

[2014-03-01 08:10:00](#)

Happy birthday, Ron!


It's an important date in a young man's life. I certainly wish that I could be there with you (as well as your father), but we'll have a proper belated celebration the next time the train brings you home.



 [alt_molly](#)

(Do let me know if this morning's owl arrives safely, won't you? You won't recognise it--I hired one at the public owl office that specialises in delivering packages that are fragile. I trust I wrapped it well enough, too.)




 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-01 14:19:52](#)

Order Only

I'm so proud of you, son. A little worried of course, given this competition, but I want you to know you have my full support. Whatever the outcome.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:14:31](#)

Re: Order Only

Thanks, Mum. That means a lot.

Um. On the back of the watch, there's a motto. Did you have it put there or was it already on when you got it? It's something like 'Drive Because You're Driven,' right? So... something about working hard at stuff? or... I don't know. Does it mean something else?

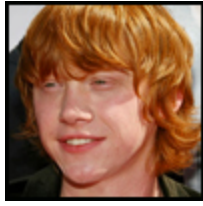



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-01 19:41:34](#)

Re: Order Only

There are some who say it's the Weasley family motto, although there has been some disagreement about that among the various branches. (Arthur didn't have it on his own watch, since his came from his maternal grandfather's family.)

Really, dear, I think it means whatever you want it to mean.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-02 01:28:48](#)


Re: Order Only

Huh. That's wizard, actually.

Sally Anne thinks it means 'Whatever You Do, Do It Well'. Or she says it could even mean, 'Go On With What You're Doing.' That's what I'm trying to do, y'know. So I'm going to think that's what it means.

Yeah?




 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-02 02:27:05](#)

Re: Order Only

Sounds like an excellent interpretation to me.

I do hope you have had a happy birthday, Ron. My goodness, I'm feeling sentimental about the whole thing, and I can't wait to see you.




 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-02 02:32:30](#)

Re: Order Only

Huh, I'd heard the Weasley family motto was Repulsae Nescia, which means Ignorant of Defeat.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-02 02:36:30](#)


Re: Order Only

That's one of the other candidates for the motto, I think.

I chose the inscription for the watch that I did because, well, it just seemed to fit.

(Oh, by the way: Ron, you'll note that the first link on the chain is a little larger and a slightly different shape than the rest of the watch chain. That's because it was taken from the links of Arthur's watch chain. I gave the other boys links from it to attach to their watches as well.)




 **[alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-01 14:42:15](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, happy birthday, old man. My gift should be there by now, too. Mine's not fragile! In fact, that's the point, heh.

(Well, the biscuits I included are a little fragile, but you know what I mean. Tell me if you like them! They're a new recipe to me, and the first tray out of the oven was awfully popular up here -- I had to beat people back to save enough to send to you and I'm glad I planned on making a double batch -- but I'm not sure if that means the biscuits are that good or my coworkers are that desperate.)



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:01:27](#)**
(no subject)

You made those? They're awesome.

I don't expect there'll be any left after today.


And thanks for robes and the boots. The robes are dead amazing. I'll have witches following me everywhere!

I mean, they fit well and the leather's just right, innit? I always wanted dragoners' kit! And, yeah, I know it's practical and protective and all that, but it also just looks wizard.

The boots fit, too, and I'm sure I'll get good use of them for CCF exercises and trekking. That sort of thing.

Cheers.

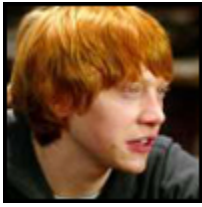



 **[alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-01 19:05:37](#)**
(no subject)

I did! We're in the winter slump, so everyone's cooking or baking or doing crafts. I usually have half a stone extra to lose by the time spring rolls around again, but fortunately breeding season usually runs it straight off me.

And I'm glad you like the kit. With all the outdoor work you've

been doing, it seemed like something you could really use. They're a little beat up, but that just makes them even better, yeah?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:26:00](#)

Order Only

So, yeah. I just had the last biscuit. Definitely a recipe to use again. You can send me your experiments whenever you want!

Really, I don't have any more to say, but I thought I should maybe say something under the lock. So if you wanted to say anything, y'know, locked, you'd notice that first thing wasn't.

I have a hard time with that sometimes. I mean, I worry about making a mistake with it. If you know what I mean.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-01 19:32:32](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, I know exactly what you mean. I always triple check what I'm saying when I'm writing, just to be certain. It's nerve-wracking, all right.

Anyway, I'm glad you liked the biscuits. Mum, I never thought that as a dragonkeeper I'd be using all those kitchen spells you taught us, but the food in the dining hall used to be just so bad that a few years back we ganged up on the cook and told him he'd better let us into the kitchens, and now we've got a nice rotation going -- everyone winds up cooking supper about once a month or so, and anyone can bake something anytime they want. So, yeah, if you want more treats, I'll see what I can do!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-02 01:30:05](#)

Re: Order Only

When do I not want more treats?

Heh.




 **[alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-01 15:27:09](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday, Ron! Still remember the day you arrived in such a hurry. Seem like we've been scrambling to catch up ever since.


Congratulations on your 17th.



 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 17:47:45](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, Bill.




 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 17:50:44](#)**
Order Only

Thanks for the foe glass.

That's a really good one, isn't it? I mean, you can just tell when you hold it. The charms are really super strong. I haven't had a chance to look at the book yet, but I'll be careful who sees it. Don't want to share all its defence secrets with just everyone!




 **[alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-01 18:21:30](#)**
Re: Order Only

Yes, it's the top professional grade, that you can procure within the Protectorate, at any rate. I'll feel better having you have it, especially given the competition. I'd certainly keep both it and the book out of the view of the casual passers by--that's what the pouch is for--but certainly share the book with the rest of your friends who are in the Order.

How are the lessons with Dumbledore coming? I think my Occlumency is finally beginning to settle in, although I'm in no hurry to play Poker with Hydra's Mum yet. But at least I've reached the stage where Snape says 'it's not entirely execrable anymore.' High praise from him.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:29:55](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. Congratulations on that. I'm just lucky it's not Snape who's teaching me, I guess.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-01 19:27:01](#)


Re: Order Only

It took me a long time, and I'll admit I wasn't serious about it at first. Snape made an acid comment about the shoddiness of my Occlumency, given my position, and I dunno, it made me buckle down and get serious about it for the first time, really. Doing the exercises every night, and not just occasionally.

Getting the position under Mulciber was an incentive, too. Because I figured the way he ran the Division, sooner or later I'd be questioned officially about something.

I know it's hard, and I'm sorry about that. I hope Dumbledore can help you get a handle on it, soon.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-02 01:34:29](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah. I don't think I could be any more serious. About either thing, now. Occlumency or the animagus transformation.

With Occlumency, maybe I'm sort of blocked now because it's so frustrating. But the animagus lessons... Dumbledore says it's going really well. Only, I've got nothing to show for it.

I dunno.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-02 02:23:09](#)

Re: Order Only

Yeah, it seems like a sort of strange double-cross to pull on your own mind, doesn't it? You want it so badly that you have to throw your

mind into...convincing yourself you don't want it. Which can make you crazy.

I'd take heart, anyway, at Dumbledore's encouragement. If he says you're on the right track, well, he should certainly know what he's talking about after teaching for so long.

Another person who might consider talking with, if you ever have a chance on a school holiday, is Fu Lee, oddly enough. Even if he isn't a wizard, he has studied a lot of the roots of Eastern mysticism, since a lot of THAT underlies Eastern martial/fighting techniques. You'll find some intriguing overlaps with some of the exercises Dumbledore is having you do.

I don't mean this to be one more thing to overload your plate if you're overwhelmed already. But he might offer something unexpected which makes everything click into place for you, if you're really stuck. He has been a very helpful person for me to speak with about contending with the aftereffects of some of the dark curses Mulciber has forced me to do.

As for the Animagus lessons, no wonder you're frustrated. But having nothing to show doesn't mean it can't happen. Both Terry and Sirius spoke about practicing for a long time before they had had any hint that they had a chance of mastering the transformation at all.


I have a huge amount of respect for you for trying it, anyway.



 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2014-03-01 15:28:07](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday! Now THERE'S an occasion for fireworks!



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-01 17:46:19](#)**
(no subject)

Heh. Y'know, it's really not the same, waking up on my birthday and not having you lot here to hex me. Or poison my breakfast bun.

Seriously, though, I sort of miss it.

(And we definitely missed you on the pitch this morning. Oi.)

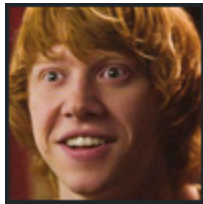



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-03-01 20:03:33](#)

Order only

Well, if you were REALLY nostalgic for surprise hexes, we're sure Neville could oblige, but we figured you probably had your fill of that sort of thing, given this jolly competition you're mucking about with at the moment.

Oh, which reminds us...when you get our basket, sometime when you're all alone, take the ribbon from the handle, untie it, lay it out flat and tap your wand on the non-shiny side with the command 'Aparecium!' You'll see words appear with suggestions on how some of the things in the basket can be used for, shall we say, non-standard purposes which might be helpful if you're in a tight spot..



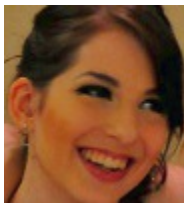
 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-02 01:36:50](#)

Re: Order only

Your basket is brilliant!

And I promise I've got all kinds of ideas what to use some of those things for.

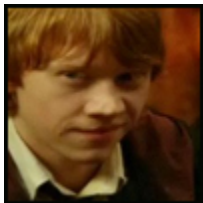
Bloody Brilliant!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 17:17:37](#)

(no subject)

Happy birthday, Ron.



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

(no subject)

Thanks, you.

What are you doing this afternoon? You did all your homework early, right, so you could have my birthday free? That's what I thought. So let's go do something fun.

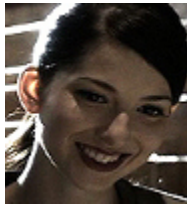
Inside. The wind's coming up again out there and bringing giant dark clouds with it.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 17:54:16](#)

Private message to Ron

Of course I did! Let's meet after lunch. Nice you got a Saturday for your coming-of-age birthday, isn't it?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 17:56:05](#)

Re: Private message to Ron: Order Only

It's going to be hard finding a good private spot today given that EVERYONE'S going to be stuck in the castle but I'm sure we can manage something.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:06:03](#)

Re: Private message to Ron: Order Only

We could go count flagstones in that east corridor in the dungeons. A bit cold there, but quiet.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-01 18:41:22](#)

Re: Private message to Ron: Order Only

Perfect. See you there.




 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-03-01 17:18:48](#)

(no subject)

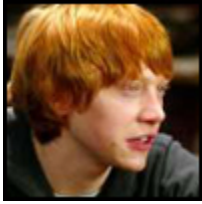
Happy birthday, Ron! (I mean, I wished you a happy birthday at breakfast but I thought I'd chime in with everyone anyway.)




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 17:29:46](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, you!

Those are dead sharp omnioculars, and the attachment charm worked perfectly.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 17:30:25](#)
Private Message to G Weasley

I got some really good looks at Bell, Coote, and Sloper flying sequences. And I caught Finnick and Archer fighting over who was going to take the shot on bludger. Seriously, if they can't work out how to coordinate, we're doomed.


Mind you, I know I can't talk after having to sit out last match, but I wish Bell would knock their heads together and make them see sense.



 [alt_ginny](#) at [2014-03-01 17:40:02](#)
Re: Private Message to G Weasley


Oh I KNOW. At least Angelina knew how to give a proper dressing down. Maybe I should ask Katie to let me do it, think I could keep everyone in line?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:04:23](#)
Re: Private Message to G Weasley

You totally could. When you call someone out, they know it.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 17:20:25](#)
(no subject)

Thanks, Mum. The watch is just fine. Not even a scratch.

And thanks for the picture, too. I don't think I'd ever seen it. From Christmas three years ago, I think. I could tell because


you used a different kind of yarn that year for my jumper. Guess I've grown a bit since then, huh?



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-01 18:10:04](#)**
(no subject)

Happy birthday!




 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-01 18:28:54](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, you.

Hardly ever see you anymore. I mean for anything fun. Shame about getting old and having so much work to do all the time!




 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-01 19:11:23](#)**
(no subject)

Next thing you know, we'll all have grey in our hair and be complaining about the weather.

At least there's time for some fun tonight! I'm glad you're up and about so we can have a proper celebration. It wouldn't be quite as much fun passing out cake in the Infirmary.




 **[alt_justin](#) at [2014-03-01 19:15:25](#)**
(no subject)

Ron,

Happy birthday, old chap! Too bad we've weeks until another Hogsmeade visit, what, or we might have had a celebratory pint.

-Finch-Fletcherley



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-02 01:38:56](#)**
(no subject)

Cheers, mate. I'll take you up on it next Hogsmeade day for sure!

Coming along tonight? Hope to see you.

[2014-03-01 12:05:00](#)

Order Only - legilimency and poaching

I received a package from my mother this morning. It was a surprise to me, because she never sends me anything, not really. It was a book on field legilimency and interrogation techniques, which is I suppose her way of saying that I ought to be practising. Maybe Lana Sandoval-Pennifold told her that I legilimised Vince and Greg for one of the challenges, or perhaps she just thought to send it on her own. I'm not sure. There wasn't a letter included.



 [alt_hydra](#)

Anyway, the book is interesting, and confirms much of what I always suspected about Mummy. From a very young age I noticed how, when she had conversations with others, Mummy would bring up certain subjects out of the blue. A table of people might be discussing fashion, or theatre, and Mummy would suddenly go quite off topic, mentioning the name of a dissenter that MLE was questioning, or something else related to the Protectorate and loyalty.


Well, it turns out that this is actually a subtle interrogation technique known as "poaching." The theory behind it is that you get someone comfortable and talking about everyday things, then you introduce "trigger words" when they least expect it. In most cases, the subject will not have time to occlude and will have an immediate thought related to the "trigger word," without being able to stop from doing so.

To give an example of how it might work, imagine that you're talking with someone about school-work and they unexpectedly mention that they just read the newly released, proper version of *Pure Victory*. They didn't even ask you a question, you see, so you're not necessarily on guard. And before you could verbalise your response, you might think the word "rubbish," or even visualise yourself reading the original *Pure Victory* and enjoying it very much. So without even asking you a question, the legilimens who is poaching you has a sense of how the topic of *Pure Victory* makes you feel.

I know it sounds scary, being "poached," but there are probably only two people who can do it. Voldemort and my mother. And maybe me, if I can practise it. I would like other people to practise on besides Justin, so if anyone trusts me and would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Fortunately, most of you will never have to make polite chit-chat with either Voldemort or my mother, but for those of you who do or will, working with me might be a good way to practise occluding, too.




 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-03-01 20:09:09](#)
(no subject)

I'd like to try it with you, if you can spare me the time. I always want to be sure my Occlumency is as good as possible under all sorts of conditions.


Thank you for offering.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-01 20:25:48](#)
(no subject)


Of course.



 [alt_bill](#) at [2014-03-01 20:14:02](#)
(no subject)


I'm certainly glad to know of the technique, so thank you for mentioning it.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-01 20:23:22](#)
(no subject)

There are others in the book that I haven't gotten to yet. If I think they'd be useful for others to know, I'll be sure to share them.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-01 20:14:16](#)
(no subject)

I could definitely use the practise. Count me in.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-01 20:25:28](#)**
(no subject)


Yes, I was thinking it might be most beneficial to you, Hermione, Draco, and Pansy.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-01 23:09:19](#)**
(no subject)

You can practise on me if you like. It would be helpful, I agree.



 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-02 16:41:03](#)**
(no subject)


Alright, thanks.



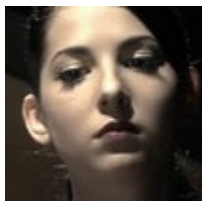
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-02 01:45:33](#)**
(no subject)

Yes, I'd like to try that.



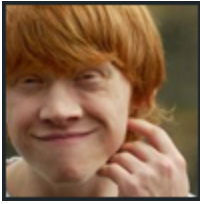
 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-02 16:41:39](#)**
(no subject)


As long as you're certain.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-02 16:54:02](#)**
(no subject)

Yes.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-02 01:55:52](#)
(no subject)

If you want to practise on me, you can.

It won't help me at all, I'm sure, but if you want someone who can't block you out at all, I'm your bloke. Glad to help.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-02 16:42:12](#)
(no subject)

Well if I knew how to help you, I would. I don't think it can hurt, though?

2014-03-02 12:30:00

(no subject)

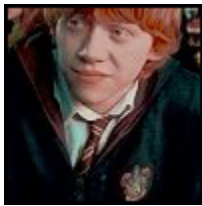
It's something, seeing all the firsties running errands and things. They really can move fast.




 **alt_harry**

Which reminds me. Anyone fagging this week should come check in with me. I'll be in the Library after dinner on Monday and Tuesday for the firsties who aren't in Slytherin.

It's nasty enough out that I was thinking about putting together a card game today. Draco, Blaise, Justin, Ron, you up for it?




 **alt_ron** at **2014-03-02 23:26:46**

(no subject)

That was excellent fun. Glad you thought of it.

Let me know if my firstie doesn't check in with you. Matthias Jones. Nice enough, but a bit shy.



 **alt_harry** at **2014-03-03 01:34:38**

(no subject)

Thanks.

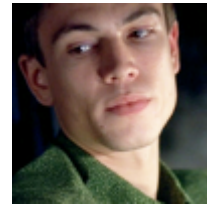
And I'll let you know. It shouldn't take long, I just need to interview them for my reports.

[2014-03-02 14:41:00](#)

Order Only: private message to Alice

Well, that went reasonably well, I hope.

More jam might be arranged ~~on a regular basis~~ if you like. Make the little ones happy, and all that.



 [alt_jeremy](#)



 [alt_alice](#) at **[2014-03-03 06:27:46](#)**

(no subject)

I'm glad to hear it, love.


Very glad.

Yes, jam is certainly always appreciated. As is your company.

While I've got you, Cecelia has passed along her latest report, and from my limited understanding, it looks like there is a rather substantial need for someone with a background in arithmancy to help her with this next stage of her research into the Octobori. I know your time can be difficult to balance, and I know you're already coming for the Sunday training sessions, but would it be possible to arrange for a weekly research meeting at Moddey? She and Sarah come by regularly enough that it wouldn't be a bother to arrange, and we'd be more than happy to have you for dinner.

And Frank's quite pleased with your training progress, by the way.



 [alt_jeremy](#) at **[2014-03-06 17:11:17](#)**

(no subject)

Weekly research meeting. Right. I'll see to my schedule. If my arithmancy training can help suss out those Octobori, I'll feel like I'm actually contributing something.

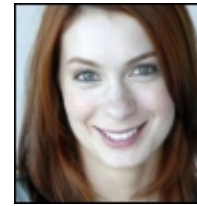
Tell Frank ta, would you? And that it must be the teaching.

2014-03-04 21:00:00

ORDER ONLY

Goodness, spring is a long time coming.

Hermione, Evie, Cecelia Perks seems quite on board with your theories regarding the Octoborus, and its next activation cycle. We'll have to keep our eyes on the West coast to see if we can't pinpoint the next one. She seems to think that once we have this additional location, it will be far easier to locate the remainder.



 [alt_alice](#)

We're awaiting spring and planting season here at Moddey, and are all heartily sick of canned tomatoes. Our winter stores don't offer much by way of variety this time of year, and we'll have a while yet before our summer bounty, and sorely miss Aleks and his shipments around this time of year especially. We did have the incredible luck of getting a rather generous basket of jams, however, which was quite the treat. Arista Selwyn was in raptures over the kiwi, and insisted every single person try a spoonful, after assuring everyone that it was made of the fruit, not the bird.

Davidson is likewise looking forward to warmer weather, although he was quite chipper at our last meeting, and was especially interested in our talk of trains. Severus, you'll be pleased to hear that the on-site brewing operation at Sherwood has its legs, and is producing a very respectable amount of pepper-up and salve, and their very own potions greenhouse should be up and running in a few weeks with some starter seedlings from us to help them on their way.

Kingsley, Molly, Tonks, Charlie, there might be a need for some camp visits to pick up our latest crop. The papers are ready, and you can go at your convenience. The button network hasn't reported any further activity of persons looking for recently born infants or pregnant women in the camps, which is a blessing, and I'm sure we'll have a little more breathing room this time around.

And Bill, your final report on the camp work was also a much needed bright spot in this cold and dreary weather. Apparently, the camps are now back to their normal schedule of rations. Tonks, Kingsley, I know you were working tirelessly on helping to provide the effected camps with support -- and thanks to the clever implementation of glamours and coordination with the button network and Sherwood, we were able to show a fairly decent picture of weakened and unhealthy

workers while passing along some extra supplies and nutritional supplements to help lessen the blow. We were also able to smuggle out a significant number of people under the cover of an expected increase in the death rate -- by Davidson's count, nearly fifty all told. I'm quite pleased, and we have quite a few more allies in those camps than when we started this endeavour.

I'll be looking for a follow-up meeting with Ridley in the next few weeks to discuss our next move -- Sirius, we might chat about that a little beforehand -- I'd rather keep that particular door open, and our last mutual venture was rather successful. I'd also like to arrange a meeting with Rachel Brodie. Separately.

And lastly, has there been any progress at all regarding our understanding of Minerva's predicament? Justin, Severus, Poppy, have you found anything that might help us help her? I know it hasn't been long -- but any news no matter how small would go a long way towards easing my heart.




 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-03-06 04:02:54](#)**
(no subject)

We did well with those camps, I don't mind saying. And the nutritional supplements are something we ought to think about supplying more widely. Even at full rations, things are difficult in all of them, and if we could distribute the stuff quietly, we could boost health (especially for older folks, mums and children, but also for workers)--and I'm certain that would strengthen our network and help us extend into places we've not had a foothold before.

I could go for one of the babies tomorrow, though Friday would be easier to manage. Who wants to go with?



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-03-06 12:02:36](#)**
(no subject)


I can be free today, if you need me.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-03-06 13:29:46](#)**
(no subject)


Excellent. I'm heading home soon to have breakfast with my favourite little witch. Come through the Floo there?



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-03-06 13:35:30](#)**
(no subject)

Sounds good to me! I'll be along as soon as I can. Shouldn't be more than twenty or thirty minutes or so.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-06 20:50:23](#)**
(no subject)

I agree whole-heartedly.

Let's see what we can do to increase our supply.



 **[alt_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-03-06 17:13:51](#)**
private message to Alice

She looks well, doesn't she? Maureen, I mean.

She looks happy.

That should mean something, that she's safe and happy. To me, I mean.

~~Oh, I don't know what I mean.~~

That's good then. So thank you again for getting her away safe, and giving her a place to be.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-06 18:37:23](#)

Re: private message to Alice

Sally-Anne deserves quite a bit of credit on that front, I'd imagine.

I'm so very glad that you got a chance to visit, and see her for yourself.

And Jeremy, love, I know it's been difficult for you, and that you've got your fair share of worries and doubts, and it's only natural to see her choosing to not see you until now as a slight or a rejection.

The way I see it, though, is that she's been kept quite busy discovering who she is, and learning what it means to be able to do magic, and finding things to do that give her joy and a sense of accomplishment -- her life is very full, and she's rightly thinking about herself right now.

She hasn't forgotten you, dear. Far from. And she hasn't placed her affections elsewhere, either.

Give it time.

And don't feel like you must linger in the shadows, either. If you'll be coming for dinner on a regular basis, she can choose to do with that what she will.



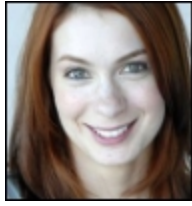
 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-03-06 19:49:11](#)


Re: private message to Alice

Yes sir, General Alice, sir.

I mean, yeah. You're right. It'll all sort itself, in time, yeah? And thank you for saying. Funny how it's easier to keep steady when someone tells you to keep steady, someone you trust anyway.

Still working on scheduling, but we'll get those research meetings started soon.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-06 20:53:13](#)

Re: private message to Alice

Good. Very good.

And keep in mind that we have some people at
Hogwarts, too, with access to resources and the
Library -- if you have work to pass along to them, I'm sure they'd
be able to provide you with assistance.

2014-03-04 22:06:00

Order Only

Say, if you ever run into Fred Weasley in a dark alley, don't let him get the drop on you! I'm still sore, and we're nearly half the way to next weekend! Oi.



 **alt_nymphadora**


Seriously, though, if any of you do ever need to fight the Weasley twins, split them up. That takes them down a notch or two. That's why we're going to keep on with it. Isn't it, George?

And, Colin, speaking of keeping on with what you've had difficulty with! I thought once or twice we'd got an infiltrator using you for polyjuice, you were doing so much better than last week. Keep that up! Mind you, we all have days when we're better and days that are not so great. Ask Jeremy about that. I expect he'll want to return some of what you dished out next time you're opposites. (Remember that.)

Those of you who weren't able to make last weekend: Frank and Fu had us sharpening our hand-to-hand technique. The goal is to see we're all ready to react if we ever find ourselves in a null zone all of a sudden. We agreed we'd come next week with ideas about strategies for subduing any enemies to keep them inside the zone instead of letting them give us the slip... and for nabbing as many wands as we can in those first moments of surprise.

Hope to see all of you again this weekend!




 **alt_frank** at **2014-03-05 05:55:06**

(no subject)

I'm thinking you all ought to start carrying small daggers, to use in a pinch. It'd put you at an advantage in a null if all your opponent has is a stick and his fists.

Although Tim improvising with a branch as a bludgeon was pretty clever, I'll give him that.



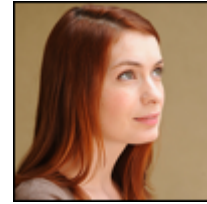
 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-03-05 05:56:42](#)**
(no subject)

(And duly noted, Tonks. Here's hoping there's more good days than bad in the balance of things, hey?)

[2014-03-05 17:37:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Severus

Severus, do you have any idea what's gotten into Albus? He's requesting a meeting with me, and claims you're the cause. Or at least, you're the one who pointed out the need for it.




 [alt_alice](#)

He's come by Moddey Dhoo twice. The first was to poke at our captured Octoborus, and talk cryptically with Cecelia Perks. I believe his only words to me were 'Where is it?'. The second was to bring me my Frank after Saltash, where he attempted to explain exactly what happened. After he said he didn't expect Frank would die, he abruptly left, and then sent an enormous fruit basket by way of an apology at Christmas.

I must admit, I'm a bit flummoxed. Do I have a cause for concern? He said the meeting ought to be sooner rather than later, and I'd rather not be blindsided.




 [alt_severus](#) at **[2014-03-06 12:38:51](#)**
(no subject)

I suspect it is regarding the lecture I gave him several weeks ago, the one about either getting off his arse and being a leader or getting out of the way of the rest of us lot and letting us get on with it, instead of perpetually showing up just frequently enough to keep us from disregarding him entirely and not frequently enough to be of any real use. I do not know which of the two options he has chosen, but I suspect he wishes to clarify his position, and yours, in regards to the Order.

I doubt you have cause for concern, in either direction. Should he repay your service to the Order poorly, I will not hesitate to once more attempt to prick the conscience of the king. I will not disclose the balance of what we said to each other in my last attempt, as it touches on secrets I intend to bring to my grave should I not find myself in a situation in which they absolutely must be spent, but I understand what motivates him rather more than others might. I am perfectly willing to employ that understanding to dog his heels should he continue to be as frustrating as he has been.



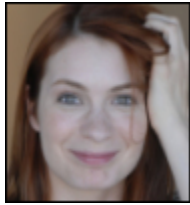
 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-06 17:21:46](#)
(no subject)


Ah, I see.

That does settle my nerves somewhat, then. I must admit that I wondered, seeing his request for an immediate meeting so soon on the heels of my latest summary, if I'd done something horribly wrong.

Well. If I am leading us in a direction he'd rather we not go, I suppose he'll tell me, which is far better than silence and uncertainty.

And of all of us, I believe you are particularly well-suited to nip at his heels with impunity.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-06 17:26:36](#)
(no subject)

Lecturing Albus Dumbledore to get off his arse.

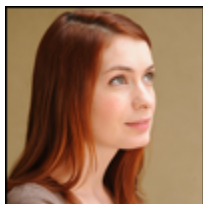
Honestly, Severus, it's making me quite giggly to imagine it.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-06 17:27:51](#)
(no subject)

I shall choose to take that as a compliment.

And if he wishes to take exception to your achievements — which he would be a fool to do — you need only remind him that he could have weighed in at any time, and in the absence of guidance you have been steering us as you see fit.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-06 18:18:29](#)
(no subject)

All teasing aside, love, you and Poppy both are quite capable of bringing us all back to a rather firm reality (even though the truth of it can sometimes sting), and for that, I will always be

grateful.

I know I can depend on you to hold me accountable, and give me an unvarnished view of the world, and I appreciate that you're holding Albus to a similar standard. I'd expect no less.

It can be difficult sometimes to separate the man from the myth. Especially when he keeps himself so distant. I'll just have to borrow a measure of your strength for our meeting on Saturday.

2014-03-05 19:51:00

Order Only : Private message to Alice Longbottom




Alice,

It has been made clear to me that it would be best if you and I were to sit down and discuss various matters. Sooner, rather than later.

 **alt_albus**

Saturday would be most convenient. I'm sure I can find some excuse to be absent from supper to give us adequate time for conversation.




 **alt_alice** at **2014-03-06 01:15:33**
(no subject)

I see. Of course. Saturday would be fine.

Have I

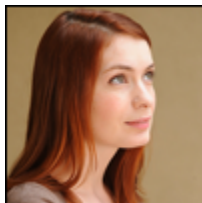
If there's anything that needs more immediate attention, please let me know.




 **alt_albus** at **2014-03-06 01:27:48**
(no subject)

Two, then. If that changes, I will let you know.

You may thank Severus for pointing out the need for this, if you wish.



 **alt_alice** at **2014-03-06 01:32:59**
(no subject)

Oh?

Two it is. I'll have tea waiting.

2014-03-06 18:44:00

Order Only: Heidi Clarke and Cameron Happer



 [alt_charlie](#)

The bad news first: I'm so, so sorry to say that we were too late for Heidi Clarke. She died two days ago of a cough and fever. We had a rough time of it -- her parents wanted to know why we couldn't have showed up sooner, and I'm afraid nothing we said to them made them less heartbroken and upset. Well, I can't really blame them, but we didn't even try to feel them out about taking a button and the like. We just lent a shoulder to be cried on and apologised profusely and it was all sodding awful ~~and next time we get a list of names I want to go as soon as possible so this doesn't~~

Tonks told them about the memorial garden, and I promised them we'd plant a tree for Heidi. Her mum asked if it could be a lilac bush instead, since she always loved lilacs, almost named Heidi 'Lilac' instead. I said I didn't think that would be a problem at all. When you do plant it, and once it blooms, I'd like to preserve one of the flowers and bring it back to them. Just to let them know we haven't forgotten.

The less bad news is that Cameron Happer is safely at Moddey. It took us quite a long time to talk his parents into letting us take him -- rumours have apparently spread about Strangeweale's house of horrors, and got wilder and wilder as they went. (As rumours do.) They were convinced we were there to take Cameron away to do unspeakable things to him, and nothing we said could convince them we weren't, until Tonks hit on telling them that we'd actually found the wizard who'd been doing unspeakable things to babies and brought him to justice and part of why we were doing this was to make sure something like that didn't happen again. Once they heard that, they were more willing to listen about Moddey and what it was like there, and we eventually got them to agree. Took sodding forever, but Cameron's settling in down in the nursery now.

Alice, I'll be back in a little bit to have that talk you wanted -- don't count on me for supper, though.



 **alt_charlie** at [2014-03-06 23:58:46](#)

Private message to Tonks

I hope you manage to get a good bit of sleep -- I tried not to wake you as I crept out. I left a bit of headache potion on the nightstand, since my head was killing me from the aftermath of all that crying and I'm sure yours won't be much better. Sorry for falling apart on you like that, luv.

(I know, I know, you're only going to tell me there's nothing to apologise for and that you were just as bad, but I have to apologise anyway. I know "curled up in bed and sniffing" wasn't how you were hoping to end the day either, but I just kept thinking of the look on Heidi's parents' faces and thinking, if we'd just gone last week... well, I won't get into it again.)

I traded today's shift for tomorrow, but I can be free Saturday morning if you want me to come along for one of the other two.



