draco. That includes you. And although there might be difficult decisions to make along the way when it comes to your parents, I will try my hardest to make certain that you are a part of that decision-making process, and that we attempt to accomplish what must be done in a way that respects your wishes.

2014-01-23 20:13:00

Private Message to Sabina Bole

Oh, for Lakshmi's sake, Bole! You'd think you were the first person ever to break up with a boy. Dionysus Inderwick is hardly the end of the beginning. You'll soon find someone more worthy of your time.



 [alt_padma](#)

Meanwhile, could you *please* undo whatever that weather charm was? There are five other girls in your dormitory who don't deserve an indoor rainstorm.

And while you're at it, you can do Darshana's parchment over for her again, she said the ink's all run off in a puddle.

Think about the consequences next time, *before* you go taking out your troubles on the Tower environment.

2014-01-24 11:06:00

SNOW!

Anyone have good suggestions for getting across to the Greenhouses this afternoon? Zach says snow shoes but why waste an opportunity, say I? We ought to spend the free hour building a massive slide, eh?




 [alt_ernie](#)

Or we could maybe tunnel our way there. Or make a giant bridge. Coming, Megs? Els? F-F? Sue?

Oh! And 6th-years, don't forget to sign up for Apparation lessons; did you see the signs in the common rooms this morning? I reckon if you've learned in CCF you might not need the lessons, I dunno, though. It seems like *somehow* you'd have to take your exam to prove you can do it safely.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-01-24 17:26:37**

(no subject)

Ernie,

We'll come out for a while.

Cheers,

-Justin




 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-01-24 21:21:30**

(no subject)

The slide is brilliant! I don't have Herbology today, but I just had to give it a try. And there's a whole collection of snow creatures by the west side of the castle, and someone's charmed the snow-dragon to have smoke coming out of his nostrils. I think it was Professor Brutka, but I can't be sure.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-24 22:55:30](#)
(no subject)

It was indeed! January is such a long, dreary month--it's nice to have some fun.

Ernie, thanks for getting us in the spirit!




 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-24 17:35:02](#)
(no subject)

Snow is great fun, don't you think? Except Fang is of the opinion that I put it there on purpose to annoy him. I took him out to enjoy it earlier and you have never seen such a reproachful look as the one he gave

me.

It's just as well that all the foolishness with the Leg-Locker has stopped, because trying to hop across to the Greenhouses in snow like this would be a bit much. Although it would provide amusement for our fellows as someone said the other day. But snow is enough of an amusement for me, thank you!




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-24 21:37:40](#)
(no subject)

So you think that competing for the honour of joining Our Lord's council is foolishness, do you Jones?

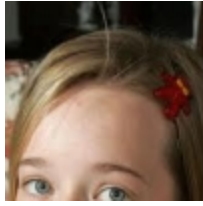
I'll be sure to keep that in mind. I'm sure others will, too.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-01-24 23:02:35](#)
(no subject)

If the student body wasn't meant to be amused, surely some less entertaining challenges would have been selected?


I myself quite enjoyed duelling Finnegan the other day!



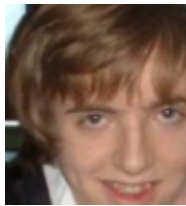
 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-01-24 23:26:14](#)
(no subject)


I never said anything about the honour of competition or Our Lord. Because I wouldn't say such a thing. But didn't you think those of us who were hopping around and falling over looked well foolish? ~~Except for the ones who got hurt which was just~~



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-25 00:31:18](#)
(no subject)

There are a lot of things in this world that look foolish. Think about that, Jones.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2014-01-25 01:57:14](#)
(no subject)

She didn't mean it like that, Malfoy.

[2014-01-25 13:41:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Pansy and Justin



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

So if you 'learned' to Apparate in CCF do you still have to sign up for the whole class? Or can you just skip straight to the test?

It doesn't really matter in my case; I can go not learn Apparation from the official certified instructor. (And Neville can go pretend to learn, since he didn't have CCF.)

Do you know if there's anyone out there who just NEVER EVER LEARNS how to do it EVER?



 **[alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-25 22:44:40](#)**

(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I talked to Professor Dolohov, what (yes, I know; it's part of my ongoing attempt to make him think he's winning me over, if you follow me). In any case, he said that even though we may have accomplished Apparation over the summer, under the auspices of the CCF, we shall still have to take the lessons here. Apparently the licencing board will want to verify that we've mastered the proper techniques.

And yes, there are people who never manage it. Summers was saying he's got an aunt who only ever takes the Knight Bus. Said she's taken the Apparation test about five times and eventually gave it up for a bad job. But that's never going to happen to you, I'm sure. I'm bally well certain you'll manage it in due time, what. You're far too clever not to get it sooner or later.

-Justin

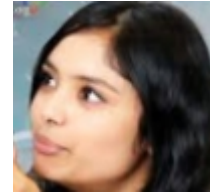


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-25 23:13:26](#)
(no subject)

Justin's right, you're sure to get it. Just imagine, you've had a head start, it'll be ever so much quicker than if you had to begin from scratch right now. And the way I see it, these are people whose job is to teach it, and who have taught it for years and years, and most everyone gets through so they have to know what they're doing. And they might have a different set of training that will make things easier for you.

