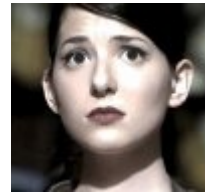


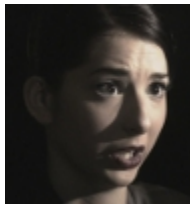
2014-02-01 11:29:00

Order Only

Well, so, I can apparate now, I guess!



alt_sally_anne



alt_sally_anne at **2014-02-01 17:33:17**

Private message to Ron and Pansy

I feel utterly ridiculous.

At least the instructor believed me (I think) when I swore I hadn't tried to learn on the sly, I'd just read a load of books about it over hols because I was nervous I wouldn't be able to. I mean, honestly I think he DID probably think I'd learned from the two of you -- especially since Ron got in trouble over it during CCF -- but he at least pretended he believed me.



alt_pansy at **2014-02-01 20:20:18**

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Oh, don't worry about it. It's not like you'll get in trouble, because loads of people practise on their own anyways, and this is the first time ANYONE has seen you Apparate, and it really is the first time you've ever done it, so it's sort of the truth anyways. If you'd gone to St Mungo's because you splinched yourself or something over hols, that'd be completely different.

And you're brilliant. I knew you'd be able to do it.

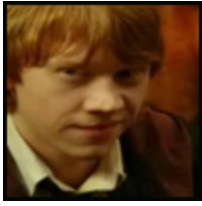


alt_pansy at **2014-02-01 20:21:19**

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Honestly, the look on your face

You were so incredibly surprised, I think that sold it more than anything.



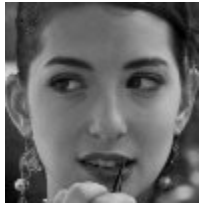
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-02 01:20:55](#)

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

You were absolutely brilliant!

Are you over it enough now that I can tell you what your face looked like when you realised you'd done

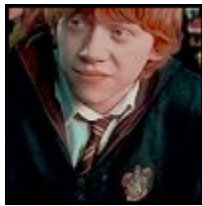
it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-02 01:40:47](#)

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Suuuuuuuure.

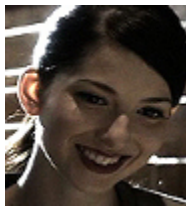


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-02 02:01:28](#)

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

Do you remember in Creatures when Brutka had us rub the fur of a Niffler up the wrong way? You looked just like that, like it'd got all your nerves jangling.

I never understood why he had us do that. Brutka, I mean. Maybe so we'd understand when he told us they could be dangerous. I definitely believed it after the look mine gave me that day.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-02 02:07:10](#)

Re: Private message to Ron and Pansy

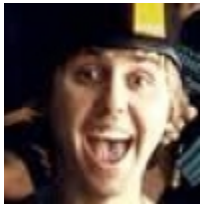
Ha, I thought you were going to say I looked like I'd just passed gas, or something.


Yeah, I remember making all the Nifflers cross. You'd think he could have just told us 'don't do that' instead of having us put all the poor Nifflers on edge.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-01 20:20:55](#)
(no subject)

Congratulations!



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-01 22:27:46](#)
(no subject)

Well, done, Sally-Anne!

So, does that mean that if you can demonstrate your ability next week as well, you'll be able to complete your licence application and have done with the rest of the lessons?


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-01 22:52:17](#)
(no subject)

Well I can't actually take the licensing exam until I turn seventeen which isn't until April. But I don't have to come to the rest of the lessons.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-02 02:11:11](#)
Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

Professor Dolohov has suggested that I start thinking about summer, and whether I could find an internship that would serve my goals. (He has offered his help finding one.)

I don't think I should waste this opportunity. In particular -- we all know that I might or might not make it into the St Mungo's apprenticeship programme, even with the help of influential friends, in which case Madam Pomfrey has offered to train me, which would certainly make me useful to the Order, if not formally qualified to work openly as a Healer. Which would be fine. But -- there are certainly subspecialties in Healing that are somewhat outside your major areas of practice, that would nonetheless be very useful to the Order. I think we should consider whether it would serve the Order well if I had Professor Dolohov use his influence to help me get

training in one of those areas.

What are your thoughts?

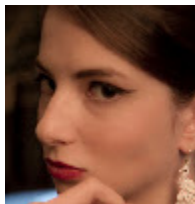


 **alt_severus** at **2014-02-02 02:14:43**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

Whilst I am certain Madame Pomfrey will disagree, as we are rarely in accord on such matters, my thoughts are that if Antonin Dolohov is offering to spend his influence on your behalf, you would be foolish not to accept.

If you are willing to pay his price, of course.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-02-02 02:20:59**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

Well, I think what Antonin Dolohov wants is a Healer in his debt. If he calls on me at some point to heal him, that doesn't sound too terrible. I mean, Madam Pomfrey healed him once and she didn't even owe him anything beyond what she owes any patient in her care.

Justin, on the other hand, might want to be careful about asking him for any favours.



 **alt_severus** at **2014-02-02 02:32:51**


Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

The difference is that in you he sees a Healer whose motives in treating patients he can be certain of, and in Mr Finch-Fletchley he sees an assassin in the making.

You are both fortunate that he has always been the sort of patron who prefers to spread favour liberally and with offhanded largesse, trusting he will be well repaid in future out of loyalty and gratitude, rather than the sort to measure out each scrap of

effort he expends on your behalf and demand reckoning out of duty at earliest opportunity.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-02 02:30:20](#)

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

I'm delighted to find myself more or less in accord with you on this matter, Severus.

What do you expect his price might be?

I confess that I was rather more concerned about Miss Perks' continuing to the NEWT in his subject than I am to think of her learning to heal the damage done by those 'Arts'. That said, I should not wish to see her apprenticed to the wrong person, and we should be exceedingly careful about the terms of whatever she might be offered.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-02 03:02:17](#)

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape


If you and I are in agreement, I shall immediately look outside to see whether pigs have taken wing.

I believe Miss Perks is correct, and — having seen what might befall him when he is left in the care of Healers whose primary motive is personal advancement rather than the wellbeing of their patients — he is looking to buy the services of a Healer who has cause to think warmly and fondly of him. He is not, at least, involved in the sort of thing where his pet Healer would be expected to oversee the torture of others to ensure they endure that torture for the longest time possible. Or, at least, not that we know of. His sort of cruelty has always been of a more individual and less institutional fashion.

Miss Perks, correct me if I am wrong, but the circumstance under which he allowed you to enter his NEWT classes made it clear that you not only consider yourself already bound by Healer's Oath, but that you construe that oath narrowly in terms of what actions you are willing to take in situations outside the Healer's workroom. If he has accepted that self-imposed restriction and

not coaxed or tempted you to push those boundaries, I would not worry overmuch.




 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2014-02-02 04:02:42**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

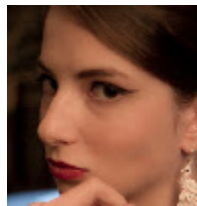
Stranger things have happened...



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2014-02-02 02:24:03**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

I'm inclined to think that if Antonin Dolohov is willing to use his connections on your behalf, you ought to see what he can actually offer. Both because it would be useful to know whose strings he's able to pull and because one cannot, I think, count on his influence being always what it is today. By which I mean that things are clearly shifting among the Council, and if you wish to take advantage of his connections, it may be best to accept sooner rather than later.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-02-02 04:04:08**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

Well, all right then.

What do you think would be the best thing for me to learn? If he can arrange it.



 **[alt_poppy](#) at 2014-02-02 05:39:28**

Re: Private message to Madame Pomfrey and Mr Snape

Training in the care and reversal of curse damage would be terrifically useful, though anything beyond the standard techniques for basic injuries is unlikely to be covered in a first summer of study.

Obstetrics. Or pediatrics. The Order could certainly use either of

those specialties.

To be honest, anything which might give you a solid introduction to the treatment of injury, trauma, or illness would be of good use to us.

2014-02-01 11:33:00

Private message to Professor Dolohov

Thank you for the loan of those books about Apparation.




They were actually a lot more helpful than I was expecting! I apparated on my very first try. The instructor wanted to know if I'd been practicing on the sly and I told him no, of course not, I just read a lot of books because I knew this class was coming and I was rather worried I wouldn't succeed. I guess I shouldn't have worried!

 **alt_sally_anne**

He says I have to come back next week and do it again just to prove it wasn't a fluke and then I can stop coming to the class.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-02-02 00:19:13**
(no subject)

I am quite pleased you've found my library helpful! I've certainly found in the past that a truly excellent theoretical grounding can allow one to appear as though one has practised a particular skill extensively, when in actuality one is simply making it up as one goes. (I have, several times, convincingly impersonated members of various professions simply by virtue of my catholic reading habits.)

I trust I need not reiterate that your borrowing privileges are wide-ranging. I quite enjoy our discussions of your reading, when your other schoolwork does not interfere; you are the sort of student a professor enjoys the teaching of.


I have meant to ask you, meanwhile: this is slightly early to raise the question, but the year does have a habit of getting away from me and too early is better than too late. Do you have summer plans yet? If you would find it useful, I could begin the process of asking around to arrange a summer internship, whether through St Mungo's or a Healer in private practise. Madam Pomfrey does of course have contacts I do not, and may be the more logical choice to make arrangements should arrangements need to be made, but I am owed a certain number of favours in several directions, and I am willing to exert them upon your behalf.



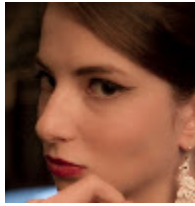
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-02 01:19:30](#)**
(no subject)


You're right, I should think about summer. I'll ask Madame Pomfrey what she thinks. Thank you very much for the offer.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-02-02 02:05:36](#)**
(no subject)

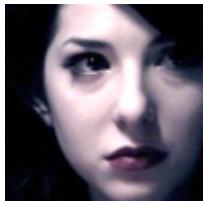
I am certain that a witch as intelligent and perceptive as you has noticed that the patronage of a Councilwizard can be a double-edged sword from time to time, and I would be far from offended should you not wish to hitch your wagon too firmly to any one particular star. Still, at very least I hope you know that you may call upon me to ease your way into adulthood, whatever way that journey takes.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-03 03:58:57](#)**
(no subject)

I spoke with Madam Pomfrey today and she agrees that it would be very helpful if you could arrange something.


Did you have anything in particular in mind already? I would be particularly interested in studying care and reversal of curse damage -- but that's an extremely difficult area of specialisation to get into in the apprenticeship programme, even for a pureblood. It's going to be difficult enough for me to gain entry to the apprenticeship programme at all.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-03 03:59:40](#)**
(no subject)

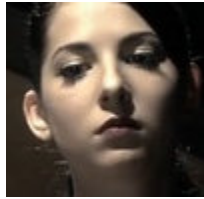
I would be extremely grateful for whatever help you could give me in this.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-02-03 04:08:42](#)**
(no subject)

There are two options: find a mentor who is an excellent teacher and spend a summer learning everything you might in a speciality you intend to pursue, so as to have a head start on others in the programme once you begin your formal studies, or find a powerful mentor whose influence would benefit you, should your performance win his or her approval, no matter what his or her speciality might be and whether it is of interest to you.

I know which option I would advise; I am curious as to which you would prefer.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-03 04:24:00](#)**
(no subject)

The latter.

But -- there are people whose approval I will never win, ever.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-02-03 04:37:21](#)**
(no subject)

I would not set you up to fail, my dear. You are correct that the deck is already stacked against you; I would not set you a task that was impossible to turn to your advantage. I am confident that -- given your intelligence and your work ethic, not to mention your discretion and initiative -- there are many opportunities you could seize; as your professor (and, I hope, your mentor) it is my duty to arrange such opportunities as would be most favourable.

As it happens, that was both the choice I would have advised, and the choice I expected you to make. I will make inquiries. My network of contacts is thinner amongst the ranks of the sort of Healer I have in mind to send you to than I might like, but thin is not nonexistent, and the difficulty of arranging suitable introduction is why I had it in mind to begin tugging strings early.

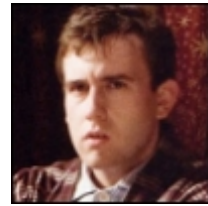
2014-02-01 17:59:00

Apparition Class

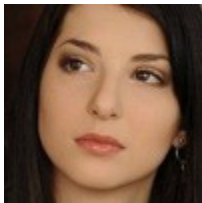
Congratulations, Perks! That was fast!

Wonder how long it'll take me to master it.

(I'm gonna probably have a mental chorus of 'Destination, Determination and Deliberation' running through my head all night).



 [alt_neville](#)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-02 01:16:07**

(no subject)

Why, thank you, Longbottom. I'm sure you'll catch on soon.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-02 01:17:16**

(no subject)

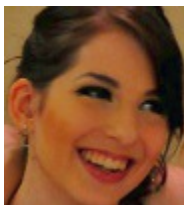
Good thing they put the wards back up straight after the lesson. Don't want you sleep-Apparating. Imagine where you might wake up!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-02 01:18:26**

(no subject)

There are so very many possibilities. Some more pleasant than others!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-02 01:17:42**

Order Only

Or, you know, maybe you'll do it months before me. Maybe.

I don't know why I could never do it, couldn't even come CLOSE to doing it, and then, my VERY FIRST TIME IN APPARITION CLASS suddenly I could do it.

2014-02-02 06:57:00

Private Message to Isobel Sandoval and Orion



 [alt_lana](#)

I've just been called in, Mama. I'm so sorry. I know I promised to take Abuelita to Candlemas, but there's some bother out in Cornwall and, really, with my promotion interview so close, I can't afford to say no even for something small.

Orion, you could take her, don't you think? Since Mama's having people in this evening. You know how much it means to her. She's been talking about it for a fortnight. Be sure to wear the amulet she gave you. Wear it so she can see you've got it on.

And don't be late: the whole business with the carriage and having the elf bother with all those crates of candles... Honestly, wouldn't it be the same if the priest came out and said a blessing on the house and the storerooms?

I know, Mama. You needn't say it. Only, she's got so much more... concerned... lately. Perhaps it's time to ask Healer Vieille to see her again?

L

2014-02-02 17:45:00

Order Only: Another Octoboros, we think



 [alt_kingsley](#)

Dorcas and I were in Saltash for a supply run this morning. Alice, I'll give you our report on that in person, but this is chiefly why I'm writing: we think we've found another Octoboros.

We had along one of the people from Sherwood, Edith Merriweather. Davidson knows we were on the lookout for railway parts to scavage, and he mentioned that Edith might join us. She originally had family in Cornwall, and so she knew of a large railway station at the southwest tip that had all but been abandoned, in a city called Penzance. Since we were only about seventy miles away, we decided to investigate it.

We had been flying in that direction about an hour, when we came over the ley line and Edith exclaimed, 'Can't you feel it?' Not only was it a gargantuan surge of magic, but it had a directional pull, tugging us further southwest. Dorcas said her skin felt like it was crawling with magic. Noticed that her broom compass was spinning wildly, too. I had quite a time controlling the bucking of my broom, and even Edith, who's usually a rock-steady flyer, became downright nauseous.


And then we heard it on the wind: a cacophony of church bells, pealing from every old abandoned muggle church spire around. I remember Tonks mentioned that happening when she was in Dover at the winter equinox last December.

The railway station might be a gold mine, I don't know, but we didn't try to find it. Didn't trust our flying well enough. We circled the tip of Penzance, cloaked in disillusionment spells, and there's definitely *something*, magically tugging at us toward a point just outside of the city, from whatever direction we facing.

We had to land, because Edith was feeling so ill. She remarked that she's always been sensitive to locational magic; I wonder if that's related? We waited for a half hour, letting her chew on some crystallised ginger Dorcas had in her emergency pack (for apparition sickness if we're ever with Sirius) and wondering what to do. But here's the thing: the sensation's starting to fade a bit now.

We've decided to camp here for the time being. I've marked the spot on a map that I had along, and I'll bring it back for you to see, Alice. I wonder if Cecelia Perks might make anything of this information?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-03 02:00:15](#)
(no subject)

Ah. That adds a bit of context to an odd conversation I had today with an Herbalist friend at Heligan who said that overnight all their camellias and rhododendrons had all burst into bloom, months early. And he said he'd heard from a colleague at Trengwainton, and it was the same there: rhododendrons and magnolias in full flush alongside the snowdrops this morning.

Now, Trengwainton's down near Penzance, but Heligan's up between Mevagissey and St Austell--fifty miles, perhaps, from where you were.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-03 02:35:09](#)
(no subject)

That's really interesting. Did you know that it's Candlemas? It's the midpoint between Solstice and the spring Equinox. And if the one in Dover behaved that way on the Solstice, and this really was one in Penzance and it went crazy on Candlemas...I think come Equinox we should be looking for another Octoboros somewhere along the western coast.


I'm not sure where, though.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-03 03:46:54](#)
(no subject)

Of course! I'd bet it'd be around Pembroke or up near Caernafon.



 **alt_alice** at **2014-02-03 04:16:14**
(no subject)

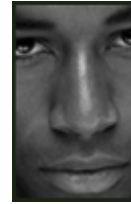
Thank you, Kingsley. That's most useful.

And we'll certainly have to keep in mind that station for the future.

2014-02-02 21:19:00


Private Message to Megan Jones

Say, Jones. I need to have a private word with you.
This evening if you can manage it.



 [alt_blaise](#)



 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-03 03:23:05**

(no subject)

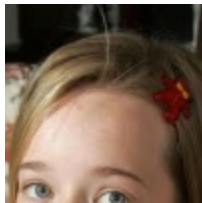
With me?




 [alt_blaise](#) at **2014-02-03 03:25:06**

(no subject)

Yes. It's something you won't want to put off.




 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-03 03:28:27**

(no subject)

Can you tell me what this is about? It's getting rather late in the evening. And I have revising still to do.



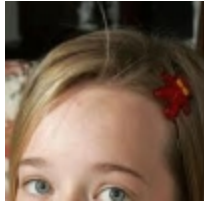
 [alt_blaise](#) at **2014-02-03 03:33:16**


(no subject)

It's not the sort of thing one writes in the journals. If you see what I mean. But I expect you'll find it significant, and it would serve you well to hear it.

It concerns a certain someone else you know, and it would be better for him in the long run if you hear what I have to say sooner than later.


Is that clear enough?



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2014-02-03 03:37:01](#)**
(no subject)

It's not very clear at all but I suppose it would be best if you did explain in person. Where should we meet?



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-02-03 03:44:48](#)**
(no subject)

There's a disused classroom in the Charms wing. Beyond the statue of Bertram the Beggarly.

Or, well. Possibly that's not what you Hufflepuffs call it. I mean the statue of that scrawny, hook-nosed bloke with holes in his cloak and no shoes. He's got a dead badger hanging off his pack.

2014-02-02 21:47:00

private message to Susan



 **alt_megan**

Blaise Zabini just told me to meet him in an empty classroom and that it is important. I think it is about Ernie only he wouldn't say. So I am going there. But I wanted someone to know where I would be in case something happens. So if I don't come back can you please come look for me? It is the disused classroom in the Charms wing. By the statue of Bertram.

And he should not say horrid things about the statue of Bertram either.

If he tries to do something to me I am going to hex him. Because I am just not in the mood for being made sport of.

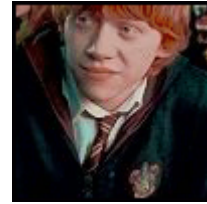
I am taking Fang with me too.

2014-02-02 21:56:00

Private Message to Ginny Weasley


Say.

You finished with homework? There's a chessboard just sitting here, looking for someone to play.



 [alt_ron](#)




 [alt_ginny](#) at **2014-02-03 04:11:56**

(no subject)

I'm getting close but not actually DONE yet. Maybe another half hour? Depends on whether anyone starts distracting me.




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-03 04:15:14**

(no subject)

Well, hurry up, then!

I'll give you twenty-eight minutes before I start the distraction charms!



 [alt_ginny](#) at **2014-02-03 04:15:24**

(no subject)

I'll admit I keep thinking about how I'm rather glad no one's trying to find out my shameful secrets. Since I'm a pureblood.

I've been distracted a lot this evening thinking about what it would be. My most shameful secret, I mean. Not that you could use that one, anyway, I'm obviously not of 'lesser blood' then you since we're siblings.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-03 04:28:29**

(no subject)


Yeah.

Your secrets are safe with me. (Since I'd be mad to tell any of yours with you knowing as many of mine!)

It's interesting, though, how differently people think about stuff. I mean, what one person would die to have anyone know, another person isn't fussed at all about.

Seems it's different for witches and blokes, too. Some things, anywiz.

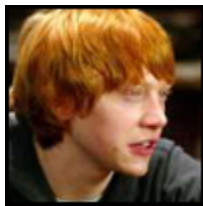



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 04:37:00](#)
(no subject)

Well, obviously a wizard's not going to die of humiliation by a story that he didn't know what menstruation was, and thinking it might be some sort of fatal curse.

And there are witches who'd find that one devastating and witches who'd say, 'well, what was I SUPPOSED to think if no one told me otherwise,' and witches who just wouldn't care, at all. So. Yes.

I wonder if all the secrets are going to be things that are embarrassing or if any will be really terrible. I mean, not 'call the Aurors!' terrible but more just ghastly. You know how sometimes everyone gets really quiet after the boggart lesson and doesn't want to explain why they're terrified senseless of something that seems silly to everyone else, and you know it's because the story is absolutely awful? THAT sort of ghastly.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 04:42:33](#)
(no subject)

I'd be just as happy not to know ANYTHING about THAT. Ta.

But, yeah. I'm sort of surprised, really, that no one's gone and told the world about whatever it is they've found out about someone. I mean, with some of the people in this challenge.




 **alt_ginny** at [2014-02-03 04:57:37](#)
(no subject)

Well what if someone poached your secret? If you keep it a secret they can't, right?

I would guess eventually they're going to have you tell everyone. Which is why it's half-bloods, no one's going to object if you humiliate half-bloods.

Has anyone gone after Sally-Anne?



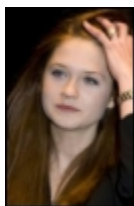
 **alt_ron** at [2014-02-03 05:04:23](#)
(no subject)


Well, if someone like Crabbe found out something totally humiliating on someone else and told EVERYONE, he'd get credit for having been the one who got the secret. It wouldn't be anything anyone else could really take credit for then. And Crabbe would probably think it would earn him style points for making a spectacle of the whole thing.

They haven't said anything about telling. And maybe they won't. The thing is... I could see how this might be about gaining the kind of tool or weapon you can use against someone for a long time.

No, no one has. Yet. Unless she's just not telling me.

Ugh.



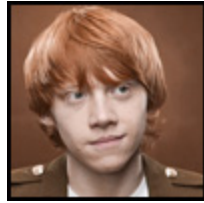
 **alt_ginny** at [2014-02-03 05:09:53](#)
(no subject)


Do you really think she wouldn't tell you? Maybe if it was a secret she was ashamed of and didn't want you knowing, either?

But she's your girlfriend AND she's best friends with Pansy Parkinson and you're both candidates, and anyone who went after her would have to know that both you and Parkinson would be furious and that might not work out well for them.

Would that stop Nott, though? Or Crabbe and Goyle? Though she's their house mate, and maybe that would.

Well, I'm glad you learned something that's, you know, suitably embarrassing and all that.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-02-03 05:54:27](#)**
(no subject)

She wouldn't tell me if she thought I'd fly off and do something that would get me in trouble. Or if... I don't know... maybe if someone threatened to do something that would be bad for me if she told?

I hate this sort of thing. There just are things she has to worry about that we don't at all, y'know? And she looks at things so differently sometimes. It's like Maths, only where all the multiplication tables are completely different if you're a Gryffindor rather than a Slytherin. Or a pureblood rather than a halfblood.

Shameful. That's the thing we've got to get. And I think the secret I've got is one pretty much anyone would be properly ashamed of if it came out.

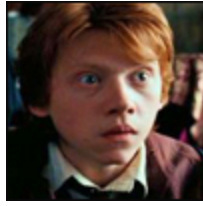



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2014-02-03 05:58:47](#)**
(no subject)

I'd make a terrible Slytherin.

Maybe that would be my shameful secret, that I once wrote to Lucius Malfoy and tried to get him to let me change Houses!

Just give me a wand and some friends at my back and let me hex whatever's in my way. Subtle manipulation is way too much work.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:04:49](#)
(no subject)


Yeah, that. Exactly.

Hang on...

You wrote Mr Malfoy and asked to change houses? Houses-houses? or School Houses?

Gin!




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:10:50](#)
(no subject)

School-houses, years ago. It was when I had the tiara. It seemed like a good idea at the time.


They didn't let me, obviously.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:12:04](#)
(no subject)

You wanted... Slytherin?



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:19:16](#)
(no subject)

Yes.


The Hat mentioned it as a possibility when I got Sorted, didn't it with you? It said I was clever enough, if I wanted to go into Ravenclaw, and brave enough for Gryffindor, and ambitious enough for Slytherin, and I said my whole family was in Gryffindor and I thought that's what I wanted.

I mean, I think I'm in the right House but I kind of picked it for the wrong reasons. And when I was wearing the tiara I

regretted that a lot.

What did it say when you got Sorted? Just 'Gryffindor!' or did it talk about the other possibilities?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:21:59](#)
(no subject)

I don't think I even got it properly on my head before it shouted 'Gryffindor!'

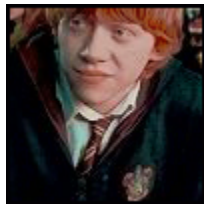
It really gave you a choice?




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:24:43](#)
(no subject)

It didn't exactly give me a choice, it just laid out some possibilities. If I hadn't expressed an opinion I'm sure it would have Sorted me somewhere eventually. But I said I wanted to be in Gryffindor and that's where it put me.

You've noticed it takes longer with some people than others, right? It's because it's having a conversation with them that no one else can hear.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:27:30](#)
(no subject)

Huh.

Well, I'm glad you're in Gryffindor. It's where you belong.

Definitely. I mean, totally, y'know?




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:29:58](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.


I do now.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 04:56:07](#)
(no subject)

Mum told you about it, though, didn't she? I mean before...




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 04:59:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. OF COURSE she did. In person, and she said to ask her if I had any questions or if it happened at school to ask Madam Pomfrey if I had any questions. She even warned me about cramps. And she gave me a book.

She was very thorough.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 05:08:54](#)
(no subject)

There are books about that?

I mean, Dad had a book that showed, y'know, pictures of... but not...

Nevermind.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 05:14:23](#)
(no subject)

Right, you lot all got copies of 'A Growing Wizard's Guide to the Magic of Growing Up,' right?


Mine was called 'A Young Witch's Guide to the Magic of Maturity.' It's a bit naff. LuA friend of mine and I used to laugh at bits of it, like the part where it says, 'someday, perhaps SOON, you will feel yearning in your heart when you look at a particular boy!'

It was the twenty-sixth edition. I think it was the updated version of the book Mum had when she was a girl. So there are

all sorts of bits that are old fashioned.


I should ask Mum if the version she owned had any chapters on arranged marriage and reassurance for pureblooded girls who were marrying their first cousins, you know? At least our versions didn't have THAT.



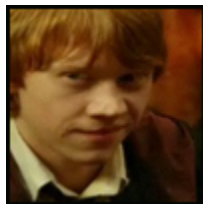
 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-02-03 05:47:24](#)**
(no subject)


Yearning, huh? Look out!



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2014-02-03 05:49:48](#)**
(no subject)

I know! YEARNING. It actually said that.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-02-03 05:56:48](#)**
(no subject)

I think ours told us we'd start feeling like there was a monster in our chests sometimes.

No idea what that was about.

And anywiz, it wasn't the inside of our chests there were drawings of.

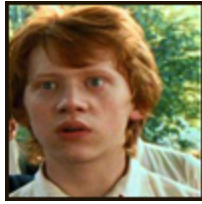



 **[alt_ginny](#)** at **[2014-02-03 06:01:26](#)**
(no subject)

Dragon. Fire-breathing dragon in your chests.

Charlie crossed that bit out, in his book. Because yeah, it's not the inside of your

CHEST there were drawings of.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:05:57](#)
(no subject)

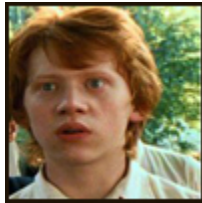
Wait. You read our books?




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:11:56](#)
(no subject)

Well, I read Charlie's. But then later I saw the Twins had a copy of the same book.

It was possibly the ONE thing they didn't make you all hand down, probably because Dad didn't want to ask anyone for their copy back.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:14:38](#)
(no subject)

Um. Yeah.

We didn't talk too much about it after we got the books. I mean, with Dad. The twins, though. They were always saying things to me about it after I'd got my copy.


Never mind.



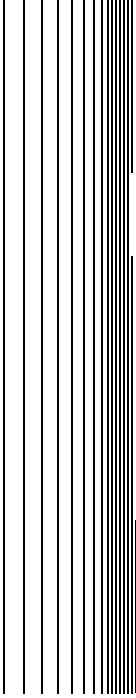
 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:19:56](#)
(no subject)

Frankly I think the Twins don't realise just how lucky they are that the two of us never murdered them in their sleep.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:23:53](#)
(no subject)


We should have got together. They'd never have known what was coming!



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:25:20](#)
(no subject)


(We still could.)



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-02-03 06:25:35](#)
(no subject)

Let me know if you ever need backup, is all I'm saying.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 06:28:27](#)
(no subject)

Back at you.

2014-02-02 21:58:00

Private Message to Megan


Everything okay? Only I saw you wrote to Sue and, I mean, well, this time of night it'd be just as easy to talk to her, wouldn't it?



 [alt_ernie](#)

Is someone messing about with you?




 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-03 04:39:41**
(no subject)

No, everything is fine. I just wanted to ask her something that I didn't care to say out loud right then.

It's just girl things. You don't want to know.



 [alt_ernie](#) at **2014-02-03 04:40:28**
(no subject)

You mean girl things like--ew, yeah, no. Don't tell me!

2014-02-03 12:18:00

Private Message to Megan

Are you all right? Zabini didn't hex you or try anything, did he?




I'm so sorry I didn't see your message last night--I fell asleep face-down in my Potions revising.

 [alt_susan](#)

I didn't even hear you when you came in, and you looked a little pale at breakfast, so I wanted to ask.




 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-03 18:23:46**
(no subject)

He didn't try to hex me. Or try something. Well, not that kind of something anyhow.

Did you know about people in that competition getting secrets? They are supposed to. Shameful secrets he said. But he didn't say what they are going to do with them.

If something bad happens and you need to look like you are not my friend I will understand.




 [alt_susan](#) at **2014-02-04 00:18:06**
(no subject)

I...did hear a rumour about that, yes. What did he do to make you give him one?

Or do you not want to say? It's all right if you don't.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-04 03:02:07**
(no subject)

Oh. He didn't use Imperius or anything. He just said my giving him one would stop him doing something worse. And he meant it.


So I gave him one because

It's better this way. And it doesn't matter, honestly. Because people

think enough bad of me already so what is one more thing. It's not like

Nobody came after you did they?




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-02-04 03:52:34](#)
(no subject)

Not exactly, but...well, everyone has secrets, and some people in the competition know some of mine. From before all this.


I wan believe you. Zabini's not Nott or Crabbe but he doesn't seem like a nice person. If he said he'd do something worse, he probably would.



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-02-03 18:24:24](#)
(no subject)


DO NOT SAY ANYTHING TO ERNIE ABOUT THIS WHATEVER YOU DO. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.



 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-02-04 00:20:54](#)
(no subject)

Of course. If that's what you want then I won't. Is-it ab



 [alt_megan](#) at [2014-02-04 05:14:31](#)
(no subject)

It's just that people think enough bad of me already that it doesn't matter, but it could really hurt Ernie if somebody revealed a horrible secret about his family.

Only I can't tell him.. Because he would hate it that I know he has a secret. And probably he would hate even more that I was protecting him. Because he is a boy and they are weird about that. Aren't they? Because if a girl does something to protect them then they sometimes don't feel the same way about her after they find

out because maybe they feel like it makes them less of something.

And I don't want Ernie to do that. So don't tell him.

He's not going to ask you anyway. He asked me why I was sending you a private message and I said it was girl stuff and he got all embarrassed.

[2014-02-03 14:36:00](#)

Private message to Padma Patil

You get your secret and everything?


I did, yesterday. I wound up using Imperius. Not exactly the most creative solution, unfortunately, but at least the secret I got is ~~good~~ awful really shameful.



 **[alt_seamus](#)**

Who did you end up using?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-03 20:52:25](#)**
(no subject)

Katrina Jacobsen. She's a third-year.

Actually, it was really easy to get her talking and then things just sort of spilled out of her. I only had to nudge here and there.

Only her secrets are really somewhat naff.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-03 20:55:37](#)**
(no subject)

I figured if I was using Imperius I'd go after someone who'd have an interesting secret.

Do you know Igraine Archer at all? She's Gareth's cousin. She's a half-blood, but she spent years living in a mudblood camp. (Well, and so did Dean. But I wasn't going to go after him.)




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-03 21:04:09](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yeah. She's a fourth-year, isn't she? That's a good choice, for you especially.

Thomas is well vindictive; I wouldn't go after him, either. Although I wonder how many people *did* try to get secrets out of other candidates.


Oh, speaking of that: Did you hear what F-F was saying this afternoon when I asked him how many people Lestrage had legilimised?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-03 21:06:58](#)
(no subject)

No, what did he say? (And what were Jacobsen's naff secrets, anyway? I mean how naff were they?)



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-03 21:18:33](#)
(no subject)


Well, will you tell me about Archer's, then?

F-F said that Crabbe and Goyle (who are *still* teaming up, by the way, are we surprised? No, we are not)--anyway, he said Crabbe and Goyle were waiting for him when he went to see Lestrage so they could revise (or 'revise,' but he *said* revise so if that's what he wants people to think then fine). So Crabbe and Goyle both ambushed him--and then they couldn't even duel him properly, apparently. (IF you believe that, which, I know he's good in Defence and Noble Arts but it sounded like he was puffing himself up a bit. I've a feeling Lestrage realised they were laying a trap and she must have warned him, otherwise he probably couldn't have duelled them if they got the drop on him.) Well, he said he had to 'disarm' them both, which he did (maybe), and then he took their wands and hid them. And then he went and brought Lestrage back to where they were lying in the body-bind or jelly-legs or whatever, and she legilimised them *both* in about half a second.

So Lestrage has hers times two, and even if they aren't technically any less pureblood, they're certainly asking for mockery. (He wouldn't tell me what she found out, though.)

So, what about Archer?