 **alt_nymphadora** at [2014-03-07 04:13:18](#)

Re: Private message to Tonks

Ta for the headache powder. I hope you made it back to Moddey and then home all right?

I just woke up a few minutes ago, so Remus must have decided it was more trouble to wake me than to tend the garden without me tonight, and I can't argue. I needed the sleep.

I might not have been so weepy earlier if I hadn't been quite so tired. I wonder if that wasn't part of the trouble with the Happers. Now I think back, I expect we came over more than a bit mad, knowing how urgent it is to get those babies out. Can't blame them for not trusting us.

So, right. Saturday morning, then. I'm not sure about tomorrow, myself, though I do want to get these taken care of as quickly as ever we can. Maybe... if one of Themselfs wants to go, I'll go along.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-07 17:39:28](#)

Re: Private message to Tonks

I'm glad you got a chance to sleep. I made it back to Moddey just fine (Alice wanted me to be practical and logistical at her) and then I actually got a good five hours down myself. Mind, I had to be out the door at six to cover the shift I traded, but, touch wood, it's been quiet so far today.

I think you might be right about being tired making things worse -- we've all been burning the candle at both ends lately, haven't we. I'd take ~~more~~ of the potions they have available up here to keep you awake when you need to stay awake, but they don't do your mood any favours.

Let's you and me have a day off once we've managed to (or someone's managed to) pick up the other two, and instead of what I usually mean by "let's you and me have a day off", we can go somewhere quiet and sleep on each other for eight glorious straight hours.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-07 23:21:13](#)

Re: Private message to Tonks

That is an excellent idea.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-03-07 00:15:29](#)

(no subject)

I'm sorry, mate.


I'm really sorry.

Charles Kass's older brother has a tree here too. Lost him in the plague mess a while back. We'll make sure she gets her lilacs.

What a damn shame.

Tonks is right. The more supplements we get to the camps, the better.




 **alt_charlie** at [2014-03-07 00:24:50](#)
(no subject)

Yeah.

I don't know if it was because they didn't have enough to eat or because she was just sickly or what. Her da did say the cough had been going around the camp all winter, and they tried their best to keep her away from anyone who had it, but somehow she came down with it anyway. I tried telling him it wasn't their fault, that I was sure they did everything they could, but it wasn't really what he wanted to hear. He was so angry at us. ~~He made it a point of describing just how she sounded when she died~~

Her mum was less angry and more sad, but neither of them were really ready to hear about the button network and the like. We might want to try again in a few months, once it's no longer quite so raw.



 **alt_bill** at [2014-03-08 13:24:32](#)
Private message to Charlie Weasley


Bugger all. I'm sorry, little brother. I didn't see this until just now--work has been so hectic that I just fell into bed last night without checking my journal.

I hate, hate, hate it when we're too late. On anything.

I'll talk with Nick about stepping up the urgency of getting together the information to track down the parents, assembling the false credentials and so on, whenever we have names from the book.

In the meantime...do you have any free time this weekend? I know you usually are working Sunday evenings, but if not this time, would it help to come home for one of Mum's dinners? Or I can meet you anywhere you name. We can talk, or not talk but fly a bit, whatever suits you.



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-03-08 21:00:07](#)**

Re: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Yeah, I'll be there. I'll have to eat and run, but I'll be there.

I don't really want to talk about it, though. But yeah, next time I want to move quicker. If it's possible, I mean. Two days and we could have healed her.

2014-03-07 13:40:00

Private Message to Raz

I'm almost done with the latest challenge report. I was thinking we could go over it together later, maybe? See if I've got enough detail. You know.



 [alt_harry](#)

And I think I got almost everyone's first year to report to me. No big surprises. McLaggen, Thomas, and Nott look like they didn't manage to convince anyone to help them out. Crabbe and Goyle were pretty decent to theirs, even though they did make them do some stupid stuff. Patil had hers running errands for all the sixth years, and Smith's firstie wasn't too pleased either. Said he got a bit shirty towards the end. And I think Draco and Hydra's got into a fight over something or another.

But I think it went pretty well, all things considered.

2014-03-08 09:06:00

Order Only: Two new faces at Moddey Dhoo



 [alt_kingsley](#)


After Charlie and Tonks' disheartening news about Heidi Clarke, Molly and I managed to coordinate our mad schedules and we have good news to report as of this morning: Mala Chaudhary and Isobel Morris now reside in the nursery at Moddey Dhoo.

I had to use a translation spell with the Chaudharys, but once they understood, they agreed to let us take her. Mrs Chaudhary had a sister who bore a child who manifested magic at age six in the early days of the Protectorate and was immediately taken into custody: she was one of the ones gone before we had Moddey up and running and had started taking children in for sanctuary. She did ask if there was any way we could find out what happened to her niece, because her sister still grieves over her lost child a great deal. This of course caught at Molly's soft heart, so she immediately promised to find out what we could, although I warned Mrs Chaudhary that the news might not be good, and we might not be able to do anything to change her niece's situation. If she's even still alive, an option I carefully didn't mention. They were comforted by the rings and the sketch ('it's much more than Joceliza, my sister has'). I'll send the details along to Nick about the niece, Ruchi Bhatia; I hope he can dig up something. Molly promised to return word in the follow up report, if we find anything.

Isobel Morris's mother is a single mother, and it was a wrench for her to give the child up, but I think she was worried about feeding the girl, as she has two others who looked hungry to me. I want to see if we have anyone on the button network who could help her gain more stable employment. The matter of confunding the administrators over the death certificate went as smoothly as it ever has. Molly is going to spend the day at the nursery to help the new girls settle in.

It may be that she just can't stop herself from smoothing Isobel's curls. That girl's truly a beauty and I suspect she'll be breaking hearts before long.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-09 05:02:15](#)**
(no subject)

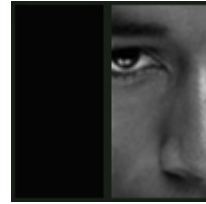
Chances are very good that she was taken into service. Bill, Nick, please let us know if you find any record of her.

And let's see if we can't pass along some supplements to the Morris family next time we're in the area.

Thank you again, my friend. Both of you.

[2014-03-08 14:13:00](#)

Private Message to Harry Marvolo and Draco Malfoy




The elf arrived from Eau-de-Vie.

So I've got Alabazam's XO, Le Mareschal's Vieille Reserve, Domaine Brouillard VSOP, plus a nice Poire William and a Slivovitz. Oh, and a flask of Le Grisard armagnac, but that's for Sluggy.

 **[alt_blaise](#)**

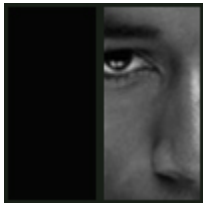
Not suggesting we try polishing them off in one go, but we could have a fair time tasting them. What do you say?




 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-03-08 21:30:46](#)**
(no subject)

Sounds good to me.

You have any more of those cigars from last weekend?
The flavoured kind?




 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-03-08 21:40:32](#)**
(no subject)

Liked those?

I do have a few. We'll have to be selective about sharing this time, but I've got your name on one, least.



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-03-08 22:51:24](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, they were all right.

Who else did you have in mind?

[2014-03-08 19:09:00](#)

Private Message to Linus Moon

Moon.

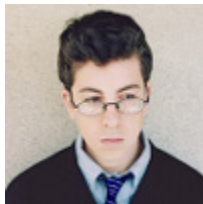
You're always taking notes on everybody, and I figure it's in your best interest to be accurate. I need a copy of them for my records. Come by the library tomorrow after breakfast so you can walk me through them.




 **[alt_harry](#)**

I'd also be interested in your general impressions of the information you've collected so far. Without too much unnecessary commentary, if you catch my meaning.

Your two firsties seemed to be pretty pleased with how everything turned out in this latest assignment, by the way. They spoke quite highly of you, and didn't hold your earlier outburst towards them against you. Thought you'd like to know.




 **[alt_linus](#)** at **[2014-03-10 01:53:35](#)**
(no subject)

I'm delighted that you found the notes of interest. If you should at any point wish further exegesis, please do not hesitate to call upon me. (Obeying your request for brevity was no doubt the sort of exercise

Professor Dolohov would approve of me undertaking, but it goes without saying that there is a wealth of commentary available to you should you wish.)

I am delighted to hear that my firsties found the arrangement a mutually beneficial and salubrious one, and that all previous infelicities have been forgotten. 'Tis always best thus, don't you think?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-03-10 04:02:54](#)**
(no subject)

I figure it's not a good idea to hold someone to what they say while hexed, but it's not a half bad idea to try to make up for it after.

| I'll let you know if I need any more information.

2014-03-09 23:30:00

Private message to Wesley Morgan

Cheers, Morgan. Good show. As for what you asked -- there's no reason you can't come to Quidditch practices, and I can't see that anyone would be bothered, especially since you're keen on joining the side yourself when you're a bit older. If you want to help out with errands, I'll ask Bell. I doubt she'd mind but I'll let you know what she says.



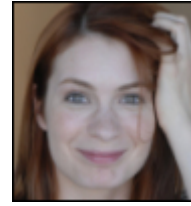
 **alt_seamus**

2014-03-10 09:46:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Remus


Many, many happy returns, love.

I was wondering if you'd like the afternoon and evening off courtesy of your favourite cousin? I'd be happy to cover your shifts at Laszlo's so we can make sure you get the chance to be thoroughly spoiled today.

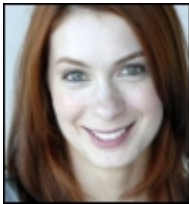



 [alt_alice](#)



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2014-03-10 21:15:30**
(no subject)

I wouldn't complain!



 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-03-10 21:23:13**
(no subject)

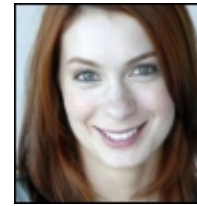
You deserve every bit of it.

[2014-03-10 13:54:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Evelyn

Happy birthday, my dearest girl.

On the day you were born, we were at your gran's, hiding from the chaos outside for a few precious days. You came a few days earlier than we thought, but arrived without any fuss, and I remember looking at your sweet face and your perfect little hands and feet and being so very happy, and thankful that you'd arrived safe and sound.



 [alt_alice](#)


Neville was quite astonished when he saw you for the first time. He kept wanting to touch your hair, and he was so very gentle with you. He called you 'Eebie,' because he couldn't quite get the v's right, and I remember him staring down at you with wide eyes and a very determined expression. And the look on your father's face when he held you in his arms for the first time is one I'll never forget. He was rather battered after our retreat from the Ministry, but holding you, all his worries just melted away.

We only had a few weeks together before I had to leave you with your gran, but I treasured each and every moment of it. And now, fifteen years later, I see before me a sweet, brave, intelligent, good-hearted young woman, and I am so proud of you. You amaze me with your brilliance, and I respect and admire your ability to face the challenges you encounter every single day with grace.

I am so glad that you are working with me, side by side. You are our hope for a brighter future, and in your hands, it will be a bright one indeed.

I love you so very much, Evie. I hope your day is a good one.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at **[2014-03-11 02:48:00](#)**
(no subject)

Thank you, mum, it's been a lovely day so far. I was telling dad, I can hardly read what you both wrote without turning frightfully red. I'm so pleased we can talk through the Order lock, and I love you both and can't wait to see you again.


Your Evie



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-03-11 02:50:30](#)**
(no subject)

Did you ever have a silver locket? It's only that gran sent me one, and it looks a bit old, and I think it might've been yours because there's a small letter P on the inside.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-11 02:53:42](#)**
(no subject)

Of course! Yes, that was a gift from my mum to me when I was about your age. I'm so pleased Augusta managed to keep track of it after all these years.

2014-03-10 14:23:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Evelyn and Colin Creevey



alt_frank

Happy birthday, sweetie.

You're growing up so fast. It feels like only yesterday I was holding a little miracle in my arms. You're not so little any more, that's for certain, but you'll always be my miracle. You're doing amazing things at school -- Merlin knows how you got to be so good at Arithmancy and Astronomy, I blame your gran for that one. But even more importantly, I read about how hard you've been working to support the other people during this contest business, and how much effort you've put in to working with potential allies at Hogwarts, and you make me so damn proud. I know it takes a special kind of bravery for you to put yourself out there like you have been this past year or so, and it can be hard when so many of the people you're working with are older, but you're holding your own.

Your notes and your brother's owls never fail to put a smile on my face. They keep me going. You've got a good soul, and your mother's heart. Keep up all the good work.

All my love

Your dad



alt_evelyn at **2014-03-11 02:37:09**
(no subject)


Every time I read what you and mum have written, I get all red in the face and can't stop smiling. Thank you.

I've had such a lovely day so far. Gran sent along a silver locket that I think was mum's, it's very pretty. And Kitty and Artie chipped in together to get me a compass, and Paula and Katrina Fitzgibbon got me a selection of tea from the girls, and Nev got me all sorts of sweet little odds and ends and it's been so very nice.

And you make me proud too. Every day.

Your Evie



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2014-03-11 02:44:55**

Private Message to Colin

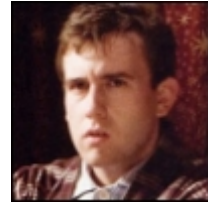
(Thank you, Colin, for all that you've done for dad. I appreciate it so very much, and I know he does too. I would miss talking to him if you weren't there to help. And without you, he'd be stuck at Moddey, and he'd be just miserable.

I know it's a little unfair writing like this because you can't write back, but I wanted to let you know how grateful I am.)

2014-03-10 20:06:00


Happy birthday!

Happy birthday, sis!



 [alt_neville](#)



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-03-11 01:08:17](#)

Order Only

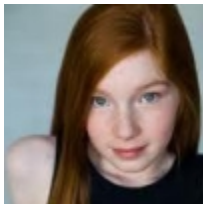
Saw that Mum and Dad wrote you. It's nice that we can talk with them this way whenever we want, isn't it?



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-11 01:26:51](#)

Re: Order Only

It's lovely.




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-11 01:31:13](#)

Re: Order Only: Private Message to Neville

I know dad gets frustrated sometimes, having to write through Colin, but I'm just so glad to hear from him, and it's so good of Colin to help as he has.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-11 01:31:41](#)

(no subject)

Why, thank you!

2014-03-12 12:23:00

*Order Only: Seth Hughes, Roger Harris,
and a new "trauma ward" at Aldrich*



 [alt_charlie](#)

I'm hellaciously behind on updating everyone on this. Sorry, folks, things got unexpectedly busy.

Tonks and I were planning on picking up Seth Hughes at Porlock on Saturday, but Alice remembered that Porlock had one of the contacts Sam Fawcett gave us: Roger Harris, a Muggle healer of sorts. So, we stopped in to see Healer Dr Harris first, while we were there, since we hadn't spoken with him except through the occasional button update since that first contact a while back.

Turns out that while life at Porlock has been a bit rough -- the camp admin there is part of one of the militias and can get a little zealous sometimes -- Dr Harris has been thinking a lot lately about what he can do to help, and he had a proposal for us. He said he's been doing what he can to treat the Muggles in camp, but he's not allowed to do much and he's taught several apprentices the things that he is allowed to do by now. So, since he was trained to heal heavy damage (he said something about "working A and E" like I should know what that meant, but I didn't have the time to ask) and Clavey the camp admin isn't letting him do any of it for the people who get hurt at the camp, he asked if we knew of any camp where he'd be allowed to practise that we could try to get him transferred to, or whether we could use his skills if we got him out of the camp.

(We offered to just try to get him out of the camp, but he didn't want to leave unless we could give him something to do once he did. He reminded me of you a little bit, Poppy, with how adamant he was that he wasn't going to stop Healing, he just wanted to practise his speciality.)

Well, since Alice and I had just been talking about what would happen once we moved into outright fighting stage, and I thought that somebody used to healing heavy physical damage might be helpful even if he can't do much about curse damage and the like, we told Dr Harris we'd go talk to our leader and see what we could do. Alice liked the idea, but thought Moddey wouldn't be a good place for Dr Harris to set up, since if we had heavily injured people who didn't know the secret, we'd have to let them in on it in order for them to get treated. So, Alice suggested Bedford or Aldrich, whichever of them


would agree to having people occasionally drop in in the future if there's an emergency.

So, I went round to Aldrich and Bedford to do some convincing, and the folks at Aldrich agreed to let Dr Harris set up a clinic there. He'll be providing medical care for them and the people at Bedford, and also setting up what he called a "trauma ward", ready to receive any patients who can be healed the Muggle way. He also volunteered to do an hour or two a week on the radio, giving people instructions on how to provide emergency medical care and the like.

After all that running around and convincing, and with a bit of help from Bill on Sunday in figuring out the best way to get Dr Harris and Seth Hughes out of Porlock with no one the wiser, we got the paperwork set up and I went back this morning. So, as of lunchtime, Dr Harris is at Aldrich, and Seth Hughes has joined the ranks at Moddey.

(Alice, I swear I didn't do anything to scare the poor thing. He started crying the minute his mum handed him over to me and nothing I did could get him to stop. I was this close to taking his mum as well -- it's just her; Seth's father was killed in some kind of accident a few months ago -- but the paperwork was only for Seth and Dr Harris. She didn't take much convincing to let me take Seth, said she'd rather he grow up safe and sound and somewhere he was less likely to get hurt just out of nowhere, but the look in her eye was just awful. If it's at all possible, we should get her out as well.)



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-12 17:12:31](#)
(no subject)


In fact, the more I keep thinking about it: maybe we should start thinking about the parents of the children at Moddey.

I know that when we started, we couldn't bring the parents with us, because we couldn't feed them or house them all at Moddey and we didn't want to pick and choose or be put in the place of having to tell one family they had useful enough skills to come with us while telling the one right next to them they were out of luck. But we have other options now.

Bedford and Aldrich and Saltash aren't exactly overflowing with food, but we should let them know that if they need or want more hands,

we have a number of people who'd probably jump at the chance to see their children again.



 **alt_bill at 2014-03-12 23:41:02**
(no subject)

I think it's a sound idea. At the very least it might mean less time arguing with each parent: this is offering more than just a simple hope that families could be reunited in some endlessly misty future.

Good call on getting the doctor out, too.




 **alt_charlie at 2014-03-13 06:27:39**
Private message to Bill

I know we're doing the right thing in getting those kids out of there -- anything would be better than the camps, but Heidi Clarke's death just proves it -- but oh, Bill, you should have seen the look on Mary Hughes' face when she put Seth in my arms this morning. She wanted so fiercely to keep him with her, and she wanted so fiercely to make sure he'd be safe, and the two impulses were wrestling together so hard it was like she was shouting it.

I know we're doing a good thing. I know we are. But neither she nor Seth could stop crying, and I felt like the most heartless monster in the world.



 **alt_bill at 2014-03-14 12:18:05**
Re: Private message to Bill

Forgive me for not replying to this right away. I was struggling with, I dunno, trying to come up with the *perfect* words to say in reply, something that would comfort you. I thought of all sorts of things, but I'm sure you've thought of them already. There's simply no way around it: separating a mother from a child she loves IS cruel. The fact that we're trying to prevent a greater cruelty seems abstract, in that horrible moment.

The best advice I received, after I had to start using the Cardinals--yes, the Unforgiveables--came from Fu Lee, of all

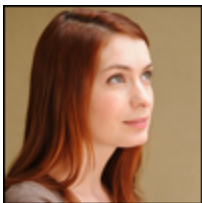
people. 'Hate can flow, as in a circuit' (that's a Muggle concept he certainly understands better than I do. Dad would've loved to talk about electricity with him. I wonder if he ever did). Anyway, he talks about how a current alternates: cruelty can have its day, but it all balances if you flood the system with love. It sounds rather mad, I know, but after working with the Unforgiveables for a while, I'm beginning to see what he's getting at.


I think we should be doing more for the Moddey Dhoo parents, if we can. There's the birthday visits, and the holiday letters, of course, although I think we've fallen a bit behind on those since Dad died.

I guess the best and most honest thing I could think of to say is that it just sucks to have to be the cruel one. It blows chunks.

And I'm sorry.

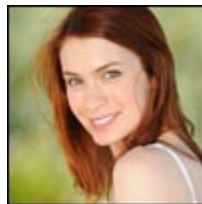
(For big brotherly comfort, I'm afraid *that* sucks, too. And I'm sorry for that, too.)




 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-13 05:58:08](#)
(no subject)

You're right, we do have other options.

I'm hesitant to open floodgates as it were, to not overwhelm the communities in question, but there is certainly more room for growth than there has been, which means there's greater possibility of exceptions -- as well as thinking through potentially prioritising those parents on our list of people to target for possible extraction.




 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-13 06:11:13](#)
(no subject)

And don't you worry about Seth. He settled down just as soon as Florrie took charge of him, and is sleeping quite soundly.

I'm sure he won't hold it against you.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-13 06:34:41](#)
(no subject)


Oh, I'm so glad. I thought he was going to make himself sick, with all the crying.

I'll have to come visit and stop in the nursery more often. It's odd, but I feel like there's a much more personal connection with the ones I was there for rescuing, you know? I stopped in to see George McCalman again this morning, and -- I don't know, it feels different when you had a hand in bringing them.

I always forget how much I like babies. (Don't get any ideas, Mum. That doesn't mean I want one of my own!)

And -- I know we can't save everyone. You're right about the floodgates, and we're not in charge of Bedford or Aldrich and we don't have the right to place people there. And even if we did, I imagine many of the parents would want to take back their kids, especially after having missed so much of their childhoods, and that's a whole recipe of troubles waiting to happen. But after seeing Mary Hughes' face ... yeah. I had to bring up the idea, at least.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-13 07:11:57](#)
(no subject)

I know, love.

And seeing as how she's all on her own, it'll be far easier to get to her than some of the other families we've been working with, and we can certainly make an effort to try and do right by her.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-13 07:40:13](#)
Private Message to Tonks and Charlie

Have I told you both lately how very grateful I am for you?

I know how hard you work, and how much extra time and energy all of this takes, and I appreciate beyond

measure how steady and dependable you both have been.

If I ever press my advantage, please, let me know -- one of the downsides with being dependable is that you run the risk of constantly being asked to do things -- but you are doing truly vital work. Thank you.

Along those lines, Tonks, love, I was wondering about your thoughts regarding our younger members -- if they might be ready for more intensive work. Specifically the twins, Lee, and Jeremy. I'm hoping they'll be able to pick up some of the additional burdens you and Charlie have been shouldering so admirably -- with some supervision, of course.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-13 07:56:28](#)

Re: Private Message to Tonks and Charlie

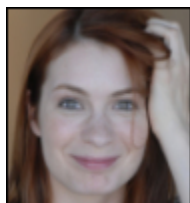
Oh, Alice. You've got no idea how much hearing that helps, so ... just, thanks.


I won't pretend it's all easy as pie and I won't pretend I'm not constantly flirting with exhaustion, although not anywhere as much as Tonks gets sometimes (and don't you make that face at me, love, you're doing way more than I am and you're doing it with a toddler to boot) but it's not anything I can't handle. And it's important work, and it needs to be done, and if I do as much of it as I can then it means somebody else is free to do the bits I can't. That's what working on a team is, yeah? It's the first thing they teach you up here: the job we do is so big, and so complex, that no one person can do all of it on their own and if you try you're just going to hurt yourself AND hurt the dragon.

So, yeah, call on me when you need me, or when you see a Charlie-shaped hole in what you're plotting that I can fit into. If it makes it easier for you, or makes you sleep a bit better yourself, I'll make you a promise that I'll tell you the minute I think something's going to be too much. And that's another lesson dragon-keeping teaches you, that being there but not 100% is worse than not being there at all because the person next to you is counting on you being 100% and can't adjust for what they don't know is wrong, so you know that's a promise I'll keep.

Being the dependable one is something I've always found important, though. So it means an awful lot that you think I am.

Now go to bed, Mama Alice.




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-13 08:10:18](#)

Re: Private Message to Tonks and Charlie

If you insist, lovie.

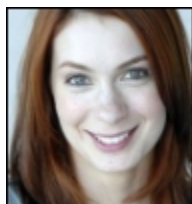


 [alt_poppy](#) at [2014-03-13 02:46:45](#)

(no subject)

I look forward to meeting Dr Harris. I'll make it a point to stop in at Aldrich during the coming holidays.

Moddey, as well. Alice, is there anything you particularly need that I might bring along? I'll be making my usual rounds of colleagues and suppliers.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-13 06:07:53](#)

(no subject)

We're in fairly decent shape in terms of supplies, all things considered -- the newest additions need their usual thorough checking-over, and Frank's knee needs some attention (it's all those demonstrations he's been doing). Pilar and Clara need a follow-up appointment as well -- their teeth are in poor shape, and they may have lasting physical issues from their ordeal that could need looking after.

Oh! We could do with some teething salve. Divyesh has several of the basics mastered, but I don't want to add anything new to his cauldron until he's confident with his current brewing schedule.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-13 06:18:00](#)

(no subject)

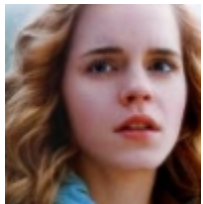
Miss Granger and I are occupied with the Wolfsbane this week, but I shall assign the teething salve to Miss Parkinson with Mr Boot assisting.


Between the two of them they ought be able to not make an utter hash of it if supervised, and you are correct Mr Shah is not ready to take on additional duties without someone to whom he can turn in the heat of the brewing should he stumble.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-13 06:47:55](#)**
(no subject)

Lovely. Thank you, Severus, and Pansy and Terry as well. Much appreciated.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-13 18:24:10](#)**
Private Message to Mr Snape

I think it's ready.

I mean, I *know* it's completed, but I think.... I think it's all right this time.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-13 20:40:45](#)**
Re: Private Message to Mr Snape

And I have inspected it, and you are correct: it is acceptable within parameters.


Well done, Miss Granger. Very well done indeed.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-03-13 16:27:35](#)**
(no subject)


It doesn't need that much attention. It just gets a little tricky when it rains.



 **[alt_frank](#)** at **[2014-03-13 06:46:45](#)**
(no subject)

(Very much looking forward to your visit, Madame P. If you need any help taking notes or running errands while you're out and about, please let me know.)



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-13 05:50:51](#)**
(no subject)

The radio addresses are a brilliant idea. I'm so glad you were able to get him safely out.

I'm wondering -- there's some people with medical training at Saltash too, it might be a good idea to get them all together to coordinate things. And the sooner he gets set up with an apprentice or two, the better.

[2014-03-13 18:46:00](#)

Order Only

I had hoped to meet up with Ron tonight for another practise session with him and Professor Dumbledore, but maybe I missed him? Or misunderstood the time. I was backed into the alcove of the statue of Bufarious the Befuddled, which is a good place to look at the students coming from three different directions, without them being able to spot me. (It's deeply in shadow, too, and the fact that Cedric turns my fur black after I transform in the morning makes me even less visible).



 [alt_terry](#)

Hermione, you walked right by me without seeing me. You looked so *happy*, almost like you were floating on air.

I had to put my head down on my paws and shut my eyes to tamp down the urge to go after you. But it was great to see you, if even for just a fleeting moment.

Ron, I'll stay here for another hour if you still want to meet up tonight (just transformed quick to write this up when most everyone is in dinner).



 [alt_hermione](#) at **[2014-03-14 00:05:44](#)**

Private Message to Terry

Oh, I'm sorry, Terry! It's just.... I'm not sure that Mr Snape wants Mr Lupin to know but I brewed his Wolfsbane for the month. Properly, I mean. By myself.

If Ron doesn't come maybe we could meet in the secret room for a bit.



 [alt_terry](#) at **[2014-03-14 00:19:23](#)**

Re: Private Message to Terry

Well, no wonder you were walking on air then! That's fantastic! Mr Snape must have been *very* pleased. Congratulations!

I'll wait here. If Ron doesn't come, I'll head for the secret room right

around curfew. It's no trouble for me to avoid prefects on patrol in this form; I can smell them coming from several corridors away.



 **alt_hermione** at [2014-03-14 00:28:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

Well, he said it was 'acceptable within parameters.' And he said well done. Which I suppose he didn't have to say, you know, if he didn't really mean it. So I think he was pleased. Mostly I think he'll be relieved he doesn't have to do it every month, now, with so many other potions to attend to and so on.

But I think he wants to make sure Mr Lupin doesn't think there's any difference before we tell him.

It's easier for me to go to the secret room before curfew but once I'm there it's no problem to wait. And anyway, I can do some reading while I'm waiting.



 **alt_hermione** at [2014-03-14 00:34:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Terry

I mean, *if* I can do the potion properly from now on. It's only been once. In the real Potioneering Guild they make aspiring Potioners brew certain things more than once before they'll declare someone has the mastery over that particular brew. For Wolfsbane it's three proper cauldrons, I looked it up. So he probably means to test me on it for at least the next two months just to make certain I can uphold the standard. And I mean, it's really, really important that Mr Lupin's potion be right, especially with little Bea in the house and Ms Tonks and all. So once he's sure I can do it, then he can move on to the other potions he needs to work on, you know, like the cure for the Sleepers and more experimental things like that.

2014-03-14 01:08:00

Order Only: Private message to Miss Granger



I did not think to say so in as many words earlier, but it occurs to me you deserve to hear it: I am exceptionally proud of your achievement, and you ought be as well.

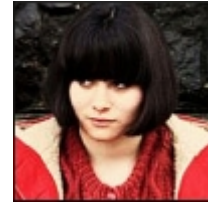
 [alt_severus](#)

At your convenience tomorrow, stop in to see me. I have something I wish to give you in recognition.

2014-03-14 20:27:00

Private Message to Daisy Urquhart

You did quite well, you know. And I'll bet a knut the Swangroves are going to go all green when they see your earrings. They're a Wizbang's limited edition -- there's only one pair of daisies, and you've got them.



 [alt_pansy](#)

Let me know what you think about the flower pot display. And if you ever have any free time and want to earn some extra pocket money, I meant what I said -- we're always on the lookout for people to test products and write reports about them, and I think you'd do a good job of it.

2014-03-15 20:56:00

Quidditch tomorrow

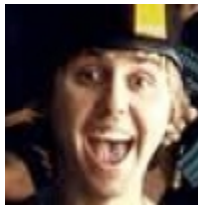
We've got one more session before our match next week, so let's make it count. Crabbe, Goyle, make sure those plays are memorised so we can drill them without your having to double-check the playbook like last time. Donovan, I've noticed you taking advantage of free flying on Saturdays, and it's really paying off. Keep it up.




 [alt_harry](#)

Just a reminder, our Defence revision group is meeting after lunch tomorrow for anyone who's interested.

And while I'm thinking about it, Justin, Ron, you up for poker tomorrow night? Blaise, you game?



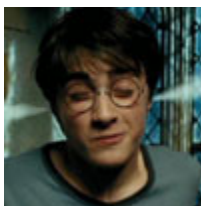
 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-03-16 04:15:49**


(no subject)

Harry,

Yes, jolly good! Provided I don't lose as often as last time, what!

-Justin




 [alt_harry](#) at **2014-03-16 04:19:26**

(no subject)

Yeah, well, you're not half bad at bluffing, you know. For a Hufflepuff.



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-03-16 04:21:31**


Order Only

I say, helps to keep Zabini well-satisfied. Makes things a touch easier when it comes to Noble Arts, as well, what.

Ron's better at counting cards, though. But, I say, old man, you're worse at showing what you think of your hand.

-J



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-16 05:26:57](#)


Re: Order Only

Good to hear.

And yeah, I could probably stand to work on that.

Maybe the stuff with Hydra'll help.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-16 04:15:50](#)


ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius

Our match is next Saturday.

I was thinking

Maybe you could come to it? In disguise, I mean.




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-16 04:32:48](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius

Wouldn't miss it.

I don't think we can spare the polyjuice but we'll work something out.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-16 05:17:14](#)

Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sirius

Good.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 01:50:05](#)

Private Message to Harry

How is the revision group going? Any topic that kids seem to be struggling with, or anyone who needs special attention?

How is this contest report going? It seems less easy to judge what they want from this one.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 01:57:42](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

A few of the 5ths are still weirded out by what it was like with the Dementor, and are spending way too much time on their Patronuses. I think they're overthinking it. Everyone is getting pretty good at disarming, though. Sandoval, Warrington, and Ginny Weasley did particularly well.

There weren't that many 6ths. The usual crowd, though. They're doing pretty well, but you can tell this contest is making everyone more on edge than they usually are.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 02:10:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Bad enough you think I ought to say something or would that just be feeding the fire?