[2014-01-25 17:21:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan



 **[alt_padma](#)**

I've been thinking about this morning's owl.

You realise some people might try to find out things about you? Make sure you watch out for that.


Also, you'll have to find someone who's either technically less than halfblood (which might be really difficult, unless you target Harry's mudblood and that's a recipe for disaster, he's far too protective of her), or you could try to get secrets out of someone who's a halfblood but of lesser social standing, you know? Someone like, oh, Fitzgibbon or Jill Capper. Someone with no status.

That'd be the best strategy.

At least they've given us a decent amount of time. I've got loads of homework to do and working this in is going to be absolutely painful. Oh, and have you signed up for Apparation? That'll start next week, too. I'm thinking of asking Madam Pomfrey for a wakefulness potion only I'm sure she'd just sniff in that way she has and tell me she's sure I'll figure out a way to get through everything.

Maybe I'll just brew some for myself. If only I had the time!




 **[alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-26 05:56:12](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, I think a low-status half-blood ought to work. It needs to be someone else in fostering, though, and it's probably better if they're not fostered with relatives. Perks would do. Or Jones. Not that either is likely to confide any secrets to me VOLUNTARILY, let alone their 'most shameful' secret.

Any fostered half-blood girls in other years who don't have a boyfriend? I could pretend I was interested in them.



 **[alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-26 06:05:43](#)**
(no subject)


Well, Jill Capper, like I said.

Or Christina Shelton, maybe. Her father's in the Ministry but I don't think she lives with him. Oh, or there's O'Leary, she's a firstie. You could probably cosy up to her on account of the Irish thing and then find out something horrid.

~~Only not as horrid as Sophie Fleet because Suitably horrid, I mean.~~

Does it have to be a girl? I mean, what about boys?




 **[alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-26 16:24:24](#)**
(no subject)

I don't think it looks as good when we go after much younger students, firsties and what not. It doesn't have to be a girl, it's just it seems like the half-bloods in our year who are clearly lower status than I am are mostly girls, especially given Wayne Hopkins left after OWLs.

If I did try to pretend a romance it would have to be a girl, there just aren't that many boys who like other boys.




 **[alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-26 18:10:08](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, speaking of that sort of thing: Lines tried (rather artlessly) to get me to tell him something deep and dark and embarrassing about you. I've got him to go looking elsewhere, I think, but it just proves what I said, that people are going to think you're fair game for this one.

I'm working on my choice. Of course, I asked Su Li if she had any ideas and she thought right away that I was going to ask her to let me tell people about her parents but I told her I wouldn't do that to her, not after everything. Brocklehurst, maybe.

Oh, what about Midgeon? She's just thick enough to believe you'd finally turn her way.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-26 18:24:17](#)
(no subject)

It's sort of an open question whether Midgeon counts as 'lesser' -- she lives with relatives. Then again, so did I, until...well.

Of course, with Midgeon there's the question of whether she'll glom on like a barnacle. Remember when Summers broke it off by screaming at her in the Great Hall?




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-01-26 18:47:53](#)
(no subject)

It's a risk. But with Midgeon it's a question of class--you have it and she hasn't.


Besides, would you care if you had to humiliate her in order to get rid of her?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-26 19:40:51](#)
(no subject)

Point.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-01-26 06:02:27](#)
(no subject)

As for wakefulness potion, maybe you could have someone else brew it for you? Someone who's not a candidate, who has a bit more time. Shame Su Li didn't make it into NEWT Potions. You could try

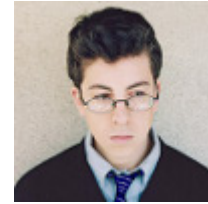
Mandy Brocklehurst or Belinda Dunstan, maybe.

I've signed up for Apparation, yeah. It's absurd we still have to take the class when we learned in CCF! But at least we'll only have to come once (or twice, if they don't like our technique the first time).

2014-01-25 17:25:00

Private Message to Padma

I have been cogitating on social dynamics and have come to a conclusion. It's quite possible that I have not been giving Seamus a fair shake for entirely petty reasons. I realise that it's entirely foolish to allow the baser emotions to impede one's judgement, particularly that of jealousy, and particularly in something as long-standing as the friendship between the two of us goes. In short, I believe I have been in error, and most humbly confess this to you, and will amend matters by giving Seamus a fresh start.




 **alt_linus**

After all, why shouldn't you have as many close friends as you like? It's certainly no less than your due as the shining social and academic light that you are! Your charms are abundant enough to shower upon multitudes.

And if by some chance there is something more than friendship going on, then of course I will do my best to be supportive of that as well -- though if you do something rash like departing for Ireland to live in some rustic manorial hall I shall be disconsolate for lack of intellectual discourse unless we send journal messages to each other with considerable frequency. (Fear not, I joke! Well, mostly. However, I assure you, I am quite serious about the supportive bit.)

Also, do you think I've hurt Finnegan's feelings by any of my regrettable hints of minor resentment? I should most like to remedy things if I have done. If you have any suggestions for putting things right, should they need to be put right, I would be most grateful.




 **alt_padma** at **2014-01-25 23:40:19**
(no subject)

Well, I'm glad to see you've decided on the course of magnanimity, Lines.

As for me and Seamus, we're just good mates.