 **alt_seamus** at **2014-02-03 21:31:06**
(no subject)

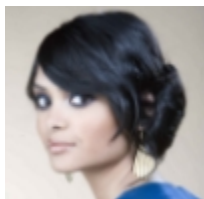
Archer's mother is a mudblood. Her father kept her mother anyway, it's sort of technically legal, but then when she was five years old, her parents had another child, which was NOT legal. So Archer, her mother, and her brother all got packed off to the camps.


Her secret was that she blamed her brother and hated him for getting them sent to the camp, and she'd steal his food any time her mother's back was turned because it was all his fault they were there (and I guess she wasn't getting enough to eat, she was hungry a lot. Of course, he was, too, she said.)

She cried. Telling me. Even under the Imperius, which usually makes people -- well. She said she hated herself for what she'd done and she hopes he doesn't remember.

When she was nine her father came and got her, and her brother, I didn't make her tell me how he got permission but I thought it probably had something to do with what happened with Gareth's father. Which was -- well, it was weird. Anyway she came to Hogwarts when she turned eleven like she'd lived like a normal person and she NEVER talks about the camp. To anyone. Ever.

So, what was Jacobsen's?




 **alt_padma** at **2014-02-03 23:01:46**
(no subject)

No, you're having me on. Really? She stole food from her baby brother? That's possibly the most tragic thing ever.

Jacobsen's is nothing in comparison. It's too trivial for words! I can't even tell you, it's that naff.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-03 23:20:00](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. It's utterly awful.

I kind of wish I'd picked someone whose shameful secret is that they had a crush on Gilderoy Lockhart or something.

You have to tell me Jacobsen's, I told you Archer's!



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-04 01:36:54](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, fine.

Well, I guess she has an uncle--her mother's younger brother--and he's a good deal younger than her mum, which means he's only a few years older than we are. And apparently he's very fit. And he lives with them, because he's not got a very good job so he can't afford to live on his own.

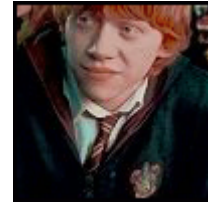
And when Katrina's home, she spies on him. You know. When normally someone would want privacy. Like, in the bath. I've a feeling she's seen him wanking but she couldn't quite bring herself to say.

If we're supposed to tell everyone or use it for blackmail material, I'll definitely let on like she did, though.

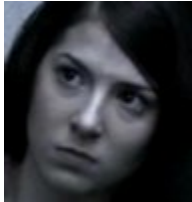
[2014-02-03 15:24:00](#)

Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks

Did you know there's a kind of china that's called Satsuma?



 [alt_ron](#)

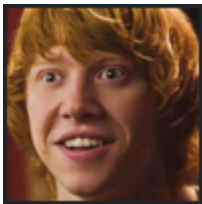



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:32:42](#)

(no subject)

What, like Arista Selwyn's cat?

Why are you



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 21:50:23](#)

(no subject)

Merlyn has some Satsuma china in his cottage. And loads of other nift things. And he has a Tawny owl that's called Archimedes. And there are quests and falcons and King Pellinore and they call King Arthur 'Wart' and he's just a boy still and it's brilliant.

We've got to read this aloud with the galleon group. There's no way it's written by a Muggle, really, except it is, so he must've known a wizard who told him all sorts of things to put in there, and anywiz, he must've been dead brilliant.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:52:12](#)

(no subject)

What are you on about?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 21:54:23](#)

(no subject)

You know. That book Professor Dumbledore's been telling me to read. The one about King Arthur.

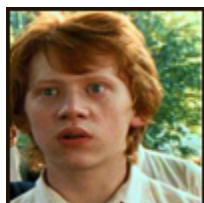
Um. The Past and Future something or other. I'll look at the cover when I get back to the common room.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:56:54](#)
(no subject)

Okay at this point I'm wondering if it's got some sort of charm on the pages because you NEVER get like this over books.

Is that what you've been up to all afternoon? You disappeared basically as soon as CoMC finished.



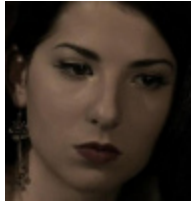
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 22:12:01](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, well. I'm supposed to have another lesson tomorrow night and I hadn't started that book. I mean I read the other one, Proteus, and it was great because it was really an extra-long comic, y'know, all in pictures and the art is fantastic in it and it's a good story.

But this one is dead amazing. Merlyn's teaching Wart to turn into fish and birds and he can read his mind, which is, yeah. Basically Merlyn is Dumbledore and the lessons in this book are dead similar to what we're starting up with visualising what it's like to be different creatures because when we do it, he's sort of there in my head, y'know?

Wait. You don't think Dumbledore's really the one who wrote the book? Because he totally could be. I mean, the author's name doesn't sound like a real one. I mean, his surname's meant to be White. Sure it is.

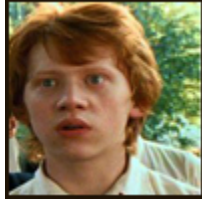
Only, some of it is a bit daft. Like what a Muggle would think magic is, but some of it's spot on and not phoney at all. Maybe it was a wizard and Muggle wrote it together. I wonder if he'll tell me.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 22:26:48](#)
(no subject)

Okay.

Maybe you can lend it to me when you're done.
It sounds pretty nift.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 22:31:19](#)
(no subject)

Whoa. Try to keep your excitement about it to
a fever pitch, will you?

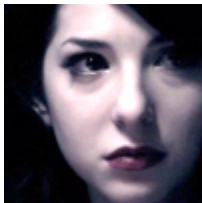
You're not cross at me, are you? We weren't supposed to do
something after lessons and I forgot?

We weren't, were we?



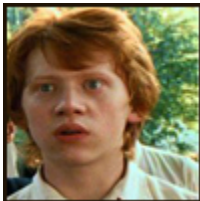
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 23:16:23](#)
(no subject)


No, we weren't. Don't worry about it. And the
book really sounds nift but I don't want you to
feel like you have to rush through it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:41:59](#)
(no subject)

So did you tell your sponsor your secret? Did they tell
you yet if you're supposed to do anything else with it?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 21:51:52](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Yeah. I need to go up to the owlery and send
that off.


Got busy reading and- yeah, I should do that. Look at
the time!



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:52:26](#)
(no subject)

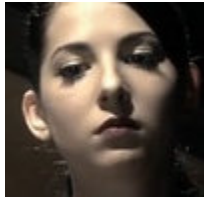
What have you been reading?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 21:57:17](#)
(no subject)

That's what I'm telling you!


Only, I have to send this owl, so stop writing me for a bit.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 21:58:01](#)
(no subject)

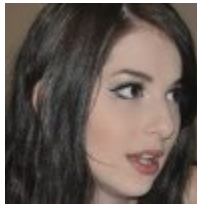
No one's MAKING you reply.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 22:00:10](#)
(no subject)

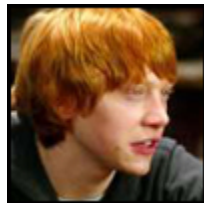
I'm just too polite to ignore you when you speak to me.


I'm chivalrous like that, you know?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 22:02:54](#)
(no subject)

Okay. I'll try sitting on my hands for a while.



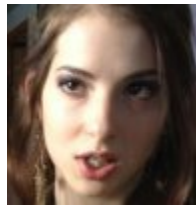
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 22:15:10](#)
(no subject)

It's all right. I sent it off.

Not sure what I hope Avery makes of it. I

mean, I thought Luna would come up with something daft, but she wanted it to be about, y'know, and not about finding out some creature she thought was real was just some daft thing her father made up for that paper of his.

She practically got cross when I said something like that would be better.




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-02-03 22:27:48**
(no subject)

Well, right. Luna would much rather people think that she'd never learned about a girl's monthly than admit that anything her father told her might be daft.

Do you think you're going to have to tell everyone? I mean, later. Or what?



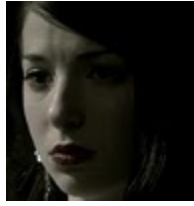
 **alt_ron** at **2014-02-03 22:36:02**
(no subject)

I hope not. I mean... ugh. Who wants to talk about that?

Anywiz, I was saying to Ginny last night that I almost think it might be one of those things that's meant to teach us how to use people's secrets against them. I mean, by keeping them but saying you'll make it public if they don't do whatever you ask. So if it's that sort of thing, then it means we won't have to tell, but we'll have to keep bothering the people who told us something.

I reckon I can keep working it out with Luna what we'll do. Only, it reeks to be her.

Is that why you're hacked off at me? Because I picked Luna?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 23:17:39](#)
(no subject)

I'm not hacked off at you! You got her permission, I thought that was a good idea and you're absolutely right Luna has secrets (or could make up secrets) that most people would find excruciating and she wouldn't care that much about one way or the other.


It was a good idea.

And I'm not hacked off at you.

So

Yeah that makes sense about the secrets.



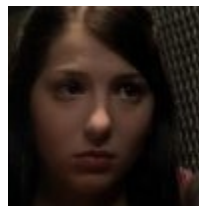
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 23:22:40](#)
(no subject)

Hang on.

What's the matter, then? You're...

Did someone corner you for a secret? WHO? What did they do to you?

Did you...?

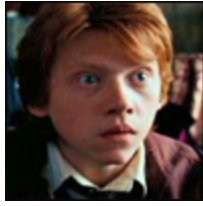



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-03 23:27:29](#)
(no subject)

I didn't tell anyone anything about the Order, all the important secrets are safe. It's just

ugh

you have to promise not to kill anybody.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 23:41:01](#)
(no subject)


Of course, you didn't tell anyone about the Order! No one thinks-

I never-

I'm going to-

I don't know what I'm going to do

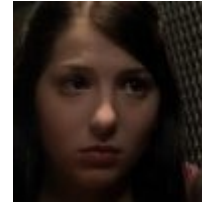


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-03 23:41:25](#)
(no subject)

What happened?

2014-02-03 20:43:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy



 **alt_sally_anne**

So after Creatures today when I was walking toward the Hospital Wing for my shift with Madam Pomfrey Dean Thomas ambushed me to get a secret. I think he cast Imperius on me because I couldn't keep myself from blabbing, which was -- well anyway I didn't say anything about the Order because of course this wasn't 'find out someone's most dangerous secret' or 'uncover a secret traitor,' it was 'find out someone's shameful secret' and that's what he asked me about, of course.

I told him about something that happened with my father over winter hols.

On the night when I slipped out to meet Ron (which was NOT the night I slipped out to help with the evacuation) when I came back in he woke up and was furious and he knocked my wand out of my hand and then hit me and I


I let it happen, I didn't call for help or fight back

and I don't even know why, I just

what I told Dean was that I was afraid no one would come and that's why it's shameful, that's why I didn't want anyone to know. Especially Ron

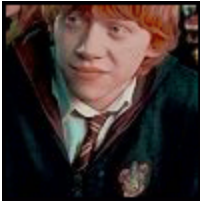
It wasn't so much that I didn't believe you'd come. I didn't want anyone else getting into trouble.




 **alt_pansy** at **2014-02-04 03:04:28**
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh, Sally-Anne.



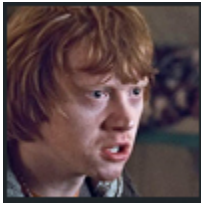
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 03:08:55](#)
(no subject)


Dean Thomas is thestral meat.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:11:48](#)
(no subject)


I TOLD YOU you're not allowed to kill anybody.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 03:12:27](#)
(no subject)

I'll feed him to them alive, then.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 03:12:02](#)
(no subject)

I don't even know what to say about your father.
That's so wrong.

We're going to see you never go back there.

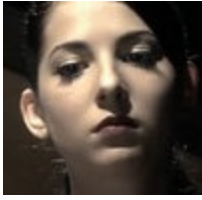
Ever.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:15:12](#)
(no subject)

No.

No, we are not.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:17:01](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure there are loads of people who get knocked around by their parents if they get caught breaking curfew to sneak out to meet their boyfriend.

No one's going to care.

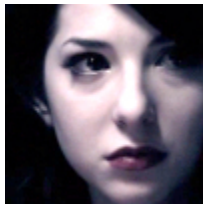



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:18:58](#)
(no subject)

I care.

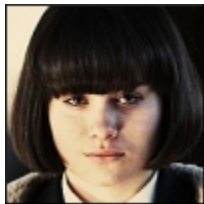
Ron cares.


You didn't deserve this, Sally-Anne.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:20:40](#)
(no subject)

Right. No one in power cares, though, is what I meant. ~~They didn't care when I was seven, so wh~~



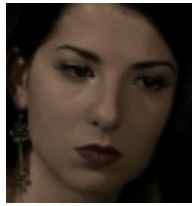
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:28:31](#)
(no subject)

Why didn't you fight back?

Then they won't care if you never go back, either.

According to the people in charge, he's nothing. He's an embarrassment. You've got more power than he does, because you've got people like Harry and Madame Pomfrey and Professor Dolohov and even the Strettons (sort of) behind you, and you've got prospects, and a future. And once you're of age, he's got no more claim on you than your last name and your memories.

And that's all he'll ever be. A bad memory.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:32:36](#)
(no subject)

When I saw him in the summer he wasn't drinking.

And it was nice. You know? To see him. Because he's my father. Even if he's

I don't know how to explain it so you'd understand.



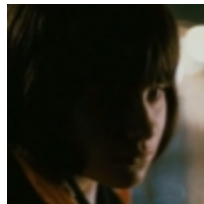
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:38:42](#)
(no subject)


I'm sorry.

I think I know. A little.

I'm just really

He shouldn't have done that.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:42:28](#)
(no subject)

You can love someone a lot and still hate what they do. Or what they've become.

Or be afraid of them.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 03:47:21](#)
(no subject)

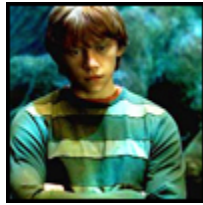
Yeah.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:10:14](#)
(no subject)

Are you thinking of Percy? Or someone else?

If you don't mind me asking?




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 04:18:16](#)
(no subject)

I was thinking of Mum and Percy, yeah. And how Dad would have

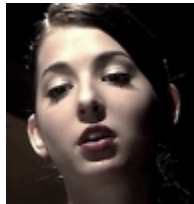
And about Bill.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 03:36:46](#)
(no subject)

Pansy's right. No one will care enough to make you see him again if you don't want to.

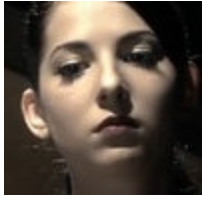
There's that, at least.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:40:36](#)
(no subject)

Maybe. I don't know. The fact that he got visitation with me at all means he's got someone on his side for some reason because usually they'd have just said NO.

Though possibly it was just Dolores Umbridge trying to make me miserable. And she's gone now. Who knows.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:04:30](#)
(no subject)


Last summer Professor Dolohov told me that if my father was a danger to me I should protect myself and then call him if I needed someone to get me out of trouble.

Only, I realised later he didn't actually say what he meant by a DANGER. I mean obviously if he were trying to kill me that's a danger. If he was going to hurt me in a way that wasn't un-doable. But I don't know if a few bruises is exactly what he thought I should be defending myself against, especially since he said I should 'act decisively' and cast something that would 'end the situation' -- although he was sort of talking about what happened in Mysteries, you know, since by then he'd realised it was me who tried to Petrify him and was trying to say, 'that was possibly the dumbest duelling decision I have ever seen in my life, my dear' without actually coming out and saying it.

Anyway when it actually came to it I froze. And partly I was afraid that if I called for help and no one came it would be worse than not calling for help at all. And partly I just didn't want anyone to get in trouble. And partly I knew what to expect if I just covered my head and waited for him to stop and if I did anything else, I DIDN'T know what to expect.

In some ways it was easier not to have any choices. Because at least - well, no. Honestly I felt shame when I was little, too.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 04:25:16](#)
(no subject)

Why?

No, I guess I know a little bit how that could be. I thought I didn't, but-

I can see it.

It's how I felt when my parents were so cross about the car and Harry back in second year, and Bill was worst of all. It just made me-

I felt like I wasn't anything anymore.

Sorry. I know it's different. Completely. Only, I thought I couldn't see why you'd feel shame about something that's totally his being horrible. But I can.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:31:58](#)
(no subject)

Well it's different but it's not completely different.

Your family is great most of the time. They're brilliant in a lot of ways.


But it means your guard's down, right? you're not on edge, ready to cover up the parts that would hurt the most if anyone hits them.



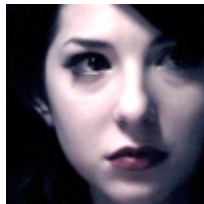
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:32:19](#)
(no subject)


(I mean that more metaphorically than literally.)



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-04 04:35:41](#)
(no subject)

(Both hurt.)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:39:06](#)
(no subject)

True.



 **[alt_ron](#) at 2014-02-04 13:27:40**

Private Message to Sally Anne

I'm sorry. I got you in trouble with your father, and that was stupid. So, so stupid of me.

I mean I wanted to see you so much and know you were alright while you were staying there, but that's what caused it.

And now you're a target because of me. Thomas wouldn't have chosen you yesterday except it was a way to raise his score, targeting another challenger's girlfriend. I told him he can expect to pay for it, and I promise I'll make him sorry. Really properly sorry. But that doesn't make it any better. Not for you.

I hate this.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-02-04 16:51:04**

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

What my father did was not your fault, Ron.

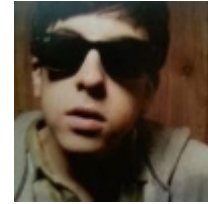
I came out that night because I wanted to see you, not because you talked me into it.

I'm just glad you're not cross that I didn't tell you right away, that was part of what Thomas was trying to get out of me, a secret I'd kept from you.

2014-02-03 21:19:00

Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

Thank you again, oh gracious maiden, for trusting me enough to play along with McLaggen's ridiculous tale the other day. I shouldn't like anyone to know precisely what it actually was that kept me outside the castle so late that particular evening; Professor Dolohov has impressed upon me the wisdom that keeping a secret closely held is the best way to prolong its usefulness for leverage, I believe he called it. Hence my caution to you that however tempting it may be to speak of what you saw captured in those omnioculars, you must resist with all your strength - which I know you have been doing, and shall continue to do, my dearest Gryffindor!



 [alt_linus](#)

Only if you could manage not to blush when you look at Finnegan or Jugson, that would help. They still have no idea, and I wish to keep it so.

Perhaps I ought to write you a love-poem to carry around, so that you could pass off any blushes as due to it?

In any case, as I have sent the device and all the supporting documentation and analysis off to my sponsor in plenty of time, there is naught else for me to do regarding this challenge save basking in the glow of success. And, of course, spending time with my favorite Gryffindor. Revising together again soon, yes?

2014-02-03 21:56:00

Friday's Defence Practical

Friday's sixth year class will be the application of everything we talked about today.



 [alt_rabastan](#)

Please think about appropriate memories. It would be good to have several at hand to have the happiest you can conjure. Just thinking about the right memory should make you physically feel good. I find that thinking about mine makes me feel warm, as if I were sitting in front of a cracking fire.

There will be a real Dementor in the building on Friday. We are using the stadium seating classroom off the northern fifth floor corridor, so that those who are unprepared for it need not be near. If the stair leading up to the corridor is pointing the wrong direction, whang the rail and it'll swing around. All appropriate security measures will be in place.

Anyone attempting to come in and gape will be forcibly ejected. However, all NEWT level Defence students are invited, for those who might feel the need for additional practice. If you can't make the class for scheduling reasons talk to me and we should be able to arrange something before or after.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 03:23:08](#)
Order Only

Brilliant.

I was in much too good a mood today. A Dementor should fix that right up.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-04 03:53:46](#)
Re: Order Only

Joy.

Rapture.

I'll bring the chocs.




 [alt_susan](#) at [2014-02-04 04:13:39](#)

Re: Order Only

Ugh.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 04:04:59](#)

Re: Order Only

Sally-Anne,

I say, what's got you in a bad mood (apart from this)?
(If you don't mind my asking, what.)

I'm not surprised he'd bring a real Dementor, though, after all that talk today about needing to test oneself in 'field conditions' and so on.

Surely we can all think of powerful enough memories?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:06:29](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin


Dean Thomas used Imperius to make me tell him a shameful secret.

It wasn't anything dangerous. To the Order, I mean.

Just --

Well, that's what's got me in a foul mood.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 04:17:39](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

Oh, how atrocious. Why should he target you like that--well, I say, nor anyone else, of course, but--I can't think why he'd decide you're the appropriate one to choose, what. He's got to know that you've got loads of mates who'll come to your defence.

Whatever it was, I'm sure none of us would judge you, you know.

Unless it's that you've secretly yearned for the comfort and amiability of Hufflepuff, all these years. In which case I shall reserve the right.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:34:17](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

He thought I wouldn't tell them, because then I'd have to tell people the secret.

I told Ron and Pansy, because Ron was the one I most didn't want to find out, and I thought if I went ahead and got it over with, Thomas wouldn't be able to use it against me, right?


Over winter hols I sneaked out of the house one night to see Ron and when I came back in, my father woke up and beat me. Ron and I had a signal I was supposed to give if my father -- well anyway I didn't use it, and I didn't fight back, I just

well

so that was the secret, that it happened again and I let it happen, despite everything.

I think the Hat would've put me in Hufflepuff, if I'd asked. It put me in Slytherin, after all. Sometimes I feel like a pretty atrocious Slytherin. I'm good at making friends with powerful people who'd be willing to protect me, and utter pants at actually taking any sort of advantage.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 04:43:07](#)

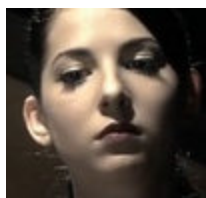
Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

Well, I seem to recall wanting to address a similar situation in my own way and feeling bally well embarrassed to have to call for help, what.

So I can well understand wishing to keep that sort of thing to oneself.

I say...Is that why you were so adamant about bringing me into the ISS? Because of...because of your experiences with your father?

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:49:48](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

I don't remember thinking about it that way at the time.

I just remember thinking that you needed people you could call on who you could trust, and that was extra important given all your secrets, because that makes it so much harder to know who you can ACTUALLY count on. And you ended up really seriously hurt, because none of the people who knew you were in trouble could be arsed to help you (and they didn't even know your secrets)

So

Yeah

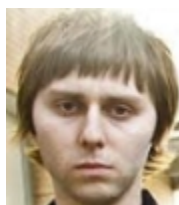
I guess it may have been related.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:34:29](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

It's really a shame we don't call up Patronuses with our worst memories, I've been revisiting ALL of mine this afternoon. I expect they'll still be perfectly vivid come Friday.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 04:45:29](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

You realise you've but to say and we'll remind Thomas of his own humble roots, what.

And as for your father, well. Obviously, it must be well complicated but you'll never have to put up with that sort of abuse from him, ever again.

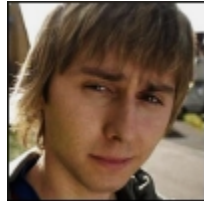
-Justin




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:52:36](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

I already told Ron he wasn't allowed to kill him.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 04:54:23](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

I didn't say anything about killing him.

Just because Professor Dolohov is bally well convinced I've got the makings of an assassin doesn't mean I think violence is always the answer. In fact, I rather think it rarely is, what.

-Justin

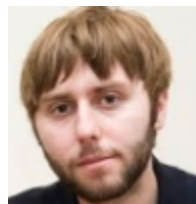



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 04:57:59](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

So what would you do to Thomas?

Or my father, for that matter. Ron and Pansy are trying to convince me I don't ever have to go back and no one will care. I don't know if they're right, or not, I mean neither one of them has ever been a half-blood or in fostering, they don't know how absurd some of the rules are.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-04 05:06:54](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

For Thomas, I'd talk to him, for a start. Find out what on earth he's thinking, what. I'm sure he never expected to learn something so dire but still, he ought to be more considerate.

As for your father... I say, have the Strettons told you anything about Easter holidays? The Jugsons have already

assured me I can stay, what, but when I came of age Mr Jugson discussed my options with me. If you're still in fostering, you could tell Mrs Stretton that you're having trouble imagining life away from them, and that you'll miss them all so terribly that you hope you'll be allowed to come back one last time, that sort of thing. Then perhaps they shan't make you stay with him at all.

And if they do--well, first off, now that you've told him, I'm sure Ron shan't let you out of his sight, if you follow me, and second, if your father raises his hand again, you send up a signal and any one of us would come to take you away. They bally well can't make you go back if we took you to St Mungo's for evaluation or called MLE to arrest him for assault, what.

-Justin



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-02-04 05:11:50**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

I had a signal. And I didn't use it.

And honestly I think I'd rather risk another beating than kiss the Strettons' arses. Which suggests I should just hang up my green and silver and go move into Gryffindor but I prefer my roommates where I am. I'll have to think about it. I have a few more months, at least.



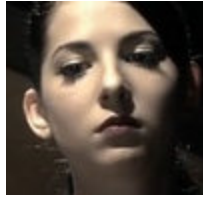
 **[alt_justin](#) at 2014-02-04 05:16:06**

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

Yes, well, now you know that next time, you ought to do.

Perhaps you could tell them we're all taking you on a tour of England to celebrate your coming of age, and ask for permission not to come back to either of them at all? They might allow it if you make them think you'd be letting the side down, otherwise.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-04 05:20:02](#)

Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin

I knew LAST time I OUGHT to do and it didn't help. ~~MERLIN, you are such a~~

Maybe I'll get lucky and the Strettons will demand I come stay with them to babysit. They're still down a nanny, after all, unless they hired someone.




 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-02-04 03:33:42](#)

Private Message to Razzer

Razzer, dear, never would I dream of questioning your methods but isn't there a way to teach the Patronus (it is the Patronus, I'm assuming?) without a live Dementor?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-02-04 04:00:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Razzer

You can practice. You can even succeed during practice, but then fail in the face of the real thing. There'll be one at the NEWTs.

I'm taking all appropriate precautions. Two of MLE's wranglers will be in attendance. Above and beyond that, I've asked a couple of the other teachers to wander in and check on things periodically. There'll only be one of the beasts, unlike the other year.

I ordered a ridiculously massive amount of chocolate. There'll be a nice warm fire in the next room. I'll be personally overseeing every last detail.



 [alt_narcissa](#) at [2014-02-04 04:27:16](#)

Re: Private Message to Razzer

Yes, I'm sure you've thought of every contingency, dear. And I appreciate the value of practising where the conditions are controlled, yet just dangerous enough to provide a taste of what it's

like.

I still don't like it. Not, of course, that my opinion matters, I know.



 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-02-04 03:37:07**

Private message to Professor Raz

Do you suppose you'd allow me to observe? I know I'm not NEWT-level, but I am one of the chosen candidates, so it might be useful to me?

I understand if you don't want it to seem as if you're giving me special treatment because I'm your niece, though.

From,
Hydra




 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2014-02-04 03:44:31**

Re: Private message to Professor Raz

I will be talking to all the fifth year classes. If there's enough interest I'll set up one of the fifth year classes on Friday to have everyone that wants, come and give it a try.



 **[alt_cedric](#) at 2014-02-04 04:14:35**

Private Message to Professor Raz

Would it be alright if I swung by either during class or at the end of the day? It's been two years since I was able to try it for real and I know I'll need it at the end of the year.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at 2014-02-04 04:22:26**

Re: Private Message to Professor Raz

We can work something out. Check with me later in the week. Select fifth years may be trying their hand as well, which could make scheduling tight.

End of the day will probably be best.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-02-04 04:35:35](#)

Private message to Raz

Gather you sorted out the details then, love?

What I said last night still goes: if you want me handy next room over in case anyone needs Poppy, I'm glad to. If you'd rather I were elsewhere, I'll do that. Trust you entirely to know what's best. (Though if there is time at the end to have a try myself, I'd not mind. Quite agree with you there's some things there's no better way to practice.)

What was Narcissa writing about?



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-02-04 04:58:06](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I thought so, now everyone's asking to have a go at the real thing, so the schedule's looking more chaotic than I intended. Which means if something, Merlin forbid, goes wrong the dominoes start to fall.

Love, you can, of course, jump to the head of the queue of staff asking to have a go. Having more handy wands around who can cast the necessary spells would be welcome. Just in case.

Our darling Narcissa was concerned about my ability to do my job and not endanger her delicate flowers entrusted to our care.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-02-04 05:09:18](#)

Re: Private message to Raz


Tidy I'll be done with class for the day, then, really. Of course I'll come be handy. And have a try, time allowing.

And here is where I should smile fondly and tell you that of course I'll be thinking of you, and all the happy memories we have. (And yet, because I am honest, I must admit it probably won't be you at all. You were some two dozen years later arriving in my life than the memory I generally rely on.)

Narcissa is at least somewhat predictable in her concerns, I

suppose. (Is it so much to assume you know what you're doing?
Never mind. Old complaint of mine. Needn't repeat it.)




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-04 04:52:06](#)
(no subject)

Professor,

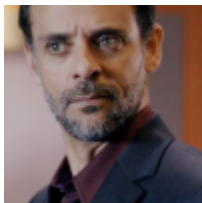
Will there be any time set aside to practise the charm without the Dementor nearby? Before Friday, or else for part of the lesson?




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-02-04 05:06:34](#)
(no subject)

You are welcome to practice anywhere you would normally be allowed to practice relatively safe spells. There's little that can go wrong other than failing to cast it.

And, as always, my door is open during office hours if you wish to discuss this further with me.




 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-04 05:22:07](#)
Private message to Raz

I was preparing to make my apologies that I would not be useful for anything more than patting shoulders and dispensing chocolate, since you know I've never been able to manage the Patronus before, but I tried just now out of whim and instinct, and I appear to have finally found something emotional enough.

What a supremely odd feeling.

I've classes until late on Friday, but if things start getting busy, send word; I hardly think the little darlings would mind an early dismissal.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2014-02-04 06:27:26**

Private Message to Raz

Might do an extra defence revision session this week to review, if that's okay. When's it getting here?

Practising in the room would be good if we could use it. Especially if I could make it really cold in there.

[2014-02-04 03:17:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Albus



 **[alt_severus](#)**

As you know, I have been working with the Malfoy boy in preparation for the rôle as double agent he proposes to adopt. I do not fear his ability to be chosen in this farce, nor do I fear his commitment to seeing matters through to their inevitable conclusion. Nor do I question the necessity of one of the children adopting such a rôle; I am well aware of how badly we suffer for lack of insight into the Death Eaters' ranks, and I am forced to admit Minerva's utility as double agent is long since spent.


What I fear is the price I am we are asking him to pay. I fear we are sending another child out to barter pieces of his soul, fleck by fleck, for scraps of advantage that might very likely prove nothing. I fear — I know — I am readying a bright and sensitive boy — far more sensitive than he would wish known, or indeed would admit to himself — to torture, rape, and kill, and in doing so present the lie to the Dark Lord that such monstrosities are his deepest desire.

~~Did you know what you were asking when you~~

I have thus far honoured your desire to remain sequestered from us all, but can no longer countenance your pretense that everything will work out better for your isolation. If you wish to command from the shadows, that is your right. I blame none but myself for having played my hand poorly and I am well accustomed to being used for strategic purpose. Still, even chess pieces must be encouraged, and command from the shadows necessitates the shadow-master issue the occasional command.

Tell me that you have a plan.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-02-04 09:32:49](#)**
(no subject)

Lie to me if you must



 [alt_albus](#) at [2014-02-04 20:19:22](#)
(no subject)

Severus,

You know as well as I that the games we play - must play - are far more complex than chess. There is nothing so simple, so easily laid out as a plan. There are only possibilities. Potentials. Dependencies.


Would you prefer I had shown myself earlier? Undermined Minerva? Would you suggest I take leadership away from Alice and her admirable and thorough attention to necessary but often tedious details?

You can see as well as I that whatever I say will be given greater weight than other voices. ~~Greater than it deserves~~ We are making progress. Some, at least. And there are ideas, possibilities, I would never have encouraged on my own that have born great fruit.

Tell me, what is it about Draco Malfoy that brings you to his defence so strongly? We both know the harsh truth, that he would have been bound for the Death Eaters no matter what. Your tutelage gives him choices in what that means for him, but comfortable innocence was never a choice he was given. No more than it was for you, albeit for different reasons. I might also remind you that he volunteered for this, knowing the challenge.

What would you change, then, if you could?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-05 03:09:18](#)
(no subject)

What would I change? Odd that you should ask me that when I have sung the same invariant song in every conversation we have had about the matter for at least the last two years. The case of Miss Brodie proves my point: Dogstar continues to recruit, while no one has heard of us. Take a look at the children: they would not have joined the Order had they not rooted out the truth of their own volition and shouldered their way into the Order without taking 'no' as an answer. Had they been one whit less persistent, we would not now be having this conversation.

You are Albus Dumbledore, whatever other name or guise you wear. Whether you care to admit your influence or not, thousands of witches and wizards were conditioned throughout their childhood to quiet when you so much as clear your throat and heed your mildest of suggestions as though they were gospel writ. If you are uncomfortable with raising your voice to the Order, knowing how conditioned so many of them are to offer you deference, you ought at least be speaking up to a wider audience and offering them a vision of the world the way it used to be; there are many who have convinced themselves things are better now who would realise the extent of their self-deception if an authority figure they remember fondly would only raise his voice rather than hiding it away.


You of all people should know how deeply the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation and align themselves with the path of least resistance. We are not challenging their status quo. Black tried, and as much as I am loath to admit, succeeded for a time, but circumstances have outpaced him. As much as you would like to hide yourself away with your books, your arcane research, and your memories of a happier time, you are letting opportunity after opportunity go by. While our operations are best shrouded in shadow, our ideals ought be aired in the light more regularly than we have allowed them to be.

You do not, meanwhile, give Alice enough credit. I think you would find that, however reluctant she was to take up the burden of leadership when it was thrust upon her, she would not now be so quick to set it down again. She is not the sort to abdicate responsibility once she has accepted it.

I am surprised you must ask me why I am so quick to champion Malfoy's cause; I thought my motivations painfully transparent. I will not accept that any boy of sixteen has no choice but to fall. I honour his choices and respect his determination to see necessities through to completion, and I will do, without apology and without hesitation, whatever is within my power to enable him to succeed in the burdens he has taken up, but — knowing intimately what price those burdens will require, and what costs they will continue to manifest — I would be a poor mentor indeed if I did not attempt to find a way through that will not require him to make that sacrifice, however freely and willingly it might be offered.

~~Did you never think to do the same? Did you once think of me when you~~



 [alt_albus](#) at [2014-02-05 05:59:44](#)
(no subject)

Severus,

One of the things I most respect about you is your relentless logic. Even when it is exceedingly sharp.