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 02:21:07](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Not sure. I think it's less that they're worried about OWLs and more that facing the Dementor was a lot harder than they thought it was going to be.

If that makes a difference.




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 03:11:36](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Alright. If anyone shows signs of still being overwrought in a few weeks, let me know.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 02:02:13](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry


And when it comes to the report, yeah, it's hard to sort things out.

They don't tell me anything about how they decide who did best, or what everyone's standing is, or even if they're keeping a score or anything. For all I know, they already have sorted out who is going up at the end of the term, and they're just making everyone run through their paces.

Me included.

And just because some people are doing well doesn't mean they're cut out for council.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 02:03:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

~~How old were you when you~~

I mean, getting a first-year to do your chores for a week is different than what they'll be expected to do.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 02:17:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

I'm guessing that they are interested in how the candidates bend those of lesser status to their will. It is why I said this one is hard to judge.

Mulicber, Dolohov and Rod all have very different methods of encouraging people to follow their lead and they all have their use and place. It is interesting information.

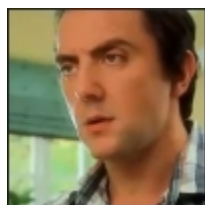


 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 02:25:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Yeah, well, Nott doesn't bend, he breaks.

And when he knows he shouldn't, he goes off in a corner and does it anyways.



 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 02:32:46](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

I know many brilliant witches and wizards who I would never wish on Council. They may be pillars of the community, brilliant in their field, leading lights of society, but completely unsuited to the Council. They just don't have the mettle. It's why I don't understand

~~These contests haven't come close to testing that mettle. What would this lot have done if tossed into Ireland or Leicester?~~



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 02:55:34](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

No. They haven't.

Should they?

It's not like the people who are in it have much of a choice. Regardless of how unsuited they are.

If the next challenge is that they need to kill someone, or hurt someone badly, it's not like they can just up and quit, you know?

Has anyone been offered a position on the Council and turned it down?




 [alt_rabastan](#) at [2014-03-17 03:09:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Not everyone has it. And you're right not everyone should. That's exactly the point.

The rest. Well, we've talked about it some, but the answers are truly complicated. When you can make some time tomorrow, let's talk. Even if it's after dinner. Siz will understand cutting into our time for this. She might even have some insights.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-17 03:15:58](#)

Re: Private Message to Harry

Yeah.

Okay.

2014-03-15 21:05:00

Order Only - Private message to Hermione

I thought you should know that Teddy commented on your "unusually bright" demeanor today, even going so far as to suggest that Raz must have accidentally smiled at you when he passed you in the corridors. I told him that Harry had leant you out to Madam Pince to repair books, and that the glue must have addled your head.



 [alt_draco](#)

I don't have to tell you that you're lucky that he made his observations to me, and not to Blaise or Vince or someone else who would have encouraged his speculations. His macabre sort of intrigue in you doesn't seem to have waned despite Harry's interference - who knows, knowing Teddy, it might have even made it even stronger.




 [alt_hermione](#) at **2014-03-16 03:27:29**
(no subject)

I know, I know! I've been trying to remember not to look so content but then I forget and I don't notice that I'm grinning until I feel someone looking at me.

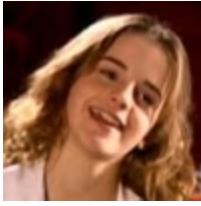
I thought it'd be better today. I'm sure it will fade, especially when Mr Snape sets me to some of the potions in the book he gave me yesterday.



 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-03-16 03:40:21**
(no subject)

You might be sure that it will fade, but I can't say that I'm convinced. And Teddy's probably harder to convince than I am.

I can't imagine what has you acting so stupid, anyway. Or maybe Teddy's right and Raz *did* give you a wink, eh?




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-16 03:54:51](#)
(no subject)

Ew! I told you, I only told Teddy that to put him off.

Anyway, you know Mr Snape's had me working on brewing Mr Lupin's Wolfsbane potion, well, this week I prepared it properly--well, *acceptably*, he said--and then yesterday he gave me a potions journal. It was the journeyman's journal that belonged to someone named Harrald Candelwycke and he wrote it back in 1874. Mr Snape's made all sorts of notes in it and he said it's the traditional gift given 'in the latter stages of one's apprenticeship'--he said he'd have given me his own journeyman's journal but that was sadly impossible, but that he wanted me to start looking it over because soon he'll be expecting me to be able to comment on the potions it contains and...and to keep one of my own.



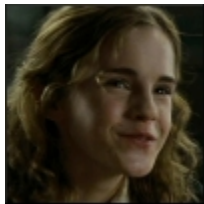
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-16 04:03:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh, right, you don't fancy those "sporting" types.

He gave you a gift? He doesn't seem the type for fuss and pomp.

And brewing Wolfsbane is quite an achievement, and you deserve accolades after all your hard work. But really, you've got to stop... *glowing*.

It's very noticeable.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-16 04:12:47](#)
(no subject)

I don't think it was all that fussy, truly. It's more that...well, really *any* expression of approval from Mr Snape is a real accomplishment, you know, and anyway, the really significant thing was that he basically said that he thinks I'm moving along nicely in apprenticeship toward journeyman level. Which I never ever thought was even on the horizon.

It felt a little bit like when Harry freed me, only instead of making it the way things should have been from the start, this felt more like...well, like when Sally-Anne and Justin got their O.W.L. marks, I imagine, and knew that they'd be all right. Only...more. I mean, imagine if you never knew you had the ability to fly, even though everyone else you know could do it. And then one day...you fly. It was sort of like that.

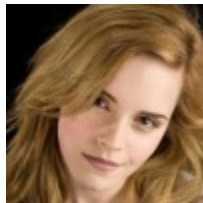
So, yes, I'm trying not to--to glow. It's just hard to remember not to do.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-16 04:20:38](#)
(no subject)

Yes, I know. He doesn't distribute compliments unless they are well-earned.

Sorry, I can't imagine any of that. I've always been told that I can make something of myself - even more, that I had better make sure that I do, and do it well. I mean, I can *imagine* it. It's not as if I'm lacking in imagination... it's just - you're probably glad that Terry's nearby now, I reckon. Because he doesn't have to imagine any of that.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-16 04:30:03](#)
(no subject)


Oh, well, yes, it was wonderful to talk to Terry the other night. We hardly seem to see each other anymore, and it's so easy to talk to him about things.

And yes, I expect he felt the same way when he managed the Animagus transformation, probably more, because he had all those years of Carrow (may he rot) telling him how he was nothing, and beating him and being horrid, so proving to himself that he can do really amazing, advanced magic must have been extremely vindicating.

I'm sure I won't ever manage the transformation but somehow it meant even more to me that Mr *Snape* was...was proud of my progress. Maybe because, like you say, his compliments are

hard to earn. It automatically makes one feel proud of oneself, doesn't it?



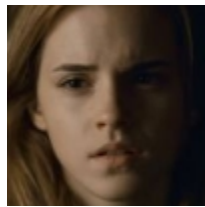
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-16 04:45:27](#)
(no subject)

Killing Carrow probably felt even more vindicating. Not that I'd ever bring it up with him.

Sometimes I wonder what I would be like if you hadn't been given to Harry.

Sorry, that's probably an odd thing to say. But I probably wouldn't be like I am now, would I? It's peculiar to think about. I guess that's the sort of thing I imagine, though - when I bother with imagining and wondering.

Not that I'm meant to give in to flights of fancy and what not. It can lead to hesitation, Snape says. I can't afford hesitation.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-16 04:55:45](#)
(no subject)

It wasn't just because I was around, though. Don't you think you started to change after Dennis?

And anyway, you might as well ask if you'd have been different if you hadn't grown up with Harry.

For what it's worth, I think you're far better off as you are-- eyes open, I mean, to the Protectorate and how cruel and mad the Lord Protector is.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-16 05:00:01](#)
(no subject)

No, that's true of course. Dennis and Harry, they matter, too. And others, no doubt.

It's worth a lot, actually. And I think you're probably right.



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-16 04:04:30](#)**
(no subject)

Oh, and like I told Terry, if I can continue brewing the Wolfsbane properly each month, that will mean Mr Snape has more time for more experimental things, things he hasn't had time to really concentrate on because the monthly potion and other supplies have taken priority always, so it's also really, really good to know that I'm being a help to him--and to Mr Lupin, of course!--and that way maybe he'll make better progress.

[2014-03-16 18:12:00](#)

ORDER ONLY

We're a few days away from the equinox, and by our best reckoning, there'll be another octoborus surge at that time. The west coast seems to be our best bet if they follow the pattern we've established.




 [alt_alice](#)

Talking with Cecelia and Jeremy, we've got a few goals in mind regarding the octobori -- tracking down the remaining locations, and learning more about their properties, with the idea of stopping their connection in some way. Cecelia has two theories -- either each octoborus will surge predictably every year on its given date, or this is a one-time occurrence as each becomes active. If it is only to happen the once, we may have an opportunity to interfere with it in some way, and bring down that particular warding system. This would mean that we have a limited time frame to find the rest, and determine how exactly we are to stop it from fully activating.

For the time being, locating the next octoborus location and studying this surge as best as we can will be potentially useful.

I would like as many of you as possible patrolling the west coast on Thursday. Cecelia will be joining the party to observe things first-hand, and Fu Lee and Frank have volunteered to go along in case we need to get close to the device. We're figuring that the surge might make Apparation difficult, and could make flight dangerous, so please be cautious.



 [alt_alice](#) at **[2014-03-17 03:02:40](#)**

Private Message to Hermione and Pansy

I was wondering if I might ask you two a favour. I know you've got your hands full with your current work, but this situation with Minerva has me concerned on several fronts, and we may have a limited amount of time on our hands.

When Umbridge was in charge last term, I seem to recall that at one point or another, Hermione, you were planning on addressing the House-elves of Hogwarts on Minerva's behalf to gain their assistance if necessary. Did you talk to them? Were they receptive? We were quite lucky in that Hogwarts itself seemed determined to not recognise Madame Umbridge as the true Headmistress, but we

cannot depend on it in the future.

While Minerva is still the recognised Headmistress of Hogwarts, we have a potential opportunity to treat with the Hogwarts House-elves, and perhaps secure some agreement or understanding with them. I can see how this would prove infinitely useful should Minerva have to leave her position abruptly, or should we need to defend Hogwarts in a way that would compromise her if she were to give the order herself. If you were able to speak on her behalf before, you may be able to do so again.

Pansy, I'm asking you to possibly assist Hermione if you are able, because you are quite familiar with House-elves, and have navigated through some rather interesting negotiations with Hitty. Fred and George have told me about your arrangement, and it shows great sensitivity for her position.

Determining the system of rules the Hogwarts House-elves function under and whether those rules can be interpreted in ways that would be to both our advantages would be ideal. However, simply establishing communication would be a valuable first step.



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-17 03:40:29](#)

Re: Private Message to Hermione and Pansy

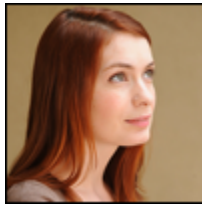
Well, the thing is, Mrs Longbottom--when we were talking to them about Madam Umbridge, that was a completely different situation. House-elves don't have a choice about following the orders of the Headmistress or Headmaster, or a duly appointed deputy, no matter who it is. If Professor McGonagall ordered them to stop giving students food if they make their way to the kitchens, they'd have to stop. If Professor Vector took over as Headmistress and told them all that from now on, they have to go through the students' trunks when they're cleaning and turn in any contraband--they'd have to do it.


Elves aren't muggleborns, whose minds can be changed over time. They're under magical compact.

And Pansy's negotiations with Hitty--if Pansy had simply ordered Hitty, she'd have had to do them, whether she agreed or not. It's only because Pansy didn't want to have to order her or upset her that they had to 'negotiate'. Sorry, Pansy, but it's true.

So, I'm not sure how we can talk to them about potentially defying a future Head of Hogwarts. Short of getting Professor McGonagall to free them all, which quite honestly would be a disaster for the castle. Even if they brought in muggleborns to do all the work, they could never do it all without magic like the elves have. And if we explained why we wanted them to make their own choices, that wouldn't work--house-elves don't think like that, with rare exceptions. And besides, it could be really dangerous. If there ever were another Head of Hogwarts, and it weren't an Order member (which is rather likely), then anything we tell the house-elves *now* could be divulged to the new Head--I mean, they'd simply *have* to tell him or her if asked.

We can still talk to them if you like but I'm not sure what we could possibly say that would be safe and would actually get us anything like cooperation.



 [alt_alice](#) at 2014-03-17 05:17:05

Re: Private Message to Hermione and Pansy

I agree that asking point-blank for outright defiance of future Headmasters or Headmistresses would be disastrous. I'm not asking to dive straight into negotiations, but I would like you to do some initial research and help me sort out possibilities.

I want to know what our options are if we were to no longer have Minerva in place -- and determining the boundaries of the House-elves and other magic at Hogwarts is a part of that.

Learning more about the exact nature of their compact, for instance, might reveal potential loopholes that could be exploited. Perhaps there might be a historical record or legal case that could be enlightening.

And in an emergency situation, being potentially able to speak to the House-elves on Minerva's behalf could prove to be very advantageous.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-17 21:56:02](#)**

Re: Private Message to Hermione and Pansy

We'll see what we can learn.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-17 16:02:06](#)**

Private Message to Fred and Lee

Fred, George, Lee, I'm hoping you three will be able to assist on this particular endeavour as your work schedules are slightly more flexible.




 **[alt_gredforge](#)** at **[2014-03-17 18:29:21](#)**

Re: Private Message to Fred and Lee

You can count us in on this one.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-03-17 20:24:50](#)**

Re: Private Message to Fred and Lee

Took a bit of sorting, but I'm free Thursday afternoon now. (Couldn't get the morning free: delivery they asked for me in particular.)

Let me know where to be, yeah?

[2014-03-16 22:17:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Draco

Are you well, or were you distracted by your housemates? I was expecting you sometime today.



 [alt_severus](#)



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-17 15:08:31](#)

(no subject)

Right, I realise that. I apologise for not letting you know that I wouldn't make it.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-17 15:17:03](#)

(no subject)

Do you really think this will work? I want it to. I *need* it to work. The great majority of the time I am absolutely sure that I can do this, but then something will happen - something that should really be small, insignificant - and then the cracks appear.

I need to figure out how to make that not happen anymore.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-17 16:32:24](#)

(no subject)

I am not a sentimental man, and any amount of fawning reassurances I could produce would not only ring false in your ears but create more doubt than encouragement. However, when your worst fears threaten to overpower your mental disciplines, consider this fact, which you may not yet have consciously apprehended: I would not entrust my own safety and ability to remain at liberty to your self-discipline, did I not believe that you were wholly capable of rising to this challenge.

I say this not to add more weight to the burden you have already shouldered, nor to increase your already-too-visceral knowledge of the stakes for which you have chosen to play, but because — after the work we have done together, and the truths of mine of which we


have not spoken that you have seen in passing — you will, I trust, recognise the amount of confidence this bespeaks. In all our time together, I have seen nothing to suggest that confidence is misplaced — and you may be certain I have been looking.

It is possible you may never free yourself of those moments of doubt and fear. Indeed, those fears are one of the means by which one might measure your suitability for the purpose: only a fool or a madman could cling to blithe confidence in such straits, knowing what you know. But despite those doubts, your progress is quite satisfactory.

In reading the content of your first reply I was poised to award you full marks for obfuscation and misdirection. I am pleased you chose to elaborate. Having disclaimed sentiment, I will say this: of all the hard things you have chosen to dedicate yourself to, I am well aware that in many ways the most difficult is allowing yourself to acknowledge, much less allowing me to see, these moments of vulnerability. Contrary to your fears, their existence does not make you weak. They are what has kept you from becoming, and will keep you from losing yourself to, the monster you have always feared.

See me when you are free today; we may restrict ourselves to contemplation of less fraught manoeuvrings should you wish an afternoon less encumbered, but I do not like the prospect of leaving you alone with such thoughts. For all that you are the one bearing the standard of this gambit, you are not alone.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-17 17:04:35](#)**
(no subject)

I don't need or want reassurance - what I need is help. But I realise you can't help me unless you know exactly what it is that keeps surfacing, keeps making me question my readiness.

I warn you, though - it's stupid. It's so, so daft and stupid.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-17 17:09:28](#)**
(no subject)

By now you have seen enough of my secrets to know I have no room to judge. Not without being a hypocrite — something I find exceptionally distasteful.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-17 17:21:02](#)**
(no subject)

Right, but it doesn't make it any less daft and stupid.

I should be free in a few hours; I'll find you then.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-17 17:27:10](#)**
(no subject)

If it is lingering with you this firmly, it is likely neither daft nor stupid, no matter how trivial you believe others might find it.

And even if it is, you may call upon whatever help is within my power to give; you are owed that much, at least.

2014-03-17 09:19:00

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Severus was right; Hermione's batch of wolfsbane did the job.




Tasted different. Possibly better. I couldn't quite decide.

 [alt_lupin](#)

It's good to know there's a second person who can make it.




 [alt_sirius](#) at **2014-03-17 14:34:39**
(no subject)

I keep telling you he was lying about how it has to taste foul. Probably to cover up putting something in it like a bubble of saddle soap.

Though I really did think you were worrying over nothing. He might be a loathsome git but I doubt he'd have given you her potion without testing it to make sure it was right.


How's the headache?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2014-03-17 14:47:36**
(no subject)


Worse than usual, but I don't think that was the potion, I think it was the fact that we had both a moon and daylight going into the evening.



 [alt_sirius](#) at **2014-03-17 14:54:44**
(no subject)


Are you ready for tea? Though I warn you: Your choices are either to have Kreacher bring it up, or be bounced on by a certain miss who will insist on coming along if I bring it.



 **[alt_lupin](#)** at **[2014-03-17 15:43:24](#)**
(no subject)

I'll take you and the sprog.



 **[alt_sirius](#)** at **[2014-03-17 15:54:46](#)**
(no subject)

Coming up. Along with sandwiches.

We had an earnest talk about how not all situations are improved with bouncing. Not sure she really believes this is one of those times but we'll see.

[2014-03-17 12:40:00](#)

Private message to Ginny and Mum

Hey, Ginny-bean. I took a look at the calendar, and realised that your Easter hols are coming up in a few weeks. Were you planning on locking yourself up in the attic and revising for OWLs, or do you want to come up for a visit part of the time?



 **[alt_charlie](#)**

The week after Easter would be a bit better than the week leading up to Easter, but either one would work for me. I'm sure I could manage to remember enough of my OWLs to help you revise, and I'm sure a few of my mates up here would also be happy to help. And I'm pretty sure I can come up with enough interesting things to do so it wouldn't be "let's go spend a week with my favourite brother at his amazingly interesting job and then hide in the cabin and revise all the time".




 **[alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-17 16:58:14](#)**

Order Only Private message to Mum

And, to save you the trouble of reading between the lines: I'm planning on spending some of the Easter hols up at Hogwarts, in the Forest trying to make headway with the centaurs, but it occurred to me it might be best if you all didn't have to watch yourselves every second over hols with Ginny being at the Burrow.

And, well, I'd like to feel her out a bit to see if I can figure out what's going on in her head, and be a bit more confident that if she did overhear something she shouldn't, it wouldn't be as much of a disaster as it would be if Percy it could be.




 **[alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-18 12:32:39](#)**

Re: Order Only Private message to Mum

I think that's quite a good idea. I *would* like to get your perspective on her mindset. Thank you, Charlie.



 **[alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-19 20:40:00](#)**

Re: Order Only Private message to Mum

Yeah. I've been thinking about it a bit, and -- I know we can't be certain, not with how she's been in the past, but I think it's well past time we started dangling a few little bits of bait for her, and see what she does with them. Because if we do decide she's to be trusted, and let her in on the secret of the Order, we're going to have to do it carefully so she doesn't hear "we've been keeping this from you because you weren't trustworthy".

Because even if that's what we have been doing, for years, nobody wants to hear that. And the irony is, finding out that someone's been keeping a secret from you for that long can make you react in ways you otherwise wouldn't, and even if she is trustworthy -- and I'm not sure, not completely -- if we're not incredibly careful we might make her lash out in ways she'll regret later.

~~I've been thinking a lot about that kind of thing lately and~~

I hope she does want to come up for the visit. We'll see how things go.



 **[alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-18 12:31:41](#)**

(no subject)

Ginny, I know you've been working very hard on your OWLs, and I think a week away from the books can't hurt.

Charlie, thank you for the invitation! And for your kindness in looking out for your little sister.

2014-03-17 16:55:00

Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Draco



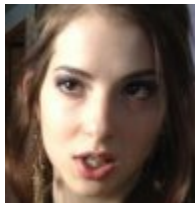
 **alt_hermione**

Mrs Longbottom asked me and Pansy to talk to the house-elves and find out what sort of magical compact binds them, in case we ever need them to work against a future Headmistress or Headmaster.

I tried to tell her that it just doesn't work like that. Isn't she pureblood? How is it possible she doesn't know that house-elves don't have written compacts? Or is it more that because she's a pureblood she's never even given a thought to what binds house-elves to their masters?

I mean, look at that miserable elf of Sirius's--he'd like nothing better than to stab Sirius in the heart and run to your mother, Draco--but he can't.

Now Pansy and I have to sweet-talk the elves to try to find out what the limits of their obedience are and it's a colossal waste of time.



 **alt_sally_anne** at **2014-03-17 22:23:58**
(no subject)

Did she grow up with elves? You're dead right about Creature, or whatever his name is. OH HOW MY GOOD OLD PUREBLOODED VOLDEMORT LOVING MISTRESS WOULD WEEP TO SEE FILTH TRACKING MUD ONTO HER CARPETING or whatever it was he was wailing the last time we were there. Did you point that out to her?

Though, Sirius knows that Creature hates him and is very, very careful about what orders he gives him. I mean, I assume he is, anyway. If there were a new Head they would assume that the Elves were on their side. The thing is, the Elves WOULD be on their side -- they weren't with Umbridge, but Umbridge was really a special case. Not least because the school itself didn't consider her the Head.

What elves mostly want is to take care of people. The ones at Hogwarts take care of students. But it would be pathetically easy for a new Head to say, 'Part of taking care of students is looking in

everyone's trunk for seditious material, because we need to protect the good students from the wicked ones!' ... I mean, they'd have to give the elves a really clear explanation of what they MEANT by seditious material, but they'd be happy to check everyone's trunk, and keeping them out of places is HARD.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-17 22:26:32](#)
(no subject)

Though you know it's probably not a terrible idea to put some thought into exactly what the risks would be, from the elves, if someone else took over as Head.

We've never put a lot of thought into making sure the elves don't spy on us, and if the Head were loyal... that could be really dangerous.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 02:46:57](#)
(no subject)

What, I wonder, is the point of such efforts? Most of us are leaving Hogwarts in just over a year. If a new evil Headmistress or Headmaster is actually appointed in that amount of time, we'll deal with them the way we dealt with the last one.

I know that Mrs Longbottom is just trying to be proactive and protective and all that but can't we please, once and for all, stop shoring up the brick and mortar that's crumbling around us and just *assassinate the Lord Protector*?

I know, I'm getting ahead of things. But I feel like it's never discussed, or not nearly enough.

And of course Mrs Longbottom's privilege blinds her to the realities of house-elfdom. Purebloods have never NOT had house elves, as far as collective memory goes. And house elves have never not had us - that's the other angle to think about.




 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-18 02:58:47](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I think if anyone could have thought of a way to kill him, they would have done it. Oh, wait: Someone *did* kill him. He *came back*, remember?

Anyway, you'll be gone in another year but Evelyn and Luna will still be here. And Hydra. And...and I do think Mrs Longbottom's right to worry about Professor McGonagall. But I don't think the house-elves will be nearly as much help as she thinks.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-18 03:04:35](#)**
(no subject)

You just said that talking to the house elves is a colossal waste of time. I'm AGREEING with you and you're chastising me for my *excellent* point that we need to focus our efforts elsewhere. Why are you even asking me for my advice and input if you just want to critique it every which way from Sunday?



 **[alt_hermione](#)** at **[2014-03-18 03:12:58](#)**
(no subject)

I'm not saying we shouldn't focus elsewhere! But it's not as if we can just walk right up to Voldemort and kill him. Maybe with one of Fred and George's joke hand buzzers? Or have you some brilliant idea in your pocket for when He puts the Mark on you?

And anyway, it's not that I don't understand why she'd *want* the house-elves but I was asking you because--oh, forget it.

Whenever there's anything to do with Grand Wizarding Tradition you always seem to know how everything's meant to work so I thought maybe, perhaps, you'd come up with an argument to Mrs L that would make sense to her. Obviously that's too much to ask while you're focusing on winning these ridiculous contests that require everyone to behave abominably, so fine. I never asked.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:23:02](#)
(no subject)

I never said I had all the answers or ideas, but we never talk about it - not nearly enough. Snape is the only person who's discussing my future on the council with me, the only one who's been honest about what that sacrifice will mean, and how important it is. Not that Mrs Longbottom hasn't tried - she has - but it isn't the same.

You overestimate how much I understand about the so-called Grand Wizarding Tradition. It's tradition not because it's deeply understood, but because that's just how it's always *been*. That's how they get you not to question it, after all.

And just tell her you don't want to do it. Just that. You're not her mudblood. You're not anyone's. If you don't want to do something, don't do it. Just don't.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-18 03:29:32](#)
(no subject)

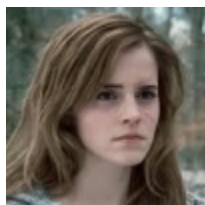
I'm not doing it because I'm a ~~mudbl~~ muggleborn. I'm doing it because she's the head of the Order and she asked me to do it.

Even if it's a colossal waste of time.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:31:09](#)
(no subject)

Yeah? Well enjoy that.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-18 03:31:25](#)
Private Message to Draco

And.

About the Council.

If there's something you want to discuss.... Well, you could, you know. I mean, I'd listen. It just always seems like you'd rather not.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:35:12](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

I don't want you to try to talk me out of it.




 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-18 03:37:50](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

But we've been through all that. I don't have to like it, any more than I like Mrs L asking me to talk to the bloody house-elves, but that doesn't mean I can't support *you* while not necessarily fancying the *choice* you've made.



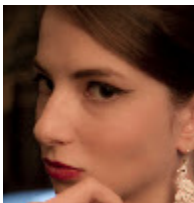
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:45:40](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Every once and a while I get this very certain feeling. It's a foreign feeling, but certain just the same... I'm going to fail. I'm going to fail if things don't - if they don't change. I can't explain what I mean by that, though - not exactly. Not to you.

I think I just need to go to sleep for a while, or something.

I didn't mean to start a row with you, though.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 03:11:12](#)

(no subject)

EXACTLY. Assassinating the Lord Protector, I mean.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 03:11:57](#)
(no subject)

Um.

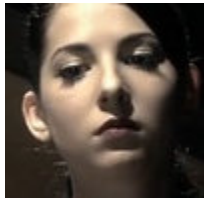
I mean, I agree with both of you.

~~You added those other things while I was~~



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:16:54](#)
(no subject)

I'm just sick of planning for all these "what if" scenarios. Forget about what ifs...we have a big "what is" that keeps getting postponed and delayed because of one reason for another. Even if an assassination attempt failed, at least Voldemort would know that people want to kill him. That it wasn't just Selwyn, but all sorts of people, from the lowest low-life to the most "loyal" council member. At least he would know that whatever he does, his days are numbered.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 03:33:44](#)
(no subject)

Most of us can't even get near him, is the thing.


You or Harry could try. But you're not even of age yet, and then if you fail (which -- no offense, you probably would) you'll be dead and useless to the Order for spying or anything else and for that matter it'll probably point Auror Lestrage toward all your friends, and

Yeah.

But

Mrs Longbottom doesn't like taking risks, she wants to talk and plan and try as hard as she possibly can to make these things NOT RISKY and meanwhile even if our people aren't dying, plenty of other people are. Only they're not in the Order, so.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:39:45](#)
(no subject)

I fully aware of the fact that I am being pushy, insistent, and unrealistic, but it's borne of a desire for more discussion, more planning - anything, even if none of it is feasible. Because isn't that the biggest goal of all? And don't we lose sight of it if we keep waiting until the time is right, or we have more intelligence, or whatever else?

Sorry. I'm really tired.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 03:49:08](#)
(no subject)

Well don't we have to deal with that thing Dumbledore told us about that let him come back to life? I mean there's no point in sacrificing our lives to kill him if he's just going to come back AGAIN.

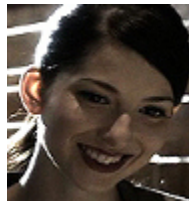
Then again I don't know what the Order is doing about THAT, either.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 03:57:11](#)
(no subject)

Horcrux.

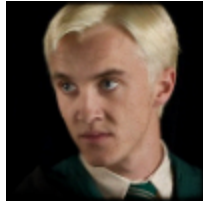
Well, he had to exist inside Bellatrix for a little while. That's got to be pretty miserable, right?




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 04:02:26](#)
(no subject)

I don't know if making him miserable is exactly productive.

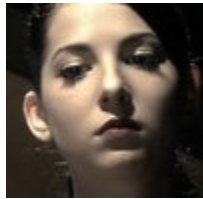
Besides, it almost certainly was the PEAK EXPERIENCE OF BELLATRIX'S LIFE.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 04:04:18](#)
(no subject)

And she has that ghastly silver finger to show for it.

But you know, at that moment, he was technically still alive, but he was considerably weakened and vulnerable. At the very least, we could discuss what we would do - could do - if that happened again.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 04:17:29](#)
(no subject)

Like kill Bellatrix?


I think I'd be in favour of that on general principles.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 04:18:14](#)
(no subject)

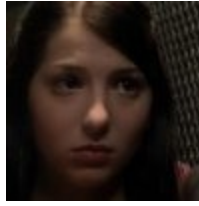
(It's rather odd calling her Bellatrix, I nearly always call her Auror LeStrange, even under the lock. I think part of me imagines she'll KNOW.)



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 04:29:50](#)
(no subject)

Ha - if you think you're nervous, imagine Hydra. Even if she does have the benefit of being a natural occlumens, it wasn't always so.

Kill *all* of his followers, while they're all worked up trying to restore him to his body. That's why we need someone on the inside, isn't it?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-18 04:33:50](#)
(no subject)

But that includes

Ugh.

Maybe. I guess.

~~What about your~~


2014-03-17 23:05:00

Private message to Daphne

Daphs,

You still up?



 [alt_draco](#)




 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-03-18 05:07:29**

(no subject)

Sort of. Why? Is anything wrong?



 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-03-18 05:08:01**

(no subject)

What are you doing?




 [alt_daphne](#) at **2014-03-18 05:08:47**

(no subject)

Reading in bed.

Why? What are you doing?




 [alt_draco](#) at **2014-03-18 05:10:04**

(no subject)

Not sleeping.

Think you can come down to the common room for a bit?




 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-18 05:11:55](#)
(no subject)

I really-

Oh, fine. What's the point in being a prefect, otherwise.


But whatever you want to see me about, it can't take long. We all have an early morning.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-18 05:12:59](#)
(no subject)

Oh, come on. People are going to look at you funny if you don't sneak out to meet your "future husband" once and a while.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-18 05:14:12](#)
(no subject)

Oh, ha-ha.

2014-03-18 08:32:00

Private message to Hydra

Hydra -



 [alt_bellatrix](#)

You may well note that both your father and I have refrained from communicating with you via the journals ever since your trial began. This is intentional on my part, for it would not do to impress upon your patrons that I am the one guiding your every move. (Does that small one, Moon, believe that his exchanges with Tosha go unnoticed, or that they are dismissed as pertaining solely to classroom query?) However, it would not do for your patrons to believe me entirely removed from the outcome of your initiation, either. If they possess any kind of insight at all, they will have already surmised that I am most definitely invested, and that only one outcome is possible. Nevertheless, you must prove that your actual worth is equal to that which is suggested by your family name and reputation.

As word of your legilimency skills spreads - as it no doubt already has - you will find that people approach you with caution. They will flatter you, be on their best behaviour, or else quickly find an excuse to depart your company. Expect to lose many friendships. People will not trust you, but it doesn't matter, for you will soon learn that no one can be trusted, anyway. Not even those you feel closest to. The only one you can trust is yourself, and your Lord. Remember that my gift came to me at a younger age than it did you, and these are lessons that I learned well, and learned early.

