

**[2014-04-01 07:38:00](#)**

*Happy birthday!*

Happy birthday to my twin brothers, Fred and George Weasley, entrepreneurs extraordinaire.



**[alt\\_bill](#)**



**[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2014-04-01 12:40:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thanks!

You're still on for our plan of stopping by the building for lunch? Hitty's planning on whipping up a feast, we think.

We're having a one-day sale to mark the occasion.



**[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2014-04-01 12:42:04](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sure, but don't think you can sneak me any of your comestible products for the pudding course.



**[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2014-04-01 12:42:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

You should know better than to give us a challenge like that.



**[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-01 14:01:54](#)**

*(no subject)*

Sale?

Count me in for that! I want the same as last time, yeah? (You can hold it for hols.)

Many happy returns! Have a brilliant time celebrating!




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-01 18:14:10](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, we'll just pull out the order sheet you used last time and save the goodies behind the counter for you.

We will!




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-01 14:56:18](#)  
(no subject)

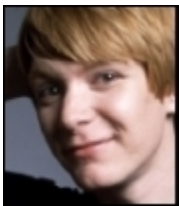
Oi, Bill beat me to it, but what he said goes double for me. Happy birthday, gents, and here's to another year of making things change color, explode, grow hair where it shouldn't be (or take hair away from where it should be), smell really bad, smell really good, or turn out in ways you really shouldn't put in your mouth.


I'm sending biscuits along with your gift. Try to keep them out of the workshop, yeah?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-01 16:14:44](#)  
(no subject)


A very happy birthday to you both!



 [alt\\_george](#) at [2014-04-01 23:00:04](#)  
*Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Wish you were here to help celebrate personally, yeah?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-02 02:03:49](#)  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Believe me, I'm very much looking forward to Easter Hols.

Miss y

Don't stay up too late, old man.

**2014-04-01 09:25:00**

*I Solemnly Swear That I Am Up To No Good*

In honour of Fred and George's birthday and the anniversary of this lock, I would just like to note:



 [alternity](#)

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)


His Excellency the So-Called Lord Protector, also known as the Lord Pretender, Voldemort, and His Noselessness the Ugly, is a stupid ponce, an evil git, a puling coward, a liar, a thief, a murderer, and an atrocious father.

He murders children, enslaves muggles, muggle-borns, half-bloods, and purebloods, tortures those around him for his personal entertainment, has lunch with Dementors, encourages others to blood-thirst and savagery, and would undoubtedly pick his nose and eat the bogies if he HAD a nose, which he does not.

We can say what we like here, and even if we were betrayed, they can only kill any of us once, so I'm going to say that I want Voldemort dead. I want him dead for real, none of this 'oh look, here I am again but without a nose this time' business. I want Bellatrix dead. I want Barty Crouch dead. I want an earthquake. I want a revolution. I WANT TO TEAR IT ALL DOWN, ALL OF IT, AND START OVER BECAUSE THE PROTECTORATE IS ROTTEN TO THE CORE.

(I can't figure out how they made the picture of the exploding dungbombs?)



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2014-04-01 15:09:48**  
(no subject)

Hear hear.

**2014-04-01 23:45:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Hydra*

Dux,

I've muffed it. I've bally well done it for us both, love.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Montague roused Professor Slughorn out of bed, if you believe it, with some utter rubbish about how the honour of House Slytherin was besmirched.

I've a detention, of course. But if that weren't dashed well enough, Professor Slughorn hinted he might have to write your father.

I say, Montague might have thought about that when he decided to use me as his target. I'm jolly well not at fussed about the detention, what, it's the idea of what your father might do when he hears we've ignored his terms.

At least Professor Slughorn didn't seem to know about the ring. I say, I'm not dashed sure if that would have made things better or worse. I didn't wish to call it to his attention, though.

I'm sorry, sweetheart. On reflection I probably ought to have stayed instead of going back to my own dormitory. I don't doubt Professor Slughorn would not have been pleased to stake out the dungeons for nothing, what!

Blast and dash it. I wonder if we could convince him not to say anything.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-02 04:04:22**

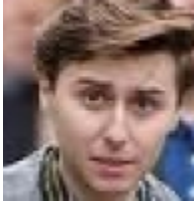
*(no subject)*


Alfred, really? But why would he target you to get at me? I don't think he's every really paid me any mind before. Though I suppose he might have lately, what with the challenges.

Oh, I wish I knew what to do. Perhaps I can write to Daddy tomorrow before Professor Slughorn gets the chance. Only what can I say to

him?

How can Professor Slughorn really be so certain that you were out after curfew because you were seeing me?



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-02 04:11:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm not sure writing to your father will have the effect you desire, dearest.


We could show him your ring, perhaps. I could tell he wasn't in the mood and bally well likely wouldn't have believed me tonight. And I was hardly paying a call on anyone else at this hour, what!

I suppose we've not been as unobserved as we thought.

As for Montague, isn't it obvious? After you brought back that jolly great bit of giant spider?

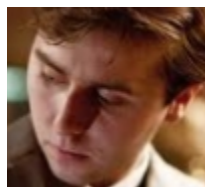
-Justin




 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-02 04:17:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Well I'll try to see Professor Slughorn first thing in the morning, then, and see if I can explain about the engagement.

It will be okay, somehow.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-02 04:22:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, all right. I shan't panic. And we must both try to get a decent night's sleep.

It's singularly ironic, what, that we were just thinking about how to respond if someone like Avery were to tell me to set you aside. Or you to let me go, what.

Now it looks as if--

No. Positive, as you say. You'll convince him, of course you will.  
You've won over almost everyone else one way or another.

-J




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-02 04:30:34](#)  
(no subject)

We've forgotten to be careful. We can't ever not be careful again.

Yes, do try to sleep. And I'll need to get up very early, after all.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-02 04:33:31](#)  
(no subject)


Yes. It's dashed easy to forget, what. Or to think that one's safe and need *not* be careful.

All right. I'll see you at breakfast and--I say, good luck tomorrow with Professor Slughorn. I love you.

Sweet dreams, darling.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-02 04:35:17](#)  
(no subject)

I love you, too. Goodnight.

**2014-04-02 07:29:00**

*Private Message to Antosha and Rizzer*



 [alt\\_horace](#)

Gentlemen,

You may well wonder why I am communicating via journal when we are about to take breakfast and have a staff meeting this afternoon, all splendid methods of consulting fellow colleagues on many a matter of academic discipline. However, when I explain to you the circumstances under which I write, you may understand why I did not wish our conversation to wait, nor to be potentially overheard by prying ears.

This morning I had barely risen when Miss Lestrangle presented herself at my door, in some distress. You see, last night, Mr Montague took it upon himself to entangle me in what I suspect must have been the most recent of Our Lord's tests of loyalty in our elite students, for he gave me to believe that if I waited with him at a particular spot in the dungeons near the entrance to Slytherin, I should find sometime shortly before midnight that Mr Finch-Fletchley would be returning from his 'nightly tryst' (his words, not mine). Mr Finch-Fletchley, to his credit, made no protestations and no fuss over the detention he deserved for breaking curfew and, of course, for loitering in areas of the castle where he could have no legitimate purpose. Mr Montague may feel himself rather smug at this entrapment but to my thinking, the more egregious issue was, in fact, the impropriety which he meant to expose, rather than his blatant manipulation of the situation.

Simply put: I cannot think how long this has been going on but it is certain that Miss Lestrangle's esteemed parents ought to be informed of the children's conduct. Mr Finch-Fletchley is now of age; nonetheless the Jugsons would, I am sure, be appalled were they to realise the extent to which he has overstepped himself.

Enter Miss Lestrangle this morning, urging me not to report back to her august mother and father. She spilled out a rather breathless explanation, attesting that her father already knew of their 'engagement' as she called it--and indeed, once she mentioned the word, I confess I noticed a ring on her finger--and assured me that her father had given his consent. Naturally, consent to a match is one thing; I pointed out that this surely does not mean her father approves of their liaisons. She swore they were nothing like as frequent as Mr Montague may have presented them, which only convinces me they




are every bit as indiscreet as one might imagine.

I asked her how I might know that she wasn't embellishing the truth of this supposed betrothal. (I discount the ring; as I said, I had certainly not seen it before this morning and it is entirely possible it was a glamour put on for the occasion.) Miss Lestrange immediately offered your testimony, both of yours. Were you aware? What, if any, expectations does Mr Lestrange have for those of us charged with his daughter's proper care while she remains a student? Most importantly, can you conceive of any reason we should not inform him forthwith, despite the child's obvious affection for her, let us call him her fiancé?

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 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-02 14:42:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. Yes, Miss Lestrange's parents are aware of the relationship, but that does not mean they would approve of unsupervised after-hours visitation.


I do suggest you inform Bella, rather than Rod; she is likely to be less irrational about the topic. I will have a word with Mr Finch-Fletchley.



 **[alt\\_horace](#)** at **[2014-04-02 15:09:41](#)**  
(no subject)

If you wish to have a word with him, Tosha, that is your affair, of course; however it would be most appropriate at this point, I think, to inform Professor Sprout. It may be that her particular ... maternal influence might reform him in ways that he would discount coming from other males. At the very least, he ought to be embarrassed and ashamed of his shocking breach of propriety.

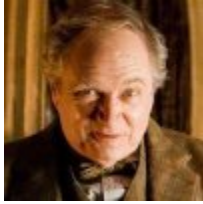



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-04-03 04:30:13](#)**  
(no subject)

They are engaged, but it is a mite irregular. What you were led to find would appear to put them afoul of Rod's rather strict rules. However, if rumors of their meetings have spread to the point that they can be used like this, there's no way to avoid contacting her parents. The Jugsons' are irrelevant at this point. I agree with Tosha, Bella is more

likely to be pragmatic than my beloved brother.

Which of us makes the most sense to break the news?



 [alt\\_horace](#) at [2014-04-03 14:36:22](#)  
(no subject)

Much as it tempts me to set Pomona with the task, as Finch-Fletchley is in her House, Miss Lestrange is my responsibility.

Unless one of you gentlemen would care to undertake it?

No, I thought not.

**2014-04-02 11:55:00**

*I'm really glad that we don't*

have Arithmancy until tomorrow. I heard that Professor Vector's still in a strop about Edgecombe's essay being all in glittery pink. (To hear Edgecombe tell it, she doesn't know what possessed her--it's not even proper ink, it's more like a special drafting paint she bought for drawing. There's a charm to make it give off a moonglow in the dark, too.)



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Anyway, I thought I'd just remind anyone who might not remember: Black is the only acceptable ink for narrative. Colours are for calculations. (I'll leave what Professor Vector thinks of sparkles or glow-in-the-dark paints to the imagination. Really, it's better that way.) (First-years, that doesn't apply to Potions formulae. The advanced rules there are completely different, as I'm sure Professor Slughorn would be happy to point out.)

While I'm on the subject of reminders: Please make sure you've got all your books and *all* your supplies for lessons throughout the day. Third-years, you ought to know by now that you've not enough time to go running all the way back to your dormitories between lessons.

And please remember that if you're coming back to the castle from Herbology or Care of Magical Creatures or any other activity that requires you to go outside, you can perform a *very simple* cleaning charm on your shoes and robe hems *before* you come inside.

Finally, it should go without saying but NO MAGIC in the corridors. That means no hexing, no jinxing, no curses, no spells of any kind. (Particularly not the kind that might be aimed at a fellow student!) (And don't think you can just blame everything on Peeves, either.)

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 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 16:25:28](#)

*Private Message to Seamus*

Ugh, you should have *heard* the fuss Edgecombe was making yesterday. And Darshana, my cousin, you know--she *swears* that she had just done the cleansing spell moments before Milland caught her tracking great huge gobs of mud all through the entrance hall and up the staircase. Has to have been a hex for the last challenge. She was the worst blubbering nit about the whole thing yesterday, I had to send her out of Ravenclaw Corner because she was making such a fuss.

Have you done yours? I managed to hex Maurice Scroops in a way that made him think it was Quint Twycross, just a moment after I'd hexed Twycross's bag to fall apart. They despise each other anyway, so it was fairly easy to get them to duelling. And then it was just a matter of bringing them to Professor Acton. Still, it was harder than I thought to come up with something.

Oh, and Zach? Honestly. He should be eliminated for that feeble effort, I swear.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-02 19:38:26](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

What, do you feel bad for Romilda Vane? I thought Zach's had flair.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 19:46:47](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Yeah, deliberately snogging two girls where one can see you and then thinking you can just say 'April Fool's' and *not* get hexed?

Zach's an utter pig. It's not that I feel sorry for Vane--she's a nitwit--but no bloke should do that to a woman on purpose.

And between that and the last one - I mean, dragon's scales leftover from *two years* ago? Dragon's don't even *live* in the Forbidden Forest. He should have failed at that one, too.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-02 19:55:39](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Yeah, that one was naff. I don't know who he thought he was fooling.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 20:31:33](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Lines wants to know if we've noticed that Lestrage is distracted. I told him how beyond inattentive F-F was this afternoon, you know? I mean, when you're more in touch with the revisions than he is, we're in trouble. No offence, just he's usually much more, I dunno, prepared.

Anyway, I think it's because he got caught. He'd have been easy pickings for anyone in Slytherin, from what I hear. And if he got caught and he and Hydra aren't supposed to be together, on account of Marvolo.... Do you think they'd elope? I mean, I can't imagine Lestrage running away from the competition but if they up and married, it's not like He would disqualify her, you know? I think she can Malfoy could almost do whatever they liked and they'd *still* be in the top ranks.



 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-02 20:35:34](#)

*Re: Private Message to Seamus*

Well, I'd say F-F has a lot more to worry about than Hydra does. I heard Moebius Ollivander had his bits removed and kept in a jar until he was done with school. After he messed with Marvolo's Granger, you know? Anyway, if F-F crosses the Lestranges I'll be surprised if they're in any shape to be put back on, you know?

Apparently he likes to live dangerously.

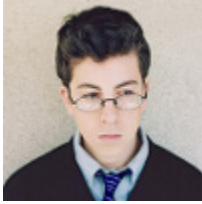


 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 16:27:59](#)

*Private Message to Lines*

Edgecombe clearly knows better. Who do you think did it? And I wonder if they Confunded her or what--I mean, it's probably the best one I've heard of so far.

Did you catch someone after all, or not?



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-02 18:40:11](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lines*

That glittery pink ink should not have been funny but I do confess that it was. (No, it was not me-- and Edgecombe's distress was clearly NOT funny, as it quite disrupted class.)

As to who it was, going by the principle of examining the candidate who looks the most innocent, I have a short list:

Katie Bell  
Draco Malfoy

Also, had you noticed that Hydra Lestrangle looks rather distracted today?

As to my own cunning plans, they unfold apace. Someday there shall be epic poetry of it.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 19:51:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lines*

Since when do you know what happens in the 7<sup>th</sup>-years' lessons?

I can't really see Bell doing it, can you? Actually, I'm not much sure what she's still doing in this competition, other than being Marvolo's girlfriend. Sort of.

(Not just Lestrangle. F-F's been walking round like he expects to be arrested any moment. I expect someone found out about their little love affair. Do you know that Valerie Dunstan told Belinda that *everyone* in Hufflepuff know that he's down in the Slytherin

dungeons almost every night? And no one says anything because they're afraid of Hydra. I imagine they'd be much more afraid of her mother if *she* thought anyone other than Marvolo were helping themselves.)

Epic poetry? Would that be the Rime of the Omniculars again?



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-02 20:20:08](#)

*Re: Private Message to Lines*

Since Professor Vector told me. I went in to collect the extra Arithmancy problems she gives me as a reward some weeks -- apparently my tutoring of Vane and Lonsdale is bearing fruit in the form of improved performance -- and she was still fulminating about how the whole thing had quite thrown a billywig into the cauldron. Between Edgecombe's hysterics and the hilarity of the others, there was little progress made in their apprehension of the intricate workings of higher Arithmancy. I managed to keep a straight face when she described the glittery pink ink, but I will own that it was a near thing.

Do not underestimate Bell. It is the sweet-faced ones that can sometimes be the most dangerous, I am told.


Underestimating Hydra Lestrange would be even worse. Underestimating her mother would likely be a very short-lived mistake, as anyone in the Protectorate knows. (I think, given the choice, I'd rather have Hydra cross with me -- but I intend to refrain from anything that would cause either of them to look askance at me, ever!)

Epic poetry has as its natural subject the actions of heroes and villains, Padma, and its scope may encompass the least of us as well as the most formidable among the Lord Protector's supporters. Not that these challenges are as glorious as the exploits of Byron himself, but one works with what one has.

Actually, if Bellatrix Lestrange ever did take something amiss that I'd done, I could do worse than to have verses in praise of her at the ready. Hmm.

Do you think she will come to Hogwarts?



 **[alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-02 20:27:09](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Lines*

I don't think Auror Lestrangle is the type who...appreciates poetry, Lines.

Maybe if it were verses in praise of Our Lord.  
But--no, I'm pretty sure not even then.

And I suppose she would come to Hogwarts if there were a good reason. Like if she found out her daughter were planning to elope or something. With someone other than Marvolo, that is. Not that they are, of course. Planning to elope.

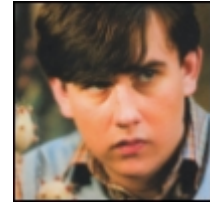
Anyway, it's no secret that Malfoy and Lestrangle are miles ahead of most of us. Luckily one doesn't necessarily have to beat them, just be as good as or nearly. But Bell? No way. Not unless she's really biding her time to wait for the good quaffles. I'm not sure how many more of these tasks we'll have to do but we've got to be about halfway, if He's going to choose at the end of the term. She's flubbed so many now that she'd have to win almost every one just to come out in the top third.



**[2014-04-02 20:51:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Ron, sorry I couldn't go over that essay with you like I promised. Pansy and Evelyn and I did our little drama after dinner and Mr Milland/Snape was there to swoop in because I threw the hex and...yeah. I've been scrubbing mud up off the floor--without magic--in the Entrance Hall and up the staircase ever since (the stuff that Darshana Patil tracked in).



 **[alt\\_neville](#)**

Anyway, I reckon it worked. Loads of people saw it, and Pansy gets to tick that challenge off, with loud accusations of 'blood traitor' thrown in for extra credit, I guess.



 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2014-04-03 02:01:37](#)**

*Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

I know I volunteered, but seriously, though? That twisted sort of imitation of my mum you did, when you were going on about the Razzer. What the hell?

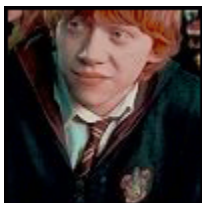


 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-03 05:29:31](#)**

*Re: Private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Don't get too fussed. It's called being convincing.

And it got the job done, didn't it?

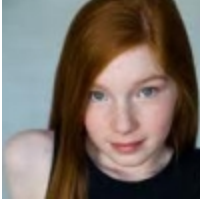



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-03 03:21:43](#)**

*(no subject)*

No worries.


Shame about the detention. If I'd known you'd have to clean it up, I wouldn't have laid on that mud hex with quite so much force.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-03 03:38:28](#)**  
*Private Message to Neville*

All right, Pete?

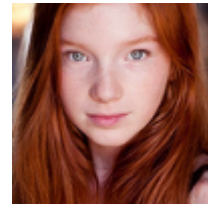


 **[alt\\_neville](#)** at **[2014-04-04 02:50:30](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Neville*

I will be. Eventually.

**2014-04-03 07:59:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Dad and Colin Creevey*



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

I don't want you and mum to worry overly much about what happened yesterday. We'd come up with a plan for Pansy to get Neville in trouble so he'd get detention, for the challenge, and it worked. A bit too

She pretended to be hacked off at me, and she said some provoking things to give Neville an excuse to pull his wand and attempt to hex her in front of Milland so he'd give Nev detention.

It was

I'm glad we were able to help.

Anyways.

I had a lovely time on Tuesday, observing the comet with Professor Sinistra. We talked about all sorts of things while we were waiting to take the next set of measurements, like OWLs and what those would be like, and what it was like for her while she was going through school, and her favourite teachers. She was very close to her Astronomy professor, of course, but she went on for a bit about Professor Flitwick, which was nice. I wish I could've met him. I know how much mum loved him. And we talked about prefects, too. About how they're selected. And what sorts of responsibilities they tend to have. Which was kind of her to bring up, but I told her I didn't think I had a chance, of course, and then I was sort of joking about how silly it would be, and I sort of blurted out that both you and mum'd been prefects, you know, hah hah, what a laugh, don't think they'll make that mistake again. It was frightfully awkward, and I didn't mean to say it (and I don't think it was a mistake, of course I don't), but she just sort of paused and nodded her head and said that mum was a prefect when she was a first-year.

We didn't talk about it any more beyond that. I mean, she told some stories about her first year, and I think sometimes she was thinking about mum when she told them, but she didn't mention her directly.

Still. I'd no idea they were in school at the same time.

I promise I won't bring it up with her again.


It's interesting, though, because if I think about it, you and mum went to school at the same time as a lot of people, didn't you? Not just Mr Black and Mr Lupin and Mr Snape, but Lucius Malfoy and Bellatrix Lestrangle and people like that too. ~~I wonder how many of my classmates~~

The perihelion was beautiful. It was much brighter than I thought, and I stared at it for so long that I think I had it imprinted on my eyelids when I went back down the stairs.

I suppose I've been thinking about you and mum quite a lot lately. It's been that kind of week, I suppose. I miss you both very much.

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 **alt\_frank** at [2014-04-03 15:24:28](#)  
(no subject)


We were wondering what that was all about.

You both sound a little rattled. Are you sure everything is all right? Sometimes, it's one thing to have a plan, and another to have it actually happen.

And yeah, your mum and me have quite the roster of school fellows. Lucius Malfoy was Head Boy the year after I was, you know. We all write down our words of advice in a book, going back ages and ages, I don't even remember the date of the earliest entry. Wonder if mine is still in there.

I know it's hard feeling people out sometimes, Evie. Merlin knows, you're in a tough place sometimes in terms of what you can and can't say. You've certainly built up a lot of good credit with Professor Sinistra, and I'm glad for it. And what you said is a matter of public record, so no harm done.



 **alt\_evelyn** at [2014-04-03 15:28:02](#)  
(no subject)

I think you're right. About having plans look different on paper.


It wasn't very pleasant to hear a friend say those things out loud. Even though it was all things other people probably

think all the time.

But it did what we set out to do, and I know she didn't mean it.

Only I think we might have to pretend to be at odds with her for a bit, just so it'll keep up appearances.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-03 15:41:54](#)  
(no subject)

I was thinking after my talk with Professor Sinistra about how Neville and I are in a rather odd sort of place, really, where people sometimes just don't know how to handle us. If it was blood status, there'd be other people in a similar category, and rules, and everyone would all know what to do. It's an awful, unfair system, but it's a system, which means that everyone knows where they belong.

And it's just the two of us.


The Weasleys had uncles who were directly involved in things, of course, but that's different.

And I guess that just makes it hard to predict how things will go.

Like when I realised I'd said something about you and mum to Professor Sinistra, I was just so horrified I had. Like I'd ruined things, or crossed some sort of line and presumed far too much. I'm glad she didn't make a production about it. And I hope it won't change what we have, but I'll have to wait and see.

I suppose everything just seems a bit more uncertain at the moment. All the friends I've made in the last year, all the things I've been doing at school, it feels so fragile. Like a wrong word could ruin the whole thing.



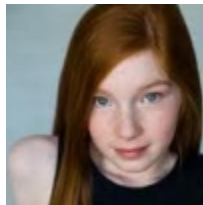
 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-03 15:58:23](#)  
(no subject)


It takes a lot of courage to do what you've done, sweetie. Just being there takes courage, but you've done so much more than that. You've carved out a real place for yourself. And parts of it

might feel uncertain right now, but that's because it's new.

Remember, you've got all sorts of people who have your back no matter what. And they're not going anywhere.

I can't imagine how hard it's been sometimes for you and your brother. I'm sorry, kiddo. I wish things could've been different.

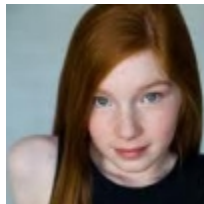



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-03 16:05:20](#)  
(no subject)

You're right. I've got Neville, and Ron, and Mr Snape, and Professor Sprout, and Madame P, and everyone else in ISS. Which includes Pansy. I can tell them anything. And I know that if I needed it, they'd be there no matter what.

And I've got you and mum too. Being able to write you like this is such a gift. I'm so glad for it.

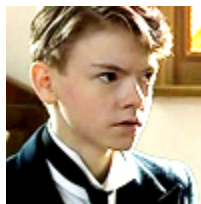
This past term *has* been really lovely. Truly. I shouldn't just assume it's temporary or mistrust it just because it's good.




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-03 16:06:09](#)  
(no subject)

I really wish you could meet Artie, dad.

I think you'd like him.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-03 16:08:54](#)  
(no subject)

Of course I'm going to meet him. And you'd better believe I'd like him. I'm counting on that, sweetie.

Maybe not right away, but it's worth thinking through what it'd take to bring him into the fold, and whether he'd be ready for it.

We'll talk more about it over hols, yeah?




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-03 16:11:17](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.

Thank you.

I love you so very much.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-03 16:11:57](#)  
(no subject)

Love you too, Evie.

See you soon.

**2014-04-04 13:00:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

I say, have you two thought any more about how you'll respond to Avery's 'suggestion' about appearing to break up? I rather thought Draco's recommendation of using Harry was clever, though of course one understands how it rankles to even consider alternatives.

I've been thinking about the goal each of you have, what--Pansy, Hydra, Draco and yourself, Ron--and what Avery's goal must be. It seems there should be a way to appeal to him, what. I mean to say, he must have a high opinion of you, Ron, if he believes you're close enough to success that he thinks it's bally well time for you to free yourself for 'better options' (I say, sorry, Sally-Anne, that sounds jolly distasteful but surely that's Avery's way of seeing it). The point being that your performance so far has him interested enough to even bother offering his 'advice.' Always assuming he *is* interested, what, and not simply playing with you.

So perhaps if we think of something he wants *more* than he wants you to win, then you might be able to arrange it and thus avoid further harassment.

I suppose I've a vested interest in seeing you find a way 'round it, what. You see, your situation made me and Hydra think about what might happen--how we would go about it--if some similar demand were to be made of us. And now, that might...

Er.

See here, I...haven't told the rest of the Order yet, but the rumours are bally well true: Montague made sure that Professor Slughorn caught me leaving Hydra the other night--the last night of the detention challenge, that is to say. You remember, we started off so careful, what, but when there were no problems and no one said anything, I mean even when we slipped away to Edinburgh and no one--

I suppose we just...developed a habit. A selfish habit, I should say. One

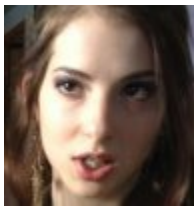


we ought to have known couldn't last. And now... I'm not sure what Professor Slughorn's going to tell Hydra's parents but I'm sure he'll inform them of something. So it's--entirely likely that my 'bits' might be in a jar for the next year and a half. I might consider myself lucky if that's the only action Mr Lestrangle takes.

I'm not looking for sympathy or anything--it was our gamble and we lost. Nothing more to it, what. There's no use worrying over what's going to happen. It's merely a matter of *waiting* for whatever's to be to jolly well get on with it.

Anyway, my point is really that it all makes your situation all the more injurious. If Hydra and I have lost our chance, then I'm dashed if I'll see anyone else lose theirs. I say, if there's a way for you two to stick together and yet not attract Avery's rancor, then please consider me at your disposal to help make it so.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-04 19:22:29](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, bloody hell, Justin.

Is it just Professor Slughorn who knows? Maybe Hydra could blackmail him into keeping his mouth shut. He's been around for an awfully long time, I'm sure there's SOMETHING he doesn't want anyone else knowing.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-04 19:44:36](#)  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I'm fairly certain Professor Lestrangle knows. And Professor Dolohov, though he seems to be preoccupied with other matters.

I say, we hadn't thought of blackmailing Professor Slughorn, but it's most likely too late now. Anytime this has come up before--with Professor Lestrangle last year, for example--Hydra's been able to appeal to their sense of...of common dislike of her mother, to be honest, and convinced whomever it was not to say anything. But Hydra said Professor Slughorn was bally well shocked and quite

cross. I mean to say, one can understand, what? We've been carrying on under his very nose and Bones and MacMillan and Malfoy and Greengrass--really all the Prefects--are aware that we're not in our dormitories most nights.

I just feel I ought to have insisted that we...that we toe the line. I'm older, I ought to have shown better sense.

Anyway, it doesn't matter anymore--I mean to say, what's done is done. I'll face whatever Mr Lestrage decides to do.

It's more important that you show Avery you're not to be threatened. He's got no right to meddle and no authority to make either of you miserable just because it amuses him.

So. What can be done?

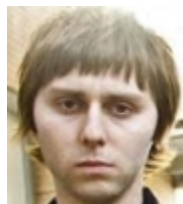
-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-04 19:50:10](#)  
(no subject)

Well, the only reason Ron and I quit sneaking out to meet was that Ron's sharing a dorm room with Finnigan and Thomas and leaving his bed in the night would be a good way to get cursed from behind -- the reason why the Prefects didn't turn you in is that they don't want to be bothered enforcing the rules on all the MANY students who violate them routinely.

Anyway. Do you think Professor Slughorn wrote to BOTH of Hydra's parents? Because perhaps you ought to warn Harry. Because of Katie Bell, you know.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-04 20:07:46](#)  
(no subject)

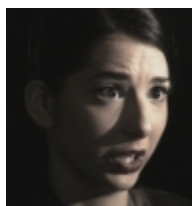
Ernie did get a bit shirty once. But I think that was rather early on and I convinced him there was no harm. Or rather, I think he realised that I didn't sleep as well in the dormitories, especially this year.