I am thinking tonight of the old tools. How once it was not the wand but the artavus - the small sharp knife - that was considered a wizard's greatest need, separating what is from what is not. I think about the traditions that hold that naming is the greatest magic. My name caused people to rise, and fight, true. Perhaps to smile. But my name also has death on the edge, and fear, and flight.


It is easier to clean a knife than a name, is it not?

I regret rather more of my choices than you seem to think. ~~Not you, never you~~ I would not repeat those errors again. Boldness and brightness and flame did not serve us years ago. Are you so sure they would serve us now? (I ask, and yet I think I know what you will say. I will give you a chance to persuade me, with specific plans and ideas, if you wish.)

Beyond that, dear boy, I give Alice a great deal of credit, and Minerva and Arthur before her. They did what I could not do, when I could not do it. But I cannot speak and be silent, cannot lead and follow, cannot charge and lay subtle plans, all at once. ~~I am human~~

As to Malfoy, I would expect no less of you. As mentor. As teacher. As the memory of what you were and what you have become. That, Severus, was my point. To ask what you have learned, and how you will pass it to those who do not know.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-06 04:27:38](#)
(no subject)

I am not asking you to be all things to all people; I well know the trap such a desire holds. But you must understand that to us you often appear nothing more than a frustrating spectre lingering, ghostlike, at the edges of our efforts, offering neither encouragement nor assistance. We are not children to haul our

works before Daddy to be praised and cosseted, but we are human, and humans perform best when those they respect take notice of their efforts and accomplishments. And, yes, even their failures.

As little as you might like having others looking to you for guidance, and as little as you might like the layers upon layers of reverence and confidence the members of the Order (and others beside) hold for you and for your fearsome reputation, you cannot continue to deny that reverence and confidence exists, and you cannot continue to insist you are nothing more than one among equals when you also persist in exerting the authority your name and history gives you just frequently enough for us to remain off balance and not frequently enough to be of substantial use. We can neither trust that you will command strategically, decisively, and reliably, nor treat you as nothing more than another member of the Order offering suggestions bearing no more and no less weight than any other's.

We are all muddling about with little in the way of long-term strategy and with little sense of how tactics can feed into that strategy, or indeed how our mid-game tactics can lead to an endgame at all. I do not judge you for not being that strategist more openly. But Alice, and Arthur, and Minerva, have all been excellent tacticians who have all held themselves back from assuming the strategist's role, at least partially because they fear interfering with what you have in mind.

If you do have an explicit strategy that will win this war for us, one that you have been subtly steering us all towards, it is well past the time to make that fact explicit and to share as much of the elements of that strategy as you can share. If you do not, it is well past the time you tell us, and allow us all to work together on crafting a plan that reaches beyond the next set of short-term goals.

I say this to you out of neither anger nor disappointment. You know full well what you have meant to me, and what you have been. If I hold you to a standard you find uncomfortably exacting, it is because you have met that standard, and exceeded it, many times before.

Your name has death and blood and fear written against it, that is true. Many have died beneath the standard of that name, just as many have risen to greatness beneath its banner. Yet from

reading your words I do not know if you are concerned more about the name, or about the end result of the actions undertaken in service to it. You once changed the course of my life with a single question, one I do not know if you still even remember: *do you wish to be known as having done good, or do you wish to do good?* Allow me to return the rhetorical: Are you more concerned about the success of your actions, or about how history will judge them?

2014-02-04 10:08:00

Order Only Private Message to Pansy

What are you doing tonight? I've got a lesson with Dumbledore, only I want to be sure that someone's got Sally Anne's back if she goes somewhere, you know? It's my fault she was an easy mark for Thomas yesterday. I mean, normally, we'd have been together at least up to the castle. But I'm absolutely going back to walking her to the hospital wing when she has to go work and to the library and wherever. And if I can't, I want to make sure you'll be together, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#)

Only, don't tell her, because you know she'll be annoyed because she'll think I think she can't look out for herself. It's just that right now we've got to all have each others' backs. We just do.


How was I so completely stupid?

And I mean about over hols, too. You don't have to say--I know that was my fault.

I'd like to knock Mr Perks around some so he sees what it's like. Only... yeah.

But Thomas? He's got it coming. First chance I get, he's finding himself on the sharp end of something he won't forget.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-04 17:29:24**
(no subject)

It's his fault, Ron, not yours.


He's the one who hit her. He's the one who made her feel so helpless.

She's so strong when it comes to helping other people. She'd do anything for either of us. She'd die for the Order. But when it comes to helping herself... sometimes I think there's a small part of her that believes all that rot people have been feeding her since she was young, telling her she's not good enough.

I'll be keeping close. Don't worry. And Thomas will get his from my

end too. He might not be facing me in a duel any time soon, but he'll regret picking on her. I guarantee it.



 **alt_pansy** at **[2014-02-04 17:30:14](#)**
(no subject)

We can team up next challenge, too.

Make him look bad.

2014-02-04 11:13:00

Private message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold



Dear Ms. Sandoval-Pennifold,


I would like to express my regrets that one of your other chosen candidates, Greg Goyle, crossed my path in the most recent challenge. I didn't plan to pursue either him or Vincent for their secrets, but when the opportunity to take them presented itself, I saw no reason to hesitate.

 [alt_hydra](#)

I can only say that I hope that he performs better next time.

Sincerely,
Hydra Lestrangle




 [alt_lana](#) at **2014-02-05 06:23:25**
(no subject)

Thank you for considering what my views might be, Hydra, but there's no need at all to apologise.

My first hope is that you will excel. If that requires you to put yourself forward at others' expense, that's absolutely what you ought to do.

Consider what your mother would do if she were in your place. That thought should guide you better than any advice I can offer.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-02-05 21:20:11**
(no subject)

Oh, I wasn't apologising. I don't regret either hexing him or legitimising him (or Vincent). I'm only sorry that he unthinkingly gave me such an opportunity. It doesn't speak well of him, and he is my Housemate, after all.

I do think of my mother often, especially these days.

From,
Hydra

[2014-02-04 22:24:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Alice

Kindly tell me it would be counterproductive of me to petrify Albus and drop him in the lake.



 [alt_severus](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-05 03:30:30](#)

(no subject)

I wouldn't recommend it, no.

Just think. You'd have to take over his classes.

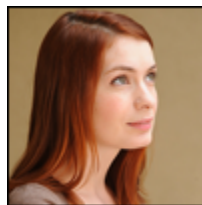



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-05 03:36:42](#)

(no subject)

True. On the bright side, however, if I did take over his classes, I would very shortly thereafter be dead of overwork, and none of this would bother me much anymore.

I am so very weary, Alice. Not physically — although that as well — but Albus's endless dithering has begun to grate on my last nerve. ~~And the dreams are not~~




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-05 03:46:48](#)

(no subject)

Ah. Yes. He does tend to stand back and watch the rest of us gamely muddle along, doesn't he?

Then again, when he does emerge, it tends to lead to rather sudden shifts in things that can make one lose one's sense of direction.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-02-05 03:56:17](#)**
(no subject)

I'd have to say, however, that some of his more abrupt edicts have worked quite well in our favour.

Telling us to get over ourselves and swear you in, for instance. That was rather inspired.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-02-05 04:04:59](#)**
(no subject)

I cannot decide if it would be better for him to step in and decisively take action, or to absent himself entirely and allow us to make our own mistakes and our own successes. Either way, this half-measure is the worst of both worlds. As I have told him, in no uncertain terms; I gave into temptation last night and made him aware of certain of my opinions far more plainly than I ought to have.

I am gratified, however, that you feel my presence in the Order to be a net positive. As frustrated as I am at the interminable delays and countless missed opportunities — a frustration I well know that you share — I am still thankful for the opportunity to continue attempting to redeem my sins mistakes.

As the question must, by necessity, follow: how is Frank?




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-02-05 04:33:01](#)**
(no subject)

I feel sometimes as if we're all stumbling around in the dark, scrabbling our way along the walls, gaining one inch at a time. And that we're not even sure if it's the right direction to go, or if we'll ever be through, but at least we're moving forward together, and not spinning in circles, or sitting down and waiting to die.

And I think Albus is right there in the dark too. Perhaps sometimes even more so than the rest of us.

But yes. I know what you mean.



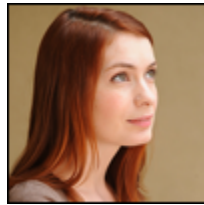
 **alt_severus** at [2014-02-05 05:06:21](#)
(no subject)


I fear you are correct.

And 'fear' is the correct verb. I will not recount the discussion Albus and I had, as I have just managed to stop wanting to kick my workbench and am in the midst of several brews that would poorly repay the percussive method of venting frustration, save to say that his response to me made it painfully clear he has no more clue than the rest of us. And more, that he *knows* it, and that at least some small part of his endless suspension is due to the unwillingness to take action without being assured his action will do no further harm, and that the hopes we have placed in him are more burden than balm.

We all keep hoping he will return, triumphant, as a figure much like Merlin the Wise, but I begin to suspect he is more the Fisher King if he is anything. And yet I cannot bear to discard the small fragment of hope that Albus Dumbledore, the grand and great, will arise one day from the ashes with a solution for us all. *Magus quondam magusque futurus*, I suppose I keep hoping.

My apologies. Once again, I am pouring my melancholy into your lap uninvited.

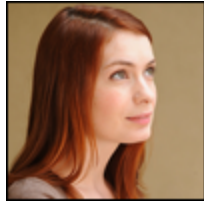



 **alt_alice** at [2014-02-05 06:12:01](#)
(no subject)

Hope can be a powerful thing, Severus.

Sometimes, it can do more than the person who inspires it ever could on his own.

And in the meantime, we'll try to find our way through as best as we can.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-05 04:43:42](#)
(no subject)

Frank is


It's a daily struggle.

But now that he's travelling around and training people, I think he's finally managed to convince himself that he's still useful. (Of course, I can say it until I'm blue in the face, but it doesn't do any good if he doesn't believe it.)

He has his hard days. But he's still my Frank. And I'm so very grateful for that.

And Colin, well, thank Merlin for him.



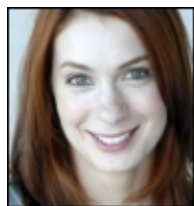
 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-05 05:14:44](#)
(no subject)


It is gratifying to know that he is not allowing himself to succumb to despair.

I well remember — Azkaban aside — the yearly struggle to switch from magical to Muggle methods of doing things. I trust that you have many others able to teach him those Muggle methods, and my own knowledge is a generation out of date, but should it be useful for me to provide tutoring I am happy to do so.

Likewise, if you feel he would benefit from someone to come be blunt at him, this too can be arranged. Though I suspect Fu Lee has matters well in hand there.

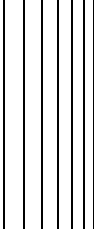
It is good that he has you. Do remember, however, that your needs are just as valid as his own.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-05 06:20:25](#)
(no subject)

Oh, he's cussedly stubborn, which helps.

And I think working with Arabella has been very



good for him, as she's straddled both worlds for so long. It's very kind of you to offer, though, love. I'll be sure to let you know if bluntness is in order.

2014-02-05 19:18:00

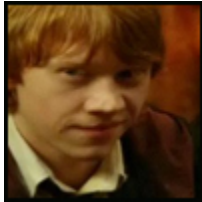
Order Only: Private Message to Ron


Happy hunting.

I bet you a galleon I can hit him more.



 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-06 04:08:26**

(no subject)

You're on.

You're behind already, though.

[2014-02-05 19:55:00](#)

(no subject)


We're having a special meeting of the Defence revision group tomorrow at 7 in the fifth floor stadium classroom. Anyone can come practise casting a Patronus, but it'll probably be the most useful for OWL and NEWT levels.



 **[alt_harry](#)**

No hexing while in the classroom.



 **[alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-06 04:50:07](#)**

Private Message to Raz

Thanks for getting us the classroom.

I was thinking of casting some cooling charms, so it'd feel right. Would that be okay?

And I'm not sure if we can stop people hexing each other in the corridor, but here's hoping they'll listen and won't go after each other in the classroom.



 **[alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-02-06 05:41:51](#)**


Re: Private Message to Raz

Of course. Students going to extraordinary lengths to revise for your class would make any teacher proud. Cooling charms are fine. Let's avoid any of emotion charms. They are too likely to go badly

wrong.

If I catch anyone bringing the competition into my classroom they will be thoroughly unhappy with the results. I can think of all sorts of individually tailored detentions that the contestants will personally loath.



 **[alt_harry](#) at 2014-02-06 05:59:08**

Re: Private Message to Raz

Okay, yeah, that's fair.

And good.

2014-02-05 21:26:00

Private message to Padma Patil




 **alt_seamus**

This challenge should be fun.

Do you want to agree not to go after each other or would you prefer to be able to consider me fair game? (I'm not promising not to go after Zabini, mind you! But we can agree on a truce with each other.)

I wish they'd told us which spells they consider 'curses' -- do you suppose we'll get extra points if we use actual Noble Arts or will spells like the Leg-Locker Curse do so long as we don't get caught out? Also, what if I petrify Weasley and then cast sixteen curses on him, do I get seventeen points or just one? I suppose I could ask my sponsor that question...



 **alt_padma** at **2014-02-06 03:43:48**

(no subject)

I think it's anything but there is a logic to a spell that means they can't hit you back. I wonder how much time has to pass before they counter-curse. They don't want us duelling, just ambushing each other.

And sure, there are plenty of other people to try to get. Of course, the Slytherins have the most chance of running into someone in the dormitories. But I already got Tambllyn once and



 **alt_seamus** at **2014-02-06 04:53:28**

(no subject)

...that sounded a bit ominous.

You still there?

2014-02-05 22:55:00

Private message to Madam Pomfrey


I'm on my way to the Hospital Wing with Dean Thomas. He's ... I'm not quite sure what Nott was doing to him, but I think he needs your attention.

Nott might be coming later. That's his look out.



 [alt_ginny](#)



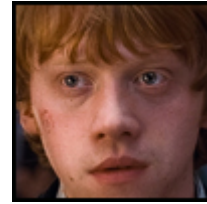
 [alt_poppy](#) at **2014-02-06 05:00:19**
(no subject)

I shall be expecting you, then.

2014-02-05 23:17:00

Private Message to Sally Anne

Say. Do you think you could come to the door of the common room and lend your superiour healing skills? You're not already in bed, are you?



 [alt_ron](#)



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-06 05:22:06**

(no subject)

I'm on my way. What happened?

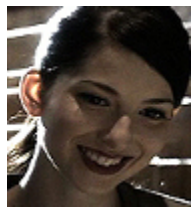


 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-06 05:26:36**

(no subject)

Got caught at the turning. Didn't even see who.

Justin's here and lifted the Petrificus. But there's a little bit of blood and some bruising, I think. And it would awfully nice if my Healer girlfriend laid on hands or whatever you think would be most caring.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-06 05:28:53**

(no subject)

That sounds like something I could do.

See you in a minute.

2014-02-05 23:25:00

(no subject)

Council challenge: Nott has been hexing victims who are already down. Everyone: Keep him in our sights. Let's know where he is at all times.



 **alt_galleon**

2014-02-06 08:52:00

Private Message to Mr Thomas and Professor Acton



 [alt_poppy](#)

Mr Thomas, you've left my ward without my approval. I must insist that you return at the slightest sign of difficulty.

Gwendolyn, he's refused to be examined physically and has declined to answer any but the most basic questions about curse injuries he sustained last evening. There is clearly some neurological impairment--you'll notice the facial tic immediately--but I cannot say whether it will pass quickly or begin degenerating. Please keep an eye on him, and send him forcibly back to me if that seems warranted.

2014-02-06 10:52:00

(no subject)

WHAT HAPPENED WITH NOTT YESTERDAY?



 **alt_galleon**

2014-02-06 13:54:00

(no subject)

Thomas was down, wandless. Nott came along and cursed him. GW found them on Prefect Rds. Otherwise doubt Nott would have stopped.



 **alt_galleon**

2014-02-06 14:08:00

Private Message to Sarah Yaxley

By now, you've received my report regarding the latest challenge. I wanted to write you separately to address the performance of one of the people you sponsored, Theodore Nott.



 [alt_harry](#)

Nott is my classmate and my dorm-mate. As such, we've spent a great deal of time together over the years. This might have given him the impression of familiarity. Nevertheless, he is not my equal, nor will he ever be. I am displeased that he would presume to use my property without permission in order to advance himself. I will not be disrespected by him in this manner again. As his sponsor, I hold you responsible for ensuring that this sort of behaviour will not be repeated.

Only yesterday, Nott repeatedly hexed an opponent who was disarmed, sending that student to the infirmary. If a prefect had not interfered, he would have continued to press his advantage. This is certainly not in the spirit of the challenge at hand, and once again shows his lack of judgement.

The candidates who go before My Father must be prepared to show Him the deference that He is due, and must be capable of following orders. You and I both know the price of disobedience. I take the task My Father has put before me very seriously, and I hope that you do as well.

[2014-02-06 19:59:00](#)

Nice work tonight.


It was good to see so many people there tonight, and we had a lot of successes. And thanks to all the competitors for keeping things clean.



 **[alt_harry](#)**


Best of luck with everyone tomorrow. Just be confident, and remember to think happy.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-02-07 04:11:03](#)**
Private Message to Megan Jones

Good job.




 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:03:56](#)**
Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

IT WORKED AGAIN I CAN'T BELIEVE IT I AM SO HAPPY!

Thank you for encouraging me. You are a very kind person.




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:09:14](#)**
Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

I'm glad you found your happy memory again. That's really brilliant.

I hope you can do it tomorrow, but even if you can't, you know you've got it back.

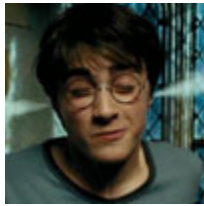



 **[alt_megan](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:16:09](#)**
Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

It is funny but actually I think I got my happy memory to work again because of something Blaise Zabini did. And he did not do it to be nice. Not at all.

It was for that competition. He said he needed a shameful secret ~~or else he would tell~~ and he made me give him one. Except the one I gave him was about a book my father used to read to me when I was little called ~~Maria Muggle~~ that is not proper to read now, and so yes it is a shameful secret ~~because I used to wonder~~ anyhow it is complicated but I think it rather jogged my memory if you see what I mean. So I could think of my father and me when we saw the hedgehog, you know, my happy memory that I told you about before. And now it works again.

It is very strange to feel grateful that Zabini targeted me, but I almost do.




 **alt_harry** at **2014-02-07 06:42:38**

Re: Private Message to Megan Jones

Don't worry, I won't tell him. So he can keep on thinking he was properly mean instead of doing you a favour.



 **alt_harry** at **2014-02-07 04:11:27**

Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

How's Thomas doing?




 **alt_seamus** at **2014-02-07 04:52:45**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Not great.

I think it's a bit unsporting of Weasley not to give him his wand back. Not to mention dangerous, with Nott running around.



 **alt_harry** at **2014-02-07 04:56:17**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Okay. I'll see what I can do.

And he doesn't get extra points for avoiding the

infirmery, yeah? If he needs to spend the night there or something, he should. There's no shame in it.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-07 04:59:07](#)**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

That's a good idea, although at this point, he'd have to get back to the infirmary. Longbottom's got this warding spell he can cast on a bed, and I think Dean's going to have him cast it on his bed tonight.

I mean, it's a good idea because Weasley can't curse him again if he's in the hospital wing.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:06:38](#)**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Yeah. Okay.

I can walk him down there if he needs it.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:08:03](#)**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

He says he's asleep.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:12:13](#)**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

All right.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-07 05:14:32](#)**

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Thanks for writing to Weasley.

He won't see it for a while, though, he fell asleep really early.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-07 06:32:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

It'll be waiting for him in the morning, then.

And I know he likes doing things his own way, but see if you can't get Thomas to stop by

Madame P tomorrow, yeah?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-07 04:59:44](#)


Private Message to Ron

Hey.

I was just talking to Finnegan. Thomas isn't doing so well. And I know you're hacked off about Sally-Anne. I get it. But maybe you could give his wand back tonight?

I know you can take him in a fair fight, after all.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-07 05:03:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron ORDER ONLY

I wanted to be sure Finnegan knew I'd talked to you, so if you did decide to give it back, you could save face.

It's up to you. But it looks like he's had a pretty decent drubbing, and I'm doing what I can about Teddy but I don't want Thomas to stay a target.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-07 19:41:35](#)

Re: Private Message to Ron ORDER ONLY

I'm not giving it back to him until after Defence this afternoon. And then he'll have to go get it in the room.

If he doesn't get selected to be on the Council because he had the bottom score on this challenge, then, really, that's a favour I'm doing him, yeah? Least that's how I see it.

And it's not as though the rest of us aren't taking hits, too.

Seriously. I had to go have my tongue put back rightways round during lunch. Be glad you aren't in the middle of this, mate.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-07 05:28:20](#)

Order Only

Is Finnigan behaving?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-07 06:27:38](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. He's worried about Thomas. I can tell. He said it was unsporting to keep his wand away, but that's pretty much all he had to say about Ron.

2014-02-07 19:09:00

Order Only: ISS Business

Everyone all right? I don't care how prepared you are, being in the same room with a Dementor is always wretched.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)



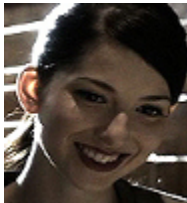
 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-08 01:48:40**

(no subject)

Ugh. It is, isn't it?

I'd forgotten how the cold just sort of seeps right into you.

I'd bet if we asked the elves for hot cocoa tonight, they'd give us some.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-08 02:01:42**

(no subject)

You guessed right. (About the hot cocoa.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-08 02:40:58**

(no subject)

I have to admit. I know we're not supposed to make fun, but it was quite amusing to see Blaise get so disconcerted.



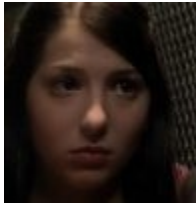
 [alt_susan](#) at **2014-02-08 03:18:18**

(no subject)

I felt a little badly for him, actually. And I honestly thought I'd never see the day.

But good show, you! That was excellent.

I'm still a little cross on my own behalf though--I think maybe I picked the wrong sort of memory.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-08 02:04:05](#)

Private message to Ron

Are you sure you're okay?

I know it was your father's birthday yesterday. ~~Are you~~
~~Were you~~ I think it's harder, the worse stuff you have for the Dementors to make you think about when they get close. Anyway. That you managed a patronus was dead impressive.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-08 05:57:24](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

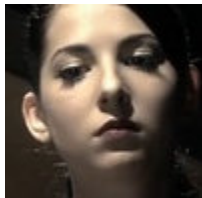
Yeah.

It was. Dad's birthday, I mean. And it wasn't much of a laugh, facing that thing. Guess it showed me why I shouldn't've been smug about getting the patronus first off yesterday.

When you've got a real one looming over you, it's a whole different story.

You alright, then?

We both did better than Zabini, at least!

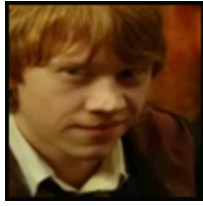


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-08 06:08:48](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah, we did. Curled up in the corner, sucking his thumb, just about, wasn't he?

I was surprised I got anything off, considering yesterday was a dud. So I was reasonably pleased with how I did.

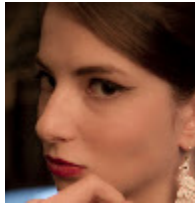


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-08 06:28:34](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

D'you think he wet himself?

Did you see, though, how the Dementor stopped when you cast the charm. I mean, I know it wasn't more than a bit of mist, but you made it draw back. I think that's really excellent under the circumstances.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-08 20:40:42](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah. If he has us do it again I think I might be able to manage it. Maybe.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-08 21:26:14](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I was talking to Ginny earlier. After Quidditch. Talking about how it felt, y'know? When we were in the room with the Dementor.

I think maybe I was just so surprised by it. How it felt. Maybe next time? I don't know.

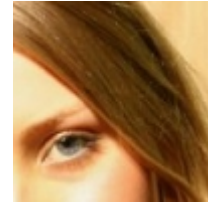
It was hard to remember the happy things. I couldn't really.

2014-02-07 22:09:00

Private Message to Linus

That encounter with the Dementor sounded positively horrid!


I have to admit I'm rather glad I'm not taking N.E.W.T.-level Defence.



 **alt_lavender**

I've some more hot cocoa & a packet of really good chocolate digestives from Mum, if you'd like to find a quiet corner & maybe try making some more happy memories.

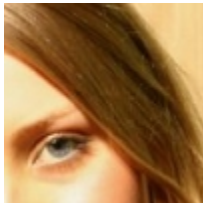



 **alt_linus** at **2014-02-08 03:49:17**
(no subject)

It rather was. I am most put out, as I made sure to review all the relevant texts before making the attempt. I should have been able to manage it.

Ah, well. Professor Dolohov does say that the occasional setback should not be dwelt upon, but rather used to build resolve.

Making some more happy memories does have a cheerful sound to it. I am game if you are, beauteous one.



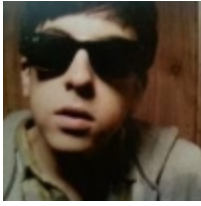
 **alt_lavender** at **2014-02-08 04:24:56**
(no subject)


I am!

Perhaps that very pleasant alcove we found near the library a few weeks ago?

I've been thinking a bit of what you showed me last week, but don't let's talk about it now, when we have some time alone and more interesting things to do.


Chocolate and other delights await!



 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-02-08 04:26:19](#)**
(no subject)

Indeed! I shall meet you there in a trice.



 **[alt_lavender](#)** at **[2014-02-08 04:27:04](#)**
(no subject)

I can't wait!

2014-02-07 23:31:00

Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley



 **alt_antonin**

I've just settled in to begin looking through the research journals you all turned in today, to get a sense of where each group is in their progress and to see which groups might need a little extra attention and encouragement, and I happened to notice a certain, shall we say, uniformity in your group's notes. While it is entirely possible you all decided to rewrite your observations in a single hand for legibility's sake, and you certainly would be an excellent candidate for penmanship awards if Hogwarts were so inclined, the quality of the work is likewise rather uniform. Uniformly high, as I would expect from any research undertaking in which you participate, but uniform nonetheless.

I am not at all displeased with the quality of that work -- indeed, you are well ahead of where I would expect and some of your progress hints at a level that would not have been out of place at all in the programme from which I earned my mastery -- but given the length of time over which these research journals were compiled, the fact the lion's share of work in the group appears to have fallen entirely upon your shoulders cannot entirely be due to your groupmates being caught up in this competition for Our Lord's favour. (And even if it were, that is information I would like to know, as it will inform my opinions should I be asked to tender them.)


I must ask: are you dissatisfied with the amount your groupmates have been contributing to your work, or do you feel the contributions are evenly divided?

I suspect that you, like many other highly gifted wizards I have known, find being left to your own devices to complete the group's work on your own a better alternative than having to cooperate with others whose sense of diligence and commitment may not match your own. Normally, I would be entirely in sympathy (being of that opinion myself rather more frequently than is good for me), but as the culmination of this project will involve cooperative casting and learning to work in synergistic groups, it is vital that group members be able to rely on each other. If you are having difficulty with your groupmates not achieving at the same standard of excellence you

bring to the matter, please let me know. I will find you an alternative.

Regards,
Professor Dolohov



 **alt_justin** at [2014-02-08 05:44:52](#)
(no subject)

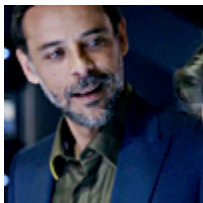
Professor,


Do forgive me responding so late. I was taking another mug of cocoa after today's Defence lesson and was just checking my journal one last time, before turning in.

Before I address your concern, allow me to thank you for the compliment to our research thus far. You've spoken so often of your programme and of course, one reaps the benefits of that rigorous training each time one enters your classroom, so to be compared favourably against those standards is jolly high praise indeed.

Regarding the division of labour and command of the subject itself--I do assure you we've all discussed the material in depth, sir. We quite agree on the theories and all contribute to the supporting evidence. I should never like you to think anyone on our team a shirker; I'm quite certain any of us could speak to the assignments in class, if called upon to do so. If it seems I have taken on much of the burden, I say, it's only to save them time more valuably spent pursuing the distinguished opportunity they have been offered. It's my privilege to support their efforts in a capacity suited to one's strengths and disposition. Truly, Professor, our group has functioned quite satisfactorily. Though of course, if you believe our balance of labour ought to change, that is your prerogative as our teacher. But for myself, I am indeed happy to know I am serving Our Lord, in a way, by serving our working group as our lead author.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **alt_antonin** at [2014-02-08 06:20:53](#)
(no subject)

Think nothing of the hour; I will be awake for at least some time further myself. And allow me to say that cocoa seems an excellent idea after the trying day so many of you have had.

If you are content with the division of labour I will not interfere, and certainly I did not mean to intimate your fellows were ignorant; I am certain I would find Miss Patil, for instance, quite capable of discussing your research intelligently, should I call upon her to do so. I was only concerned that you not feel unduly put upon. I have often found that an eagerness to achieve, coupled with an innate affinity for the intellectual discovery involved in a particular subject, can lead to situations where a bright young wizard can find himself either being taken advantage of or shouldering additional responsibility to avoid the unpleasantness of having to correct the work of others; if you are satisfied that neither is the case, then so am I, but it would be remiss of me as a teacher to not inquire.

However, between the quality of your research notes and the quality of your contributions to the discussion at our luncheons it is clear you grasp the basics of the material (and, indeed, many of the more advanced nuances) thoroughly, and I fear you may be adopting the lion's share of your group's research in order to avoid becoming bored. If that is the case, or if you wish to pursue some of the implications of your work further to indulge your curiosity, I would be more than willing to offer you additional class credit for deeper analysis, or to work with you to adapt some of your interests into a form suitable for academic publication. I know your schedule is quite full this year, but several of the points you have raised, both in your research journal and in our discussions, are excellent candidates for expansion. I do not know where your plans lie after graduation, but I have found very few ambitions that will not benefit from the addition of a publication credit or two.

2014-02-09 21:49:00

ORDER ONLY: ISS Business

I had a *very* interesting conversation tonight.

You see, last term I thought about starting up a Tea. Like you older girls had. Because it always seemed so nice, and it's one of the ways Sally-Anne and Pansy got to know Sue and Luna and Hydra better to let them in on the Lock and things, and there aren't many 4th years who are part of the Galleon group, and anyways, I sent out invites over hols and we've hit it off rather well, and tonight was our second Tea.




 [alt_evelyn](#)

And we were talking about our favourite romances. You know. In books and things. And Delia burst out with Lizzie and Mr Bennet, and because she said that one, Ingraine passionately claimed Jane and Mr Rochester, and those of us who've read them were very enthusiastic in debating which one was best, and the long and the short of it is that I'm loaning out my *Pride & Prejudice* to Morwenna, and Delia's loaning hers to Paula, and we're going to be reading our favourite bits out loud next week. (Ingraine has to get her *Jane Eyre* copy from home over hols, so we're holding off on that one.)

Anyways. Justin, Sue, I thought you'd like to hear it.

And I think it might be nice to do a book exchange with the galleon group as well. I'm quite excited to see what everyone brought.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-10 16:45:45**

(no subject)

Romances?

I mean, if you're going to bother with reading, you want something a bit more exciting.

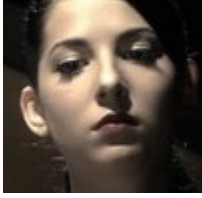


 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-02-10 17:15:44**

(no subject)

They aren't *romances*, silly. They're the greatest love stories of our time. I don't think they even kiss at all in them.

Besides, Justin was talking about books with dragons in them and things, and that sounded like it'd be interesting.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-10 18:57:13](#)
(no subject)

Jane Eyre isn't exactly a romance. I mean there's a romance IN it, but --

well, I don't want to spoil it for the people who haven't read it and might. (Ron, I can tell you what happens if you're curious. I'm not worried you'll read it.)

2014-02-09 22:12:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey



 **alt_evelyn**


I wrote all about it earlier, under the ISS business (you can read it if you like), but I just wanted to let you know that you were right. People showed up, and no-one made fun, and I'd revised sometimes before with Thalia and Paula, and Katrina, well, I've told you about her, but it's like we've never had the chance to just be silly together before. And I didn't know some of the other girls well at all, but I'm having so much *fun* getting to know them, and I didn't know it could be like that. Making new friends.

And Katrina had never talked to me about the galleon group, really talked, but she stopped me after Tea tonight and asked about Nott, and what we ought to do, and it felt like she finally *saw* me. I don't know how else to explain it. It was like I wasn't invisible any more.

Anyways. It's going far better than I ever thought it could. And I know it was silly to be so very nervous about it, but I'm so glad I sent off those invites.

(And Colin, I hope everything's going well with you. Did you have a good Defence session today? I hope I'll get a chance to join in some time. It sounds like a lot of hard work, but the good kind.)




 **alt_frank** at **2014-02-10 22:14:52**

(no subject)

Good on you, sweetie. I know it took some courage to make that leap, but you did it.


And of course you hit it off. Because the people who are worth knowing are the sort who know a good person when they see one.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-02-10 22:19:47](#)**
(no subject)


(It is a lot of work, yes, but it's brilliant. I hope you'll get a chance to join in too. Maybe over Easter, or summer? Sometimes I wish I had a chance to sit the OWLs, just to see how well I'd do, hey? But I'd bet my stunners and disarmers would pass muster at this point.)



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-02-10 22:20:45](#)**
(no subject)

(And the Tea sounds like a really sharp idea. I'm glad to hear it worked out for you.)



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-02-11 01:20:30](#)**
(no subject)

(I am too!

I don't know how much use it'd be, but next term, I can try to get you a copy of mine just so you can see what they were testing.)

[2014-02-10 11:11:00](#)

A few quick notes

Third and seventh years:

I'm sure you'll all be glad to hear I am cancelling class on Friday evening, the 14th. (The weather looks unpromising for outside work, and from experience, I know that inside work will be full of distractions if we try.) Third years, I'll have an additional assignment for you in class on Friday, due a fortnight later. Seventh years, kindly apply yourself to your research projects for an extra two hours or so. I've got comment on the pieces you've turned in most recently if you want to stop by and collect them.



 [alt_sinistra](#)

Students attending the lecture tonight:

Please be at the ground floor floo tonight, ready to step through at 6:40. We'll be returning around 11. Please bring something to take notes on. I'll give you a quick tour of the space so you know where things are, and then I'll have some duties at the front of the room during the first part of the lecture.