Knowing you as I do, I'm sure that you doubt my words of caution. Give it time and you will see for yourself that I am right. Examine the thoughts of those you admire most and you will soon discover that inside the mind of every person crouches a low and frightened animal that fights only for itself. All thoughts of community, tradition, and righteousness are ideals that crumble in the wake of its own base needs. As much as its mouth may verbalise the opposite, as much as its mind may even try to convince itself of the opposite, in the end it will always give in to that animal. I have the experience to know this, and know it well.

In truth, though, I do advise you to drop into the heads of your friends and little mates, now and again. You are in a unique position to monitor their changing adolescent thoughts as they are exposed to

the world around them. Bear in mind that a rebellious thought here or there does not a traitor make; patterns create bigger pictures, though, and bigger pictures leave us with stories. You will, at times, know someone else's story better than they do.

Which brings me to you, my daughter. I know very well how you see yourself, and how you fight to cast yourself as my opposite. Soft as I am hard, and cautious as I am bold. You do not see how in casting yourself as my opposite, you've built yourself entirely in my shadow. You have no mould, other than the one that made you. I saw what you were, as a child. I knew I would have to drive out the fear in you. That streak of sentimentality you inherited from your father and from my sister - I knew there was little to be done with that, but that shrinking, timid nature... I knew I could banish it. I could be the one to make you see you had no reason to fear anything.

Mind, there have been times when I wondered if I had failed, if your father's and aunt's interference hadn't spoiled you irreversibly. But when He chose you as His vessel, and when He used you to open the chamber, to wake the beast, I realised that I had succeeded, after all. For who else would be more perfect for Him than someone completely unafraid? Someone untainted by the immense greed of self-preservation?


You are fearless, as I am. There is no low, frightened animal inside you - it's long been dead because I killed it.

You can hate that about yourself, as I suspect you might. I advise you to forget about it. Those feelings are just echoes of a death rattle, and they will leave you in time.

Now, do continue to study those books that I've sent you. Should you have questions, I am willing to answer them - within reason. A degree of self-discovery and initiative is to be expected. After all, I had no one to tutor me, and I consider myself better off for it.

I await news of your progress.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-18 16:01:41](#)
(no subject)

That's a lot to think about, Mummy.

I shall say more when I've had time to ponder it further.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-19 03:31:50](#)
(no subject)

Mummy,

I suppose you can imagine that I didn't much enjoy reading this, but after thinking it over I do appreciate the frankness of what you've shared. Both about legilimency and about how you see me. As to the first, I'm already learning a lot. As to the second, it is true that I'm not afraid of the same things as other people are, which does make me different.

But what I find most significant about what you wrote is how I must prove that my worth is equal to my name and reputation. And how I should take initiative. I would like to do that. I don't wish to ask for Daddy's or Aunt Narcissa's help anymore. I want to be able to make my own decisions and if they are bad ones, to suffer whatever consequences I deserve. Only then can I be judged by Him for whatever it is I am.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_bellatrix](#) at [2014-03-19 03:39:09](#)
(no subject)

You've come to be quite the clever girl, haven't you, daughter?

It seems to me that you're well on your way to taking initiative. Or at least talking initiative.

Time will tell much - it always does.

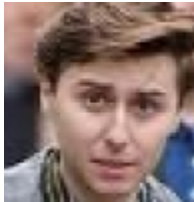
2014-03-18 10:02:00


Order Only - Private message to Justin



 [alt_hydra](#)

Did you see that my mother wrote me? She wrote me and it's all mad, just mad. She says things about legilimency and how I'll learn that everyone is a frightened animal, deep down, and how I have her to thank because my frightened animal is *dead* because she killed it when I was still young. Which I suppose must be about all the awful things she did when I was little, and not so little. The whole thing has my skin crawling all over and it only goes to show that she's *wrong*, I'm afraid all the time. I'm hiding in the loo because I feel I might be sick. Where are you, are you in Noble Arts? Astronomy? I forget. Can you leave?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-03-18 16:14:54**
(no subject)

Dux,

I saw she'd written but I was between lessons (Noble Arts and yes, I'm in Astronomy now)--I say, I did wonder but I thought we'd speak at lunch.


Which loo? I'll ask Pansy to take notes for me, what, and make some sort of excuse to Professor Siz.

She *is* wrong, love, but not because you're afraid. Because you're so much better than she could ever be.

I'll be there as soon as I can, sweetheart.


-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-03-18 16:16:23**
(no subject)

Off the charms corridor.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-03-19 03:56:28](#)
(no subject)

Hullo, love,


Feeling better? Do you know, I think Pansy actually thought I went to the hospital wing. I probably ought to ask Matron to say I was there, what!

Did you write back with the reply you showed me? I still think it's the best option, out of all of them.

I say, I'll have to ask Patil for her notes tomorrow when we meet up to revise Noble Arts. That ought to make her feel jolly well superiour for a time, which always seems to improve her mood, what.

-Justin



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-19 04:05:33](#)
(no subject)


Hello.

I feel a bit drained, really. I'm not sure if that's better or not.

I did write back with that reply. All she said in response was that I was clever, and as far as she could see, I was already taking initiative. I don't know, but she might suspect I'm up to something (she's always suspicious you know), yet she really couldn't object in any way without undermining everything she first wrote to me.

That's very generous of you, about Padma. I'm sorry you missed lessons for me, but thank you for doing so.



 [alt_justin](#) at [2014-03-19 04:15:05](#)
(no subject)

I'm not surprised. You were shaking when I got there; it had me jolly worried. I think all the things your mother did came rather crashing in on you all at once. But you *are* strong, Dux, and clever. You're cleverer than any bally old trick she can play on you.


And I'm not a bit concerned about missing the lessons, love.

I think you need a good sleep and see how you feel in the morning.
Is Jack there to keep you company?

Sweet dreams, darling.

-J



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-19 04:21:12](#)
(no subject)

Well I have to be strong, and clever. But I'm not the only one, and I have to remember that.

I really *do* wish we could marry over Easter. I know perfectly well why we can't, but it's so nice to think about. For someday.

I do need to sleep, and I have Jack next to me. You sleep well, too. Love you.

2014-03-18 15:56:00

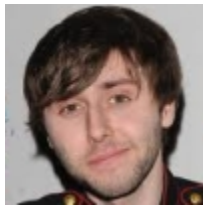
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin


Everything all right, then?

I've got your notes whenever you'd like them. Will you be at dinner, or should I run them by the Infirmary?



 [alt_pansy](#)




 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-03-19 00:38:13**
(no subject)

Pansy,

Thank you. I hope someone has good notes from Transfiguration and Ancient Runes, what; I hadn't expected Hydra would need me the whole afternoon but I say, so it goes.

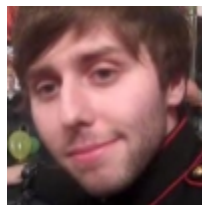
-Justin




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-03-19 03:32:43**
(no subject)

Oh, you're free to borrow the rest of mine -- I won't claim they're good, but you're welcome to them.

Anything else I can do?



 [alt_justin](#) at **2014-03-19 03:36:19**
(no subject)

Something is better than nothing, what!

I'm sure they'll be fine. And no, there's nothing else needed.

Cheers.

-J

2014-03-19 14:28:00

Order Only Private message to Alice

I must inform you — and I have chosen to do so privately so you may decide whom to inform and under what circumstances — that I do not believe there is a way to free Minerva of the geas upon her. Or if there is, it is well hidden enough that stumbling upon it will be a happy accident and not something we might hope for.

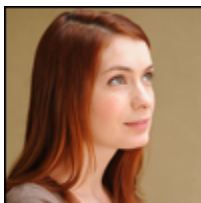



 **alt_severus**

I am limited, of course, in that I cannot study the artefact directly, nor can I speak with her about anything other than Milland's duties in any manner other than circumspectly, lest I risk her. (And here, I fear, is where her knowledge of me is a detriment; she knows full well that nothing I say or do has a single purpose, and so I am even more limited in what I dare.) I have endeavoured, in our weekly meetings about the state of the castle, to communicate that matters are being handled as well as we can. Though I cannot be certain, I believe she finds the notion reassuring, cold comfort though it might be.

I will keep working at the problem, though I am not hopeful.

Meanwhile, I am not at all certain when what feels like the entire cohort of Order children at Hogwarts collectively decided that I am to be their agony aunt, but I am certain that ~~Lily~~ someone is laughing at me because of it. I shall take you at your prior word that I may make myself free of Moddey, and unless you object, will plan to spend at least some of the Easter holidays. If you have ever cared a whit for me you will ensure the laboratory is free of anyone under the age of twenty.



 **alt_alice at 2014-03-20 00:32:43**
(no subject)

I feared as much.

This completely changes our capabilities. I worry about those of us trying for Council membership, and how they will be without her support, and I worry about the book too, and how difficult it would be for all of our members at Hogwarts to be able to function effectively if she were forced to step down or worse.


But oh, Severus, beyond all of that, this breaks my heart.

She's endured so much for so long, and to be treated in this way

And to not be able to do a damn thing

Thank you for giving her whatever comforts you can.



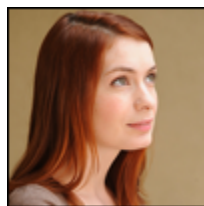
 **alt_severus** at [2014-03-20 01:31:04](#)
(no subject)


No one is more aware of the price of our failure to assist her than I. The look in her eye is simply heartbreaking.

And yet, she took this burden on herself, for the good of the cause, and although she almost certainly was not aware of the full price she would be called to pay, she did so willingly, despite knowing it was a role unsuited for the lion's sort of courage. Honour her ongoing sacrifice by refraining from wringing your hands about it; you know as well as I that she would find such sentiments intolerable.

While I maintain my position here you need not worry about the book; I fancy I am capable of constructing rationales for checking it that will not trip suspicion. As for the children, another year or so will see the majority of them free of risk, which ought reassure the strategist's mind if not the mother's. I will review our plans for what to do in event of disaster, and make certain they are solid.

And, of course, there is Albus to consider. I have not thought to ask him if the castle still responds to him as Headmaster or no.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-20 02:29:50](#)
(no subject)

Yes.

You're right.

I've been considering our options, and Albus's potential lingering authority is certainly one of them. I'll bring it up in my next meeting with him.

(As per his suggestion, we're to meet regularly -- every two or three weeks. I'm still processing our first meeting, and there's still quite a lot yet to cover -- he was very keen on his research and tended to shy away from everything else -- but that is quite a bit more than I expected, and we were able to clear up some lingering uncertainties right off.)

Although most of our members will be out in the world in a year or so, losing Hogwarts as a potential stronghold is a blow indeed.

Regardless. Reviewing safety protocol would be to all our benefits, yes. And. Might you be able to gain access to some of Minerva's hair? Poppy might have better luck than you, but it's worth looking into.

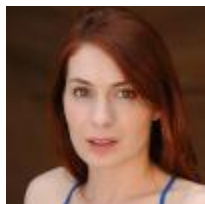



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-20 19:23:17](#)

(no subject)

For Polyjuice, I suppose? I am not certain the castle magics would be so easily fooled — they are old enough to be significantly more complex than most modern wards &mdash but I shall see what I might do. You are likely correct that Poppy would have more luck, however.

I am pleased you were able to have a productive meeting with Albus. If you are in need of someone to hold his feet to the fire, do let me know.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-20 20:38:40](#)


(no subject)

Not quite for the castle, no.

It might gain us a moment of advantage we would not otherwise have -- after all, Voldemort expects Minerva to be unable to act significantly against him.

It's one option of many, and the price would be high enough to give me significant pause -- but it is worth having the option as a possibility.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-20 21:53:43](#)**
(no subject)

I see. Yes, that would be a strategically sound option. I would, of course, volunteer, though I suspect you have already counted upon that.

There is another option, one I have been contemplating for some time — one I suppose I ought to have done from the start, though I was not thinking well enough at the time, and to you alone I will admit the past several years were necessary recovery.


We are counting on the children to be offered Council membership at the end of this farce, but nothing says they will be. If they are not, and if Minerva remains out of the picture, we will be in need of someone with access to the Dark Lord, ability to occlude well enough to deflect all suspicion, and the commitment necessary to strike without hesitation when the moment is fit. It would be possible for me to present myself to the Dark Lord as a crawling coward who feared His his might and thus hid for several years before returning to face his judgement. I cannot guarantee I could win my way back into the ranks of the Council, but I am confident I could at least avoid being executed outright, particularly if we constructed a collection of intelligence for me to hand over that would be useful and verifiable enough to win back his favour without being so useful as to endanger the Order.

The prospect is less suicidal than it sounds — there are secrets I have not told you about how matters developed fifteen years ago that I have promised myself I will keep between me and the one other person who knows them until I am placed in the ground, and they influence the matter heavily; I am confident I could at least make a reasonable attempt — but it is not a plan upon which to rely. Still, it is a possibility.

The other option, if Polyjuice is in play, is to impersonate one of his more trusted Councilmembers. Miss Lestrange, for instance, would be in a position to obtain her mother's hair. I will not suggest Mr Malfoy, as asking him to betray his father on our behalf would not succeed, but I do not know that Miss Lestrange would hesitate. And Mr Diggory is likely to have a fair chance at Dolohov's, and from what I can tell from gossip

overheard at the supper table, Dolohov's star is rising with the Dark Lord even as Malfoy's is falling.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-21 01:38:01](#)
(no subject)

Oh, Severus.

It's at times like these that words fail me utterly. They sound so hollow and trite when I come face to face with what I may need, and what you are willing to do.

I fear my heart is too heavy at the moment to give this appropriately critical examination. We might talk further about this over hols.

The additional polyjuice targets are a valid point. I'll make inquiries. However, there is some value in being able to anticipate that were there to be another attempt, Bellatrix would once again become the host -- using her might cast suspicion, and leave his choice uncertain.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-21 05:16:48](#)
(no subject)

From what you have said in the past, I am well aware you find leadership challenging in an organisation filled with Gryffindors always on quest for the next dragon to be slain or windmill against which to be tilted, and I know full well you consider your ability to restrain that lot from running off to commit suicide in the name of the cause, at the slightest provocation, to be one of your greatest achievements. (As well you should.)

But, Alice, you must understand: my death was bought and paid for, fifteen years ago, and these past three years have consisted of me seeking to bring about the most valuable place in which to spend it.

I am neither looking to hasten that moment nor unappreciative of each day in which I have been granted reprieve, nor do I claim my services have not been of use in the interim, but the vows I have sworn — and the vows I have

broken — and the choices I have made, to say nothing the sins I have committed and attempted to redeem, all combine to make this cause into the most important thing I have ever done or will do. There are far worse causes for which to die.


When someday you send me to that death — and I know you will, for you possess more capacity for making the hard decisions than many credit to you, which is the primary reason I respect you well enough to give you my support as the commander of this revolution rather than attempting to continue operating on my own — I do not wish you to agonise over it.

I know that you will no matter what I say now, for combined with your practicality as commander you possess a tender-hearted and empathic nature that is a constant marvel it does not prevent you from doing what needs to be done, but know this: I am living on borrowed time. I have been my entire adult life, since the moment I knelt at the Dark Lord's feet and swore obeisance unto death and beyond, since the moment I broke that vow to make another. I have long since come to terms with this fact and ceased to dwell upon it.

You will, undoubtedly, find this assessment too cold and calculating for your liking. I say it not to incite sympathy, nor to distress you, but rather to provide you with as much comfort as I might, as cold a comfort that might be. Upon that day I hope you will be able to recall this conversation and know that I not only absolve you in advance, but also that there is no scenario in which I would not be willing to do what needs to be done. Whatever that might be, and whatever sacrifices for which it might call.

I do not expect you to know what to say, and I am not looking for a response. Simply know, when you are making your calculations, that when a sacrifice becomes strategically necessary, you need not tie yourself in knots to weigh and measure who it must be. I have been a dead man for longer than I have been alive; I will not weep when the balance of that ledger comes due.




 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-20 22:01:18](#)**
(no subject)

I should clarify; should we reach the place where they are relevant, I will tell you those secrets I reference; your position as head of the Order means there are parts of them you likely ought to know.


The tale is not flattering, however, nor pleasant to recall. I would prefer to avoid them until necessary.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-21 01:35:48](#)**
(no subject)

I understand.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-20 00:36:54](#)**
(no subject)

And yes, please, come. We'll fix your usual set of rooms, and I will make certain that you are able to work undisturbed. You certainly deserve as much.

I will insist that you join me for tea from time to time, however. That is the price you pay for coming to visit, I'm afraid, and I will hold you to it.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-20 01:09:06](#)**
(no subject)

(And love, if two certain someones ever monopolise your time unnecessarily, please let me know and I can talk to them.)

I know that people their age can sometimes get a bit wrapped up in themselves, and don't always see the impact they can have on others.)




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-20 01:52:18](#)
(no subject)

And no, the children are not intolerable, and the majority of the tasks that appear to have fallen unto me are those that cannot be handed off to another anyway. And Miss Granger and Mr Malfoy may be my pupils in utterly dissimilar schools of tutelage, but they are, at least, equally possessed of the capacity for learning and the motivation to excel. It is not that teaching them is an unpleasant task — far from it; they are both an instructor's delight — simply that it has been so very long since I was that young, and the gulf between then and now is never so obvious as when Draco brings me problems that could have come from my own mouth, once upon a time.

(I am doing everything in my power to be the support for him that ~~Albus should have~~ I never stopped looking for, but there is only so far that will carry us, and of course he is not me; our stories are not the same. As I pray our fates will not be. And he is so painfully proud, and so frightfully committed, like an arrow aimed straight at the heart of this régime. I suppose I am simply feeling the strain of attempting to earn enough of his confidence to be of use to him; he is the very model of self-possession.)


But enough of that. Yes, I will not protest your tea. You, at least, can be trusted not to regale me with adolescent hormones or chatter about inconsequential things.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-20 02:02:09](#)
(no subject)

And you needn't listen with mother's ears rather than counsellor's; your offspring are no more burden than the rest of the lot. I am simply whinging. Of all the tasks in life I had ever envisioned falling to me, house mother was not one of them.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-20 02:19:03](#)**
(no subject)

It might not have been, but you do them a great service.

2014-03-19 16:40:00

Order Only: Ginny

This one's for the Hogwarts crew, if you lot have a few minutes.



 **alt_charlie**

I've invited Ginny up to the reserve over Easter hols, both because she said something in passing about feeling a bit left out for never having been invited up except with the whole family and because I want to try to get a bit more of an idea what's going on in her head. I'm not planning on telling her any of the big secrets, or even hinting at the fact the Order exists or anything, but I'd really like to get a better sense of how she might react if the worst happened and she wound up overhearing something she shouldn't, for instance.

Do any of you have any reasons why you don't think she'd be trustworthy? I know there's been some issues in the past with her not being as careful as she might, and that's definitely something to keep in mind, but has she said or done anything recently where any of you lot could see that made you think she has (or hasn't) bought in to the Protectorate's garbage? You all see her so much more than I do, and I'd like to know anything you think might be useful, whether it's big or tiny. (You can write me privately if you're more comfortable that way. I won't share it.)

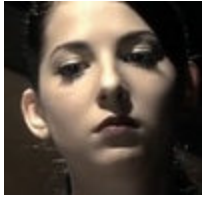
Oh, and Alice -- whichever week Ginny's not visiting is when I'll be going back to have it out with the centaurs again. I'll let you know when that is. I want to steal Ragnik and bring him with me, if Melli can spare him for the day. Maybe showing them proof that we're putting our money where our mouths are on the interspecies cooperation idea will sway them a bit. (Of course, that's assuming Ragnik isn't going to tell them how miserable it is working with us, but last time I talked with him, Griphook said Ragnik's doing fine._



 **alt_charlie** at **2014-03-19 21:06:08**

Private message to Tonks

And let me put in my claim on you for one of those days somewhere in here somewhere. We still have a date for a nap.




 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-19 21:18:22](#)**
(no subject)

She's been a lot better this year. We gave her a galleon. And she's the one who had the copy of 'Pure Hunger' we read aloud.

I mean, I think if she DID find out....she might be completely horrified but she wouldn't run to MLE because that would mean betraying her family (other than Percy). You know? She might not fancy risking her life to protect muggles, but she'd risk her life to protect her brothers.

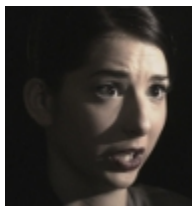



 **[alt_charlie](#)** at **[2014-03-19 21:26:08](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. That's what I'm hoping.

The thing I'm worried about is how -- you know when EVERYBODY but one person knows a secret, and even if there was a good reason for that person not to know the secret, when you are ready to tell them about it you have to do it really carefully so they don't wind up wanting to do something horrible with the secret just out of spite because they feel betrayed that you didn't think they were trustworthy?

Yeah. That's the thing I'm worried about.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-19 21:31:49](#)**
Private message to Charlie

Well, hopefully no one will say anything DAFT about her where she can see it.


It would be worse if she were, oh, Harry's girlfriend or Draco's or Justin's, you know? Draco could understand why no one told him sooner, but it made him really cross with Pansy. It made him feel like he never REALLY knew her.

Anyway when Pansy found out she went and read and one thing she told me later was that she was glad that I had NEVER said anything unkind about her. But, you know: I knew that eventually I'd be able to convince the others and we'd let her on the lock. So I

was always careful what I said, because I KNEW eventually she'd be reading it.

Just how awkward did some of you feel when Draco joined the Order?



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-19 21:47:25](#)

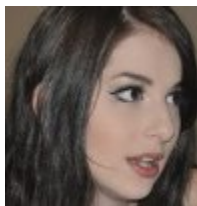
Re: Private message to Charlie

Oh, Merlin, 'awkward' isn't the right word for it. I'd just spent a lot of ink carefully explaining to Alice why I thought it was a bad idea to invite Malfoy and Lestrage to join us when, surprise!

Thanks, Professor Dumbledore! I'd say I hope he hadn't read back, except, come on, I know you all did. (I'd say I should write to him and apologise for getting it wrong, except somehow I don't think that would go over all that well either.)

But, yeah. I don't think she'd run off and rat us out either, but I can imagine how Malfoy must have felt finding out that Pansy had this whole secret life he didn't know about, and that's kind of what I mean.

(And don't think I didn't notice you calling me daft, there. But if and when we are ready to tell her, I'll tell her all of this to her face anyway. And if she's ready to know the rest of it, she'll understand.)

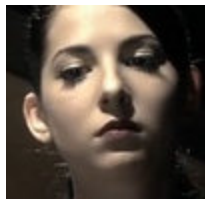


 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-19 22:15:04](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie

I wasn't calling you daft! I was just worrying that other people might say something daft, and of course if you swear her in properly she'll be able to read everything we say here.

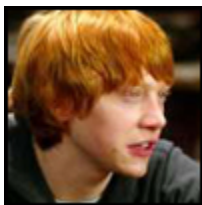
Anyway she won't mind terribly if people say unkind things about what she was like before last year; she had some cursed tiara that made her hate her family, she told me a bit about it when we went shopping in August. Just people should be careful what they say about her NOW.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-19 22:16:16](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie

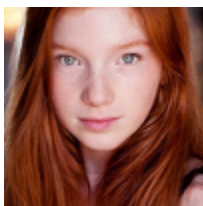
Oh, and of course we all read back. So Hydra got to see that Sirius thought she was a spy for Bellatrix -- she's used to that, though. And Draco got to see that everyone hated his father. Which shouldn't have been a surprise to him, honestly, but it's different seeing it all spelled out.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-19 23:20:20](#)

(no subject)

As far as I'm concerned, I think we should tell her about the Order straight out and invite her in. She's ready for that.



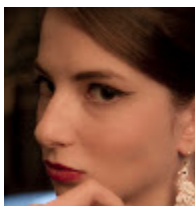
 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-20 00:27:57](#)

(no subject)

I agree. Especially after this past year.

I think it might be difficult for her to keep the Order a secret from Honoria, but not because she can't keep secrets, only because it would be difficult for anybody, if that makes sense.

But we've had some conversations at Galleon meetings and the like, and I think that even if she weren't a Weasley, she'd be someone I'd consider.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-20 00:33:06](#)

(no subject)

Well one of their reasons for wanting to hold off with us last year was that they didn't want to distract us with years' worth of fascinating secret journal entries when most of us were supposed to be revising for OWLs.

Now Ginny's revising for OWLs. I mean, I wish I could say it didn't matter for me, but I got an A in History of Magic; I could have easily


got an E if I'd spent any time at all revising for it. (But, it was History of Magic so no one living cares. Fortunately.)



 **alt_gredforge** at [2014-03-20 13:50:30](#)
(no subject)

We think so, too.




 **alt_bill** at [2014-03-20 16:11:21](#)
Private message to Ron Weasley

There is much to be said for bringing her in under the umbrella of Order safety, and I think you and your friends' opinions should have the most weight, given that you interact with her the most frequently. Not sure if Mum will agree, but I'll work on bringing her around.

Do you think she can help you with whatever Order projects you have going on at Hogwarts? She's a great flyer, and we always need those.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-03-19 23:54:59](#)
Private Message to Charlie

I don't know what Sally Anne's telling you, but I think she'd say the same. She's spent some time with Ginny. A little.

I've spent loads more time with her this year than for a long time.

I don't want Mum to hear it this way--or from me, at all, really--but Ginny's had some things happen that weren't her fault at all. Ugh. Okay, that sounds like something else than it is. Sorry. It was a curse, not-

There was a cursed object, a tiara, that she got hold of or it got hold of her after she got to school, and she had it until last year when Umbridge-

She doesn't have it anymore, though. And it's made everything different. It was doing really horrible things to her and making her think, well. It made her think the rest of us were embarrassing and

ridiculous, and that she could be everything and have everything she wanted if it just weren't for the stupid lot of us pulling her down.

But you know, she was never like that before she came to school. Not at all. And now when she talks about it, she says she can remember what the curse made her feel like, but those things she thought and said don't make any sense to her any more, now that the thing's gone.

And, y'know, I sort of think she understands things more than she would if none of it had happened to her. I mean, she had all those thoughts about how things would be better if she wasn't one of us. D'you remember when she wanted to be called Ginny W--just W, not Weasley? So, yeah, the tiara made her really open to the sort of things the Protectorate wants people to think and run after, but she fought it, even when it was strongest. So, y'know, she's thought about all of those things, and she doesn't want them. She got there a different way than I did, but she's as ready as I was. I know it.

Well, okay. I believe it.

And it's worth trying even if we have to Obliviate her. If we get a good chance to tell her over hols, I don't think we should wait. Summer's the latest I'd put it off.

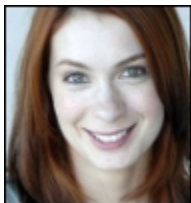


 **alt_charlie** at [2014-03-20 01:16:20](#)

Re: Private Message to Charlie

I heard a bit of that, yeah. Sally-Anne was just telling me the rest. I didn't know the details, but it explains a lot.

And, yeah, if that's true, the fact that she still didn't go totally round the twist while she had the thing makes me a lot more willing to believe in her.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-20 01:02:37](#)


(no subject)

Yes, I'm sure Melli would be fine with letting him go for a day. As long as neither party will be overly offended at having to interact with one another on principle, I think it's a lovely idea.

From what I've been told, he's been doing some fascinating work lately that experiments with incorporating stone and metal -- I'm not sure whether it'll come to anything, but it's certainly interesting to think about.

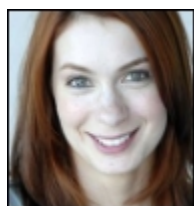
And yes, I fully support testing the waters with Ginny over hols. Thank you for taking that on, Charlie.




 **alt_charlie** at [2014-03-20 01:17:06](#)
(no subject)

Great. I'll stop in some time between then and now and have a word with him, then.


Okay, and cuddle the babies.



 **alt_alice** at [2014-03-20 02:36:48](#)
(no subject)

You're more than welcome to them.



 **alt_molly** at [2014-03-20 16:17:15](#)
Private message to Charlie

Honestly, I'm torn. But it's clear that ignorance won't protect her.

I wish I could--I don't know. Abstain from the vote. Wrap her in cotton wadding forever. Have her growing up somewhere other than this terrible Protectorate.

It's nonsensical, because you're all my children.

But she's my *baby*.

Except don't you dare go telling her I said that.



 **alt_charlie** at [2014-03-21 05:38:27](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie

I know what you mean, Mum. It's all right, you don't have to try to explain it more than that. And no, I won't say anything to anybody, especially to her.

But -- oh, it's horrible of me to say this. And I don't mean it the way it might sound. But you have to stop trying to protect all of us so much like this. We're your children, yes, and we all know that you love us, and we all know how much you love us, and we love you too. But you raised us to be the sort of people who look at this sort of thing and know that it's our fight too. And when you try to protect us by keeping us out of that fight, you're saying we aren't supposed to be that kind of people.

If we all try to always stay safe, and we all try to keep all the people that we love safe forever, we aren't ever going to get anywhere.

And I don't want to live in this world forever, even if that means I'm less safe. I want to be doing something to make the world I live in less horrible. You and Dad raised me to be the kind of person who would.



 **alt_molly** at [2014-03-23 17:55:46](#)

Re: Private message to Charlie

Believe it or not, I do know that, Charlie. Your father always used to say that being a parent is a rather unique sort of job, because if you've done it right, eventually you don't feel quite so needed anymore. Which is not to mean to say that I won't always feel a connection with you all, as you leave home, but sometimes it's difficult when a Mum realises that the children she has spent years protecting and loving are willingly stepping into danger.

I wonder if it might have been easier for me to do if Arthur had lived. He was always the one who was so firm about reminding me of the necessity of allowing you all to stand on your own two feet. And then to get on the broom and fly.

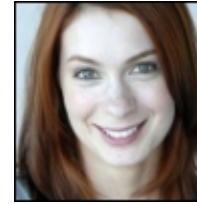
Yet, losing him makes my fears worse, I suppose. I loved him and I lost him, and it all but gutted me. The thought of losing any of you just seems unbearable.

But I *am* trying. I even try to think of it as my way of honouring Arthur, and his hopes and wishes for all of you. He would have been very happy to see Ginny join the Order.

2014-03-19 18:13:00

ORDER ONLY

Since Charlie's been talking about Easter Hols, I figure it would be a good idea to think through other ways we might use our time wisely.



 [alt_alice](#)

Last year, we managed to get together several revision sessions for upcoming OWLs and Apparation lessons. Is there any additional training that might be useful for people? I was thinking we might have extra defence sessions at the outdoors course at Moddey Dhoo for those who can get away for an hour or two, and if there was another specific training that you might want, please let us know so that we can make arrangements. And Luna, is there anything we can help you with as you prepare for your OWLs?

Harry, Draco, Hydra, I know it will be more difficult for you all to get away regularly during hols, but I was wondering if we might be able to schedule a meeting with Ron and Pansy at Grimmauld (using Tea Appreciation as a cover) to talk further about the council challenge -- security measures, any ways we could further provide immediate support, and thinking about potential future options and goals depending on how things go for you all this term.

We might also have to have a larger Order meeting depending on everyone's availability -- we certainly have enough cauldrons on the fire to keep track of, and it may be our best chance to talk as a group before the end of term.

Good hunting tomorrow.



 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-03-20 03:12:48**

Private Message to Albus Dumbledore

Albus --

First of all, I really did appreciate our conversation the other day. It was long overdue, and I'm so glad we sat down together.

Thinking ahead to our next meeting -- I'm still working through potential usefulness of the modified Fidelius. One of the things I'll certainly want to spend some time on would be your thoughts

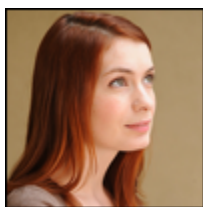
regarding how to best train other people in casting it. We've only used it the once, and our ability to replicate our results with potentially inexperienced casters is highly uncertain. How might we hedge our bets? How could they prepare without casting the full spell?


Looking through my notes about your horcrux research, I'm interested in further exploring the resurrection rite that Harry observed from a tactical perspective -- sorting out how the rite might be significantly disrupted, and what you think the results of that would be.

What if the person housing his soul were to be killed before or during the rite? What if the potion were to be tampered with? Is there a truly critical moment of the ceremony where his soul might be the most vulnerable, and what might we do about it? I know it's far from a permanent solution, but being able to potentially significantly delay the inevitable or diminish his power would be useful, and something we could be in a position to accomplish if we play our cards carefully.

Also -- does the horcrux have to be accessed or used in any way before the rite, or does it simply have to exist passively somewhere?