I've no idea what Professor Slughorn will do. He hinted that he'd have to say something to Hydra's father. Ordinarily one would

think that's better, what, but it was his terms we've been routinely violating. And of course, in this case, Hydra's mother isn't even aware that he gave his provisional consent to the match.

As for Harry, I'm sure he and Katie are quite safe. When she last wrote to Hydra, Auror LeStrange indicated that her plans for her daughter now far exceed those of simple wife to the Lord Protector's son. I'm sure she's not given up hope, what, but she's far less interested in forcing them together now that Hydra has 'other uses' which she deems more important to the Protectorate.

-Justin

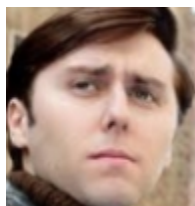



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:08:46](#)

*(no subject)*

You haven't been sleeping in your dormitory? Have you been sleeping in your stairwell? That seems like it would be incredibly uncomfortable. Even a flatter bit of floor -- the floors here are

HARD.



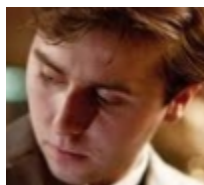
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:13:53](#)


*(no subject)*

We found a series of spells to enlarge the alcove a bit--enough to lie down, anyway--and we add in pillows and some cushioning charms. It never lasts past morning but that's just as well, what, since we wouldn't like to leave evidence behind.

It was just once in a while, then just the weekends and--well, as I said, we simply got careless.

-Justin



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:16:32](#)

*(no subject)*

And I don't always stay all night, obviously, or Professor Slughorn wouldn't have caught me at ten minutes to midnight.

-J

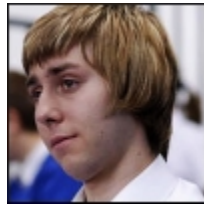



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:17:45](#)  
(no subject)

Ohhhhh, Justin.

Well, it sounds perfectly lovely. I don't blame you for wanting to spend the night there.

Have you and Hydra heard anything?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:25:49](#)  
(no subject)

No, nothing. And I didn't walk her to her lessons today, either. But then on Fridays, I usually can't escort her and make it to class on time. Still, it felt jolly well ominous, not carrying her books. Obviously, she was at dinner and I noticed she was even able to eat a little, so that's something, I suppose.

At this point, it's all I can do not to become convinced that Mr Lestrangle is merely biding his time, knowing the wait is worse than the penalty. Well, I mean to say, not *worse*--it could hardly be worse, what--but more tortuous, if you follow me.


-J



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:29:26](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe Professor Slughorn decided not to tell him? Because I can't see Mr Lestrangle waiting.

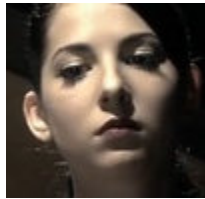


 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:32:12](#)  
(no subject)

When he caught us over the summer holidays, he waited eight hours while I sat in his dungeons.

Yes, I can see him waiting.


-J



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:35:33](#)  
(no subject)

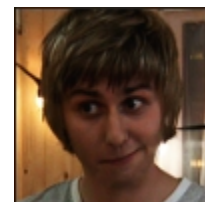
Yeah, but he had you IN HIS DUNGEON.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:37:05](#)  
(no subject)

And I'm in a dungeon now. It's just larger.

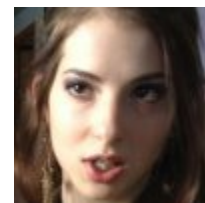
-J



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:38:04](#)  
(no subject)

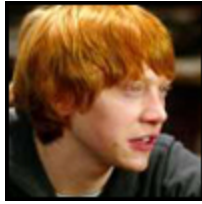
And I have the benefit of clothes.


-J



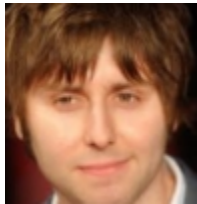
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:38:58](#)  
(no subject)


No, you're not. Because you could leave and tell the Order to come get you and take you to Moddey. You're not actually stuck here. (I mean, he doesn't know you can tell the Order to take you to Moddey but he certainly knows you could leave and then hide. You're of age, you've passed your OWLs, you're allowed to just leave if you want.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 04:43:18](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, that's what I was just saying.



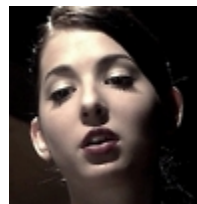
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:45:52](#)  
(no subject)

Mm.

Well, that's rather a one-way trip, isn't it? I mean to say, if I leave school and go into hiding now, what, I'll have squandered not only my time with Hydra but anything else I might have built for the Order's benefit. Worse, it might put all of you in the line of fire, should MLE come looking for other ways to condemn me in order for the Lestranges to make Hydra look innocent.

It's not that I haven't considered running, Sally-Anne. It's not time for that sort of reaction just yet.

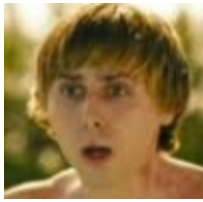
-J




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:50:29](#)  
(no subject)

I'm trying to work out how anyone would be put at risk because Hydra was spending nights with her boyfriend and now he's run off to keep Rod from putting his bits in a jar. I mean, this isn't treason, where they'd want to know who all your friends were, it's perfectly ordinary behaviour and the sort of thing that's normally private.

I mean if you don't think it's going to be that bad then don't run, because obviously it makes sense to stay at Hogwarts if you can. If he's actually going to put your bits in a jar for the next eighteen months but then you'll get them back... well it's up to you, I guess.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:52:16](#)  
(no subject)

Can we stop talking about my bits, please?

Thank you.

-J




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 04:54:33](#)  
(no subject)

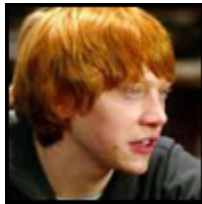
You're the one who brought them up!


But fine, sorry.



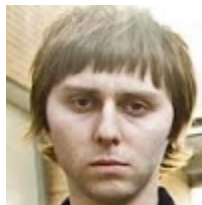
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 04:56:36](#)  
(no subject)


Heh.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 04:29:53](#)  
(no subject)

What do you expect he's going to do to you, then?



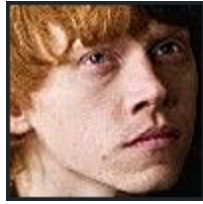
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 04:34:42](#)  
(no subject)


Ron,

Nothing good. I can't see any way round it, though.

And no sense dwelling on it. Let's focus on you, shall we? I'd rather--see you and Sally-Anne to a way round your problem. It's solvable, where mine is out of our hands for now.

-Justin

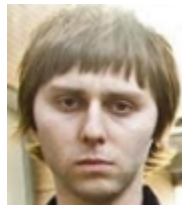



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:42:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, I mean to say, if you really expect he's going to do something dire, then we should be coming up with a plan to get you away somewhere safe.

I expect you could go to Moddey Dhoo or Sherwood if you wanted. Or one of the farms.

That wouldn't be great--leaving school and Hydra and all. But it'd be better than ending up dead.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:49:17](#)**  
*Private Message to Ron*


Ron,

Would you leave Sally-Anne if she were in danger?

I'll run if it's necessary but it's not necessary yet. And I'll want to make sure Hydra will be safe when--if--I do have to make an escape.

-J



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:54:14](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Ron*

No, I'd see to it she was safe, if I could. Hydra could go to Moddey, too, y'know. And then they'd think the two of you ran off together, which might not be a bad thing for them to assume. I mean, it would make them less likely to think any of us would know much about it.

But I take your point to Sally Anne about not wanting to run. So let's think what we can do to give you as much help as possible whenever he does decide what to do with you.

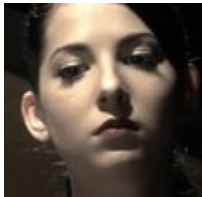




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-04 19:25:14](#)  
(no subject)

It sort of goes to show that Draco's solution isn't, really. That we should pretend to break things off and go on seeing each other in private.

It's just about impossible to keep that sort of thing secret, in a school full of nosy parkers and gossips. And having secrets like that makes you vulnerable to all sorts of things.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-04 19:54:22](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway I guess the question you actually asked was, 'what are you thinking,' and the answer is, 'I've been trying not to think about it.'

I mean, Mrs Longbottom hasn't said anything. On the other hand if she had to choose between protecting me and protecting Pansy, it's the purebloods with wretched parents who've always been at the bottom of her list, even if she doesn't care to admit it (well, other than Harry, because no one in the Order thinks of Voldemort as Harry's father.) Also she might be thinking that having extra secrets makes you vulnerable and that's the last thing any of us need.

Really, the fundamental problem here is that Avery wants Ron to win and Ron wants to lose. Who were Avery's other candidates? Zach Smith and Greg Goyle? No, wait, it was Vince, wasn't it?



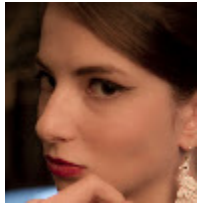
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-04 20:13:48](#)  
(no subject)

I think it was Crabbe, yes. I'm sure Avery chose Zach. And I know he's giving these challenges a go, what, but believe me, his heart's not in it. He simply doesn't want to fail utterly. (I say, I rather think that's the attitude of most of the candidates, what.)

Crabbe, now.... I say, it would take loads of work but it's possible to prop him up. Might there be a solution outside the competition? If Avery's set himself up as Mr Malfoy's political enemy, who does that make his allies? What would he give for help to torpedo scuttle the

chances of one of his rivals' candidates, and would that be a better choice than helping Crabbe along?

-Justin

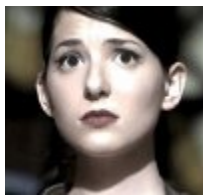


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-04 20:26:51](#)  
(no subject)

Propping up Crabbe isn't a terrible idea anyway -- I mean, I know Pansy's been sabotaging him every chance she gets just because she dislikes him, and I sympathise, but it's not as if we can pack the Council with Order members. Bad enough letting Draco do it. Crabbe is a complete idiot and will do whatever Draco tells him to do and is FAR less risky to have on the Council than, say, Teddy Nott. We could do worse, is what I'm saying; Crabbe will be a tool. He'll be muscle.

The problem is, of course, that I'm sure Avery would rather have a proper ally, and that's what he expects to get from Ron. I don't know what he thought he was about, choosing Zach.

If he's Malfoy's enemy, his most likely allies are the Mulcibers. Bill's delightful and personable boss and his equally delightful brother. I suppose there might be others. Professor Dolohov might know. (Also, who Avery's sponsor was, and whether any of the other young Councilwizards had the same sponsor -- presumably they'd be allies.)




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 02:12:08](#)  
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom wanted to know what Ron and I were thinking so I told her about this idea.

Honestly I much prefer the ideas where Ron and I don't have to stop seeing each other. So, thank you.



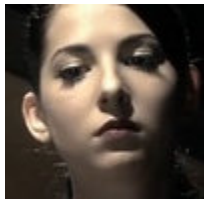
 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 02:34:07](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, well. It seems to me that one of the most important reasons we're fighting against the Protectorate is the right to love whomever one chooses.

If Hydra and I aren't going to be able to do that, it stands to reason *someone* ought to enjoy the privilege.

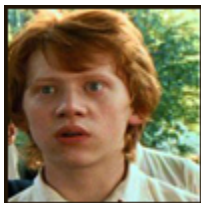
I don't think either of the Mulcibers have any candidates, so that might not help you. But surely Mr Crispin is allied with Mr Malfoy, or--given the falling out Mr Malfoy had with Mr Baddock, perhaps Avery would be interested in making sure one of Ptolemy Baddock's candidates were to succeed?


Let's see. Lana Sandoval chose Hydra and Padma. Ned Pennifold chose Pansy and Draco. Avery's got Ron, Zach and Crabbe. Finnigan was chosen by Crispin, I've heard him say so. Of course, poor Sam Montgomery was also one of Crispin's, I think, so he's already doing poorly compared to Avery. Have you any idea who sponsored Nott?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 03:09:36](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. Nott was sponsored by Sarah Yaxley. (She also sponsored Lares Tamblyn and Blaise Zabini.) Sarah Yaxley, let me think what I know about her. She's mates with Lana Sandoval -- I mean, they've been mates for years -- so I'd assume they're allies on the council. Her father was killed by Voldemort last August. I don't think anyone knows why.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 03:49:21](#)  
(no subject)

Ugh. That's terrible, mate.

I can't imagine it's very jolly waiting for the other shoe to drop.

And, yeah. If we can think of the right thing to tell Avery to get him to drop this and focus on something else, that'd be wizard.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:58:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. So

Avery - Ron, Crabbe, Zach  
Baddock - Katie?

Crispin - Finnigan, Sam (out)

Montague - Alfred, of course, Heph Bobolis, and Moon, I think?

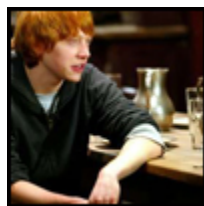
Pennifold (N) - Draco, Pansy


Sandoval-Pennifold - Patil, Hydra

Yaxley - Zabini, Nott, and Tambllyn

Leaving Thomas, Vaisey, McLaggen, Stevens, and Goyle.... Have we any thoughts about who might have picked each of them? Or whom we would most like to see either succeed or fail?

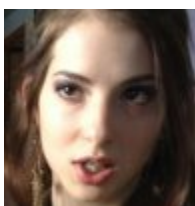
-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-05 05:04:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I think Sandoval picked Goyle.

Oh, and Baddock's sponsoring Thomas.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:59:15](#)**  
(no subject)

The problem is that he also picked Zach Smith.

Are there ANY Hufflepuffs on the Council? I can't remember any.

Anyway, Zach's a loss, he wants it even less than you do, I think.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 05:02:41](#)  
(no subject)

Draco made a list back in January, here's what he said:

Ned Pennifold

Draco Malfoy  
Cormac McLaggen  
Pansy Parkinson

Lana Sandavol-Pennifold

Hydra Lestrange  
Padma Patil  
Greg Goyle

Julius Avery

Ron Weasley  
Vince Crabbe  
Zach Smith

Ptolemy Baddock

Richard Vaisey  
Katie Bell  
Dean Thomas

Sarah Yaxley

Teddy Nott  
Blaise Zabini  
Lares Tamblyn


Jason Montague

Alfred Montague  
Heph Bobolis  
Linus Moon

Virgil Crispin

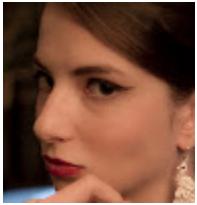
Seamus Finnigan  
Samantha Montgomery  
Lizzie Stevens



 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-05 05:05:23](#)  
(no subject)

Huh.

What was that Crispin bloke thinking?



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at [2014-04-05 05:11:24](#)  
(no subject)

So, okay.

All these people are new and I asked around a bit this evening and what I found out is that they all got Marked under sort of odd circumstances, like Julius Avery's parents weren't invited to his and so on. Anyway they got added really close together and probably they see each other as rivals but there are also some very obvious alliances already.


Lana Sandoval and Sarah Yaxley are mates. Ned Pennifold is Lana's husband. Jason Montague has a THING with Sarah Yaxley, sometimes they're together and sometimes they aren't, and he's a trainee Auror, like Lana.

So we can assume that Lana, Ned, and Sarah are allied and probably they're allied with Jason, too. Sarah Yaxley's father WAS on the Council but then Voldemort killed him, so she doesn't have an obvious older person to ally with. Lana would clean Bellatrix's toe fungus with her tongue, given the opportunity. So that's one group.

That leaves Julius Avery, Ptolemy Baddock, and Virgil Crispin as a potential rival faction. I don't know if they get on or not. Ptolemy Baddock and Virgil Crispin both have connections to Lucius Malfoy, although I guess Mr Malfoy and Ari Baddock had a falling out. It's probably more important to note that Ptolemy Baddock and Julius Avery both have parents on the Council that presumably they'll ally with (Julius has BOTH his parents).

I don't know if any of that is remotely useful to us. I have no idea who Julius Avery's parents are allied with.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-05 05:14:50](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Yes, I knew that he'd done that, as well. Sorry, should have remembered it.

Lizzie's pregnancy is a liability and unless I'm mistaken, Vaisey's done so poorly so far mostly because he's more interested in protecting her than making a good showing on his own behalf. If we could convince Lizzie it's in hers and the baby's best interest to withdraw, no one could fault her and Madam Pomfrey could even jolly well give her a medical excuse, what, and then Crispin would be left with only Seamus Finnigan as a viable candidate.

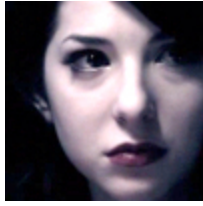
And if Lizzie withdraws, perhaps Harry could declare that he doesn't want Katie in the contest anymore, for fear of her being harmed, and that pleases both of them and eliminates one of Baddock's candidates, what.

Pennifold probably doesn't much care about McLaggen or Pansy so long as Draco's doing as well as he has been. But I say, you could tell Avery that you'll convince Pansy to drop out, or that you'll work with her to keep her out of the running. He might quite like that. Bobolis and Zach have been working together more often than not, what. Unfortunately neither of them seems to be much good. Moon, I think, would rather suffer abject failure than to be inducted under a sponsor other than Professor Dolohov, so he's no threat to Avery's candidates, either. And Goyle's nothing without Crabbe, and vice-versa.

Prior to Tuesday, Montague hadn't really done much to impress, either.

I say, perhaps the best approach is to ask Avery who he'd most like to see go down.

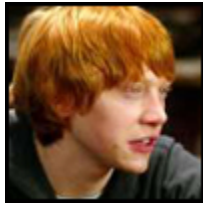
-J




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 05:33:45](#)  
(no subject)

Ron would have to be the one to ask him.

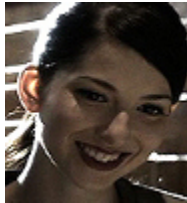
And he needs to sound like -- ugh, I'm too tired to explain it. But not like he thinks he's in trouble, but not exactly -- ugh. You need to get the tone right, Ron, is what I'm saying, and I could help you with that but not until tomorrow.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 05:34:55](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, you're probably right.


And, anywiz, I need to talk to him instead of letting him think I'm afraid of him.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 05:49:50](#)  
*Private message to Ron*

Is it a little ironic that I really wish we could sneak out and meet each other tonight?

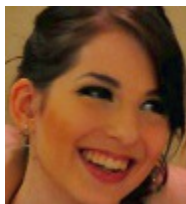



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-05 06:15:31](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ron*

Still awake?

Everyone here's snoring but me. So, yeah, I could slip out.

Only, don't let Sluggo catch you.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-05 06:27:41](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ron*

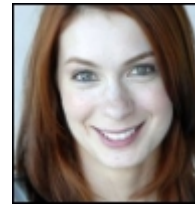
If he does, the worst that'll happen is detention and a Howler from Mrs Stretton. And like I even care what the Strettons think of me. I'll see you in a few minutes.



**[2014-04-04 15:32:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY*

Easter hols are fast approaching, and I'm hoping we'll be able to take advantage of this time with extra training, meetings, and for those of you who can be spared, some additional ley-mapping and camps visits. I'll see if we can't get us all together for an Order-wide meeting at some point. Harry, Draco, Hydra, let us know when you'd be available for your tea meeting. Pansy, Ron, I'm hoping you'd be able to attend that as well, and I hope I'm right to assume that your schedules will be a bit easier to work with.



 [alt\\_alice](#)

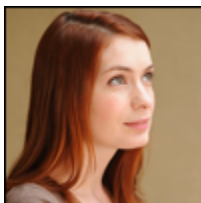
If something should come up suddenly regarding the contest, we'll see what we can do to work around it.

Luna, love, consider us all at your disposal if you need to work over a particular topic over hols that we could help with. And Luna, Evelyn, and Hydra, you all have yet to master Apparation, which could be a possible goal for you to work towards as well. (Hydra, I know you might have trouble getting away -- perhaps you could convince your parents to hire a tutor so that you won't be at a disadvantage for the contest?)

Charlie, Hagrid might be able to help out with some of our octoboros work, so just make sure you coordinate with him so that you can both be available at the same time if you're going to be working further with the centaurs.

Poppy, Pomona, Severus, I'm wondering if we might be able to sneak a peek at the book before hols, just to cover our bases.

Lee, let us know once Dr Harris's pamphlets are printed and ready for distribution in the camps. We'll package them with our nutritional supplements.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **[2014-04-04 22:55:26](#)**

*Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*


I've been wondering what your thoughts are regarding Avery's suggestion.

I don't mean to put you both on the spot, and don't

expect an immediate answer, but I would like to talk further about what you're thinking now that you've had some time to process. I know this is a deeply personal issue for you both, and that Pansy is wrapped up in all of it as well, which makes all of this tricky to sort through.

From where I'm sitting, your choices are certainly less than ideal on all fronts. However, angering Avery would have potentially negative consequences for all three of you, and whatever plan we come up with should attempt to minimise that as much as possible.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-05 01:58:31](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*

I was talking to Justin today and the idea we had is possibly suggesting to Avery that we boost Vince and try to make sure he wins. Alternately, that we boost an additional candidate that was proposed by an ally of his, or that we offer to try to knock one of his rivals' candidates out of the competition.


I'm going to try to find out who his allies and his enemies are.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:22:52](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*

Course, if we do that, we can't make it obvious to Avery that I don't give a fig about getting selected. Only that we'd be willing to help one or two others as allies (or, anywiz, give them some help even if we don't let them know we're helping--I don't think it'd be a good idea to out and out ally with Crabbe. Nothing good could come out of that.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-05 04:41:00](#)**  
*Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*

Well, I don't think we'd want to tell Crabbe we'd help him. But he's awfully thick. We could help him out without him noticing.

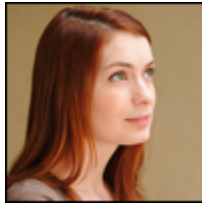



 **alt\_ron** at **2014-04-05 04:48:23**

*Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*

Yeah, exactly.

I don't think we'd want anyone else to realise we were helping Crabbe, either, though, so we would want to be careful.



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-05 06:27:33**

*Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*

That's an intriguing possibility.

I think you'd have to tread very carefully so as to not give the impression of defiance, and hope he'll chalk it up to the power of love and Gryffindor stubbornness. If he'd made any of his requests in a more public venue, we'd be in a different situation where he'd have to get satisfaction just to save face. Making it appear as though you owe him a favour and bowing and scraping a bit is certainly preferable to burning bridges.


Staying together publicly would hurt your chances of success in the Auror programme, but we can talk about that over hols, perhaps.

I don't believe Pansy to be in immediate danger from Avery. The threat is generally troubling in its larger implications about Lucius's fragile position within the council, however, and I do worry about her safety should someone want to hurt Lucius in some way. It did not sit well with me at all to have her described as expendable, and I hope we can all sit down and work through this further over hols.

That being said, I don't think your staying together would change her fortunes dramatically, especially if you work to mitigate some of the sting to Avery's pride.

I would suggest talking over this option further with Severus. Subtlety is his strength, not mine.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-05 01:44:26](#)  
(no subject)

I can put together a long-distance flying club outing if that'd help.


And yeah, I'll let you know when I can come by for Tea Appreciation.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-05 19:09:08](#)  
(no subject)

That would be very useful, Harry.




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-05 02:18:26](#)  
(no subject)

We've been talking about offering up Grimmauld Place for a proper Order meeting over the holidays, Alice. Only we know that's not exactly ideal for everyone, but we can't think of a better solution.

Order meeting or no, everyone's welcome for supper at least once over hols. And we'll certainly hope to have a Tea Appreciation at Laszlo's.




 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-05 18:52:23](#)  
(no subject)

Severus might draw Minerva away this time, leaving Pomona or me to read the book. I haven't been given audience at all for weeks, but that in itself gives me room for insisting on a conversation with the Headmistress, if not about her own health, then about the end-of-year audit or some such.


I'm certain we can come up with one ruse or another that will give one of us access to the book.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-05 19:08:13](#)**  
(no subject)


Looking forward to seeing you over hols, Poppy.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2014-04-06 00:27:36](#)**  
(no subject)


Likewise.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-06 01:52:54](#)**  
(no subject)

(He's speaking for both of us on that count,  
Madame P.)



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-05 19:08:45](#)**  
(no subject)

Good. Thank you.

**2014-04-05 11:27:00**

*Private message to Alfred*



 **alt\_daphne**

Alfred,

Everyone knows what you've done by now. Honestly, all you had to do was to make someone else get detention - you didn't have to go and make such a huge statement in the process! Now everyone thinks you're after Hydra, and if that's true it's completely daft. Everyone knows that Hydra was meant to be on the council, along with Draco, and that's why those two have been working together. So now you'll have both Hydra *and* Draco after you. Is that really what you want? They killed an *acromantula* together! And Hydra's a legilimens, besides, so you'd better start practising occlumency now (if she hasn't already legilimised you without you knowing it - they say that's how she got Remy Jugson his detention. She just gave him a look in Charms class and he started shouting about how she was reading his mind. Created a bloody great ruckus, from what I've been told).

It isn't very clever to have F-F on your bad side, either. I know how mild-mannered and polite he is, but there's a reason Professor Dolohov favours him so much. And he's obviously not afraid of anything, if he carries around with Auror Lestrangle's daughter like that.

Anyway, I'm sorry if I sound so critical, but you're my cousin and I want you to do well. Perhaps you were feeling desperate because you hadn't really staked yourself out as a serious contender? Only now you might have just staked yourself out as desperate, which can't really look good, either.

Draco's awfully unimpressed. I'll try to see if I can soften him up, but it won't be easy. He's a very determined person, and what's going on with his father is only making him moreso.

Best,  
*Daphne*

**2014-04-05 19:35:00**

*Private message to Linus Moon and  
Narcissa Lonsdale*

Miss Lonsdale. My office, immediately after  
lunch tomorrow. No excuses. Bring your notes  
and materials for this term with you.



 **alt\_sinistra**

Mr Moon. My office, half-one. The same. Wait by  
the stairs if Miss Lonsdale and I are not yet finished.

**2014-04-06 10:02:00**

*Order Only: Hydra and Auror  
Lestranger*



 **alt\_hermione**

Hydra just came and asked me to follow her wearing Harry's cloak. She said Elise Urquhart came into the common room just now and told her that her mother's here to speak to her and she needed to come with her, and Hydra said she asked if she could put her books in her dormitory and Elsie said yes but to be quick about it, but instead she came and found me and asked me to go get Harry's cloak right away and to catch up as quickly as ever I could.

So that's what I'm doing. I'm sure it's to do with what happened on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with Justin and all.

I'll keep everyone posted.




 **alt\_sirius** at **2014-04-06 15:08:11**

*(no subject)*

Wait, what? What do you mean, what happened on the 1<sup>st</sup>?

*What happened on the 1<sup>st</sup>?*



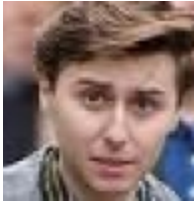
 **alt\_draco** at **2014-04-06 15:13:06**


*(no subject)*

Alfred Montague alerted Professor Slughorn so that he'd catch Justin sneaking back to Hufflepuff after his rendezvous with Hydra. They have a secret place they go to, an un-used stairwell in the dungeons.

Justin got detention, as Montague intended, but Slughorn must have contacted Hydra's parents, as well.





 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-06 15:16:38](#)  
(no subject)

Sirius,


I received a detention on my way back from the Slytherin dungeons.

I'm rather surprised it's Auror Lestrage. I was expecting Hydra's father might want a curse or three.

Hermione, please look out for her. If you need help, for any reason, let us know. I'll be on hand, what.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-06 15:26:43](#)  
*Private Message to Justin*

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

You knew this might happen and you didn't **tell** us?

Merlin. If you survive this, Alice is going to hex you into next month.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-06 15:27:24](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Justin*


And if she doesn't, I will.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:16:32](#)  
(no subject)

Don't you think you ought to go somewhere like Professor Sprout's office or the infirmary in case you need to get away in a hurry?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 15:15:30](#)

*(no subject)*

Hermione, you should come back. I'll take the cloak. Why does someone need to be there with the cloak, anyway? Hydra doesn't think her mother's going to *kill* her, surely, right here in the castle?

She should have found me or Harry instead. Bellatrix is a legilimens, she needn't see you to figure out that you're there.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-06 15:22:15](#)

*(no subject)*

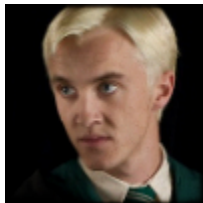
Draco,


Auror Lestrangle might wish to speak to you, or Harry. Or me.

We'd best stand by in case we're summoned.

Dash it.

-Justin

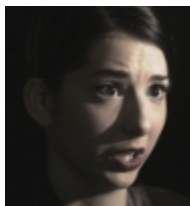


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 15:33:29](#)

*(no subject)*

"Dash it?"

You know, after this all blows over - and I sincerely hope that it does, with minimal damage - you ought to start investigating the source of your obvious death wish.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:15:48](#)

*Private message to Draco*

NO KIDDING. I think the Hat put him in the wrong House.



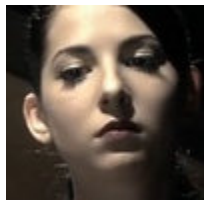
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 16:21:10](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

This is massively frustrating. Hydra grew up with an extremely strong sense of self-preservation because she had to, and he's compromised that, again and again. I realise she's responsible for her own choices, but he hasn't exactly been a good influence, either.

And now she's gone and dragged Hermione into it, for reasons I can't quite fathom.

Why do you reckon it's taking so long? Doesn't it seem like they've been gone for ages?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:26:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

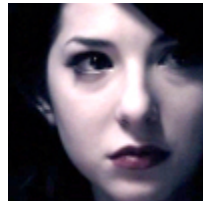
They haven't. If you take into account the time it takes for someone to walk across the castle it's been barely any time at all, it just seems like it's been ages.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 16:32:16](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Yeah, it does.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:36:33](#)

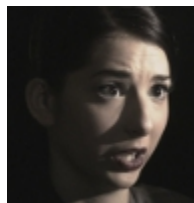
*Re: Private message to Draco*

The thing about Hydra and Justin -- yes, she takes more risks. A lot more risks.