This week's schedule:

Due to the lecture tonight, no office hours today. I will be in my office Tuesday evening from 7 to 9, and then the rest of the week as usual. As always, other times may be possible if needed.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at **[2014-02-10 16:35:53](#)**

Private message to Tosha and Raz

Tosha -

I'm planning to apparate, of course. I'll meet you at your classroom, and we can walk to the apparition point from there? (Georg knows we might be a little late: they're planning on drinks and mingling until half-five, but I did want to include you in the supper. Pity the timing's so tight.)

Raz, love, thank you for keeping an eye out. And I promise, I'll share all the interesting parts when I get back. Or, um, tomorrow, given the timing.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-02-10 16:40:29](#)

Private message to Linus Moon

Linus -

I'm so glad you're looking forward to the evening. I do hope I can rely on you to show people where things are during the initial lecture, if anyone needs anything. (And of course, the Guild elves know you, so feel free to ask for anything reasonable.)

I do hope you'll find time later this week to come up and discuss it, too. I'll be very interested in what you take away from the discussions.

[2014-02-10 23:21:00](#)

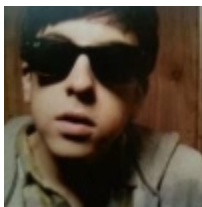
Glorious, glorious evening of learning!

The Astronomy lecture by Guild Master Bright was of a quality completely beyond my meager ability to describe, other than perhaps to say that it was stellar! Though I really ought use a word meaning "comet," oughtn't I? In any case, it was most splendid!



 [alt_linus](#)

More when I have regained my composure.



 [alt_linus](#) at **[2014-02-11 05:35:04](#)**

Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

I trust that you are aware of the rather frenetic action owing to the latest challenge. Herewith, if you will permit me to wax eloquent on my own behalf, is how events unfolded:

Glorious Victories:

I got Montague with a most elegant curse, so neatly done that he did not even notice, let alone counter. It was a Mirror-Reading Curse, a very short-term one, or as I should probably say, a gnidaeR-rorriM Curse. Given Montague's lack of study habits, perhaps I ought not be surprised that he did not try to read anything in the twenty minutes the curse was active! I tried him again with a different curse later, but I missed, and besides, he spotted me. Fortunately his own return curse went astray as well.

I hit Ronald Weasley with a Disarrainment Charm, but I daresay no one noticed that in the slightest that his robes were completely askew. Still, it counts as a satisfying victory -- sufficiently satisfying that I refrained from repeating it the next time I saw him. Really, some things are just too easy, and not befitting a proper curse-sniper. (Well, the next two times. Actually, three, if I recall correctly.)

I got Padma with a most satisfying curse that resulted in her sporting kneazle ears for a good five minutes before she noticed. Such a noise she made when she finally twigged to it! And later I got her with a robe-lengthening jinx. I still don't know if she ever figured me as the culprit for that one. How I laughed, once safely away! She did wreak vengeance later, of course.

Goyle tried something, but you will be happy to know I gave as good as I got. (Yes, that was why we both had pig snouts when you saw us.)

I did in fact lob a curse at Sam Montgomery, but it was a very gentle one, as I understand she is in a delicate condition. All it did was turn her hair ribbon to an eel for a few moments. It was, however, quite satisfying in its effect, and she lacked composure to counterattack, which was convenient. Besides, she did get me back quite handily with the curse that made all food taste like it had been simmered in hot peppers, which I call adequate revenge. I re-eeled her ribbon for it, but still, I believe she came off the better in that one, as it did completely spoil my evening meal, as well as my customary glass of warm milk at bedtime after eventful days. You may rely on my assurances that warm milk should NOT be peppered.

There were a few exchanges of no particular import, McLaggen and the like, that I needn't bore you with.

I would have gotten Malfoy, but the fellow is preternaturally alert, and I never felt I had a truly clear shot. I refrained from attacking Dean Thomas while he was wandless, as I could not help thinking what Byron would say. A few other attempts went astray, but one cannot manage to catch the Snitch every time. Professor Dolohov assures me that attention to steady incremental improvement of skills is much more effective than ineffectual histrionics and grand attempts that fail, no matter how dramatic. Still, I wish I had gotten Zabini with the glossolalia charm. That would have been amusing, watching him trying to keep his dignity whilst babbling uncontrollably.

Instructive Defeats:

I was, of course, unable to completely prevent being hit by various curses myself. However, I most prudently arranged with Madam Pomfrey that I be checked every evening for lingering effects, and I believe I have escaped the worst. And my feet went back to normal size while I slept, as Madam Pomfrey assured me they would, so that's all right then. Parkinson is quick, I will give her that. A number of others hit me as well, but that's all in the game, so to speak, and as Professor Dolohov assures us it will serve only to make us better the next time 'round.

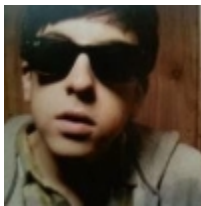
(My actual parchment on this is much more colourful, and arranged with tables of which Houses I favoured most with my attacks. If you'd care to see it, I would be happy to meet you at the secluded location of your choosing, milady.)




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-11 06:00:11](#)
(no subject)

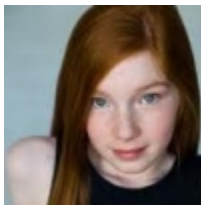
That was an extremely interesting lecture.


I did sort of wonder what Diviners would say that the oracular meaning of the comet was, since the Astronomers were so emphatic about there not being one (or at least, that this wasn't the interesting thing about the comet).



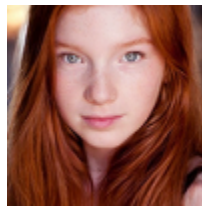
 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-02-11 06:49:24](#)
(no subject)


I fear I must agree with Guild Master Bright and the rest, in the main, but perhaps Lav will give us a few diverting words on the subject.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-11 07:03:34](#)
(no subject)

The panel on locational magics and how the comet might impact them was very interesting.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-11 07:05:44](#)
ORDER ONLY

There was a lot they *didn't* say, though.

About the octobori.

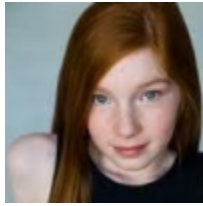
They *have* to have noticed it, the people who do research on leys, I mean. I wonder if some of them even might've worked on the octobori, I mean, if they're experts and all. If they didn't, I bet they know the people who did.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-02-11 07:11:55](#)**
(no subject)

It rather was, wasn't it? Many observations will need to be made. And of course the thing about brief celestial events is that they are brief.

The question as to whether there might be any perceptible effects on various magics at Hogwarts was most intriguing as well.




 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-02-11 07:25:12](#)**
(no subject)

~~We could take some measurements regularly to see if they do~~

Yes, I wonder if we'll notice anything.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-02-11 19:16:48](#)**
(no subject)

I'm delighted you all seem to have found the evening as fascinating as I'd hoped.

I should mention, of course, that Cantus Deverill deserves just as much credit for the comet's discovery as Guild Master Bright. One of the things I've greatly appreciated in my time in the Guild is how much of our work depends on collaboration with others. The stars are so vast a topic no one person can manage their study alone.

I was particularly intrigued listening to the applications to other fields - I was migrating between various of the smaller panels in the second half. Apparently wines made in a comet-year are supposed to be particularly excellent, of all things. (My mother said there's some old stories about the same thing being true for honey, but she isn't sure she believes them. Seems a fun thing to test sometime, though.) And of course the effects on potions, on magical plants, and such are quite complex. (Pomona, Horace, I do have notes for you, of course.)

For those of you interested in the locational magic implications, I've been fascinated with them since my own NEWT project. I'd be glad


to lend some articles and of course we have some historical data in my office archives as well.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:42:26](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you for letting me come, Professor Sinistra. It was a very interesting evening.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:51:48](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, thank you. The potions panel was really well done.

2014-02-11 20:39:00

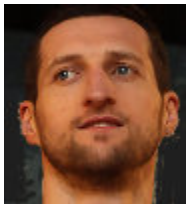
Private message to Bill Weasley




 [alt_corax](#)

Received your report on the food reduction experiment. Make a note that if a camp isn't working, rations can be cut by 10% without seeing a significant rise in mortality (probably 15% in summer) but that when muggles are gainfully employed the drop in productivity is too extreme to make tinkering with rations worthwhile (outside of famine conditions, obviously).


Effective immediately, restore rations at Ashford, Chipstead, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Swale to the standard levels.



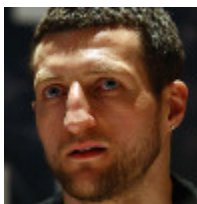
 [alt_corax](#) at [2014-02-12 02:53:39](#)
(no subject)


Effective tomorrow, that should have said. No need to roust the camp administrators out of bed to give all the muggles a midnight snack.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-02-13 00:21:07](#)
(no subject)


Rations restored, (with caveat understood).



 [alt_corax](#) at [2014-02-12 02:54:59](#)
(no subject)

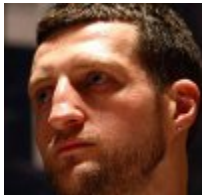
Also, pull copies of that study that was done during Black's Epidemic and make a report for me in the same format as your report on my experiment -- you know, tables and so on. I want to be able to compare without giving myself a headache.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at [2014-02-13 00:24:24](#)
(no subject)

Assuming you're just speaking of the same camps, the report should be on your desk first thing tomorrow morning. Limiting it to those will make a camp-to-camp comparison easier.

(The butcher bill reached levels during Black's epidemic which were much more extreme, of course.)




 **[alt_corax](#)** at [2014-02-12 03:02:03](#)
(no subject)

Also, I really liked those tables. Very informative. Made the data extremely easy to read.

Get the information on the office supplies the Protectorate Affairs division's been going through, by department (oh, and also by office), and put it all in a table like that. By type, you know, quills vs parchment and so on. I feel like the Department of Wizarding Repopulation goes through twice as many quills as anyone else but I'm not sure.

You'll need to figure out a way to make it clear which offices are very large. Obviously fifty people will go through more quills than three.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at [2014-02-13 00:25:39](#)
(no subject)

Office supplies again?

Yes, sir.




 **[alt_corax](#)** at [2014-02-12 03:03:32](#)
(no subject)

Also absenteeism.

In a separate table.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 00:26:01](#)**
(no subject)

Right.

2014-02-11 21:23:00

Order Only: Distributing Books

It's a Hogsmeade weekend coming up, isn't it?

I hope so, because we've got about 50 copies of the original *Pure Victory* for you lot to start giving out.



 [alt_sirius](#)

We've been stockpiling them at Grimmauld. Miss Parkinson, if you're still able to ask Hitty to deliver them, that would probably be the least conspicuous method. Otherwise, someone will have to meet us in the cave outside the village this Saturday.

And it ought to be this Saturday, since we heard on the wireless that the replacement's coming out very soon. And Hogsmeade might be the best venue to give them out, if it comes to that.



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2014-02-12 03:28:50**

Private message to Sirius

It's pretty good, you know? I thought I'd just read the first few pages and now I'm wondering if I can get through it before I really NEED to go to bed.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2014-02-12 03:37:45**

Re: Private message to Sirius

Well, it's up to you but just remember that there's someone in this house who'll be awake at six whether we are or not.

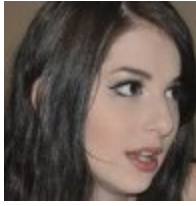


 [alt_lupin](#) at **2014-02-12 03:38:55**

Re: Private message to Sirius

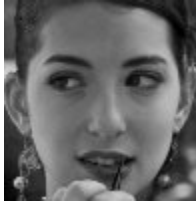
That is an excellent point. Okay.

I'm definitely going to put it down after the next chapter.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:30:29](#)
(no subject)

Well if Hitty can do it I hope she delivers copies to Lavender Brown and Padma Patil. Because it's not as if we could safely hand over a copy to either of them but I'm SURE they were wanting to know how it ends.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:31:30](#)
(no subject)

Pansy do you think she could slip it into people's bags without being seen, in Hogsmeade? At least Lav's likely to be distracted, I imagine Moon will take her to Madam Puddlifoot's. (It's the sort of thing he'd

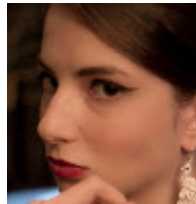
do.)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:41:38](#)
(no subject)

I think she could, yes.

We should make up a list of all the 3rd years and higher who weren't at the reading who wouldn't snitch right away.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:43:49](#)
(no subject)

Ordinarily Padma would.

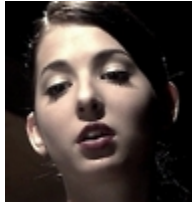
But don't you think she's probably dying to know? I know she read the first two.


And I have to admit I find the idea of corrupting her (even a little bit) awfully appealing.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:47:06](#)
(no subject)


Oh, I know the feeling.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:44:51](#)
Private message to Pansy


Besides, it's potentially blackmail material later, if she doesn't hand it over. Not super-useful blackmail material but if we ever needed to throw her off her guard for a half minute, that might do the trick.



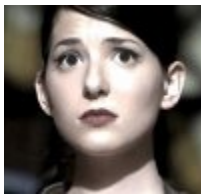
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:50:42](#)
Re: Private message to Pansy

Point.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:42:09](#)
(no subject)


Brilliant. I'll send her an owl, and she can pop over to Grimmauld to pick them up.



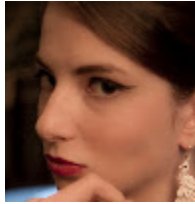
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:45:39](#)
(no subject)

Well, you probably don't want her to pick them up until Saturday unless she's got somewhere better than Grimmauld to keep them. I mean, fifty copies of a totally forbidden banned book? Not something you want to leave lying around.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 03:50:11](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, I'll tell her to swing by on Saturday.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 03:58:10](#)
(no subject)

So who should get the fifty copies?

Did Ginny Weasley get her own copy back?


Because if she did, she doesn't need one, but if she didn't, I think she should get one.

I don't think the rest really need to go to kids who were at the reading -- maybe one or two? But the people who came to the reading have read it already.

If we're doing distribution at Hogsmeade we can't give it to first and second years unless they're trustworthy enough that we can just hand it to them directly (in which case they were at the reading). Anyway. We can think it over and make a list to give Hitty.

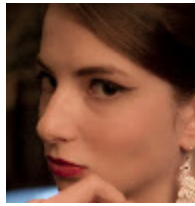
Do the books list a publishing house? Like a made-up publishing house? Because if they DO list a publishing house, we could distribute other stuff later the same way, from the same 'house,' right?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-12 05:39:24](#)
(no subject)

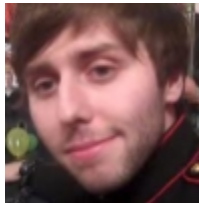
Yes, I think it ought to be given to people who weren't there. Definitely Padma and Lav. Anyone else in our year? Maybe Zabini and Smith? I don't know if boys would be the absolute best, though.


We ought to spread it out a bit, though. Try and hit up the 4th and 3rd years especially. Ev, Luna, Hydra, you probably know the younger years a bit better, maybe you could write up a list or something.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 18:11:52](#)
(no subject)

Did Smith read them? Zabini did. We want people we KNOW read the first two. And I agree about spreading it out a bit. People from all four houses. All five years that'll be in Hogsmeade. I don't think we should leave out the 7th years, either, you know? If we're using this to recruit, they're the ones who are best placed to seek out the Order, right?



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-12 18:37:34](#)
(no subject)

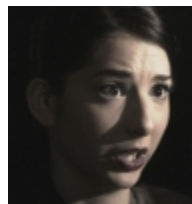
Hullo,

Smith hasn't read them. I've no idea about Zabini, what, but I could try to find out in our Noble Arts discussion group tomorrow. I say, if we have the lesson tomorrow. Does anyone know what prompted Professor Dolohov to cancel today's?

As for others who might enjoy getting the book, I should think Inglebee, Zimmerman, Effie Stevens and Rubens in Hydra's year, what, and Levingworth, Catchlove, Ross, Marks and Forney in third year. I imagine Daphne wouldn't mind if Astoria got a copy, do you? If not her, then Queenie, perhaps.

I say, I wonder what might happen if we gave a copy to Remy Jugson, or Malcolm Baddock.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-12 18:50:16](#)
(no subject)


I was thinking we need to be careful, trying to find out who's read the first two. You don't want someone like Zabini finding his copy and realising you had anything to do with this book that's from the Order of the Phoenix and Sirius effing Black.

But, the 'official' version is coming out too, really soon. So we

could ask around about who's excited to read it now that it's finally being properly released? And see what people say. Maybe.

Anyway, Zabini DID read the first two, I remember he had them in the common room. Give it to Queenie, not Astoria. I don't know about Malcolm Baddock, what does Hydra think?




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:08:43](#)**
(no subject)

You know I'm reading looking at this copy of the book, and there's a blank page right at the front. And another at the back.

Why didn't we put anything there? Like a letter to readers, saying something like, 'oi, the Lord Protector didn't want you reading this book because he thought it would corrupt you. The government tried to destroy every copy but they missed a few! And I thought you might like to know how the story ends. Your friend, Sirius Black.' Or something.

Is it too late to do it? We could use a duplication spell.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:12:01](#)**
(no subject)

Did Aldrich keep the original publisher's imprint? We could invent our own, if not. Protector-Free Press, that sounds catchy, don't you think?

I should write a forward, you're right.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:15:08](#)**
(no subject)

They took it out. I think given what we heard had already happened to the editor, it would be better to make it clear these weren't printed by the publishing house.

An afterward might be better. Let them read all the seditious stuff and THEN find out this was a present from Sirius Black. If we're

setting a goal of corrupting the young and upright -- which is to say, the ones our lot didn't trust enough to invite along to the seditious reading back in December.

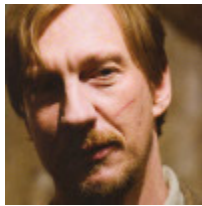


 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-12 04:15:18](#)

(no subject)

I have been attempting to persuade Albus that we will get nowhere if we are not more open about the fact that the Order exists, even if we do not name it. For far too long, people have been kept from knowing there is any organisation opposed to the Dark Lord that is ~~not-Dogstar~~ not as immoderate in its attitudes towards collateral damage. We cannot hope to recruit others if they do not know *la Résistance* exists.

This would be an excellent opportunity to begin communicating that message.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-02-12 04:17:06](#)

(no subject)

Interesting point.

Would you suggest we say it's from the Order of the Phoenix, then? Or should we give our public face a different name?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-02-12 04:19:23](#)


(no subject)

You mean something like Dumbledore's Army?

Or are you suggesting we send the message to the Death Eaters that the Order of the Phoenix has risen from its ashes?

I agree that we need to be more active about recruiting. If we need an army to fight back and punch through their defences then we'll have to start putting together cells.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:21:52](#)**
(no subject)

Well, the name 'phoenix' rather does imply 'you might think you've destroyed us, but here we are, reborn.' It's a bloody good name. Seems a shame to waste it.

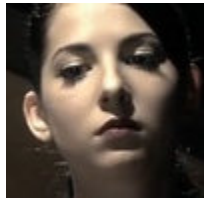
But Dumbledore's Army might do.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:28:24](#)**
(no subject)

As to that, Albus would object, most vigourously.

I do not say that should stop us, mind.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-12 05:08:08](#)**
(no subject)

I hate to say it but hardly any of the current students even know who Dumbledore is. I mean, they've heard the name and they know he was a former Headmaster who fought against the Lord Protector and then fled.

I don't think that name would have the right effect. Black's Army would be better.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:26:22](#)**
(no subject)

As to that, I have likewise attempted to convince Albus that we ought be using his name to rally those who still remember that name and the power it holds, but he is thus far unconvinced as to the wisdom. Were it up to me, I would say the Order of the Phoenix should indeed rise from its ashes. I am not, however, the final arbiter.

At very least we ought adopt a public-facing name. How many others similar to Miss Brodie have found themselves looking towards resistance groups with whom they are less sympathetic

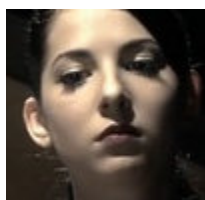
when at minimum they would have been our fellow travelers, had they only known we exist?



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:32:06](#)**
(no subject)

I was thinking that it might not be wise to use Professor Dumbledore's name, in any case. It would just put MLE on alert to look for him. And then someone might see behind his appearance.

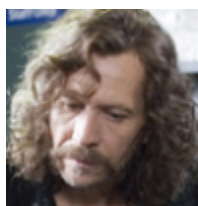
But Sirius is the most recognisable name we've got, and he's already known to be a vocal opponent of the Protectorate. Maybe we should have something that uses his reputation. The good part of his reputation, I mean, not the other stuff.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:41:01](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, we could be 'Black's Army.'


Or you could sign it, 'from the Sirius Black and the Order of the Phoenix.'



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:47:21](#)**
(no subject)


Anyone who'd join Black's Army needs his head examined.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:43:39](#)**
(no subject)

Oi, my reputation's just fine!




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:39:10](#)**
(no subject)

I'm trying to remember what we thought the Death Eaters knew about the Order, and what they merely suspected.

They certainly knew about Albus. Presumably they knew about James, Sirius, and me. I don't think they ever had any idea about Molly and Arthur -- though they knew about Gideon and Fabian, clearly. They surely suspected about Frank and Alice and the other Aurors, but I don't think they were ever certain (merely being Aurors who opposed the new order was dangerous enough, after the Ministry fell.)

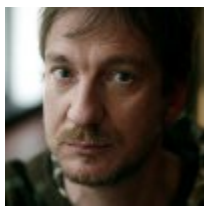
I don't want to get Molly into trouble. Or Neville, obviously. But I do think there's an advantage to a name with a bit of history.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:45:41](#)**
(no subject)

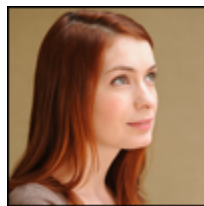
Perhaps we could use the name but be subtle about it. Phoenix Order Press or something. And then in the afterword I could talk about the historical Order and how it never quite went


away.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 04:49:21](#)**
(no subject)

I think if we do that we should just call it the Order of the Phoenix Press. But I like the idea of the afterward.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-02-12 05:31:30](#)**
(no subject)

I do as well.

Although the Weasleys and Neville and Evelyn might need to tread carefully, I think it would be worth our while to put our name out there.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-12 05:03:49](#)
(no subject)

Mr and Miss Longbottom are well used to having their parents held against them, I suspect.

From memory I can say they were certain of you lot, plus Shackbolt, Meadows, the gentleman who prefers his name be kept out of the journals — mostly the Aurors. ~~I was careful who~~ Consensus was (forgive me, Molly) that Molly was nothing more than the housewife she appeared, and her brothers' political actions did not run in the family. If the Longbottoms were ever confirmed among the Death Eaters as belonging to the Order most definitely, it was after I was no longer in a position to know; the last word I could speak to with confidence had them on the suspect list, but that was during the time when Alice's pregnancy and the presence of a young child kept them from ever being confirmed that I knew of.

Miss Granger is correct that reviving the name might cause the Dark Lord to look more closely for Albus's presence. He cannot conceive of an organisation held together by shared ideals rather than by a charismatic individual. I judge that to be an acceptable risk; Albus might have a different opinion.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-12 05:06:26](#)
(no subject)

If it would help divert suspicion from Mum, I'd definitely be up for producing some show of loyalty or other, and I bet Bill would be, too.

And, I mean. Percy.




 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-12 15:19:00](#)
(no subject)

At risk of agreeing with Severus twice in a fortnight, I believe it's high time we demonstrate that the phoenix has risen from its ashes.

If not now, when?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-02-12 05:35:53](#)

Private message to Padfoot

Well, Alice concurs with Severus. So unless there's a massive outcry, the Order of the Phoenix will be rising from the ashes.

And I'm definitely going to put this book down at the end of this current chapter.

[2014-02-12 06:39:00](#)

Class cancellations today

Students: My apologies for the short notice, but afternoon classes will be cancelled today, as well as our luncheon salon.



 **[alt_antonin](#)**

Fourth-year theoretical students, please read the next chapter in *De signatura rerum* and take notes; fourth-year practical students, please read sections 8-10 of the Brandt and take notes; third-year practical students, please read the remainder of *Omnium mortalium* and write 3-5 inches each for the remaining questions in your readers' guide. Unless I say otherwise, I will be available in my office before supper tomorrow for anyone who is having difficulty with the reading.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-02-12 11:56:09](#)**

Private message to Barty

Summoned to Our Lord's presence, for one PM.

I will let you know what happened, afterwards. Let us hope it is not

(Also, the cat has been most piteously complaining that his favourite toy has gone missing. Berry checked the townhouse and it is not there; if you've a moment, would you peek in your trunk and see if the little monster managed to stow it while neither of us were looking?)

Your,
T



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-02-12 14:56:43](#)**

Re: Private message to Barty

Batya.
Trying your Floo.
Where are you?
You say afternoon.

Morning lessons already?

Dammit.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-02-12 15:30:44](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

One o'clock.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-12 16:16:21](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

Yes, dearheart, I was occupied. If I am to be next, I will not change my habits and I will go to Him with my head held high

He did indicate it was not a formal reception. I will let you know what happened as soon as I might.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-13 02:46:52](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

Dear heart, when I say I am being summoned, you do not need to come running. (I am sorry for the panic; I did not think of how else my giving of the time could have been interpreted. I will be more careful next time!)

It is delightful, of course, that Our Lord wished to provide me with a chance to discuss research matters and receive the benefit of His wisdom.

~~Not quite so delightful it could not have been scheduled for when~~

~~I would not have thought the subject of discussion was urgent enough to cancel my classes, but~~

Our Lord's ways are mysterious and wise, and I can only trust He was in urgent need of some information I could provide Him.

I am back at the castle now. I will let you know if there is any followup from this afternoon's faree discussion.

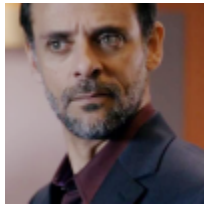


 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-02-13 04:19:50](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

Expect that He missed your companionship. Can sympathise.

It was good to see you. Whatever the reason.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-13 04:31:44](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

Yes, quite. You know that you're welcome to drop in up here of an evening as well; draughty pile of old stones or no, my quarters are quite comfortable.

I am thinking back over the conversation and trying to decide whether He had ulterior motive -- well, I am His to command, so He need not have reason to summon me, but He does like to challenge us, and I would not put it past Him to expect me to piece together what He wanted of me from the byways the conversation wandered down. I cannot find a common thread, however. It really did seem as though He just wanted to talk.

Almost like the way it used to be



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-02-13 04:58:57](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

Suppose the weather there is twice as annoying as it's been here. That notwithstanding, might come for supper next Tuesday or Wednesday, whichever's better for you.

Supper and conversation.

Assuming you aren't summoned to NL again, instead.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-13 05:12:16](#)

Re: Private message to Barty

~~I do hope He at least varies the days upon which He summons me so I do not have to impose upon Septima to reschedule my entire Wednesday afternoons permanently~~

Tuesday or Wednesday would both work -- I have class until 5 both days, but if you arrive early you are welcome to linger in my office or in my quarters. Or come join us for lecture, of course. They are the theoretical classes, so you will undoubtedly find them beneath your level, but it is up to you.

The weather is rather colder and wetter than one might like, yes. (My ancestry is at war: my steppe blood laughs at this being considered cold, while my desert blood would rather retire to a heated bath until spring.) Still, I've managed by now to turn my quarters cosy enough. The Cottesmore floo is connected to the floo in my office, if you'd like to bypass the weather entirely.

Your,
T



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-12 12:10:25](#)

Private message to Diggory

Reschedule the afternoon call with Brüggén, ideally for Friday and not tomorrow (ugh, Thursdays). If he is exceptionally short with you, or seems offended at the short notice, let him know I am summoned to a meeting with Our Lord this afternoon; do hold off on mentioning that unless he is difficult, however. (I will trust your discretion.)

As I won't have the time to do so, floo Poundtree & Associates and let them know I will stop in this weekend to pick up my reserves, rather than today. My compliments to Amaryllis for the diligence of her clerks, &c.


If anything comes in under Ourobouros after I leave, lock it in the cabinet in the office. Oh, and I will be leaving a list of names on your escritoire, along with an invitation that needs to be copied and sent to each of them. Identical copies, please, and with the silver ink and

the good parchment. They, and the usual stack of correspondence, should go out by owl before the end of the day.

Once you have finished all of the above: the stacks of books to be re-shelved has nearly reached head-height (last night's reading time was engaged in following up on several of the ideas mentioned in the Astronomy Guild lecture the other day; as usual I am afraid I went a little overboard) -- I know it is your habit to save the re-shelving for the end of the week, but if you complete your other tasks, twenty minutes or so to prevent us from being muscled out of the office by books would not go amiss.

--A.



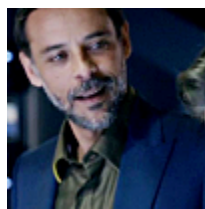
 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-02-13 03:06:54](#)

Re: Private message to Diggory

It took two conversions with Brügger's clerk before I got her convinced that just keeping the appointment today was impossible as you had been detained on important business. I was able to avoid explicitly stating you had been summoned, but I did imply it was important business of the Realm. I didn't recognise her. Brügger seems to pick them for their looks. I believe this is the third since I've started. Friday at noon, just as office hours are ending.

Amaryllis said 'Of course' they'll hold your reserves. She got that twinkle in her eye and said she'd found 'an interesting translation' but didn't say of what.

No packages arrived. The invitations have been been owled. I trust your normal competence and that your list was entirely complete, but if you change your mind there are two additional invitations with names left off under the list on your desk.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-13 03:19:21](#)

Re: Private message to Diggory

Thank you, my dear boy; I am sorry to inflict the hassle of dealing with Brügger's clerk upon you. Friday will be fine.

Your initiative is commendable, but the list was complete. The individuals you may be thinking of are no longer to be assumed

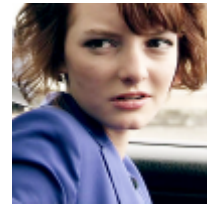
present on my guest list.

--A.

2014-02-12 10:08:00

Private message to Bill Weasley

Had a look at that report you send to Corax Mulciber regarding the food experiment at the camps.




 **alt_rachel**

I think what impressed me the most is how very precisely the results lined up with what might have been predicted. Naturally, if prior research was valid, one expects similar results -- it's just that in practice one expects outliers.

Clearly the camp administrators were diligent in their implementation. I hope Mulciber was suitably impressed.




 **alt_bill** at **2014-02-13 00:31:18**
(no subject)

He was impressed, yes. I daresay the layout of the information in that tabular form made the conclusions irrefutable.

And the fact that the camps with less food ended up with fewer workers, much less healthy ones? No one was in the least bit surprised, now, were they?


He seems to be oddly hypnotised by spreadsheets. I need to think of more ways to present information to him that way.



 **alt_rachel** at **2014-02-13 00:59:01**
(no subject)


Do you know any good bookkeepers? Who does books for your brothers?



 **alt_bill** at **2014-02-13 01:02:12**
(no subject)

My mum does, actually. She's a very good bookkeeper. Lots of experience with the barter network, you know.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 01:03:14](#)
(no subject)

Oh, you don't say.

And here I'd imagined her mostly a housewife.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-02-13 01:12:25](#)
(no subject)

So much more.


But then, you know me. The loyal son.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 01:20:45](#)
(no subject)

Right, that reminds me. I've been wondering whether you and Percy have made things up at all, or if you are still on the outs.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-02-13 03:37:54](#)
(no subject)

We are not taking lunch with each other weekly as we used to do.

More on this, but perhaps it can wait until we can speak in person.




 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 03:46:24](#)
(no subject)

We can discuss it in person if you'd like.

I think it's a waste, keeping the hostilities going. Though I suppose you have other brothers. Still. They're all unique, and they all have unique things to offer.

If you can grit your teeth and say 'yes sir' to Corax, you can surely offer an olive branch to your brother.




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 03:56:40](#)**
(no subject)

I must admit, my thinking has been running along those lines lately.

He doesn't deserve it, but I'm starting to see more clearly that's absolutely not the point. And I do think I'm the most likely in our family with whom he might consider rapprochement.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-02-13 04:03:10](#)**
(no subject)

Surely he misses you. I know how busy he is; he has no time for a social life, no particular friends, nothing but his job, and no matter how much you love a job -- I should know! -- sometimes you need more.


Speaking of which, I don't suppose you'd be free to come over for a drink or something? I'm home from work and thinking about how nice it would be to not think about spreadsheets and nicely laid out tables and excellent bookkeeping for a while.



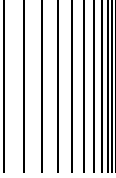
 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 04:27:49](#)**
(no subject)


Sounds like a great idea. Accounting's thirsty work.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 04:29:57](#)**
(no subject)


Perhaps even rather hungry as well? And I'm not talking curry this time.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 04:30:50](#)
(no subject)


Well come on over.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 00:59:43](#)
(no subject)

(They always know loads of tricks with tables and data.)




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-02-13 01:02:57](#)
(no subject)

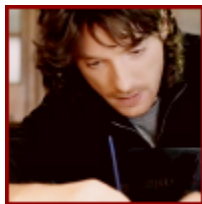
Exactly.


Never knew anyone who could squeeze a knut like my mum. Among other things.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-02-13 01:05:09](#)
(no subject)

Squeezing knuts is what you want from your managers. From the gifted bookkeepers it's the artful arranging.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-02-13 01:13:30](#)
(no subject)

Hmm, yes.


You know what they say about the very best artists. No one can see how they do it.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 01:14:20](#)**
(no subject)

Dad always said Mum was the most artistic of all of us.




 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-02-13 01:19:39](#)**
(no subject)

It's fascinating how many people in plain sight have untold depths.

Shame she dislikes me! I'd love to get to know her.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-13 03:39:37](#)**
(no subject)

I'd like that, too.

I think that she'll come around.

2014-02-12 21:05:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred



 [alt_pansy](#)

The Prophet ad for the Valentine's run turned out very well. I especially liked the heart-firework. Very appropriate all round.

And the quarterly report looked quite solid, too. I wonder if it'd be worth your while to swing by Zonko's, bring him some complimentary samples, remind him what he's missing out on this Hogsmeade weekend?

I had a random idea for a floral line that could be developed for Easter -- hair clips and earrings -- I'll send you a write-up. I think if we come up with four different models, that'd work rather nicely. Bluebells and snowdrops and daffodils and crocuses, for instance. We could put them in eggs, or if you wanted to get extra tricky with the spellwork, make them look like they're growing out of pots. And have you sorted out a safe dye for the Pygmys? I can always work on it on my end of things, but I can't guarantee to have it done in time.