I know you might not have any answers for me right away, but I wanted to let you know what I've been chewing over since we spoke last.



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-03-20 04:52:10**

Private Message to Justin

While I'm thinking about it -- you mentioned you might have some potential names to put forward for consideration for Order membership around Easter hols. There's no immediate rush, of course, but I'd be interested in talking further over hols, perhaps.


Is there anyone else besides Ginny that you or the rest of the Hogwarts contingent had in mind?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-20 14:41:26](#)
(no subject)

Well, I come of age during hols. I imagine that before the 17th I won't be able to get away from the Strettons but after that, I can go to 12GP or Moddey or anywhere and extra defence sessions sound like a good idea to me.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-20 18:02:51](#)
(no subject)

Excellent.

Very good to hear.

I'm sure you're looking forward to seeing your mum as well. Let me know if you need me to help arrange anything.

[2014-03-20 11:27:00](#)

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred



 [alt_pansy](#)

The Spring catalog is also quite lovely. I think all the things we've added from the new line will really bring in new customers. And it looks like you've sorted things out with the Puffskein colours well enough, too. How on earth did you get them to wear little bunny ears and bow-ties for the photographs? They're absolutely hilarious. *Tell* me you're selling the ears and ties as accessories, because people will want to buy them.

I was hoping over Easter hols, we might all schedule a business dinner with Powell's, perhaps arrange for a demonstration after of some fireworks -- wedding themed and general party themed. If we mention the possibility of an exclusive contract, that might make a difference, too -- if Kelpington's is lukewarm, let's go for someone who would actually be interested in what we have to offer.

I hope you lot are having loads of fun flying around today. Please be careful.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **[2014-03-20 18:48:58](#)**

Private Message to George

The bunny ears were your idea, weren't they?
Brilliant.

Everyone's in a delightfully silly mood today. Sue is bright pink, and Ginny's already hexed at least one person who was trying their luck.

Do you know, you were one of my very first kisses? Three years ago to the day. It was a bit of a whirlwind, and I'm trying to remember whether I kissed you first or Fred, but I think it's rather fitting, don't you?




 [alt_george](#) at [2014-03-20 20:13:00](#)

Re: Private Message to George

Of course the bunny ears were my idea! My partner is too staid and boring for such frivolity. (As I write this, I am hiding underneath the counter because he is threatening me with a blast of JetGoo in the face cos I nicked the last of the ham at lunch. Never fear, his tempers never last for long, and Hitty has already gone out to get some more. Ham that is, not JetGoo.)

Whew, can't say whether you first kissed Fred or me (and after all, a gentleman doesn't kiss and tell!) but that day was simply a whirl of people kissing gingers, and yet I remember you. Solemn as an egg, but one of the first Slytherins to dare step over the line separating Gryffindors and Slytherins. Well done, you. Been stepping over lines ever since, haven't you?



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-20 20:30:34](#)

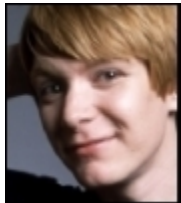
Re: Private Message to George

Well, fortune favours the bold. I suppose that can be applied to kissing, business, and getting the last of the ham.

Speaking of being bold, I have a feeling I could use a bit of luck this year.

Fancy meeting at the Shrieking shack for an hour or two tonight?

I know you're busy later this afternoon, and if you're too knackered tonight, I can wait for Hogsmeade next weekend. But I'd like to see you, and celebrate today properly -- after all, you're the ginger I'd like to kiss the most.




 [alt_george](#) at [2014-03-20 21:09:44](#)

Re: Private Message to George

I think I can sneak away about eight. That'll let us get in at least one good kiss -- or more! before you have to get back for curfew.




 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-20 21:11:25](#)**

Re: Private Message to George

Good.

I'll see you then.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-21 05:17:44](#)**

Re: Private Message to George

Curfew is horribly inconvenient.

Happy equinox, George.

2014-03-20 15:43:00

Spring Trads

Not that I object to these quaint traditions but someone really ought to tell the ickles that they are made up.



 **alt_zacharias**

Some little second-year just tried to convince me she's ginger.

She's really, really not. Nice try.



 **alt_daphne** at **2014-03-20 21:27:35**

(no subject)

Oh, Smith, quit trying to show off to everyone that someone wants to snog you.



 **alt_zacharias** at **2014-03-20 22:11:19**

(no subject)

It's naught to do with showing off, Daphs; the silly thing didn't bother to tell me who she is! Does she think I know the name of every girl in school?



 **alt_daphne** at **2014-03-20 22:23:08**

(no subject)

Actually, she probably does think that.

[2014-03-20 16:08:00](#)

Upcoming scheduling



 **[alt_sinistra](#)**

5th and 7th students:

Revision sessions are now scheduled and posted in the usual places. As usual, additional sessions are possible at mutually agreeable times, and the projection stones not being used in this week's classes are available for brief loans for your own study work. I also have sample questions from past exams available for review.

Upcoming events:

The Astronomy Guild will be hosting another lecture evening on Monday, April 21st at 7pm. This one will focus on the theory of the music of the spheres, and will include both music and charmwork by way of illustration. Students, as this is during holidays, I certainly don't expect any of you to attend. If you'd like to, please see me for more details, and you would be quite welcome.



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-03-20 20:17:53](#)**

Private message to Raz

Raz, love -

Lecture finally sorted, as you can see. Just got the notes from Georg about the last bits.

I would be delighted if you'd escort me to this one. If you'd like, that is. And, as it happens, I'd have a use for your charming self beyond the usual pleasure of your company.

I am hoping Tosha can make it - I'd like to introduce him to Chimera when they've got time to talk - but I think you'd find things to enjoy in the topic, too. (Less arithmancy, anyway, than comets.)

Also, got the invitations for our party (or rather, Tallie picked them up). Which means we really ought to figure out who precisely we're inviting. Project for the weekend, yeah? Then I can give her a list Tuesday.



 **alt_rabastan** at [2014-03-20 20:40:19](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

I'm glad to see the lecture is sorted, love. As long as it fits with your guild machinations, I would love to escort you to the next lecture.

As for the invitations to our party, I think we may still need to bat the specifics around some more. I'm leaning toward the more general, open invites rather than a carefully crafted political list. Let others do their own clique recruitment in an open field rather than make us do the work for them. From our earlier conversations I think it fits us better to take a more neutral stance rather than supporting one faction too strongly.



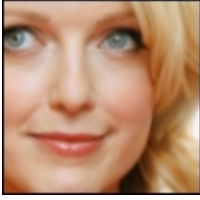
 **alt_sinistra** at [2014-03-20 20:50:38](#)

Re: Private message to Raz

It wasn't *just* the guild machinations last time, love. Also the desire to have someone able to deal sensibly with chaos handy in case there was chaos. (Which there wasn't, but since the only planning for chaos that seems to work is assuming that there will be some, and being delighted when there isn't, that isn't much help.)

As to our party, you know I'm happy with more open. And really, Spence is big enough that one can hope that the people who don't want to talk to each other can politely avoid each other. (This may be a wrong sort of hope, but I have a few illusions left. Apparently.)

You thought more about inviting the students in the challenge, and whether we want any others? Or how that changes the overall list for the party? I think my issue is not so much with the inclusion part of this (I *am* a badger), but with the part where it necessitates at least some exclusion, because clearly, we are not having the entire Protectorate over for drinks and dessert.



 **alt_sinistra** at [2014-03-20 20:59:22](#)

Private message to Tosha

You are very much welcome at the lecture (and in particular, would like to introduce you to someone specific, and we didn't manage it at the wedding. Getting you both in the same place at the same time is surprisingly tricky.)

Raz has already said he's delighted to come. And I've got people I'd like him to be distractingly charming at, beyond the parts where I like having him handy, and where he really was so very good about staying put and being a sensible adult at Hogwarts last time. I also think he's just amused by watching my machinations, as he keeps calling them.

(I understand the Guild. Very much easier for me to deal with than most groups of people, for all they can be cranky, curmudgeonly, and difficult to point in the same direction for more than a minute at a time. Which, given our professional obsession with many of the tools of navigation is rather direly amusing, really.)

Also, I have questions on that latest translation exercise for you, which I'm mostly noting here so I remember to ask you about it tomorrow. (Unless you'd prefer me to drop off my attempts before then.) I think it's an idiom problem, but I'm not entirely sure, because I'm finding the jussive both entirely fascinating and entirely opaque. Anyway, it's not nearly as elegant in phrasing as I think it ought to be, and I can't figure out why.



 **alt_antonin** at [2014-03-20 22:50:33](#)

Re: Private message to Tosha

Oh dear. Yes, that is a mood that English speakers tend to have trouble with; it only exists in English in the barest of fragments, and mostly historical. The use of 'shall' instead of 'will' in certain older forms is among the last surviving pieces of it, actually, although that distinction has mostly fallen out of use. Even English speakers who think about grammar at an exceptionally detailed level are not likely to identify the remnants of the mood, though when it is used improperly the astute will find that the sentence reads incorrectly and they aren't certain why.

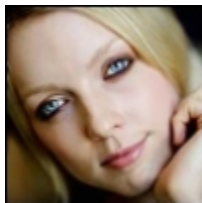
The best example I can think of offhand is from Ellandra's soliloquy in Black's *Parmenides* --

Let he who thinks me weak fear naught until
I strike again. I will have vengeance.
And when my kin's redeemed and I depart
None shall follow.

-- which is, now that I think of it, a double usage: "let he [...] fear", in which 'fear' is in the jussive mood indicating a command aimed at the acolytes, and "none shall follow", likewise a command: unlike "none will follow", which would be Ellandra predicting the future, "none shall follow", in the jussive mood, serves as a command to her followers. And is understood as such, thus setting up Parmenides' misunderstanding in act four.

Does that help at all? I know I did not explain it very well the other night -- I am finding that half the finer points I am teaching you are things I never examined closely, simply absorbed over time.

As to the rest -- yes, I will come, presuming I do not have even more work dumped on my shoulders before then. Which reminds me to thank Mr Diggory; he has meant the difference between sinking and swimming, these past few months.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-03-21 00:04:59](#)

Re: Private message to Tosha

I do quite enjoy giving you the excuse to drop into teaching mode, Toshenka, even if I am now rather wanting to spend my evening re-reading *Parmenides* rather than doing my marking. (I've always been rather fond of that bit of Altheia's in Act One where she's trying to figure out exactly what's going on in the world. I went through a period after Alde introduced me to the play of saying the bit that ends "Some small part shall remain of me." over and over to myself when I got frustrated.)

Your explanation helps rather a lot as well and I will see if I can find time for another go at the translation before tomorrow night. Both directions, mind, because the English is imprecise whether one starts or ends with it.

I do find that I'm finding the subtleties of the grammar more and more intriguing, even if they're not actually relevant to my initial goal of reading astronomical texts. (Or of making comments to you in staff meetings, but really, those are generally linguistically simple. And when I mess them up, you can still guess what I was trying to say.)

I'm reminded of something Georg explained to me, once, about Attic Greek, that there's a voice there (I forget the name for it - medium voice? central voice?) that is about saying you're doing something for your own benefit. Never could decide if that meant the language was designed by people who would have been Slytherins had they been born in other times and other places, or whether it was a language designed by people who had to deal with such, but it always seemed rather a useful tool in a language.

As to Cedric, ah, well, he is decidedly useful, and I'm glad he's been such a help to you. Especially as you've been busier and busier again with one thing and another.

2014-03-20 17:10:00

Order Only - forest challenge

We haven't much time this go around, so I'll get straight to it.



 [alt_draco](#)

To all you adults who do or have spent time at Hogwarts, what do you know about the layout of the Forbidden Forest? Or of the migration patterns of the creatures living there? The insight of those of you who have taught Care of Magical Creatures is particularly welcome. Mr Macnair, I seem to recall that you were always coming in and out of the Forest, and that you were always ~~growling~~ cautioning us to stay out of there. Have you any advice?

Here's our task:

Happy Vernal Equinox!

We know you have all been waiting impatiently for the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Why not celebrate with a walk in the woods?

Sometime before supper is served on Sunday, go to the Forbidden Forest and bring back an artefact belonging to a dangerous magical creature you find there. For example, a fire crab shell, a thestral's tail, an ashwinder egg, an acromantula fang, perhaps a werewolf's head. We'd even accept a Centaur's bow - if you can manage to capture one.

Beware of trolls. Good luck.



 [alt_macnair](#) at **2014-03-20 23:24:40**

(no subject)

My advice now is the same as it was then. Stay out.

Seems that's not an option. Let me have a look at my old field notes and I'll tell you more.

You suppose they're going to check to see you've actually visited the Forest? Could have an easier time getting a fire crab shell from a novelty shop, or don't these young council members know that fire crabs are native to Fiji and not hanging about Scotland? Also, the

thestrals in the Forest are semi-tame. I used them myself for lessons, several times. Reckon they'd not willingly give up their tail, though.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-20 23:28:36](#)

(no subject)

The more dangerous the creature, the more impressive the artefact, the higher the score, I'm sure. It probably wouldn't be too hard to find some strands of thestral hair tangled up in the shrubbery, but that would be particularly low-hanging fruit.



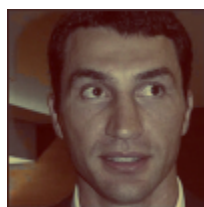
 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-20 23:42:26](#)

(no subject)

Be very careful. And even though this is a competition, let the rest of them know to be careful, if you can. If you wander into centaur territory without permission, they'll defend it, and their penalties for interlopers are severe -- they'll kill you as easily as look at you if they decide to treat you as adults rather than children.

Mac, what do you think, the southwest edge is probably the best option? There's the acromantula colony, but you don't want to go near that with less than a dozen wands on hand.

And if you do find thestral hair in the shrubbery, grab whatever you can. Melli can always use some for wands.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2014-03-20 23:58:15](#)

(no subject)

Best option? Safest. Probably not best, for these purposes.

Keep an eye out for unicorn hair, too.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-21 00:06:50](#)
(no subject)

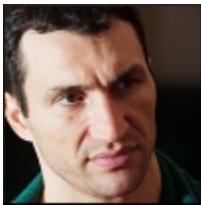
I'm not planning to tell anyone to be careful who can't already read what I've written here. If they don't already know how to be careful by now that's on them, not me.


It sounds to me as if a centaur artefact would be the most impressive. And dangerous.



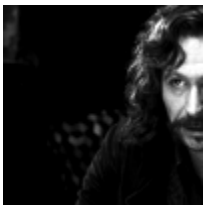
 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-21 01:38:07](#)
(no subject)


It would, and if that's what you want, I bet you Mac or I could negotiate you an arrowhead. Or Professor Dumbledore, he's on good enough terms with them. But don't try on your own, not without an introduction first. I'm not kidding when I say they'll kill you without you ever seeing them coming, no matter how good you are.



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2014-03-20 23:53:23](#)
(no subject)

Well, you won't find any lethifolds or basilisks in the Forest, so count those out. Werewolves, too, as the full moon was Sunday (unless Remus will let you borrow his head. Reckon not). The most dangerous creatures to heavily populate the Forest are centaurs (actually classified as XXXX, not XXXXX, but their cleverness and pride gives them an upgrade, if you ask me) and acromantulae. Less dangerous but still nothing to sneeze at are the thestrals and trolls.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-20 23:55:16](#)
(no subject)

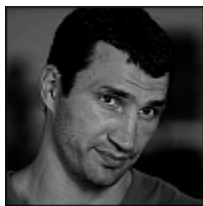
No more willingly than Remus would give up his head - whether it's currently in the form of a wolf's or not.

We spent loads of time in the forest but it was years ago. Mac, you

know better than I, I'm sure, but at least when we were going there regularly the spiders generally kept to their own area deep in the western sectors - and higher up than the forest floor, so they were relatively easy to avoid.

The centaurs, though ... they move about. I think in spring they move southeast, toward the castle. They'll also certainly be out tonight and the next couple of nights, watching the skies. Mac's right about avoiding them at all costs, though.

There ... is a native guide, of sorts. If you can find him. Right, Mac?



 [alt_macnair](#) at [2014-03-20 23:57:16](#)

(no subject)

What's he made this time, you reckon?

It's bound to be dangerous.

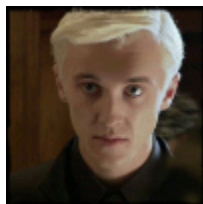


 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-21 00:00:16](#)

(no subject)

Dunno, but it's bound to be at least as troublesome as those skrewts.

I told Harry I'd come up to watch the Quidditch; if you lot liked, I could go along as Padfoot and help make sure we skirt the worst danger on the way to him. I figure he can probably help negotiate with Aragog and maybe get you all some acromantula venom. Or a skrewt stinger or something.



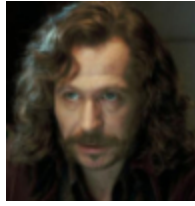
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-21 00:09:40](#)


(no subject)

I've no idea who you're talking about.

Unless - not that giant, Haggard. He's still around?

And what exactly is a skrewt?



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-21 00:15:25](#)
(no subject)


Rubeus Hagrid, half-giant, and he was a member of the Order back in the day - a loyal one, too.

There's not a better man to keep one company in that forest - not even Mac knows those grounds the way Hagrid does.

And a skrewt is a nightmare. One of Hagrid's, er, hobbies, is experimental breeding.

Mind you, a skrewt is plenty dangerous when it's alive. I'm not sure it'd qualify once it's dead, though.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-21 00:17:23](#)
(no subject)


Though while we're on the subject, we should probably ask him about harvesting their blast sacs so Fu can turn them into incendiaries



 [alt_gredforge](#) at [2014-03-21 01:00:56](#)
(no subject)


Now you're talking our kind of language.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-21 00:18:16](#)
(no subject)

I'd say it sounds promising, except if I don't know what a skrewt is, the sponsors won't, either. That might make it more impressive to them, or decidedly less.



 **[alt_luna](#)** at **[2014-03-21 01:06:15](#)**


(no subject)

I wonder if the judges would be impressed by some unicorn droppings?

They're supposed to glow faintly in the dark.

I don't think there is anything distinctive about any other kinds of droppings you could find in the Forbidden Forest, however.



 **[alt_fred](#)** at **[2014-03-21 01:57:10](#)**

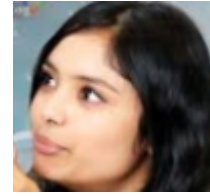
(no subject)

What'll be done with the artifacts afterwards?
Presented to the Lord Protector?

How I'd love to be a fly on the wall to observe Percy presenting His Ponciness with an elaborately wrapped box of unicorn doo doo.

2014-03-20 17:20:00

Private Message to Blaise and Seamus



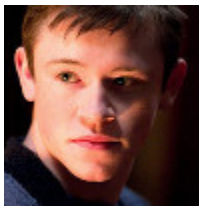
What do you think about that owl?

I don't fancy chopping off a werewolf's *head*, that's for sure. Or meeting up with acromantulae.

 [alt_padma](#)

But...it doesn't *say* we can't work together. I know it's a bit naff to suggest teamwork at this stage but...it's also the Forbidden Forest. It probably wouldn't be a bad idea to have someone watching out for one's back.

We could try tomorrow as soon as lessons are over, when half the Slytherin challengers are in Quidditch practice. That way there'll be at least a couple hours of light still. And if we don't find anything suitable we could go back on Sunday.



 [alt_seamus](#) at **2014-03-21 02:33:35**

(no subject)

I quite agree. And yes, I'd much rather go in daylight.



 [alt_blaise](#) at **2014-03-21 13:37:32**

(no subject)

Weather's decent, at least. Hope it holds.

We should go as soon as we can after Defence. Don't bring anything you don't need to the lesson. I don't want to have to wait while you take things back to R tower.

[2014-03-20 20:44:00](#)

Private message to Auror Lamont

There's a custom that's been gaining ground at Hogwarts the past few years, that kissing a ginger on the first day of spring is supposed to bring luck.



 **[alt_bill](#)**

I strongly suspect my unscrupulous (and strongly ginger) brothers Fred and George in having a hand in getting this bogus custom started.

But despite knowing something about its dubious origins, I can't help wondering whether *two* gingers kissing means *double* the good luck.

Would you care (and are you free) to put this theory to the test? Or to go *elsewhere* to put it to the test? Because Merlin knows I can use all the luck I can get.

Am at Doughty Conduit. Will be here another hour. Perhaps I'll see you, perhaps I won't. Your choice. Or perhaps you won't even see this until after midnight, rendering the question moot, and I'll just have to limp along with the amount of luck I have already.

Cheers.




 **[alt_rachel](#) at [2014-03-21 02:07:28](#)**

(no subject)

I can always use some extra luck. I'll be there in a bit.




 **[alt_rachel](#) at [2014-03-21 02:08:21](#)**

(no subject)

You really think I'm a ginger? I've always thought of myself as a brunette, at least in most light.



 **[alt_bill](#)** at **[2014-03-21 02:12:27](#)**
(no subject)


Well, there's plenty of ginger in strong sunlight. Or warm lamplight.

I've noticed.

Good enough for experimenting, I think.

See you soon.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-03-21 03:12:02](#)**
(no subject)

Sorry I got delayed. I hope you didn't give up on me.

I'll see you soon.

2014-03-20 20:47:00

Private Message to Narcissa

Arrived Durness, about two and a half hours ago. Bode insistent we go straight to the site while he ran tests on the stone. Nothing conclusive as yet.



 **alt_lucius**

Likely heading to St David's in the morning before returning to New London. Our Lord will wish an update at Court.

(Interesting to note that when things go wrong, many who might otherwise have sneered default to their previous wont - looking for someone to hide behind, doubtless, but nonetheless amusing to watch.)

Now to the apparently impossible task of finding a decent meal in this wasteland.




 **alt_narcissa** at **2014-03-21 02:07:12**
(no subject)

Of course they do. When push comes to shove, they know you are still higher in Our Lord's regard than they are, even if He chooses to give others a chance. Only the short-sighted think otherwise.

Have they given you a comfortable room, at least? And does Bode have any theories as to what went wrong?



 **alt_lucius** at **2014-03-21 02:27:14**
(no subject)

It's a room. Don't know that I'd go as far as call it 'comfortable.'

Currently he's hoping to rise before dawn to check the settings on the menhir, on the theory that it's misaligned.

Not convinced he's not simply making excuses.

2014-03-20 21:14:00


Private message to Lucius Malfoy

I saw you posted. Is everything okay? I was making some evening plans, but if you're on your way back...



 [alt_rachel](#)



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2014-03-21 02:30:09**


(no subject)

Everything is fine - well, not precisely, but there is no immediate threat.

Unfortunately, much as I would love to resume approximately where we left, it will not be possible this evening.

Unless you care to Apparate to the furthest reach of the realm, to what amounts to little more than a thatched cottage masquerading as a credible hotel. While that would be a welcome visitation, I confess that the place has little to recommend itself.



 [alt_rachel](#) at **2014-03-21 02:32:16**

(no subject)

You make it sound ever so appealing.

What happened? Or maybe I should ask, is there anyone I should be assiduously avoiding tomorrow?



 [alt_lucius](#) at **2014-03-21 02:47:42**

(no subject)


As far as I can tell, my dear, your presence would be the only thing that could make it in any way appealing. But perhaps it's best if you go about your ... other plans. Your arrival could not be anything but conspicuous.

Currently, I believe what 'happened' is that Bode has bungled his calculations on the latest stone going live. You're aware that to-day is the equinox, of course: The St David's location was expected to flare (to the extent they were ever 'expected' to do anything, mind)

but Mysteries received report of disturbances in northern Scotland instead.


We were despatched to this ... wasteland ... to determine whether the flare was the result of tampering or what Bode now has the audacity to call 'normal' activation.



 [alt_rachel](#) at [2014-03-21 02:50:56](#)
(no subject)

Oh, for Merlin's sake. Why are they making you all spend the night up there? Misery loves company?




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-03-21 02:56:59](#)
(no subject)

It's over 650 miles from New London - and off the Floo network. You may be accustomed to Apparating that far multiple times in a day but given that Bode intends more investigation at dawn, the prospect of spending the night seemed ... preferable to making the trip thrice within twelve hours.

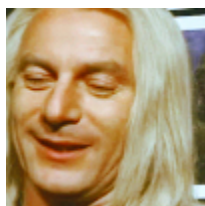
Though at present, that may have been a mistaken decision.




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

Well, the damage wrought by a hard bed and a bad meal can generally be fixed without the services of a Healer, unlike splinching, so ... it was certainly the wise decision.

You'll have to remember the name of that hotel. You can recommend it to people you dislike, for their next holiday.




 [alt_lucius](#) at [2014-03-21 03:15:14](#)
(no subject)

Ha, and I thought you were a Ravenclaw. Clearly you've spent too much time among Slytherins.

Though it would be perfect for our friend Mulciber.

But you probably want to go on with your evening. Go and meet Mr Weasley.



 **[alt_rachel](#)** at **[2014-03-21 03:20:05](#)**
(no subject)

I guess that means Mulciber didn't get called up there with you? Pity. I was hoping I wouldn't have to see him tomorrow morning.

NOT that I blame Mysteries for preferring to manage without him.

I'll cross my fingers for an uninterrupted afternoon next week.

2014-03-21 07:02:00

Order Only: Well, that was a waste of time




 [alt_kingsley](#)

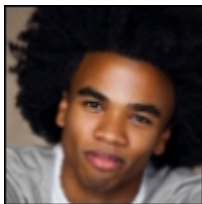
I'm sorry, Alice. Dorcas and Caradoc and I started roughly in the neighbourhood of the last Octoboros we'd spotted, near the beginning of February, but our team saw and felt nothing out of the usual. We thought the next one would be toward the western side of the island, so we headed north, flying along the ley line. Had to veer a few times to avoid some heavily populated areas, but all was quiet.


I know the George, Fred and Lee were out flying, too, and maybe some others as well. Did anyone find anything?



 [alt_jeremy](#) at [2014-03-21 15:14:26](#)
(no subject)

Nothing. Had a nice flight, felt good to get out a bit, but nothing in the Octoboros department or on the leys.



 [alt_lee](#) at [2014-03-21 15:41:37](#)
(no subject)

We had a bit more luck, but -

We followed the ley up to Pembrokeshire, I guess. Near St David's, once we could look at the maps later. We found what definitely seems to be one of those stones, but it looked like there was someone there, so we couldn't get too close. Just one person, though.

Did some more flying, to see if we could see anything else, but nothing. And nothing like that pulsing anyone's described. The ley felt a bit odd, maybe, but it's not like we know that bit of country that well, so it was hard to tell if there was anything special, y'know?

Mrs Longbottom - I've got a copy of the map now, and I'll bring it sometime this afternoon between jobs.

2014-03-21 07:10:00

Order Only: Octoboros news

I met with Rachel Brodie last night, who arrived late, but came bearing a spot of news, which could be important. It seems that the Department of Mysteries is all in a pother because 'something happened in the far north,' specifically Northern Scotland, that wasn't supposed to happen. They've sent out a contingent to investigate, including some high level individuals from outside the department (Draco, I believe your father is one of them), which seems to consist mostly of milling around and asking each other *what the hell just happened?* One theory is bungled calculations of some sort (Bode's name was mentioned). Rachel was able to confirm for me that this was about an Octoboros. (Although she didn't use that word, and neither did I. Just 'a stone').




 [alt_bill](#)

Kingsley, I just saw your post.

You *were* hunting in the correct direction. They expected the one 'at St David's' to flare next. That must be St David's, at the tip of Wales?

But instead, an Octoboros just went off out of sequence.



 [alt_frank](#) at [2014-03-21 19:58:52](#)

(no subject)

(That explains it, then. I was wondering why we weren't getting anything, especially after what Tonks and Mr Kingsley described.)




 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-21 19:59:45](#)

Private Message to Frank and Colin

Hello, love. Any idea of when you'll both be back?

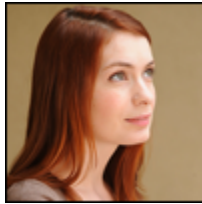



 **[alt_frank](#) at 2014-03-21 20:01:14**

Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

(Might be as late as after dinner, Mrs L. I've brought some food with just in case. Mr L said he'd be at the course with Fu for another couple of hours, and then we're going to go through some

drills too.)



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-03-21 20:01:52**


Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

I see.

Don't burn yourselves out, now.

That applies to all of you.



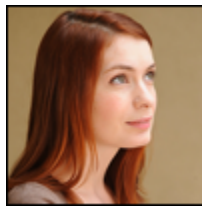
 **[alt_frank](#) at 2014-03-21 20:04:26**

Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

(It's fine. We'll be careful.

Are you

Anything I can do?)




 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-03-21 20:05:57**

Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

Just keep doing what you have been, love. You've been an enormous help.



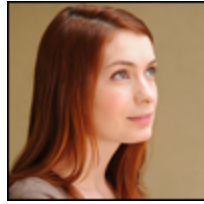
 **[alt_frank](#) at 2014-03-21 20:07:00**


Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

(I meant is there anything I can do to help you.

It's just

I noticed you weren't quite yourself yesterday, is all.)



 **[alt_alice](#) at 2014-03-21 20:10:30**

Re: Private Message to Frank and Colin

How very kind of you.

It's nothing time won't mend.

If I do have a need, I'll be sure to let you know. Right now, though, you're doing exactly what you ought, and I'm grateful for it.

Thank you, Colin.




 **[alt_charlie](#) at 2014-03-22 02:49:13**

Private message to Bill

So how are you and she doing, anyway?



 **[alt_bill](#) at 2014-03-23 21:00:25**

Re: Private message to Bill

Slowly and cautiously. I do second-guess myself continually whenever I've spent time with her, although I'm getting over the flinching fear she might betray us. I would think she's given us enough good information to convince even the most skeptical among us that her true loyalty isn't to the Protectorate.

She's still involved with Lucius Malfoy, damn him. Who, ironically, is one of her best sources of information--including what I've passed on here, in fact--so I can hardly ask her to give him up.

I do wish--well. I suppose it helps not to think too far in the future.

I think her Animagus form is quite perfect, really. Prickly on the outside, and she hides her vulnerabilities--but she has 'em.

I do like her. As to whether she likes me or not--I think so, but I wonder about her reasons why sometimes.

[2014-03-21 11:17:00](#)

Private Message to Seamus and Blaise

Ugh, every time I think I'm about to settle in I get the shudders from that...thing.

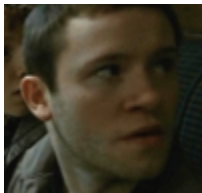



I thought the one at the zoo was the only one of its kind but--obviously not.

 **[alt_padma](#)**

Well. I'm glad we have Sunday to go back. Maybe this time with an extra torch; they seemed not to like fire.

Honestly, I thought the spiders were the grossest thing we'd encounter. Not that I wanted to encounter them! But that? Was way, way worse.




 **[alt_seamus](#)** at **[2014-03-22 04:56:01](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I tried charming my eyebrows to re-grow. No luck yet. Maybe I should try to get Lav to help me.

Repulsive, terrifying, explosive. Just the thing to impress our sponsors, if we could manage to kill one and bring it back.



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-03-22 04:59:35](#)**
(no subject)

Right.

....

I can't believe we're actually talking about *willingly* going back in there to *find* one of those things.


Though I really do think we wounded the one that ran away. Not sure how; must have been when it reared up.

I just gave myself the collywobbles again.

Had to be ten feet long. And that stinger thing!


Yeah, it's perfect for this. Except that it's *disgusting!*



 **alt_seamus** at [2014-03-22 05:03:22](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, it was when it reared up. I think it was less armored on the belly, so the spells we cast did some damage. Not enough to keep it from running away, but I wasn't inclined to try to stop it.




 **alt_padma** at [2014-03-22 05:13:15](#)
(no subject)

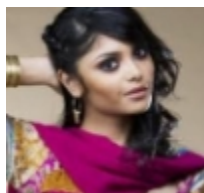
I was also thinking.... Lares likes a bit of a lie-in on Sundays. If we go early enough we might be able to avoid him on our way in.


I still can't believe how smug he sounded when he took 20 points from Slytherin. Honestly, he's being a prat for no good reason.



 **alt_seamus** at [2014-03-22 05:16:57](#)
(no subject)

Well, at least he let us off easier. You poor, misguided Ravenclaw, led into misbehavior by the Gryffindor and Slytherin, no doubt due to (almost) no fault of your own.



 **alt_padma** at [2014-03-22 05:22:56](#)
Private Message to Seamus

Well.