But would you turn her back into the girl who thought one of Hermione's parents must have been a pig?

When someone changes the way Hydra did, and Pansy, and you -- everything gets more risky. There's just no way around it. (Though, that doesn't mean you're required to sneak out

every night to snog in your specially-equipped secret stairwell when you know someone's father is itching to cast AK on anyone who despoils his innocent little girl. That's just stupidity. On both their parts.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:40:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I mean on one hand I like Hydra and Justin quite a bit and on the other I would quite like to hex both of them for being so stupid. It's not like they did something worthwhile and noble and risky and got caught. They weren't rescuing babies or passing out banned books or freeing muggleborns. **THEY WERE SNOGGING.**

Ron and I sneak out sometimes. But not much lately, because Ron can't do it safely. And if we got caught and Slughorn wrote to our parents, I'd probably get a Howler from Mrs Stretton to amuse everyone at breakfast and Ron would get a letter from Mrs Weasley scolding him and telling him to be more careful and we'd both serve a detention and that would be the end of it. It's a very different sort of risk.



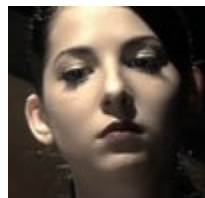
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 16:50:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Let's be honest, they were doing more than snogging. They were neck-deep in a fantasy about getting *married* and having babies.

Hydra's been wearing an engagement ring.

And that's what was most risky of all, indulging in some sort of escapist dream of having a normal, happy life instead of accepting the devastating reality that he's a secret mudblood, and she's the daughter of Voldemort's right-hand woman.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 16:59:52](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*


If they'd stuck with the terms Hydra's father dictated, or at least done a better job pretending, he was going to back the idea of them getting married. I don't think it was

THAT crazy. The thing about being a secret muggleborn is that people don't know, right?

Bellatrix is hung up on Hydra marrying Harry but it's never been clear to me how she thinks she's going to get Harry to go along with that. He treats her like a little sister. Well, he's a little nicer to her than Ron is to Ginny but other than that, they really do act like siblings.

Anyway. You're right that a normal life is a fantasy. For any of us. Look at the Order adults, and how things are working out for them. The ones in the most danger are the ones trying to maintain the facade of a normal life, I'd say.

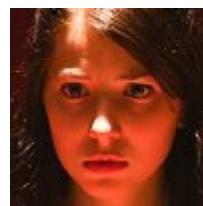


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 17:08:33](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Mm, yes, but Hydra's father also gave her an impossible task - convincing Bellatrix that marrying Justin was a good idea. I can't imagine any circumstances where she would have agreed to that. I'm sure in her mind, Hydra will either marry Harry or no one at all.

I wonder if Hydra knew, deep down, that there was no way she could ever convince her mother to approve the pairing. Even suggesting Justin as a partner would have put him at risk. Bellatrix would have probed further, and might've even discovered that his blood-line had been fabricated. That would explain why Hydra took such risks - because she knows, at least on an unconscious level, that she can never really have what she wants. None of us will. Not until he's gone. Better to accept that now than cosying up to soothing delusions.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 17:16:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Hydra's got years left of school. Maybe she was hoping that in the meantime, her mother would drop dead from a sudden attack of annoying Voldemort at the wrong moment.

(Unlikely, but it's a not-uncommon cause of death for Councilwizards.)

But. Yes.

You could have had a normal life with Pansy, or as close to it as anyone gets in the Order. You could have a normal life with Daphne -- we'd have to tell her, but you know we could (I know, I know, you don't feel that way about each other or you'd be snogging each other by now.)

Do you want a normal life? I mean--



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 17:37:15](#)

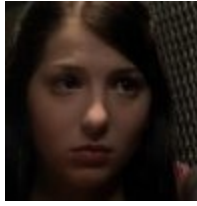
*Re: Private message to Draco*

We snog sometimes. I mean, not usually on a whim ~~except~~. But Daphs understands roles and acting, and she knows that there's a role I've got to play - it's the role of who I would have been, had I grown up to be the Draco Malfoy my parents planned on. That Draco Malfoy would be dating someone like Daphne Greengrass. He could date Pansy if she grew up to be the Pansy she was meant to be, before Regulus messed her up, but Pansy's too different now, and she's not a very good actress, most of the time.

The real Draco Malfoy - the one that you know (but who has to pretend not to exist too much, lest it threaten the masquerade of the other Draco Malfoy) - he.. I mean I, I can't ever have the 'normal life' I really want... can't now, anyway. Maybe not ever. So why even dream about it? It will just muck things up.

I wouldn't tell Daphne about all of this - the Order, the full extent my plans, and so forth - unless I *did* for some reason decide I wanted a life with her someday.

But I don't see that happening.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 17:41:58](#)


*Re: Private message to Draco*

Do you think you could have the normal life you wanted if things changed? If they changed a lot, if we -- I mean, if the Order and their baby army managed to take down Voldemort and change everything.

I mean, it could happen. Sometimes when I can't sleep I tell myself I believe it's going to happen, that it'll happen when we're still young enough that we'll really get to live in that other society, and I imagine my life in it. Do you not do that? I don't know if Pansy does, or not.

You're right that she's not a very good actress.



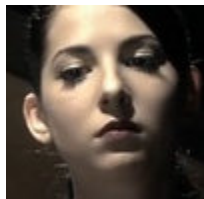
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 17:53:08](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

A normal life? I don't know.

The Protectorate changed our way of life very quickly, so logically speaking, it isn't impossible to think that it could change back quickly, too. The paradigm shift hasn't really happened yet - not while so many are still living who remember the way things were before. So yes, sometime I think about that, especially when things seem very hopeless.

I try not to imagine my life, specifically, in that context, because it would distract me.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 18:24:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*


I suppose it is distracting.

But, it makes me feel hopeful, too. It's not just my own life, I imagine Justin and Hydra being married. Mrs Longbottom in charge of MLE instead of

Bellatrix. Hermione teaching at Hogwarts. Things like that.

I mean it's a little silly, I don't know if Hermione would be any good at teaching. Or if she wants to be a teacher. Anything like that.

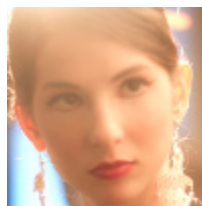


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 18:34:14](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

She'd be a good teacher, but I think she'd be doing even more than that.

I see that you don't quite know how to imagine me in your Utopian future. Don't worry, though - neither do I.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 20:31:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*


No, I do imagine you, it's just that I ~~was afraid you'd make fun~~ it seemed a little, I don't know.

I imagine you being, I don't quite know what to call it, the person who shows the other purebloods that it's going to be better for them, too. Someone in the middle, who was supposed to be at the top of the old regime so people will believe you when you say, 'this will be worth it.' When I imagine us all years in the future sometimes I imagine you as Minister -- only, you know, one who's actually running things and isn't just Voldemort's scapegoat when things go wrong.

I tried picturing Hermione as Minister just now but honestly she's SUCH A GRYFFINDOR. Politics are one thing I'm not sure she'll ever be all that good at. She'd be a brilliant Headmistress at Hogwarts, though.





 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-06 20:43:12](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I can't say that particular scenario ever occurred to me, but I suppose it might work. Convincing other purebloods, I mean - I'm not sure about being Minister. Someone more likeable should be Minister, and I'll just feed him or her all the best ideas.

Too right she's a gryffindor. She just now rubbished me for being worried about her - as if it's completely ordinary to go sneak around Bellatrix under an invisibility cloak. If she'd been caught, she'd not just have been in trouble for spying, but also for stealing her Master's property. Which meant she would have been sent back to the camps, at best, or just killed right on the spot by Bellatrix.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-06 20:54:53](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Probably killed on the spot, unless the Headmistress -- well. Nothing good would have come of it.

Who would you have sent instead? Really, anyone caught spying on Bellatrix would have been in deep trouble. I'd have gone too, though, if Hydra had asked me. Not because I'm a Gryffindor, just because I wouldn't have thought about how dangerous it was until it was too late to back out.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-06 21:25:05](#)**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I would have sent myself, I suppose. Or Harry. He can't occlude very well but Bellatrix would probably think he has the right to spy on whomever he pleases.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 21:30:08](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Ugh, I wish sending Harry would have made things better but... who even knows.

What would she have done to you if she'd caught you? ~~Speaking of Slytherins acting like Gryffindors.~~



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 22:38:20](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

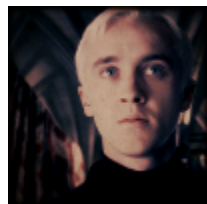
Ron acts just like this, you know, when there's something he wants to protect me


wait

you're

you have feelings for Hermione, don't you. ~~No wonder So that's why~~

Does she know?



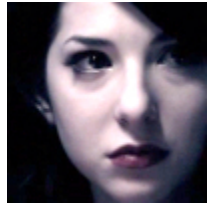
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 23:14:18](#)


*Re: Private message to Draco*

Well, that's the first time anyone's ever compared me to Weasley, I'm sure.

I wouldn't want anything bad to happen to Hermione. None of us would, would we?

But that doesn't mean I have feelings for her. I don't have them for anyone. There's nothing for her to know.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-07 00:24:58](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Of course no one wants anything bad to happen to Hermione. But

well, I'm not going to try to talk you into telling her, I mean even if she liked you back I'd say this week proved conclusively that secret relationships that happen anywhere within the walls of Hogwarts are maybe not the best idea ever.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-07 01:25:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

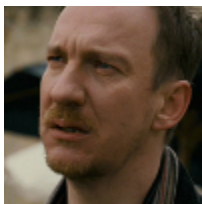
There's nothing to tell.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-06 15:25:01](#)  
*(no subject)*

I told Hydra that if she wasn't careful, love would make her weak. But she just kept going on about how sorry she was that I other people don't have a bloody great tragic love story to cling to.

Hermione, where are you? Just sneak out and bring me the cloak. I'll spy on Bellatrix - it will be good practice, even. And if she does catch me, I can wriggle out of it because I'm her nephew. There's no way you can wriggle out of anything with her.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-04-06 16:25:25](#)

*Private message to Alice and Sirius*

Am I understanding this correctly? It appears that ALL of the juniors were well aware that Justin and Hydra had been compromised. Were ANY of the adults aware? Did Pomona or Poppy tell you, at least?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-06 19:48:18](#)


*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

Pomona came by late last night to let me know what happened, and that Bellatrix would be arriving today to talk to Hydra. That was the first I'd heard of all of this.

Needless to say, she was in quite a state about the whole thing.

She and I ultimately decided against pulling both of them out of school immediately, and that she'd keep me informed if there were any developments.




 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-04-06 20:35:41](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

Well, I am relieved to hear that some of the adults knew and yet dismayed to note that you were informed by Pomona and not because ANY of the juniors saw fit to mention it to you.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-06 20:40:55](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

Yes.

It's a difficult position to be in. I am deeply disappointed. But if their trust is so tenuous, then railing and raging is more likely to hurt than help.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-04-06 20:48:07](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*


Well, fortunately, all the bits of furniture Sirius smashed this afternoon are in the cellar at 12GP. We can have it properly broken into kindling before any guests arrive for Easter Hols (did we ever work out where we were meeting?) and no one will feel raged-at.

I don't think this was a lack of trust. I think this was embarrassment, on the part of Justin and Hydra, and misplaced

solidarity on the part of the rest of them. It wasn't actually ORDER BUSINESS and therefore no one felt that it was required.

Mortal danger to an Order member is always Order business. Even if they're not in trouble because of Order activities.



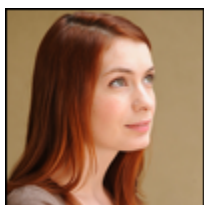
 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-06 20:58:43](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

It was needing to be done. At least when I rampage, it's targetted at something useful.

I can't *believe* those two. No, what I can't believe is how they've been able to absolutely charm everyone so far into helping them cover up for their affair.

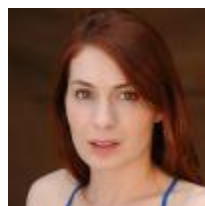
Merlin, why couldn't they have just *waited* for two years?




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-06 21:27:59](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

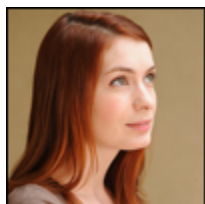
Perhaps they didn't think they had two years to wait.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-06 21:29:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

That doesn't mean I'm not still furious, mind. Or making excuses. It was *ridiculously* stupid of them.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-06 21:25:36](#)

*Re: Private message to Alice and Sirius*

I'll have that final two sentences done up in needlepoint on my wall.

It's a good way of thinking about things. When we've all had time to lick our respective wounds, I'll say as much, and hope the message sinks in.

These young people are under such incredible pressure, and have significant (and adult) responsibilities and burdens. They expect our respect and trust, and rightfully so. We also hold them to an extraordinarily high standard. I suppose this took me by surprise because it demonstrates such immaturity and a shocking lack of judgement, but it's just part of the package, isn't it? They haven't had the benefit of decades of life experience.

But these are dangerous times, and there are certain mistakes we simply cannot afford to repeat.


**2014-04-06 13:18:00**

*Order Only*

I'm alright.

Mummy's left the castle, and she never did summon Justin, so he must be alright, too, I think.




 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Please don't hit me with a million questions just now. I'm just letting you know I'm alright.

---




 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-06 19:24:23**  
(no subject)

Hydra,

Yes, I'm all right. Professors Sprout and Dolohov want to see me.

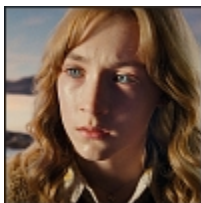
-Justin




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-06 19:29:08**  
(no subject)

What about Hermione? You didn't leave her there, did you?


Glad you're alright.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-06 19:31:22**  
(no subject)

I said I didn't want any questions.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-06 19:31:57**  
(no subject)

Which is why I didn't ask you about YOU.

Well?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-06 19:35:43](#)  
(no subject)

I tried to leave the door open when I left, so she could follow me out, but Professor Slughorn quickly shut it behind me. So she's still in there. But Mummy's gone, it's just the professors. And

Justin now, I guess.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-06 19:38:44](#)  
(no subject)

It was just the professors. Professor Lestrangle and Professor Dolohov wanted to go and talk, and then Professor Slughorn and Professor Sprout left to talk to Justin and then they'll probably

want to see you again, Hydra.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-06 19:42:14](#)  
(no subject)

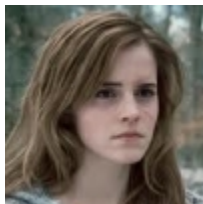
Let us know if you need one of us to knock on the door or something so you can get out.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-06 19:43:53](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, no, they've all gone now. Otherwise I'd still be listening.

But thank you.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-06 19:35:56](#)  
(no subject)

I'm fine. Why wouldn't I be?

The Professors all stayed to talk a little after Hydra was sent out and I wanted to stay and

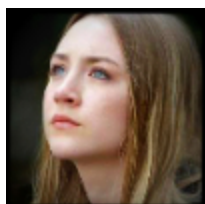
listen.


I'm sure Professor Sprout's still working on the arrangements



they were discussing. But later maybe she and Justin will have a few things to say.

Hydra, I'm so sorry. Is it all right if I tell everyone or would you like me to wait?



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:37:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Go ahead. I'm going to find Jack.

And thank you. I'm sorry to drag you into things, I just didn't know what would happen, and I wanted someone to be able to tell everyone, just in case.




 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:41:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay.

And it's all right, really. I just--

Well, I just wish she weren't such a *bitch*. Or that Montague hadn't been such an utter pillock in the first place.




 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:44:10](#)**  
(no subject)

Montague's going to be sorry. I'll see to it.

So will she. Someday.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:42:05](#)**  
*Private message to Hermione*

Why? All sorts of reasons.

You don't share F-F's death wish, do you?



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:47:41](#)**

*Re: Private message to Hermione*


It's not a death wish. His, or mine.

You're acting odd again. What have I done now?  
I'm *fine*. She never even knew I was there.

I think it's *you* who has the death wish, wanting to switch places. Wanting to join the Council. Wanting to personally duel and kill Voldemort, next.

Now, leave off so I can explain to everyone what happened.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-06 19:50:54](#)**

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

It's not a wish, it's an acceptance of something that is highly probable, to be delayed for as long as possible so that I can do something that matters before it's all snuffed out.

Fine, go share your notes with the class or whatever.

**2014-04-06 15:20:00**

*Order Only: Bellatrix Lestrange*



 [alt\\_hermione](#)

Hydra was called before her mother and Professors Lestrange, Dolohov, Sprout, Slughorn, and McGonagall. (Oh, Madam Pomfrey, she looks so *thin*.... And very worn out.) That was probably the one moment I worried I might be discovered but she called Hydra over and it gave me a second to get into the corner.

Then the Headmistress said, 'Well, Bellatrix, we're all assembled. What did you want to say?'

Well, you could tell 'Bellatrix' didn't like being talked to that way but she ignored it and started speaking. She never raised her voice, she just said that she understood from Professor Slughorn that Hydra had been indulging in an 'ill-conceived dalliance' with Justin ('that Hufflepuff boy' is what she *said*) and that everyone was to consider that entanglement at an end. She said Hydra had 'more important things to do' and wasn't ever to be alone with Justin or even in his company except if they were engaged in school activities, like revising or participating in clubs together. She looked right at Hydra and said 'As for you, you're not engaged, don't be silly. Your father may have indulged your little fantasy but you won't get any of that from me. You're going to use your gifts to serve the Lord and that's that. If he chooses you, you may marry Harry, but it may turn out that the Lord and I have different plans for you.'

Professor Slughorn asked if there was to be a penalty to either of them (or both) for their violation of the terms Mr Lestrange had set. Hydra's mother said she didn't care about any of that, so long as Hydra wasn't holding herself back in any way. 'However, if she's breaking the rules for this boy then he's clearly holding her back and dominating too much of her attention. And I expect that all of you will make certain he does not interfere again.'

Then Professor Lestrange asked if they would hear the same thing from his brother if he were to speak to them about the matter. And Bellatrix said--and I don't know, Hydra, I thought this sounded sort of ominous--she said that Mr Lestrange was not to be given any say in the matter anymore, that she had 'revoked his authority over Hydra' and that as far as she was concerned his judgement was no longer to be trusted.

Professor Sprout pointed out that they have mostly the same friends in common, so they're bound to be together loads of the time. Bellatrix just shrugged. 'That's immaterial to me, so long as they are conducting themselves appropriately and in approved school activities.' She looked at Hydra again. 'To be clear, that means no compromising positions, no after-hours interludes, no carrying on together. Whatever you thought you were doing with this boy is over.'

Professor McGonagall asked what Auror LeStrange expected them all to do if Justin and Hydra broke her prohibitions again. And she said, she didn't care what measures were taken to ensure that her instructions were followed, just that they'd better see to it that they *were* followed.


And if they are not followed, then she wanted to be informed immediately. She looked right at Hydra but from where I was, I could see her face, too, and--oh, Hydra, I'm sorry, I hope I never see that look again. She was so cold. She said if she heard of any more 'nonsense' that she would leave off whatever she was doing to come here directly and kill Justin herself. 'If that is what it takes to get my daughter to stop wasting her time, then so be it.'

She looked at everyone in turn (and it was almost funny to see everyone avoiding her eyes!) and then she asked if she'd been clear enough for them all, and then demanded that Hydra answer her, too, and then she said, 'Good. Then may this be the last time we need discuss it' and she swept out.

It felt like everyone took a breath, then, and Professor McGonagall said to Hydra, 'Well, I hope you have considered your situation very carefully. We have matters to discuss, so I think you had better go back to your common room, Miss LeStrange' so Hydra left then, and they all talked about what to do.

The *good* news is that it was mostly more about how to keep you two from getting into trouble again, and not about making you feel even worse for what happened. But it doesn't sound like you'll be very happy about their solutions. I don't want to say so that you can both act surprised when you hear it from them. I mean, it's odd because in a way, they all sort of regret calling Bellatrix in on the issue. I could tell. Especially Professor Slughorn, he seemed relieved that she wasn't out for Justin's blood--this time. But I don't think it's going to be easy and I'm sorry, so sorry, there's just no way I think you can ignore everyone this time.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-06 20:48:56](#)  
(no subject)

I haven't heard from Daddy. It's possible that Mummy's hurt him quite badly. She's done that before. She knows all the right ways.

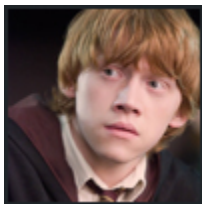



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-06 21:18:55](#)  
*Private message to Justin*

So

I mean, I'm glad you're bi you're okay.

What are you going to do? If you're going to keep seeing each other you'll have to be really, really, really careful.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-06 22:01:22](#)  
*Private Message to Hydra and Justin*

Is there anything I can do? I mean, really, I expect we'd all do whatever we could if you need help covering or, or whatever.

I'm really sorry it came out this way.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-06 22:03:29](#)  
*Private Message to Hermione Granger*

I'm sorry you had to see the Headmistress looking so ill.

**2014-04-06 17:17:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

You know, this might be the first time I wish I had the ability to send a bona fide Howler.

I hope you're both quite happy with yourselves. Merlin, HOW could you be so foolish? For what? A few months of playing house?

I thought you both had better sense. You'd already managed something I thought almost impossible. You *had* Rodolphus Lestrange on your side, more or less. Somehow you've managed to charm or wheedle everyone who's found out about your relationship to come down in support, well, it was only a matter of time before you encountered someone who didn't find the two of you so affecting and enchanting.

Justin, do you have any idea what your mother would do to me if you'd got yourself *killed*?

And then to get caught and know that there was a good chance Horace was blowing the whistle, and *not* to tell me about it? Not to tell Alice? You do realise how idiotic that was. Yes, we'd have been cross but at least we might have been able to intercede in some way. And think of the position you put everyone else in, if you can't be bothered to worry about your own arses.

I don't know what you were thinking. Either of you.

Above all, I can't believe you'd give Bellatrix any reason to force her power over you - and that's what you've done, you know. You served up your relationship on a platter for her to cut into pieces. You can't afford another mistake and you certainly can't allow yourselves to lose control like that again.

I know you both well enough to expect you're well aware of how massively you've cocked things up. How you've damaged not only your chances to marry properly, if that's what you insist you want, but also your chances to do anything else you'd hoped for the Order, the trust

we've placed in you, the responsibility, and in all honesty, the *ability* to be effective after this setback.

And I know you're the ones who have to live with the consequences of your thoughtless actions. Believe me, I know all about that. Truly, I'm sorry that you'll likely regret this week for a long time to come.

That doesn't alter the fact that this isn't - can't be - a game. You knew what you were doing was a potential risk but you did it anyway. We want you to be willing to undertake risk, but for worthwhile things, not self-indulgence.

Right, then.

Morgana help me for saying this, but part of me *still* wants to offer you the option to elope and come live at Grimmauld. But you both have to think what you'd be giving up to do it. I recommend against it, at least until you've finished school. Meanwhile ... well, it's not that we don't want you to be happy, but it can't be at the expense of everything we've built. That's too high a price.

**2014-04-06 18:59:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco and Hermione*



Right.

So.

 [alt\\_harry](#)


I know there's been a lot of stuff going on, but I wanted to make sure we're all on the same page about this next challenge.

When Teddy did what he did to Hermione, I told Yaxley that I would not be disrespected like that again, and I have to be prepared to back that up.

What do you think we should do if he approaches you, Hermione?

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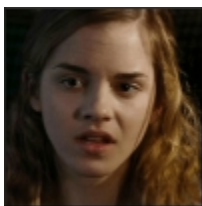


 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-07 03:21:31**  
(no subject)

If we need to bring in some heavy hitters to help us pull something big, I think we could.

Including possibly Raz and Dolohov.

But Sirius or Mr Snape would probably chip in and help if we needed it. Especially if it gives us a chance to knock Teddy out for good.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2014-04-07 03:56:45**  
(no subject)

If he approaches me ...?

Oh. About my 'secret'? Well, he already did. Sort of.

I guess I should have said something earlier but with everyone watching to make sure Justin and Hydra are going to be all right, I just didn't think it was something we need to talk about right away.

Anyway, he did come over after supper and he asked me where I was all day because he'd been looking for me. And I asked him why he'd be looking for me, but he ignored my question. And instead he



insisted I tell him where I'd been. So I told him I was running your errands, Harry, only he didn't like that answer much because he said he was watching you, too, and you never sent me for anything all day. And I said, no, it was something you'd told me yesterday to do today. But he didn't like that either and he said he might start asking round where I'd been. So I said, well, you've found me now, so what did you want to see me about?


And then he said he'd been set a task that involved me, that I had to come into the Great Hall at a meal and lick his boots or he'd tell everyone my secret.

And honestly, it took me a moment because I'd been thinking about Justin and Hydra and not what I told him about Professor Lestrange, so when I realised that's what he was talking about I said, 'Oh, you mean about Professor Lestrange?' and he nodded. But I said, 'Harry wouldn't like me to do that, so I suppose you'll have to tell.'

So I think it's sorted for now. After all, that's the reason I told him a lie anyway, because I don't care if he blabs it all over the school or not.

But now if you've said you weren't going to take that sort of thing from him, I suppose you'll have to show him you mean business.



 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-07 04:58:54](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. Okay.

And Hermione, seriously, if he talks to you any more, I need to know. Right away.




 **alt\_draco** at [2014-04-07 16:26:26](#)

*(no subject)*

If you want to show him you mean business, I'd suggest recruiting Greg and Vince to rough him up a bit, while you stand by and watch. It makes it clear that you're well above that kind of common brutishness, and that you're the one who pulls the strings in Slytherin house and everywhere else in this school.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-07 16:29:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

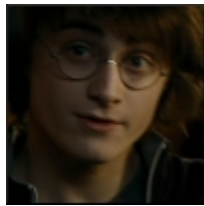
Okay.


That's pretty much what I was thinking too.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-07 16:31:32](#)**  
(no subject)


Hey, good. You're getting the hang of this.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-07 16:32:54](#)**  
(no subject)


Heh. Well, I figure better late than never, yeah?



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-07 16:41:18](#)**  
(no subject)

You want to be there too? Under the cloak, maybe? Might be good insurance.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-07 16:50:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Sure. If for no other reason than I'd hate to miss the expression on Teds' face.

**2014-04-06 21:37:00**


*Order Only: Private message to Padfoot*

They had anything to say for themselves yet?



 [alt\\_lupin](#)



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-07 02:40:23](#)

*(no subject)*


Not a word.

On the bright side, I've got half the engine reconstructed.

Working on the timing.

I hope I haven't - I dunno, driven them to something even more desperately stupid.

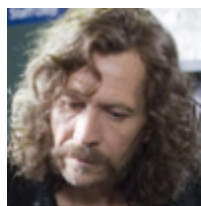


 [alt\\_lupin](#) at [2014-04-07 02:43:47](#)

*(no subject)*

Well that's just it, isn't it? Why Alice didn't want to say anything too cross. We can't control what they do, no matter how stupid, self-destructive, or short-sighted it is.

If they run away, SURELY they'll turn up here or Moddey. Embarrassment wouldn't keep them from the certainty of a haven.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-07 02:52:12](#)

*(no subject)*

I hope not.


I mean to say, I did offer that option, provided they really thought about what they would give up if they chose it.

As acts of teenage stupidity go, it's not the worst we've ever seen.

I just keep looking in my journal expecting something from them. Then I see something I wrote and I think I can hear my father's voice saying it.

It's well disturbing.




 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2014-04-07 02:56:25](#)**  
(no subject)

As acts of teenage stupidity -- no, it's not. The raid on Mysteries to rescue Arista and Hector was FAR stupider.

What was unique about this one was that it was stupid and self-indulgent, rather than stupid and heroic.

How hard on them were you?



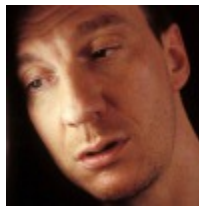
 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2014-04-07 03:06:56](#)**  
(no subject)


Well. That was far more suicidal, certainly. But no, I was thinking of a different generation entirely. Back when things were - well, not simpler but less critical, shall we say.

I said I wished I could send a proper Howler. And that they served their relationship to Bella on a platter for carving.

But then I also said that I know they're probably being just as hard on themselves.

I certainly *hope* they're contemplating the colossal scope of their fuckup, anyway.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2014-04-07 03:10:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. I suppose. Yes, that was also stupider.

I sympathise greatly with the desire to send

them a Howler. They deserve it -- but they don't deserve Bella. No one does. And I can't imagine they're not contemplating it. If Bella had simply turned up and murdered Justin, she'd have done it with impunity. No one would have dared stop her.

**2014-04-06 22:13:00**

*Private message to Hydra*

- Hydra,

I am aware of the exchange that took place today between you, your mother, and your Professors. Lest you consider appealing to me for an intervention, I must tell you that your mother and I are united in this matter.



 **alt\_rodolphus**

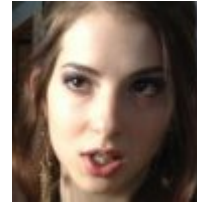
I gave you a chance to mind the guidelines I put forth. I trusted you to put your trust in my judgement, and to respect the bond between us, but you have shown yourself lacking the same faith in me as I had in you. And for that, you must stand up and face these consequences on your own.

As for the boy - should he cross the line again, he will meet my wand on the other side. This time, there will be no mercy.

~~I'm sorry~~ I regret it's come to this, Duckie. Be well and on your way.