How've things been going with Powell's and Kelpington's? Any wedding fireworks? This isn't really the season for it, but I'd bet things will pick up in Spring, once they get absolutely swamped and have weddings every weekend.

Hitty wrote that she's bought herself a new chair and footstool, and that she'd put up some curtains in the kitchen she'd picked out. Well, she claims they're 'the house's', and seems rather insistent on calling it a 'home improvement allowance' rather than a salary, but she seemed quite chuffed all the same. I'm sure if you ask after it, she'd be thrilled to show you her improvements. She also was very keen on sending along a birthday present as well, which was quite sweet of her. (The card and chocs from the two of you were also quite sweet, especially since you were kind enough to make sure none of them were joke ones. Thanks very much.)


I'm sorry I haven't been more on top of things. It looks as though you're managing to limp along without my help, though. Barely. It's so very brave of you to continue on as you have -- quite a testament to your collective stubbornness, I'm sure.

I really

This entire thing is quite silly, you know. Trying one's hardest to look as loyal as possible, but not quite good enough. I don't think I like trying to lose. It's rather frustrating at times.

Enough of my blathering on. I'll send on what I'm thinking about the flowers, and maybe I'll get a chance to see you this weekend.



 **alt_pansy** at [2014-02-13 05:49:09](#)

Private Message to George

I just realised

When I asked if you'd want to come down for the weekend

I'm not angling for a grand Valentine's, you know. A dozen roses and all that nonsense. Although snogging you silly would be incredibly pleasant, and very nice, I'd probably snog you no matter which weekend it happened to fall on.

Anyways.

If you can make it down, that'd be nice. I'd like to see you.

Although on second thought, you might not want to come to Hogsmeade, only because Hitty'll be passing out the books and we don't want anyone to even think it could've been you for a moment, because someone might see you and think it's this really incredibly bold (and stupid) prank you're pulling.

So it's probably not a good idea for you to come to Hogsmeade proper.

Which isn't to say we can't go off and snog in one of those caves or something. The one Sirius is fond of using.

You know. If you're not busy or anything.



 [alt_george](#) at [2014-02-13 22:43:59](#)

Re: Private Message to George

Surely you're not underestimating the ingenuity of a Weasley, are you? Particularly a Weasley hoping for a snog or two himself? I've even inked it into my business calendar so that I won't forget. (The special one you sent along, to help give everyone the impression that Fred and me are rising young entrepreneurs.)

And if you will deign to grant me some time alone for the aforementioned snogging, well, *something's* sure gonna be rising, anyway.

All teasing aside...has it been really awful? Of course you have to have mixed feelings, trying to dampen down your scores when you're just bloody good at everything you turn you do. I'd be happy to lend an ear if you just want to chunter on about it a bit.

So yes, I won't be noble and say it'd be best if we don't see each other. Bollocks to that. You deserve a decent Valentine's Day, both because you've done so much to make the business a success, and certainly to make up for this ruddy contest. You're right that it's probably best if we're not seen, though. All you need to do is to step outside the Three Broomsticks and go around to the back, by that stand of three fir trees. It's out of sight of the road, and we can meet there and decide where to go to be private. Say about 1:00?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-13 23:00:17](#)

Re: Private Message to George

You're brilliant, and that sounds perfect.

It's a bit like CCF, really. Which means that parts of it are actually sort of fun, and parts are challenging, but in a good way, but other parts leave a bad taste in my mouth. And I keep anticipating for it to only get worse, and wonder what else they'll ask us to do, which is nerve-wracking.

And then there's the whole reason for the bloody contest in the first place, too.

Ugh.

Honestly, the thing I really want is to forget about the contest for a while, and have a cute, funny boy make me laugh. And distract me. Thoroughly.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-13 05:51:20](#)
(no subject)


Just realised Hogsmeade might not be the best place to show your delightful faces as we're passing out contraband. Still, you can send along a rather nice sample basket to Mr Zonko with your compliments.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-02-13 22:34:46](#)
(no subject)

We have the basket already planned, and it's scheduled to be delivered to the shop on the morning of Valentine's Day. We're hoping he'll put it down on a counter somewhere. If he does, a sticking charm will activate on the bottom, and he won't be able to remove it until the end of the day. So EVERYONE who comes into the shop will see it and can ask about it. Sneaky, but we hope he'll have a sense of humour about it.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-13 23:00:34](#)
(no subject)

Perfect.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-02-13 22:39:44](#)
(no subject)

Thanks! We had some advice on the ad graphics from Demeter Freesia so that they'd complement the catalogue.

Oh, you know, we quite like the idea of a floral line, but what do you think of developing it as something quite distinct--different packaging, we mean--and go back to Hermes Tamblin for the design? His work might be rather pleasing for capturing more delicate details, and since his experience is in illustration of potion

ingredients, he has loads of experience rendering botanicals. He *liked* Demeter Freesia's work when we showed it to him, and even had some suggestions on how they could be incorporated into one 'look,' and he wasn't at all put out that we went with her instead. D'ye think she'd be willing to work with him, and between the two of them they could come up with a Weasley Wizarding Whizbang 'look' that could incorporate his quill-and-ink look while still recognizeably part of our brand, sort of a hybrid, for this new line?

No luck on the dye for the Pygmy, although we could ask Our Mutual Friend Who Knows About Potions. Except we sort of hate to do so because he has a lot on his plate and is likely to say something extremely cutting, even if we keep trying to turn him up sweet by sending him all the odd things for his potions cabinet that we find on the black grey market.

Powell's more interested in working with us than Kelpington's. Maybe because their management is younger, and tend to worry less about stuff like will-we-blow-up-their-wedding-cakes-by-mistake. If we can land just one wedding, though we'll give it our all, and we bet we can make both of them sit up and take notice. Those two have enough rivalry between them that we hope to lure them both in.

Hitty's happy as a Niffler with a pot of gold. Hell, she's as happy with a Niffler with a key to a Gringott's vault. We've tried to give her some privacy, but since you say she wouldn't mind showing off her domain a bit, we'll ask her about it.


Hey, don't worry about being on top of things. We've been too busy to write much ourselves.

(Imagine our surprise hearing how much you hate to lose. Joking aside, we're wondering if we've just been insulted. If you *didn't* hate to lose, we'd wonder why you'd involved yourself in our business dealings!)

We have the floral line sketches; love them, definitely. We'll talk more this weekend.

Ah. We'll take care to allot some of the time so that at least *certain parties* can have separate time with you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-13 23:05:10](#)
(no subject)

Oooh. We could re-package some of the other things that'd work for party favours for girls, and use it on the wedding line, and some of the other things that aren't as jokey but people might want to get for presents for co-workers or their parents or something.

I like it.

[2014-02-12 22:07:00](#)

Order Only Private Message to Hermione

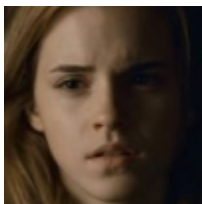
So this is a bit awkward. I need some advice and I think you might be the best person to ask.



 **[alt_cedric](#)**

My family acquired a muggleborn girl after Shelley was born. Since I was at Hogwarts at the time, she was just there when I arrived home next. She was introduced to me as Jenni. Last spring watching the littles talk to her was one of the final straws in me realising how messed up the protectorate is. I've been trying to figure out what I really know about her and everything I keep coming up with my parents told me and I don't know if I can trust it. I'm actually not even sure Jenni's her real name. Is it Jennifer? Something else and Mum just picked Jenni out of the air?

I don't know how to approach her or what to say. I don't want to get my family in trouble and draw attention to us by helping her escape, so I don't want to get her hopes up that direction. I also don't want to come across like Jeremy. I'm not interested her that way. I'd like to get to know her a bit and get her to trust me enough that she'll listen when I'm able to tell her I have somewhere for her to run to when the time is right, if she wants. It's like setting up for a Wronski Feint, once I start the dive err conversation when to pull out becomes a question I'll have to be able to answer in a heartbeat before it splatters all over the pitch. She's just a girl in a bad situation, so I can't ignore her and her situation like I used to.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-02-13 05:30:44](#)**
(no subject)

If you don't want to seem creepy or make her think you're interested, then just talk to her like normal.

But you can't rush it, so it might take a while.



 **[alt_cedric](#)** at **[2014-02-13 05:46:51](#)**
(no subject)

If she was new to the house, it'd be easier. But I've known her for years now, even if it's only been in bits and bobs, a week here, a couple months there. I'm

not sure where to start that doesn't look either creepy or seditious. All our interaction before have been purely functional. 'Mum says bring the littles in for washup before dinner.' 'Jaspar ran that way.'


If I ask her 'What's your real name?' she's going to answer 'Jenni' because she has to. Legally, for someone in her situation whatever her masters call her is her 'real' name. All the ways I see that going lead to implications of disloyalty on my part or hers. If I ask her what she would want me to call her, it looks like I'm implying I have a special relationship with her and that only ends in my looking like a creep.



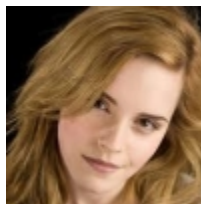
 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-13 05:54:35](#)
(no subject)

How do you get to know a student who's been at school alongside you for years but you never really talked to before?



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-02-13 06:13:31](#)
(no subject)

I'd probably try to talk about stuff we have in common. She hasn't been to Hogwarts, she can't play quidditch or even go riding. Talking about spells and what it feels like to cast magic would seem to be truly insensitive or sound like a trap. What House are you in? What NEWTS did you take? What do you want to do after school? All out. It all seems to come back to sounding like a pickup line or pointing out the stuff that she can't do.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-13 12:57:11](#)
(no subject)

Life doesn't begin and end at Hogwarts, you know. She comes from somewhere, she had parents of her own, maybe siblings or cousins too. And there were probably things she wanted to do with her life besides be a nanny.

I suppose I'd start by just apologising that in all this time you haven't bothered to ask her about herself. And then ask, if it wouldn't be too painful for her, to tell you her story. What camp

||| did she come from, did she have any brothers and sisters of her own, that kind of thing. (And if she says she'd rather not, or if she looks uncomfortable, back off and apologise for intruding.)
||| Treat her with respect and listen.

2014-02-12 22:54:00

Private Message to Megan

Hey, Megs,

Want to play Exploding Snap? Seems like I've got a brand new deck.




 [alt_ernie](#)

Thanks.

Now I wish I'd eaten the chocolate sooner--but this way we'll be able to get a whole new box in Hogsmeade on Saturday, for a belated Valentine's.



 [alt_megan](#) at **2014-02-13 07:41:46**

(no subject)

Well I am glad you found it in time for Valentines.

And remember, if they explode....

Okay I am blushing now!

2014-02-13 08:37:00

Private Message to Antonin Dolohov



Antosha,

I understand you are but late returned from the glorious Presence of Our Lord.

 **alt_mcgonagall**

I long for news of His magnificence. Would you care to enlighten me by joining me for tea in my office - not today, I know how difficult Thursdays are on your timetable. Perhaps tomorrow?

One recalls the blessings He provides and desires to bask again in that light, even if it must be enjoyed as a pale reflection, second-hand. Still, your tales will be fresher than my own.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-02-13 14:58:40**

(no subject)

котенок, you know I always have time for you. I will come by tomorrow morning. Are you feeling entirely well? ~~You do not sound at all like yourself.~~

Our Lord and I had a lovely and far-ranging conversation about a number of esoteric bits of magic, including some of the work I've been doing with Experimental Charms & Curses on unravelling the spell the insurgents used at Saltash and some of the research I've been working on with Mysteries. I am certain you will find it as fascinating as I. He spoke again of Hogwarts' days as a leading light in the field of research and development, and how He wishes to restore that reputation; I have many ideas on that front, of course, but I'm certain you do as well.

If nothing else, once the weather is no longer quite as miserable, I may very well petition you for permission to hold public lectures; I know that several of our staff would certainly appreciate the chance to speak on their research, myself included, and I'm certain many alumni would enjoy a return to Hogwarts' halls for a pleasant evening of learning.

In service,
T.



 [alt_mcgonagall](#) at [2014-02-13 15:24:27](#)
(no subject)

It sounds scintillating. I look forward to your ideas, as always.

And thank you for indulging an old woman's folly.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-13 15:38:02](#)
(no subject)

No indulgence necessary, my dear. I've missed our time together these past few months.

I've a few titles new to the library that you might find interesting. I'll bring those, as well.

[2014-02-13 09:41:00](#)

(no subject)


I'm looking forward to Hogsmeade this weekend. It'll be a nice break from things. Although I could do without all the pink stuff everywhere. And the perfume. And I really hope they don't have the singing cupids this year.



 [alt_harry](#)

Draco, Justin, Ron, Blaise, I know you've probably got plans and all, but if you want to catch a drink at the Three Broomsticks or something, let me know.




 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-13 17:52:36](#)

Private Message to Raz

Hey.

I've got my latest report ready, I was wondering if you could take a look at it. To make sure it's thorough and stuff. And that it sends the right sort of message.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-13 18:06:48](#)

Private Message to Katie Bell

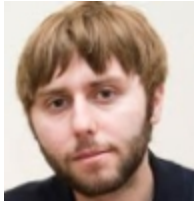
Hey.


Yeah, I'll be around tomorrow. Walking would be nice. And I know you think Puddifoot's is totally naff, because it is, but we could warm up at the Three Broomsticks after if you'd like. Or Hogs Head if it's too crowded and we want some privacy.

~~I know it's not ro~~

~~I'm not very good at~~

See you tomorrow. Looking forward to it.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-13 22:48:21](#)
(no subject)


Harry,

I say, I'd be pleased to have a drink, old chap. Though fair warning: Hydra's in her element round all the

pink!

-Justin

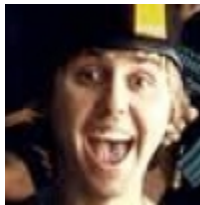



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-13 23:07:38](#)
(no subject)

She can have all of it.

Pink is a good colour on her.

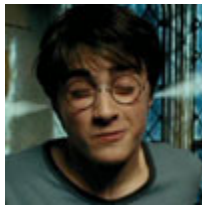
On me? Not so much.




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-13 23:51:36](#)
(no subject)

Funny, that's just what I told her before the Yule Ball two years ago!


-J



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-13 23:53:52](#)
(no subject)


Hah! Great minds, mate.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-14 03:33:26](#)
(no subject)

Hey, if you do come to the Broomsticks, Hydra can come along too, it'd be fun.



 **alt_ron** at **2014-02-14 03:15:10**


Private Message to Harry

That would be nift.

I've got a plan for lunch, but later, Sally Anne and I could meet you. Unless you meant just mates.

Is that what you meant?



 **alt_harry** at **2014-02-14 03:32:11**

Re: Private Message to Harry

She can come, sure, that's fine. I mean, she knows everyone else really well, so it wouldn't be weird.

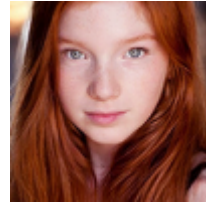
And I'll see if Justin'll bring Hydra. That'd be really

good.

2014-02-13 20:22:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Neville

Pete, I was thinking it might be especially important to have good alibis Saturday. In case someone tries to say we were the ones passing out the books or something.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

I was almost thinking of not going in to Hogsmeade at all, but it *is* Valentine's and

Anyways.

I think as long as we don't spend too much time around people who are on the list to get books, we should be fine. You know loads of 3rd and 4ths are going to be at Zonko's, so maybe we shouldn't go there at all.

2014-02-14 08:05:00

Private Message to Blaise

Happy Valentine's Day.

Did you get the same owl? About tomorrow?
Honestly, I'm sort of looking forward to it.

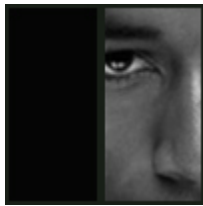



 [alt_padma](#)

I mean, part of the Council is being able to work together as a group, even when if some of them are arguing about other things. So we should all be able to get along for an afternoon.

Only, I wish it weren't right in the middle of a Hogsmeade Day.

Do you think we'll get a chance to talk to our sponsors about where we are in the standings? Because I'm not sure the last challenge was really a good one for me. I'd love to get Lana's ideas about how to improve next time.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2014-02-14 14:40:06**

(no subject)

I'm pleased, of course, for the opportunity of meeting all the sponsors and mingling socially with that set.

I expect we ought to consider it the next challenge, after a fashion, though. It should show quite clearly which of us do not belong in that society, and where in the order of things the rest of us might expect to find ourselves.

I suppose that's the sticking point, isn't it? And the trouble with it coming on the Valentine's Hogsmeade visit. Of course, we'll have had our lunch already--and I suppose there's no point pretending you don't know our reservation is for Sorcere. Turns out to be rather convenient, that.



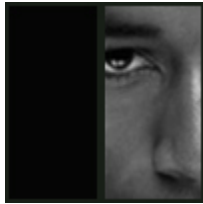
 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-02-14 14:56:22**


(no subject)

I hoped we were going there, but I didn't want to assume. Yes, that's splendid. And then we'll be right there.

I think it's also a measure of how effectively people navigate the various circles, exactly. And we might want to not appear as coupley as, say, Lizzie and Richard. Lares told me Vaisey's pretty sure he was abysmal in the last challenge because he was protecting Lizzie more than watching his own back. But I suppose that's to be expected.

I mean, people know we're still dating but it might be to our advantage not to let them think we're a tight bloc like that.



 [alt_blaise](#) at [2014-02-14 15:13:16](#)
(no subject)

Good. I expected you'd understand.

Honestly, I don't see why Stevens doesn't just withdraw. There's no reason to pretend she's interested and a word to her sponsor should really be all that's needed. Under the circumstances. After all, there's no shame in wanting just to be the wife of a council wizard. If they hope Vaisey will be selected, then he stands a better chance without her dragging him down. Just as you say. And if neither of them wishes to be selected, then this is a perfectly graceful way for her to bow out, and he can see to his own situation.

I mean to say, if they're trying to use her condition as a way to cover his doing poorly on purpose, then I don't think it speaks at all well of him, putting her in the line of fire like she is as long as she's in.

So, no. I've no wish to be seen in comparison with them.

2014-02-14 08:36:00

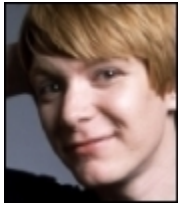
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George


Blast. We've just received invites to a reception from 1-4 tomorrow.

I don't suppose you can come a little later in the day?




 [alt_pansy](#)



 [alt_george](#) at **2014-02-14 21:04:41**
(no subject)

Sure. Just pick a good time and let me know, and I can be there.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-14 21:20:27**
(no subject)

Let's say half past four. Enough time to leave gracefully.

You're the best.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-16 05:50:05**
(no subject)

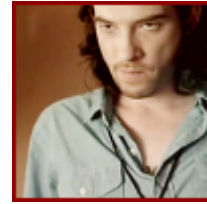
You are *exceptionally* talented in the art of distraction, George Weasley.

Let's distract one another again sometime, shall we?

2014-02-14 10:46:00

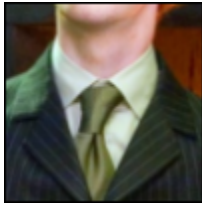
Private message to Percy Weasley


I wondered whether you might be free for lunch today.



Specifically, I wondered whether you might be willing to have lunch with me.

 [alt_bill](#)




 [alt_percy](#) at **2014-02-14 16:52:53**
(no subject)

Well, well, well.

Don't you mean, are you willing to have lunch with me?

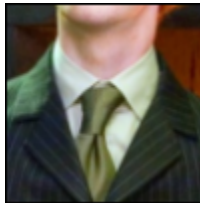
But of course you are. You've heard that I'm meeting with Our Lord, perhaps rising in His favour. I suppose that now you're regretting your hastiness in cutting ties with me, hmm?




 [alt_bill](#) at **2014-02-14 16:54:33**
(no subject)

Actually, the impetus was a notation on my calendar.


Dad's recent birthday.



 [alt_percy](#) at **2014-02-14 16:55:21**
(no subject)

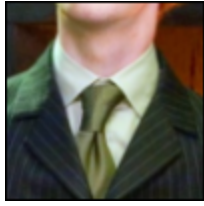
What a convenient excuse.




 [alt_bill](#) at **2014-02-14 16:56:32**
(no subject)

Very convenient, isn't it?


Is it sufficient?



 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2014-02-14 16:58:26](#)**
(no subject)


Oh, well now, I'm not sure. I have many important meetings today. You know, the sort that take up quite a bit of time on the schedule of an ambitious, rising young wizard.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-14 16:59:10](#)**
(no subject)

I can eat quickly.




 **[alt_percy](#)** at **[2014-02-14 17:04:40](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'm sure you can. We all had to learn that, didn't we, wrestling for scraps at the Burrow?

And I imagine you're quick to snap up any crumbs Corax Mulciber tosses your way, too. Aren't you?




 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-02-14 17:09:38](#)**
(no subject)

Let's say for the sake of argument that my yen to sit down to break bread with you only stems from an ambitious wish to milk whatever relationships I have in order to rise as high in the Ministry as I can.

Since you always sneered at Dad for refusing to do so, how is that any skin off your nose? On the contrary, wouldn't it please you to see me coming to my senses?




 **alt_percy** at **2014-02-14 17:12:11**
(no subject)

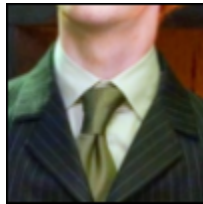
Hmm. A point.


Perhaps.



 **alt_bill** at **2014-02-14 17:14:08**
(no subject)

You can always entertain yourself with how much it will enrage Mum, if that would help.



 **alt_percy** at **2014-02-14 17:21:16**
(no subject)


As if you would tell her. Besides, what Mrs Weasley thinks is a matter of complete indifference to me.

Still, hmm....

We can meet at Celeste's at 1:00. You can pay the bill.

I presume you'll know which fork to use?



 **alt_bill** at **2014-02-14 17:23:41**
(no subject)

I'm sure I can muddle my way through without embarrassing you too much. I even promise not to pick my teeth at the table.

1:00 at Celeste's it is.

2014-02-15 08:32:00

Order only: The Headmistress

Cedric and I were finishing breakfast at his Hogsmeade flat yesterday morning when there was a rap on the outer door. I quickly transformed, Cedric did the transfiguration spell that turns my fur black, and then opened the door. It was Headmistress McGonagall.



 [alt_terry](#)

I heard him offering her tea as he invited her inside. She came in, took one swift look around, and spotted me sitting on the floor. 'I appreciate the offer, Diggory, and perhaps another time. Today, I am here to borrow your dog.'

She was staring hard at me, and I suppose she must have seen the split-second of blurriness around my edges, for I was about to change back to speak to her. But she put up her hand and said, 'Your dog.' I trotted over and she let one hand fall onto my head. 'There are days,' she said, 'when what serves one best is the quiet companionship of an animal.'

'Of course,' Cedric said, and shot me a look. I was reminded that he hasn't been in the Order for all that long, and he's known Professor McGonagall mostly as Headmistress and Death Eater. I had smelled something strange when she touched me -- something that worried me. But I wagged my tail and sat down at the Headmistress's feet. Whatever she was asking for, whatever it was she wanted -- there's very little I wouldn't do for her.

'Come, sirrah,' she said to me then. 'Heel properly, on my left side, if you please.'

We walked up to the castle, straight up to her rooms, where she found an old tartan blanket and put it down for me under the desk, where I would be hidden from visitors. 'Stay,' she said, pointing at the blanket. I lay down curled at her feet. Minutes later, there was a knock at the door and I heard her say, 'Do come in, Antosha.'

Antonin Dolohov was here? I froze under the desk, and pricked my ears to listen. They chatted about tea, marzipan, and the books he had brought for her. 'Tell me, my friend, of your audience with Our Lord,' the Headmistress said, and I thought this must be why she'd brought me here -- to eavesdrop. But he said nothing of particular substance --

merely that they had discussed research. It was clear Dolohov was upset about the disruption to his classes, though he didn't come out and say that. I could smell a hint of fear as he thought about that audience with the Dark Lord -- and I heard him make a sound of frustration -- but nothing beyond that. Then Dolohov said, 'But I have not seen you in His presence in quite a while.'

'Well,' she said. 'I lost His trust -- deservedly -- last year, when I was duped by Dominic Selwyn and used in his plot. I was a fool -- walking down the path of friendship into destruction....Yes. I see you understand.'

'But Our Lord -- ' he said.

'Our Lord was more merciful than I could have asked,' she said. 'He spared my life, and withheld the punishment that was my due. Instead, he gave me a gift.'

'A gift,' Dolohov repeated. 'May I see?' I heard a rustle, and wished I could see out from behind the desk.

The Headmistress added, 'He fastened it upon my wand hand Himself. Oh, take a closer look, if you like, Antosha. Just don't touch it.'

They were silent for a long moment and he said, simply, 'Yes.' I could have sworn his voice was sad.

'When I stray from Our Lord's path, it tightens on my wrist. I believe if I were truly foolish, my wand hand would be the cost. Or my life, perhaps.'

'Perhaps,' he said, quietly.

'I am honoured,' she said, 'as a vessel of His research. Though He cannot see my thoughts, I believe this bracelet allows Him to see ... much. If He is pleased, perhaps He will design similar gifts for His other closest servants. That He may know our hearts at all times. That He need never worry about another Dominic Selwyn.'

Another very long pause. 'I will think on this, kotonek,' Dolohov said.

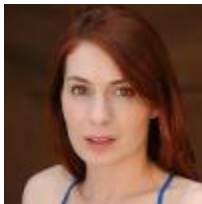
He stayed for a little while after that. He seemed to make an effort to speak of light and impersonal things--a book he found at his favourite bookseller, his plans for a lecture series he hopes to deliver. Finally he said that he had essays he had to mark and she walked with him to


the door leading out of her office. She came back and sat slowly back down at her desk and looked down at me.

'Good dog,' she said, and reached down -- with her left hand -- to give me a pat. 'I'll take you back to Cedric now.'

As she led me down the stairs, she kept me on her left side again, but her sleeve fell back from her wand hand as she waited for Cedric to answer her knock. There was a silver bracelet on her right wrist, and when I sniffed, I realised what I'd smelled before. It was the same smell that came from the gravy of the meat that was served at the feast the first year the Lord Protector came to Hogwarts -- unicorn blood.

And there was a drop of her blood on her wrist, as well.




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-02-15 23:34:41**

(no subject)

I see. I'd wondered at her recent silence, but

Yes. Thank you, Terry.




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-02-15 23:36:23**

Private Message to Minerva

Oh, Minerva. How utterly awful.

I don't know if you can even read this.



 **[alt_sirius](#) at 2014-02-16 00:22:32**

(no subject)


Merlin.

She must be utterly terrified. Just risking this much to find a way to tell us

Merlin.

We'd better find creative ways to look at the book, and soon.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-02-16 01:01:27](#)**
(no subject)

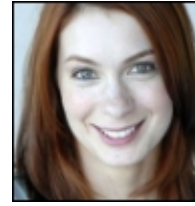
Yes. We must.

Bless. This explains... much.

2014-02-15 13:10:00

ORDER ONLY

First of all, I hope everyone is having a lovely Valentine's, and I hope the distribution of the books went well. We'll have to wait and see how they're received. If our Hogwarts people could keep a careful eye on things over the next few days, that would be appreciated.



 [alt_alice](#)

With the distribution of this book, and an increased radio presence, I've been giving some thought lately as to how we might capitalise on this exposure and expand our circle safely and effectively. We're doing fairly well with the connections we've made in the camps, and the Order members at Hogwarts have done an admirable job cultivating a group of trusted people, but one thing working with Dogstar has shown is that they are far better at recruiting and gathering a network of wizard informants, and we are at a disadvantage for it.

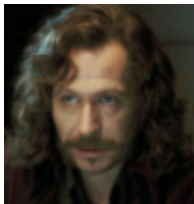
I believe that our mission and message is worth fighting for, and that if we were to recruit people to hold buttons to pass on relevant information, and potentially be on-hand to provide small scale support (providing temporary shelter, passing along needed supplies they can access, standing watch if we need an extra set of eyes), that would be something worth pursuing. Not everyone needs to be a full member or know everything about our organisation right away, but I'd imagine there might be several people out there who start off as button-holders who could end up becoming a great deal more.


Tonks, Remus, Sirius, you've spent a while cultivating a group of regulars at Laszlo's. Perhaps it might be time to take that one step further, and see if any of your trusted clients would be willing to do this? Lee, Fred, George, Jeremy, Cedric, you might think about some of your recent classmates. Bill, I know you've got your network of informants well-established, but perhaps ask *them* if there's anyone they would trust to start expanding our circle? Molly, what about your old bartering network? Poppy, Pomona, perhaps some of your trusted colleagues might fit the bill?

This would have to be carefully done, of course - we'd have to sort out how much we would share about our organisation, security in case a person we think would be trustworthy turns or gets caught, and to be ready with Obliviation if an initial conversation goes pear-shaped. I know that as the primary contact for these recruits, you all would be

at a higher risk of exposure. I'm hoping that we keep this initial circle of people who can be linked directly to us a tight one - people we trust, people we know directly - so that we can be responsive, and know what we're dealing with. I'm also hoping that eventually, they in turn can establish their own networks, to make future recruits a little less directly linked to our core members, but still a trusted circle. Would this be something you would all be willing to do?

On a related topic, now that we've had some space, it's high time we reconsider the question of Ms Brodie. What is our current state of boomslang skin and our polyjuice supply? Can we afford to pass along some boomslang to Dogstar in exchange for Ms Brodie? And should we? The offer is very tempting, but comes with a high degree of risk. I know we've chewed over it before, but we need to come to a decision while the offer is still on the table. I would be willing to take on Ms Brodie - I think she'd be quite the asset, and believe she has a firm enough understanding of how to manage risk so that she wouldn't put us in too much additional danger - but I would want to be sure that she'd want to join us, and to very carefully sort out what her continued role with Dogstar would be.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-02-15 22:30:41](#)
(no subject)

I have a feeling that if we left it to Ms Brodie she might decide to help us on her own behalf, without requiring anything in trade for the DogStar. She's come to the shop once or twice and chatted with Dora - nothing concrete but I can tell she's predisposed to us. I'm a good deal more comfortable with that possibility than giving Ridley some of our boomslang. Polyjuice isn't the only thing it's good for.

We've been chatting a bit over the last few weeks about some of the Laszlo's patrons who'd make strong potential allies or Order members. We'll have a short list in a few days.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-16 01:44:00](#)
(no subject)

That's good to hear. Very good.

I have a feeling that were we to make things more formal by letting her into the Lock, however, we'd risk souring Ridley unless we negotiated with her first.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-16 04:34:02](#)
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom,

I know this isn't quite the same topic, what, but I thought someone ought to report that we (or rather, Pansy's elf) successfully gave out all 50 of the copies of *Pure Victory* in Hogsmeade.


And of course, there's the reading club that got together to read it last term, what, which we've kept up, thanks in no small part to Evelyn.

I believe we've got a jolly good start on the older students at Hogwarts, as a result. I wouldn't be surprised if by the Easter holidays we had an idea or two about who else might be interested in taking small actions, if not full Order membership.

I say, I've just read Terry's account of Professor McGonagall's predicament. Do you think there's anything we can do to help her?

-Justin



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-16 05:46:43](#)
(no subject)

That's a spot of much-needed good news.

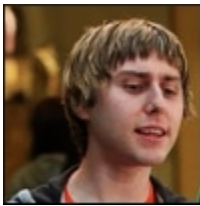
I owe you all an enormous debt for the work you've done at Hogwarts. It's taken a lot of hard work to build what you have. I agree that it is well worth our while to look at some of the people you've been working with to see if they'd be willing to take things further.


You all are much closer to the kettle than I am, as it were, so I trust your judgement when it comes to who might be good candidates. We'd need to sort out the level of involvement that would be appropriate for the people you have in mind, of course -- their proposed level of membership, and what sort of things we'd be asking them to do.

And yes, it is rather sudden and shocking to hear of Minerva's state.

I don't know the extent of the spellwork involved, but it may be harmful to her to approach her and talk to her openly about anything regarding her current situation or the Order, because even if she hears seditious talk and does nothing in response, that could be enough to activate the bracelet. Until we know more, I would suggest either being scrupulous with any conversation, or avoiding it altogether.

You might see what Professor Dolohov has in his rather extensive library regarding loyalty compulsions and unicorn blood -- naturally, he may pick up on what you're interested in, which is a risk. One can always fall back on academic interest, hearsay, and keen observation, I suppose, but tread carefully.

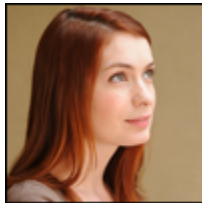



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-16 05:57:17](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I agree, clearly she meant us to understand that she's entirely compromised. I rather meant to either neutralise the bracelet's capability to communicate with Voldemort or at the very least to limit what it can do to harm her. I say, it rather sounds similar to the bracelet Mr Lestrage gave Hydra to spy on her. Perhaps if we analyse that we could reach some better conclusions about what spells were used to create the bally awful thing.

In the meantime, is there anything we can do to help obtain the names from the book?

-Justin




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-16 06:03:24](#)
(no subject)

Yes -- learning all we can about Hydra's bracelet would be incredibly useful.

When it comes to the book, we might give her reason for leaving the office, and have someone go up in her absence to take a look -- Hermione, Poppy, you know how to access the book? Do we have the current password to her office?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-16 06:17:47](#)
(no subject)

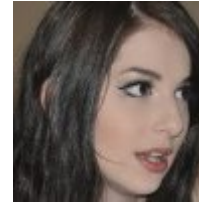
Pomona and I thought we might be able to finesse the matter in a way that would not require the password. Neither of us is certain whether it's been changed. Neither of us has been invited in for quite a long time.

However, we thought we might go up together with a story about difficulty in Hufflepuff House that absolutely requires Minerva's intervention (I shall have pressed Pomona to take the matter directly to the Headmistress and we shall endeavour to lay on the right amount of fussing to chivvy her out of the office. If it goes to plan, Pomona will whisk her away, whilst I stay behind and have a look at the book.)

2014-02-15 14:38:00

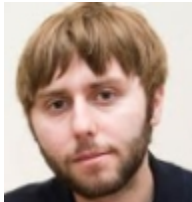
Order Only: ISS Business


Justin, Harry, are you at the Three Broomsticks? I think all the candidates are still at that 'reception' thing but I'm not sure.