 **alt_linus** at **2014-01-26 00:01:14**
(no subject)

I'm very pleased to hear it. Everyone needs good mates. The more the merrier, eh?

2014-01-25 19:04:00

ORDER ONLY

Pulled off a small-time heist of various armaments from some of the local museums. Shotguns, flintlock rifles, pistols, and some iron we can repurpose. Fu was bellyaching about some of the pieces we'll have to break down, says it's a damn shame, but he said they'd have a second life this way, which made him feel better. Still winced when we broke into the display cases, though.



 [alt_frank](#)

Turns out, there's a railway museum here, and if we weren't on a bloody island, it'd be pretty useful to take some of those old cars and engines and see if we could put them to use. Maybe there's a rail museum inland? In some of these smaller abandoned villages, the shops and area attraction things are just boarded up, or left undisturbed.

Sirius, man, next time you make your way up here, I've got something to show you that I think you'll like.

Once we clean out the Isle of Man, we'll start our museum tour of the Protectorate. Here's hoping we find some good stuff.



 [alt_frank](#) at **2014-01-26 01:13:58**

Private Message to Terry Boot and Colin Creevey

(Hello hello, Professor, how's Hogsmeade treating you? Sarah's getting ready to move in to your bunk in Sherwood so she can work more closely with Mrs Perks on her runes research. I hope Dursey makes a bit more of an effort to pick his shorts off the floor, but I doubt it.

You're coming back next Sunday, right? I say, I'm well used to sparring with the usual crew, but adding in the others was just brilliant fun. Seeing all those manoeuvres the twins and Jeremy and Cedric were pulling on their brooms made me wish I'd spent some time properly learning how to fly. And Tonks and Mr Longbottom really do make for a good team.

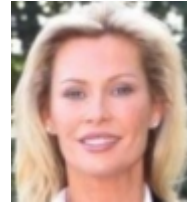
Any road, hope the new place is to your liking. Diggory seems like a nice enough fellow.)

2014-01-26 20:20:00

Private Message to Hydra and Draco

How are you both holding up?

I've been so tempted to send you both hampers like I used to do when you were younger but I suspect I shall be told you're too mature for that sort of thing, and particularly with the additional scrutiny on you both at present.



 **alt_narcissa**


But if there's anything you should need or want, I hardly think an aunt or a mother could be accused of interfering with due process.

Everything here has been perfectly uninteresting of late; it seems everyone else is hibernating through worst of winter this year and simply waiting for either Valentine's or the first breath of spring. Oh, and of course last night was the Ministry 'holiday party,' which one could not quite decline to attend but which was just as dreary as one could possibly imagine. I shouldn't be surprised if there had been no one left in the banquet hall by half-ten! As it was, we left after only 45 minutes and believe me, if we could have departed earlier, we would have done.

Oh, and Hydra, Rigel wanted me to tell you that he hopes you will 'beat everyone' (though presumably not everyone including you, Draco, dear) and that he's very proud of his big sister.

All my love to you both.



 **alt_hydra** at **2014-01-27 16:01:45**

(no subject)


I always love your hampers, but I think you're right, that people will be watching, wondering, and judging. But they will do that with everything so I'm not sure it matters much.

I'm sorry that your party wasn't much fun.

Thank you for sending along Rigel's message. I'll be sure to write to him very soon. And thank you for checking in on Draco and me.

From,
Hydra




 **alt_narcissa** at [2014-01-27 17:49:35](#)
(no subject)

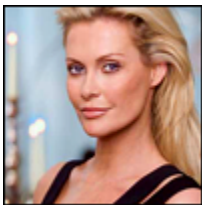
Well, perhaps a small box for Valentine's, then. One wouldn't want to give the impression of abandonment.


Rigel will simply adore receiving post that is just for him! He's quite proud of his reading, though of course he still needs help sounding out most of his books - the ones he has not already memorised, that is.



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-27 16:03:07](#)
(no subject)


Everything's well in hand, Mother. Thank you for the offer, but hampers are unnecessary, and may perhaps even pose distraction. The latest challenge requires especially forward thinking.



 **alt_narcissa** at [2014-01-27 17:47:03](#)
(no subject)

Oh, and why is that - or ought one not to ask, lest it 'distract' you? You've always been a strategic thinker, though, so whatever it is, I'm sure you'll manage it.



 **alt_draco** at [2014-01-28 02:56:04](#)
(no subject)

Find someone of lesser blood status and draw their most shameful secret out of them...


No specifics. I assume that they want to see a range of shameful secrets and targets, as well as a range of methods for "drawing" those secrets out.



 **[alt_narcissa](#)** at **[2014-01-28 03:10:09](#)**
(no subject)

How very droll. Are they training you to be members of Our Lord's Council or gossip columnists?



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-01-28 03:24:51](#)**
(no subject)

The language used is admittedly juvenile. I reckon CCF presents itself as more serious.

Then again, the use of language could be intentional, I suppose.

2014-01-26 20:29:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Find out whose idea it was to hold the Ministry holiday party in the middle of fucking JANUARY.



And then cast the Entrail-Expelling Curse on them.

 [alt_corax](#)



 [alt_corax](#) at **2014-01-27 02:31:31**
(no subject)

Just kidding about the curse.

2014-01-27 14:09:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne



Ugh.

It'd be cleverest to go after someone who doesn't like me, like Midgen.