**2014-04-06 22:25:00**

*Private message to Dean Thomas*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I know exactly what your current challenge is, since as you may have noticed my best friend and my boyfriend also have pins. And I saw you looking at me across the Great Hall at dinner, and I expect you're trying to figure out a time to corner me for a little chat about my secret, so why don't I PM you and save us both the trouble.

Whatever humiliating thing you've thought up for me to do, I'm not going to do it. I don't care if it's just standing up on my chair at breakfast and shouting, 'Dean Thomas is the cleverest lad in Gryffindor' -- I'm not going to do it. My secret was a shameful secret because I hadn't told Ron or Pansy, and when you forced it out of me, the first thing I did afterward was to tell Ron and Pansy, because I'll be DAMNED if I let a nasty little snitch like you have any power over me whatsoever.

So have fun personally seeing to it that the whole, entire school hears that Sally-Anne Perks' father is a drunk who beat her during hols. Because I really don't think I'm the one that secret's going to shame, when you announce it.

**[2014-04-06 22:34:00](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Sinistra*

After having thought on it further, I confess I am still at a loss as to who might have charmed my handwriting onto Lonsdale's quiz. Thank you for doing me the honour of being quite skeptical that it was my doing. I know that I have made errors in judgement in the past, but never in the realm of falsifying academic matters.




 [alt\\_linus](#)

I have considered asking to speak with Professor Dolohov about the incident, but upon reflection I am loathe to take up his time with something of this nature just now. Should I come up with anything, I will let you know.

On a happier note, I've finished copying out that observational data. It is remarkable how soothing working with astronomical charts can be; everything in its place, and moving as one expects, once one understand the underlying principles.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **[2014-04-07 18:32:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Linus -

I'd quite advise against bothering Professor Dolohov, yes. Should you come up with anything further, bring it to me, and I'll update him at a quiet moment. I did manage to get a word with Professor Vector, and she is glad we sorted the problem out. Neither you nor Miss Lonsdale are in any difficulty with her at all.

I'm equally glad the observational data was soothing (and it's quite helpful to me to have it done). I also hope you got your invitation at lunch safely. I did want to let you know we've invited your parents, in large part so I can introduce your father to mine. I rather expect they'll be mutually amused, and perhaps amusing. (Ptolemy and Karo are also invited, though you'd have realised that already, I'm sure.)



**[2014-04-06 23:15:00](#)**

*Private message to Barty*

I am up to my arse in alligators and will follow with more detail tomorrow, but: step lightly around Bella tomorrow, dear heart; she is likely to be miserable to deal with.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)**

(To make a long story short: teenage drama led to Hydra and the Finch-Fletchley boy being caught in a compromising situation yet again, and to both save the boy from Rod's idea of vengeance for his little girl's virtue and give the children a compelling argument to not be so bloody stupid next time -- as the last incident did not seem to leave an impression -- we steered Horace to Bella rather than Rod. As it turned out, however, Rod had not had the conversation he ought to have had with Bella after the last go-around; things escalated.)

You and yours were ever so much less trouble, I swear.



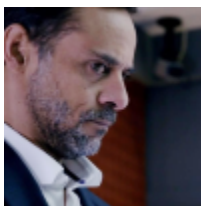
 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2014-04-07 08:37:08](#)**

*(no subject)*

Noted. Thank you. Shall not be the one to cross Bella tomorrow.

What's your involvement? Should have thought you free of this sort of trouble since you aren't a Head of House. Tedious.

Happier note: have twice been called by Our Lord to fetch Him items revealed by our prize. He continues to be pleased with our gift.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-07 18:45:42](#)**

*(no subject)*

In this particular case, Hydra invoked Raz's and my knowledge of her history with the boy, and I believe Horace wished to invoke our, ah, greater knowledge of Bella's foibles. (There is no snake like an old snake.)

As it happens, though, with Minerva ... indisposed, various of my colleagues have taken to bringing matters that are likely to touch

upon politics to me for a quick consult before taking action, particularly with this challenge in play. Which I do appreciate, for twofold reasoning: one, we do not need the sort of clumsy mucking-about in matters that touch upon Our Lord's will that happen when those with little experience in His more direct service put their oars in. And two, it has allowed me opportunity to probe somewhat more directly along lines I would have probed along anyway.

(No conclusions on that front -- as there will not be for quite some time -- but I've my suspicions to keep me warm at night, of course. More when I see you next. I do not trust them to journals, even encoded.)

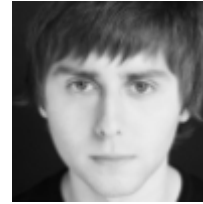
I am not in the least surprised that Our Lord is pleased with you. He would be a fool not to be.

**2014-04-06 23:23:00**

*Order Only*

Hermione,

Thank you for the report.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Everyone: Obviously, we owe you all an apology and bally well more besides. Before either of us decides what steps to take, Hydra and I need to talk.

Please allow us a little privacy for that. I promise, neither of us will make an attempt to do so in person.

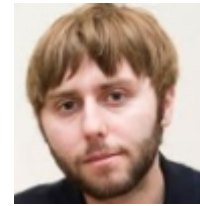
-Finch-Fletchley

**2014-04-06 23:26:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Hydra*

Dux,

Is he all right, your father? I mean to say, I'm sure he's bally well furious but did your mother harm him?



 [alt\\_justin](#)

He's not demanding my head, I hope.

I've spent all day thinking, what. About what to do. I think we ought to talk sooner rather than later, though I still feel rather in a state of shock, as I'm sure you do.


Has Professor Slughorn told you what they intend? Professor Sprout talked to me this afternoon. And Professor Dolohov as well. I don't see that we've any choice but follow their precautions. It's that or bally well take Sirius up on his offer but--well, I say, we've stuck it out this far, what. Unless your father does intend to murder me, as he's threatened before.

Are you all right?

Your

-Effs



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-07 04:44:22**  
(no subject)


He wrote to say that he knows what Mummy said, and that they are in agreement. It was very clear there was no room for debate or negotiation.

I don't know if she hurt him. Maybe. I think I may have hurt him worse. I don't think he will ever trust me again.

How can we even talk? We're not supposed to be alone together, ever.

No, I'm not alright. How can I be? I feel so ashamed and stupid. Daddy's right - he gave me a chance and I went and threw it away, and now everything's ruined.



 **alt\_justin** at [2014-04-07 04:53:23](#)  
(no subject)


We'll have to talk like this, love.

I know how you feel. We've let everyone down. I've let *you* down; I ought to have known better. I never thought anyone would stoop--no. I promised I'd not make excuses for us. It's not your fault, love, it's mine. If I hadn't had such dashed trouble sleeping alone this never would have got so far.

That's why we've got to grit our teeth and get through this, somehow. It's going to be terribly hard. But we can manage.

-J



 **alt\_hydra** at [2014-04-07 05:00:18](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, talk like this. It's not the same.

We both should have known better. We both knew what we had to do, it wasn't that hard, and yet we couldn't do it.

And now we won't get to be together at all. Not now.

I'm sorry. I hate it. But we can't... we can't be together anymore. If we eloped and went into hiding we'd be happy for a while, but then, I think we would later regret what we'd done. I don't want to be that selfish. I don't want to be like her.



 **alt\_justin** at [2014-04-07 05:11:59](#)  
(no subject)

Now, I thought you said you couldn't read minds at a distance?

Sorry. Ghastly attempt at humour, I know.

And, I know. I've known that since Tuesday, I think, what the solution was going to have to be. I didn't want to say earlier because I've been praying for some kind of miracle. And then just now, I--couldn't quite force myself to write the words. I was working my way to tell you, but as usual you've got it already. I think it's the only way to win through, eventually--to go a step further than they all expect.

But don't say not at all, ever. Perhaps when you've finished your O.W.L.s, or if you're chosen for the Council, like we said before. Or if we win and bring down the Protectorate. There are loads of ways it might all work out in the end.


There's something else. Professor Dolohov. He's told me I'll be serving detentions with him but I've a feeling he doesn't mean writing lines. You know what he wants me to do. To become. I think, perhaps, if I let him mould me--well, that might change their opinion. And if it helps us win, so much the better.

I love you. I still love you. I'll always love you. But.... I'm afraid we'll slip again. And we can't let that happen. This is the only way I can think to make sure it doesn't.

We have to make everyone else believe it, as well.

-Justin



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-07 05:20:24](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't read your mind. I just know you very, very well. Just as you know me.

I know it doesn't have to be "not at all, ever."

But we ought to go on as if it *does* mean that, if we're going to make the others believe.

And I suppose I'll let my mother mould me - or think she is - just as Professor Dolohov moulds you. I just hope we'll mostly still be the same people, with the same feelings, when they're done.

I love you, I hate this. ~~I wish we had one last~~

No. I think I had ought to try and sleep.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-07 05:26:15](#)**  
(no subject)


Sleep, love. One of us ought to do.

In the morning, at breakfast. I'll find you.  
Witnesses and everything, what? And I'll make it  
clear that I'm releasing you from your commitment.

Sweet dr

Goodbye.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-07 05:30:23](#)**  
(no subject)

Goodbye. Goodnight.

**2014-04-07 09:06:00**

*This Morning*

Many of you at breakfast probably saw me return a ring to Justin Finch-Fletchley.




We have decided to end our commitment to one another, and are no longer romantically involved. There is no ill-will between us, and I'm sure we will both remain on friendly terms. I suppose there will be a lot of speculation as to what happened between us. I will only say that we discussed the future and decided that it would be best, for both of us, if we parted ways.

 [alternity](#)  
 [alt\\_hydra](#)

To be clear: there's no need for further discussion.

Thank you,  
Hydra LeStrange



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-07 16:22:35](#)

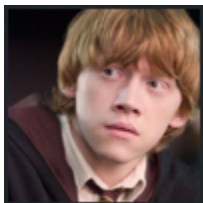
*Order Only*

Yes.

For those of you who might be wondering: No, this isn't an act. We're quite earnest about this decision.

Professor Sprout, I know you've no reason to believe us so rest assured, it doesn't change any of the measures you and Professor Slughorn have arranged. We can promise satisfaction on that account and you shan't be disappointed again.

And I can only echo Hydra's sentiment that there's nothing more to discuss. Please let us all put this unfortunate episode behind us and move forward.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-07 22:48:42](#)

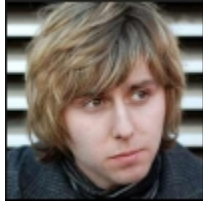
*Order Only Private Message to Justin*

You all right, then?

No, sorry. Is there anything I can do that would take your mind off it. Or help you figure out what's next?



Um. If you want to play chess after supper, we could. Or tomorrow if today's too soon. Or, y'know, go to the library and just work on things. Whatever.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-07 22:53:07](#)

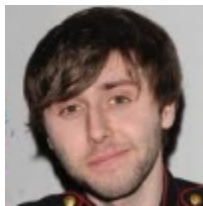
*Re: Order Only Private Message to Justin*

Ron,

Very not all right Yes, I'm fine, thank you.

I appreciate the offer. Perhaps tomorrow, old man. I've some things to attend to tonight.

-F-F



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-08 22:07:47](#)

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Justin*

Ron,


I'm afraid I'll have to postpone our game, indefinitely, it would seem.

I'm to spend every evening in Professor Dolohov's office, from the end of supper until curfew, until further notice.

It's rather a relief, in a way. Knowing how one is to be occupied.

-Justin



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-08 03:11:29](#)


*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra*

I understand your wish for privacy on this matter. However, there are several lingering issues that we need to discuss, and we will be addressing them further over hols.

In the future, should either of you find yourself facing significant danger, regardless as to whether the cause is Order business, I expect to be kept informed. Not five days after, but as soon as possible.

And just so we're absolutely clear, I also expect that for now, you both will not be engaging in behaviour that would endanger Justin.

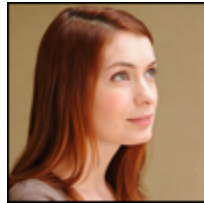


 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-08 03:30:51](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra*

We won't be engaging in that behaviour now that we've broken up, so you needn't worry about Justin.

I will try to inform you in the future, but I'm not very good at keeping track of when I'm facing significant danger or not, because it's most of the time, you see.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-08 05:29:40](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra*

Yes. I can see how that would be the case.

What things like this do is show us our blind spots. I hope we can learn from this and move forward, making these breakdowns in communication less likely to happen.

I'm not expecting an hourly report or anything ridiculous, obviously. I'd rather err on the side of sharing information and keeping an open line of communication, however.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-08 16:11:40](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra*

Mrs Longbottom,

Your frustration is entirely justified. I can assure you that Hydra and I are well aware of the gravity of our situation; indeed, if we weren't, we might have been tempted to take altogether less drastic measures to assuage her parents and diffuse the damage done.

Perhaps Professor Sprout has not seen fit to inform you of the measures proposed to keep me or Hydra from straying again. They

are not unreasonable, given the facts that the staff had at their disposal, and we--that is, *I*, at least--see no reason to attempt any disobedience. Hydra may well have to circumvent the surveillance on her dormitory bed, but in connection to her Council competition, not for an illicit meeting with me.

It's clear you don't believe or understand exactly what we mean when we say that we've broken off our engagement and are no longer involved. I would not be surprised if many members of the Order believed that we are merely biding our time until the scrutiny passes, and mean to carry on in secret. Nothing could be further from the case.

We did not separate merely to appease the Lestranges, or just to dissipate the danger to myself or to Hydra (and the sooner you realise that she was in just as much danger as I, perhaps more, the better). This incident forced us to confront the futility of our arrangement with Hydra's father and, moreover, to accept that our relationship was, in itself, an unacceptable liability to ourselves and to the Order. It's not merely that you had reason to doubt your trust in us; we realised that we cannot trust *ourselves*, so long as we entertained any hope of togetherness. Therefore, the only course of action open to us was to take our leave of each other and give up any expectation of success.

I regret that it took our failure to force us to accept what we should have known from the start. I deeply regret that Hydra's attachment to me caused her pain and brought about rifts with her family that will only make her mission more difficult to accomplish.

But those regrets are nothing next to the reality that we now face. Nonetheless, the only way is forward, and at least now we are both proceeding with the full knowledge of what we have sacrificed and what we must do to serve the Order and to see that the Protectorate falls.

If you think it necessary to lecture us further about how our actions potentially exposed the Order to discovery (which we would not have allowed) or how we are supposed to notify you of impending situations about which you can do nothing, so that you can worry helplessly while we face the inevitable, that is your right as our commander. Perhaps you have observations that will prove more illustrative than the lesson we have learned through harsh experience. But please, kindly believe that we understand the implications of our present circumstances more keenly and more

fully than you, Sirius, or anyone else could possibly imagine.

-F-F



 [alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-08 17:39:08

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin and Hydra*

If you do not see the point in keeping me informed, then yes, I very much need to make sure that we are all on the same page.

And you're correct in that it is my right to ask.

Know that my immediately addressing the fact that contact outside of normal school events puts you in certain mortal danger does not presume that I am blind to Hydra's situation. And I have reason to question your judgement and your ability to make decisions in the best interests of your own safety, so clarifying my own position was necessary. I do not mean to minimise the choice you've made, and want very much to believe that you are genuine in your resolve.

Trust goes both ways, though, and I recognise that I have yet to fully earn yours. I will do what I can to be worthy of the sacrifices you are willing to make, and attempt to demonstrate this through my actions as well as my words. I only ask that you do the same for me.


I understand that you've just had the floor fall out from under you in a very real way. My intention was to address what I believed to be the most immediate and urgent concerns so that we could hash out the consequences of all of this and how to move forward from it once you've had a chance to regain your footing and adjust to this new reality.

I don't intend to waste any of our times shouting or smacking wrists, as I don't see that as particularly productive. I also don't presume to know the entirety of what you're going through, or believe I have the right to tell you how you ought to feel or what lessons you should learn. I want to sort out what we can do to help you, what you can do for this organisation under these new circumstances, and how we might function and communicate more effectively.

In order to better help you, and better make decisions for all of us, I depend on you to keep me informed. You are the expert in your situation, Justin. I need you to educate me about what your challenges are, and communicate with me about how I can help you -- and even if I can do nothing, knowing your situation better helps me understand what our capabilities are.

I am heartily sorry for what has happened to you both, and I cannot imagine how difficult it must be for you right now.




 **alt\_terry** at **2014-04-09 01:23:28**

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Justin Finch-Fletchley*

I'm very sorry.

For you both.



 **alt\_sirius** at **2014-04-08 02:50:52**

*Order Only: Private Message to Ron*

Has Justin answered you?

I'm not asking to pry, I promise. If he's talking to you, that's great and I don't need to know what you're saying. I just - know he must be hexing himself fairly thoroughly right now. Did he seem .... What sort of shape is he in?

I just want to make sure he's not planning to add any more melodrama to this pantomime. Right?

Let me know how he's doing, please.



 **alt\_ron** at **2014-04-08 03:09:22**


*Re: Order Only: Private Message to Ron*

Oh. Hullo.

Yeah, I don't think he's doing great. He answered, but doesn't want to talk at all, really. And, I mean, I didn't really expect he would--would you? Just wanted him to know he can count on me, I guess.

You heard what he did today, yeah? Told Hydra at breakfast that she could break it off if she wanted, and she gave him back his ring. After that, he didn't say anything--just walked away. He was in lessons, but didn't say anything at all, I don't think, except once when Acton asked him to explain something from the homework. He did come to supper, though.



 **alt\_sirius** at **2014-04-08 03:20:25**

*Re: Order Only: Private Message to Ron*

Mordred. I'd almost hoped .... I'm going to say something and it's going to sound patronising but indulge me for a minute. I thought perhaps this was a show they were putting on for everyone's benefit, pretending to break up but only as a means to an end. Now I'm not sure whether they really had some sort of falling out, or if something else has come up to make them give up on each other.

That probably doesn't make a lot of sense. I mean to say, I don't think they'd be wise to carry on while everyone's got their eyes on them but I didn't think they'd give in to Bellatrix altogether, either. But you think it's real, and not playacting?

How is Hydra handling it, any idea?

**2014-04-07 09:36:00**

*Private Message to Vince and Greg*

After dinner today, you're going to find Teddy Nott, disarm him, and bring him to the defence classroom. I'll be waiting there. You're going to beat him up while I watch. I'll let you know when I think he's had enough.



 [alt\\_harry](#)

If he's stupid and blabs about what happened, you might get in trouble. But what's a little detention when you've got a council membership on the line?

Let's see what you're made of.

**2014-04-07 10:49:00**

*Private message to Padma Patil and Blaise Zabini*




 [alt\\_seamus](#)

Zabini, did you even know they were engaged? Also, what did they say to each other when he came over to your table?

I hope F-F isn't completely distracted by this.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2014-04-07 16:13:59**

*(no subject)*

I couldn't hear it either but Bulstrode said that when he saw F-F coming over, Remy Jugson cast a auditory enhancing charm so *he* could hear it, and she was right there.

F-F told her that 'In light of recent events'--well, we all know what those are, right?--the 'only honourable action' was to release her from their engagement if that's what she wanted. (Honestly, he really does think it's still the 19<sup>th</sup> century!) And she said yes, she thought it best and she gave him that ring. Which I've never even seen before, have you? And then he walked away without another word.


But the strange thing is that Hydra's not even upset about it. Did you notice? She just went back to her toast like it was nothing. I mean, I can understand wanting to be shut of him but that was cold even for Bellatrix Lestrange's daughter.

I don't think they were engaged at all. I think they put on a show so everyone will *think* they're done.

Anyway, he'd best not be. Distracted, I mean. But if I know that Hufflepuff, and he really did break up with her, then he'll want loads of work to keep him occupied. The more Noble Arts work we give him, the better.






 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-07 16:49:08](#)  
(no subject)

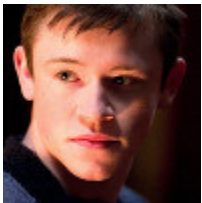
She had a ring?!? No, I'd never seen it, though I can't say I've scrutinized her hands looking for one. I would have expected to notice, though.


You're probably right about him wanting more Noble Arts work. Fine with me, I've got plenty else to do.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-07 16:18:16](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway, I'm more concerned with our latest challenge. I mean, Jacobson's inappropriate feelings for her uncle aren't the sort of thing she'd want widely known, but I can't think of anything she'd find more embarrassing to blackmail her.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-07 16:53:07](#)  
(no subject)

Well, you could threaten to make it sound like she'd watched him wanking loads of times. She probably did, after all.

I think Archer would do just about anything to keep people knowing her secret. I mean it's not a secret she was in the camps but she acts like it is, you know? I don't know what to have her do, though.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-07 16:58:54](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose... what I'm trying to decide is if we're meant to succeed in getting them to humiliate themselves (which is what I'm assuming we're supposed to do) or the whole point is that mostly they won't agree so we have to reveal their secrets, and it's a test of what *we're* willing to do. You know?

Maybe I'm over-thinking it. But it seems to me that the perfect execution here is to bring each person right to the edge of what they'd do to themselves publicly to save their secret becoming

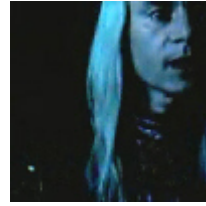
known.

I wonder if Jacobson would snog someone gross in front of the school.

**2014-04-07 18:29:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

SR sent awaited signal. Send packet no. two to *Prophet* via anon. post owl.



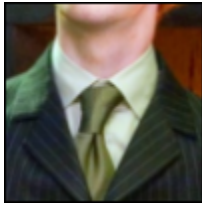
 **alt\_lucius**


Also. Had news from CF which plays into plans. Take packet no. three from blotter to his ofc. tomorrow. See that RR *sees* you deliver same but do not give it directly to her, use one of the other girls.

Oh, and see if you can find out AB's schedule for month.

And. W/in week, invite UA to lunch. Will provide alternate stationery for same.

That's all for now, except to let me know to-morrow when you next plan to meet your brother. May have information for you to slip into conversation; from there, trust he will carry to CM2.



 **alt\_percy** at **2014-04-08 01:18:19**  
(no subject)

Ah, good. The bait has been taken, then.

Re the task you've set for tomorrow, consider it done, to your specifications.

I have several sets of various types of stationery should you like to choose one; I simply kept an array of samples from the last fool who was rash enough to make a sales call. They are in the third drawer of your writing desk. I should think something there should be appropriate.

As for my eldest brother, we meet on Wednesdays over the lunch hour. I await your instructions.

**2014-04-07 21:11:00**

*Private message to Miss Perks*



 **alt\_antonin**

I had intended to write this PM earlier; I apologise for having been distracted with this weekend's upset. I likewise apologise for the length of time it has taken me to finish arranging this. You have been most patient, when I know you are undoubtedly beginning to get nervous.

If you are amenable, over the Easter holidays I would like to invite you to my home for tea and a chance to make you known to Healer Ekaterina Petrovna Korotkova, with the agreement that (should you suit) she will take you on for a summer internship. Ekaterina Petrovna was a friend of my mother's, instrumental in helping to welcome my mother and brother when they first arrived in this country fifty years ago. Her speciality is ophthalmancy, both the treatment of eye disorders and the manufacture of eyeglasses and prostheses. While this is not an area I have heard you express much interest in, and you may be doubting my wisdom in seeking her out for an internship for you, I do believe she is the best choice.

Ekaterina Petrovna is an exacting, stern woman, and the word used to describe her most often -- by her friends; her enemies have far stronger epithets -- is "persnickety". She is also a highly experienced Healer, with eighty years of experience in providing patient care; she has forgot more about the profession of healing than most other Healers ever knew. She forms her opinions of people based more upon deeds, and less upon background; I believe she will look favourably upon both your diligence and your knack for crafting things (that being a large part of her practise), and she is willing to trust my assessment of your worth and your work ethic enough to at least consent to a meeting. (The delay in arranging it has been based largely in the length of time it has taken me to convince her it is worth her time to take in someone at all, not due at all to any characteristic of yours: it has easily been thirty years since she has agreed to accept an intern or apprentice. I am certain she will hold forth on the reasons why during our tea-time. At great length.)

The other reason I believe she would suit for your summer placement: Ekaterina Petrovna is a woman with considerable influence at St Mungo's. She is one of three Healers in the Protectorate who practise her speciality, and easily the best; she is also a close personal friend of

several of the administrators, including the woman who makes the principal decisions about acceptances to the apprenticeship programme. If you are able to favourably impress her, she has the power to open a great many doors for you as you arrange your professional future.

Should this suit, she has indicated she is available on the afternoon of the 21st for tea and introductions. If you are unavailable then, let me know and I will see if it can be rescheduled; if you are available, let me know and I will send both you and her a formal invitation to tea. (A courtesy upon which she holds steadfast.)

---




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-04-08 01:28:52**  
(no subject)

Oh, thank you very much, sir. Yes, I can come on the 21st -- here? or to your house in New London? -- and I'm grateful for the introduction.

I'd not thought about ophthalmancy but it sounds like it would include both healing, and making things. I did some reading last year about magical eyes, actually, the kind people use when they've lost their natural one -- how they're made. (It's magic more advanced than I have the skill for right now. Or the facilities. I mean, to make one that would actually see, and not just look convincingly like an eye.) Are there any books you can lend me to read in advance of this meeting that would let me sound suitably knowledgeable on key subjects?



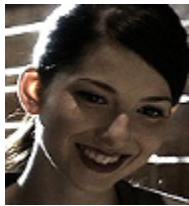
 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-08 01:45:36**  
(no subject)

My townhome, Cottesmore, in New London -- Ekaterina Petrovna would turn up her nose at me if I were to host us anywhere else. I can assure you she is more than adequate chaperone to protect your reputation; no one would dare insinuate she was involved in anything untoward.

The invitation will include date, time, and pertinent details. You needn't dress in anything but your Hogwarts robes. She is, I'm afraid, rather a stickler for the customs of the old country when it comes to tea, but she will not expect you to know them; however, should you wish a primer beforehand, I am happy to deliver it. (If I can remember the customs myself; it has been a good thirty years

since the last time I put on the show.)

I've had a quick glance around my office library and cannot lay my hands on a reference immediately, but I am certain I own something suitable. Let me look further. A caution, however; Ekaterina Petrovna is not impressed by those who pretend more in-depth knowledge than they have. It is better to admit to her your ignorance than attempt to convince her you are more experienced than you are.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-08 01:58:26](#)**  
(no subject)

I will definitely bear that in mind! Not that I routinely pretend to knowledge I don't have, but I have definitely on occasion let people peacefully continue in their assumption that I know something they think I ought to know. (Never in YOUR class, though, because I don't want to miss out on interesting information.)

I would welcome a primer on Russian tea customs.

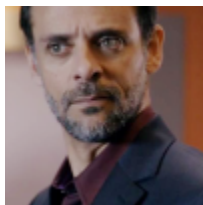
Also -- I was wondering if you could give me a little advice regarding something of a personal nature.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-08 01:59:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Nothing scandalous, I mean, it doesn't have anything to do with ~~Justin and Hy~~ recent events.

It's related to the challenge, though, and something Ron's sponsor said.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-08 02:04:26](#)**  
(no subject)

It is best to leave the fine Slytherin custom of allowing your conversational partner to assume facts not in evidence at the door as much as possible. Ekaterina Petrovna did not attend Hogwarts, but you may think of her as a Ravenclaw crossed with a Gryffindor; she has the Ravenclaw intellect and the Gryffindor

intolerance of fools and willingness to say so outright.

And of course you may ask.

I can't recall -- which one sponsored Mr Weasley? Avery? Montague?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 02:35:24](#)  
*(no subject)*

She actually sounds like a fascinating and appealing person. I'll try very hard not to give her any reason to think me a fool.

Ron was sponsored by Julius Avery. (Avery also sponsored Vincent Crabbe and Zach Smith.)

So back in February in Hogsmeade, Avery told Ron he ought to drop me, because being romantically involved with a half-blood was holding him back. Since Ron didn't take his advice, Avery found me in Hogsmeade this most recent time, and told me that I ought to break things off. And, to try to persuade me, he said that everyone knows Mr Malfoy is out of favour with Our Lord, and if the time should come when He wants to punish Mr Malfoy for something, Avery said he could see to it that Pansy was the one who got hurt. And it would be my fault, for not doing as Avery said.

So.

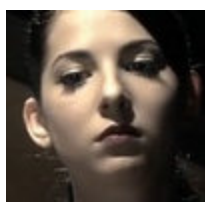
I talked this over with both Ron and Pansy, of course. Pansy says she can take care of herself and that I shouldn't worry. (Her sponsor is Ned Pennifold, if you're wondering.) Ron, meanwhile, is concerned that if he does drop me, it might protect Pansy but it would put me at risk -- I already got targeted by that idiot Dean Thomas for the 'shameful secrets' challenge.

Anyway -- do you think Avery ACTUALLY has the power to put Pansy in harm's way? And is Mr Malfoy likely to get in that sort of serious trouble? There's a big difference between merely 'out of favour' and the situation Avery is talking about.

Frankly, my assessment is that even if Avery is correct that RIGHT NOW he has that sort of influence, things on the Council

shift so quickly that by the time such a threat would actually come into play, he wouldn't anymore. And that maybe he doesn't realise that because he was only Marked last summer.

(As far as what he's said about my lack of blood purity holding Ron back -- well, there are two half-bloods in the challenge, first of all. But also, it's ridiculous to act as though we are engaged. And should Ron be honoured with Our Lord's Mark, he would need to seek Our Lord's permission before marrying anyone at all.)

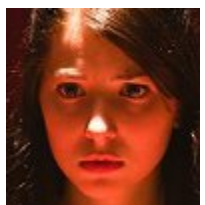


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 02:41:06](#)  
(no subject)

Oh and I suppose I should say,

I did notice that you and Mr Malfoy quarreled, and I've heard from others that you had a serious falling out.