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I'm done at the yarn shop (I reckoned that if I couldn't spend any time with Ron and Pansy in Hogsmeade, I might as well go somewhere they always want to leave before I do, but even without anyone else I do get bored eventually). I stepped out and just about got blown over by that wind - - I think I'd rather not roam around looking for people. Just tell me where you are and I'll come to you!



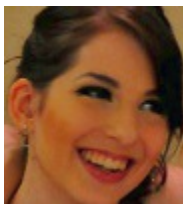
 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-02-15 20:48:12**
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Yes, we're still at the Three Broomsticks! We've twice talked about getting up and going to Zonko's to ask about Weasley's Wheezes but no one seems to want to move.

If we know you're coming, we'll have another round. What would you fancy?


-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-15 20:49:27**
(no subject)

Hot chocolate with whipped cream. Do you want me to run by Zonko's on your behalf? It's on the way from here.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-02-15 20:52:06**
(no subject)

Hot chocolate it shall be.

As for Zonko's, no, I daresay it's the sort of thing best done by a group, what, all asking why they

haven't this item or that.

-Justin



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-15 20:58:31](#)
(no subject)


Right. On my way, then. BEFORE I FREEZE SOLID.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-15 20:59:08](#)
Private message to Ron

Come find us when they let you go?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-15 22:08:37](#)
Re: Private message to Ron

Yeah.

On my way.

What a giant bore that was. Ugh.

2014-02-15 20:50:00

Private message to Padma Patil

So, I thought the reception today went pretty well. Do you think Sandoval's pleased with how you're doing? Mr Crispin seemed pleased enough with me. I was trying to spot whether any of the sponsors were cross with their candidates. Yaxley was unhappy with Nott, that was clear. And Avery was not pleased that Weasley arrived so late.




 **alt_seamus**

Anyway, you know how we left our bags in the cloak room?

Have you looked in yours? Just wondering.




 **alt_padma** at **2014-02-16 02:54:53**
(no subject)

What?

Sorry. I was reading.




 **alt_seamus** at **2014-02-16 02:58:11**
(no subject)

Yeah no worries it can wait.


I've got some reading to do myself.



 **alt_padma** at **2014-02-16 16:58:41**
(no subject)

What's Doves talking about? Are we supposed to turn in Valentine's surprises now?




 **alt_seamus** at **2014-02-16 17:07:55**
(no subject)

I don't think he means chocs or cards, though if you got anything seditious with red hearts on it you should probably hand it over, just to be sure.

Thomas found a book, in his bag -- he told us to check our bags, too.

It claims to be the original version of 'Pure Victory' but if you look in the back, there's a letter from Sirius Black.



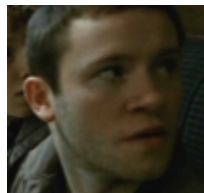
 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-16 17:10:17](#)
(no subject)


No, it's not from *Black*, it's from *Blaise*

OH.

How did--


Oh.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-16 17:11:56](#)
(no subject)


But no worries, if you got one, just turn it in sometime today.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-16 17:13:23](#)
(no subject)

Did you get one?



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-16 17:14:05](#)
(no subject)

I mean, is that what you were 'reading' last night?




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-16 17:16:45](#)
(no subject)

No. Mr Crispin had brought a book he thought I might benefit from reading, that's what I had.

Did you get one?




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:22:23](#)**
(no subject)

No, of course not. I was reading Su Li's essay for her because she wanted a second opinion.

I wish Professor Doves had said specifically that it was a book, though. I've already had four second-years ask if they have to turn in their sweets.

I'll ask him to clarify.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:24:41](#)**
(no subject)

I just thought of something.


Thomas got his at Sorcere.... You don't think this is part of the competition, do you? To see if people turn in something suspicious like that.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:30:16](#)**
(no subject)

I doubt it.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:38:20](#)**
(no subject)

Oh.

Good.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:42:01](#)**
(no subject)

Weasley turned out his bag, when Dean mentioned it, in front of all of us. Nothing in there. And he hadn't taken anything out since coming back from the village, that was obvious.

If it were a test, they'd have given it to all the candidates, right?

Also, there was this third-year I saw this morning who couldn't stop yawning. Almost like she'd been up all night reading something.




 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-16 19:17:39](#)
(no subject)

So. Thomas's copy.

Were you even a little bit tempted to have a look at it?



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-16 20:22:04](#)
(no subject)


Well, no, because he'd turned it in before he told us he had it.

If I'd known about it, probably I would have gone ahead and had a look. Because I quite enjoyed the first two, and I'd like to know how it all ends, and I don't think some silly book is going to corrupt me or make me believe less in Our Lord's ideals, any more than it's going to corrupt me if I've read some of the Imposter Black's letters that show up in the journals.

Of course, I think the official version where they didn't let the editor muck everything up (wasn't that what they said happened when they recalled the original?) will be out really soon, isn't it coming this week? So I'll be able to see how it ends. In the new version.

And of course it makes sense, having everyone turn it in who might have it. I quite understand why they think idiots should be kept well clear of anything seditious.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-16 20:45:22](#)
(no subject)

No, but it would be interesting to compare, wouldn't it? Just to see how they corrected everything.

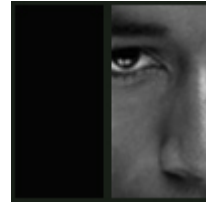
I mean. If someone had a copy of each.

2014-02-16 08:53:00

Private Message to Horace Slughorn


Sir,

I know it's early and it's Sunday, but there's something rather important I need to discuss with you. As soon as it would be convenient.



 **alt_blaise**



 **alt_horace** at **2014-02-16 15:00:40**

(no subject)

~~Deuced early~~ Yes, of course, Zabini. Why don't you meet me in my office in...half an hour?

[2014-02-16 10:46:00](#)

(no subject)

Students: if you have discovered an unexpected addition to your belongings after your trip to Hogsmeade yesterday, please bring it to me, Professor Lestrangle, or Headmistress McGonagall as soon as possible. I will be in my office after lunch for that purpose. Alternately, you can give it to any Hogwarts house-elf with instructions to set it into my hands only.



 **[alt_antonin](#)**

You will not be in any trouble for having it, so long as you turn it in to me as quickly as possible. Please do not discuss the matter with anyone until we are able to determine what has happened and how the false materials were distributed.



 **[alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-16 16:58:26](#)**

Private message to Barty


One of the children -- the Thomas boy, one of the candidates in this competition -- brought me something this morning he says had been slipped into his belongings at Hogsmeade: a rather-professionally-printed copy of *Pure Victory*. With, one must observe, an afterword signed by Sirius Black, on behalf of the Order of the Phoenix. It claims the manuscript to be the original version, seized before publication for sedition. Horace, meanwhile, received an identical copy from Mr Zabini (also one of the candidates). I have checked; it is not an element of the competition.

I had a few words with Mr Thomas, trying to reproduce his movements yesterday and see if I could discern anything about how the items were distributed, and am about to ask the same of Mr Zabini to see if there is any similarity in their experiences; I will do the same if any other copies are turned in to me. However, you ought see Black's message; if nothing else, it claims the Order has been active in resistance all along.

I've had some additional news with disturbing implications from Minerva, but that's best passed along in person.

Wearily,
T



 **alt_padma** at [2014-02-16 17:43:57](#)

(no subject)

Professor,

Just to be clear to everyone, you're talking about a specific something, not any old Valentine given by a secret admirer or a boyfriend or anything like that, is that correct?

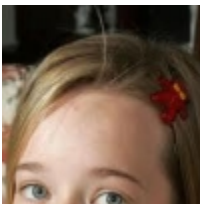


 **alt_antonin** at [2014-02-16 17:49:43](#)

(no subject)

Yes, Miss Patil; my apologies, I did forget that yesterday was Valentine's Day. Some people have reported that seditious material was placed in their bags by someone at some point yesterday afternoon. I am simply attempting to re-collect it before it can trouble people.

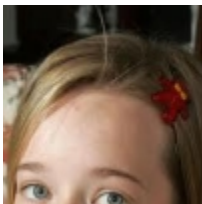
Chocolates, sweets, cards, or similar Valentine's gifts are perfectly fine, although of course if anyone is troubled by something given to them by a secret admirer, I am happy to check it over for them.




 **alt_megan** at [2014-02-16 17:50:21](#)

private message to Professor Dolohov

Do you mean sweets? Because I got a box of sweets. ~~Can sweets be false materials what is a false sweet~~ anyway I think it is from Ernie. Only I cannot ask him if we are not to discuss with anyone. And also if he did not send it then it could be a bit awkward.



 **alt_megan** at [2014-02-16 17:52:01](#)

Re: private message to Professor Dolohov

Oh dear I was writing that before I saw what Padma said and your answer. It is just sweets. I am sure it is Ernie. Besides I had already eaten one and nothing unfortunate seems to have happened yet.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-02-16 17:52:42](#)**

Re: private message to Professor Dolohov

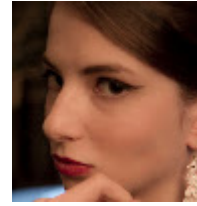
Sweets are fine, Miss Jones. I am looking to collect certain seditious materials that were distributed to at least several students yesterday.

Do enjoy the candy.

2014-02-16 10:58:00

Order Only: ISS Business

So regarding Dolohov's note, clearly SOMEONE handed over what they found in their bag.




 [alt_sally_anne](#)

Think we could stake out at least Dolohov's office this afternoon during office hours? Harry, you could use your cloak. Watch to see who brings theirs by. Or, more importantly, who DOESN'T bring theirs by.

It would be better if we could watch Raz's, too. (I don't think very many people will go to the Headmistress, honestly, she's a bit more intimidating than either Raz or Dolohov.)




 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-02-16 19:02:51**
(no subject)

Maybe Ced can keep an eye out for Dolohov, and I can stake out Raz's office?

I think Blaise wrote Professor Slughorn about his, but that was before the announcement.



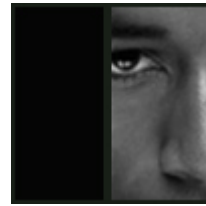
 [alt_cedric](#) at **2014-02-16 19:38:04**
(no subject)

Of course I'll keep an eye out. He only puts up the privacy charms when he thinks the conversation will be sensitive, so it should be easy to tell who's there for school work and who's there with books.

[2014-02-16 17:14:00](#)

Private Message to Padma Patil

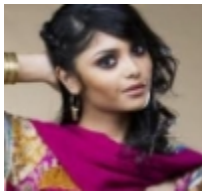
At breakfast... when you were thanking me for the odd gift I'd given you... I didn't like to say, but I'd no idea what you were on about and thought maybe someone else had given you something, which would have been awkward.




 **[alt_blaise](#)**

I didn't realise then that so many people had got copies of that ridiculous book. That was it, wasn't it?

I suppose I hadn't had enough tea yet to guess what you meant. And you were being particularly obtuse, you know?

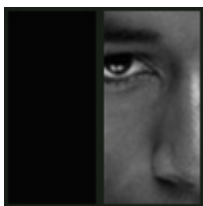



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-16 23:27:41](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, this morning?

Yeah, I thought it was from you at first. I mean, it sort of made sense. But then of course when Professor Doves made his announcement I realised it wasn't. So you got one, too?

Did you read it? Before you knew it was rubbish, I mean.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-02-16 23:33:26](#)**
(no subject)

I'm the one who turned it in. First thing this morning.

Of course, I did have to look it over thoroughly to see whether it was something my sponsor had given me. I expected there would be some message with the next challenge or something in code, but there was only that seditious drivel from Black at the end.

And it was complete rubbish, wasn't it?

2014-02-17 10:04:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Obviously not much to report yet, but Starling's on it.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

S certain the books were printed by non-magical means while the afterword was reproduced by wand. Ink is inconsistent throughout. Made in batches. Thinks binding materials may prove interesting--mixture of adhesives and magic. Comparison of typeface to known seditious presses underway. Investigating the paper used. Amateurish production--high likelihood mistakes will lead us to source.

Will want to see every copy you can collect. The less handling they undergo, the better. If there's to be any reliable evidence gleaned. Expect that is too much to hope--chocolate smears on inner pages of two of the five you turned over yesterday.

Perhaps I should come for supper again tonight. Might encourage cooperation.



 [alt_antonin](#) at **2014-02-17 17:11:43**

(no subject)

I rather think the children will be more likely to respond to kindly Professor Tosha than Auror Crouch, dear heart. You frighten them. Which is not to say that you are not welcome for supper, but if you do come, come for the company and not the interrogation.

I have collected seven additional copies so far. Quality varies; I see what you mean about amateurish production; the binding on the one I ~~am reading~~ I have been examining more closely has peeled away entirely. I was hoping for hairs or skin traces stuck in the glue, but nothing, on this copy at least. I've locked the others away for you to pick up whenever you've the opportunity.

Must admit, I am curious as to how the manuscript was leaked to begin with.




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-02-17 17:55:17](#)**
(no subject)

Expect me. That I frighten them can only make kindly Professor Doves more sympathetic. And effective.

See if you can't get an estimate of how many books were distributed to students. Want all of them. Have Thrush working on methods for revealing hidden copies. Attempting something with the adhesive. Shame the ink doesn't connect the whole lot.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-02-17 20:55:48](#)**
(no subject)

Re. ms leak. Starling working two theories: 1) someone copied one of the promotional copies sent to press and various parties for reviews/publicity; 2) publisher could have left behind a copy we didn't

learn of.

Re. first, all preview copies were recovered. Now being checked for residual signs of duplication.

Re. second, author knows nothing and publisher not avail for comment. Bella furious about latter. Breaths being held in various quarters. You can imagine.

2014-02-17 20:07:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom



Mrs L?

(Mrs L? Are you and Mr L still up?)

 [alt_frank](#)




 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-02-18 05:27:55**

(no subject)

Yes, we are, Colin.

What's happened?



 [alt_frank](#) at **2014-02-18 05:37:11**

(no subject)

I didn't mean to alarm you, ma'am.

It's just

I've been reading, you see. A little each night. The old entries. And I'd got to the point when

Anyways. I wanted to say thank you. For what you both said. About Dennis. ~~Seems like you and Malfoy~~

It's just one of those things I didn't want to sit on til morning.




 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-02-18 05:39:18**

(no subject)

Yes. Of course, love.

Come on up for some tea?



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-02-18 05:41:43](#)**
(no subject)

I don't want to ~~put you out~~ and I know it's

Yes. Please.

2014-02-17 21:11:00

Order Only: Recruits

It was such a wretched evening tonight that we shut up the garden hours ahead of our normal close. But of the people who were there, two were ones we'd been thinking might make good recruits: Tim Wang and Edna Parsons. Er, not that they were together mind.



 [alt_sirius](#)

Mrs Parsons lives in a building nearby - you might recall she's the one whose landlord Beth confirmed is already a member of the Muggle Underground Railroad, so we're reasonably confident that unless she's completely idiotic, she won't have any issues from him, at any rate. Not sure about her neighbours - though she's brought the lady in the next flat here at least once.

Wang's an interesting bloke. I once overheard Ellie asking him if there wasn't anything she could get for him - he doesn't touch a drop of beer. He smiled and said he was just fine with his gillywater; he just likes the company. Ellie asked, 'Any particular company?' and he said that he quite fancies how relaxed we keep things, how no one puts on any airs. Then there was a time when Mrs Spindleton was clucking over him and drew him out a bit. I listened on that conversation, too. Turns out, his wife was one of the casualties in the World Cup bombing.

The others we think worth approaching:

- Enid Dribb - she looked after Bea a time or two before Ellie came to stay with us
- Craig Cantrell - he's the young lad who works for the Parritts and he's quite sweet on our Ellie
- Rebecca Kestenbaum
- Avanti Sharma - Both of them were a few years ahead of Dora, but I don't think they're mates with each other or anything. I've barely seen them have a conversation, actually
- Gladys Malone - Ellie said she was in at Valentine's, still rather bitter about her husband leaving her when he knew perfectly well she was a halfblood

- Rick Sacher - I think Rick is short for Frederick, isn't it, Dora, and not Richard. He was telling another patron a few months ago that his parents emigrated here from Austria back when Grindelwald was making things uncomfortable there. Had loads of stories about their escape, back in the day

We're not expecting that every one of them will accept, of course, or that we want every one of them right away. Rick, Rebecca, and Avanti are the best suited for active roles, I think, while Tim, Enid, Edna and Gladys would likely be more comfortable in support positions. Craig's as enthusiastic as any young man at 16 or 17, but we'd need to get him a wand and some training before he could make an effective combatant, certainly. He might do for a messenger if we need one, as the family he works for send him out on errands quite a bit.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-02-18 03:38:08](#)
(no subject)


Hm. I had the idea it was short for Rikhardt, but I could be wrong. There's someone called that at the Ministry, so maybe I just assumed.

Enid's a dear. A bit lonely, but not one to whinge or moan. Everyone in the garden knows her, and she's always invited to join someone's table when she's here. There's just something about her you trust. I actually think she'd make an excellent spy if we ever needed someone to go someplace and listen for us.

You're right about Kestenbaum and Sharma: they aren't mates. Sharma was five years, maybe, ahead of me in Hufflepuff. I hardly knew her at all then, but she's nice enough now. Brilliant with a charm, too.

Rebecca Kestenbaum, though, we're especially fond of her. She's the one who makes the finger puppets to amuse Bea--they're always dead clever things, made from twine and parchment or a bit of flannel and ribbon or twirly wire and little googly glass eyes. Bea thinks she's the Niffler's nugget. And she's been so disappointed since we've stopped bring Bea along.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-18 03:45:40](#)
(no subject)

Rebecca sounds an absolute delight.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-02-18 03:51:16](#)
(no subject)

Oh, she is.

She was a Ravenclaw, and I hardly knew her. I think she's just two years ahead of me, though. But you know, I hardly knew anyone then. I could be spokesperson for a publicity campaign to tell kids life gets so much easier once you leave school and get a few years on. And then people surprise you: the ones who were ridiculous bores at school turn out to be interesting, and the ones who never gave you a second look can be absolutely lovely. Mind you, sometimes there's no change at all, and it turns out you were absolutely right about some of them!



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-02-18 04:11:05](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. What was it about Avanti that you mentioned yesterday? I was trying to remember earlier.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-02-18 04:49:28](#)
(no subject)

What did I say?

Something about the stories she writes, probably. Near as I can tell, they're always skirting what's acceptable.

She and Melv Wright sometimes talk about what her next plot's going to be. Or rather, he peppers her with questions and then tells her if he thinks her ideas are full of holes. She had one where one of the important characters was going to be a squib, but he talked her out of it. Still, she's always having some stupid

Ministry bureaucrat get in the way of the hero's saving the day, or she has some MLE buffoon ruin all the evidence and make it nearly impossible to solve the mystery. (She doesn't call them MLE, I don't think, but I doubt anyone's fooled.)

Mind you, I don't think she's going to be another Astra Morgansen. Her books keep it all pretty light--she hides all her barbs behind humour. Pretty low humour a lot of the time. They're written for boys, mostly.

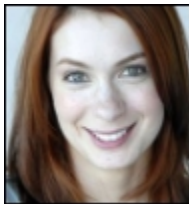



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-02-18 05:49:17](#)**
(no subject)

But it was Remus I was talking to about her writing, wasn't it?

No, wait. It was the way she talks about her parents. Calling them Mr Kow and Mrs Tow?

She was talking with Tim about them one evening, and he didn't find that as funny as I think she meant it to be. Not sure whether he was offended or just thought she should be more respectful of her parents, but I took it as another sign she's our sort.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-02-18 03:44:34](#)**
(no subject)

That sounds brilliant, love. Thank you.

I'm wondering -- right now, Sherwood handles the button traffic from the camps. Should we fold these in with what they've got in place, or have our own station set up at Moddey for Order-specific messages?

Sherwood has more people than we do, and a system already in place -- but if we had our own set-up, we could be a little more immediately responsive, depending on the scale we end up with, of course. And as the buttons can be used by non-magical people too, we've got a slightly bigger pool to work from of people who could take down messages and send things along.



 **alt_bill** at **2014-02-19 19:29:05**
(no subject)

I like the sorts of observations you've been making.

Let me know if you want me to find out the Ministry has any kind of file on any of these people.

[2014-02-18 21:00:00](#)

Order Only

Well. This is annoying. I'm afraid I've failed at a perfectly simple task after we went to a deal of fuss for a look at the book.



 **[alt_poppy](#)**

We talked our way past the door wardens and fairly badgered our way into the Headmistress's office (where she's not allowed either of us for weeks). Pomona managed it all perfectly and drew Minerva out of her office while I contrived to be left behind. All I had to do then was find the book, open it, and copy any entries inside. Pomona had the far more difficult task of decoying Minerva for long enough that I could manage that.

And now it seems I failed at a spell I use nearly every day.

Here is the list exactly as it appears on the page I used to take the copy:

Cameron Happer at South Ribble

Heidi Clarke at Bassetlaw

Mala Chaudhary at Waveney

Isobel Morris at Derby

at

Seth Hughes at Porlock

I suppose we'll have to do it all again to see about the missing name. Have you ever known a duplio to fail? I never.

Bless.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-19 03:31:07](#)**

(no subject)

Odd.

Are you sure it's not a case of a baby - sorry, a baby having died? Or that it's a child outside the wards?



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-19 04:01:48](#)
(no subject)


I don't know what the book says about a child outside the wards. Or- well, there was one recently in Ireland. Since the new wards went up, but perhaps Ireland is still considered within the book's territory.

I wonder what it said about Mr Finch-Fletchley. Or was he born here?

If a child dies before coming to school, the book annotates its entry: '(dec.)'

I don't know what would happen if a magical child were stillborn or died before it were named. That's a possibility, I suppose.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-19 04:13:36](#)
(no subject)

Odd indeed.

I shall attempt to contrive a perfectly respectable reason for Milland to visit the Headmistress's office — whilst she is at a meal, perhaps — so that you need not repeat your deception, and check again; with luck that will not trigger the spell further.

The other option is for you to borrow Albus's Penseive, and visit the memory to verify. Whether the memory will contain the names clearly enough to remind you depends on how concrete and visual a thinker you are and how closely you studied the page of the book — it is not uncommon for written text, in memories, to be blurred or otherwise imperfect, but there is a chance you might remember them well enough for them to appear in the Penseive.



 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-02-19 04:20:44](#)
(no subject)


I'm afraid I was so concerned that they might come back prematurely, I mustn't have looked at more than the first name or two. That was why I

was relying on duplio rather than copying the list out by hand as I've done other times I've been there. It seemed time was of the essence.

I doubt it's worth troubling Albus. If you're able to manage a look yourself.

Thank you, Severus. I regret putting you to the trouble.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-19 04:29:06](#)
(no subject)

Very well.


And it is no trouble. Or rather, while cleaning up the pretext will be, I shall enjoy the chance to prove to Messrs Weasley and Weasley that they are not the only ones capable of putting potions to explosive use.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-02-19 04:39:33](#)
(no subject)


Did you just say you're going to pull a prank?



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-19 04:47:17](#)
(no subject)


You may think of it in that fashion if it will amuse you to do so. I cannot think of a better way to justify the caretaker's presence in the Headmistress's office for an extended amount of time.



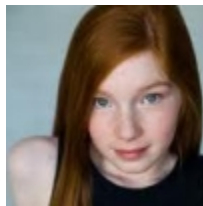
 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-19 05:18:53](#)
(no subject)


Let us know if you need any help, sir.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-02-19 05:33:21](#)
(no subject)


I believe I have it in hand, Miss Longbottom, but I appreciate your assistance. It is better for you to not know any further details, however; should any of you be discovered in assisting, the Headmistress would undoubtedly be forced to punish you severely lest her unwanted adornment grow suspicious.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-19 05:38:16](#)
(no subject)

All right then. I suppose it will just have to be a surprise.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-02-19 13:36:57](#)
(no subject)

Right, all you lot at Hogwarts, watch out the sky doesn't fall on you. Or perhaps Slytherin might take red and gold for its colours, next.



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-02-19 16:07:59](#)
(no subject)


If only we could watch!



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-02-19 16:09:40](#)
(no subject)


Send us any notes, hmm?



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-02-19 18:32:14](#)**
(no subject)


You may cease berating yourself for your perceived failure; the list was properly duplicated. There is, indeed, a blank line beneath Isobel Morris and above Seth Hughes. I watched it for thirty minutes to see if it would change, but it did not.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-02-19 04:54:26](#)**
(no subject)

I hope that's not the case. Perhaps it's like the Lees, where they were confusing the twins and the names kept switching back and forth? Only that listed the location well enough.



 **[alt_justin](#)** at **[2014-02-20 03:49:36](#)**
(no subject)

Madam Pomfrey,

I was born here, in England. Sorry not to be of more help.

I say, it couldn't be in an area already under the Fidelius, could it? One of the women we rescued from Strangeweale, for example?

-Finch-Fletchley




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-02-20 13:50:55](#)**
(no subject)

No, I don't think so. I mean, we've had word about them if all the pregnant women in Bedford started having their babies. Also, isn't it a bit too soon? Maybe not for one or two of them but surely we'd have heard from someone.

Although....

Mr Longbottom, could it be Saltash?



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-02-20 15:41:18](#)**
(no subject)

I trust we'll hear when there are births at Bedford or Aldrich. Or Saltash.

Saltash is an excellent thought for this oddity.

An excellent thought.

Frank?

2014-02-18 21:32:00

(no subject)

Anyone up for a book exchange? Saturday at 7,
secret room



 **alt_galleon**

2014-02-19 14:30:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron



 [alt_pansy](#)


I think I nearly fainted when Crabbe walked by me in Charms today. I'm still trying to catch my breath. It's like he'd lent his robes to a troll. A troll who'd died a long time ago from eating too much cheese.

Honestly.

I think I might have to start spraying perfume in his general direction for the good of Hogwarts. It's like we're in third year all over again.

I feel sorry for Harry and Draco. And the poor house-elves who have to launder his things. Maybe they decided to stop in protest?




 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-20 00:16:38**
(no subject)

Third year, yeah. Only, I think Crabbe and Goyle already smelled foul when we started as firsties.


Just figured they came out of an especially stinky cabbage patch, y'know?



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-02-20 00:29:27**
(no subject)

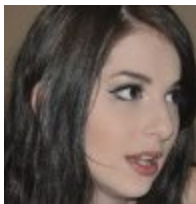
No kidding.



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-02-20 00:28:19**
(no subject)

Wait. Hang on.

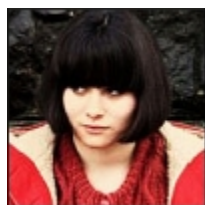
You don't think Crabbe's got a stink hex on his badge, do you?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-20 00:31:21](#)
(no subject)

Don't tell him, if you think he does.

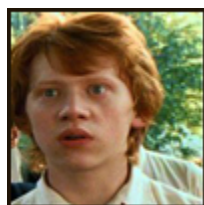
I don't think HE'S noticed he reeks. You've only got two days to get rid of the hexes, right? (Well, unless we want to give him a leg up in the standings.)




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-20 00:35:58](#)
(no subject)

Maybe they're all tricky like that, so you don't notice it yourself, and other people have to point it out to you?

Or he's just really dense. And doesn't have the ability to smell.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-20 00:36:58](#)
(no subject)

I haven't started stinking, have I?

Or anything else embarrassing.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-20 00:37:49](#)
(no subject)

No!


Only, it just occurred to me, maybe you should fake a hex. Like cast a bad smell hex on yourself, because that way no one will try to steal your pin. (You haven't noticed anything, have you?)



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-20 00:38:30](#)
(no subject)

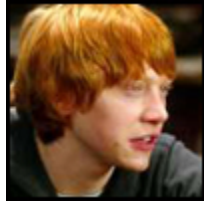
That's a really brilliant idea.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-20 00:38:14](#)
(no subject)

Not that I've noticed. Not any different from usual, at least.

Joking, tuna brain.



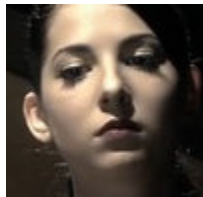
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-20 00:48:02](#)
(no subject)

Maybe one of you should cast a fish lips jinx on me.

Or, no. Actually, not that. It would muck around with what Dumbledore and I are doing.

But, yeah. It's a brilliant idea. Just need to think what would look like a curse but not be one.

Ugh. I wonder if mine could be cursed, but nothing's really showing yet. I need to read up on revealing spells, I reckon.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-20 01:02:58](#)
Order Only

Or ask Dumbledore. He'd probably know.


As far as fake hexes go... I'm trying to think of something that would be obvious enough that everyone would think you were hexed but wouldn't actually inconvenience you too terribly and all I'm thinking of is Crabbe's stink hex, which -- surely they wouldn't cast two. Besides, you don't want to have to reek until Friday.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-20 01:55:39](#)
(no subject)


Maybe you could start getting really forgetful, leave your satchel everywhere?



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-02-20 01:56:07](#)**
(no subject)

I think I might be able to pull off pretending like I have stomach issues or cramping or something.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-02-20 00:36:15](#)**
(no subject)

Well. I'm pretty sure I won't be trying to steal Crabbe's badge, anywiz.

2014-02-19 20:06:00

ORDER ONLY


Saltash has a proper set-up now with an underground Apparation point that's entirely self-contained. It's pretty brilliant -- the cave is half in half out of the wards. The space is big enough to take stuff into the magical half so they can do quick repairs, or use Healing magic if they need to, and they've got a set-up with an enormous elevator on the warded side going down into the cave area. We weren't there for long -- we had one of their people Side-Along Colin into the cave so he can find it again, and got him the secret, went up to say hello to a few folks and that's about all we had time for. But it looks like they've got a really good set-up there. Anyone else want access who hasn't gone there yet, let us know, Colin can take you to the cave for your first time around. We're looking forward to visiting more regularly for training sessions now that Kingsley doesn't have to drag my sorry arse there every time. Be a lot safer to get there too -- no need to dodge patrols, or worry about getting spotted in the Dead Man's Land between the tree line and the ward.



 [alt_frank](#)

Speaking of, Kingsley mate, up for some train hunting this week? And Bill, while we're at it, I was wondering if you could get your hands on all the active train lines and schedules, so we could see which rails are being used regularly. Don't know if it'd end up working out, but I think it'd be worth it to have all that on hand regardless.




 [alt_bill](#) at **2014-02-20 18:31:54**

(no subject)

Well done, Frank! That's a really brilliant solution.

I can't get you the schedules personally, but I know who can, and he owes me several favours. Am confident I can get you what you need. Should have them for you tomorrow afternoon at the latest. The most out of date ones will come first.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-02-20 18:56:47](#)**
(no subject)

Good to hear.

I'm wondering while we're thinking about all this if it'd be worth our while to make some inroads with the workers at a key trainyard or two -- I'm guessing most of them are muggle and muggleborn, and having someone around who can turn a blind eye to an extra train car (or train), and help load or unload goods might be useful.

The trainyards at Portsmouth might be a place to start.



 **[alt_kingsley](#)** at **[2014-02-20 18:37:24](#)**
(no subject)

Count me in, my friend. Caradoc can make himself available, too. Just let us know when you get the maps from Bill. Or we can meet with you even earlier if you like, for strategising. Will Fu be coming along, too?

Just send word via the journals, or even by patronus, if time is tight for any reason. We're sticking to locations where patronus communication is safe.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-02-20 18:57:29](#)**
(no subject)

Looking forward to it. If Caradoc's coming, then yeah, Fu can hitch a ride with him.

[2014-02-20 09:14:00](#)


Private Message to Linus

I've got a bit of a wager going on. I bet that you'd be able to tell whether the other candidates had a cursed pin or not based on your behavioural notes you've been taking. So here's a challenge for you -- does Teddy Nott have a cursed pin?



 [alt_harry](#)




 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-02-21 02:27:13](#)
(no subject)

I can answer that through simple observation, without recourse to actual statistical analysis. One bears in mind, of course, that Professor Dolohov has many a time cautioned me that anecdote is not the singular of data. Nevertheless, one must at times be bold enough to splash out with a conclusion or an encouragement or an instance of leadership. This is something you yourself might take to heart, Malvolo. Certainly one would not expect the Lord Protector's son to be such an accomplished practitioner of avoiding the usual displays of position and power to which he is more than entitled. Other than having a mudblood, of course. But still, you're quite reserved. People might even mistake you for timid, though of course I would never do you that disservice. But you must admit you are a bit... retiring, perhaps I should say, and that you deftly shun being the centre of the lumos. No doubt you have deeply cloaked reasons of your own for doing so, which will be revealed in due time, of course. Forget I asked.

In any case, I think it quite obvious that Nott has a cursed pin. Given the unseemly belching noises emanating from his vicinity yesterday and today, odds are that he's under some sort of Gassification Charm. Either that, or he's very slowly turning into a frog. Either way, he seems to have gotten it under control at this point; I saw him in the corridor recently and there was nary a burp. None of his other charming mannerisms were in the least altered, I am sad to say, but at least the belching was gone. I was beginning to want to ask Malfoy and Parkinson to set it to music, as it was rhythmic enough for a plausible dance tune. Which might be the most useful thing one could do with him, come to think of it.

Does that answer your question? I'm honoured to be asked, of course. Feel free. Any time.



 **alt_harry** at [2014-02-21 03:02:51](#)
(no subject)

Looks like he switched it out for one without a hex, then.


Just wondering, do you think you have a hexed one?

Because if you do, you'd have a reason for saying the things you did just now, and I'd accept them as statements made under a hex, and wouldn't hold them against you.

If you don't, then you're not as smart as I thought you were, and I might have to take what you've said at face value. Which would not work in your favour.

If I ask you for other observations in the future, here's a word of advice: don't forget who you're speaking to. And don't forget your place.



 **alt_linus** at [2014-02-21 03:16:58](#)
(no subject)

It never

I hadn't considered

Oh dear.

It is quite good of you to mention


Considering

I believe Professor Dolohov would

Well. I think I will just not say anything at all for a bit. Yes. That seems prudent. ~~And goodness knows~~

Pardon me. It behooves me to attend to something



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-02-21 03:20:22](#)
(no subject)

Hope you get that pin problem solved, Moon.

We'll talk later.

2014-02-20 09:20:00

Private Message to Linus Moan

What on earth did you tell Rebecca Vain and Narcissa Lonsdale? They've just been in the girls' loo crying there eyes out.




 [alt_padma](#)

Ugh. Its happening again. Yesterday I had to copy out my Ruins assignment fore times.

Anyway. You know better than to upset firsties, Lines. Is something wrong?



 [alt_linus](#) at **2014-02-20 16:42:04**

Private Message to Padma


Merlin's outdated almanac, Padma! What on earth?