He didn't want to take too many points from his own house, especially not before a Quidditch match between Ravenclaw and Slytherin.

But. I think there's more to it. Sometimes I think he wishes he and I were still dating.

2014-03-21 13:12:00

Private Message to Artemus Ross

The flowers are just wonderful! I still get all pink every time I look at them on my bedside table.



I remember how very surprised and pleased I was when you came up to me for the first time last year. I'd seen you about at arithmancy revision sessions, but I didn't know that you knew I existed, and it was so sweet that you were noticing me for what I'd written, not just the colour of my hair.

 [alt_evelyn](#)

It's been a wonderful year. One of the best I've ever had.

Thank you for taking a chance with me.

Love,

Your Evie.

2014-03-21 17:45:00

A Show of School Support



 [alt_daphne](#)

Today I was just thinking about how this time last year we were one day away from staging the *Hogwarts Through the Ages* Revue, and how nervous and excited I and many others were for that performance. The Revue was special not just because it celebrated the history of our noble institution, but also because it brought together students from all corners of the school, whether they were dancing center stage, painting sets, or providing the music. And while this school year is, in many ways, better than last year, I do miss the spirit that the Revue generated.

Which has me thinking about how while the rest of us are busy studying, revising, attending club meetings, and so forth, a small, select number of others are doing the same while *also* giving their all to show our Lord Protector that this next generation has, within it, the most loyal, inventive, brave, and cunning wizards and witches that Britain has ever seen. No disrespect to previous generations is intended by that statement - no indeed! If it weren't for your impeccable tutelage and example, none of us would be able to fulfill our potential half so well, you may be assured of that!


How can those of us not competing for a coveted spot on the Lord's council show our support and gratitude to those who are testing their ingenuity and valor, day after day?

I propose that each house form a support squad whose purpose is to accommodate the competitors in their quest to join the Lord's council. This accommodation may take on the form of simple, cheering comforts, such as tasty treats, uplifting music, or inspirational poems, or it may include providing more straightforward assistance, such as fetching the competitor lunch if he or she's too busy to make it down to the Great Hall, or running an errand that they simply have no time for.

While the rest of us watch on as our competitors tackle their challenges, it's important to remember that Hogwarts is a mirror of the greater Protectorate. Just as the public supports the Lord's council as best they can, so should we support those who would seek to be on that council.

I've already formed a support squad for the Slytherin competitors, and I have stepped forward as its Chair. Perhaps those of you in other houses will consider doing the same? Meanwhile, all of you competitors in Slytherin can count on accommodation from the Slytherin support squad. Any Slytherins reading, please consider joining the support squad! If you are interested in contributing, please see me, Daphne Greengrass, straight away.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-22 00:26:33](#)**
(no subject)

That's very kind and thoughtful of you, Daphne. I hope you'll get help from others, because Slytherin has the most competitors and that would be a lot of work if it all fell to you.


From,
Hydra



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-03-22 00:33:21](#)**
(no subject)

Don't worry a bit about that, Hydra. I've already got Astoria on the squad, of course ~~whether she likes it or not~~, along with her dorm-mates, Victoria and Stacia. And then there's your cousin Remy, along with Corey and Darius. Oh, and Elsie and Antigone and Troy and Erasmus, naturally. And Millie. No doubt even more will volunteer after they read this!




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-22 00:34:09](#)**
(no subject)

I'm sure you're right.

From,
Hydra



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-22 00:39:23](#)


Order Only Private Message to Draco

Daphne reminds me an awful lot of Auntie Narcissa, sometimes. Just in how she very much fits the part of a council wife, which is interesting because her own mother isn't one. It makes me wonder if she's been practising since back when she fancied Auror Crouch.

How much is she really like Auntie, though? I know she has a galleon, but how does she feel the way things are, do you know?

Oh, and I'm sorry! I didn't mean to make it sound as if you're dating your own mother.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-22 00:51:36](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco


Ugh Ah, I'd forgotten that she used to fancy Auror Crouch. I'm quite certain she's long over that by now.

Daphne knows of the secret galleon group, and she knows there's an even more secret group that exists beyond that one, but aside from that, nothing else. That's at her own request - she says she'd rather not know anything that could actually implicate anyone else.

She also knows that I plan to prove my way into the council, and that I will follow my own agenda there, not the Lord Protector's. But again, no specifics. I'm not sure she wants to know them. It would force her to contemplate deeply, and in ways she'd rather not. At least not now.

She'd be an idiot not to sense the tinge of rebellion underpinning all these things, but we never really discuss it. It's a bit nice that way, in fact. There's understanding without the sharing, or the moaning on and on about the tragedy of it all.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-22 01:20:21](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

That's very interesting, though I can't imagine being content with only knowing a little bit. The curiosity would drive me mad. I do wonder if she will be able to remain deliberately half-informed for very much longer, though.

I also can't imagine not sharing everything with the person I was dating. It would feel very lonely, I think.



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-22 01:32:13](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

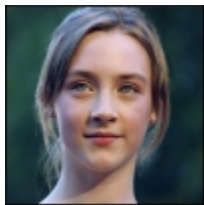
You should try to have more imagination.

Believe it or not, there are many perfectly content couples who don't share everything with each other. Harry and Katie have done well, haven't they?

Consider, too, that your romance with Finch-Fletchley might have run its course by now if it weren't perpetually fueled by the dramas and secrets between you.

Imagine that the Lord Protector doesn't exist and we live in a world where muggleborns go to Hogwarts as they ought to. Imagine that you are just Hydra rather than Auror Lestrangle's daughter, and he's just one of many muggleborn students. You might fancy him, certainly, just as he might fancy you. You might even date for a while. But do you really think you'd be secretly engaged? At the age of fifteen, no less?

I don't think that you would.



 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-22 01:40:48](#)

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

Why would I bother to imagine all that? I've got to live in the world we've got now, haven't I.


You're right, though. Justin and I might not be together if things were different. But I don't think it makes any

difference whether two people are brought together because of something frivolous, like enjoying the same music, or by something of life-or-death significance. Or of they come together because the other one won't ask too many questions.

Just like you and Daphne, or Harry and Katie.

I just know that neither you nor Harry are in love, and I suppose I feel sorry for you.




 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-03-22 01:49:14**

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

Love doesn't necessarily make you any stronger, Hydra, and if you're not careful, it will make you weak. So take your pity elsewhere, where it's needed and wanted.

And if you've been feeling out inside my head to see whether I'm in *love* or not, I'll thank you to stop straight away. While it's inappropriate for dozens of reasons - we're related, ew.




 **[alt_hydra](#) at 2014-03-22 01:51:11**

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

Well, sorry. You needn't get cross.

And I'm not feeling out inside your head at all. I wouldn't do that without your permission.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-03-22 01:51:57**

Re: Order Only Private Message to Draco

Good.



 **[alt_draco](#) at 2014-03-22 00:54:47**

Private message to Daphne

Rallying hard for Head Girl, I see.

I'd say that you're a sure bet, except you know they'll

never choose a Head Boy and Head Girl from the same house, and since someone from Slytherin is *always* chosen, year after year...your biggest competition is me.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 00:59:23](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

Oh, hush - or no tasty treats for you!

Yes, one of us will be either Head Boy or Head Girl. If it's me who's chosen, then Boy will go to either Moon or Finnigan (despite Macmillan being pureblooded, I think Finnigan's being a competitor gives him the edge). If it's you who's chosen, then Girl will be Padma, for sure.

Now, you don't *really* want to work that closely with Padma for a whole year, do you?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-22 01:02:24](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

I can handle Padma just fine.

You're also not considering that they might break tradition and make Harry Head Boy. Head Student, maybe. Now that would be something to talk about.

Truth told, while I would *prefer* to be Head Boy rather than not, it's not quite so very important to me as it once was.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 01:42:45](#)


Re: Private message to Daphne

No, I imagine that it's not.

Which is why you're going to stand aside and let me shine, yes? Oh, I knew I could count on you!

You're such a gentleman...



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-22 01:55:12](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

You don't need me to stand aside in order to shine. You do it very well all on your own.

By the way, Daphs... if you ever want to share anything with me... I mean, *really* share, you can. You know I can't promise the same from myself, but that doesn't mean I can't be there for you. If you need it.

Just so you know.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 01:57:45](#)

Re: Private message to Daphne

Thank you for that offer, Draco. I already knew that, really, but thank you just the same.

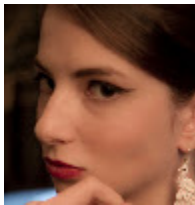


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 02:15:34](#)

Private message to Sally Anne

You'll join the support squad for Slytherin, won't you?

And do you think anyone will start a squad for Gryffindor, so that Ron gets proper support? Perhaps I'll try and see if Lavender will do it.. she might whinge but if I imply it's her prefect-ly duty she might come 'round.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 03:39:58](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

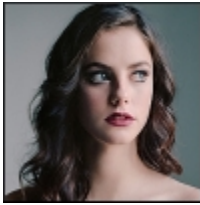
Of course I will. Maybe tell Lavender that Evelyn Longbottom offered but you wanted to give Lavender the opportunity to be in the leadership role. Honestly, I think Demelza Robins would be better at this than Lavender, she's less of an airhead. But if you want Lavender you could also nudge Moon to twist her arm. You know he'll think this is the best idea ever.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 03:41:08](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

(Because while quite honestly I'm not sure he fancies a seat on the council, he'll quite enjoy having people fetching him things, don't you think?)



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 16:16:52](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Oh, there's no reason it needs to be Lav. You're right, Demelza would be better.

I never thought I'd see Padma compete so hard for a place at the Lord's side. Especially after her brother - well, it's simply surprising, is all.

Can you imagine if she ends up both on the council *and* Head Girl?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 16:23:24](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

That seems like a terrible idea, honestly; how could she possibly devote sufficient attention to Head Girl duties if she's Council membership to attend to? (As well as NEWTs -- she's planning to stand for every exam.) I hope the Headmistress takes that issue into consideration.



 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 16:26:07](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Well if there's anyone who believes themselves capable of all that, it would be Padma. Even Draco's told me that being Head Boy isn't so very important to him anymore.

You can tell from her comment below that she's *really* feeling the strain of all this.



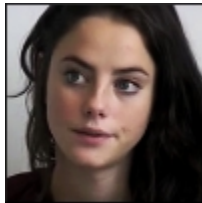
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 16:34:38](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

I don't think Padma really believes she's capable of all of it. I think she believes she OUGHT to be, and that admitting she's not would cause Sandoval to scorn her, which she can't bear.

Draco's from an old pureblood family, one of the most influential families in the Protectorate -- he's really got nothing to prove. Padma, well, her family's certainly pure but they're in a different category, she can't afford to slack off, or at least that's what she thinks.

I wonder if she knows what she actually wants?

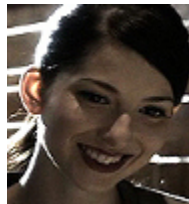


 [alt_daphne](#) at [2014-03-22 16:51:16](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Oh, probably not.

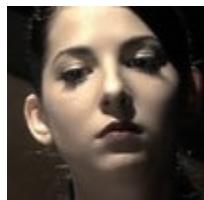
I mean, does anyone?



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 17:01:03](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Well, I know I want to be a Healer. And that helps, you know, knowing what to focus on.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-22 17:02:31](#)

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Of course, if all of Professor Dolohov's influence and Madam Pomfrey's support and Pansy's offers of generous donations fail to get me into an apprenticeship programme I'll be right back at the beginning, trying to figure out what to do next.

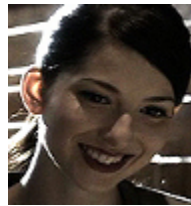


 **[alt_daphne](#) at 2014-03-22 17:20:32**

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

And I want to be a stage actress, and with Grandmother's influence I don't see that as beyond my reach at all. But no one sees that as a terribly impressive aspiration, except those who appreciate the arts.

I'm sorry that your future hinges on so many delicate factors, Sally Anne, but I hope you can at least take comfort in being surrounded by people who want to see you achieve your goals.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-03-22 17:31:57**

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

It's a tremendous comfort, actually.

I will always be grateful that the Hat put me in Slytherin. It's where I've 'found my true friends,' or whatever the song said, and not just Pansy.

I wish the school as a whole had more respect for the arts. I never thought of acting as particularly hard until I tried it, because good actors make it look so easy! NEVER AGAIN. You're brilliant at it, though.



 **[alt_padma](#) at 2014-03-22 04:39:41**

(no subject)

Cheers, Daphs. Trust you to find ways to make any occasion into a social activity, and gracefully, too, of course.


I'm quite pleased and gratified to say that Ravenclaw Corner are taking excellent care of myself and Tamblyn, and have been since the start. Oh, and Moon, of course, as well. But of course, more assistance and encouragement is always welcome!

There are bound to be some people helping across house lines, too, for those who are mates with candidates outside their own houses. I don't think you meant to imply that your support squad was entirely

partisan, but some people might take it that way.

Anyway, it's good to see that the importance of our quest is understood by all. Particularly when the competition's difficulty increases, as I'm sure it will, perhaps the support squad will be willing to supply ready sources for *all* the candidates' needs. I'm sure we'd all greatly appreciate it, and if nothing else, we appreciate everyone understanding that part of these tests is to discover each of our limits, so we all have to push ourselves to the very edges in our loyalty to Our Lord.



 **[alt_daphne](#)** at **[2014-03-22 16:13:10](#)**
(no subject)

You needn't thank me at all.

Oh, no, the Slytherin support squad is quite partisan in some ways. Though anyone should feel free to offer assistance to anyone they like, Slytherin has the most competitors by far and thus deserves our foremost attention. Indeed, I don't think the founders would have divided us up into four separate houses if they hadn't intended there to be some friendly competition between us! But we're all here under the same banner, which is precisely why I hope that those in other houses will take my message under consideration.

2014-03-23 02:39:00

Private message to Barty

I've gone to bed, solnyshko, but I've let Berry know to keep the fire alive in the library and be ready to fix you a meal, on the off chance you are able to free yourself at such a time to make coming home make more sense than not.



 **alt_antonin**

Otherwise, I will hope to see you tomorrow (and, of course, completely understand if I do not -- one must strike while the iron is hot, and from what you have said, the iron is hot). Let me know whether to expect you for Sunday supper, if you can do so without violating field discipline of course.

Luck, my dear.




 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2014-03-23 13:34:55**
(no subject)

Still trailing and biding my time.

Supper possible.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-03-24 04:08:38**
(no subject)

I am sorry that I missed you before I had to return to the castle, but I have my fingers crossed that your patience will pay off soon.

As it turns out, I missed quite the drama here. It appears this ridiculous competition has claimed its first casualty -- the girl is alive, but that's about the best that can be said. (Centaurus. Someone had the bright idea to send the children into the Forest to retrieve trophies.) I am quite irate; the girl is one of my better NEWTs, for all she likes to divert others' attention from her brains, and it's looking as though she might not recover before the end of the year. Is it too much to ask for there to be a year that does not disrupt our academics somehow? Bah.

At any rate, Berry has a batch of your favourite biscuits waiting for

you; if you are not able to make it home, do give her a call at a quiet moment and claim them.



 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-03-24 04:31:52](#)**
(no subject)


Sorry. Still engaged.

There's more to be gained by following and watching than by bringing this one to ground.

Have the Centaurs forgotten that Our Lord's tolerance shouldn't be put to the test? Manx the taxidermist would relish the opportunity if you'd send him a carcass.

Excellent biscuits, by the way.



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-03-24 04:55:19](#)**
(no subject)

You ought to ask Berry to make them more often; she does enjoy the chance to spoil you. And I am afraid I do not give her nearly enough to do.

As for the centaurs, I would like nothing more than to establish my displeasure, but Our Lord believes they will be useful in His work. I am not, thankfully, the one he has asked to woo them -- yet; I ought not say that aloud lest someone overhear and get a bright idea -- but I doubt He would allow us to retaliate in kind. His response will undoubtedly be that if the girl was stupid enough to provoke them, we are well shut of her. (As to that, well, yes, she is not in the least bit suited for Council membership -- but that does not mean she ought be abused with impunity.)

And do not apologise. I have full confidence you will untangle the nest given enough time to stalk your prey. (Mind, however, that you do not emulate Koshka staring at the drapes for three days because it was the last place he saw the wand-light before I shut it off!) (Don't make that face at me, dear.)

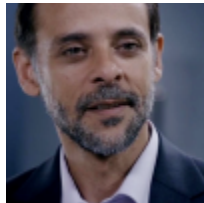



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-24 05:21:10](#)
(no subject)

Doubt that elves mind one way or another whether we ask much of them or leave them idle. Their duty is to be ready whatever's demanded.

Matters with the Centaurs have been strained since Macnair's defection. Understand he did his best to undermine Our Lord's standing with them. Speaking of carcasses I'd like to pass along to Manx for stuffing.

As for the kitten, which, of course, you neither own nor care for in the slightest... I trust I'm the better hunter. (Face? What face?)



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-03-24 05:35:29](#)
(no subject)

The kitten goes where he pleases; I simply do not chase him out when he shows up.

As for Macnair, one of these days we ought take a few weeks and try to find him. There are a few realities of life I'd like the chance to explain to him. There really haven't been any sightings of him or of Snape since they disappeared? I am rather curious how they managed that.

Ah, well, one of these days Magical Communication will work out a way to track journals' physical locations, and then we'll have Macnair, Snape, Strangeweale, Black, and anyone else who's managed to annoy us recently. (Pettigrew and Karkaroff, even. Who else am I missing?) And then we can all take a holiday and get some bloody sleep. A man can dream.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-24 05:46:57](#)
(no subject)

One at a time, Batya. We'll have them all eventually.

Perhaps sooner than later if this chase pays dividends.



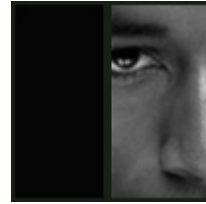
 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-03-24 05:53:10](#)
(no subject)

And this is why I am praying for your success.

If there is anything I can do to be useful --
other than making sure you eat more than only
biscuits -- you have but to let me know. Otherwise -- do get
some sleep tonight, solnyshko, if it is at all possible. I am off to
do the same.

2014-03-23 07:47:00

*Private Message to Padma Patil and
Seamus Finnigan*




I'm in the Entrance Hall. Where are you lot?

Got Professor Grubbly-Plank to lend us some of her dragonhide kit yesterday--three pair of gauntlets, two aprons, and a small sack with strong fire-repelling charms on. She didn't have anything big enough to put one of those things in, but maybe if we cut off the stinger end, that'd be enough of a trophy to bring back.


 **alt_blaise**



 **alt_padma** at **2014-03-23 13:49:25**
(no subject)

Are you mad? After what happened to Samantha Montgomery yesterday I am never going in that forest again. We've got the other hair and that shedded skin from Friday. That will just have to do.




 **alt_blaise** at **2014-03-23 14:20:43**
(no subject)

I don't believe half of what Vaisey said. It's a ploy. A classic bit of gamesmanship. And seriously overplayed, didn't you think?

But, all right. I can see why you'd find it more-


Do you want us to go in for you? Only, I really don't think that bit of skin is much of a trophy.



 **alt_seamus** at **2014-03-23 15:26:54**
(no subject)

Yeah, if she actually got kidnapped by centaurs with bad intent, how'd she get away?



 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-03-24 01:53:16](#)**
(no subject)


It's completely true; Sam's parents were here at the school this afternoon.

I heard it from Tamblyn. He said a couple others of us had to go and get fixed up after going in there.

And I'm sure you saw that Teds had a huge stinger with him when he came in for supper. I bet it's off the same one we injured.

Did you go, after all?

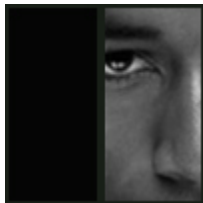



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-03-24 02:25:03](#)**
(no subject)

Teds was being a complete arse about it until he saw what Draco brought back. Seriously, he wins this one, hands down: he's got an Acromantula's foot that looks like it was ripped off the leg. And it's pretty fresh.

Apparently Hydra got a fang from an Acromantula. I haven't seen it, but it's a bit of luck that's not what Teds got. Imagine him going about threatening to poke people with a poisonous fang. Bad enough he's got that stinger.

About Montgomery. I guess you were right. I talked to Vaisey and he said it was awful. And Lizzie's a bit of a mess about it, too. Not that she was hurt.




 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-03-24 02:45:59](#)**
(no subject)

And, no. We didn't go back in.

We would have done, but Greg and Vince came back, looking like they'd been chased by hell hounds. Didn't have anything to show for it but some feathers they said came from a Centaur's arrow. Said they were lucky to get out alive.

We decided what we found on Friday will do just fine.




 **[alt_padma](#)** at **[2014-03-24 03:08:32](#)**
(no subject)

Well, I think it'll be all right. I've been talking to some of the others and there were a few people who didn't even make it inside. Either Tamblyn caught them and they used it as an excuse not to go, or they only have fairly normal stuff like we have, or they had trouble and gave up.

Lines never even tried to go in. So we obviously won't win but we at least *tried*.



 **[alt_blaise](#)** at **[2014-03-24 03:46:25](#)**
(no subject)

Moon.

Seriously.

2014-03-23 19:00:00

Order Only: Private Message to Poppy and Hydra



How's that student - Montgomery?

And have there been any aftereffects from the memory modifications on her companions?

 [alt_sirius](#)

I'm posting privately mainly not to worry certain types who, er, don't necessarily know what happened yesterday afternoon. Though eventually Alice and Charlie need to be told - I thought there was no sense worrying Molly everyone else, particularly with Hagrid's involvement in saving that girl.



 [alt_hydra](#) at **2014-03-24 01:37:04**

(no subject)


I haven't been up to see Samantha. I did see Richard in the common room today and he only gave me a nod, like he always does, so I don't think anything is amiss there.

I really wish I could have heard Sammy's thoughts, but I've never really heard of a legilimens doing that before (Mummy used to like to make me think she could still read my thoughts while I was off at school, but I don't really know if that was true). I wonder if it would be possible, though? Especially with someone I knew well, who was trying to call out to me so that I could find them, would I be able to do it?

It would be useful for all sorts of reasons.

But then, another part of me is glad I couldn't hear Sammy, especially if the centaurs were doing to her what Richard and Lizzie said they were doing.



 **[alt_poppy](#)** at **[2014-03-24 03:21:29](#)**
(no subject)

It was necessary to send Miss Montgomery along to St Mungo's. I'm not equipped here to give her either the privacy, peace or attention she'll require in order to heal.

Her parents met here with the specialist who came to collect her this afternoon. I rather doubt she'll return to us.

And yes, indeed, Charlie and Alice need to be informed before he considers making another visit to the Centaurs. I gather they're in no mood to treat with wizards at the moment.

2014-03-24 12:59:00

Order Only: Private Message to Alice and Charlie



 [alt_sirius](#)

Charlie, take extreme caution when you go speak to the centaurs again. As you may have gleaned from other journals at Hogwarts, one of the young women in Voldemort's ridiculous competition went and ran afoul of them over the weekend.

Pansy, Draco, Hydra, Ron and I went into the forest shortly after the Quidditch match (as soon as Draco and Ron were ready, that is). We found Hagrid without too much incident. (Allie, he says he's willing to take on jobs for us, if we want him. He can leave the forest without being noticed and I trust his ability to travel overland undiscovered, as well. I'm just not certain what you might want him to do.)

Hagrid knew of a spider that had recently met with an accident and took us to the spot. Luckily, the rest of the creature's clan hadn't finished devouring him, so there were pieces left for us to harvest. We'd just finished there and were collecting some less impressive findings for Ron and Pansy when two 7th-year Slytherins came crashing through the trees. They seemed to be in the middle of an urgent discussion. I changed back to Padfoot as soon as we heard them, so they never saw me as anything but a dog - but beyond that, they were far too preoccupied to worry much about proper introductions. As soon as they saw Hydra, they begged her to help find where their friend had gone. Between Draco and Hagrid, they were able to get the young wizard to start at the beginning and tell them what had happened: They were looking for creatures and found the centaurs. Three of them - two girls, one boy - but this is the couple who are expecting. The young witch's pregnancy is starting to show a bit. The centaurs must have seen that, as well, or smelled it. They let her alone and abducted the other young woman. It seems they spared the bloke because of his bravery in protecting the pregnant girl - Lizzie Stevens, I think that is.

Anyway, they escaped with only minor harm done but their friend was in the hands of the centaurs. They asked Hydra to find her 'by tracking her thoughts' - as if that's possible, but that's neither here nor there. Hagrid said he knew where they'd likely have taken her and led us in that direction. When we got there, he told everyone else to stay well out of the way and went in alone. He even left Fang behind, leaving me to stay close to the big girls' blouse. (He took a lot of

convincing to stay put and protect the others but I got him to understand eventually.)


Well. We waited for probably twenty minutes. It was getting quite dark. Then Hagrid came out of the grove, crossbow on his back and Miss Montgomery in his arms, in quite bad shape. He carried her to the edge of the forest and then Vaisey and Ron took her from there, though she was well nervous of males, but she bore up in order to get to Poppy.

In the hospital wing, Poppy removed the memory of Hagrid, Fang and the other black dog who was with them, so all they'll remember is that they ran into Pansy, Draco, Hydra and Ron, and together they convinced the centaurs to get her back.

I don't know how long she was in their possession but she was clearly the worse for it. I can't imagine your negotiations will be any easier as a result. Hagrid did tell me that it's better to go sooner rather than late, however, since the longer we wait to tender our regrets over the incident, the more the centaurs will misinterpret our silence. You know how they get.

And I highly recommend that you take Hagrid with you when you do go. He has better luck with them than anyone I've known and he'll be able to straighten out any selective memory they might have over this encounter.

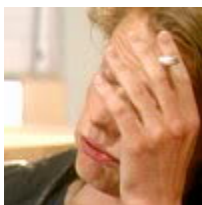



 **alt_alice** at **2014-03-24 21:38:08**
(no subject)

I see.

Thank you.

This is most disheartening news, but for what it's worth, I am excessively glad that you and Hagrid were both there.




 **alt_charlie** at **2014-03-25 12:00:12**
(no subject)

Oh, bloody bugger and blast, what a cock-up. This is why I told Malfoy to warn people. (Probably should have asked someone else to do it, I suppose.)

Yes, I'll go up today and meet up with Hagrid, and we can go have a word.

Is the girl going to be all right?




 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-25 12:47:00](#)
(no subject)

He thought you meant our people, not anyone who might be blundering into the forest. It's that Slytherin self-interest thing, I think. Maybe use smaller words next time.

Poppy said the girl's been removed to St M's for further support than Hogwarts can provide. She's not anticipated to return soon. This idiotic game has just seen its first casualty, which I'm not so sure hasn't been the Death Eaters' expectation all along. The only thing surprising me is that they've been at this for nearly three months and it's taken this long for someone to sustain grievous harm.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-25 15:42:58](#)
(no subject)


Ha. He is a right tosser sometimes, isn't he? I'm trying not to hold it against him, but some days are harder than others.

Hagrid and I made it past the initial contact without them taking it out on us, at least -- we're sitting here waiting for them to decide if they'll talk to us long enough for us to apologise or if the stars aren't suitable today. (I swear, half the time they do that just to yank our chains.)

You really think the newer Council might have done all this to get rid of some of their potential competition? Wouldn't Voldemort notice? "Sorry, the challenges we came up with killed off half your candidates." Ugh, I shouldn't even say that. Not with so many of our lot in

Whups, here they come, back later.



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-25 15:59:41](#)
(no subject)

I think it's more that they didn't even consider this sort of trauma to be consequential - which is its own brand of horror. I stayed back to discuss it with Poppy, without the children (okay, they're not children but you know what I mean) and she had a deal to say about it.


Actually, it might help you to have details handy with the centaurs. She said that the physical damage required some delicate reconstructive magic, but the trauma was another matter. Apparently in these cases (if you're a pureblood, that is), the family have the opportunity to decide whether to elect Obliviation or to allow the mind a more organic path to healing.

Poppy didn't much like either option, from what she said. I mean to say, in cases like this the impression of what she experienced will have embedded itself deeply and in across the terrain of her mind. Poppy indicated that a complete Obliviation would be needed to remove all chance of being surprised at odd moments by images, sensations, and auditory echoes of what occurred. She said the other option is a series of treatments aimed at erasing the specific shadows of the event - I can only imagine that must be an even longer and more difficult course. Poppy was quick to point out that the Vale of Health is full of people--victims of all sorts of trauma--for whom that hasn't been an adequate help.

But. She reminded me that all sufferers are different and said that Sam might elect to have nothing beyond a basic Obliviation, and then treatment with Tincture of Time. Not all minds make the same thing of events, even ones as distressing as this. The type of mind that thinks it would make a good Death Eater? Probably thinks it can handle something like this.

Until it can't.



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-25 20:46:06](#)
(no subject)

Right, after a lot of talking we've left it at they agree that it wasn't us who sent people into their territory so they won't hold it against us, and we agree to do what we can to prevent future intrusions. I said that we don't have the authority to keep people out of the forest, they said we better well try and if it happens again we'll have shown we don't have the power to follow through on any of the things we've been offering, I said we never claimed to have that power yet, and we went round about in circles for the next four hours.

I didn't dare bring up what they did to Sam. There's nothing we could have asked them for that would help to ease what happened to her, especially if Poppy thinks things are that bad, and there's no way we could have got them to concede that future accidental incursions should be dealt with more gently. Although, Firenze did say it was a group of the young hotheads who found them, and that "they did not consider certain interactions of Mars and Venus before acting", which I interpreted as, even centaurs have young adults who do idiotic and impulsive things. It wasn't an apology, or a promise to act differently in the future, but I got the feeling Firenze was just as irritated with them as we are with the ISS when they do something stupid and impulsive even though he was trying to (was forced to?) justify their actions.

Which, you know, is not really worth much, not held up against what they did to Sam, but still. I guess I'll have to hope that you're right, and she does have the kind of ruthlessness that can bounce back from something like this without too much long-term trauma. Which is a weird thing to hope for, really.

Merlin's manky underpants, my head hurts now. What a day.

2014-03-24 19:50:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne



 [alt_pansy](#)

Vaisey and Stevens are sticking to their stories so far, so it looks like Madame P's spellwork is holding up. I still don't know how we 'managed' to convince them to hand her over, but I suppose they won't question us too closely, so we won't have to make up too much.


Here's hoping.

~~I suppose that's one way to get out of competing, isn't it?~~

~~Her face looked so~~

~~She didn't even want this.~~



 [alt_ron](#) at **2014-03-25 03:22:03**
(no subject)


I know.

It felt like we shouldn't've seen her like that. It's not nice to say, but I'm glad I won't have to see her and try pretending it never happened.

So. This challenge was a lot more serious than anything so far.

I wonder what's next.




 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-03-25 03:28:07**
(no subject)

They certainly don't seem to care overly much about what happens to us.

Which is sort of funny because it's not like council members have a particularly good track record for keeping their own skins, so it's not as if we should've expected any better.

Only by sort of funny I mean really not very funny at all.

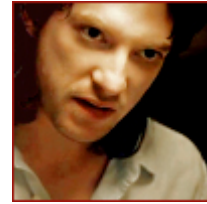


 **alt_ron** at **[2014-03-25 03:45:33](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah.

2014-03-25 20:11:00

Order only: Private message to Ronald Weasley



 **alt_bill**

Are you all right? Did everyone (especially everyone Order-affiliated) make it back from the Forest safely?


Did you see Hagrid?

Sirius is being quite tight-lipped, but I see he was in contact with Poppy, which makes me worry about injuries. And with Charlie, who I know has been trying to reopen negotiations with the centaurs. So I'm wondering.

I'm meeting for lunch with Percy tomorrow, the git. Not my preference, believe me, but Rachel Brodie pointed out that as long as he's a possible source, I need to cultivate him. So we're resuming weekly lunches, although they're decidedly less friendly.

Is there anything in particular you'd like me to try to worm out of him? Not that he's particularly loose-lipped with information. But I can try.



 **alt_ron** at **2014-03-26 03:01:24**
(no subject)

Yeah, we saw Hagrid. Do you know him? He's... interesting. Seems really close with Sirius Black, which is... odd. I mean, it was like they knew all sorts of old stories on each other. And on Harry's parents.

Which was awkward. Or that Hagrid bloke was well awkward about it. And there really wasn't loads of time to talk. Maybe it was better that way. Anywiz.