So, I would expect that you are in a good position to give me an accurate assessment of his situation, unencumbered by personal fondness.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 02:45:04](#)  
(no subject)

Oh and we did talk about pretending to break up but still seeing each other on the sly. But, you know? That's awfully risky in its own way. Having that sort of secret is like having a handle that people can grab onto, to hurt you or control you. And it is very difficult to keep secrets inside Hogwarts. (I'm thinking of Justin and Hydra, of course.)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-08 03:17:22](#)  
(no subject)

I see.

Bearing in mind that no one can predict Council politics with absolute certainty, and that there are of course additional considerations that cannot be



calculated accurately nor discussed with those who do not have cause to know, I would not spend one additional minute of your time fretting about Miss Parkinson's safety; Avery does not have the sort of influence necessary with Our Lord to make good on such a threat.

That he should feel secure enough to make it to you, however, is interesting information. This is the sort of thing I would encourage you all to bring to me immediately when it happens. Not only does it allow me to take steps to protect you all -- and to every extent that is possible, I will always take steps to protect you; you are my students, and while I am neither omniscient nor all-powerful and cannot promise success in every conceivable situation, I will always do everything that is within my power to protect you for as long as possible -- but it is another piece of a puzzle I am fitting together. Thank you, Miss Perks; you have been most helpful.

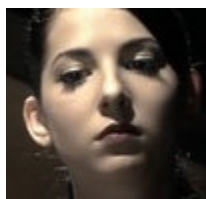
I likewise would not worry about Malfoy, should you care about his prospects. Like a cat, he usually manages to land on his feet, however little he might deserve it in any particular situation.

My advice to you would be to choose none of the above options: rather than breaking off your relationship (and thus signaling that you both can be intimidated into acting contrary to your wishes), flaunting Avery's attempted domineering (and thus angering him and risking his retaliation), or carrying on your relationship in secret (inevitably opening yourselves up to the sort of scene that transpired this weekend) -- instead, simply make less of an issue of your togetherness, behaving towards each other as though you were nothing more than good friends. Do not attempt to convince anyone, whether in the competition or not, that you have broken up, but likewise do not carry on as though you are dating, if you understand the distinction.

Employing discretion in such matters is by way of making a counter-proposal; if Avery should continue to attempt to intimidate you, you can reassure him with a clear conscience that while you will not sacrifice your relationship, you likewise do not wish to reflect poorly upon him, and therefore have chosen to behave with utmost discretion, in consideration for his reputation as Mr Weasley's sponsor.

The trick, one supposes, will be getting Mr Weasley to

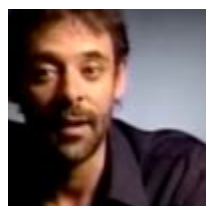
understand the meaning of the word 'discretion' -- but I have faith in your powers of persuasion.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-08 03:22:05](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Thank you, sir. That's very reasonable advice, and I am reassured by your thoughts on Pansy's safety.

We were considering a counter-proposal to Avery, offering to try to improve Crabbe's prospects a bit. (Zach Smith is a lost cause.) Since presumably it is in the sponsor's interests to have several candidates perform well.



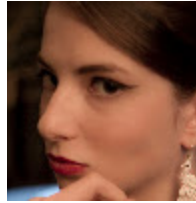
 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-08 03:41:41](#)**  
*(no subject)*

An interesting thought. I suppose whether it is possible to elevate Mr Crabbe's chances depends on what the remaining challenges turn out to be. (I do not know them, nor do I know whether they have all been agreed upon ahead of time or are being put together as we go.) You may be more successful in offering to attempt to interfere with the candidates of someone Avery wishes to show up; I suspect he is beginning to realise he only has a single candidate truly in the running, and does not wish to look foolish, so is pinning his hopes on Mr Weasley's success.

A not unreasonable choice, I might add; do let Mr Weasley know that I have full faith in his ability to succeed in this contest, and that if he does not, it will be only because of the presence of so many other talented candidates.

Still. You are all very young, to be thrown into this level of politicking without a safety net. I would be the last in the world to argue that you are too young to serve, as I do strive not to be a hypocrite, but at least when Savitha and I were training soldiers in Our Lord's army and Councilwizards to be His hands, we were doing so in such a way as to raise them up for Our Lord's benefit and the benefit of wizardingkind, not tear them down for our own advancement and petty power games.

Please do discreetly let your peers know that if they are feeling cast adrift in this competition, I cannot interfere directly in matters without repercussions, but I can, at least, serve as sounding-board.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 03:51:20](#)  
(no subject)

I think things were different then. You and Auror Desai were fighting a war; the younger Councilwizards were proving themselves against the likes of Mad-Eye Moody. They truly had the opportunity to prove themselves worthy.

The candidates at Hogwarts grew up in the Protectorate in peacetime. It's just not the same. Of course, everyone is doing their best to rise to the honour and prove themselves worthy, but -- well.

I'll let my peers know, sir. Thank you for the offer.



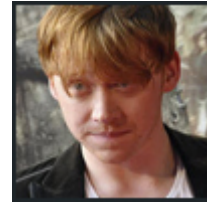
 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-08 03:58:16](#)  
(no subject)

There is that, yes -- but the last thing you want at this time of night is to listen to an old man reminiscing about ancient history. (Save that for attempting to get me off-topic in lecture tomorrow morning.)

Do get some sleep, Miss Perks. I will see you in class tomorrow.

**2014-04-07 21:17:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Luna  
Lovegood*



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Say, Lunes.

It happened. I mean, I guess we knew it would. Anywiz, the new challenge is the follow-on to that one about the secret.

I hope you don't regret helping me. Too much.

Anywiz, it says I have to go to the person whose secret I found out and 'offer that person a choice between performing a public act they will find embarrassing (at your discretion--that's mine, it means) or having their secret revealed to the school'.

So, um. I was thinking I could dare you to kiss Harry sometime when there'd be loads of people around, or, if you didn't take the dare, you'd have to have your secret told. I mean. I think most girls wouldn't do it because he's, y'know... and doesn't like that kind of attention, and some people would find that embarrassing to have to do, right? Anywiz. You could do that, couldn't you? And not have me have to tell everyone about how you didn't know what your monthly was when it first...

Yeah. Let's not...

Because, I mean, it says I'd have to announce it to the whole school. And they're serious about that. It says: '\*By Announce we truly mean ANNOUNCE. You may not start a rumour, gossip about it with a mate or two, or otherwise rely on the grapevine to spread the news. You must personally see to it that everyone learns the secret.'

The deadline for this is the last supper before Easter hols, and then, if you haven't accepted my dare, I'd have to get up and tell your secret in the Great Hall. So if you don't think you could do the kissing thing, then I'll try to think of something else that would seem embarrassing enough but not be horrible.


And, um. If you think this is an alright dare, but doesn't quite go far enough? Then maybe you can think of something you'd have to say to him first before you kiss him. Something that would be kind of mad to say out loud where everyone can hear.

So.

What do you think?

---



 **alt\_luna** at [2014-04-09 00:46:02](#)

(no subject)

First of all, I'm entirely willing to do either one. The things that embarrass other girls really don't bother me much.

I think if you get up and announce to everyone in the Great Hall that I thought I was dying when I first had my monthly because my Mum wasn't there to explain, YOU'D be much more embarrassed than I would. (I know a charm I can cast on myself that will make me blush quite hot, if you think it's necessary).

I think HARRY would be much more embarrassed than I would if I kissed him. I could make light of it, by explaining to anyone within hearing that *actually* the Son of Our Lord gives MUCH better luck when kissed in mid-April than if you kiss a ginger on the spring Equinox--it's the sort of rather mad thing that people would think I would really believe. And I could make it quick, kiss him just on the nose, you know. Probably best not to warn him first, so he can't dodge, but I promise not to make it too agonising for him.

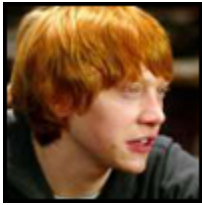
I think the most important thing is, what would help you the most in the competition, the way you want things to fall out, Ron? Because that's the whole point of this, isn't it?


Telling everyone that story about my first monthly fulfills the requirements exactly, as stated. But I'm sure they're hoping that you could uncover something more juicy and scandalous. Like that a certain student's mum is really a half-blood, or a black marketeer, or that they have a squib brother hidden in a closet somewhere. (Or that they have the hidden plates and type for a clandestine newspaper, just to pick a random example!) I think you might be marked down a bit more if you announce my secret than if you order me to kiss Harry. Yes, most would consider it embarrassing but I think they may mark you down because it's not real dirt, do you see? And you *want* to be marked down after all, right? Because you don't really want to get on the Council?

If you choose to make me kiss Harry, well--perhaps they'd decide it means you have a lot of nerve.

What do you think? As I said, I'm fine with it, either way.

The real question is: what do you honestly think serves your purposes the best? That's what we should do.



 **alt\_ron** at **2014-04-09 21:01:08**  
(no subject)

Yeah, no. We don't want to have to tell your secret. That's the whole idea here. And making you kiss Harry is nervy, but not risky or rude or cruel or anything. So it's perfect as long as you don't mind doing it.

Just be sure you do it when it will have a bit of dramatic impact, y'know? Oh, I know. I've got some of the twins' bells and whistles baubles. You could set one of those off first and get everyone's attention before you do it.

And you're totally right: don't tell Harry what you're going to do ahead of time because he'll give it away that by being nervous. And, um, I think you need to do more than give him a kiss on the nose. I mean, you'll have to give him a proper snogging for this to be good enough.

Sorry, yeah?

**2014-04-08 09:38:00**

*I Solemnly Swear I Am Up to No Good -  
Private message to Sally Anne*

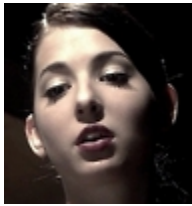


 **alt\_draco**

Look - I've been thinking about it and I don't even know how you jumped to the conclusions you jumped to, the other day.

It's important for me to know what happened to make you believe I had feelings for Hermione. So if you can specify that for me, I'd appreciate it.

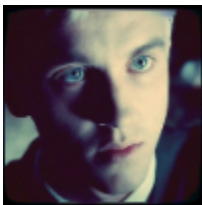
Also, I know how tight you are with Pansy and Weasley, and always have been, since the beginning of this lock. I would also appreciate you not sharing your speculations with them, however tempting it might be.




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-04-08 20:27:04**  
(no subject)

Of course I won't say anything to Pansy or Ron. ~~Do you~~ really I mean, even if there were something to tell, which of course there isn't. If you actually started seeing someone and Pansy didn't know I would probably tell her that, because it's always better to find out things like that when you have a little privacy, before you run into the happy couple at a party. (Not that she wouldn't be happy for you if you found someone who made you happy. She'd just want to feel anything other than good wishes somewhere private.)

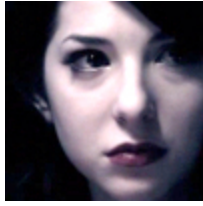
And obviously that's not going to come up.



 **alt\_draco** at **2014-04-08 20:50:12**  
(no subject)

I'm seeing Daphne, of course, and as far as most others know, we're utterly meant for each other.

Thank you, though, for ensuring your discretion.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 21:02:28](#)  
(no subject)

Right, but she knows about that.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 20:36:20](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway. You sounded very protective of Hermione yesterday. The adults are always protective of her (well, in some ways! it didn't mean they pulled her out and sent her to Moddey when they could have, but having made that decision they've second-guessed themselves ever since) but you know the rest of the ISS aren't, really, we would certainly say 'be careful' but we wouldn't say 'let someone else do this' because she's really GOOD at everything, as you know perfectly well.

And then I realised you PM her an awful lot. And when you talk ABOUT Hermione you clearly admire her, a lot, although when you talk TO her, you usually sound cross.

Don't worry, though, it's nothing you've ever done in person and I can't imagine that anyone else would guess have that sort of thought, honestly, especially if they aren't on the journal locks and just know the person you pretend to be to most of the world.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-08 20:56:34](#)  
(no subject)

She may be really good at everything, but that doesn't mean Hydra ought to have chosen her to tag along to the meeting with Bellatrix. If she'd been caught, consequences would be much worse for Hermione than someone like me. Might it be that my concern for Hermione's well-being seems foreign and strange, because of the way I grew up, and because of my previously held beliefs?

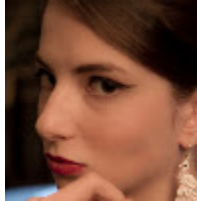
Though I agree that expressing doubt that Hermione could handle the situation was probably an insult to her capabilities.

I sound cross with a lot of people. That's not new. SHE always



sounds cross with me, too, if you've noticed.


Right. Good. That's what I need to know - that no one else would ever make such an accusation against me, not ever.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 21:08:57](#)  
(no subject)


You sound different with Hermione, though. I mean you always sound cross but you don't sound disdainful. With everyone else, you sound like you're thinking, 'if you weren't such an idiot you'd know I was right' and with Hermione you sound like you're thinking, 'you're utterly brilliant so you ought to understand why I'm right.'



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-08 21:19:55](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-08 21:43:57](#)  
(no subject)

Alright.

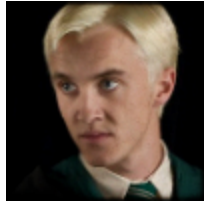
That's an extremely subtle distinction to pick up on, and if it exists it bothers me; mostly because I never noticed it.

I'd still like to know how *very faintly* projecting admiration for one's brilliance equals "having feelings" for them, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-08 21:45:17](#)  
(no subject)

Well clearly I was imagining things and I'll try not to do it again.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-08 21:51:15](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, stop. I'm not going to treat you as if you're an idiot.

Look. There are things you don't say out-loud, ever, because they are dangerous. They are dangerous to write about, to think about. Because they can't ever, ever be. So don't worry about what my feelings are or are not - they won't ever be acted on.

But if I'm going to be on the council, any indication that I have anything beyond absolute disdain for mudbloods could be the difference between life or death for me, for her, for any one of us. So if there are any cracks showing that I don't see because of my own blind spots, I need someone to tell me about them.

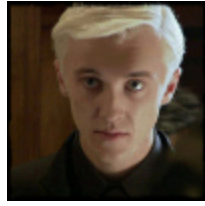



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:31:36](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

The only reason I noticed anything was because of the journals because that's where the two of you can talk to each other. In person -- well, when you're in public you never look at her. A lot of others do -- I mean, they look at her like she's something stuck to the bottom of their shoe, or they'll wrinkle up their nose like she smells bad, but they acknowledge she's there, and most of the time you just act like she isn't, which is fine, I think it's safest. I mostly don't look at Hermione when we're in public because I'm afraid if our eyes met, I might give something away. And plenty of other people don't look at her unless they have to, so that doesn't stand out.

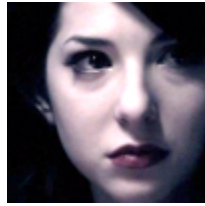
Obviously in private things are different.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-09 01:35:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Obviously. It's not as if I can not look at her when we're all sitting 'round Auntie Walburga's museum of the macabre and bizarre.

So how's it different, then? How am I different.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-09 01:46:38](#)**  
(no subject)

When we're somewhere safe like the Hidden Room or your Auntie Walburga's museum, you look at her a little more intently than you look at anyone else. And you have this tendency to touch your hair. When you're talking to her, I mean. Patting it into place and combing your fingers through.

Girls will do that on purpose to flirt, sometimes. Play with their hair while they're talking to a boy they like. I don't know if boys actually notice that or not. (It usually goes along with stuff like giggling and making eye contact and then looking down and then looking back, and standing a little closer than people do normally. Obviously you don't do any of THAT.)

Look, I'm serious when I say no one else would ever notice any of this. I've spent years and years watching people in the Slytherin common room so I know whose way to stay out of and all the rest. Most people don't bother. I mean, watch out for Megan Jones, but she's unlikely to ever see you and Hermione chatting in the Hidden Room. You know? (Also, she watches people really closely same as I do and for the same reasons but I think she puts less of it together.)

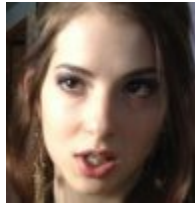


 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-09 01:52:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Right. Jones, she almost beat me at AK, back in first.

No one *was* supposed to notice anything, Sally Anne. And someone did - you.


It's alright. I'll get rid of it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:53:59](#)  
(no subject)

You'll get rid of what, the way you feel?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 01:55:31](#)  
(no subject)

Correct.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:57:33](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Draco.

Good luck with that.

I mean. If anyone can, it's probably you.

**[2014-04-08 11:20:00](#)**


*Private Message to Harry*

How did yesterday evening's lesson go? Were there any problems? Do you think he got your message?



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)**



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-08 17:54:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

Whitacre came in towards the end of things, but I told him it was contest business, and he backed off. I'm not sure he even wrote it up.

I told Teds once we were done that it wasn't anything personal, but he shouldn't mess with my property any more, and he sort of looked surprised, like he might've thought it was for something else, so I'm not sure. Maybe I should write Yaxley again?

And he didn't go to get patched up after. I think he might be proud of it.

So we need to think about a new type of lesson, maybe.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-04-08 22:32:21](#)**

*(no subject)*

If anything comes of Whitacre discovering it, tell me right off and I'll take care of it.


Are you aware of anything else he's done recently that might have have annoyed you?

Well I didn't have Madam Pomfrey knocking me up last night to shout at me, so I assumed if he got patched up he at least kept his gob shut.

What you had done was a fairly straight forward, relatively mild consequence for failing to follow your orders. It'll work on some, not on others. If it doesn't work you can escalate or try a different tack.

The problem of the young Mr Nott goes beyond this contest. What do you think you could do to encourage him to follow your lead willingly? What about force him to comply? Both quickly under stress and over the long haul. He's an odd duck, but thinking about him will help you answering those questions about anyone.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 04:40:27](#)  
(no subject)

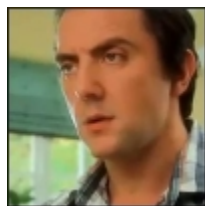
I don't think it'll work. And I'm not sure force is the answer


It's

It's complicated, isn't it? Because sometimes you really can't predict how he'll react. And sometimes he'll get so focused on things. ~~He reminds me of~~

I don't think anything scares him. And although he's going along with the challenge, it's not because he likes following rules. I think it's because he wants a council membership. Or because he thinks it's fun. I'm not sure he believes in any authority. Maybe My Father's. Maybe.

Maybe it's just a matter of figuring out what he cares about? It seems like he might care about this contest, but you'd think he'd be more careful about his behaviour towards me, then.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-09 07:28:48](#)  
(no subject)


Knowing what he cares about would be good. Providing or denying desires can be very powerful motivators.

He makes me think of Malcolm Bosworth. He was a wizard beater. Total control of the bludger. But he was so much trouble. Foul after foul. His fouls against the Harpies when he played for Puddlemere lost them the game and the cup and he got cut. When playing for them he tried to hex the owner of the Tornados for some slight and got cut from them. Trouble with the Aurors off the pitch. ~~Shagged the under~~ He was so good every team in the league at least gave him tryouts. But he left quidditch when he was only twenty-four, there was no one left who would

hire him, he was just too much of a pain in the arse.

"I'm not sure he believes in any authority." Tied with everything else about him, that makes him dangerous to you. When do you give up on trying to get control of someone like him and just remove him from the pitch? What line would he have to cross for you to feel that way? Given his connections it would have to be done carefully, but it's doable.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 07:41:20](#)

*(no subject)*

I wouldn't have said this a week ago, but it's getting close to that point.

I was talking about it with Draco, and the thing is, we weren't sure where it could go next. What he'd try to do. How far he'd take it. But we could certainly imagine some possibilities that I would not want to happen.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 05:04:07](#)

*(no subject)*

Hydra told me that he really creeped her out today. On top of everything else that's happened.

Like he was trying to flirt with her, but in a really creepy way, and he scared her. And you know she doesn't scare easily.

And he was asking her a lot of questions, too. About me. And And I think he got the wrong impression. Like it wasn't that I was defending my honour, but like I was trying to hide something.




 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-09 06:24:47](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you for telling me that. That was incredibly inappropriate of him. It also shows a distinct lack of discretion and judgement.

Any idea what he thought you might be hiding?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 06:41:58](#)  
(no subject)

Well, so, this whole thing started because he ordered Hermione to tell him an embarrassing secret.

And somehow, he's taken my taking offence at what he's done and the fact that Hermione didn't seem embarrassed enough or something to mean that Hermione was lying about the secret she told him in order to hide something really dire, or that I'm trying to cover something up, and he was bugging Hydra to legilimise Hermione to see what was really going on.

So yeah. Apparently it's a huge conspiracy. I don't know.

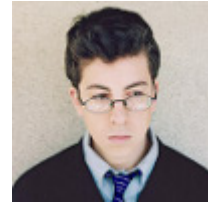
But it seems like instead of backing off, he's coming on strong. And he's really creeping out Hydra too.



**2014-04-08 16:35:00**

*A Sterling Attitude*

It certainly is gratifying to be in a cohort whose members, despite the rapidly approaching holidays, devote themselves to being their best. It is doubly gratifying to know that we here at Hogwarts can encourage each other to be our best, whether through the gentle admonitions of a Prefect's guidance or the keen competition from our classmates in lessons.



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Speaking of which, Finch-Fletchley, that was rather impressive this morning in Noble Arts. Good to see that you're keeping the rest of us on our toes -- or, in some cases, off of them. Thus do we help each other to shine!



---

 [alt\\_linus](#) at **2014-04-08 21:48:19**


*Private Message to my sweetest Lavender*

Would you do me the honour of accompanying me to Professors Siz and Raz's party on the final Friday of hols?

I am informed that the event is not all-out uncomfortably elegant as far as dress code goes, and that this is something I should convey as befits a gallant would-be escort.

So, my flower, will you?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-08 22:11:10**

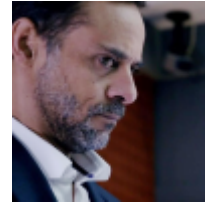
*(no subject)*

Cheers, Moon. Happy to oblige.

-Finch-Fletchley

**[2014-04-08 17:24:00](#)**

*Private message to Auri*




 **[alt\\_antonin](#)**

In the category of "things that make Antoshka grumpy", I've just remembered that the sixth-year NEWT Astronomy classes run until 2AM Wednesday-night-into-Thursday-morning. That does rather sink my plan to make sure Mr Finch-Fletchley is not left unsupervised in the evenings.

I can keep him in my office until class time -- the couch is tolerable if he wishes to nap -- but would you be able to walk him back after? The boundary spell to make sure he does not sneak out in the middle of the night is not hard at all to cast, merely tedious and exacting; I can teach it to you in a few moments.

(I will perhaps consider being merciful and allowing him to sleep in until 6:30 Thursday morning rather than showing up at six on the dot.)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-04-08 21:49:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Toshenka,

On the list of things I've been asked to do in the past few years, that one is rather mild, considering. And not even much out of my way. (Though if you wish to continue it next year, we might need to renegotiate. For the moment, I will not borrow complications from the future. We have quite enough in the present.)

I'd say send him up at curfew, but I do like my hour or two of evening with Raz when we can get it.

I am out (at the Archetype now, and would you prefer your extravagant pastry of the week with raspberries or with citrus?), and if it's cleared, I've got measurements to manage tonight.

Do you want to come up when I'm back and teach me, or do we need to find time tomorrow? I could put off my office hours right after supper for long enough, if that would do.

I still am thinking half a dozen different things, you know. About the whole mess.

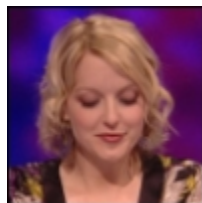


 **alt\_antonin** at [2014-04-08 22:14:02](#)

*(no subject)*

Ha. No, I do not think it will be necessary to continue such close supervision next year as well. To be honest, now that the children have broken off the relationship -- if they have, and are not simply trying to placate Bella -- I do not think F-F's stiff-necked stubbornness and pride will allow him to continue their midnight meetings, but one is expected to be professorial and disciplinarian about matters. I'll come up tonight once you've returned (and once I've seen him properly tucked into bed for the night). We can discuss some of those half dozen things, if you're of a mind, while you work on your observations.

(Oh, and -- raspberry, please. Of your kindness.)



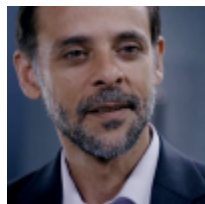
 **alt\_sinistra** at [2014-04-08 22:19:37](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm quite sure no one emphasised this part of the professorial obligations to you when you took this on, did they?

At any rate, I'll be on the tower by half nine at the latest, and it's not like you can't let yourself in if you're there ahead of me. (Just watch out for Suha - she's taken to winding herself under my feet as I get the door.) As if I'd turn down conversation with you.

Raspberry it is. You'll like this one. (As much as I like the designs for the desserts for our party, which I just spent half an hour talking about.)




 **alt\_antonin** at [2014-04-08 22:30:48](#)

*(no subject)*

My dear, no one emphasised any part of the professorial obligations to me when I started. Well, aside from you.

I'll make my way up after seeing F-F to bed, and if you are not back yet, I will distract the cats for you until you are. And I look forward to discussing the designs for the party. (As well as discussing the party, period. I am most curious to see the RSVPs begin rolling in.)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-04-08 22:50:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I do try to be helpful. Someone *ought* to be, really. The cats, likewise, I'm sure. Though their idea of helpful is sometimes lacking. (Two inkwells nearly went over this week.)

As to the party, oh yes. A first rush of the entirely expected ones (my parents, Diane and Chiron, a fair range of both astronomers and Quidditchers.) Chimera Powell, so I can *finally* introduce you properly, and Amaryllis Poundtree (clearly, our library will be amiably occupied for the evening.)

And Moira Grantworth sent a pleasant but decidedly puzzled acceptance. I need to write back and reassure her I loved that biography of Hypatia, and so did a number of other people who'll be there. (Because, really, what's the use of having social leverage if one can't use it to invite interesting people to one's party?)

Beyond that, a couple of notes from people clearly trying to figure out who else is invited and being baffled by their perceived observational data. You'll find that decidedly interesting, and I suspect it's going to be more so later in the week.

**2014-04-08 17:43:00**

*Order Only - Teddy Nott*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Harry, Hermione - Teddy hasn't decided to stop interfering with the both you. If anything I think he's got worse. You might have noticed he's been trying to follow me around ever since ~~Justin and I~~ yesterday. He sat next to me at supper last night and offered to "take my mind off" things. And then he sat next to me again, tonight, because I was late and couldn't get in next to Remy or Pansy. I tried to be very busy with my woolten pie, but he just doesn't care about interrupting a person. And it's not that he doesn't know he's interrupting, he just doesn't think to care.

Well, he started talking about "Harry's mudblood" and said that he's thinking of changing his strategy. It was then that I started actually listening to him. Because it was about you, Hermione, and this is Teddy we're talking about after all. You see, he thought that Hermione was awfully unconcerned when he threatened to expose her secret, so now he's sure that Hermione's secret must have been a lie. He also thought she was way too certain that Harry wouldn't allow her to do anything she didn't want to do.

I had to start talking to him then, to find out more. And it meant I had to say terrible things. But I just pretended I was Mummy, and it wasn't really so hard, even though I couldn't finish my food because of it.

So I asked if he thought Hermione's secret was very awful, and he said it was awful enough, but then he said "I think that mudblood bitch had the stones to *lie* to me. To a pureblood! One of her betters! And I want to know why."

I said: "They probably all lie." (because everyone does, honestly)

He said Harry was far too trusting and that it was important we find out why Hermione thinks she can get away with lying, and make sure she knows she can't. Only then I asked him if that wasn't Harry's job, not ours, and he said that Harry's been tricked, and it's our job to look out for him and drop the scales off his eyes.

And I knew then that what Teddy wanted me to do was legitimise

Hermione, find out what her real secrets are, and share them with him.

He kept calling me *Hides* and touching my hair. I thought I'd be sick.

I suppose I paused a little too long, because then he said that I must have "gone soft." (What does that mean? When have I ever not been soft? That's what Mummy's called me my whole life... only I think Teddy believes I'm like her, or he thinks I'm like *him*, which is a frightening thought. He kept going on about how "we" were both too clever to be fooled by a mudblood, even Harry's mudblood.)

I told him I found his obvious goading a bore, and he didn't like that. Said he'd just find out by himself if I wouldn't help him. So I told him, very low and clear, "I'm not helping YOU. I'm going to find out myself, for myself. How are you going to get it out of her? You don't have the means. I do. If you want me to share with you what I find out then we do it *my way*."

A really horrible smile crossed his face and he said "Oh, I have means, but yours are less likely to get my arse kicked again."

I tried to get what he was thinking just then, because it sounded so awful. But Teddy isn't easy to listen to. It doesn't seem as if he's afraid of anything, and his mind fires in all sorts of directions at once. All I saw was that he thought his black eye made him look dashing. I told him that it *didn't*. He must've been flattered that I legitimised him because he only said "you know you think it's sexy."

He's really so repulsive and foul. But he's not stupid at all. I only wish that he were.


So I finally told him that I would legitimise Hermione and find out what she was hiding, but that I would only tell him what I discovered if I was in the mood. He was smug and ever so confident that I would tell him everything, but at least it finally made him leave.

We'll have to think of what to do. Some false secret I can pretend to have legitimised out of Hermione. Or, I don't know, maybe we ought to have Vince and Greg kill him.

I'm sorry. That's a horrible suggestion, I realise. But his head is dark and awful and I know, I *know* that he's capable of anything.


---



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 00:00:56](#)  
(no subject)


As much as he clearly despises muggleborns, he seems a little fascinated, too. He kept asking me if I didn't wonder what their minds must be like, "all dark and primitive." He also kept going on about how *she touches Harry's clothes*. And then he told me a story about how he and Draco once made Hermione bleed to see if her mud was brown, and he seemed to remember it very well, and I could tell it was a *happy* memory.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:11:57](#)  
(no subject)

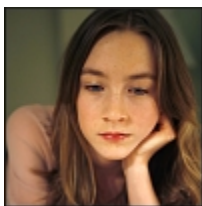
Ugh.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 01:12:46](#)  
(no subject)

He told you the story about *what*?