Oh. You have a curse on you, or to be precise, on your brooch. At a guess, I'd think it was a Mis Spel Hex, because even at your flightiest and most agitated you do spell perfectly well. I suggest removing it as soon as possible, as it is likely to cause considerable mockery if left in situ. You know that the constant envy of high-performing Ravenclaws is always seething just below the surface, so don't be giving it any excuses to well up, eh?

As to the students you mentioned, I was merely fulfilling my responsibilities as Prefect. Really, students who cannot take a few constructive words of advice as to their academic performance ought to go see Madam Pomfrey. Surely there's a tonic for that or something, some Anti-Whinge Syrup or the like.

Get a bit of it for Finnegan while you're at it.



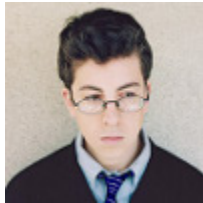
 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-02-20 16:49:16**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Yes, I know my brooch was hexed. I think I've finally removed it. Let's see: chrysanthemum. There, sorted. (It took a couple tries and the second time was really quite difficult.)

And.... All right, maybe they're not exactly perfection but the point

is that Vane and Lonsdale said they came to you because Brampton, Giles and Lorimer were undoing the stitching in their bookbags and spilling the contents all over. It had nothing at all to do with their performance in lessons! Why ever did the subject even come up?



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-02-21 02:42:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

Of course it came up, Padma. They were talking about their bookbags, which of course involved talking about books, which naturally led to thoughts of helpful commentary which might encourage them to make the most of their precious years at Hogwarts. I merely sought to make them fully cognisant of the gravity of the situation. It is not a privilege to be taken lightly, this glorious institution of ours, you know.

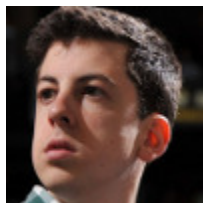
Speaking of which, you and I -- are we rather letting down the side by not doing any special presentations on History this term? We used to have such grand fun with those. Of course, that was B.F. -- Before Finnegan. I know, I know, you're just mates. Actually, I have no trouble believing that at all, given certain attesting circumstances! Really, he ought to make sure he's truly in private before disporting with his faun of the day. But that's not what I was going to say. I was going to ask whether we ought to recapture our days of glory by doing some little reprise of our History presentations of yore. Do say you will, Padma. Just think how grand it could be! And goodness knows many of our fellow students could benefit thereby.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-21 19:05:44](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

Feeling more sorted, are you?



 [alt_linus](#) at [2014-02-21 19:11:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Padma

No. No, I am most assuredly not feeling more sorted, which you would know if you had read my previous missive carefully, as I spoke almost frankly of a matter which I really ought not, no

matter how hilarious Finnegan looked in the omniocular recording of him with --

Oh, dear. There it goes again.

Have you got any suggestions as to whose brooch I might surreptitiously swap for my own? This is quite intolerable. Reading Byron aloud seems to help, or at least to distract and occupy me, but it's just not practical in the long run, and I am running out of places in the Castle to hide.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2014-02-21 21:19:10**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Sam Montgomery, perhaps. Or Smith. If you gave it to him, no one would even notice any difference.



 **[alt_linus](#) at 2014-02-21 23:26:07**

Re: Private Message to Padma

Well, that did not go at all well.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2014-02-20 16:55:53**

Re: Private Message to Padma

You know who else is cursed?

Crabbe. Honestly, if you get within 20 feet of him be sure to cast a nose-numbing jinx on yourself first.

But I'm certainly not going to tell him if he hasn't noticed.

2014-02-20 11:47:00

Private Message to Seamus Finnigan

Have you figured out who else has cursed pins yet?



I'm fairly certain Lines has one. He's been utterly candid and *not* in a kind way. I mean, he's usually rather clueless, you know, but it's as if every other sentence has some pronouncement or other about how people can improve themselves. Which is not really like him, much. Or at least, it's not the same as normal.

 [alt_padma](#)


But I'm not going to tell him if he can't figure it out for himself! I mean, if he's supposed to be so clever and all.

You may have liked the last one where we had to ambush people but I actually find this quite amusing.

Unless you're standing too close to Crabbe.

(I've also got one of Draco's books. He left it behind on his desk after Charms but he hasn't asked about it. Maybe he keeps forgetting?)



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-02-20 20:08:58**
(no subject)


'Moan,' you mean?

Yeah, I think you're right. As we were leaving Arithmancy, he turned to me and said, 'Finnigan, I've been assured that the Hat does not actually seek out the thickest skulls for Gryffindor House, but sometimes you make me wonder.'

(I didn't even ask that many questions this time!)

Anyway, you won't point it out to him, will you? Frankly it's rather amusing. Much more so than the unbearable stench coming from Crabbe.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-20 20:10:19](#)**
(no subject)

Of course I'm not going to point it out to h---

Oh, no.

Do you mean everyone could see my PM to him?



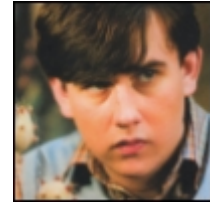
 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-20 20:10:25](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, and Dean Thomas definitely has one of the hexed pins -- he's been tripping over his own feet, and at lunch he knocked an entire platter of carrots off the table. I'm keeping an eye on my pin anytime we're in the same room.

[2014-02-20 13:01:00](#)


Order only

I think my nose is finally starting to work normally again.



 **[alt_neville](#)**



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-02-20 19:16:36](#)**

(no subject)

Let me guess. Crabbe?

Between the hexed pins and everyone talking about who managed to fill the Headmistress's offices full of foam (well done, Mr Snape), it's been quite the week for gossip.



 **[alt_neville](#)** at **[2014-02-20 19:55:02](#)**

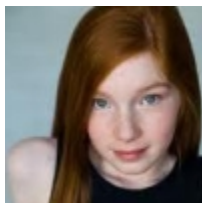
(no subject)

Crabbe, yeah, urgh.

You know, I feel sorta sorry that I don't feel sorrier for him. If that makes sense. But I don't think he even NOTICED. Or I dunno, maybe he was just pretending not to notice.

I had to sit next to him during class. I had the feeling that Professor Acton sort of enjoyed making me do that.

I was polite about it at least. If he noticed that either.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-02-20 19:57:10](#)**

(no subject)

Maybe he's proud of it?

It is a sort of power, I suppose. To have that effect on people.

2014-02-20 20:26:00

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Terry
Boot and Colin Creevey*



 **alt_frank**


(Hey, Terry. I was talking with Mr and Mrs L earlier and they mentioned that it might be good to check in with you, see if you need any supplies now that you've been at Hogsmeade for a while. If you let me know, I can help get things together for Sunday.

And Mrs L said if you brought your washing with, they could have it done by the time you're done with dinner. So I just figured I'd pass it along.

Hope everything's going well.

See you Sunday.)



 **alt_terry** at **2014-02-21 16:51:32**


(no subject)

There's not too much I need. Oh, except I'm almost out of tooth powder, and I hate to ask to borrow Cedric's. Salt or Bicarbonate of soda works in a pinch, if Moddey dhoo is short. I do need new socks, too.

I've haven't met as much with Ron about learning to be an animagus as I'd hoped (although he's working with Professor Dumbledore). I have been helping Mr Snape with Potions preparation, though, and I think he's grateful, even if he not the sort to exactly admit it. (I felt absurdly proud the other night when he told me my sliced daisy roots were not completely hopeless mush--that's the sort of thing that passes as a complement with him.

How is it going for you, helping Mr Longbottom? Have you had much of a chance to read back very far in the journals? Do you have any questions?



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-02-21 22:01:14](#)
(no subject)

(Tooth powder and socks. Easy enough.

Good to hear you're getting on with Mr Snape. He can be sharp sometimes, yeah, but I know Mrs L thinks very highly of him. And you should be proud. He's got very high standards, from what I've seen.

Have you been able to see Hermione at all?

Mr L is keeping me busy enough. It was really ace to finally see Saltash, and even though I mostly just Apparate places and take notes and things, it feels like I'm being useful enough, which is good.

It's been hard reading through some of the old things. Like Dennis. I guess I should've figured that out, but it doesn't make it hurt less.

And seeing people I know talk about him like that, like he was a pet or something

I guess they've grown up a lot since then, hey?


It's just

Well, it's not bloody fair for starters. That I was here, safe and sound, the whole time, while he was

~~and you were~~

Anyways. I only just got to that part, so I guess it's been on my mind lately, you might say.)



 [alt_terry](#) at [2014-02-22 16:59:01](#)
(no subject)

Blimey, Colin.

I went back and read those parts myself. Then I sat with my journal open for hours, wondering what in Merlin's name to say to you in reply, and everything I could think of seemed--well. Pitiful.

But I have to say something, so, here goes.

Now that I'm several years away from the situation, I can finally say I am so sorry about Dennis. I am sorry that he was stolen from the rest of you, that he never had the chance to have Moddey Dhoo. And I'm sorry that he died. Knowing that it was in an instant and without pain isn't nearly enough to comfort you for that.

If I'm having a guess at part of what you might be feeling there's some 'it could have been me.' Or even 'it should have been me.' I felt that way about Justin Finch-Fletchley for awhile. All of us are muggleborn, but we had such different fates, depending on when and how the Protectorate got its claws into us. And Dennis, I think, had the worst fate of all. You're right; it's not bloody fair.

I'm also sorry now that I couldn't be his ally, his friend. If I could have been there for him, the way that Hermione was for me, I mean, things might have ended up quite differently. Except there's no guarantee that the basilisk wouldn't have killed him in the end. Oh, bloody hell.

But I didn't dare try to be his friend. Maybe he had a secret life, too, where he saw the Protectorate clearly for what it is and understood it was all a lie. Maybe he was even more of a boot than me, in other words. But if he did, it was buried so deeply, I couldn't see it. And since he seemed utterly loyal to the Protectorate, I couldn't take the risk of getting too close to him, for fear he would have immediately told someone that Terry was inside of me.

It's hard to admit this, but I was afraid of him. Because I sensed he was what I would turn into, if Carrow had his way, and destroyed every spark of what made me Terry. But that wasn't Dennis' fault. That was the Protectorate's fault.


I'm mucking this up; I'm afraid that what I'm saying only makes it hurt worse. I guess the only thing I can say that might be a bit of a comfort was that even the Protectorate saw good things in him, because they used them. Like that he was utterly loyal. It says something good about his character. Maybe he would have been sorted into Hufflepuff. It was just rotten bad luck that the Protectorate stole him and shaped him first, and he gave his loyalty to it. But if he had the chance to give it to the Order...I bet he would have been one of the most popular kids at Moddey Dhoo. I bet he would have done anything for Mr and Mrs Longbottom,

and that he would have been very good at magic. He was quick and agile, and I dunno--I just have a feeling he would have been excellent at Charms. And Potions, too: he was so painstaking about the way he did things.

Anyway, I'm sorry.

I'm glad he has a tree in the Memorial Garden there. He deserves one, for the real life he never was allowed to have.

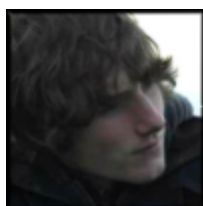



 **alt_frank** at [2014-02-22 18:58:52](#)
(no subject)

(Thanks, Professor.

Thanks for that.


I figure I can get angry, or hurt, or feel guilty as hell about it, but the best way I can honour him is to work as hard as I can to change things. And I'm glad you're free, and working on the same thing. And Malfoy is with us too, which is an odd sort of justice, hey?)



 **alt_tery** at [2014-02-23 01:30:12](#)
(no subject)

It could be that Malfoy is with us partly because of Dennis, come to think of it. Being his Master forced him to really think about things, so maybe he was ready to listen when the Order came calling. And I think he'll play a big part in things, if we ever end up ending the Protectorate. So maybe that's part of Dennis' legacy, too.



 **alt_frank** at [2014-02-23 01:53:10](#)
(no subject)

(No matter his reasons, he's here, which says a lot for how much people can change.

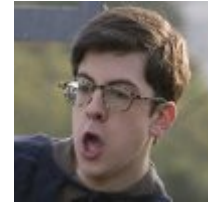
And if Dennis played a part in all that, even better.)

2014-02-20 21:25:00

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Sir,

Might I speak with you on a matter of possible extreme urgency?



 [alt_linus](#)

As you are no doubt aware, the ongoing challenges include some interesting little traps for candidates. Up until this point, I have managed to acquit myself in such a way as to avoid covering the name of Moon with shame. However, it has come to my attention in a most unfortunate way that I am the recipient of one such little trap which may prove more disastrous than the originator intended.

I did try my utmost to disarm it just now, but I am not sanguine about my success in removing the hex from the brooch. If you will allow me to test it, I can either set my fears at rest or make them eminently clear to both of us. With your forbearance, then:

One wishes of course to be thought of as a model of probity and discretion, unlike certain names that will live in infamy, not to mention some of my schoolmates. It would be most remiss of me, should I be unable to remove a hex that apparently compels the spilling of details and observations that should remain unspoken, to allow such a situation to persist without informing you, given the situation. Giving Padma a frank airing of my views on Finnegan is one thing, and I regret it, no matter how momentarily pleasurable it may have been; lecturing the Lord Protector's son on his reluctance to grasp the privileges and trappings to which he is entitled by his station, no matter how unfathomably feckless he seems to be regarding such things, is another matter entirely--

Oh dear. I believe the removal attempt was unsuccessful. You see my problem, I am quite sure.

The originator of the hex could not have known what secrets are chained within the sepulchre of my silence. One particular secret, particularly. Which is chained. Have I mentioned how much I admire your facility with the implementation of protective measures such as, for instance, geas? And thank you again, for that, by the way, sir. Did I tell you how grateful I was for that? Very grateful, sir. For your forbearance and guidance, and for understanding that I did not mean

to stray into territory which should not be examined, let alone quantified and analysed.


Even now I find the hex intensifying, and it is only a matter of time before I speak of matters of which I may not speak. Literally.

Oh dear

on my way

help



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-02-21 03:50:50**
(no subject)

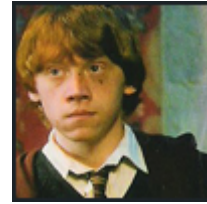
~~Why is it always on Thursdays~~

I do not think my spellwork will be so easily overridden by a cursed object, Mr Moon, but I likewise would not wish you to be unduly distressed.

Wait outside my office, rather than attempting to open the door -- I will be there as soon as I might.

2014-02-20 22:49:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sally Anne and Pansy



 [alt_ron](#)

Ugh.

It's getting worse. And I've tried everything I can think of, but I can't

I dunno. This morning I thought I was just tired from staying up so late, trying to test for hexes. And I was trying to fake a forgetfulness hex like we said, getting worse, y'know, only it's really hard to remember to forget, I guess, and it was muddling everything, trying to think about what I'd sound like if I were, y'know-

And then I just

And now, I'm

I can't read anymore and my notes don't make any sense, and even if he asks us loads of questions in Transfig tomorrow, I can't

Sort of dizzy, y'know?

Think I'll

get som

sl

e

Sorry. Ugh.

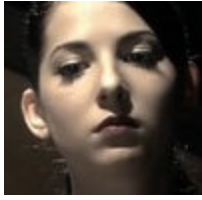
Yeah. Sleeping now.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-21 05:16:09**

(no subject)

Maybe you should go show it to Dumbledore?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-21 05:17:48](#)

Private message to Ron

I'm a little worried about Pansy. She's really on edge, I guess I'd say. She was faking a hex on her pin to discourage anyone from trying to steal it, but I think maybe she has a real one.



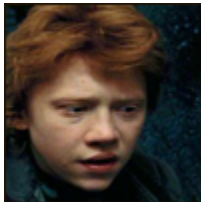
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-21 06:04:28](#)


(no subject)

Don't be an idiot, Ron.

It's all in your head.

Get some sleep, you'll feel better tomorrow.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-21 14:11:32](#)

(no subject)

Nyuh

Going to Madam P

Feel really

dire



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-21 18:11:40](#)

(no subject)

Are you okay? What did Madam P say? You didn't sleep with the pin on, did you?

I mean, I wouldn't put it past Finnigan or Thomas to hex you while you weren't looking just to make you THINK it was your pin.

2014-02-21 09:19:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry and Hermione



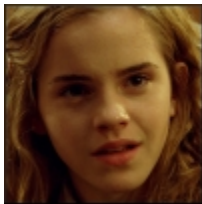
Draco's got a memory curse on his pin.

It was sort of pathetic, really. He came up to me after Transfig and was going on about how we needed to switch, but then he'd forget what he was talking about. Anyways, Sally-Anne is *convinced* that I've got a hexed one too, she was being a real pain about it this morning, and I did feel odd during Transfig, you know, I nearly exploded those quills during the switching spell review. So it's not like exchanging pins with me would help him win or anything if I've got something on mine.

 [alt_pansy](#)

He said he'd remember to take the hex off the pin once we'd switched, but I don't think he would.

Anyways, take care of it, would you? He's getting tiresome.




 [alt_hermione](#) at **2014-02-21 17:39:08**
(no subject)

I think you'd better both bring your pins to the secret room after lunch. Bring him along if you have to do.

Because, I'm sorry but you *can't* both have hexes on your brooches. There were only supposed to be seven. Thomas had a clumsiness charm, Patil was making typos, Crabbe--well, we all know what was wrong with Crabbe's--Nott was under a Gassification Charm, Moon has been doing his best impersonation of Percy Weasley under that Insulting Incantation, and Katie told Harry last night that her spells have been misfiring and missing their aim. That's six, so only one of you could possibly have something wrong with your pin.

Which means the other one is having another sort of problem. So come to the room and I'll meet you and we'll see what we can do about all of it.



 **[alt_pansy](#)** at **[2014-02-21 17:45:10](#)**
(no subject)

What if they lied about the number?

Ugh. Don't bother. I'll bring him there, because it's not like he'd remember on his own.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-02-21 17:48:44](#)**
(no subject)

Well, it's all right, I'll have a look at both, anyway, just in case.

It's possible that someone else did hex one of your pins, of course. I just don't think that would have been part of the challenge; it could have been someone having a laugh or trying to influence the results. That's all I meant by another sort of problem.

2014-02-22 19:08:00

ORDER ONLY: ISS Business



That went well, I think.

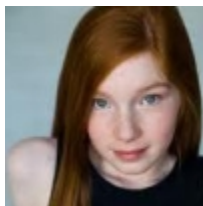
Summers and Artie and the rest of that group seemed very excited about the science fiction. I'm going to be borrowing the Asimov short stories after Artie's done, just to see what they're on about. Luna, they all seemed quite taken with your telling of Omelas. It was very well done. It gave me goose pimples.


 [alt_evelyn](#)

There's a waiting list the length of my arm to get the Hobbit. I'm fifth in line.

Who brought the philosophy? I don't remember, but I'd bet it was one of the Ravenclaws. And Donovan seemed really pleased with himself for managing to get all seven volumes of that series -- what was it? The lion and the witch? I signed up for that one too. And Ginny seemed really interested in it as well.


Are you feeling better, Ron? I'm sorry you weren't able to play today. It was a close enough game, they really could've used you.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-02-23 03:24:24**
(no subject)

I've also been curious -- do we know how many people ended up turning their Pure Victory books back in? Some people were talking a little about it tonight -- but it was mostly rumours, so I think people who did end up keeping it have been keeping quiet about it.




 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-02-23 21:04:46**
(no subject)

I saw seven people turn theirs in to Raz. There was a crowd of 3rd year girls who turned theirs in all together, and a few other people who came by who were on our list, so I assumed that's why they were there.

I'm pretty sure the 3rd year girls had all read theirs before turning

it in, because they were whispering about the ending when they left his office.



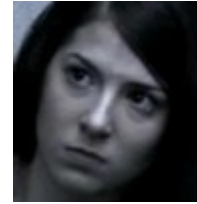
 **alt_luna** at **2014-02-25 13:54:21**
(no subject)

Thank you! I thought the Omelas story went well, too.

You will love the Hobbit, truly. The poetry included with the story is especially fun.

2014-02-24 21:25:00

Order Only: Private message to Hermione



Pansy's finally back to normal. ~~Are you~~ absolutely SURE it wasn't her

 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I wonder if someone hexed her, thinking she'd blame her pin.

Though I wondered the same thing about Ron and he was actually ill. Maybe I should have dragged Pansy to Madam P, only she really wasn't acting sick, just ... I don't know. Not like herself.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-25 03:30:59](#)
(no subject)

Thank goodness.

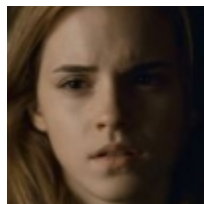
I suppose it's possible that someone took advantage but there wasn't any evidence of anything on the pin itself. And one would think if someone went to that sort of trouble, they'd have at least picked the proper target.

Are you sure she wasn't, you know, in her time of the month? Because sometimes a few days before I'm due I can be an absolute bit watering pot.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-02-25 03:33:35](#)
(no subject)

No, that wasn't it. (We're on almost the same cycle and it was two weeks ago.)



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-02-25 03:37:41](#)
(no subject)

Well, *something* certainly had her out of sorts. She hadn't gone and fallen out with George, or anything, had she?

Is it the stress of the Council challenges, maybe? I mean, she had stress-related problems before.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-25 03:41:08](#)**
(no subject)

Things are fine with George.

You're probably right about the stress. I wish they'd left her out of the challenge.



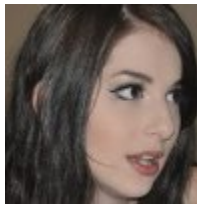
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-25 03:35:21](#)**
(no subject)

Also, there's this tisane that's supposed to help and she usually asks me for some. Would you like any? I don't know if it actually does anything but at least it tastes nice.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-02-25 03:40:35](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, yes, that would be lovely. Not that I need it right now. I'm just over mine at present.



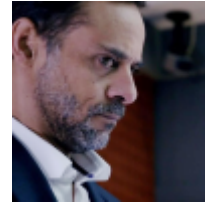
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-02-25 03:42:10](#)**
(no subject)

I'll put it in my calendar to give you some in a few weeks, then. (It's best fresh.)

2014-02-25 08:18:00

(no subject)

Students: My apologies for the short notice, but today's office hours will be cancelled, as well as all classes save the sixth-year morning session.



 **alt_antonin**

Third-year practical students, kindly read pages 32 through 40 of the Clement-Chichester and take notes. Fifth-year theoretical students: using the reading we have been doing and what you have learnt in Defence as background, write 12-15 inches exploring curse intensifiers, how they are used, and how they can be employed to work around basic measures of self-defence.

Unless otherwise specified, I will be in my office for office hours tomorrow morning, and available through lunchtime tomorrow, for anyone who is having difficulty with the reading.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-02-25 13:34:23**

Private message to Barty

Summoned to His presence again. I trust that He only wishes to continue our conversation and that there is no need to worry, but I will let you know when I return.

~~If He would only give me more than a few hours' notice I could at least arrange for someone to cover my lectures, dammit~~



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2014-02-26 06:23:35**

Re: Private message to Barty

Take time for supper after?

(Supposing He doesn't require you to remain late.)



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-02-26 09:50:40**

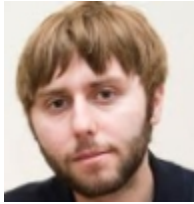
Re: Private message to Barty


I'm sorry, love; I did get held up afterwards. I'm only getting back to the castle now. Our Lord kept me until at least suppertime, and then Lyoushka Lucius and I had a bit of a public fight and I went

out afterwards. I'll let you know later and in person what happened (the short version: He wanted someone's brains to pick, and nothing has changed with Lucius).

I am very tempted to cancel classes again this morning and get some real sleep, but at least I'm not scheduled until later in the morning. I can miss breakfast; that should be enough.

Exhaustedly, T




 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-25 13:56:38](#)
Order Only

Cedric,

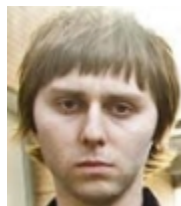
I say, old chap, any idea what that's about? One shall show proper concern at the end of today's lesson, what, but does his absence represent something the Order can use for leverage in some way?


-Justin



 [alt_cedric](#) at [2014-02-25 16:25:36](#)
Re: Order Only

He as been called away to Court on extremely short notice. I have no details on topic or nature of the meetings. He was nervous before that first one. Less so this time. He is however not happy about the meetings, or at least not happy about their unscheduled nature. "Bloody great inconvenience" was uttered at least once this morning.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-02-26 03:27:51](#)
Re: Order Only

I spoke to him, quite briefly, after the lesson, to tell him I hoped these last-moment cancellations weren't a reflection on his health, what, or anything else of a serious nature.

He merely said that he was of course at the Lord Protector's service, whenever and however it was required, but that simply being summoned to Voldemort's side did not necessarily signify anything consequential.

In point of fact, he was rather *too* nonchalant about it, if you follow me.

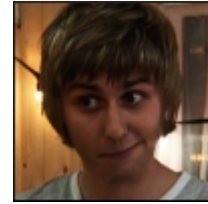
-Justin

[2014-02-25 11:28:00](#)

Order Only: Radio Broadcasts

Lee,

Thanks for the owl to let us know about the wireless broadcast. We went to the secret room tonight to listen: Well, done, Sirius. The Frost Faire anniversary was a perfect choice to talk about the instability of the Council.



 **[alt_justin](#)**


We also stayed on for the first chapter of *Pure Victory*. I say, very well done, all of you. Whomever is providing the voice for Efrain was particularly good, I thought.

Any idea when the next installments will air? We'll get up a listening party again, what.

I mentioned to Cedric that Professor Dolohov strongly implied he was summoned to see Voldemort again this afternoon--I mean to say, he all but confirmed that's why he had to cancel his office hours today--and he made rather a point of insisting it was nothing to cause concern, what. Which of course prompts one to wonder why he was so concerned.


-Finch-Fletchley



 **[alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-26 07:07:39](#)**
(no subject)

I wonder if Dolohov's recent summonings are related at all to Minerva's plight -- if Voldemort is getting more paranoid or seeking to keep a tight leash on his council.



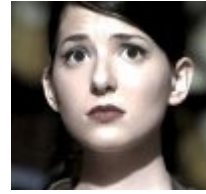
 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-26 07:10:49](#)**
(no subject)

I'd bet if rumours started at Hogwarts about Sirius and the book being on the radio, there'd be an interested audience for it.

Speaking of which, George, Fred, I was thinking that a line of headphones might be in order.

[2014-02-25 22:31:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Madam Pomfrey




Did you get a chance to pass along the card and gift to someone who was going to Sherwood?

 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

I meant to tell everyone my mum's birthday was yesterday. So anyone seeing her could wish her many happy returns.

I hope she had a good birthday. I wish she had a journal, so I could write to her directly, but being able to pass her messages through the Order is a lot better than having Mrs Weasley be my owl (not that she's not trustworthy, I just always worried about getting her in trouble).



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-02-26 06:16:42](#)**
(no subject)

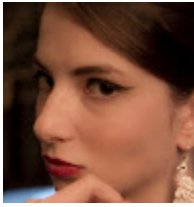
My apologies, dear. Yes! I took the opportunity to have an evening's visit at the Hog's Head with my cousin Caradoc. Have you met him? Always makes me laugh, that one!

He was perfectly happy to carry your parcel to Sherwood along with some items I've been assembling for them, and he was able to tell me that several of your mother's friends there conjured up a birthday feast for her, complete with roast venison and some merry toast-making.

From what he says, your mother's fitted into the community and the work they're doing there; on the latter score, he tells me that her arithmantic skills have been of great use. It was clear he quite admires her ability. Mind you, Caradoc has the numeracy skills of a cucumber, himself--hasn't the patience--but I took him to mean that your mother is both appreciated and well-liked.

Were you able to listen to the radio broadcast from Aldrich? I heard most of it, though I had to attend to a new arrival before Sirius was properly finished. I do hope some people are finding the signal and listening. It was bracing, I thought, and quite inspiring. But then who

can say whether it would have moved someone listening for the first time?




 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-02-26 17:21:18**
(no subject)

I did meet Mr Deerborn in November, at Moddey, after Saltash. He was the one with the curse that was causing a lot of bleeding that Hermione and I couldn't stop. I tried muggle stitches, that was utterly useless though. Anyway Mr Snape was able to undo the curse.

He DID make me laugh, actually, even though I was terribly worried he was going to die before you or Mr Snape could get there. I kept counting the blood-replenishing potions again and trying to work out whether we'd have enough -- we did, but it was a near thing. Anyway I'm glad to hear about the birthday feast and that my mum's doing well.

We met to listen to the broadcast last night. It was brilliant and I kept wondering if anyone but us was listening. We want to spread it around the school but however we do it needs to NOT be traceable back to us, you know? Because MLE will be EXTREMELY eager to find whoever let people know about it. If they can work out a message was left by a girl with a wand with a dragon-heartstring core they might line up every girl in the school with that sort of wand and have the legilimens ask her questions, you know? It needs to be as untraceable as possible.



 **alt_poppy** at **2014-02-27 04:06:31**
(no subject)

I hadn't realised. Thank you for all you did for Caradoc. He's my only remaining close kin, and I'm quite fond of him.

We must make certain you've a chance to see your mother over the holidays. Even if you end up with some sort of employment. I expect that if Professor Dolohov's been successful, you should hear something soon on that score.

As for spreading information about the Order's broadcasts, I agree

| with your assessment of the caution needed. Perhaps that leaves
| Miss Lestrange uniquely qualified to take this particular risk?

2014-02-26 09:11:00

I'm sure anyone who

got their copy of *Pure Victory* in today's post (the proper one, that is, not the counterfeits that made their way into people's bags last week) is positively aching to rip right into it - but remember, school first. It's no good trying to read while walking down the corridors or trying to go up the stairs--you'll just regret it. (Certain third-years know who they are. Next time you trip on your robes, try not to fall against the portraits. Sir Moribunt is still giving tongue-lashings to the whole upper east wing.) And no reading during lessons, of course!



 [alt_padma](#)

Someone mentioned reading aloud in a group. I'm sure that's a fine idea, so if anyone would like to give it a go, I'll be happy to bring my copy along to the large classroom we usually use for History Club. Finnigan, you don't mind if we suspend the club for the night to get us started? I promise it won't be a regular occurrence. It shouldn't take more than three evenings or so to finish it. And again, we don't want anyone neglecting homework, so perhaps we'll finish up at the weekend, or pace it out so everyone has time to get their other assignments done.



 [alt_padma](#) at **2014-02-26 15:23:59**


Private Message to Parvati

I got your letter!

That's--I mean, have you met him? Does he seem nice? Was this Dad's idea or Mum's? And.... I mean, are you really upset about it? Or excited, or...or what?


I mean. Thirty-two? That's pretty old. But not terribly old. I mean, not like some of the ones Dad's mentioned. Does Haruman know him--he'd have been a seventh-year when Haruman was a firstie, but still. What else do you know? TELL ME EVERYTHING.



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-26 15:28:24](#)**
(no subject)

Of course I don't mind. Do you have any volunteers yet to do the reading?



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-26 15:35:04](#)**
Private message to Padma


I have the morning free and I've been reading. It's ~~NOTHING~~ like

It's not as good as the first two, I guess I'd say. I mean, the best part of the first two books was Amaranth, you know? And in this one, so far, she's screamed several times, cried a lot, and fainted twice.

Also, I think we're supposed to like what she's done with Phoebus because he used to be so annoying and now he's not. Only, it was the way he was annoying that made him fun to read.

And all the people who were in danger at the end of the last book just got killed off in chapter one. I guess that's one way to avoid a cliffhanger. (Sorry for the spoilers, but you did at least take a peek, didn't you, before class? It happens on page five.)



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-02-26 15:40:03](#)**
Re: Private message to Padma

Yes, I glanced at it. I was going to start reading but then Mackrell and Shelby made such nits of themselves falling on the stairs that I just had to post instead. And now it's nearly time for Herbology.

Honestly, I'm not sure why I kept on at it but it's so important for Potioneering.

I don't know how I'll get through lessons today, between that and Pavs' news.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-26 15:42:21](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

What's her news? I saw you had a letter. ~~And you didn't look very~~



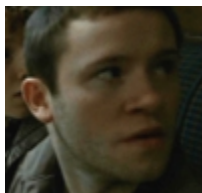
 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-26 15:56:13](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

There's a b... a man. Inderpal Sharma. I don't know much yet--she really didn't say a lot because I don't think there's a lot to know yet, but he's approached Mum and Dad--or maybe just Dad, I'm not sure--about courting Pavs. He's thirty-two and he works for the WWN. I think he's the music librarian or something. I haven't had time to look him up properly. All I've found out so far is that he was a Ravenclaw and he played oboe in a consort that was active here when he was a student. He must be Kshatriya or Dad wouldn't even entertain the idea of him courting Parvati but you know, Mum's been saying all year that she really should make a start, so, maybe she wore him down. I don't know.

And Pavs sounds.... I can't tell. I mean, I think she's excited that he's only 32 and has sort of a nift job, not like some dry-as-dust washed up fat merchant. You know? But it doesn't even sound like she's *met* him properly yet and what if he's dreadful?

I dunno.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-26 16:03:55](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

~~ONLY thirty-two~~

I don't know, it seems mad to be getting married at our age. His job does sound nift. Do you want to go look him up in the old annuals later, at least see what he looked like when he was at school? Or you could ask Professor Vector about him.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-27 03:44:27](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

That was awful.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-27 04:01:18](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

The book, you mean? Not more news from Parvati?

I kept hoping and hoping it would get better and it only got worse. Seven children doesn't make up for having NO PERSONALITY. Also, I LIKED Efrain; I wanted him to turn out to really be a pureblood. Amaranth could have still married Phoebus -- either would have been fine, but having him turn out to be howlingly evil the whole time was just ridiculous.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-27 04:07:40](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

The book, and the turnout for the reading--and the reading itself....

Was it me or did the whole thing just not...hold together? I mean, reading it aloud, it just made no sense.

What on earth was that whole bit with the ancient tunnels? And that section where Amaranth pretends to have lost her memory? That was just odd, wasn't it?

It's NOTHING like

At any rate, I don't think we'll be coming back for another reading like tonight.




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-27 04:11:27](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

You know, I was sort of not listening after a while because I'd read it earlier, but you're right, it's worse out loud.

I guess I was willing to just roll with the ancient tunnels and the lost memory, it was the fainting that really got to me. Also Amaranth screaming and crying all the time when she'd been so stoic the first two books. It was like -- oh, Hydra Lestrage suddenly turning into Lavender Brown. One morning. And expecting that no one would notice.



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-27 04:21:45](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

Oh, she was far worse than Lav! (Although, to be honest, ever since Lav and Lines started dating they've both been frightfully more--I dunno, histrionic.) And you're right, it's just as if all the characters had their personalities mixed up.