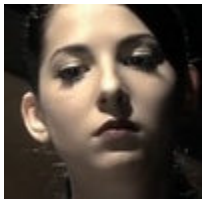
 [alt_pansy](#)

And Sue's volunteered, or at least she's said she'd do something if it meant I had to have a falling-out with someone, but I don't want that.

I could corner Milli and just tell her that she'd be a target for Greg and Vince, and that I could promise to only tell the judges but they'd just blab it everywhere

Only I'm not sure that I *could* make that promise because they might ask us to tell it in front of the entire school or something.

Double ugh.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-28 01:56:24**
(no subject)

Maybe those of us who aren't candidates should get together and think up some secrets that are embarrassing enough to be plausible but that we don't actually care about all THAT much. Luna, Susan and I are all officially half-bloods -- I mean, in Susan's case it's a technicality and in Luna's case it's a lie, but the sponsors won't care.

Neville and Evelyn are pure but they're certainly of lower status than you are.

I don't even really know what my most 'shameful' secret is. I have plenty of dangerous secrets but I'm not ASHAMED of any of them, you know? Maybe it's that business with the Healer when I was little. Or the fact that my father is a degenerate drunk and I'm terrified of him when he's been drinking. I'd rather you not tell everyone that, though, Ron was already worried enough over hols.

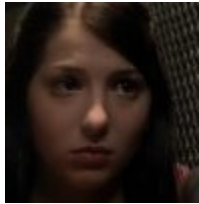


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-28 02:41:35](#)
(no subject)

I wouldn't. Ever.

I don't think they'd waste veriatiserum or a Legilimens to find out if it was *actually* the most shameful thing for everybody.

But yes. That might be a good idea. And it'd be useful for Ron and Hydra and Draco to talk about how we might make it look strategic of them to find it out, and who it'd be best for them to get the secret from.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-28 02:43:52](#)
(no subject)

I think Draco's going to want to get a real secret from someone who actually doesn't want to give it up.

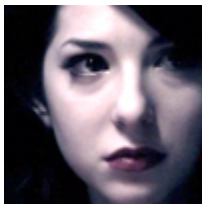
And Hydra, well. She could supply everyone with all the secrets they could ever ask for.

But you and Ron aren't trying to win this. So.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-01-28 02:55:53](#)
(no subject)

Point.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-28 01:58:20](#)
(no subject)

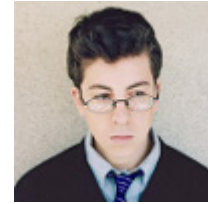
I mean, I don't care that much if the sponsors know about my father. Or the judges.

But you're right, they might make you spread it further, it's hard to know.

[2014-01-27 21:04:00](#)

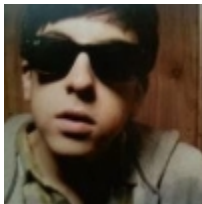
More Books!


Madam Pince informs me that another order has arrived, including several tomes personally selected by members of Ravenclaw Corner. You are all invited to the library at your earliest convenience to peruse the latest acquisitions, especially if your interests run to history and biographies of the greats, and studies comparing style and trends in British versus Continental magic, with particular attention to German and French fashions as they may have been shaped by British innovation.



 [alt_linus](#)

We all owe our deepest thanks to the members of wizarding society whose generous gifts make such things possible, and to the Board of Governors, who make smooth the way for such suitable expressions of commitment to the education of the up-and-coming young witches and wizards of the Protectorate. Huzzah! (I know from personal observation that the Governors take their duties very seriously indeed.)



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2014-01-28 03:23:32](#)**
Private Message to Professor Sinistra

As it turns out, I shan't need to ask for the loan of one of the blank projection stones and instructions in its use after all. Just as well, really, because while I believe I grasp the theory, the actual implementation seems a bit beyond my current abilities -- or to be honest, quite beyond them. Those stones really are quite impressive, you know. Fortunately, I shan't need to try, as Professor Dolohov pointed me at quite a simple solution to my problem which I had completely overlooked. In any case, thank you very much for being willing to consider it enough to discuss it at all, even though it has come to naught.

(The project I am working on is going quite swimmingly, though I won't bore you with the details, as it's definitely of no interest except to those directly involved.)



 **alt_linus** at [2014-01-28 03:32:56](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Also, if you have an order for marzipan coming within the next few days, might I add a small bit to it? I have a debt of honour to pay -- and your sage advice on which varieties might particularly please Professor Dolohov would be much appreciated.

(I should probably get a piece or two for Miss Brown as well, come to think of it!)



 **alt_sinistra** at [2014-01-28 04:38:59](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I will, in fact, be making my usual Tuesday stop by my provider of marzipan (and other excellent pastry) tomorrow. It being Tuesday.

They can't do the more elaborate marzipan forms I get to tease a certain professor with so little warning, but I could easily get one of the day's fancy pastries if you think that would suit you better. Or pastry and more quotidian marzipan.

Now, there is the question of what you'll do for me in return being your courier, isn't there? I've just the thing. If you can make an hour or two's progress on that weather analysis work you've been working on for me since the fall between now and Sunday, I would find that exceedingly helpful. (Even if we can get it to a point where I can do the rest of the work more easily, it would be a great help to the project it's for.)