And it was happy. Well, isn't that interesting.  
Perhaps it's the memory he uses to cast a patronus.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 00:10:57](#)  
*Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

There's more. I didn't want to say it where Justin or any of the others could read. Normally, I would only tell Justin this part, but now.. Well, I can't.

He kept touching me. My hair, my shoulder, my knee. He acted as if he had permission, and even though I stuck my fork into the back of his hand he only treated it as some kind of flirtation.

At the end, when I told him I would only report back to him if I was in the mood, he asked "so what puts you in the mood?" And then he said that everyone knew that I only liked Justin because he got hurt by those Beauxbatons boys, and that he must have been like a dog with a broken leg to me.


He asked, "Did he like it when you hit him?"

He thinks that I *hit* Justin. Does everyone think that? Why would they think that?

I said, very flip, "Will you like it when I hit you?" He said *maybe*, and I said "it's more fun if you don't." He agreed with me, then, and said "it's always more fun when there's a bit of struggle."

Then, at the end of our conversation, when he was getting ready to leave, he told me I ought not to play too hard to get with him, that I was "damaged goods" and that I might not have as many chances as I think.



 [alt\\_pansy at 2014-04-09 00:44:07](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

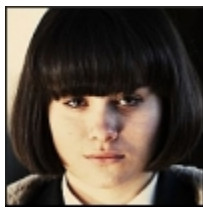
Oh, Hydra.

That's foul. And miserable. I'm so sorry you had to listen to all of that. I mean, it was very useful, but

how awful.

He's playing a rather dangerous game. Honestly. Talking like that to you, and messing with Harry like he is. He shouldn't have said that to you.

It's like he's a creepy first-year all over again only far, far worse.




 [alt\\_pansy at 2014-04-09 00:44:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

And no. People don't think that. Teddy does. Big difference.




 [alt\\_hydra at 2014-04-09 01:15:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

If Teddy thinks it someone else probably does, too. It's alright. I know it isn't true.





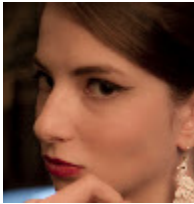
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-09 02:40:55](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

We can make sure you have someone to sit next to at meals. And keep company in the common room. We don't have to talk if you don't want to, but I think it'd probably be best if you weren't seen alone.

And if you did ever want to talk, you know that you could.

I'm ever so sorry for what happened, Hydra.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 02:38:43](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*


Ugh. That is utterly foul.

We can think about some spells you could use in self-defense, because the thing is, he'd probably like it if you hurt him, you know? Just like he thought being stabbed with a fork was flirtation. But you shouldn't have to put up with him touching you.

You know, you could talk to Professor Lestrangle, and ask him to put Imperius on Teddy to make him leave you alone. He'd probably break through it eventually but at least for a while it ought to work.

And Easter hols are coming really soon. Will you have to see him during hols?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 03:11:02](#)

*Re: Private message to Pansy and Sally Anne*

There's going to be a party at Spence. All the challengers are invited, so I expect Teddy will be there. But so will Harry and Draco - and Pansy and Ron, should they decide to attend.

Maybe I'll Imperius him. It would be good practice.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 00:39:40](#)  
(no subject)


Right.

Okay.

Thanks for passing this along, Hydra.

You're right. We can't deal with him like we do other people. He's dangerous. And Dolohov and Raz don't want him on the council either.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 00:41:49](#)  
(no subject)

So what should we do? To help you, and keep him from nosing around Hermione? Because he's not going to stop on his own, and it looks like beating him up again probably won't work.

The more we make a big deal out of it, the more he might think she's hiding something.

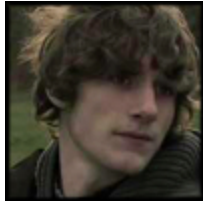
I mean, I keep saying it's about his disrespecting me by messing with my property, but I don't think he's taking it that way at all.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 01:11:10](#)  
(no subject)

He doesn't understand why you care about your "property" so much. She's just a mudblood to him. You can always get another. To care that much is unnatural. So now he's decided that Hermione must've done some kind of sneaky trickery to *make* you care.

I don't know what to do. Maybe everyone else has ideas, but all I've thought is that Hermione might need to tell me a real secret. Not that she does magic, of course. But something real and believable. I hate that it has to be that way, but I don't know what else will work.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:14:51](#)  
(no subject)

What if you told him something that happened between her and Carrow. Because he's DEAD, and he can't contradict anything. Or Miss Professor Carrow.

I'm not quite sure what. But if it involves either Carrow, it could be something sick and twisted, and that might please him.


(Sorry, Hermione.)



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 01:27:34](#)  
(no subject)

It might please him, but it also might not satisfy him at all, because the Carrows *are* dead he might dismiss the secret as irrelevant since it can't be proven. There's no telling with Teddy.

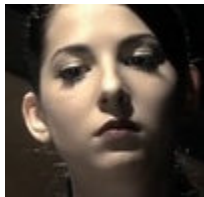


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:33:10](#)  
(no subject)

What if it were about Voldemort?

Something she could've picked up in Buckingham, or overheard me saying?

Something that'd get him in trouble if he knew it and blabbed. Like his real name. Or his parents' names. Which prove that he's halfblooded.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:34:59](#)  
(no subject)

If Hermione's most shameful secret were that she knew that the Lord Protector were a half-blood

well, on one hand it's a hilarious idea but unfortunately Teddy might decide to kill Hermione to protect Our Lord's secret. I wouldn't put it past him.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:39:10](#)  
(no subject)

We can keep an eye out, see what he does with it. He's mad. There's no telling for sure what he'd do.

And yeah, trying to kill Hermione might be one of the things he settles on. But he could also decide to go against Voldemort, too. Or throw them both a tea party. I don't know.

Sorry.

I guess what I'm saying is he could do that no matter what.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-09 01:35:56](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, Harry, that's a wonderful idea!

Only it's not my shameful secret, then, is it--it's Voldemort's.

Hm.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:40:43](#)  
(no subject)

Well, maybe the key is how you found out?

Or that what you thought at first was that he wanted your BIGGEST secret, like you misheard him, and when you sorted out that it was something shameful, you were so relieved you just said the first dirty thing you could think of?



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:38:01](#)  
(no subject)

Mmm. Perhaps he might react favourably if you make it clear that it's a secret she's been trying very hard to keep from her master--Harry Marvolo. Something that Carrow did to her.

I dunno. Hermione might have a better idea than me. The two of you know Teddy Nott better than I do. I avoided him any chance I had.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-09 01:32:02](#)  
(no subject)

No, it's all right. It's probably my fault first for not coming up with anything worse than making him think I fancied Professor Lestrangle and then for not being worried enough when he was talking to me. Only I was so much more worried about--other things. I thought I'd fooled him at the time but he must have decided differently later.

Right. Professor Carrow.... I'm not sure what to suggest, either. It can't be sexual because I had that spell on me for so long. I'd rather not say something like he made me eat cat food or live rats or something like that because what if Nott decides to try it?

Maybe we could say that he once made me and Terry strip naked and serve him and Miss Professor Carrow dinner. With any luck, Nott will find that image so gross and horrifying he won't be interested in a reenactment.

And Hydra--I'm so sorry he's being such a loathsome little cockroach. Maybe we should make sure that Crabbe and Goyle put him in St Mungo's. (Sorry, Madam P.)


Or.... Do you suppose we could beat him at his own game? He's trying to blackmail me, but Hydra, you said he sounded oddly fascinated, too. What if we wrote his father informing Mr Nott that Teddy's been sniffing after me, and not in a wholesome, mudblood-hating, patriotic sort of way? We could send an owl tonight. We'd still have to deal with this situation but maybe over Easter holidays his father will find the right way to frighten him into settling down.



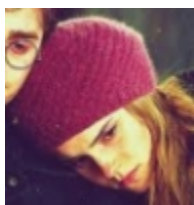
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:33:40](#)  
(no subject)

I'd be really worried Mr Nott would take things out on you.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:35:24](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. Right.

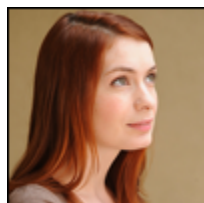



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-09 01:36:33](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. Fair point.

Damn.


So it's back to putting him in St M's.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-09 02:20:31](#)  
(no subject)


If this escalates significantly, then yes, that might be an option we'd have to consider.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:34:00](#)  
(no subject)

That'd work, yeah.




 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-09 01:43:45](#)  
(no subject)

For the secret, that might work, yeah. Especially because Teddy was there when Carrow made all my clothes fall off in the Great Hall, so he

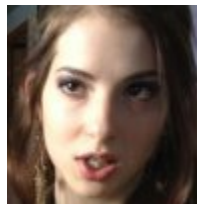
already knows that Carrow didn't mind seeing mudbloods from the skin out. And embarrassing them that way. It could be believably something that Hermione kept secret from Harry, to prevent her master from going head-to-head with his professor over his property.

Urgh.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 01:50:11](#)  
(no subject)

It's not your fault.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 01:22:09](#)  
(no subject)

Could you tell him that you know her secret, but you're not going to tell him?

I suppose that would just have him after you, endlessly, though.

Ugh.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 01:29:10](#)  
(no subject)

I think it would have him after me, yes. He might even like it, and think that I was withholding the secret because I wanted all his attention.

But I can endure it if it's our only or best option. I'm afraid of him, but that doesn't matter.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-09 01:31:00](#)  
(no subject)

He probably shouldn't just up and disappear. It wouldn't be like Sarah Fawcett, or even the Pink Toad. His father would make too much noise, and unless we were really careful

And I don't suppose we'd be able to convince the LP that Harry needs to kill someone of his choosing, either.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2014-04-09 02:10:15](#)

*(no subject)*

Hydra,

First off, what a toad.

Second, why can't you simply tell him that you read Hermione's mind thoroughly (I'm sure she would understand if you indicated that it was dull and simple) and that in fact, her dark secret is whatever she told Nott in the first place? It was a crush on the Rizzer, right?

Simply tell him that she's such an inferior creature that she's incapable of anything more sophisticated.

He may not believe you but at least then he's less likely to pester Hermione.

You still know that below-the-belt hex, don't you?



 **alt\_hydra** at [2014-04-09 02:16:24](#)

*(no subject)*


Yes, I still know it. And other ones.

Your solution is simple but maybe that's best. We're all trying so hard to think of something complicated and none of it seems right.

I'm worried, though, that he won't really believe that Hermione's dull. He might be inclined to think that way about muggleborns, but he's very observant, and it's very hard for Hermione to appear dull, even when she tries. Maybe from a distance, yes, but he's managed to corner her face-to-face, more than once.






 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-09 02:19:27](#)  
(no subject)

That's a good point -- but perhaps you can think of a way to make it seem like she's just a particularly well-trained pet who's rather good at pretending to be clever?

I agree that being dismissive is far more likely to make him leave off, and the key is to make her appear far less interesting rather than more.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 02:24:41](#)  
(no subject)

Or, might I say that Hermione *thinks* that she's clever, because someone once told her she's ever so clever, "for a muddblood," but in truth she's really quite simple, and she's just been trained to

be a very effective servant.

Because Teddy hasn't really seen evidence of her cleverness, he just picks up on the projection of it, I think.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-09 02:20:38](#)  
(no subject)

Well, maybe not a complete moron, of course, but you could intimate that the mind of a muggleborn is somewhat ... animalistic. So her appetite for a fit male is understandable, if disgusting.

That sort of thing.

Sometimes the simplest solutions are the best.

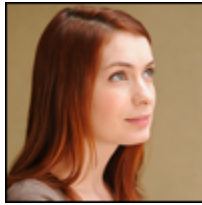
And next time he sits next to you, try striking before he gets the chance to open his mouth.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:28:32](#)**  
(no subject)

No.

This is the worst solution of them all.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:35:07](#)**  
(no subject)

You and Harry most likely know him best, Draco.

Is there a particular consequence to this that we're not seeing?

What would you recommend?

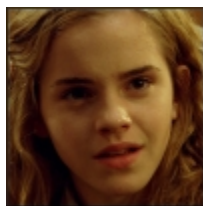


 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:42:12](#)**  
(no subject)

I find it particularly hypocritical that Sirius Black, the great author of the Grim Truth, would suggest that we deliberately degrade a muggleborn in order to get out of this. True, all of us have to partake in public degradation at times, for show, but really? That's the best we have?

When we were little, my Mother didn't like me to have Teddy over to play. Because he had a fondness for vivisection. On animals. He took apart my mother's pet canary because he wanted to know what it looked like inside.

And if his memory of Hermione's blood makes him so happy that Hydra can sense it, then I don't think we want to have him thinking of her as an animal moreso than he already does.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:50:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Draco, it's not as if Sirius actually thinks I'm an animal, or stupid, or any of those things.

We're just talking about putting Teddy off the


scent. It's fine, I don't mind.

And as for his trying to vivisect *me*, well, that's why Harry told him to keep his hands off. Besides, it's not as if I can't protect myself, if it's absolutely necessary.

I'm fairly handy with my Obliviation spells, too, or did you forget that?

Besides, if it works and makes him back off, then we've accomplished the goal with a minimum of fuss. If it doesn't, it's highly unlikely anything *else* would do better.

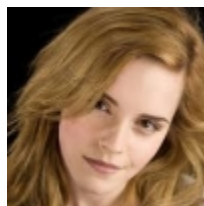


 **alt\_draco** at [2014-04-09 02:56:39](#)  
(no subject)

He isn't listening to Harry. He thinks Harry's all mixed-up about you.

He didn't care that the canary was Mrs Lucius Malfoy's pet. He figured, well, she can always get a new one. She's got loads of galleons, plenty to buy another canary. He could apply the same logic to you, and to Harry.

Maybe you should just leave this place. Go to Moddey and be safe. Harry can say that Hydra showed him that way and that he got rid of you.



 **alt\_hermione** at [2014-04-09 03:04:55](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, now you're just being ridiculous. Moddey? Because of Teddy Nott?

Honestly, Draco, that's possibly the most absurd thing you've ever said.

Look, it's simple, it's fine. If it doesn't work, we'll just Confund him or something. Harry can even hide under his cloak in case Nott tries something.

There are loads of options if we decide we don't have to come up with some alternate story.



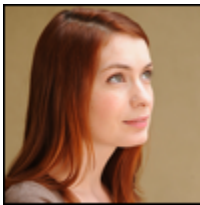
 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:48:08](#)**  
(no subject)


Hydra, is Teddy going to expect an answer about this before Friday, or can you put him off? You're all leaving for Easter hols in a few days. Not that he'll forget, but it would give the rest of us more time to think of a satisfactory answer.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-09 02:52:50](#)**  
(no subject)

The deadline for the blackmail challenge is supper on Friday, so no, we have to resolve this before we go home for the holidays.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-09 03:04:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Not necessarily.

She could hold him in suspense deliberately, and he might take it as her wanting him to do poorly in the challenge.

His behaviour might escalate over the next few days, however, if we aren't careful.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-09 03:20:33](#)**  
(no subject)

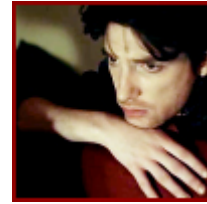
Oh, hold on, maybe -- what if Hermione did something humiliating for Hydra, and Hydra told Teddy, 'yes, I got her secret, but it's mine now, not yours, so I had her humiliate herself for ME instead of you' -- then it looks like Hermione had a humiliating secret but that Hydra was too ruthless to help Teddy.

Does that work?

Hermione would have to do something humiliating, though.

**2014-04-08 20:46:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*



 **alt\_bill**

I'm watching the whole brouhaha over Hydra Lestrangle and Justin Finch-Fletchley, and I daren't open my trap to say a single word about the situation. That'd be the pot calling the kettle black, wouldn't it, and I'd have the whole Order howling at me about hypocrisy.

But I'm wincing, thinking how Alice must have felt when she first found out about me and Rachel Brodie.

Which is at an interesting stage right now. A lot of...frisson. Sometimes downright fraught frisson.

It's still wonderful. But *complicated*.

I'm taking a small flat and moving out of the Burrow, at the end of the month. That's not entirely unrelated.

I've reestablished lunches with Percy on Wednesdays. I'm playing it as coldly as I can, which oddly enough seems to suit him just fine, since he's just as contemptuous back at me. It'll be amusing to see which of us can freeze the other's bits off first with our icy politesse. I'm making it clear that I've reestablished the connection just to *use* him, which in turn makes him willing to talk to me because he thinks he's using me in return.

I'll see what I can get from him tomorrow.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2014-04-09 04:08:20**

*(no subject)*

I know. I'm reading along the whole thing and I keep thinking of half a dozen things I could say and I keep putting my quill down because nobody wants to hear me putting my two knuts in.

The whole situation suddenly all just seems so complex and fragile and ready to fall apart at any minute. And we were doing so well for a while, too.

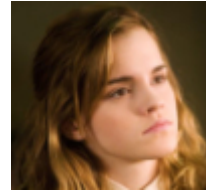
And I keep meaning to say thanks for being willing to deal with Percy. I know one of us should, I just don't think I could. He crossed every one of my lines at least twice, you know?

Let me know if you want help decorating the flat. Unless you can get that help elsewhere. (Tip learned the hard way: never argue about curtains for more than fifteen minutes. It never ends well.)

**[2014-04-08 22:05:00](#)**


*Order Only: Private Message to Draco*

What in Merlin's name is *wrong* with you tonight?



 [alt\\_hermione](#)



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 03:07:09](#)

*(no subject)*

I don't know. You tell me. What am I doing wrong, now?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-09 03:11:17](#)

*(no subject)*

If you hate Sirius's plan so much then what's your better idea? I know you despise him but it's a *good idea*.

And anyway, since when do you think I can't take care of myself?

You're acting like you used to when Harry was going to do something foolish. But that's because they punished you if Harry made mistakes. It may not be my fault but it's not yours, either.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 03:21:16](#)

*(no subject)*

I don't despise him. He's just... basically a twat.

I'm not questioning your capability, but you are underestimating Teddy. You are.

And you'd have to face him all by yourself. I know you've got Harry, but it's not the same. If Teddy does anything to Hydra, we can all rush in, justified in our anger, and defend her however we see fit. We can't do that for you. So, you'd be all alone.

I don't see what you mean about how I used to act. Why would I be

acting like I did when Harry was mucking things up?? It's not as if I'll be punished if something happens to you.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-09 03:53:44](#)  
(no subject)

Exactly. No one's going to punish you. So relax.

The point is that I don't think there *is* a plan that's completely foolproof. We're just going to have to take a risk, one way or the other.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-09 04:00:19](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not worried about being punished. I mean, not the way you think I am. It's

Nevermind. I don't know what I mean.

There's still time to think of something else.



**[2014-04-08 22:14:00](#)**

*Order Only*

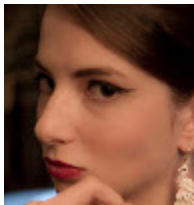
Right. So, Teddy Nott is after Hermione's secrets, and wants Hydra to legitimise her. Proposals include making up a secret for Hydra to tell him, telling him that the original supposed secret was the real one all along, and having the Crabbe and Goyle lads harm him badly enough to put him in St Mungo's until after Friday.



**[alt\\_lupin](#)**

Any other ideas about this?

Also, there's going to be an Order meeting over hols for anyone who can come. I'm thinking it should be early. We'll let you know when and where. Is there anything that people would like added to the agenda?



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**[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 03:24:08](#)**  
*(no subject)*


Oh, I just saw this. Sorry, should I have written my idea here instead of in Hydra's journal entry?

My idea is that Hermione do something humiliating but that's obviously at Hydra's behest instead of Teddy's. And then Hydra tells Teddy, 'so sorry, now that I got her real secret it's MINE not yours.' So it looks like there was a secret, and Hydra knows it now, but she's too ruthless to share.

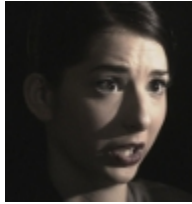
She could also tell him she doesn't consider him worthy of Our Lord's Mark because he went after a mudblood for that challenge instead of seeking to control a proper wizard or ... you know. Something like that.

Hydra also has someone else's secret and presumably she'll have them do something too but if she 'stole' Teddy's secret I expect they'll give her extra credit for it (but who knows). At the very least it hurts Teddy's chances.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 03:27:14](#)  
(no subject)


I have two secrets already. One from Greg and one from Vince. They were easy to get.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 03:42:21](#)  
(no subject)

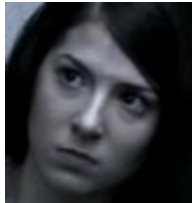
Well, sure. But you could have three.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-09 03:39:34](#)  
(no subject)

There's still the problem that he might seek out the secret on his own, to satisfy his curiosity -- and it also still portrays Hermione as someone he could find interesting, which I'd like to avoid.

But that might provide a temporary solution before hols.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 03:43:37](#)  
(no subject)

Are there any coercive spells that just keep you AWAY from someone?

I mean there's Imperius. But something that just gave him an aversion to both Hermione and Hydra would be better, something where he might not even notice he'd been put under it.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-09 20:45:30](#)  
(no subject)

I've been thinking about this, and yours is a good idea for making it clear not just to Nott but to everyone in the challenge that Hydra's a dead cold competitor. And if she staged it properly, it would humiliate Nott because his plan to use Hydra to get at Hermione

would've gone completely bollocks up.

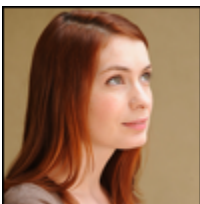
Only, it's good for that--making Hydra look strong and taking the piss at Nott--but it's not going to stop him wanting to know what Hermione's keeping secret, and I expect it'd put him in a right strop that might make him dare to do something completely awful to Hermione.


So, yeah. I think a compulsion hex might be the thing: and not just Imperius, unless we know Nott can't break that. I mean, what Hydra really needs is something like the hex Madam Uknowwho put on me and Gin and the twins that time to keep us from getting anywhere near each other. It was awful. And dead strong. And no one could Finite it for us, and it made us feel so queer there was no chance of breaking through it.

It was a compulsion-repulsion hex. A strong one, but there's plenty like it that Dolohov's gone over, so you should be able to do it, yeah?

At least that would keep Nott from wanting to get anywhere close to you, Hydra. Might last after the hex wears off, too. It was a while before I wanted to have anything to do with the rest of them because even when the hex was off, just thinking about them made me feel like sicking up.

Of course, you could cast it so it'd keep him away from Hermione, too--only, I'm not sure that's enough to keep her safe. He doesn't necessarily have to get physically close to do something to her that would be horrible. If that's what he decides he wants to do.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-09 03:41:44](#)**  
(no subject)

And thank you, Remus.

I agree about having the meeting early.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-09 04:26:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Hydra, should I tell Raz that Teddy was creeping you out?


I mean, he might get hacked off, which could be a good thing.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 04:48:24](#)  
(no subject)

I think you should. Honestly, if Raz takes it on himself to Imperius Teddy, GOOD.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 05:57:59](#)  
(no subject)

All right. I went ahead and told him.

Hydra, here's what I said.


'Hydra told me that he really creeped her out today. On top of everything else that's happened.

Like he was trying to flirt with her, but in a really creepy way, and he scared her. And you know she doesn't scare easily.

And he was asking her a lot of questions, too. About me. And I think he got the wrong impression. Like it wasn't that I was defending my honour, but like I was trying to hide something.'

Just in case he asks you about it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-09 07:46:13](#)  
(no subject)

And. He asked more about what Teddy suspected, and I said he thought it was this huge conspiracy, where my taking offence and Hermione not looking embarrassed enough meant she was lying or I was covering something up. So I did mention Hermione.


Like he was paranoid or mad or something.

~~And he~~

And he said something in a sort of sideways way about possibly

taking him out of the picture, too. Like what line Teddy would have to cross to get to that point.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-09 04:33:41](#)**  
(no subject)

The obvious solution is to arrange for an 'accident' to befall Nott, preferably in a way that implicates another candidate in the challenge. It might behoove Miss Lestrange to take credit, though; as the conflict was public, many would undoubtedly believe Nott had offered offense and been dealt with swiftly and decisively.

I recognise this is unlikely to appeal. However, as Miss Lestrange — who is in the best position to know — believes it may be necessary, the option ought not be discarded out of hand.

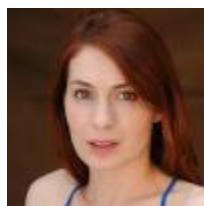



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-09 04:43:39](#)**  
*Private message to Alice*

You ought be aware — and I tell you this not to beg permission but simply to keep you apprised, as there is no argument that will change my mind — that I will be informing Miss Granger tomorrow that should Nott endanger her in any way, she is to find me immediately and I will deal with Nott swiftly, decisively, and emphatically.

Complicated politics of the situation aside, Nott is a predator we are best without, and I will not allow him to continue endangering Miss Granger's safety.

Nor will I continue to allow the burden of the situation to fall on Mr Potter's shoulders, particularly when the methods he chooses to do so are so inimical to his nature. He does not need such actions on his conscience. ~~And I do not need such reminders of his father when~~



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-09 05:09:28](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Alice*

Understood.

I'd prefer

Yes.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2014-04-10 00:56:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I've offered the Burrow for the 12th--we're trying to arrange to have Ginny spend the night with Luna.



 **[alt\\_gredforge](#)** at **[2014-04-10 00:58:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Fu Lee said he'd come if he's allowed, would like to make a report. Technological progress on armor and weaponry, and all that.

We realise that might not be the things foremost on people's minds at the moment, but he promises to keep his report brief. But we're sure you'll want to hear what he has to say.

**2014-04-08 22:26:00**

*Private message to Madam Pomfrey*

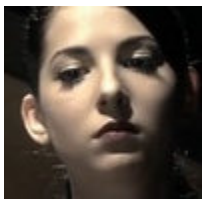


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I just wanted to let you know, Professor Dolohov has arranged to introduce me over hols to Healer Ekaterina Petrovna Korotkova. Her specialty is ophthalmancy, both the treatment of eye disorders and the manufacture of eyeglasses and prostheses. He thinks she might be willing to take me as an intern over the summer.

I had never even thought about this speciality. But, it actually combines BOTH healing, and crafting things. I actually made a false eye years ago for a muggle on the Stretton Estates (they do 'favours' for their muggles on Boxing Day each year) -- it wasn't a working prosthesis, of course (I'm not sure if that would even work for a muggle) but merely something that would look plausibly like an eye. He was quite pleased with it, although I imagine I could make something rather better now.

Anyway -- Professor Dolohov says that Ekaterina Petrovna has quite a bit of influence at St Mungo's and is friends with the woman who makes decisions about acceptances to the apprenticeship programme. He thinks that if I can manage to impress her -- and I really think I can -- she could help me get in.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-09 03:39:11**  
*Order Only*


It's not one of the specialities you mentioned the Order being in particular need of, but it definitely meets the criteria of being something useful that you aren't an expert in. Also I think those prosthetic eyes can be useful for spying, I read a book about them last year. (I was trying to find out if I could go back to that muggle with something better -- but, I can't find anything that says if magical eyes can work for muggles.)

Anyway. ALSO, I thought I should probably let one of the grownups know that I told Professor Dolohov about Avery's threat to Pansy. He said not to worry, 'Avery does not have the sort of influence necessary with Our Lord to make good on such a threat.' (He also thought it would be a good idea to be discreet with the relationship

but not break it off completely. Or pretend to break it off.) He also thanked me and said we should bring that sort of thing to him because it's helpful. I'm hoping it will help to encourage them to fight each other.

By the way, Teddy got the snot beaten out of him yesterday, but I think he thinks having a black eye looks dashing. If he winds up in the hospital wing for any other reason in the next few days, though -- at least some of the bruises are from last night.



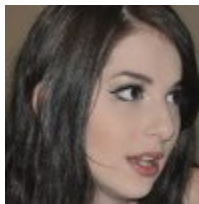
 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-09 05:08:47](#)

*Re: Order Only*

You are quite right that ophthalmancy is beyond my skill.

Ekaterina Petrovna is more than a master of her arts--both as a Healer and as a fashioner--I have seen more than one of her prostheses close up and am able to say that the one she rendered for Alastor Moody is quite simply the most marvellous small device I've ever examined.

As for Mr Nott, he rarely seeks my assistance unless he believes my treatment will involve serious discomfort. We might do well sometime to discuss pain-seeking and the perversions which stem from that propensity.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-09 14:32:05](#)


*Re: Order Only*

Oh, so she DID make his mad eye? I wondered if that was her, but I couldn't very well ask Professor Dolohov. (I mean, I suppose I could have. Ron played Mad-Eye's Mad Cat, after all, and there are history books with his picture in it and so on, it just would have seemed sort of tactless.)

Anyway about Teddy, yeah, okay, that makes sense about him liking pain. He was telling Hydra that he'd like it if she hurt him. For instance. It's why I was trying to think of a spell for her to use to make him go away that wouldn't be something like the ball-busting spell, I think he'd just think that was her being flirtatious.





 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-10 03:27:50](#)**

*Re: Order Only*

Yes, indeed, she made it, though I'd urge you to avoid the topic with her (more especially than with Professor Dolohov). Or, if you do broach the matter, I'd suggest you avoid implying that there is anything mad about the eye. If you take my meaning.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-09 04:52:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

Healer Korotkova is, indeed, influential at St Mungo's and Professor Dolohov is quite right that she could pull exactly the strings that require pulling for you to be accepted into training. Quite a coup if you win her backing.

I do wish I'd been able to do as much for you. Very truly pleased for you, my dear.

**2014-04-08 23:20:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Sally-Anne*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Professor Dolohov's just brought me back to the sett; it's the first I've been able to read my journal since before supper.

Dashed good thing he's got me occupied in his office every evening.