I'm all right. Got a bit scraped up, but nothing Madam Pomfrey couldn't set right. There was some fuss with the Centaurs, is all. And one of the Slytherins got hurt. A witch called Sam Montgomery. So I reckon that's what Sirius was writing to Charlie about. The Centaurs were well and truly hacked off about us being in the Forest.

You're seeing Percy? Huh.

Well, you could try to find out when this all ends. Or see how he

thinks I'm doing. I mean, if he thinks I'm low in the standings, I expect he'll have something to say about that. Hopefully he doesn't think I'm doing excellently well. That would be... bad. I mean, I don't think I am or anything. It would be a real shocker if I were, if you know what I mean. But it would be even worse if he thinks I could do better than I am.



 **alt_bill** at [2014-03-26 12:26:26](#)
(no subject)

Hagrid had worked as the Gamekeeper at Hogwarts before I got there. I've met him, yeah, but mostly I heard plenty of stories about him.


I'm glad you weren't hurt worse than being scraped up. So this witch Sam Montgomery must have been mixed up with the Centaurs somehow. If that's the case, I can see why Sirius was writing to Charlie.

Yeah, I'm seeing Percy, and it's quite different. He seems to have convinced himself that I've brought myself back in touch with him because he's been bringing reports to the Lord Protector. That I'm using him for my own ambition. I'm willing to let him believe it, so the lunches are...rather cold, to say the least. As if we're only meet to trade information which would be useful to each of us, rather than because of any family feeling.

Which I guess is the true state of things, after all. He never asks about anyone else in the family.

Anyway. I'll see what I can find out.



 **alt_bill** at [2014-03-27 16:47:30](#)
(no subject)

The lunch was...interesting. At least it obtained a bit more information for me, but Percy hedged it around so much with caveats that I'm not sure how useful it will be.

He *did* tell me that you are 'making a very strong showing and certainly doing an impressive job at upholding both Gryffindor and Weasley honour.' He balked at being more specific, but I received the distinct impression that you are within the top third of all the


candidates. Of course, 'no one knows how many candidates He shall choose to Draw to His Side,' and there was a long and rather convoluted explanation about how the Lord Protector's thought processes are truly above the ken of us lesser mortals...which I took to mean that Percy's rather frustrated that he doesn't have a clearer picture of the standings and whether you're going to get in.

I strongly suspect there's more than a spot of jealousy there, too. It's more than clear that Percy's hankering after a Council spot himself. Which leaves him in an interesting position. I think he's simultaneously barely able to believe he could be surpassed by his younger brother...while at the same time scheming about what use he could make of it, if in fact Voldemort picks you.

So it's a little difficult to draw a clear picture, between Voldemort's taciturnity, Percy's sense of discretion, his disdain for the rest of the family (believe me, it's still there) and his own ambition.

But the best that I could glean suggests you're still strongly in the running.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-28 03:03:23](#)**
(no subject)

Top third.

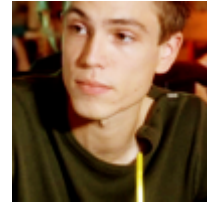
Well, all right. I've probably got to drop some more in the standings. And that's not as easy as it looks!
(Don't try this at home, wizards and witches!)

Anywiz, wouldn't want Percy to be jealous, would we?

[2014-03-25 22:52:00](#)

Order Only: private message to Alice

I think Sunday went well, if by well we mean we unanimously agreed that we were all completely at sea about what happened last week with the Octoborus. Octobori. Whatever we ought to call them.

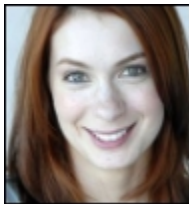



 **[alt_jeremy](#)**

Still chasing some more specialized Arithmancy texts for Cecilia and the Fawcett girl. Have got a recent Journal of Applied Arithmancy with a column on current ley theory and locational magics. (Mother now thinks I am dissatisfied in my job and scheming to move over to Magical Transportation. Joy. She's dropping little hints about how well the ambitious sons of her friends are doing.)

Felt good to be in a room of Ravenclaws working, really, even if we're all flummoxed. Looking forward to next week.

Might have jam to bring by before then, as well.



 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-26 03:27:29](#)**
(no subject)

Excellent.

Just getting you all in the same room and talking is wonderful progress, and I think you will really be able to provide a much-needed insight into Cecelia and Sarah's current research.

Keep in mind you've got some Arithmancy students at Hogwarts who would be willing to look up sources on your behalf as well.

[2014-03-26 16:35:00](#)

Summum Bonum

I dare say that Slytherin house will not be the same absent Sam Montgomery. There is a certain amount of quiet among us this week, but it is a resilient quiet. Sam filled the dungeons with a certain liveliness that no one else can quite replace, but I suspect she would not want us to mope about in her absence. She made a bold sacrifice in her quest to serve our Lord - far more bold, certainly, than what many others offered - and should be praised for that willing sacrifice.



 **[alt_draco](#)**

On behalf of Slytherin, Daphne and I sent the Montgomery family a gift basket which we hope will communicate our appreciation of their daughter, Samantha, and all that she stands for.



 **[alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-26 23:00:19](#)**

Order Only - Private message to Hermione

Snape says you have his copy of *The Alchemist's Archives*. Do you mind if I borrow it for a brief time? I would like to cross-reference it against one of the lessons in *Advanced Potion-Making*.



 **[alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-26 23:08:33](#)**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hermione

Oh. No, I don't mind. I could put it in the dormitory for you, or bring it to the Common Room as if you had me go and fetch it from the library for you.

I'm sure Zabini and Nott would like that.

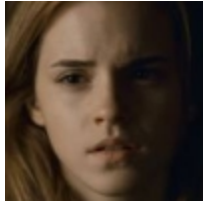


 **[alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-26 23:11:51](#)**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hermione

No, thank you, that won't be necessary.

You still have your transfer box, yes?



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-26 23:13:14](#)


Re: Order Only - Private message to Hermione

Yes, I have it.

Why

Do you not want to be seen getting the reference for some reason?




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-26 23:18:56](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hermione

It's just what's easiest.

It will save us both a lot of time, I mean.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-26 23:01:25](#)

Order Only - Private message to Hydra

You do realise what Vaisey and Stevens are saying about you, yes?

Because it's bound to get around the school in short order.




 [alt_hydra](#) at [2014-03-26 23:04:34](#)

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra

Yes, I know. They seem to think that I used my legilimency to help them find Sammy, and that I was the one to convince the centaurs to let her go.

Which is so hard to fathom that I don't even know what to say. What can I say? I guess this is how their mind is making sense of what happened now that they've had their memories altered.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-26 23:09:43](#)**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra

No, there's no way that you can really challenge their story, but I wouldn't comment much further on it - not that you're really the sort who would.

The fact that you and I both came back with acromantula artefacts when the others did so lacklustre (excepting Teddy) will no doubt make us targets, somewhere down the line. We might as well start anticipating it now.




 **[alt_hydra](#)** at **[2014-03-26 23:15:27](#)**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra

Yes, but we'll only be targeted by the people who really want to be on the council. I guess that would be Teddy, Vince, Greg, Alfred, McLaggen, and maybe Thomas and Finnigan.

It's okay, I was already watching out for them.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-26 23:20:26](#)**

Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra

And Patil. Don't forget Patil. We both sussed out that Lana probably chose you first over her, so it's possible that she's sussed it out, too.

[2014-03-26 20:27:00](#)

ORDER ONLY

So Linus Moon wanted to meet. Called it a 'matter of honour'.



 **[alt_harry](#)**

He was all worked up because of this latest challenge. I think he found it personally offensive. He kept going on about how it was one thing to face people in a duel, but 'threatening their academic standing' was just wrong.


Which is weird, because he didn't get into a strop about randomly hexing people, and he's got to know he'd be asked to do far worse if he was on the council. At least I figured he'd know, but maybe he's just sorting that out? He can be really thick about that sort of thing sometimes.

Anyways.

I'm not sure, but I think he might be rethinking whether he wants to be on the council.


And just so everyone knows, he's planning on giving people from the contest detention if he catches them trying to trick someone. So maybe we could use that to get Teddy or Cormac in trouble.



 **[alt_severus](#)** at **[2014-03-27 04:09:17](#)**
(no subject)


I have not heard, even in rumour; what is the latest ridiculous task that has been set?



 **[alt_harry](#)** at **[2014-03-27 04:11:16](#)**
(no subject)


They have to make another student get detention without getting detention themselves.



 [alt_harry](#) at [2014-03-27 04:13:56](#)
(no subject)

Maybe you could see if you could catch Teddy or Cormac? I know Moon will be trying for people in general, but yeah.




 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-27 04:16:18](#)
(no subject)

Ah. An attempt to quantify the candidates' manipulation skills, I suppose.

Those of you who are participating in the challenge ought to ensure you and your chosen victim have your altercations in Milland's hearing, yes. I have been overextended of late, and Milland's enforcement duties have been the first to fall by the wayside; I have overheard several of your contemporaries discussing how lenient "he" has been. An excuse to extend discipline would be convenient for both parties.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-27 04:28:30](#)
(no subject)

Duly noted.

I know it says we're not to target candidates, but I might try for Vince and Greg again out of principle.

You know. In addition.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-27 04:32:38](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. I was scheming ways to get Patil until I read it again and realised it wouldn't count. Would be worth it, anywiz.

Honestly, the best I can think of so far is to go for a Ravenclaw since it would annoy Patil so thoroughly. And Moon, apparently. What a tit.




 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-27 04:37:02](#)
(no subject)

Hah. Too right.

Honestly. Ravenclaws can be so weird sometimes.


No offence meant, Lunes, I think you're the sanest one of the lot.



 [alt_severus](#) at [2014-03-27 04:32:55](#)
(no subject)

I will not find the prospect of penalising Mr Crabbe and Mr Goyle all that upsetting.



 [alt_neville](#) at [2014-03-27 12:21:32](#)
(no subject)

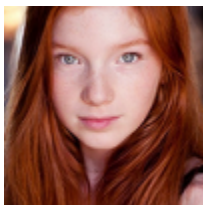
I'm willing to take one for the team on this one. If it would help someone on our side, one of you could, uh, bait me. Call me a blood traitor or something and I could throw a hex (I promise to miss).


Except...I'm generally known for ignoring that sort of thing.

Wait--you could call *Evelyn* a blood traitor in front of me. And THEN I'd throw a hex.

Malfoy might be the most believable, so it wouldn't like collusion, since I'm known to be pretty tight friends with the rest of you.

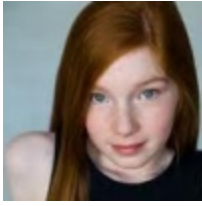
(If any of the OTHER candidates try the same sort of thing first, I promise to ignore them.)




 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-27 16:43:33](#)
(no subject)

That would be fine with me.

Let me know if you need me to be around for it.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-27 16:45:25](#)

Private Message to Neville

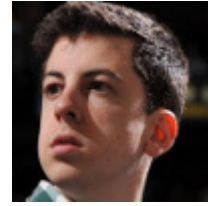
You're *such* a big brother sometimes, you know that?

...thank you.

2014-03-26 23:55:00


private message to Harry Marvolo

May I speak with you on a matter of honour at your earliest convenience?



 **alt_linus**



 **alt_harry** at **2014-03-27 01:33:06**

(no subject)

I can meet you at the library in ten minutes.

2014-03-27 10:08:00

(no subject)

The first meeting of the Gryffindor Support Squad went quite well, I think. Demelza Robins and Lavender Brown are co-chairing, and they both are full of ideas for how to support the Gryffindor competitors. Kitty and I have been charged with making banners to hang in the Common Room. We're hoping to get them hung before Easter hols.



 [alt_evelyn](#)

I'm also quite excited about taking measurements of the Bright-Deverill comet over the next few weeks. As we get closer to perihelion, I expect those of us who are interested in Astronomy will be up all hours of the night, so here's hoping our morning classes don't suffer too terribly!

Oh! And Fitz, I found a book that I think should help us with that tricky bit in our Arithmancy project. If you're free after dinner, I can show it to you.



 [alt_evelyn](#) at **2014-03-27 18:12:33**

Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Hello.

I've been assigned your banner, and I wanted to make sure that it meets your approval.

Ron's will feature a family motto, the Bells use a mark we'll be integrating into Katie's, McLaggen has his tartan pattern and family crest, and so on. I was wondering if you had any preferences about yours.

If there's something you'd want to include that's from your family, for instance, or your foster-father, or even a combination of both, I could work it into your banner. Or if you'd want a specific symbol or motto that's all your own, I could do that as well.

I know you're quite busy, and don't mean to be a bother, but if this is something you're to see every day, I'd rather it be something that you'd like.

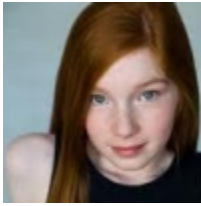


 **alt_seamus** at [2014-03-27 22:11:57](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

Oh....hmm.

Thanks for asking. I guess maybe a green banner, for Ireland, but with the Rosier family crest. Unless you think green is going to make people think of Slytherin. But if McLaggen's having a tartan they won't all be red and gold, yeah?



 **alt_evelyn** at [2014-03-27 22:37:00](#)

Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

I can do that, yes.

And they won't be all red and gold. I think we might put lions in the corners of all of them, though, just for a bit of consistency if we end up using them outside of the common room for something.

I can also put touches of gold on yours, too. Around the edges of things. If it's green and gold, no-one will mistake it for Slytherin.

I could show you a drawing before I get started, just to see if it's what you have in mind?



 **alt_seamus** at [2014-03-28 04:48:32](#)

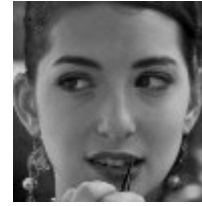
Re: Private Message to Seamus Finnegan

That would be brilliant. Right. Thank you.

[2014-03-27 17:01:00](#)

Order Only: Private message to Ron


Don't forget it's Mothering Sunday this weekend. You probably want to send your mum a card.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**

I realised today I could send mine a card, too, since someone can pass it through the floo.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-28 01:56:59](#)**

(no subject)

Oh.

Yeah.

Right. I knew that.

Sort of.

Did you give yours to Madam P?




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

(no subject)

Not yet. I made one but I didn't like it so I burned it and started over (I don't want to keep it in my trunk, you know, even with Umbridge gone I'm always a little worried about someone looking in there).




 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-28 04:25:17](#)**

(no subject)

Yeah.

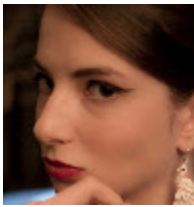
I would, too.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-28 04:34:38](#)**
(no subject)

I spent all evening trying to figure out what I'm going to do about this challenge. I mean this is another one that would be loads easier to go all out on than it will be to try to fall short.

Bill says Percy thinks I'm in the top third. I mean, it's good if it's not the top quarter or sixth or tenth. But... I'd be happier if he'd said I was just scraping my way into the top half, y'know?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#)** at **[2014-03-28 04:42:58](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. I know.

I would suggest that you go all out, but 'accidentally' mess up so you also get detention. And go after someone who truly deserves it, although most of them are candidates, I suppose.

2014-03-27 19:38:00

Observation times

My thanks to the students who've offered to assist in the measurements and observations of the Bright-Deverill comet this week through the beginning of our holidays. If you haven't signed up, and are interested, the lists are on my board as usual.



 **alt_sinistra**

You needn't fear that we're the only ones doing observations, so if something does come up - one of the challenges, or simply bad weather - there are other astronomers around the Protectorate also working on the project. Those of you who participate, however, will get credit in the eventual publication. I do ask that you let me know if you won't be able to assist at your scheduled time if possible.



 **alt_sinistra** at **2014-03-28 00:13:04**

Private message to Georg Bright

Georg -

Just adding to the more formal note I sent this afternoon. Glad to contribute labour to the observation notes, and it's certainly good for the students, but I wanted to explain for your ears only why we're stopping after class is done for the night.

It's these challenges - no idea what's going to come up between now and hols. While I've got a fair number of ways to know who's on the tower (have for years), they're not something I can share with students. Frankly, I'd rather not have students alone when other people know they'll be alone and without an easy means of escape.

And while I do love the stars, and also love supporting research, I don't particularly want to spend the next few weeks sleeping on the daybed in my office when I could be with Raz. (Yes, yes, I know. Sentence you'd never have expected out of me a few years ago.)


If anyone throws a fit, well. Tell me, would you? I'll sort them out, no need to make you do it.

Also, I'm sure you've already noticed, but there are some odd journal posts cropping up about oracular significance of your lovely comet

being near the brightest thing in the sky after α CMa. If you do come across anything troubling, you could report it to MLE. (If you want a specific name, I could ask for you, I suppose. I'm sure Tosha would know if Raz doesn't.)

Of course, most of it's so much silly blather and idiocy about signs and portents and all that, but some people take the oddest things seriously.

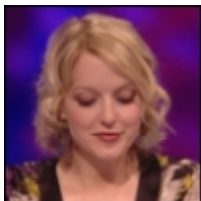


 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2014-03-28 00:28:52**

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Professor,

I'm very much looking forward to helping, and if anyone cancels and you need an extra hand for another shift or two, please let me know.



 **[alt_sinistra](#) at 2014-03-28 00:30:17**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

You're very helpful, Miss Longbottom. Not at all surprised.

As it turns out, I could use someone Tuesday evening - I won't be back from New London to open things up until about nine, but if you'd be free, I could use a hand as long as you'd like.

I may have another article for you to read by then, too, actually. If you'd like.



 **[alt_evelyn](#) at 2014-03-28 00:34:19**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Yes please.

And Tuesday would be fine. I can come at nine and stay after our class is finished for as long as you

need.



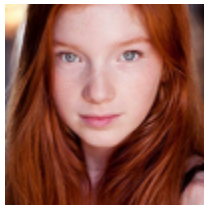
 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-03-28 00:47:47](#)


Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Excellent. I'll look forward to it.

Professor Vector mentioned you were wrestling with one of the problem sets for her, and having some issues with the applications of Petrovich's Second Theorem. I'm fairly sure I've got notes on my own with that, if you'd like me to have a rummage.

It's one of those things where you can't trust your instincts - what looks like it should be the right setup is actually completely wrong, and what turns out to be right for solving everything out looks like complete chaos at first. Anyway, I finally sorted it when someone explained that to me, but I forget the exact examples he used that made it all click.

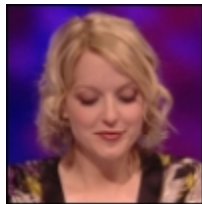


 [alt_evelyn](#) at [2014-03-28 00:50:17](#)

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Really? I didn't think she

That would be quite helpful, yes. Katrina Fitzgibbon got it right away, of course, but was having a devilish time explaining to me how she'd sorted it out. Sometimes she just leaps right to the answer. She's rather brilliant that way. I tend to need to take things one step at a time.



 [alt_sinistra](#) at [2014-03-28 00:54:39](#)


Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I'll see what I can hunt up in my notes then.
Might be a day or two, but certainly by Tuesday.

Arithmancy's odd like that. There's parts of it I find very easy indeed, and parts that I just would stare at for hours. My study partner was the other way round, usefully, and between us we'd manage, but it was a hard slog more times than I like to think about.

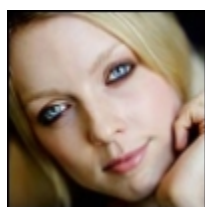
But of course, you need the arithmancy for most kinds of advanced astronomy work, so I had incentive.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-03-28 01:13:15](#)**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Oh, yes, I know exactly what you mean. Fitz and I are working together on a project, and it is rather nice to get her perspective on things, and every now and then I manage to surprise her with something too.

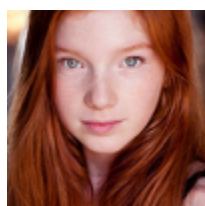



 **[alt_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-03-28 01:16:40](#)**

Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

It's good you two are finding that useful.

I - my study partner and I got to be friends my third year (his, too, he's also a badger) and it made such a difference in my marks. Well, his in astronomy and arithmancy, and mine in near everything else. Just being able to talk through it, especially as the work got harder.



 **[alt_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-03-28 01:22:56](#)**

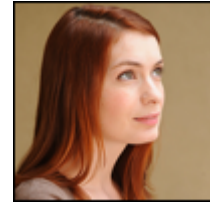
Re: Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I can see how that'd be immensely helpful, yes.

Especially when gearing up for OWLs.

2014-03-28 20:38:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Tonks and Lee



 [alt_alice](#)

Frank and I have been chatting about the shape of things over the last few weeks (Charlie too -- he's been such a help), and we came up with an idea that's certainly worth trying for, and I'd like your assistance and input.

You recall Margery Birdwhistle, the former Minister? I'd like to see if we can't get her out of the camps and put her on the radio.


I think it would be a good move on a few different fronts to give a greater voice to people who would be widely recognised among Muggles as legitimate spokespeople, and from what Frank's told me, she seems like she'd be a natural. Someone the Muggles in the camps could potentially rally around. It also couldn't hurt if our Wizard listeners get exposed to Muggles who are in positions of leadership. She certainly doesn't have to be the only voice by far, but her visibility might facilitate other leaders to speak up, and it'd be nice to have someone to balance Sirius out a bit. Her history in government could be enormously useful as we move forward as well.

I realise Ms Birdwhistle may not be overly eager to take advantage of this opportunity, or leave her community. Furthermore, even if a position of greater visibility isn't daunting, she may be very skeptical about our motives, and I can see how she'd be concerned at our possibly using her for our own purposes, or editing her in some way. She will most likely need some convincing.

I'd want us to run this past Aldrich as well, as we'd want their support and permission.

Lee, I'd like you to pair up with Tonks on this one, as you've worked in Aldrich extensively. Tonks will take point on this, and you'll follow her lead. Would this be something you'd both be willing to do? Do you have any thoughts or concerns?



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-03-29 04:40:10](#)**
(no subject)


Me?

Thanks. Talking to Aldrich, sure. If you think I'm ready for the rest. I mean

I was going to go by Aldrich in the morning. I can see then what they think.

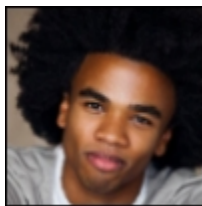
Just that we'd want them to find her a place, and that she'd have some skills, right? Do we know what she could help with there, besides the radio? They're real clear on everyone there having a job, and contributing.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-29 04:47:41](#)**
(no subject)

Good. As far as the skills, beyond general consulting, I think that might be something you'd have to talk with Ms Birdwhistle about to see what she'd be willing to provide.

And yes, I believe you're ready for this sort of field work. You'll have Tonks providing support in Doncaster, and she can walk you through protocol.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-03-29 04:50:30](#)**
(no subject)

Right. I can ask what kinds of things they need right now, too. Maybe that'd give us some ideas. And handy, right, anyway? For others.

Thanks, Mrs Longbottom. I'll do my best.



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-03-29 04:43:37](#)**
(no subject)

Count on me. Lee: what do you think about the folks at Aldrich? Are they likely to need much convincing on this?

I've no idea whether many Muggles outside Doncaster camp will remember Margery Birdwhistle. I mean to say, everyone in her camp calls her The Minister, but I think Doncaster's one of those places where nearly everyone there used to live in that same area before they were herded in there. So they all knew her and probably voted for her. Or didn't. You know, she'd lost her place in the Parliament before the war. That's how she was overlooked when Voldemort murdered all the Muggle leaders. She wasn't one anymore. But she's such a natural, I think everyone just fell in behind her lead, and they all think her word is their instruction.


You might be right that she'll be slow to give that up. Having everyone follow her.

But it won't be because she's afraid. Frank's right she's a tough bird. And I'd put my wager on her thinking this is her duty, and stepping forward to accept whatever needs doing.

Unless she decides we're manipulating her. You're dead right: that's the one thing that could wreck the whole idea.

I wonder if she's heard any of the radio programming they've been putting out. That might help persuade her this is on the up and up.




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-29 04:54:00](#)**
(no subject)

I'd bet a knut she has been listening, yes.

And it is vital that she knows we're serving as facilitators, nothing more. I'm certainly willing to talk with her about our greater plans, and involve her in them if she so chooses, but she wouldn't be taking orders from me.

I also think it'd be important that Aldrich not get the idea we're supplanting their existing leadership.



 **alt_lee** at [2014-03-29 04:57:28](#)
(no subject)

Dunno about convincing them. On one hand, there's a few threw a fit about taking in the couple of women from the rescue but that settled down the last time I was there. And the radio, most of them think it's snitch, but some of them think it's giving the people on the radio airs. (I don't even. I think they're sorting it out, but it's some thing about Aldrich being a community effort and all.)

Anyway, being able to tell them skills would help. Though maybe just organising would do it.

They've got lots of people who were real used to being told what to do for so long, and not so many who were used to figuring out that you need three people on this task this week, and ten people on that one, and next week, you need something totally different. And I don't know what she's like, but maybe she could do that? Once they trusted she knew what she was doing.

About the radio, I can bring some notes - what we've got for shows (that new children's story hour is real popular, says the buttons) but there's plenty of people want more than Mr Black can do, talking about how things need to change. Someone who's been in the camps, who had suggestions about what people could do there - she could reach a lot of ears, do some real good, y'know?

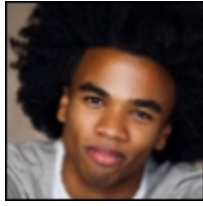



 **alt_nymphadora** at [2014-03-29 05:09:45](#)
(no subject)

I think Sirius would say the same: they need different kinds of programming for his to be effective. Otherwise, it's likely get stale.

Sorry. I'm a bit distracted. We're still cleaning things up here. It was a lively time in the garden tonight. All jolly, mind you, just a bit more so than usual.

Would it help if I came along to Aldrich tomorrow? Or would it be better if we met somewhere else after you've been there? I don't want to muddle things there if you think it'll go better with just you talking to folks.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-03-29 05:24:45](#)**
(no subject)

If you want, sure. Can introduce you around. Wouldn't hurt to have more people who know folks there. If you don't mind playing it as me showing you the place, and you watching while I talk to people who know me better.

Just. Some of them are still sort of touchy 'bout having control over things. I think I get further because I'm all eager but young enough not to be a threat, y'know?

If you want to meet, name your place?

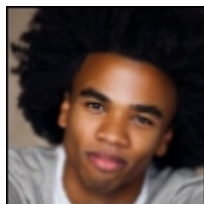



 **[alt_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-03-29 05:55:39](#)**
(no subject)

I have met some of the Aldrich folks. Not long after it started up, I went out, but I was only there twice, I think, and one of the times it was a giant meeting and I doubt I spoke to much of anyone.

To be honest, I think it would be best if we just had you come here tomorrow to the garden after you've been out to Aldrich. I'm not saying I don't ever want to go, but I think I could use a bit of a slow morning, if you know what I mean. And then we can decide if we need to do more work, preparing people there or whether we could go ahead and pay a visit to Ms. Birdwhistle to run the idea by her.

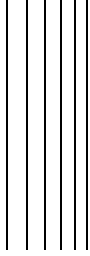
Come whenever you can. We'll be at Laszlo's from half-ten on.



 **[alt_lee](#)** at **[2014-03-29 05:58:57](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah. They sort of know there's a bunch of us, but I think they were so busy with everything most people didn't stand out.

Sure thing. I'll go there. Should be at Laszlo's by noon. If I'll be later, I'll write here, right?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-29 06:04:21](#)
(no subject)

That'll do.

Cheers, Lee.

2014-03-28 21:35:00

Private Message to A Dolohov

Batya.

Don't have the elf hold food.

Am embedded. Final watch. S in high spirits and oblivious to danger.




 [alt_crouch_jr](#)

Expect to make v. early morning of it. Want time to interrogate before presenting this prize.

What does your morning hold?



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-03-29 02:43:24](#)
(no subject)

Not much: Auri and I were forced to cancel our usual Friday of research and gossip for her to supervise observation of that comet everyone's talking about, so I am in New London already, and was thinking of an early evening.

Will you be bringing him in tonight, then? Do you want help with the interrogation?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-29 02:50:25](#)
(no subject)

Plan to surprise this one in the dead of night. Say half-three.

If you can spare the sleep, it would be a pleasure to have you in for the questioning. In fact, could bring him to you. Do not intend to show my hand on this at MLE until all is done.

Does that suit?




 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-03-29 03:00:36](#)**
(no subject)

As little as your Saggitarius might be my preferred house-guest, yes. Would the empty room in the basement next to the stillroom suit? Kolya used to use it for a similar purpose, after all.

For you I will always be willing to forego sleep, as you well know.

I take it you were able to plant the tracer -- is it working for you? I am equally content if you teach the spell to others in MLE, or if you keep it for yourself.




 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-03-29 03:32:29](#)**
(no subject)

Expect your interrogation dungeon rivals MLE's. Certainly better suited for this occasion.

Tracer works perfectly. Enjoyed the challenge of planting it. No issues with range. Followed to Scotland once, then to St David's. Gauging intuitive. Target precise.

And the surveillance proved fruitful. S v. well connected. Towed me along to trysts, drops, safe houses, and points of exchange. Unwittingly betrayed whole nests of traitors. (More entertainment to be had there. After tomorrow.)



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-03-29 03:35:13](#)**
(no subject)

What delightfully provocative news.

How big are we talking?




 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-29 03:42:58](#)
(no subject)

Treasure trove.

Both artefact and animate.



 [alt_antonin](#) at [2014-03-29 03:48:18](#)
(no subject)

You may feel free to imagine me rubbing my hands together with gleeful anticipation.

If we're to be up all night with interrogation I will go nap a bit now. Have Berry wake me when you bring Sagittarius in? The trigger to the locking spell on the storeroom is the same one I always use. (The trigger to the unlocking spell on the storeroom is unique, but I'll teach it to you later; just do be careful not to trigger the locking spell when you are inside.)

Excellent work on this, solnyshko. As always.



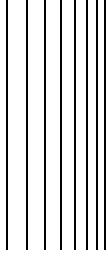
 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-29 03:53:34](#)
(no subject)

Will bring him there directly after collecting him. Do catch some rest if you can between now and then.

Oh. One thing.

Don't suppose you keep Veritaserum on hand? Want S in pristine condition for Our Lord.

Mind you, seems the sort to squeak at the threat of pain. May not require extreme measures at all. Almost a shame.



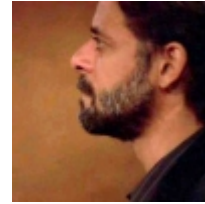
 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-03-29 03:55:29](#)**
(no subject)

I'll have to doublecheck, but I believe it shouldn't be a problem. I'll see you then, dear heart.

2014-03-29 21:27:00

Private message to Barty

Of course it is wise of Our Lord to send me back instead of allowing me the indulgence to keep working on this with you ... that having been said, if you need backup, let me know. Agree that this is best kept out of MLE's hands, and in ours instead.



 **alt_antonin**

Was able to have long conversations with Hypatia and Eggman, neither of whom strike me as anything other than what they purport to be, and plenty of time with Cinderella. Am still not sure about her. I'll make my way around this week one by one. Searches to come much, much later; I truly would collapse if I tried to go through all of them with as much detail as I ought.

Still not sure how I feel about this. Like a foundation has been shaken, I suppose.



 **alt_crouch_jr** at **2014-03-30 05:58:40**
(no subject)

Should have liked to drink to our success, at least, before you had to go. Understand He needs you to be His eyes there. Wish you'd been able to stay for the rest of His examination of our gift. Gratifying. To say the least.

Was with Bella this evening. Would like to have questioned S herself. Of course. Assured her there was no subtlety needed in that interrogation--and nothing overlooked.

She was, obv, as interested as we were in the possibility of a sprog.



 **alt_antonin** at **2014-03-30 06:16:31**
(no subject)

If we are able to confirm that rumour is more than just a pipedream, N will be most interested -- I know how heavily matters of the last few years weigh on her. Of course, finding the child would be difficult, but I am certain she would put her foot down once we have.


And I am likewise certain Bella would like nothing more than to take over the investigation herself, but her irrationality on the matter means it's best in your hands. (Do not tell her I said that.)

Where are you in the followup? Were you able at all to pin S down any more firmly on dates and times? I've been looking over my notes and I am having difficulty making sense of half of his babble. We may not have overlooked anything, but that does not mean what we got was at all useful. Merlin knows how long it will take you to turn any of that into actionable intelligence.