As to when I'll be back - if you're still up at half-eleven tomorrow, you can pick it up then, otherwise any of my open hours on Wednesday.



 **alt_linus** at [2014-01-28 04:53:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I should be quite grateful if you would simply select that most likely item that Professor Dolohov would enjoy, as your judgement is considerably more informed on this matter than

mine. For Miss Brown, could you please find something that a young witch of quality might like? Her tastes tend to run toward the ornamented; I have found that choosing the item with the most curlicues is unlikely to go wrong.

As to the weather analysis project, I shall apply myself most diligently to it, and should be able to make significant progress, as this week's Arithmancy work is something I'm already tolerably familiar with, and you know I'm making passable progress in Astronomy. Therefore I ought to be able to steal a bit of time from that reserved for revising both of those subjects.

I sometimes question the wisdom of going for so many NEWTs, but oh, won't it be glorious if I can do it?



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-01-28 05:02:52](#)

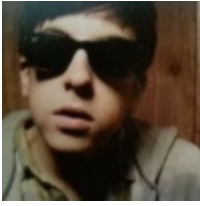
Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Excellent. I will see what strikes my fancy as suitable to both parties, then. (They've been testing some designs for Valentine's that might do nicely for the curlicues, I'm rather thinking.)

The forward progress will be excellent, and you're quite right I've no complaints at all about your progress in Astronomy. One could wish that some of your peers had your devotion, but we'll be focusing on your research projects this week at any rate, and you're well ahead.

As to the projection stones, I nearly forgot - it's no wonder you've not the knack. Most people who've tried don't. When I was explaining them to Professor Dolohov, he was quite clear it's several different types of magic rolled together, and not everyone has the knack for the part where you convince the stone what it should show.

As to your NEWTs, ah, well, if you still feel the same way a year from this May, it will all be good enough, I'm sure.



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-01-28 03:30:32](#)

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

The omnioculars should arrive by owl later in the week, and thank you again for pointing out that the simplest tools are often the best choice. (Though I must say, I rather wish you did have a Pensieve lying about somewhere, as I've read about them in the histories since I was very young. Fascinating!)

I also take your point on the varieties of information that may be considered for analysis and used for predictive purposes.

Also, Padma's response was indeed one of studied nonchalance! I shall be prepared to pay my debt of honour posthaste -- that is, owl post haste, as I need to coordinate with Professor Sinistra.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-01-28 05:41:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

I trust this has taught you a lesson about wagering on human nature with those who have forty years' more experience in its observation!

Like many things in story and history, Penieves are often more trouble than they are worth. The simplest solutions are often the best; at very least they are least likely to ~~cock up the plan~~ fall apart right at the moment you most need them. Nothing in the field ever goes as you will expect, and any plan that relies heavily on others, or on things happening precisely the way you intend for them to happen, will inevitably fail at precisely the moment that will cause you the greatest misery.

If there is anything I hope Auror Desai and I taught your lot this summer during morning lectures, it is that complex plans fail in complex -- and often deadly -- fashions, and that there is a reason writers of stories are writers and not fieldwork agents!

Simplicity, Mr Moon. Precisely as complicated as minimally necessary, and no more.

2014-01-28 14:39:00

Order Only: Teddy Nott



 **alt_hermione**

This afternoon, while Harry and Draco and the others were in Transfigurations, Teddy Nott went and found me reading. (Don't worry, everyone: I always transfigure the covers of my books so that they look like remedial readers or comics or something like that.) Anyway, he was obviously waiting for a chance to find me alone, when Harry was in a lesson, because he thought he could intimidate me into telling him some embarrassing secret.


I told him Harry has been clear in the past about people interfering with his mudblood without permission. He said something like 'How dare you speak back to a pureblood' and I tried to act contrite, looking down and just saying softly that I was only repeating what my master has said. He wasn't happy but he didn't hex me or anything, he just stood there and demanded that I answer his questions.

I said of course, I'd be happy to help however I could, provided it was something Harry would approve of me doing. He asked me a load of questions for a 'research project' he said he was working on but it was clear what he was looking for.

So. If Teddy seems to think I've got a hopeless crush on Professor Lestrangle, and that I'm ever so jealous of Professor Sinistra, that's why.

What an idiot.



 **alt_harry at 2014-01-28 23:52:52**


Private Message to Hermione

He didn't hex you? You aren't just saying that?

He has to know it'll get back to me.

I wonder if there's any way to let them know you were pretending. Without it getting back to him.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-28 23:56:15](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione

And now I've got to show him why he shouldn't have done that.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-29 00:12:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione

No, don't. I mean, if he's supposed to be gathering up my deep, dark secret I hardly think I'd have run and told you.

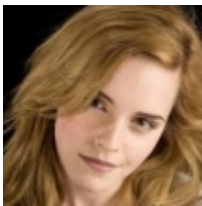
But when he does report his answer, that's when you can act. And I think you should have someone *else* show him why he shouldn't have done that. Teddy thinks authority is ordering people about, so maybe we should make it seem like you ordered someone else to have him on the carpet. Maybe his sponsor.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-29 00:18:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione

Okay. Yeah.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-29 00:09:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione

No, he obviously thought I had to tell him the truth just because he's a pureblood and I'm muggleborn.