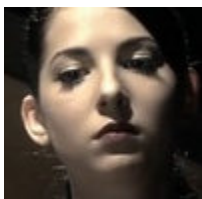
Harry, if you set Crabbe and Goyle on Nott again, kindly make sure they don't stop until he's dead.

No. I suppose that's too much to ask.

Sally-Anne, it's probably unnecessary to say, but--keep an eye out for Hydra, you and Pansy and the others. I'm bally well aware she can take care of herself but she's more fragile at present than she seems. It's not just Nott I've got in mind, what.

As for Hermione, Harry, perhaps a solution is to simply accuse Nott of some inappropriate action. Who would not take your word over anyone's? It circumvents potential trouble with this challenge and if we're lucky it will get him in hot water with MLE.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-09 04:23:22**

*(no subject)*

Of course we're keeping an eye out for Hydra. Keeping an eye on Teddy is harder. Harry, maybe have Crabbe and Goyle follow him around and punch him if he sits near Hydra or approaches Hermione?

The thing about accusing Nott of inappropriate action is that someone might decide to use legilimency to see who was lying.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-09 04:28:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, that might help a bit.

This is such a mess.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-09 04:28:15](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be doing everything I can. For both of them.

**2014-04-09 02:47:00**

*Private Message to Hydra*

When you get the chance, some time this week, it doesn't need to be tomorrow, please come by. I'd like to have a chat just you and me.




 **alt\_rabastan**

Whenever's convenient, office hours or in the evening in my quarters.

Your Uncle



 **alt\_hydra** at **2014-04-09 15:09:34**

*(no subject)*

Alright.

From,  
Hydra

**2014-04-09 09:38:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Snape*




 [alt\\_draco](#)

I saw your suggestion on how to best deal with the matter of Teddy Nott. While I agree that it would be ideal to be rid of him once and for all, I don't think Hydra's the only candidate well-positioned to take him out. Nott Sr. is aligned with Mulciber's group of council members - the ones who have been instrumental in edging my father out of the Lord's inner-circle. If I were to arrange a scenario where Teddy falls to my wand, it could be presented as a defense of my father's honour. It might even raise my father's position somewhat, if done with skill and flair.

What are your thoughts?



 [alt\\_severus](#) at **2014-04-10 01:25:24**  
(no subject)


Given the situation as it stands, for you to take any lasting action against Nott, no matter what the provocation you manufacture, would look odd and unusual. The more so should it escalate to irrevocable violence or death, rather than schoolboy hexes.

Some would interpret it as you rushing in to take away Miss Lestrange's agency in the matter, causing her to lose standing and your motives to be scrutinised. Some would interpret it as you doing Miss Lestrange's bidding, causing you to lose standing — and, again, your motives to be scrutinised.

Far worse, however, would be for someone — as would happen — to look at your motives and the past history of how you and Miss Lestrange have interacted with each other, conclude the connection between you has not historically been strong enough to warrant such a response, and go looking to find a more compelling reason for why you chose such an action.

Miss Lestrange has cause to answer insult with insult. At the moment, you do not — or at least, you do not have cause you may publicly explain.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-10 01:33:01](#)  
(no subject)

Hydra has cause to act against Teddy because he tried to pull her? I understand he was being disgusting, but still.

If the situation with my Father isn't enough to warrant action, what of Teddy's constant defiance in the face of Harry's authority? Harry already brought out Greg and Vince to send a message to Teddy. Doesn't he now have good reason to take things further and bring in his best mate?



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-10 01:49:21](#)  
(no subject)

Miss Lestrage has cause to act against Nott because he has been inappropriate, threatening, and disrespectful of her stated boundaries. For her to respond with violence, whether fatal or not, would be thought an overreaction, but not shockingly so.

Mr Potter, likewise, has cause to act against Nott, though that situation is far more complex, and for him to escalate to anything more lasting than a schoolboy beating would cause a number of unwarranted repercussions, many of which would land upon Miss Granger's shoulders. For you to do so on his behalf would, again, cause uncomfortable attention to be paid. Crabbe and Goyle are expected to be Mr Potter's enforcers. You are not.

You are searching for ways to justify leaping to Miss Granger's defence, Draco. That you wish to protect her so assiduously is to your credit. It is also impossible. When this contest started, you and Miss Granger discussed the possibility that you would need to be seen treating her as someone in your position would be expected to treat any 'mudblood': do not forget that resolution. The courage to not act when others threaten her is just as important as the courage to act against her no matter what your feelings might be.


She will be protected. You simply cannot be the one to do it.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-10 13:56:48](#)  
(no subject)


If she will be protected, and is being protected, then why was her cubby so thoroughly searched yesterday?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-10 14:00:53](#)  
(no subject)

And yes, I know I need to get rid of this, somehow. I'm working on it. The occlumency exercises help for a time, but despite all efforts I am finding it difficult to make myself not care.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-10 23:16:24](#)  
(no subject)

Searching her things does not put her in danger, as she has been careful to ensure her space shows only the story she wishes to tell. (Indeed, it may protect her further, by showing that she is nothing more than she appears.)

I have begun to suspect that making yourself not care about Miss Granger is impossible, but you must keep that emotion as emotion only, not as action. If you need a retelling of the story of my own inappropriate attachment and what it led to as motivation, I will do so if I must.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 02:14:23](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know if I can -

No, you're right. I know you are. Mustn't act on emotion. I'm not a foaming, raging Gryffindor, am I. No.

Someone noticed, though. t's not someone dangerous, but she noticed, just the same. Sally Anne. I asked her to explain how and - it must be showing. She said I reminded her of *Ron Weasley*.

It's just that I find it very hard to pretend I don't care, when a part of me worries that it will *mean* I don't care.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-11 04:00:33](#)  
(no subject)

The more you obsess over not showing your feelings, the more those feelings will slip free.


And if you have been unable to rid yourself of this attachment through your best efforts at every mental discipline I have to teach, a bit of play-acting at indifference is unlikely to be the end of it.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 04:17:13](#)  
(no subject)

So, what... are you saying I ought to take a half hour out of each day to just sit back *feel* things, in private? Instead of forcing myself not to at all hours of the day and failing miserably?



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-11 04:31:34](#)  
(no subject)

As the other approach is not working, perhaps that might.



**2014-04-09 11:52:00**

*Private Message to Hydra*



 **alt\_narcissa**

My dearest girl,

Well, it seems it's been a trying week for you! You can imagine my surprise when I saw you announce the end of your attachment, after you fought so hard to obtain it.

I've been to see your parents - yes, both of them - and had their side of what happened. One can read between the lines, of course, but I rather suspect there is more to it, particularly as they were as surprised (though pleased) to see your news as I was.

I had hoped we might spend a few days together when you returned for the holidays but your mother apparently has different plans. Since I am not to be allowed to see you in private, and she cannot confiscate your journal while you are at school, I'm afraid we must communicate thus for the time being. (No, I am not certain she will do any such thing but you know your mother as well as I do and it is far from an impossibility.)

Hydra, I am certain that your heart must be breaking into splinters and I am so sorry to think of you in that sort of pain. It is the worst agony anyone can know, when love betrays us. It seems cruelly unfair that a hurt which has no physical basis can be so absolute but there is no power on earth so potent as love, and therefore no pain deeper than its ruin.

But I for one believe your decision is the most sensible you've taken since you began to fancy the young man so desperately. And while I am sure that it hurts now, perhaps more than any of the insults you have suffered before, I hope that in time, you will understand why you have made the best choice possible under the circumstances.

In all honesty, I was surprised most by your father's opinion on the matter. Oh, I heard that you violated his terms absolutely - yet I believed when he set them that even *he* knew they would never hold. I was sure your inseparable bond with him would win him over even in the face of your defiance - indeed, knowing your father, I would have thought him happy to see you showing a spark of belligerence, even if it was to him. But I'm afraid there we both misguessed him completely. Naturally he had his reasons .... Oh, and in a way, I

suppose, he did indulge you one last time by not storming up and killing Mr Finch-Fletchley immediately.

Your mother, of course, sees the situation differently. She is far less worried about your reputation as a flirt than she is about your focus on your studies and your future. I am not sure she even noted your lover's name - except that your mother is, after all, your mother, and notes everything whether she lets on or not.

In either case, sweet child, you were very lucky to have escaped a worse calamity. Though surely you do not see it that way at present, and I wish, more than anything, that I could help you to heal. Alas, time and distance are the only things that can mend your ailment. (Though I trust a day together when you could pour your heart out in safety would not have gone amiss!)


You deserve every happiness, Hydra darling, and I pray that now you are past the first passion of youthful lust, you will eventually find a more lasting, deeper love, with one who is worthy of you. It was brave and quite mature of you to give him up, to accept what was inevitable and to look forward to a brighter future on the horizon, without someone like him to drag you down.

I know it seems impossible now, but you will be better and stronger in the long run for taking this step. I'm proud of you and in time, your parents will see that you've learned, perhaps not without heartache, but all the more deeply for that, what it is to grow up.

Your ever-caring,

Aunt Narcissa



 **alt\_hydra** at **2014-04-09 17:06:49**  
(no subject)

Well, thank you for writing. Mummy didn't tell me that I wasn't to see you in private. I suppose it was one of those things she expected me to guess for myself, or would only inform me of when she felt like it. Is she terribly cross with you for knowing about the arrangement and not telling her?

I agree the decision was very sensible, for many reasons. Please don't say he was dragging me down, though. It simply isn't true. But

neither of us saw much wisdom in fighting for our way any longer, when so many made it clear that we'd never win.


I wasn't so surprised by Daddy's reaction. He felt betrayed as soon as he knew I loved someone other than him. There's nothing I can do about that.

Thank you for writing. I hope it won't be too long before we see each other again.

From,  
Hydra

PS - Draco's doing very well, you know. You would be proud of him.




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-09 17:24:23](#)  
(no subject)

I'm always proud of Draco, of course.

I confess I asked her what her plans were and whether I might have you to myself for a day or two. I'm sure she was waiting to tell you when you got home. You know she prefers not to put personal matters in the journals, even if they're perfectly safe for us.

Dearest, if he had you expending energy 'fighting for your way' when it was so clear to all of us that it could never be, then I'm not sure how else one could describe it. You know how rarely I agree with your mother, but the fact of this relationship was holding you back. Now you're free again, which is all for the best.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 17:45:47](#)  
(no subject)

If you're thinking about it that way, then I suppose it's a fair description. But I was dragging myself down too, was what I meant. The blame isn't all his. And anyway, now we can both move on to the next stage of our lives ~~all~~ alone.

I don't know if I'll be free for much longer. Theodore Nott has

made his interest abundantly clear, and has from the moment he knew I was unattached.

From,  
Hydra




 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-09 17:51:04](#)  
(no subject)

Teddy N--

Well. That is ... quite a ... a *shift*, dear. Do you .... I mean, are you, er, *interested* in his attentions?

There's a great difference between enjoying a boy's company, and being quite so fond of him as you were of Finch-Fletchley. I suppose I mean that there's no need to think of every boy you date as a potential lifelong mate, not just at present.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-09 17:55:58](#)  
(no subject)

No, not really. He's a bit intense for my liking.

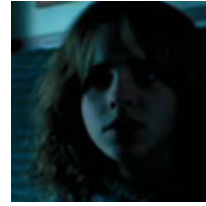
I don't think me dating anyone is on Mummy's agenda right now, or mine.

From,  
Hydra

**[2014-04-09 18:12:00](#)**

*Order Only: My cubby*

Harry, I think Teddy may have been in here sometime today. I'm not sure when because I was in the Secret Room most of the day.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)**


When I came back just now to eat my supper my cot was all turned upside-down and my things are strewn around everywhere.

I want to straighten it up to see if there's anything missing but maybe I'd better wait in case there's something you need to prove it was Nott?

I mean, I don't know who else would disturb my cubby. And it's not like they'd find anything important, because anything that's *really* important I keep in my bracelet or my bag.

Still. It's a safe bet he probably took *something*.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-09 23:43:40](#)**  
(no subject)

He didn't even try to

Right. Okay. I'm coming up. We'll look together.




 **[alt\\_terry](#)** at **[2014-04-10 00:54:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Check for anything he might have *left*, too. Runes, in a dark corner, spying devices, booby traps. Check everything over carefully.


Ugh, I'm so sorry, Hermione.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-10 01:27:41](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, Hermione. Between lessons I ought to have written you but I didn't find time. It was Teddy who did it. He found some of your books - *American Witches*, I think - and presented them to me as evidence of some kind of "wrongdoing" on your part. Because you're not supposed to know how to read, I suppose. I told him I didn't think it amounted to much, but I played along and went with him to show the books to Professor Slughorn. I thought the Professor probably wouldn't think much of the books, and I was right. He reminded Teddy that you've repaired books for Madam Pince before, and told him that he was chasing shadows. He seemed quite disapproving, really. So maybe that will help. I'm sorry Teddy violated your space, though.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-10 01:40:21](#)  
(no subject)

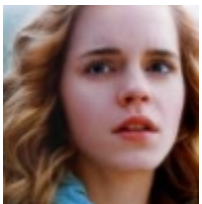
Is that why you were leaving Professor Slughorn's classroom

Can't you keep Norma or



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-10 03:06:07](#)  
(no subject)


In addition to matters we discussed today, if there is anything you would like to store in my office or my quarters, I am happy to make space for you.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-10 16:30:03](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Mr Snape. I'll bring some things to our lesson. Mostly it's all snug in the bag I made but sometimes it does get a little difficult to dig round inside it.



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-10 16:03:33](#)**  
(no subject)

I think he might've been in my trunk too, only I'm not entirely sure. Some things aren't quite where they usually are.

I don't think anything's missing, though.

I guess I ought to start locking it.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-10 16:28:43](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't think you should lock it. But you could start putting a spell on it like Draco does, in case anyone other than you or me goes into it. Or maybe you, me, and Draco.

**2014-04-09 19:40:00**

*Order Only: Meeting at the Burrow?  
Perhaps the 12th?*




 [alt\\_molly](#)

Given the press of recent events, I agree with Remus that an Order meeting seems rather urgent, and I'd like to offer the Burrow as a meeting place. I was thinking this Saturday, the 12th, after the ~~children~~ everyone is back from Hogwarts. We might have one later on during the holiday, too, but, well...I think we should get together as soon as possible.


The only difficulty is the presence of Ginny. Luna, do you think you could prevail upon the Browns to allow you to have Ginny over for dinner and to spend the night? I'm sorry it would mean you would miss the meeting, but you *would* be doing us a great service, and I'm sure there are any of us who would be happy to catch you up on things afterwards, aside from the official Minutes.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2014-04-10 00:47:07](#)  
(no subject)

Of course I can do that, Mrs Weasley. In fact, I'll go owl Mrs Brown right now, and I'll talk with Ginny at breakfast.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-10 00:47:35](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you so much, dear.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-10 00:50:13](#)  
(no subject)

Brilliant. We're in.

Fu Lee wants to come, too. He has a number of reports to make about some of the progress he's made on a whole variety of technological fronts.






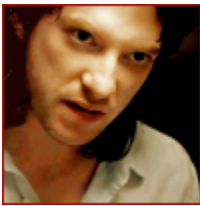
 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-10 00:52:25](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, my. I've never had a Muggle at the Burrow before, but--oh well, of course he's welcome. Regina, too, as I imagine she might want to talk about offering seedling and crop support with some of our new communities. Or perhaps that might wait for a later meeting.



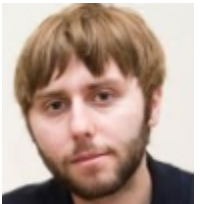
 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2014-04-10 01:00:14](#)  
(no subject)


I can make it, Molly, with Dorcas and Caradoc.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-10 01:05:12](#)  
(no subject)

Count me in, too. I'll have a short report about my meetings with Percy, and Rachel. (And maybe a tidbit or two about everyone's favourite candidate for Worst Boss of the Year, Corax Mulciber.)



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-10 01:10:19](#)  
(no subject)

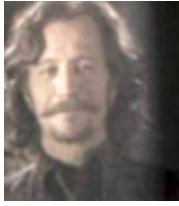
Mrs Weasley,


I'm not certain I can come but perhaps if you asked the Jugsons if I might come spend the night with Ron, what--they might be just as glad not to see me straight away.

Sirius, if I could go back to Grimmauld with you afterward, I'd appreciate it greatly. I shouldn't wish to impose, however.

Mr Lupin, Mrs Longbottom, for the agenda, perhaps those of us with internships or other summer jobs should talk about how to strategise them, and those of us without anything particular (except perhaps the CCF) should think about how to set up training and reconnaissance schedules without arousing suspicion.


-Justin



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-10 01:14:20](#)  
(no subject)

Of course, you can stay at Grimmauld. As long as you like.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-10 01:20:45](#)  
*Private Message to Justin*

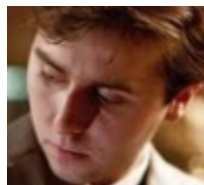
I'm guessing you need a safe haven, yeah? You'll have it.


But we should talk about things, you know. What your plans are now.

Look, you know I was just - worried about you. Angry, yes, but anxious, too. Still, I'm glad to see you're not completely withdrawn.

And just - don't kill Nott. I'm sure you'd like to. Merlin, we'd *all* like to but it's about the worst thing you could do right now. So keep your head, kiddo. It'll be hols soon.

On a scale of one to ten, how bad has it been?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-10 01:33:57](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Justin*

How bad?

'This one goes to Eleven.'

As if the gossip and stares and punishments weren't enough, I received owls this morning from *Posh* and *In the Soup*, each offering a forum to 'tell my story,' what. I mean to say, they're jolly mad if they think I'm talking to a single reporter.

But I'm not going to kill Nott, yet. I admit I couldn't quite control myself when he decided to taunt me during Potions this afternoon. I waited until he turned his back and poured an entire vial of hellebore into his cauldron. I say, I think Slughorn knew what I was about but said nothing. Perhaps he's still feeling as if he mishandled our situation; I bally well hope so.

Anyway, yes, I'd like to talk about my plans. That's one reason I asked to go with you. Thank you.

I've got to get back to homework, though; the only reason I dared break out my journal is Professor Dolohov is interviewing some of the students who served detention last week, in connection to the same challenge where Montague caught me. He's set up anti-eavesdropping spells and such. I'm not certain it blocks his view, what, but at least while he's focusing on his other guest, I can risk checking on things.

I'll be all right. I've survived worse, as we know. Of course, I had Hy

-Justin



 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at 2014-04-10 01:46:34**

*Re: Private Message to Justin*

I'm sorry for you both.


And it's not the first time Sluggy's had deliberate potions sabotage in his lessons. Just don't ask Snape about it.

Merlin, how they even *teach* Potions I don't know. Sorry. Probably shouldn't get me started on the Moddey Motleys, as I've come to call them. You would not believe the problems we have! Just today, even. You should come with me over holidays and see what I'm up against, maybe even help out, take your mind off it.

I know you'll be okay eventually, kiddo. I can't say I know what you're going through, exactly, but I can tell you that we've all had moments we bitterly regret. We'll think of something, though, don't worry.

I'll let you go. Just remember, you *always* have a place to go with us. All right?



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2014-04-10 02:24:03](#)**  
(no subject)


Of course I can do that for you, dear. The least I can do is try.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2014-04-10 03:11:33](#)**  
(no subject)


Thank you, Molly.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-10 01:22:38](#)**  
(no subject)


I won't be able to make it, I'm afraid.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-10 03:58:59](#)**  
(no subject)

That's unfortunate, but understandable.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-10 04:18:20](#)**  
*Private Message to Hydra*

I know you've got quite a bit on your plate right now in more ways than one.


I was hoping we'd get the chance to talk further about some potential options we could work through depending on how things go with council membership. If it can't be in person, we might do a bit of talking over the journals, you and I, and of course Draco and Harry can chat with you as well.

We don't have to do this right away, of course, but I would like to talk further over hols if you are able to.

I also want to see if it would be at all possible for you to get hair

from your parents for polyjuice purposes. If you feel comfortable doing so, and are quite sure you would not be caught that is.

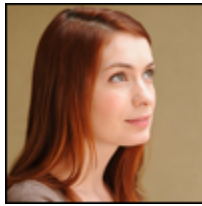



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-10 15:00:42](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

I did think of one way I might be able to attend the meeting. Harry would have to escort me. And by that I mean come to St. James to fetch me. Draco alone won't be enough.

I will try, but it won't be easy. Mummy guards that sort of thing very carefully, and so does Daddy. I know Mummy uses anti-shedding spells and special hairbrushes, and the elves all have clear instructions to incinerate any hairs or nail clippings they find.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-10 16:10:37](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

If it can be arranged, I'm sure Harry would be glad to do so. I think it would be good for you to be there.

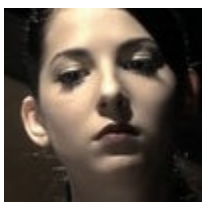
And Hydra, this is a request, not an order, and maintaining your cover and keeping you as safe as possible is more important. I just want you to be thinking about it in case an opportunity presents itself. Our future doesn't hinge on this, and I don't want you to feel as if you have to go through extraordinary lengths.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-10 02:02:17](#)

*(no subject)*

I will be there, presuming there is nothing at Hogwarts to call me away.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-10 04:21:46](#)


*(no subject)*

The twelfth?

I don't think so. I already asked Mrs Stretton about --

well, whatever. No. I can't come to that. ~~Couldn't you wait until after the 17th~~



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2014-04-10 05:50:29](#)**  
(no subject)

I can make it. I'll be telling my parents I need to stay back at Hogwarts for an extra day before going home for break.




 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-04-10 06:50:41](#)**  
(no subject)

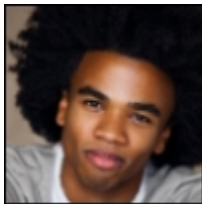
I can be there, Molly.


I could come early and help you, too, if you'd like.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2014-04-10 22:10:00](#)**  
(no subject)

That would be very helpful, thank you!




 **[alt\\_lee](#)** at **[2014-04-10 12:08:53](#)**  
(no subject)

I can be there.

(Mrs L - I do have reports about Aldrich and the radio, but they can wait for a later meeting if this one's too

busy.)



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-10 15:09:23](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be there. Might have a short report from our ad hoc arithmantical and ley lines working group.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-04-11 00:47:14**

*Private message to Molly Weasley*

Mum. What *about* Ginny? You don't think it's hopeless, do you?

I'm sorry to say that I had lunch with Percy yesterday, and in his case, it really is.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2014-04-11 00:49:34**

*Re: Private message to Molly Weasley*

I don't know. Maybe it's just habit. Wanting to keep my youngest baby safe. She IS my youngest chick, and it's hard to believe she's growing up.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-04-11 00:53:21**


*Re: Private message to Molly Weasley*

That won't protect her if most of her family ends up getting caught or exposed. She'd have more protection out than in, really.

She's said some things, in some messages with Charlie and me, that makes me think she's getting closer. Ron can probably give you the most accurate picture.

I think I learned my own lesson with Ron, about the essential stupidity of assuming that because someone is too young, they can't be trusted.



 **[alt\\_molly](#) at 2014-04-11 00:54:37**

*Re: Private message to Molly Weasley*

Humph. The same goes for *Percy*...if most of his family is exposed as traitors, then HE might very well go down, too, protest as much as he will.

I'll talk to Ron about Ginny.

**2014-04-09 22:36:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sue*

I'm sorry about this secret business, Sue.

I'm going to have to stop turning to friends for help, because things are getting quite nasty lately, and I can't see it stopping any time soon.




 [alt\\_pansy](#)

I'm so tired of all of it. I suppose you probably are, too.

Anyways. We'll get it over with and be done with it, and then we can go into hols and maybe get a bit of a break from everything.

---




 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2014-04-11 00:06:00**

*(no subject)*

It's all right, really. I gave it to you knowing something could happen.

So I guess the question is what should we do? I mean, I'd *like* to be able to keep looking Madame Hooch in the eye, but I don't actually have to converse with her often.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-11 01:45:39**

*(no subject)*

I think that worked out rather well. The singing, I mean.

Thanks again.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at **2014-04-11 03:54:13**


*(no subject)*

I do too! I was so red in the face that I bet people will think it was a good secret.

Professor Sprout was trying not to laugh when she took points. She probably knows that song.





 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-11 05:21:57](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I'd bet a knut she does.

Course, it helps that you can actually sing beautifully, even if it was silly.

**2014-04-09 22:53:00**

*Private Message to Rod Lestrangle*

Have you had a look at the objects? Expected your report by now.



Particularly interested in whether you can add anything to what N said re. the blk items.

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Anything useful in tracing recent provenance?

Blood, e.g.? Other remains, physical or metaphysical? Thimble seemed promising in that regard, no?

Took possession of another lot today. Will send to Ferrier if you don't have time. Want analysis asap. One item might tempt above the rest: an armillary sphere, silver, self-adjusting, emits smoke when reading is finalised, heavily overlaid with charms--idiosyncratic. Strong suspicion re. previous owner.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at **2014-04-10 14:47:16**

*(no subject)*

Soz, old man. Been a bit of tussle at home in recent days, but it's quiet now. Send me what you have.

Snuff box does nothing, might have been used to hold all manner of things. Tarnish on the seams, as with the others, but recently and clumsily cleaned on the exterior. Studied dust remnants in the crevices of all three items. The amounts were more or less equal, suggesting that they had, until 3-4 years ago, been kept under protective spell. The Missus remembers glass cases. Also - she has a similar thimble, same craftsman, always wanted one after admiring her Auntie's.

Checked thoroughly for blood or other humours. Found a very old specimen. 30 years? Comes from the Jugson line.

I seem to recall Janus mentioning an old aunt who disappeared when he was still a lad. Must have been a scuffle.

Regret I have nothing more conclusive to offer, but look forward to said sphere. Any hints about previous owner?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-10 20:46:10](#)  
(no subject)

Had to look that one up: turns out Arsenia Jugson went missing in 1956. Murky details. Investigation went nowhere as no one could say for certain when she was last seen. Was 'less and less' included in social invitations because she was 'rather a difficult personality'. Seems she met her match in Walburga Black, then. Poetic justice?

Nothing to follow up, in that case. Will copy your report to the file and mark it resolved unless you want something more than that done. Anyone besides Janus who ought to receive the notification?

Re. sphere: don't want to prejudice your results. Will say that if I'm right, the thing could prove extremely useful. Also expect Our Lord would be deeply gratified to receive it. Will share that honour if you can sort out its full function & whether it's working properly.

**[2014-04-09 22:56:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Neville and Evelyn*



Hey.


Look. There's no easy way to say it, but I messed up, and I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said what I did about your mum, and I should've just stuck to the plan.

 [alt\\_pansy](#)

It's been really stressful these last few weeks, and I suppose I was over thinking things. Whether it'd be believable. What people are expecting me to be like. And I took things too far.

I've told Sue, I'm going to try not to put any of you in this sort of position again, where I'd have to hurt or embarrass you, because it's just not worth it. And once again, I'm sorry.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-04-11 00:27:03](#)  
(no subject)

Don't worry about it. Yeah, I'll admit I was a bit startled, I guess. But we're all going to have to get used to playing a part, more and more as we grow older.

I have to also tell you: I'm afraid I may have messed up, too. Found a note on my pillow this morning--guess a house elf brought it--telling me to report to Professor Dolohov's office right after lunch. It seems he's been interviewing all of us who were caught in that last challenge and ended up serving detentions this week. Dunno what he was after at first, but it was clear he had talked with someone who was an eyewitness to what had happened. He asked me what the circumstances were, but it was clear that he already knew. I kept my control, and just tried to act like I always do with him: cautious and maybe a little slow. We went over who was standing where, what was said. He asked me if I get called blood traitor a lot, and I told him that I hear it pretty often, and I've had to teach myself not to react to it.

He pointed out that I *did* react this time. I didn't know what to say to that, so I said it was because Evelyn was standing right there, too. So

he started asking questions at a rapid clip, one after another. 'Does your sister get hassled frequently by people? Do you feel bullied? Do people try to hurt her? How often do you have to defend her?'

After going on like that for awhile, he suddenly sat back in his chair, and just looked at me, with that way he has, you know? Like he can see right through your body to the back of your spine. Then he bludgered a question at me that I was *not* expecting: 'Have you ever thought very much about how much Evelyn resembles your mother?'

It was like my whole brain seized up or something. I was already nervous, but now I had to stop and think, to remember that I couldn't let on that I had ever met my mum, that I had any contact with her. And I was worried about the Order, and not giving anything away, but he just kept firing questions at me.

The next question I could pay attention to was, 'so you really had set this whole thing up with Pansy ahead of time, right?'


I didn't come right out and say *yes*.

But I'm all but sure that the look on my face gave it away.

I'm sorry if that gets you into trouble.

Evelyn was next in the queue outside his office to speak to him when I walked out. I don't know what she said to him. I wanted to wait to talk with her afterward, but I couldn't stick around; I had to meet with my Transfiguration partner to work on our project. Haven't talked with Ev yet.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-11 03:40:53](#)**  
(no subject)

He started in right away with why we would help you, Pansy, and how I knew you. So yes, I'm assuming he knows we volunteered.


I just told him I knew you because Nev knew you through Ron, and that we overheard you talking to Sally-Anne about how you were really worried about doing well and didn't know what to do for this challenge, so we volunteered because we knew how much this meant to you.

I hope that's all right. I really do.

He said the same thing to me. That I looked like mum. And I just sort of looked blank and said, 'I do?'

Still. It gave me the shivers to hear him say that.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#) at 2014-04-11 03:49:15**

*Private Message to Neville*


Should we tell mum?

With everything that's been going on lately, I don't know if we should bother her.

I think we were lucky he was trying to catch us as having helped Pansy, and that he wasn't fishing for something worse.

(Oh, Pete, I know it wasn't like he was really interrogating me, and that if he was, it'd be so very much worse, but I really didn't like him asking about mum like that.)