About as long as it will take me to be satisfied with my investigations here, I suppose. Telling the difference between well-hidden active sedition and an apolitical devotion to academe without raising suspicion is one thing; doing so while juggling my six thousand other urgent tasks is quite another. I've my ideas for where to look -- she has well and truly isolated herself, which does not rule out those she is not publicly seen to consort with but does suggest I ought look at the few she does not shun outright -- but we have been this wrong-footed for so long that I will not assume the easy answers are the only answers.

Come to the castle for dinner on Monday, if you have freed yourself well enough by then. I will think better if I think aloud, and I would like to see reactions to a few casual references.



 [alt_crouch_jr](#) at [2014-03-30 07:17:56](#)
(no subject)

Actionable intelligence. Yes. Definitely some.
Weakness: murky timeline. e.g., the trade in infant/
toddler paraphernalia. Once? Twice? More?

Prioritising list for follow-up.

Immediate:

- check progress in Strangeweale invest.
- pull archives re. AD, Order of the Phoenix
- get artefacts to Rod for analysis (Also, re. Narcissa: see if she can confirm the snuffbox and the Order of Merlin)
- Mugg items to North

ASAP: Retrace surveillance trail. Seize evidence. Impound goods.
Surveil/interr./arrest


Ongoing:

x-check names for signif. connection (Maule, Ridley, Crimsons)

list of vendors, off-market + dodgy imports

list of known buyers/barterers/recipients (also, determine destination for impounded items)



 **[alt_antonin](#)** at **[2014-03-30 07:23:15](#)**
(no subject)

That all sounds like an excellent and quite sensible set of priorities.

For tomorrow. For now, go to sleep, solnyshko. You may be young enough to miss sleeping two nights in a row, but do not do it if you don't need to. This will be more of a long slog than a short victory -- of that, I have no doubt.



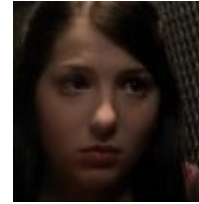
 **[alt_crouch_jr](#)** at **[2014-03-30 07:26:12](#)**
(no subject)

Goodnight, Batya.

Rest well.

2014-03-30 00:38:00

Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy



 [alt_sally_anne](#)

I should probably tell the whole Order about this but I wanted to talk to both of you about it first.


While I was at the yarn store in Hogsmeade, Avery found me -- Ron's sponsor for this ~~stupid~~ miserable competition. He told me that I'm holding Ron back, and I ought to drop Ron for his own good, he'll never get anywhere with a half-blood clinging to his sleeve.

And he said, I ought to remember that my first loyalty should be to Pansy, and maybe Pansy hasn't told me to break things off with Ron, but she ought to, because everyone knows Lucius Malfoy is out of favour with Our Lord, and the time may come when Voldemort wants to punish him for something, and when that happens, Avery says he can see to it that it's Pansy who gets hurt. After all she's far more expendable than Draco or Mrs Malfoy.

I should have asked him who he'd suggest instead, then. If I break things off with Ron like he wants, who would he consider expendable enough, but isn't Pansy. But, I didn't, I just stood there and he smirked at me and left.

Anyway I figured you should know, both of you.



 [alt_pansy](#) at **2014-03-30 06:06:15**
(no subject)

Really? He *dared* to say that?

That

That is *not* on.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:08:48](#)
(no subject)

A year ago no one would have dared to threaten you.

No one. They'd have been too afraid of Mr Malfoy.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:10:47](#)
(no subject)

He's certainly showing his colours quite boldly, isn't he?

He knew it'd get back to me.

And, in turn, that I'd tell Lucius.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:14:04](#)
(no subject)

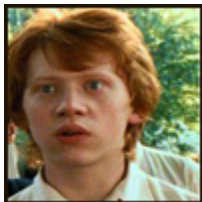
I would assume that was a benefit and not a risk, yeah. He certainly would have considered it.


Of course, if you tell Lucius he's going to be annoyed. At me. For causing trouble for you. I mean, not that you shouldn't tell him.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:23:21](#)
(no subject)

I'll tell him Avery's sniffing around him and making some threats. He doesn't have to know the dirty details. I doubt he'll find it surprising, but he still ought to know.

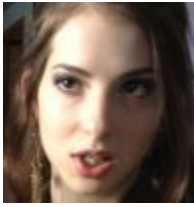


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 06:06:39](#)
(no subject)

He what?!!!

I should have stuck with you.


Wait. What are you going to do about it?



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:09:35](#)**
(no subject)

Well if I were going to drop you like Avery wanted I wouldn't have done it by PM to you and Pansy.




 **[alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 06:17:08](#)**
(no subject)

So you're not going to?

Good. Because, really, if that's what'll keep me off the Council, that's wizard.

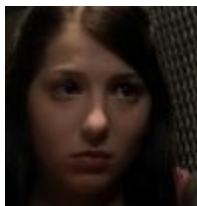
Not wizard for Pans, though.



 **[alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:21:53](#)**
(no subject)

Of course she isn't, you tit.

And I'll manage.



 **[alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:31:26](#)**
Private message to Pansy

Are you sure?

I mean really sure?

The Order would try to get you out, if there were any reason to think you were in danger. But if you think you might be at risk, Ron and I could pretend to break up.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:40:19](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

I'm sure.

I might have to think through this business with Lucius, and see what other things I can do for insurance, but I'll be fine.

I'm just

I'm worried they'll keep trying to drag you into this. To use you to get to both Ron and me.



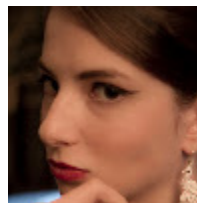
 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:45:40](#)

Re: Private message to Pansy

It's not like it'll come to much in a few months, anyways. After all, neither of us are planning to end up on the council.

But in the meantime

It's important to me that you stay safe.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:49:27](#)


Re: Private message to Pansy

Well, he didn't threaten ME.

He might try that next, though, I don't know. Avery's other picks were Vincent Crabbe and Zach Smith. Maybe we should try to boost Crabbe's chances. Surely he'll be less set on Ron winning if he's got someone else with a good shot at it.

I am so tired I can barely see the page. I'm not going to worry about telling the grownups until tomorrow.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:54:56](#)

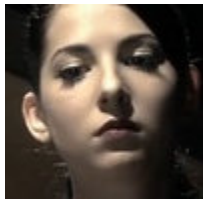
Re: Private message to Pansy

It's not that much of a leap, is all.

Ugh. Crabbe.

I suppose that means I shouldn't have tried to get him in trouble today. Oh well.

Go to bed. We'll talk more tomorrow.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:27:01](#)

(no subject)

Yeah, I mean, I assume that's why he decided to threaten Pansy; he's worked out that you don't care enough about Council membership to break it off with me to get ahead.

Shame for him he couldn't have picked Percy.

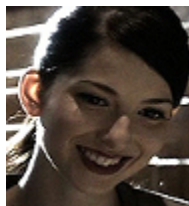


 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 06:49:01](#)

(no subject)

Don't get me started on Percy, again.

No, really, I know. One-upping Percy isn't a reason to try to get selected. Tempting, though.



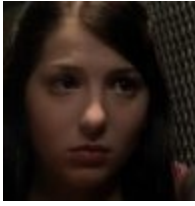
 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:50:05](#)

(no subject)

It would make him SO CROSS.

Which would be hilarious.

But! You'd be on the Council. Not worth it!




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:11:27](#)
(no subject)

I'm also not planning to challenge Avery to a duel.

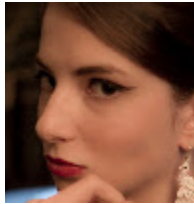
And I was in the yarn shop. No one else finds it all that interesting. I'm sure that's why he cornered me in there, it's the one place I go in Hogsmeade by myself.



 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:14:23](#)
(no subject)

I think he was just trying to bluster.

He figured you'd be intimidated, and think he'd be capable of pulling those kind of strings, but he isn't. He's new on the council. *He* is expendable.




 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:16:19](#)
(no subject)

Well, I certainly consider him expendable.

Getting someone to kill him would certainly be one way of sabotaging Ron's chances of being offered Council membership without sabotaging his chances of joining MLE.

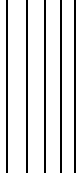


 [alt_pansy](#) at [2014-03-30 06:18:54](#)
(no subject)

True.

He doesn't give a fig for Ron. He's never showed any interest in the Weasley family before this bloody contest, and I highly doubt he's going to these lengths because he wants Ron to be successful out of the goodness of his heart.

It's just about showing power, that's all.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-03-30 06:29:14](#)
(no subject)

Well, yeah.

2014-03-30 08:03:00

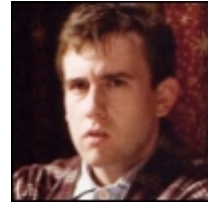
Order Only: Private message to Mum

Happy Mothering Day, Mum.

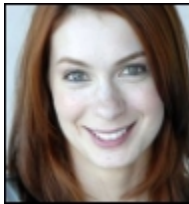
We sent an owl; hope the package arrives all right. It should if the owl's a smooth flyer.


Love you.

Nev (and Ev). Tell Kevin he's in on it, too.



 **alt_neville**



 **alt_alice** at **2014-03-30 22:33:25**
(no subject)

Thank you, Neville. The primroses are just beautiful. I can't wait to see the both of you over hols.

All my love, dear heart.

[2014-03-30 09:09:00](#)

Mum's Day!

There once was a mother called Molly,
Who most of the time is right jolly.
In the kitchen she excels:
Roasts, pies, stews and great smells,
But if she makes **Souper Surprise**, bring
your broolly!



 [alt_ron](#)

Happy Mums' Day, Mum!

Do you remember when you exploded the soup cauldron that time? Gin and I were just telling people about that. (Cause sometimes the soup here would be better if they exploded it. Seriously.)

Hope you have a nice time today. Tell Bill to make supper for you, yeah?

Brolly

Crawly

Collie Czollie

Dolly

Folly

Golly

Holly

Jolly

Lolly

Polly Pizzawly

Shawly

Strawly Smally Shmally

Sprawly

Thawly

Tsolly

Trolley

Volley


Wally

Walleye

Yawley

Zolly




 [alt_seamus](#) at [2014-03-30 15:39:47](#)
(no subject)

There's this clever little innovation in the journals, Weasley, not sure you've heard of it. It's called the 'private message.' Lets you spare the rest of us the sort of rhymes only a mother could love, and spares your mother the embarrassment of having her kitchen disasters shared with the entire Protectorate.


(Hello, Mrs Weasley. I'm sure you don't normally explode soup. Also, don't worry about the soup here; your son always eats plenty of it.)



 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-30 15:47:49](#)
ORDER ONLY

What a giant festering pustule you are, you wanker.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 19:32:21](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

So it's not just me that thinks so?

Heh.




 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-31 00:31:10](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

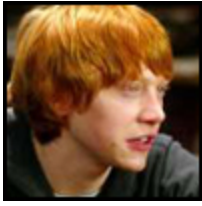
Be rather careful around him today, dear.


Remember, I imagine Mothering Day is quite a sickening occasion for him.



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-31 00:31:53](#)
Re: ORDER ONLY

Let it go, dear.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 19:31:09](#)
(no subject)

Yeah, thanks, Finnigan.

I wouldn't ever have thought of that if you hadn't said.




 [alt_charlie](#) at [2014-03-30 15:48:37](#)
(no subject)

Yes, happy Mothering Sunday indeed, Mum. Let's hope that between me and Bill we can manage to not make too much of a hash of your kitchen.

And if I'm remembering things correctly, Ron, the soup exploded because Mum was too busy chasing after you to keep a close eye on the twins!




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-30 19:29:58](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. That's true.


Didn't fit in the limerick, though. Anywiz, I figured one verse was enough!



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-31 00:33:56](#)
(no subject)

It was certainly a memorable day! Although not my finest as a cook. I remember how much I scolded when you all teased me about it, but I'm glad we can laugh about it, now.




 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-31 01:28:12](#)
(no subject)

Yeah. Wish we could have been there tonight.

I'm looking forward to hols, Mum.

D'you think you could maybe make one of your roasts while we're home? Like you used to. And pies!



 [alt_molly](#) at [2014-03-31 02:45:41](#)
(no subject)

I'm sure something can be arranged!

2014-03-30 10:34:00

Private message to Mum


Happy Mothering Sunday, Mum! I sent a proper card from Hogsmeade yesterday (the school owls were all gone -- I probably should have expected that!) so hopefully it arrived on time. I hope Bill and the Twins treat you well today.



 **alt_ginny**

(Also, if you'd like me to hex Ronald for telling everyone about the soup that time, I'd be happy to.)



 **alt_molly** at **2014-03-31 00:40:57**
(no subject)

It did arrive on time, thank you! And it put quite a smile on my face.

Even though you and Ron aren't home, don't worry: Bill and Charlie and Fred and George have done quite an impressive job of pampering me today. Bill served me breakfast in bed, and all of them collaborated on making me a lovely dinner with all my favourite things. Even cleaned up afterwards. Charlie even baked the dessert, a lovely treacle tart.

I will be so happy to see you and Ron at Easter holidays that I don't mind if he teases me about the soup!

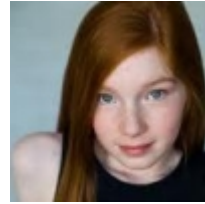
2014-03-30 18:11:00

ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mum

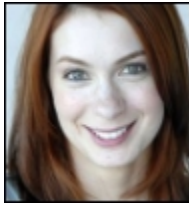
Happy Mothering Day, mum. I'm glad you got the primroses safely.


I miss you and dad and Kevin, and am glad I will see all of you soon.

Your Evie



 [alt_evelyn](#)



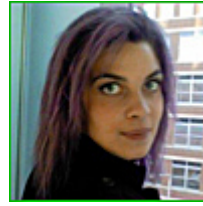
 [alt_alice](#) at **2014-03-31 03:17:34**
(no subject)

Thank you ever so much, lovie.

I can't wait.

2014-03-30 21:38:00

Order Only: Private Message to Remus and Sirius



Thank you both for making this such a nice, relaxing Mother's day. Sirius, they told me it was you remembered how much I liked the sweet buns from Lomax's. They're still the best!

 [alt_nymphadora](#)


And, Remus, you were so good with Bea, helping her make my brekkie. And bring it up! How did you get Kreacher to allow that? Sirius, was it you that got her the ruffled pinny? She was so pleased with it.

We could get her a little domestic's cap and teach her to help Ellie at the shop. She'd love it. Shame we can't trust her over there.

Oh, and which of you helped her with the card? I didn't dare ask if that was meant to be me in the picture. Or a pony. Or something altogether else!

Are we going to see you back here tonight, Sirius? All well up there?



 [alt_lupin](#) at **2014-03-31 03:46:02**

(no subject)

Maureen helped her with the card, while Sirius was at Moddey. I think it looks like she drew you with pony ears. Have you done pony ears, or is she just assuming you COULD, if you wanted?

As for getting Kreacher to cooperate -- we had Bea explain Mothering Sunday to him. It worked because (1) it was Bea explaining and not one of us, and (2) the custom of breakfast in bed for Mothering Sunday was further proof (as if any was needed) that Sirius was a terrible, terrible son.




 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-31 03:59:34](#)
(no subject)

I've done every kind of ears and face I can think of a thousand times over, so I'm sure I have done a pony. That's a nice explanation, but I think we have to admit that if she's going to be an artist, it will come as a great surprise when the talent manifests. Let's just hope her handwriting's better than her mum's.

May I just say it's completely impossible to imagine Mrs Black ever allowing anyone to serve her brekkie in bed!




 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-03-31 04:23:05](#)
(no subject)

I wasn't much of an artist at that age, either, and both my drawing and handwriting are rather good, at least when it's not right before or after the full moon. So she's got a fighting chance at decent handwriting.


Brekkie in bed is on a long, long list of things I find it hard to imagine Mrs Black doing, actually, and some of them I'm quite sure she did do.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-31 04:26:23](#)
Private Message to Remus

Oh, now, there's no reason to go putting thoughts like that in anyone's mind!



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-03-31 04:38:21](#)
Re: Private Message to Remus

And here all I was thinking of was 'holding her baby sons like a loving mum' and 'reading the paper in her dressing gown' and other ordinary things like that.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-31 04:49:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus


Of course that's all you meant. It's you.

So. Do you think she ever let babies spit up on her shoulder? Or cooed silly nonsense at them?

That voice of hers gives me nightmares--imagine her singing lullabies!

Explains a lot, doesn't it?



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-03-31 05:02:37](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

I can't imagine she ever let her babies spit up on her, cooed at them, sung to them, or any of it. She really was an absolutely horrible person.

Now you've got me thinking about your cousin. I can't imagine Bellatrix is any more affectionate a mum than Walburga was. Did she let Rigel spit up on her, when she came to visit?



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-31 05:54:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Remus

Oh, my, no.

There's a nanny for that.

Body fluids. Messes. Fussing.

I'm not actually sure I saw Bella touch Rigel.



 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-03-31 03:48:30](#)

(no subject)

And surely he'll be back tonight; he was just taking baby items up to Bedford for some of the rescued

babies, even if they all want to say thank you I can't imagine he'll be there all night. I mean, there's Terrie, but



 [alt_sirius](#) at [2014-03-31 04:07:18](#)

(no subject)

Hello, yes, I'm all right.

Two of the girls have had their new babies and a third had just gone into labour when I arrived. Terrie explained that they had a whole Mothering Day celebration planned and felt it would be wrong to start it, er, prematurely, as it were. She convinced me to stay a few hours - and then a few more, as the young woman continued. Bedford's newest resident was born a little after six and then the party got underway.

I was waiting for the, er, celebration to wear off a bit, so that I don't embarrass myself all over the Floo grate. But someone just came and told Terrie they've spotted a lone rider on a broom uncomfortably close to the southern perimeter, so we're off to check on that.

I expect it's just someone else who was visiting his or her mother until far too late. Don't wait up; if necessary I'll kip on Terrie's sofa. She won't mind.



 [alt_nymphadora](#) at [2014-03-31 04:15:57](#)

(no subject)

Sounds a bit wild for a Mothering Sunday party with a bunch of new- and nearly-mums, but I'm not one to judge.

Watch yourself if you're getting on a broom there, sailor!



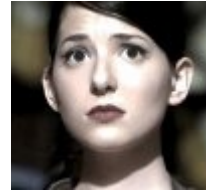
 [alt_lupin](#) at [2014-03-31 04:16:43](#)

(no subject)

Right. Congratulations to the new mothers, then. I won't wait up.

[2014-03-30 22:49:00](#)

Order Only



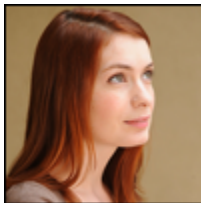
 **[alt_sally_anne](#)**


I just wanted to mention that while I was in Hogsmeade yesterday Avery tracked me down while I was by myself to tell me I ought to break things off with Ron because he'll never get on the Council with a half-blood girlfriend, and I'm holding him back, and when I didn't seem properly impressed he said that everyone knows Lucius Malfoy is out of favour with Our Lord and if He wants to punish Mr Malfoy for something, Avery could see to it that it was Pansy who got hurt. Because she's more expendable than Draco, or Mrs Malfoy.

He didn't say who he'd tell them to hurt instead, if I went along with it and broke things off with Ron. I'm sorry I didn't think to ask.

Anyway

I thought I should tell, well, enough people that I didn't make this a PM to Mrs Longbottom (though I did tell Ron and Pansy last night).




 **[alt_alice](#)** at **[2014-03-31 04:18:51](#)**
(no subject)

I see.

I'm sorry, Sally-Anne.

Draco, Hyrda, have you any thoughts? Does this threat have some teeth behind it? Perhaps you might see what you can glean over the holidays.



 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-31 15:29:15](#)**
(no subject)

Don't they always have teeth?

We're not the only ones being challenged, here. Our sponsors are, too - indirectly, yes, but even so. If Avery has spoken with both Weasley and Sally Anne about ending things, then I think it's logical to assume that he's being entirely serious and that he's reacting as such because he's been made to

feel insecure or threatened about the candidates he chose.

Nevermind that there are half-bloods who *are* candidates and that it should therefore matter little if another one is dating one.

The proper thing for Weasley to do would be to break things off. In public, at least. I suppose Sally Anne could do it, too, though it doesn't send quite the same message.



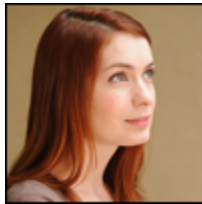
 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-31 16:02:58](#)

(no subject)

Then again, it may be more advantageous for Sally Anne to do it, if only to appear as if she's a half-blood who knows her place and responds well to the suggestions of a pureblooded council member.

Conversely, Weasley comes out looking like one who doesn't immediately cave in the face of Avery's threats, which is good.

He also comes out looking like a half-blood lover, but that can't be helped now, anyway.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-31 16:58:58](#)

Private Message to Draco

And what about his statements regarding your father?

I suspect Avery was posturing in order to intimidate, but it still doesn't paint a very pleasant picture regarding his current position.




 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-31 19:02:03](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

What about them?

What possible benefit is there to assume that Avery is posturing?



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-03-31 20:11:43](#)


Re: Private Message to Draco

That's one reason I'm asking you to help me sort out these dynamics further. With Minerva's hands tied, we're blind in terms of the inner workings of the council. They've recently added a great deal of new blood, in addition to this contest business, and it is difficult sometimes to determine where these new political faultlines and allegiances lie and how they can best be exploited.

I'm assuming due to his only recently joining the council that his ability to bend the ear of Voldemort is fairly minimal. You're right in that perhaps it would be worth our while to learn more about those dynamics before jumping to conclusions.

Whatever you could find out would be useful.

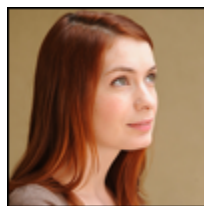



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-04-01 03:29:23](#)

Re: Private Message to Draco

Even if Avery can't bend Voldemort's ear directly, there's probably someone else whose ear he can bend who is more higher ranking than he. Alliances and allegiances are crucial to most council members. The ones who don't have them end up like the Carrows.

I don't have much I can tell you that wouldn't amount to more than speculation, but I'll let you know if that changes.



 [alt_alice](#) at [2014-04-01 05:14:39](#)

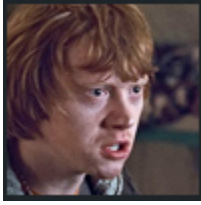
Re: Private Message to Draco


Please do.

I know that this is a difficult time for you, and for your family, and that you face a very uncertain future.

Please let me know if there's anything that I can do.

And if what you truly needed was to keep your family safe, I would do what I could to help you. You are not alone, Draco.



 **alt_ron** at [2014-03-31 18:58:45](#)
(no subject)


Go bludger yourself, Malfoy! Obviously you don't care enough for anyone to stand up if there's a bit of pressure. Fine.

I mean, I'm sorry for anyone who thinks you care for them. Seriously.

But I'm not doing what Avery wants. Especially not now he's trying to throw his weight around. And I'm surely not doing it just because you think it's a good idea. I mean, of course you do.

You can't give in to people like that. Then they know how they can manipulate you forever.

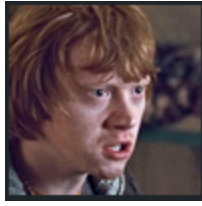



 **alt_draco** at [2014-03-31 19:07:59](#)
(no subject)

You quite clearly care a great deal about Pansy, I see. Or don't you?

And you needn't get so emotional. More than half of our *real* lives are carried on in secret anyway, so what difference does it make if you and Sally Anne have a temporary falling out in public? There are dozens of ways to stage it so that Avery has no sure way to conclude that it necessarily had anything to do with his threats.

He already knows how to manipulate you; you're fooling yourself if you think he doesn't.

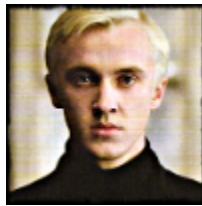



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-31 19:44:37](#)
(no subject)

Of course I care about Pansy. That's really rich, coming from you!

But that's why we can't just give in to Avery, because then he'll know all he has to do is threaten Pans and we'll roll over. And then he's loads more likely to really do something to her.

The difference between public and private is owning up to what you care about. And if I break things off with Sally Anne that puts her in a really bad position. I mean, if Nott, say, or any of the rest want an easy target, it tells them they can go for her because no one cares enough to protect her anymore. And it maybe makes it tempting to show her what they think of halfbloods or to put her in her 'place', y'know?



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-31 20:21:41](#)
(no subject)


Yes, I anticipated you would say that, which is why I suggested that you do it in a way that leaves Avery with no clear way to determine that the break-up was a result of his interference.

Waiting a week or two, for example - or, better yet, have Harry make the suggestion. That boosts Harry's profile with Voldemort while at the same time making it clear to Avery who you answer to.

Also - contrary to what you, Sally Anne, or anyone else might embody or think, couples are actually constantly breaking up in this school, or going off and on in a variety of ways.


Sorry to say it, but you're most likely over-estimating how much your dating Sally Anne "protects" her. Her associations with Pansy, Hydra, Harry, and myself carry a great deal more weight with people like Nott. Though Nott likes to test those boundaries all the time, anyway, regardless of who he might offend.



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-31 21:26:32](#)**
(no subject)

Yeah, look. About that. It's not that I can protect her--you're right, I can't--but that dropping her would be a signal she's an open target. If you're going to step up and make it clear you're protecting her, then... But you're not. You don't. Pansy does, sure, but I'm not sure that would stop something happening if we set up a breakup and make her act like her pureblood boyfriend's decided she's rubbish. That's just an invitation for Nott or Montague or any of them.




 **[alt_draco](#)** at **[2014-03-31 23:08:58](#)**
(no subject)

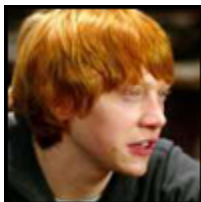
It seems the only scenario you are imagining is one where you call her a slaggy half-blood in front of the entire school, or something. You don't have to announce that she's "rubbish." In fact, the scenario I propose with Harry would fully allow you to maintain a public friendship with her.


Is this about protecting her or about protecting your Gryffindor's sense of nobility and chivalry?



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-31 23:32:51](#)**
(no subject)

...



 **[alt_ron](#)** at **[2014-03-31 04:33:47](#)**
(no subject)

He tried telling me, a month ago, that I should drop Sally Anne, and I reckon when I didn't, he decided to take a different approach.

But we're not doing it. Avery can go bludger himself.

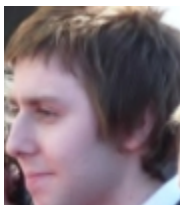



 [alt_hermione](#) at [2014-03-31 18:49:10](#)
(no subject)

He might 'know' that Mr Malfoy's out of favour but there's a big difference between that and Voldemort having an excuse to punish Mr Malfoy. ~~Not that he'd need an excuse~~ So that part might just be posturing, because as far as anyone can tell, Mr Malfoy's still doing everything that Voldemort requires of him. It's harder to know what that all entails, though, given that he's tried to give Draco room to succeed. Or, I don't know, Pansy, he hasn't distanced himself from you in quite the same way. Maybe you could ask him just how bad it's getting for him, and then we'd know more?

One thing I thought of just the other night is the book. Mr Malfoy usually checks it when he comes to the Governors' meetings and last Thursday I don't think he did. I mean, he didn't really stick around or come early or anything (well, he almost never comes early but he certainly wasn't in the castle afterward). But aren't the women at Bedford going to start having their babies really soon? (Not that it matters because they wouldn't show up in the copy he sees and they it's not as if they'll be discovered in the camps, but it made me realise we really should just put it on our list of things to do a day or two before the Governors meet, finding a way in to the Headmistress's office to check the book.)

Oh, but anyway, what I meant was that if he's started ignoring that, then that's a possible reason someone might make trouble for him. Or maybe it's an indication that he's horribly distracted by other things. Not that Voldemort would have Pansy tortured just because Mr Malfoy didn't check the book. But he might, it's hard to say.



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

Hermione,

He used to come earlier, though, didn't he? I mean to say, I recall him arranging tea with Draco and Pansy and Harry and sometimes even Hydra. I say, perhaps it's because he doesn't wish to associate himself with them, what, or with the Headmistress if he's aware of the strictures on her. Or perhaps he doesn't wish to be observed speaking to Professor Dolohov, what. There are a jolly good load of reasons he might be making his visits


as short as possible, if you follow me.

But Pansy, Hermione's got a good suggestion about asking Mr Malfoy how things are with him. I rather suspect he might be flattered by your solicitousness, what, and perhaps give us a better sense of Voldemort's mind. You might even ask him if he believes his strategies are helping you and Draco. If he declines to answer, we're no worse off, and if he does say something, well then, I say, we'd be a dashed sight better for the intelligence.

Either way, I do think it's dangerous to consider that Avery's merely puffing himself up to appear more influential in Ron's or Sally-Anne's eyes. I'm bally well sure he could arrange to fabricate any sort of offence he likes, if he's not pleased, and particularly if he thinks Mr Malfoy's vulnerable.


-Justin



 [alt_draco](#) at [2014-03-31 23:04:20](#)
(no subject)


Everyone knows, or at least suspects, that my father is out of favour. Avery undoubtedly knows more than I do at this point; I've barely spoken to my father since Christmas hols. And even if I had, he would undoubtedly go to great lengths to hide the details of his disgrace from me. That's just how he is.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-03-31 21:27:57](#)
Private Message to Sally Anne

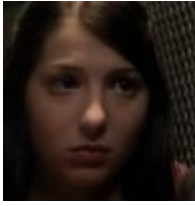
What are you thinking?



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-04-01 14:08:48](#)
Private Message to Sally Anne

Er. Are you not talking to me, then?

You were already gone last night when I came to walk you back. You could've sent me a message if you were done early.



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-04-01 14:23:22](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

I'm sorry. I didn't want to --

I actually went to bed really early last night so I wouldn't have to think about this. ~~And then couldn't fall asleep~~ I'm sorry I didn't wait for you to walk with me, Milli had come in for some reason and Madam P suggested I walk back with her, and she said it was to make sure I could keep an eye on her while we were walking but of course she's in the Order (Madam P, I mean) and I was thinking maybe she was trying to

I don't know.

~~If anything happens to Pansy, I~~



 [alt_sally_anne](#) at [2014-04-01 14:24:31](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

And I wasn't picking up my journal because I was afraid Mrs Longbottom would have said, 'you two have to at least pretend to break things off, that's going to be safest for all of you' but instead she didn't say anything useful at all, which is almost as bad.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-04-01 15:11:11](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Yeah.

I don't even know.

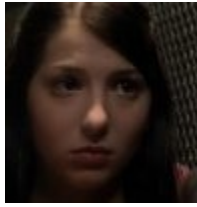
I wish some of the would say something. Because I want to know if they think Malfoy's right. Because the way they're not saying anything, I think they do.

And if they'd just say, then I could tell them to all get bludgered.

Except.

I don't want anything to happen to Pansy, either. And I don't want it sound like I don't care if something does.

This really reeks, y'know?



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2014-04-01 15:28:25](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Yeah.



 **alt_sally_anne** at [2014-04-01 15:35:02](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

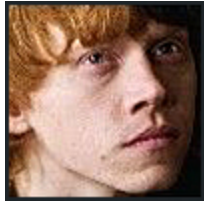
I mean, Draco's right that we could continue to see each other secretly and things wouldn't actually change all that much, we already live so much of our lives in secret -- and you know, we get to have our mothers in the secret with us, and Draco doesn't; the cost he pays for keeping the secret is different than for us.


But you're also right that giving in to a blackmailer shows that you can be manipulated.

But of course, we wouldn't REALLY be giving in; we'd be sending a signal that we could be manipulated but it would be a lie, one that would give us some information, maybe, later on.

And you know, I still don't know who Avery thinks he'd push as a sacrificial lamb, instead. I hadn't thought about how vulnerable Pansy is, I'd always thought about how her friendship with Mr Malfoy keeps her safe but he's right it cuts both ways. Draco's always been the one at wandpoint, you know, they threatened him to keep Harry in line and they punished him when Harry misbehaved (and they made Mr Malfoy do it) but no one really paid that much attention to Pansy.

It would probably be Mrs Malfoy. That they'd use instead.



 [alt_ron](#) at [2014-04-01 16:07:04](#)

Re: Private Message to Sally Anne

Okay, yeah. I just don't believe Avery can be sure who Voldemort would go after or that Voldemort would listen to what Avery says about which of them to hurt.

But I don't know he can't.

I mean, really, what do I know?