Harry, I don't care what Professor Sinistra or Professor Lestrangle think; that's why I told him that. Even if he has to tell the whole school it's not going to bother me. I'm sure *loads* of people have a crush on Professor Lestrangle, especially from back when he was playing professionally. It's fine.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-01-29 00:19:53](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione

I meant more to make him look bad. Like if the committee who was scoring him knew you were lying to him because I told you to lie if anyone asked you about a secret, or something.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-29 02:37:59](#)

(no subject)

He did *what*?

Honestly, we ought to have seen it coming. You're incredibly fortunate that he assumed you so meek and compliant. Ironic, really. Though in some ways I suppose it's useful to know that he has no suspicions of you at all.

Odd that he would choose what he no doubt sees as a sitting duck - someone who has no defenses whatsoever, except perhaps the prestige of her owner. Is that really the best way to impress?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-29 02:39:24](#)

Private message to Hermione

(And yes, I know that you're always careful, but Teddy is an extraordinarily "creative" thinker. He gets sadistic enjoyment out of pushing limits. You'd do well not to dismiss him as an idiot.)

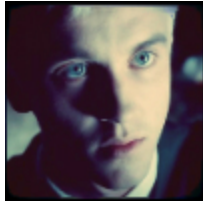



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-29 02:57:23](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Oh, I know he can be dangerous. But he really did act like someone who's never--you know what it's like? He's obviously someone who has house-elves and not muggleborn servants. That's what it was like. Like if he gave me an order I would have literally *no choice* but to follow that order. So if anyone's underestimating anyone, it's him underestimating me.

But it's all right, we knew this was going to start happening.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-29 03:27:27](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Yes. You can't be suspicious of a scenario you can't even conceptualise, can you.

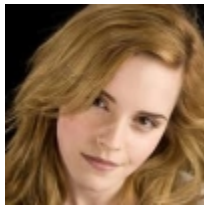
We knew, but I anticipated trouble from elsewhere. Finnigan or Thomas, maybe, since they're both halfbloods. I hoped thought Teddy might see himself as above such things.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-29 21:31:36](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

So, you don't really fancy Raz, do you? Because if you do, I can probably find out what perfume he fancies on women.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-30 03:37:57](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Yes, all these years I've been harbouring a secret crush on your uncle. Because you know deep down I'm all about sporting boys.

Honestly. How thick can you get?



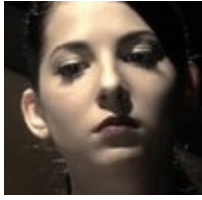
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-01-30 03:53:33](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Most girls do fancy the sporting blokes. Even the bookish girls - just look at Siz.

The difference is, the bookish ones would never, ever admit to fancying a mere "sporting" bloke.

Also, you're lucky Harry can't read this. He's the very definition of sporting.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-29 05:29:28](#)

Private message to Hermione

I'm trying to think about ways to get Teddy to leave you alone, because he could be genuinely dangerous if he starts paying attention to you.

I can't think of anything that would actually work and you wouldn't have already thought of.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-29 05:34:41](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione

Thanks. I'm pretty sure I can handle him, if I have to. As long as he thinks I'm an overgrown house-elf I don't think there will be any more trouble. He only picked me this time because the instruction says 'lesser blood status' so he figured he'd go as low as possible.

I told Harry I think he should wait, until Teddy reports that he chose me, and then Harry should make Sarah Yaxley tell him what a stupid idea it is to upset the Lord Protector's son by meddling with his property.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-29 17:46:21](#)

(no subject)

Hermione,

I say, it's both shocking and amusing to consider, not only that he'd even conceive of exploiting you but that he'd be so bally well cumbersome in his attempt.

Nott's always struck me as one of the more subtle types of Slytherins. Not like Crabbe and Goyle, who sad to say thought they'd have a go at me last night. We put them straight, what, and as a topper on the whole affair, I do believe Hydra now has all the embarrassing secrets she needs. Though I'm not precisely sure one could argue their blood is less magically pure than hers, no one would question that Hydra's of a much higher class than both of them put together, what. *And* of a higher social status, as well.

(Zabini, Patil and Finnigan, at least, have not yet decided to turn in

my direction for any of the challenges. Though Patil does seem to think the additional burden of competing gives her the right to ask me to do the majority of research and drafting of our joint projects, what. I don't particularly mind, as it means I'm able to approach the material as if it's an individual project and if the others don't like it they've little ground to stand on!)

Still, I'm sorry to hear you're experiencing such indignities. I rather thought Harry's admonishments had put a stop to all that.

-Justin




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-01-30 03:42:32](#)**
(no subject)

Thanks. I'm not at all surprised, of course. About Teddy, I mean, it was obvious that sooner or later someone would set their sights on me, whether or not Harry has always told them to keep their hands off.

But it *is* surprising that Crabbe and Goyle decided you were fair game. I hope they weren't too much trouble for you.



 **[alt_terry](#)** at **[2014-01-30 01:20:30](#)**
Private message to Hermione Granger

I do hope you're right, that he's an idiot. And that's the end of it.

I also know you're doing everything you can to guard yourself. I still find myself wanting to say 'Be careful.' (As if you hadn't figured out that you need to be, which is downright insulting. So I won't.)