 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-02-27 04:04:24](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

It didn't even sound like it was written by the same person.

Those counterfeits, you know, I imagine -- not that I've seen any -- but I expect whoever counterfeited them made the effort to tell a good story. (A shockingly subversive story that of course one would understandably want to suppress.) And they probably tried very hard to mimic the way Miss Morgansen told the story in the first two books and probably attempted to tie up loose ends in a way that didn't involve just killing everyone people liked for no reason.

~~I expect the people who read both versions found the counterfeit version more satisfactory as a story. If not politically.~~



 [alt_padma](#) at [2014-02-27 04:26:52](#)

Re: Private message to Padma

You know, I was thinking about what I expected to happen and what I didn't expect.

I'm glad Cucullain didn't die but I think it might have been better if Efrain hadn't been evil. And I'd wondered

whether Phoebus and Agrona would have wound up together, but she died, which I wasn't expecting. (That felt like it came out of nowhere. Well, the whole book did, really. I think maybe the second-years could write a better ending if they had access to Professor Slughorn's oak-aged mead. You know?)



 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-02-27 04:33:27](#)**

Re: Private message to Padma

Yeah, I was definitely expecting Cucullain to die, too. It just seemed likely. And I thought Phoebus and Agrona might make a somewhat unexpected but very nice couple (I liked Efrain for Amaranth, and obviously Phoebus needed somebody if he wasn't going to die heroically.)

And yeah, I agree about second-years and some mead. This ~~version~~ book was just a mess.

2014-02-26 11:50:00

All as usual

My thanks for the many returns of the day. For those who have asked: No, no special plans. Perhaps a quiet supper with friends, as has been my wont for the past several years. Particularly as there is no State event pre-occupying one's attention; they are welcome, of course, with the pomp and splendour they provide, but one also appreciates the opportunity to celebrate only with one's nearest from time to time.



 **alt_lucius**

However, was reminded by the various cards and tokens that it has been some time since posting. Pray think no nefarious cause in that: All has proceeded at a customary pace. One's business of late has been too sensitive for public consumption but all is well as can be expected. If my journal has been more a source of reading material than a mouthpiece recently, it is only that there has been nothing of interest to report.


By contrast, the efforts of Our Lord's young novices have continued to offer both insight and diversion. Received quite a number of compliments on my son's performance, following the last Hogsmeade week-end, in which Ned, Crispin and others were able to meet with their candidate choices. Would that any credit were mine; he is wholly his own man, by this time. Still, one cannot help be proud to hear so well of one's offspring. That he has already distinguished himself in pursuit of Our Lord's own recognition is worth more than any birthday present.

Speaking of presents, though: Amanda, received your latest gift and news with amusement. While we should like nothing better than to meet our new nephew, it is unlikely we shall find the time to arrange a visit before next Christmas. Perhaps not even then. Pleased to inform, however, that as the Ministry's next great advance completes itself, under the watchful eye of Our Lord, the ability to travel safely may well be improved. Tell Mother she ought to look after herself better, as well: a broken hip may be easily mended, but it is still no joke at her age.

Oh, and Miss Parkinson: I've time for tea prior to to-morrow's

Governor's meeting, if you would like to join me. We can discuss your own place among the standings and follow-up on other matters concerning your future.




 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-26 17:57:02](#)
(no subject)

'Nothing of interest to report'.


Interesting choice of phrasing.



 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-02-26 18:19:01](#)
(no subject)


If you are referring to seeing *you* in Our Lord's presence, that was notable but only for its rarity. It's hardly something that merits a mention, however.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-02-26 18:37:09](#)
(no subject)

I was referring to the idea that your 'nothing of interest to report' stemmed from an actual lack of things of interest happening, rather than from your ... oh, it would be uncouth of me to finish that sentence, now wouldn't it?




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-02-26 19:11:31](#)
(no subject)

Don't trouble yourself with speculation; my brief is as diverse as ever. If one cannot discuss one's closed-door dealings at the Ministry, Mysteries, Court or elsewhere, one simply says nothing.

Or should one infer from your clumsy attempt to draw a comment that you yourself are feeling a strain from the specialisation required to teach teenagers how to place a blood lock on a trunk? Perhaps that's why you came begging to be entrusted with more challenging chores. Teaching lost its glow when it becomes a daily task?




 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-02-26 19:24:47**
(no subject)

Do make up your mind: am I to be mocked for laziness or overreach? Shoddy intellect to want it both ways -- but then, I am hardly surprised.


I do hope that you and Narcissa will enjoy your quiet birthday supper alone together.



 **[alt_lucius](#) at 2014-02-26 19:29:31**
Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Not alone. Very close friends gathering round about eight. One must take the utmost care these days whom one invites into one's home.




 **[alt_antonin](#) at 2014-02-26 19:33:45**
Re: Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Quite. I trust you are well aware by now who your true friends are.

(Я ненавижу это так, бля.)




 **[alt_pansy](#) at 2014-02-26 18:15:53**
Private Message to Lucius

I hope you enjoyed your present, Lucius, and I hope you are well today.

I would very much like to see you, it feels like an age and a half since Christmas, and I would appreciate the opportunity to gain some insight into my performance.

I very much hope that my comportment thus far reflects well on my father's legacy.



 **[alt_lucius](#)** at **[2014-02-26 19:12:55](#)**

Re: Private Message to Lucius

Well enough, from what I have heard. Looking forward to seeing you, my dear.

2014-02-26 20:32:00

Private Message to Laurie Macmillan

Trust me, you won't regret it.

Now, mornings: I prefer the third sink--the water's hotter for shaving--so make sure no one else is using it around, oh, 8:15 tomorrow; 7:45 the other days. Then head down to breakfast and save me some of the eggs and bacon, oh and I like blackberry marmalade, if it's there, not that horrid orange that isn't really orange. I don't have much in the way of lessons on Thursdays, so you can pop off to whatever lessons you've got and check with me at lunch.



 **alt_zacharias**

Evenings: I'll need my shoes cleaned, books organised on my shelf, oh, and I'll probably need you to make some trips to the library. See if you can't get the good armchair and hold it for me if I'm not back right after supper.

Saturday, we've got Quidditch early, so you'll have to help with my kit and such. Only I don't think you'll need to reserve the sinks at that hour, ha.

We'll work out the rest as it goes along. Five days shouldn't be too bad.

2014-02-26 20:36:00

ORDER ONLY: ISS Business

How's the latest round going for everyone?

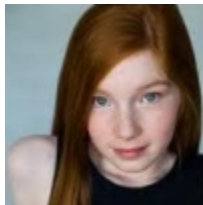
I don't really know any of the Slyth firsties, not really well, but I was thinking we could spread a rumour that working for Nott would be a really bad idea -- that he'd be really mean, or even that I'd get hacked off if anyone helped him like that.




 [alt_harry](#)

Anyone else have any ideas?

I met with Slughorn again this week. Mostly we talked about the contest. So there isn't a lot to report, really. And Professor Dolohov hasn't really been around this week. Or, you know, in a good mood.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-02-27 04:50:35](#)
(no subject)

I know two of the firsties in Gryffindor, I can see what I can do about Finnegan or Thomas. Some of the younger boys really look up to Seamus, so it might be difficult convincing them not to work with him, but it's worth a try.

Ron, if you need someone to step up, let me know.

And yes, Professor Dolohov left right after our class this afternoon. And you're right, he certainly looked a bit thin around the edges during our session. It reminded me a little about how he'd get so worn down back when he first started, and then at the start of last term too.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-27 05:35:03](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, who do you think I should ask? I mean, I won't expect them to do much, although I suppose I have to make a bit of a show of it. And I reckon I need to figure it out soon or they'll all be taken.

Thanks, Ev.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-02-27 06:06:27](#)**
(no subject)

Hazel would be up for it, I'm sure. I can make introductions if you'd like.

2014-02-27 15:09:00

Order Only: Private message to Jeremy Stretton




 **alt_lupin**

Bea got away from her minder at Moddey today and ruined six jars of jam, all of them strawberry, which is apparently a favoured flavour and now they're going to run short.

I don't suppose you could nick a bit of jam from your parents' stock? Do I remember correctly they have a cupboard of jars with missing labels or some such? I hate to think of my daughter depriving the Moddey kids of their treats -- they have few enough as it is.



 **alt_jeremy** at **2014-02-28 02:52:04**
(no subject)

Right. Yeah, the Bad Jam cupboard -- not really bad jam, just labels wrong.

I could put together a bit of this and that. If they ask I'll just say it's for some mates who are setting up housekeeping, bachelor flat and such.

2014-02-27 15:30:00

Order Only: Private Message to Moony and Dora



 [alt_sirius](#)

We may be a little delayed coming home.

Everything's fine. Just the Swelling Solution the kids were working on went a bit haywire. I had a Deflating Draught all prepared, just in case, you know, and when I went to give it to Misses Saint and Smith, it wasn't there. So I used an anti-tumescent cantrip and that sorted them. Of course, I still didn't know quite what had happened to the vial I'd brought from home.

Would you care to take a guess?

Your daughter nicked it and dribbled it out on just about everything she could find. The vegetable patch. The hatchet Danny uses to chop wood. A goat. I've no idea how she gave Jacinda the slip but she made her way - as near as we can tell - to the kitchens and left a trail of mayhem in her wake. Victor finally caught her in the pantry. She'd gone and put a bit of the draught on about six of the jars of preserves. They shrank and shrank until the contents couldn't stay, er, contained. He heard the breaking of glass.


She had a few cuts, easily healed, and she's now fine, aside from the lingering certainty that the world is a cruel, unjust place for blaming her when she's misbehaved. We've righted all the shrunken items, except of course the preserves, there was no saving them. (You should have heard Victor about that: Naturally, she chose the strawberry and now there's only six jars of it left until next season. Plus, of course, they won't be able to use the jars for more canning, either.)

At any rate, you can imagine that we've had a bit of repair to do, particularly making sure that she's remembered everything she 'deflated' and we haven't missed anything. And then there's the lesson, which got disrupted and had to be restarted before the ingredients went to waste. (We can't afford to discard ingredients, not without any more shipments from Aleks.)

So, they've got another hour or so of brewing and there's the testing and everything. During which, young miss is in a 'time out' according to Jacinda.

Anyway. We'll be home soon.




 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-27 20:39:22](#)**
(no subject)

Enid was telling me the other day that children get much more difficult when they turn three.

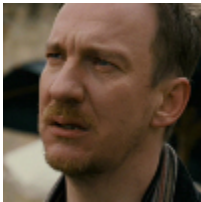
I think she's pulling my leg. Or Bea's precocious.




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-27 20:50:39](#)**
(no subject)

Her point - if I understood her - was that she was just 'exploring' and 'testing' the potion. Though she could not supply an adequate explanation when I asked her why she kept 'testing' it after having seen what it did to the first couple of things she used for her experiment.

I suppose at that age, cause and effect haven't quite reached the level of a universal constant.

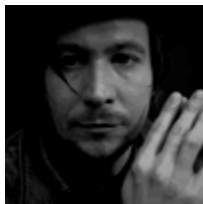



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-27 20:52:02](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I suppose she wanted to know what would happen with jars.

Multiple jars.

I don't suppose we have any strawberry jam we can send over as an apology?




 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-02-27 21:04:28](#)**
(no subject)

Ellie or Dora might know.

Or maybe Jeremy might be able to cadge some from his parents' stock.

Not that I'd recommend we start carrying it, mind.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-02-27 21:09:43](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, let's ask Jeremy. I've heard rumours of a 'bad jam' cupboard that actually contains perfectly nice jam they're not planning to sell; maybe he could find us something. I hate to think that our difficult toddler has denied all the Moddey kids jam because she wanted to experiment with potions.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-02-27 22:41:24](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, for goodness sake.

How is the goat?

2014-02-27 19:44:00

ORDER ONLY

I had my tea with Lucius today.

It was complicated, but these days, most things involving Lucius are.



 [alt_pansy](#)

I got the distinct impression that he is quite all right with my not succeeding in this challenge. We talked some about how it takes a certain temperament for council work, and that there was a difference between demonstrating one's loyalty and making the final cut. He asked about my nerves as well.

Other than that, there really isn't anything specific to report. We talked in a sideways sort of way about you, Draco. It was difficult to sort out how he was feeling, but he is obviously planning on continuing to keep his distance to better your chances.

I wonder if his meeting with me was an attempt to help me worsen mine.

I tried to ask him about Professor Dolohov, but he shrugged it off as 'none of my concern.'

George, Fred, he did ask after Wizbangs a bit. He didn't seem actively displeased, which is the best I can say about it.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at **2014-02-28 05:21:51**

Private message to Pansy

Have you found someone to fag for you?

Also, do you mind if I put some sort of quiet alarm spell on my trunk so I can see if anyone tries to get into it? I'm wondering if your firstie would try to snoop or if she'll be properly intimidated. (I can't think of a spell that would let me know with any certainty who it was, mind you, not without her knowing I knew she snooped.)




 [alt_pansy at 2014-02-28 05:37:29](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Urquhart. We'll see how she does. The Swangroves seemed to be fascinated by Hydra, and I figured I'd be asking for trouble if I got one of them, as they could work together to undermine me in an attempt to help her out.

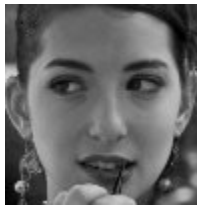
And yes, I think an alarm would be a good idea. I'll tell Daphs and Mili the same. I'd bet between the four of us, we can come up with something.



 [alt_pansy at 2014-02-28 05:38:36](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

And how are we shaping up for the weekend? Do you need me to send off for anything else, or are we all set?




 [alt_sally_anne at 2014-03-01 02:21:56](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

We're set. Can't wait!



 [alt_pansy at 2014-02-28 05:48:48](#)

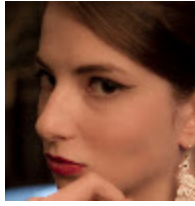
Re: Private message to Pansy

And

I know I've said I'm sorry, but it could stand to be said again

I really was being an enormous idiot the other day.

And you certainly didn't deserve any of it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 02:22:38](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

Don't worry about it. Everyone has bad days sometimes.

I still think maybe someone hexed you, figuring you'd assume it was the pin.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-01 17:14:57](#)


Re: Private message to Pansy

Perhaps.

I wonder who it would've been, though.

Padma?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-02-28 05:27:04](#)

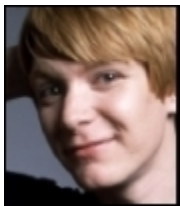
Private Message to George

I don't think he suspects anything about us. Which is probably a very good thing.

~~Are we an us?~~

~~I'm not sorry~~

Ugh. Never mind me. Overthinking things. You know I wish things could be different, but they aren't, and I'd rather snog you in private than not snog you at all, so there.



 [alt_george](#) at [2014-03-01 14:08:16](#)


Re: Private Message to George

Don't see how he could have learned about us; he's not whaddyacallit...omniscient. All-knowing. (Good thing, too!)

It's a pity you're not out of school yet so you can Floo over for a good snog anytime you find yourself worrying too much. I rather pride myself on a snogging technique that's carefully calculated to paralyse all thinking.

Public or private, I'm happy to snog you anytime. But I fully understand keeping it private for now. For one thing, it'll help keep Fred from getting jealous, so he doesn't start moping over Angelina again.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-01 18:04:40](#)**

Re: Private Message to George

You really are wonderful, you know.

And you're awful, too, teasing me like that when I'm stuck at this stuffy old school with weeks to go before the next Hogsmeade weekend. I'd be over there right now otherwise, taking full advantage.



 **[alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-03-01 18:06:18](#)**

(no subject)

Huh. Yeah, we'd say 'not actively displeased' is certainly progress. And it IS a good sign for him to ask after the business as if it's meant as a friendly topic of conversation--although we won't necessarily assume it is, you understand. We'd prefer to not let him know anything he could use to come back to bite us (or Mum)...but if he's willing to talk about the business and is keeping it friendly, yeah, that's good, if only because he seems to be trying to repair the relationship.

Eventually, you might try asking for a bit of advice on minor points, to make it clear you're trying to repair things, too. Who knows, we might even take it if it seems sound.

2014-02-27 21:08:00

Order Only: Baby rescue



alt_charlie

I've got some time these next few days. Can't use it for following up with the centaurs, since school's in session and I don't have any good excuses for being up there, and I tried seeing if Griphook wanted to get together and talk a bit more about what we could do for each other, but I'd forgot this week is a Goblin holiday that means they can't do anything but certain kinds of work. (Making things is all right; it's sacred. Work that you agreed to do in advance is all right; it's keeping your word. Work that you didn't agree to do in advance, or conversations with non-goblins that aren't related to work you agreed to do in advance, is unclean, so that's right out.)

I'd be perfectly content to laze about and put my feet up, but given everything going on it struck me that an extra pair of hands for baby-fetching might be helpful, so I'm volunteering. Just let me know.

Meanwhile, someone up here found the wireless broadcasts -- it actually wasn't me, even -- and we've all been listening. In secret, so Director Higgs doesn't suspect, but I think nearly everyone knows about it by now. Nobody's dared to say anything outright, but there's been a lot of careful conversation, and I've had my ears open for who might be amenable to future feeling-out. There's definitely at least a few.




alt_charlie at 2014-02-28 02:26:38

Private message to Ron

If I don't get a chance to write on Saturday, I wanted to say happy birthday in advance. I know you're probably arse-over-tit busy, between school and this competition thing, but I hope you get a minute or two to relax and rest up a bit.

I also wanted to say how much I'm proud of you, what with all you're doing. And if there's anything you want to talk about, with whatever you wind up having to do or about anything else at all, I've always got an ear and a shoulder ready for you.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-28 04:50:01](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Er, thanks. I don't actually feel very proud of what I'm doing with this competition thing. I mean trying not to stand out or get chosen. It just feels... cowardly, really. But I get it. I can't risk getting chosen, right? And we don't need a pile of us heaping up chances for the LP to get his hooks in one of us and make us betray everything. So if anyone's going to be the next Death Eater, it'd better be Malfoy. And Hydra, if she wants. But definitely not me.

I'm a shite occlumens, and I'm not getting anywhere with the animagus transformation. Dumbledore says to give it time and that I'm doing well at the exercises and visualisations, but I can't tell if I'm getting anywhere at all. Terry's let me see how he does it, and I've been watching him change over and over. Slow. Quick. Just a paw first or a tail. But it's just making me feel really slow and dead stupid that I can't get it sorted.

So, yeah. I really can't afford to 'win' this contest.

Oh, and Sandoval cornered me at that party thinger and wanted to know if I'm serious about applying for Auror training. And I said yes, of course, but really... I mean now we've got Lamont, we don't need me to do that, and it's the same with that. It could all go completely pear-shaped with me not being able to block legillimency.

So, great, I'm coming of age, but I'm completely useless at everything.

And I got an owl from Avery after that party. I haven't told anyone, but he wants me to drop Sally Anne. Says if I want to be taken seriously at all, I need to raise my standards.

I just-

I don't even know.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-28 05:19:56](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Well, to start off with, that's a good way to slide further down the ranks, isn't it? Not listening to Avery, I mean. Sure, it'll probably be smartest not to be too in-your-face about things, maybe be a bit more discreet about how much time you're spending with her, but not dropping your girl just because she's not pureblooded is a good way to not be taken seriously.

And anyway, aren't a least a few of the ones in this thing halfbloods, too? (You know, I always wondered about that. Anybody but purebloods are supposed to be second and third class citizens, but isn't Snape a halfblood? And he was on the Council. Consistency! It's not really their thing!)

And you're not completely useless. And even if you can't risk being chosen, well, that's actually harder than giving it your absolute best, isn't it? Looking like you're trying, but not actually getting anywhere, is harder than actually trying. And just putting yourself in a position to be noticed is dangerous, and it's nothing to be dismissive about. Especially since it takes a lot of, hm, self-confidence to be willing to be seen as not being as capable as you really are. Even if it is hard to stomach sometimes.


You might not be headed for the Council -- and let me just say how glad I am about that, I think I'd probably die of worrying about you if you were -- but you're still positioning yourself to be noticed just enough for the future. I don't think having Lamont around is enough to say that we wouldn't need someone else in the Aurors. Especially since we're not her first loyalty, and I don't think we ever will be. And I know you're working hard at the Animagus stuff, and if Professor Dumbledore's satisfied with your progress, that's what counts, yeah? It's an incredibly hard thing to do -- I never even considered trying it. You're not stupid for not getting it immediately.

But even if all that wasn't the case, and even if you weren't doing all sorts of things to get ready for the future, and even if you weren't working your tail off with Professor Dumbledore, I'd still be proud of you. Because you believe in what we're doing, and because you want to help so much that you feel bad because you can't be doing something right this very second, and because

you're putting in all this extra work and effort to get to a place where you can help in the future.

But mostly because you're growing up to be the kind of person who'd never think for a minute of breaking up with your girlfriend because somebody powerful tells you to break up with her for your own good because she's a halfblood. And because you're growing up to be the kind of man who'll probably look at that and say that's nothing to be proud of you for, that's just the way things are, because for a lot of people your age that isn't the way things are, and I'm incredibly proud of you that you're not one of them.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-28 05:29:09](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Thanks.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-28 05:33:14](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

I have faith in you, yeah? Remember that when you start losing faith in yourself.

You're not half bad to have as a brother, you.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-02-28 05:36:24](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Heh.

You're not, either.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-28 05:39:34](#)

Re: Private message to Ron

Right, that's our quota of mushy stuff sorted for the next year or so, yeah?

Night, you. Hope things are looking up

tomorrow.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-28 03:13:10](#)

Private message to Alice

I know we've talked a bit before about Emmett and Deirdre, and whether they'd be suitable for the Order or even just sympathizers. I've been taking things slowly like you suggested, feeling them out a bit, and I really think Dree has been doing the same with me. We've had more than a few careful conversations, but after that last broadcast, she turned to me while we were doing the dishes and said, out of nowhere, "You know my da was killed during the war, right?"

And I said, yeah, she'd told me that before, 'cause she and I had talked about it when my dad was killed, and she waited just long enough for me to start wondering why she brought it up and finally said, "I don't really talk about it, because people always ask how he died, and nobody really knows the truth of what happened but family." And I was trying to figure out how to reply when she added, "I won't ask if you know what I mean, but I think you might, and, well, we can talk about it anytime you'd like."

It wasn't so much what she said as how she said it, you know? The way she was looking at me, I almost blurted something incriminating out right then and there, but instead I just said something like, I was young enough during the war that I didn't really know what was going on, so I've had to make up my own mind based on what I see now, not what happened then. And she gave me one of those smiles she can do that says she's thinking something she isn't saying out loud and said, that's what I've always loved about you, that you think for yourself and not the way somebody tells you to.

I think she was trying to tell me that her da was fighting against Voldemort. And from other things she's said, when I piece them all together -- I think she, or at least other members of her family, might be connected with the IMA. Or at least sympathizers.

I don't know what Em thinks about things, but he goes where Dree leads. I also don't know how much use any of that might be, but I'm going to try having a few more careful coded conversations and see where they go. For all I know, she might be trying to recruit me!



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-02-28 03:37:32**

Re: Private message to Alice

I'm so glad to hear of it, Charlie.

I trust you to feel things out as they happen -- you've got such good instincts when it comes to that sort of thing. Keep chipping away. These things take time to do right, sometimes.



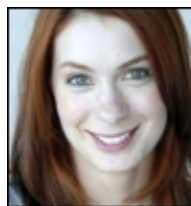
 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2014-02-28 04:14:27**

Re: Private message to Alice

Aw, thanks. I don't really feel like I know what I'm doing, but I guess we're all in the same boat there, yeah?

There was just something in how she said it. Like she was talking around a secret she wanted to tell me, but wasn't sure it was safe yet. I'm going to try spending a bit more time with just her -- not that I think Em is dangerous to talk around, far from it, he's like a vault when it comes to other people's secrets and he'd never do anything to endanger Dree, but if she waited until it was just us in the room there was probably a reason -- and see what kind of hints I can drop myself.

I do know that no matter what, I'm safe with her. Her opinions on people who betray their partners or people they love, for any reason, are the sort of thing I couldn't repeat in front of Mum without getting my mouth washed out with soap. So that's something, at least.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-02-28 05:06:17**


Re: Private message to Alice

Truly, love.

If we're all stumbling around in the dark, at least we're stumbling together.

And you've got every right to handle this carefully -- you're not dealing just with co-workers here, you're gambling with your heart as well, which is never easy.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-02-28 05:24:08](#)

Re: Private message to Alice


Yeah.

I mean, I know she's not exactly the Protectorate's biggest fan. I wouldn't be with her if she was. And I'd like to think that anything short of her actively supporting the status quo wouldn't change the way I think about her, you know? But I'm probably deluding myself.

I don't know. This is all so hard to navigate. Bill's said to me so many times how much he's jealous of me for having them, but it's not exactly like I can be really honestly myself, now can I?

Life sure is messy sometimes.

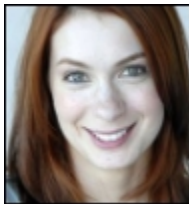


 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-28 05:44:59](#)

Re: Private message to Alice

It is at that.

And that's something to think about, isn't it? This is an enormous potential risk, yes, but the potential reward is vast. The chance to truly be yourself, and have others share your burdens is an incredibly valuable thing, and I hope with all my heart that you'll have that opportunity with Dree and Em.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-02-28 03:35:15](#)

(no subject)

Thank you, Charlie, much appreciated.

2014-02-28 21:17:00

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good
Private Message to Dad



 [alt_ron](#)

I've been thinking about this-

about a lot of things-

for a while, and I think I just want to write some of it to you and put it here--like this, under this locking spell--and just sort of leave it behind, I guess, since I won't be able to see it again after tonight.

I mean, it's not even that I think you're going to be able to read it or know what I write-

but I want to think about these things the way I would have done if I were telling you, y'know? and I don't want Mum to see that I'm writing you. ~~It would make her~~

Argh. Maybe this isn't any good. Trying to write it out.

Only, things've changed so much.

There's the twins out of school and in business and doing so much for the Order in places you don't know anything about. Aldrich and Bedford and Saltash.

And Mum. You'd be amazed. Not surprised she could do it or anything. You always said she could do anything. But still, it's so odd. Now when she writes it's all about that and hardly about the things she used to talk about.

And Percy.

At least Charlie and Bill are mostly the same. Well, maybe not Bill so much, working for that Mulciber bloke and seeing an Auror and trying to be you since you're not here.

Ginny's better, though. Really. I think we should bring her into the Order, and I'm going to say so soon, even though Mum'll be against it. Something'll have to happen to make it feel like the right time. But you'd really be proud. Of Ginny, I mean. It's funny. After all of it with Gin, ever since she came to school, really--it's not her I'm worried about, now, doing something that

could get everyone hurt. And it's not Percy. No one trusts him enough to give him a chance.

It's me.

I'm supposed to be doing badly at this challenge thinger. And maybe I am, but I can't really tell, and I'm afraid I may be doing just well enough to end up in the middle of it, y'know? I mean, Avery thinks so. He told me I need to stop seeing Sally Anne. I think he'd talked to Pansy about it first, maybe. She's been odd since this whole thing started, but I think it's because she's trying to squib her results, too, and it's bloody difficult, doing that. Anywiz, I got the idea that Pansy'd said something to Avery, but really, it could've been Sandoval, but he was so-

And here's the problem: if I do what Charlie says and ignore Avery and just keep seeing Sally Anne, then it'll be really clear I don't care about being on the Council. Or not enough to jump when they ask me to. But maybe that's making it too obvious I don't care. And someone might take that out on her, when it's me they're annoyed with.

Dad, I can't figure what to do. I keep going round and round about it, and I just, I don't know. Because it's all getting serious. A lot more serious.

Sandoval wants to know if I'm still keen on Auror training. And if I want a summer position.

And I'm still just as shite as ever at occlumency.

And I'm probably never going to be an animagus, either. I mean, you'll laugh at this--I woke up yesterday with a feather on my pillow and thought maybe... something, y'know? But it was just one of Pig's that'd probably been in my hair or my robe collar or something.

What am I going to do, Dad? I've got myself in a cauldron that's getting pretty hot, and I could land a load of other people in here with me if I'm not careful. Even if I am.

Yeah. Got to stop so I can write one more note before midnight.

Thanks, Dad. I don't know what I thought it'd do, writing you. I knew the answers wouldn't drop out of the air into my head.

But I reckon it was good to do it, anywiz.

So, yeah.

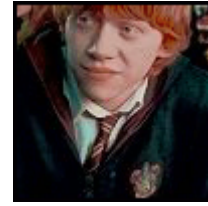
Goodnight.

[2014-02-28 22:54:00](#)

I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good

So, um.

I know none of us use this lock that much any more, but it's odd thinking about not having it after tonight.

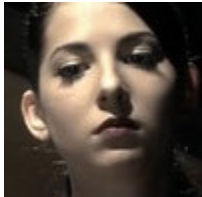


 [alt_ron](#)

Hope you lot who're left will remember to use it if you ever need it.

Guess that's all.

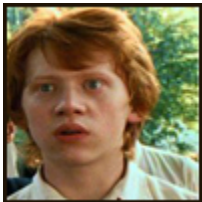
Yeah.




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

Do you suppose you'll stop being able to see it at midnight?

Or at whatever time of day you were born?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 05:11:21](#)
(no subject)

Oh. Huh.

That's a really good question.

Guess we can find out. I think I was born right before noon. Mum said she was getting lunch for the older ones, and then, all of a sudden, there I was!

I mean, I don't reckon I popped out in the middle of the kitchen or anything, but, yeah. I guess there wasn't a lot of time to get ready.

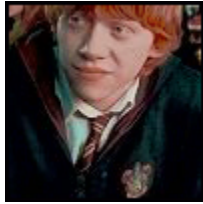
Or something.


I mean, it's not like it could've been a totally surprise, either. By the time you're on your sixth one, you'd think you'd have some notion how it all works, don't you?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 05:15:06](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, you would! She didn't go to St Mungo's? I suppose she wouldn't be the St Gerard's type.



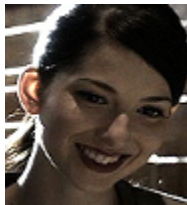
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 05:25:45](#)
(no subject)

I don't think there was time, actually. I mean, it's not like you can Floo there when you're giant and about to pop a sprog, can you?

Or maybe they just didn't think they could afford it, y'know?

I don't know how much it costs to be at St Mungo's, but when people go to have babies there, they go early, I think. And then sometimes it doesn't come right away, so they're just there, yeah? I mean unless the Healers do... whatever they do... it's called something... to help it start when it's not starting or when something's wrong. Right?

Anywiz, I think Mum and Dad reckoned she knew what to do by then, and maybe somebody came to help her. I don't remember her saying. Just about how she was about to serve the soup when all of a sudden I changed the schedule.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 05:34:28](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, there's spells to start labour and spell to get the baby out more quickly though the books I've read disagree about whether it's a good idea to hurry things along.

You can floo when you're about to pop, it's much safer than Apparating. You can also use a portkey, they still issue them to pregnant ladies. But if you came in a big hurry... Anyway, that's a funny story.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-01 05:43:47](#)**
(no subject)

Would you want to be the kind of Healer who helps witches have their babies? I'd never thought about that.

Really you can Floo when you're big as a house? I mean, what if she got stuck in there in between grates?



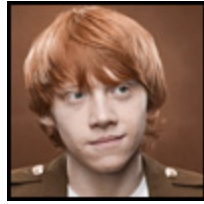
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-01 05:49:05](#)**
(no subject)


You wouldn't get stuck, because a pregnant belly MOSTLY makes you bigger in the front. I mean, okay, I suppose if a fireplace were really small and cramped it might be a problem, but you'd know if your own floo were small and the ones at St M's are enormous.

Anyway. No, actually, I DON'T want to be that sort of Healer. It would be my absolute last choice. The thing is childbirth just isn't very interesting; most of the time Witches don't need any help. They need a Healer around in case something goes wrong and of course if anything DOES go wrong it's quite interesting but nine times out of ten you just sit around.

Also, pregnant ladies complain a lot and they expect their Healer to be sympathetic.

I feel a little guilty about how much I DON'T want to do this sort of Healing because it would very definitely be useful to the Order. I asked Madam Pomfrey for some advice on getting an internship this summer and I said I thought it would probably make the most sense to try to learn something she's not particularly expert in and I wouldn't be able to learn from her and she made a whole list and midwifery was definitely on it.

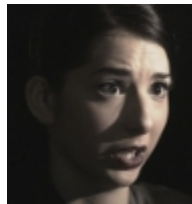


 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-01 06:01:58](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I guess that's one thing Madam P doesn't have to do very much!

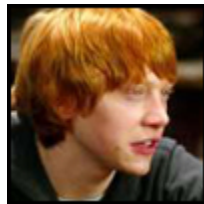
She was really busy when I was in there last week.


I wouldn't say that Madam P is exactly sympathetic. I mean, she listens to what you say, but she never says, 'Oh, you poor dear' or anything like that.



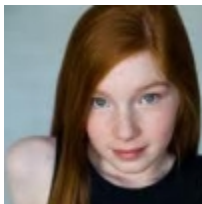
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-01 06:17:38](#)**
(no subject)


No, it's really true! She'd never have got a job at St Gerard's.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-01 06:10:32](#)**
(no subject)


You don't need to feel guilty, anywiz. I mean, you don't want to get stuck at Moddey Dhoo or in one of those sealed off towns like Aldrich, looking after babies and their mums all the time. How dull would that be?!



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-03-01 06:01:36](#)**
(no subject)

Happy returns, Ron.




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-01 06:03:37](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Ev.

Say, I guess it doesn't happen straight away at


midnight. Sally Anne thinks I'll be able to see this until mid-day tomorrow at the time I was born.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-01 06:04:29](#)
(no subject)

Good. I was worried I'd missed my chance.

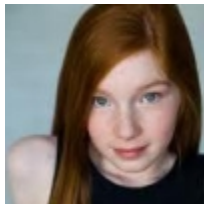



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 06:14:15](#)
(no subject)

Y'know.

I'd sort of forgotten how we can talk here without thinking that the rest of them can read whatever we say. I'm going to miss this.

It's a shame about this growing up business. Not all it's made out to be.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-01 06:26:54](#)
(no subject)

I'm going to miss it too. What it was, I mean. With everyone.


I'll never forget it, though.



 [alt_luna](#) at [2014-03-01 13:42:58](#)
(no subject)

I think I'll feel the same way.



 **alt_luna** at **2014-03-01 13:42:24**
(no subject)

Congratulations on coming of age, Ron.