There's a part of me that almost wishes you did a little more of the protective camouflage that boot used to do. Would that keep you safer with Teddy Nott? Maybe not, come to think of it. (I think if I were still around Hogwarts as boot, he'd welcome the chance to terrorise me.)

Teddy Nott was someone who always raised my hackles. Even before I found out my Animagus form.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-01-30 03:35:28](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione Granger

It's okay to say 'Be careful' when it means you're worried about someone. And I appreciate it, Terry. I won't do anything foolish. I did put on a more deferential attitude when he got shirty, of course, but it wouldn't do much good to be like that all the time since it's not the way I am most of the time, if that makes sense. Mostly I try to behave as unobtrusively as possible, which generally just means staying out of the way but not bowing and scraping the way Dennis used to do.

Teddy's just so odd. I never know just what he's thinking--not the way Hydra can, of course!--but I mean, usually I can tell what's motivating someone, you know, and Teddy...he's always shifting his track. One time he'll be really sneaky and then the next moment, he's awfully direct and earnest, and then the next he's arrogant and presumptuous, and then he can be very violent. And I know that.

But I can handle him. If I have to. It'll be all right.

Anyway, he got what he wanted, no one's hurt by it, and I don't care if anyone thinks I'm in love with Professor Lestranger. It's actually rather funny to me.

I worry about you too, you know. Are you coming back to Hogwarts, then? Or did you decide it's safer to stay in Sherwood?



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-01-31 13:11:28](#)

Re: Private message to Hermione Granger

Yes, I am. I've actually moved in with Cedric already. He's snuck me in a few times to help with potions with Mr Snape.

2014-01-28 20:33:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco

So I figure I've got to come down hard enough on Teddy to show everyone that there's consequences for this kind of thing. And to show that people shouldn't mess with me. But not enough to make it seem like a weakness.

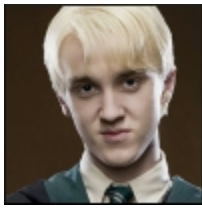



 [alt_harry](#)

Hermione thinks I ought to talk to his sponsor.

What do you think?

I just really want to get Crabbe and Goyle to beat him up. I know it's probably not strategic, but yeah.




 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-01-29 16:49:36**
(no subject)

It's all a matter of property, so take something of his that he values, or destroy it, or alter it to your own fashion in some way. Show him that if he presumes your property is his to meddle with, then *his* property becomes yours.

As tempting as it is to sic Vince and Greg on him, that shows a more emotional response than one ought to reveal.



 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-01-29 18:12:52**
(no subject)

Good. Okay.

[2014-01-28 21:36:00](#)

Order Only: Lessons and Bea

Alice, Frank: Thank you again. I'll definitely want to go back and see what I can get assembled. The engine and carburetor need significant reconditioning but it'll be much easier to put the spells in place on them before they're fitted into a frame. I thought I saw a few Triumphs and even a Royal Enfield; I'll have to look at the numbers to make sure they're compatible, though. Also see what manuals the place might have.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Anyway, it's brilliant. I'm glad you waited until *after* the lessons to show me. As it was, I hope Maureen didn't get too tired of Bea. (Oh, and please tell her I appreciate her volunteering to mind the monster, but I might take it personally if she keeps ducking Potions to do it. Perhaps we could ask Florrie to switch off now and then.)

I do think it's good for the young miss, anyway. Seeing other kids, playing. Between that and her earlier bedtimes she might just turn out civilised yet!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-29 03:56:56](#)

Private message to Padfoot

What on earth are those muggle bits and pieces you brought home FOR?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 03:58:25](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Sorry, didn't I say? It's an engine block and a replacement carburetor.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 03:59:13](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Oh, and a few pistons.




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-29 03:59:38](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

I think you did say those words, yes. Care to translate them into proper wizarding English?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 04:00:33](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Parts, Moony. For a motorcycle.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-29 04:03:54](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Oh, brilliant. I quite liked your old one. Is this one going to fly?

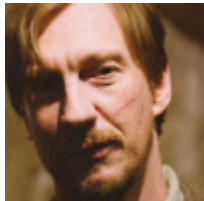


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 04:24:52](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Yes, of course. Why would it not?

I'll have to see if I can find a small enough helmet for Bea




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-01-29 04:27:25](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Now you're just baiting me.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 04:29:41](#)

Re: Private message to Padfoot

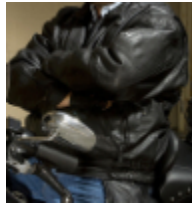
Never! She loved the carpet, and her toy broom. I'd put her in a harness or something until she's big enough to ride pinion.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-01-29 04:40:25](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

It's really not going to be safe until she's old enough to properly hold on. Even with cushioning charms the ground's a long way down. Toy brooms don't go high, and carpets don't go fast (and are charmed to keep passengers on them properly.)




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-01-29 04:51:20](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Fine but if I find a leather jacket in her size, don't try to stop me.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-01-29 04:52:40](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

If you find a leather jacket in her size with charms that will protect someone from a high-speed fall, I'll think about it!




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-01-29 04:53:26](#)**

Re: Private message to Padfoot

Or hold on, were you just think you'd like her to LOOK the part? No argument there!




 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-01-29 04:48:08](#)**

(no subject)

Brilliant. Glad to hear it. Our Danny is good with engines and things, let him know if you need a hand.

And I don't think Maureen minds. When she isn't in her classes or doing Merlin knows what with Danny, she's usually hanging around the nursery. That kid knows so many stories it's ridiculous.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-01-29 04:53:44](#)
(no subject)

Oh, I'm sure she doesn't mind; she was clear on the subject of which branches of magic she wants to learn and which are a 'waste of time.'


And yeah, I might need help with some of the bigger jobs but half the fun is putting it together.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-29 18:32:22](#)
Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)

Who's this Danny then?




 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-01-29 19:41:00](#)
Re: Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)

(He's about your age, works with the goats and does machinery work with Mr Lee. Dan's a good sort, I'll be happy to make introductions next time you lot come over for training.

And I say, Stretton, you've got nothing to worry about. Let's just say Maureen really isn't his type.

~~Besides which~~ Besides which, she can spend her time how she wants, hey?)



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-29 19:56:11](#)
Re: Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)


She absolutely can. That's the point of all this, isn't it? I mean, everything Alice talks about, Maureen's a perfect example.

Doesn't mean it's easy. But I'm doing it aren't I? I haven't once tried to contact her since I joined the Order, no pressure on her, no badgering her to tell me does she have the slightest fondness for me at all ~~or was that just~~ or not. She knows how to reach me. If she ~~wanted~~ wants to see me, she could.

And if she doesn't, well. That's the point of all this too.

I may have come into the Order because of her, but I didn't come into the Order to make her life miserable if she doesn't want to see me. And even if I did come into the Order because of her, I'm staying because the Order's right about what needs to be done, whether or not Maureen gives a fig for me. So Frank can stop worrying whether I'm going to grass on everyone if she doesn't.



 **alt_frank** at **2014-01-29 20:53:48**

Re: Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)

Hey, kiddo.

Enough of that.


Yeah, the Order had to talk about you and Maureen when we were first thinking about bringing you in, but that's because we didn't know you. And if I've done anything to make you think I don't think you're measuring up, well, that's on me. But I'm not worried about your loyalty. And I don't think there's only one reason you're sticking around. Believe me, we wouldn't have let you in the door if that were the case.

For what it's worth, I think your taking a step back is a good move. It's hard, but it's the right thing to do.

We've got some people here who haven't had a lot of choices in their lives. And one of the things we try to do is give them space to figure out what they're good at, what they like to do for fun, who they are when someone isn't telling them what to do every single day.

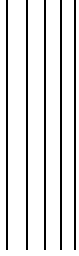
Give it time. Trust yourself. And trust her.




 **alt_frank** at **2014-01-29 20:54:04**

Re: Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)

(I wouldn't assume the worst. And no offence meant.)



 **[alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-01-29 21:01:04](#)**

Re: Private message to Frank (and Colin Creevy)

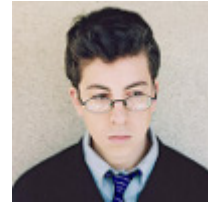
Right. Working on it.

See you at practice Sunday then.

2014-01-31 08:11:00

Private message to Lav

When McLaggen talks to you, pretend to believe him. Will tell you all about cunning plan very soon. My devotion always, fair lady.



 **alt_linus**

2014-01-31 12:43:00

Apparation Lessons

Don't forget, Apparation lessons start tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.



I know a lot of CCF members were asking about having successfully Apparated over the summer. I asked Professor Vector. She said that the examiners are aware many of us can do it but they want us to at least go through the first lesson to make sure we've got the technique correct and haven't forgot how since then. They might be willing to let those people who are already of age test at the end of the day and apply for licences right there; everyone else will have to wait until we are legally old enough for the licence, but we might be able to get a waiver for the remainder of the lessons if we can prove we're safe.

 [alt_padma](#)

(And no, Macmillan, the licence fee is not waived regardless of whether you Apparated at CCF or not.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-01-31 20:59:03**

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

OF COURSE they still want to be paid, even if they're not actually going to be teaching you anything.

Figures. At least it sounds like Pansy will be able to get her license tomorrow.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-01 07:36:48**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

And hurrah for that!




 [alt_ernie](#) at **2014-01-31 21:33:51**

(no subject)

All right, I was just asking.

Anyone know how much the fees are these days?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-31 21:48:46](#)
(no subject)

Ernie,

I think it's 4Γ, 7ι, old man. I say, at least according to Madam Pince's Ministry Guide, what, but that was somewhat out of date.


-F-F



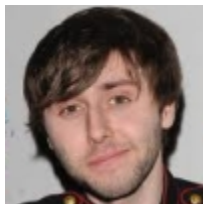
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-01-31 21:51:38](#)
(no subject)


No, they raised it. 4Γ, 11ι now.



 [alt_ernie](#) at [2014-01-31 21:52:39](#)
(no subject)

Thanks!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-01-31 21:55:45](#)
(no subject)


Sally-Anne,

I say, I should have realised you would know, what.

Well, saves me the embarrassment of showing up without enough pocket change, at least.


-Justin



 **alt_ernie** at [2014-01-31 21:53:09](#)
(no subject)

Effs, mate, how old was that guide?



 **alt_seamus** at [2014-01-31 21:55:28](#)
Private message to Padma

It's naff they're making all of us take it, but at least they won't insist we keep turning up.