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at 2014-04-11 11:45:25**

*Re: Private Message to Neville*

I think she's rather know than be taken by surprise. She *is* our commanding officer, besides being our mum.

I think we do need to say something.

I must say, I'm glad I've had that training in Occlumency. I think it did help. But I don't much like being interrogated by him, even when he doesn't have any idea of the scale of what we're trying to hide.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#) at 2014-04-11 15:17:01**


*Re: Private Message to Neville*

Right.

I think it's mostly that he was trying to catch that

we were helping Pansy, and trip us up, and that in order to do it, he was asking questions about mum and how much I. Because that's what Pansy was going on about to get you detention.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-11 03:55:25](#)  
(no subject)

All right.

It's not like I'm supposed to win this thing anyways.

You might want to put in some more work with Hydra though, Nev, so you won't get shaken up like that again.

**2014-04-10 00:21:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*


Batya. Fruitful day. Another cache of artefacts. Also certain personal effects.



Amongst those: 4 photos circa '79-'80. Recognise half a dozen faces in each, but not all by any means. Want your eye on them.

 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2014-04-10 06:00:15**  
(no subject)

Yes, of course. Though I cannot say how much use I will be -- memory does blur, after a while. Then again, some of that lot is unmistakable, and I have had some cause to reminisce as of late.

If nothing else, I've the Hogwarts records to go through.

Speaking of, status on that: I have been concentrating on those who were contemporaneous with the eponymous Phoenix. Sophia has been unwilling to have a conversation about anything other than administrivia; she has been burning the candle at both ends for quite some time. (Which ought to have been a sign, I suppose.) I've had a few passing discussions with Mary-Quite-Contrary, who is one of the few Iphigenia does not shun entirely, and got nowhere of use, but we have been distracted this week with other considerations. Over hols I will begin with searches, if I am able to do so undetected. Mary-Quite-Contrary and the Fox are two of the staff she is most charitable towards; they are likely the best place to begin, even if the Fox is a rather newer addition. Who knows; even if they are not involved they may know things they do not know they know.

Meanwhile, be mindful if you firecall me in the evenings -- from after supper to the children's curfew, my office will not be only my own. (I am supervising Hydra's erstwhile suitor in the evenings, to discourage a repetition of matters. And, with luck, to inspire the boy into focusing his attentions anywhere other than what's in his pants; he has a great deal of potential.)






 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-10 06:23:03](#)  
(no subject)

One of these you might like as a trophy, once we've mined it thoroughly for useful information. Quite a good shot of three whose pelts you claimed. Helps pinpoint the date, too--somewhat earlier than the others.

Speaking of your friend the Phoenix. Obtained something that may have belonged to him. If Rod can corroborate, will make a v nice present for Our Lord.

What's the current rate for child-minding? (Will not mention to Rod.)



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-10 06:40:53](#)  
(no subject)

Ha. That will be appreciated, yes, although one does need to be careful about how one displays one's trophies, lest one appear to be gloating. Magnanimity in victory as my watchword, and all.

Am most intrigued about the phoenix's feathers, of course. That is one loose end I would be rather interested in tying off. I spent ten years crossing the world looking for him and never got closer than two steps away; that one is personal, however much I prefer to keep emotions out of it.

The current rate for child-minding is a chance to crack the boy's proclamations-of-pacifism shell in hopes of reaching the core of ruthlessness beneath. I am amused that none of the puppies chose him as their standard-bearer in this farce of a circus sideshow we have going on at the moment; it will take some cultivating, but I've my money on him as one of the most suited for Council membership in this generation. (Far more so than many of those who were selected!)

Oh, and speaking of child-minding -- I've found an internship placement for that girl I've told you about, the one who wants to get into Healing. One that she would have no hope of obtaining on her own, and one that will likely lead to a much better outcome than she would have had otherwise. It will be another few years

| until that particular garden bears fruit, but once it does, we will no  
| longer have to worry about having a Healer we can trust.

**2014-04-10 00:49:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

Slight change of plan. AN had news via fire. Bring in UA at earliest. Use NM's stationery on blotter; tell her J may be in danger, that will set her running.



 **alt\_lucius**

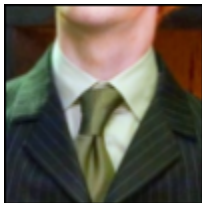
May well be true. We shall see.


Note that the report on railway disturbances failed to mention impact of Oct. flares on ironwork. See if you can find Bode and get a revised copy before Court on Friday.

Also, contact Elysian and change my time for Friday - need to get in earlier, before 7 if poss. In fact, find out when BC is running course and overlap his time by about 15 minutes.

And tell Peale if he wants to see me to-morrow it must be between half-one and two.

May have more notes by morning.



 **alt\_percy** at **2014-04-10 12:08:11**  
(no subject)

All understood, and will be addressed as soon as I get in to the office, sir.

**2014-04-10 20:31:00**

*Private Message to Portia Rubens*

Hey, good job tonight. And it wasn't even the worst bit of entertainment we had today, eh?



I don't think anyone noticed the stutter.

 **alt\_zacharias**

How about Finnigan's announcement, or Sue having to sing? And did you hear about Igraine Archer? I mean, all things considered, I could've done something way worse.

Not that I was going to, I mean. But some others clearly did.

Anyway. Hope it wasn't too painful.

**2014-04-10 20:55:00**

*Private Message to Lavender*

Finnegan is a broken-wanded, boil-infested, lackwit with all the personal charm of a redcap. If a streeler touched him, *it would die. He is an improperly prepared mandrake in the cauldron of life. He is a walking, talking bubotuber.*



 [alt\\_linus](#)

*ALL IS DUNGBOMBS AND ASHES.*


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 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2014-04-11 04:46:03](#)  
(no subject)

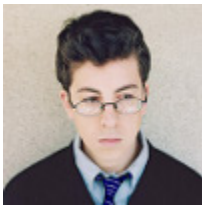
I hate to be contrary, love, but you couldn't really expect him to be pleased about it.




 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-11 05:09:13](#)  
(no subject)

It's not being pleased or not being pleased. It's that he did not say what he was supposed to say! And yet he came close enough that I cannot in good faith....

Oh, augh. JUST AUGH.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-11 05:46:45](#)  
(no subject)

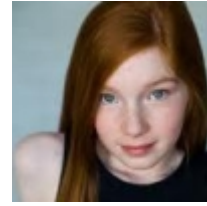
My only consolation is that his little performance will be forgotten soon enough amidst the noise of the general circus this whole thing has become.

What on earth was Bones singing about? Things one cannot do with hedgehogs? Excuse me?

**2014-04-10 20:58:00**

*Gryffindor Support Squad*

I'm glad we were able to finish the last of the banners before hols, so we could put them up around the common room. I think it adds a bit of colour to the room.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

Go, go, Gryffindor!

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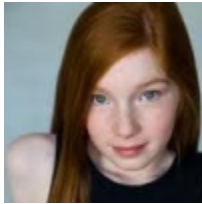


 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2014-04-11 04:10:57**

*Private Message to Kitty Bundy*

Honestly, Kitty, Thomas's banner looks just fine.

If he gets fussed about the position of the dragon, or the type of tree you ended up using, just tell him you've finished, and that's that.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2014-04-11 04:11:49**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ron*

I hope you like yours, Ron.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-11 18:59:44**

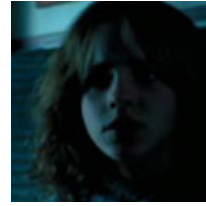
*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ron*

It's wizard!

Thanks, you.

**2014-04-10 20:59:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Mr Snape*



 **alt\_hermione**

Hydra came and found me and told me that she talked to Teddy Nott. She decided to try Sirius's idea, and convince him that I'm so atavistic that I can't think anything but the crudest thoughts, so fantasising about Professor Lestrage was about the limit of my imagination.

Anyway. She said she thinks she got him believing that part, although he seemed both smug to have been right about my pea-sized brain while simultaneously disappointed that I *wasn't* concealing something more nefarious.

But, the problem is, she doesn't think he's necessarily going to stop there. He wouldn't tell her what he plans, but he's going to try to make me do something humiliating before supper tomorrow.

And look. If whatever it is is *at all* tolerable, I think I should just do it. He's not going to be satisfied with anything less. He's just going to push and push until he gets what he wants.

Like with Hydra. She said he tried a different tactic today and instead of coming on so incredibly strong like before, today he was acting like a caricature of a gentleman. He even joked about how Justin used to carry her books for her and then he *levitated them just out of her reach*.

She said that when he compared me to an animal, she caught a sort of ... image, in his head. A memory. Like the time he cut me to see if my blood was red or brown. Only this was of a cat that he'd cut apart.

And then she said she could tell that he got--well, *turned on*. (Do you know what I mean?) She said she manipulated him pretty easily but she had that quiet calm she gets when she's really upset. (I think maybe we should make sure she's not completely alone when she's where he might go--because honestly, she shouldn't have to cope with Teddy on top of everything else she's going through right now.)

I'm not telling either of you this so that you can go and find him and invent an excuse to put him in the Hospital Wing. I just want you both to be prepared in case he does try something--and in case I do what


he asks me to do, not to react out of proportion.

And Harry, that goes double for Draco. I don't know if maybe he's reacting this way because it's bringing up Dennis again, or what--I mean, maybe, I don't know, but whatever it is, he's been acting so oddly about the whole thing. I mean, this isn't really all that much more dangerous or horrible than loads of things we've done before but suddenly he's acting like I'm going to blunder the whole operation just because of Teddy's threats.

I'm not underestimating Teddy and if it's too awful, Harry, I'll just tell him I need your permission and you can tell him no.

But if it's even remotely something I can survive, without any lasting harm, then I think I should just go ahead and get it over with. It's not like he actually has any leverage, and in fact it's probably better to put him off the scent by making him think he's won this round.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-11 02:07:18](#)

(no subject)

Okay.

Yeah.

I don't like it, but you're right. It's either push him until we have to send him to St Mungos or worse, or we let him have his victory and hope he leaves off.

He so much as lays a finger on you, though

You just be careful. I mean, you know that. I don't think you'll foul it up. You know.

And yeah. I'll keep an eye out for Draco. And Hydra.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-11 02:09:37](#)


(no subject)

I let Voldemort *Cruciate* me, and I didn't mess that up. Badly.

It won't be that bad.






 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-11 02:11:32](#)  
(no subject)

Right.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-11 02:18:27](#)  
(no subject)

I think there's just a lot going on right now with Draco. Like his dad, and this contest, and since this business with Hydra and Justin and now Teddy, there's a lot to keep track of and it's changing all

the time.

And everything seems like it's more dangerous and more important now, I guess. And it sort of is, too.

And he doesn't want to see you hurt. And neither do I.

**[2014-04-10 21:17:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

You know, it's such a relief to just have that secret out in the open, I probably ought to write Moon a thank-you note for forcing my hand.




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)**

(He'd probably have preferred it if I'd read the little thing he scripted for me -- 'I have been a cavalier and careless idiot with the honour of those dear to me, and Professor Dolohov would and should be ashamed of me!' -- but I wasn't feeling THAT appreciative.)

And Igraine Archer told me she'd do anything. I probably could've crossed the line, mind you, but she sounded like she meant it. Did Katrina Jacobsen do anything or are you going to have to tell the whole school she peeps at her uncle? at least it's properly embarrassing. (I haven't heard about her doing much, but mixed in with all the rest, it would've had to be pretty outstanding for anyone to mention it!)



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-11 02:42:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad it's done, too--but you could have warned me. I've lost track of how many people have asked me this afternoon if I knew and was I shocked and am I upset now that we'll never get married--honestly, this school is full of morons.


I heard about Archer. I'm surprised she did it, too, I mean, she must really have been desperate to keep it secret about the way she treated her brother.

Jacobsen. No, she wouldn't agree. I think I probably aimed too high. I dared her to come to breakfast in the same outfit Professor Dolohov wore that one time last year, with the Egyptian collar and such. I mean, there's still one more morning but I don't think she's going for it.

I've got a plan, though, for how to get the news out. I figure if I have to make sure the school knows, I might as well do it stylishly.

Speaking of news! Pavs had a little more. Remember I told you someone was interested in her? Well, she's met him a couple of times now, and she actually likes him. And Haruman likes him, too, I guess, so she said she wants me to meet him when we're home. Maybe next week. I'm really curious now!




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-11 02:47:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Wait, there were people who thought we were going to get married? I don't even know what to say to that. And sorry I didn't give you a warning. I was still trying to decide what to do when we went to lunch.

Anyway, Parvati. Remind me, is he young? You'll have to tell me about him when you meet him.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-11 03:04:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, I have no idea why people thought that. I think they thought we we've been in love forever. I mean, seriously, I was never attracted to you even before I knew you were gay. Plus you're a halfblood, it's not like there was ever a chance. They just can't understand that I'd still love you even if I don't *love* you, you know? Idiots, I swear.

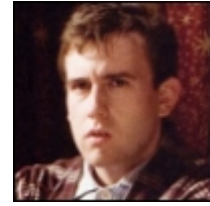
Anyway, Pavs' suitor. His name is Inderpal Sharma and he's a few years older than Haruman. I mean, I think they knew each other really vaguely when they were in school, just from times when the Indian students got together for observances and such. Only Inderpal was gone before Haruman started his third year, so they were never mates or anything. But Pavs says Haruman chaperoned her and Inderpal this club where a band was playing he wanted to hear. He works for WWN, that's how he met my father, see. Oh, and besides that, he and Haruman went and got drinks once or twice without Pav. And he took Haruman to his shooting range for target practice. And if Haruman's willing to spend time alone with him--firing spells off at targets, no less!--he must be all right.

**2014-04-10 21:47:00**

*Private message to Seamus Finnigan*

All right then, Seamus?

I must say this contest has had an uncomfortable knack of making people meddle in other people's private business.



 **alt\_neville**

It should be *your* right to decide when and with whom to share something so personal.

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



 **alt\_seamus** at **2014-04-11 03:58:37**

*(no subject)*

Cheers, Longbottom. It's actually a relief having it out in the open. (Don't think it was exactly a surprise to any of my roommates -- I mean, if I'd wanted to keep things a proper secret I should've stayed away from

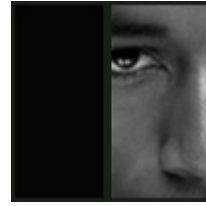
Remy, yeah?)

**2014-04-10 22:39:00**

*Expect you know what this is about...*

Jones.

Meet me in the anteroom off the great hall at half-seven tomorrow morning. I've a question for you, and there's no ducking it. At any rate, you won't like the consequences if you do try deflecting it.



 [alt\\_blaise](#)

**2014-04-11 01:04:00**

*Private message to Barty*



 **alt\_antonin**

Mostly I am writing for two reasons: one, if you have not yet had a chance to read your advance copy of this week's *Posh*, do not let Bella see it. I settled in for a nice relaxing bit of mindlessness before bedtime and nearly spit out my tea when I saw the lead story; it is all about how Finch-Fletchley is the tragic romantic hero sacrificed on the altar of Bella's ambitions for Hydra. You, on the other hand, may wish to make a visit to the editorial team (or send someone around to do the same) -- someone undoubtedly needs to have a conversation with whomever approved this for publication.

Second, my progress. I had another long discussion with Hypatia today at lunchtime, and am fairly certain at this point she is not one of our Daniels in the lions' den. Or if she is, she has learned to fake entirely too much enthusiasm at the Arts for one of their lot -- she has finally taken me up on my offer to endow a special collection to save the children the trouble of waiting until I am available to unlock my office cabinets, and her enthusiasm was, as near as I could tell, unfeigned. Barring evidence to the contrary, I am moving her to the secondary list.

I still have not seen any signs that Iphigenia is communicating secretly with anyone else, on staff or otherwise, but then again, given her accoutrements, she would be prevented from same. She was not at lunch (and is not often); at supper she tends to vary her dining companions. Last night she sat between Sophia and the Fox; tonight it was Baba and Eggman. I have noticed no true pattern in her interactions (save that she tends to avoid Cinderella and Tiresias, but then, most of us do). At this point I am tempted to anonymise the data and give it to my analyst-in-training to see if he can spot any habits I might not be able to tease out, though even anonymised, this is slightly more sensitive than I would care to entrust to him.

Oh, and: I have been roped into the circus as secondary ringmaster -- by which I mean, I have been asked to interview the victims of one of the postulants' challenges to determine if there was collusion present or if they were truly able to manipulate their targets well enough. One

of the postulants chose the Longbottom offspring, and chose the (obvious) tactic of mocking their blood-traitor parents. Both children are sensitive about their heritage and to accusations of disloyalty, but the boy in particular is exceptionally protective of the girl. I cannot imagine at the moment a way in which this might be useful to know, but as I (obviously) have Longbottoms on the mind, among others, I thought it might be best to note for future reference.

---



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2014-04-11 21:11:41](#)**  
(no subject)

No explosions. Yet. Fortunately, B fully occupied. And no jokers so foolish as to bait her.

Did stop by *Posh*, however. Suggested they kill any follow-up they'd planned. Better a bit of copy than the alternative.


Waiting to hear from Rod re. second lot. Moderate success re. first items, though nothing to break the seals or enable a blood trace.

Look forward to seeing your data. Anonymised or raw, whichever you prefer. As for Daniels, you haven't uncovered anything that could clear Susannah? Or corroborate guilt? Have no more wish than you to sacrifice Iphigenia and then find the witness false. Particularly given the witness.

Despite which, continue to find pearls in the dung heap: today's gem was an unlicensed dealer in commercial ink. Spilled all.

Several promising leads to follow tomorrow. Want to come along? Tell me you don't have to chaperone the French-Fauntleroy on the train.



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-12 02:50:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Have found nothing to exculpate or condemn her, but -- well, it's the problem of confirmation bias, is it not? I do not want to believe she's guilty, not given how committed she has been to our cause and Our Lord for so long. And yet, she was quick enough to aid DS in his plotting, wasn't she? Although she was not the only one. And yet, and yet ... each new bit of intelligence flips the balance of the scales once more.

Perhaps the biblical metaphor does fit more appropriately; given enough of this and I will inevitably begin to feel like someone's adversary.

And no, I will not need to chaperone, thankfully. I've plans to sleep in, as late as I can, and then I am all yours.



**[2014-04-11 07:15:00](#)**

*Private Message to F-F and Cedric*

Bloody hell!

Ernie and I can set a louder alarm if you need it, F-Fs.



 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)**

I didn't even know Professor Doves could get *in* to our dormitories! (Didn't think he knew that many words for arse, either.)

Anyway, none of us need that kind of awakening, mate. Least of all you.

I guess the bright side is that we're all ready for breakfast. An hour early.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-12 01:06:13](#)**

*(no subject)*

I got up just fine, but I've also been doing it for months. I also don't have anything keeping me up horribly late at night. Astronomy or anything.



 **[alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-12 01:11:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

Cedric,

Yes, getting enough sleep during the night does certainly help, as does custom.

I'm sure I'll get used to it over time. I do believe one will eventually succumb to the effect of exhaustion for a decent, untroubled rest.

Zach, sorry to have disturbed you, old man. At least for the next two weeks you've nothing to fear, what?

-F-F

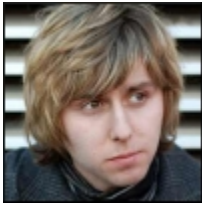



 **alt\_cedric** at [2014-04-12 01:12:14](#)

*Order Only Private Message to Justin*

Justin,  
You alright there? That was a nasty fall this morning.

He's clearly going to push you hard. I'd recommend trying to at least keep the exercise up, even if you don't keep his hours over break. It'll make starting back up again easier. If you want to get together with someone who's been doing his stretching and meditation longer I'd be happy to. It's part of my full exercise routine now.



 **alt\_justin** at [2014-04-12 01:21:15](#)

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Justin*

Cedric,


My eye doesn't bother me, thank you. He merely surprised me with the news of that article. That bally well *counterproductive* article, one ought to say.

Yes, I rather get the sense he's trying to keep me so occupied that I've no time for anything else. I'm actually--rather grateful for that, what.

I think it would be best if we kept to a routine, cheers. That would be jolly good. I hope to be at Grimmauld Place as much as possible but I'm happy to meet wherever is convenient for you. You live near the Burrow, don't you? One wouldn't like to impose on Mrs Weasley, what, but I could certainly Apparate or Floo there most mornings if that would be helpful.

-F-F



 **alt\_cedric** at [2014-04-12 01:29:49](#)

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Justin*

We can meet about half way between at the Apparition spot. If it's not too dark after the meeting, I can show you where I've met the Twins in the past. If that doesn't work first time we can just meet at the Burrow and I'll show you the spot while running.

**2014-04-11 07:54:00**

*Order Only Private message to Tonks*

I saw in Mum's journal that you were going to be at the Burrow for the Order meeting tomorrow. I will be too -- I'm free all tomorrow and all Sunday, and I didn't even have to bribe somebody for the whole weekend off, the scheduling gods just smiled upon me this time 'round.



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

Assuming nothing explodes at the meeting, and I'm hoping I haven't just jinxed us, do you want to do something after? I'd love to take you and Little Miss out for dinner somewhere -- I haven't got nearly enough time with my best girl lately. (And I wouldn't mind seeing you, either! ...don't hit me.)



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2014-04-12 02:47:43**  
(no subject)

Oh, that would be more lovely than anything I can imagine! I feel a bit like a mole that's been working on a long tunnel, digging away, and never getting anywhere. A supper and a night and a Sunday with you would be... very, very nice.

Y'know, I've been rather dreading this meeting, and I've only just realised why. It's Frank. I suppose I thought he'd have got better by now. Long since. And now here we are, meeting, and he's still not got his magic back. And we'll have to be talking about that, or about how we've been redistributing things, anywiz. And what we'll do going forward, and that makes it feel as if now it might be permanent. That's terrible to think, I know.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2014-04-12 03:17:59**  
(no subject)

Yeah. I know what you mean. I've been thinking about Frank a bit myself, because I've been letting Alice lean on my shoulder some and you know she's worried about him, and -- well, on the one hand, I don't want to say that being without magic is a horrible awful fate that nobody can ever recover from, or that being without magic is like, oh, being without a leg or something, yeah? Because that's an

insult to Fu and Regina and loads of other Muggles, and it's against what we're supposed to stand for. But on the other hand, Fu and Regina never had magic in the first place, so they learned all the ways of doing things without magic, whereas Frank doesn't know all those Muggle ways. So to him, being without magic is like being without a leg, because it's something he used to rely on and now can't.

I don't know what I'd do if it was me. I'd like to think I was resilient enough to be just fine, because thinking otherwise exposes a whackload of prejudices I don't like to think of myself as holding, but let's be honest, if I didn't have magic I couldn't be doing what I'm doing, and this is all I've ever wanted to do.

But I can see why you're dreading the meeting. If you want we can sit next to each other and I'll make funny comments under my breath and then all you'll have to worry about is trying not to laugh and get Alice narked off at you.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-12 03:36:36](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, yes, please!

We can pass notes and spit paper wads at  
Themselves if they're sitting in front of us.

All right, not really. We need to set a better example than that, but sitting together will improve everything 287%.

I hear you about the prejudices I didn't even realise I had. I just... sometimes it's so hard to know what to say to Frank when we're all training and he leaps up to demonstrate something and then remembers... I don't know. It's not even as if I think of something better I could have said later, once I'm home. So the next time, it's just as awkward all over again.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-12 03:48:35](#)  
(no subject)

I can imagine how hard that must be. Because again, on the one hand, you don't want to treat him like he's broken and fragile, but on the other hand, pretending like nothing's wrong is not exactly a good option either, and on the third hand he DOES still have a lot of things to teach you but he can't DEMONSTRATE anything and that must be bloody inconvenient sometimes, and and and ...

Spitballs. Or maybe -- since if we throw spitballs at people in Mum's kitchen she'll kill me -- things like charming their shoelaces together and transfiguring their pants fire-engine red and lacy. And I'd say we should try to get Snape to drink one of Fred and George's masterpieces except I like my bollocks where they are and I don't want to have to chase them across half the countryside.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-12 04:00:13](#)  
(no subject)

I'd prefer you kept your bollocks right where they are, and I'll happily tell Snape that if I need to do.

I expect that might stop him in his tracks. I don't think Severus is much for contemplating the... inner details of other people's social ties.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-12 04:09:37](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not certain Snape knows what to do with his own bollocks, no. Which usually predisposes somebody to not want to think about other people's and what they get up to with them.


I'm glad you've got a fondness for mine, though. They're awfully fond of you, too.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-04-12 05:10:21](#)**  
(no subject)

As well they should be.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-12 05:30:35](#)**  
(no subject)

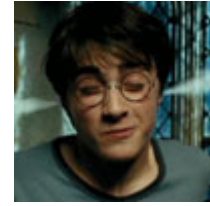
Well, you're mighty easy to be fond of!

Right. I've asked around and come up with a place we can go for Sunday brunch -- that's you, me, and Little Miss if she wants to come -- and then I'll let you pick what we do for the rest of the day. I'll put my vote in for footrubs in exchange for you beating the knots out of my shoulders again, and then a few hours of nap, but anything you want is fine by me.

**2014-04-11 08:18:00**


*ORDER ONLY : Private Message to Luna*

That was one way to fulfill a dare, I guess.



 [alt\\_harry](#)




 [alt\\_luna](#) at **2014-04-11 16:30:04**

*(no subject)*

I hope Katie didn't mind too much? I went right over to tell her afterwards that I did it only because of the dare, and anyway I was sure she was much better at that sort of thing.

And I hope *you* didn't mind too much? I thought it would be over more quickly (and thus be more polite) if I took you entirely by surprise.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-11 19:58:52**

*(no subject)*

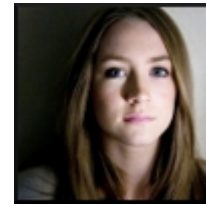
Course I didn't mind. You're right, I was surprised, but it was funny and all. And it was you, besides, not some random person I didn't know.

I'm pretty sure Katie can take a joke or two too, so no worries.

**2014-04-11 09:13:00**

*If anyone*

happens to see two travelling, lumbering footstools as you journey around the castle today, you may sit on them if you like.



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

They're quite comfortable.

---




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2014-04-11 15:37:56**

*(no subject)*

I don't know, Hydra. To my eyes they look a little lumpy. Though I imagine some might prefer their footstools lumpy.

They seem to be having fun, though.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-11 15:42:57**

*(no subject)*

Yes, I suppose they might have discovered they enjoy crawling.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-11 15:44:32**

*(no subject)*

One's almost tempted to sit down and settle in for a ride, though it would surely mean being late to class. They're rather slow.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2014-04-11 15:47:37**


*Private message to Draco*

You seem to be in a better mood this morning. Headache's better?

What option did Demelza end up choosing? I haven't seen her yet today.






 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 15:59:13](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Oh, she's going to share her secret, of course. Too many people skip breakfast, so I told her she's to make her announcement at lunch. You won't be able to miss it.

Seems Demelza's clever enough to know that exposing her sister's various trysts would likely get Rowena very, very hurt, if not killed. But that's what happens when you slither into every council member's bed.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 16:00:04](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

And yes, the headache's better. Thanks.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-04-11 16:08:09](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Oh good, I'm glad. I knew all you needed was a good night's sleep. You're just far, far too busy, you see, you just need me to help you make time for fun and relaxation, as well! Balance in all


things, as they say.

(Though balance in all things *does* sound a little boring. What's the fun in that?)

I wonder what people will make of it - her secret, I mean. I've heard of some men bedding their muggleborn servants, but people always refrain from commenting on that, because those are powerful wizards who can bed whomever they please, and it's just property, after all. But I've never heard of a woman doing that.

Demelza and her sister both have decadent imaginations *and* aspirations, it seems.

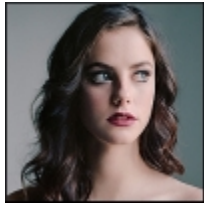


 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-04-11 16:15:14**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Demelza is perverse. Rowena's just a social-climbing slag.

What you say about balance is right, though. It may not be thrilling, but it is the best course for most things.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2014-04-11 16:20:06**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

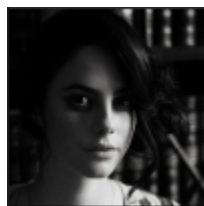
Demelza's quite pretty. People will forget about her deep, dark secret in time. If she's lucky.



 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-04-11 20:40:12**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Probably. All she admitted to was a desire to order her family's servant to bed. People our age would see that as an unusual or even shocking predilection for a female, but our elders might not find it so strange. It isn't as if she actually thinks of him as a person, or anything traitorous like that.



 **[alt\\_daphne](#) at 2014-04-11 20:42:04**

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Person? Feh! Never that.

I wonder if Harry's

We should talk later. What happened in Defence today seemed to upset you.

**2014-04-11 10:13:00**

*private message to Ernie*

I couldn't face anyone. I am in the infirmary. But please don't do anything bad to Blaise or he will do something worse back. To you. Which is part of the problem.




 **alt\_megan**

I will be there for Defence because Professor Raz will not let anybody laugh at me. Or at least if they do he will use them as a demonstrator for defending against a new hex and that will keep them busy.

I hope Madam Pomfrey can do something. But so far nothing is helping.




 **alt\_ernie** at **2014-04-11 15:28:32**  
(no subject)

What do you mean, that's part of the problem?

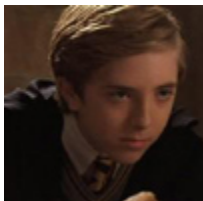
I can bring you a hat or something, at least. At lunch, okay?




 **alt\_megan** at **2014-04-11 15:29:58**  
(no subject)

P.S. Fang is hiding from me. I don't even look like me, and I suppose the potion made me not even smell like me either. Anyway when I ran went back to the dorm right after, Fang went under the bed and wouldn't come out.

Even my cat can't look at me. I want to die.



 **alt\_ernie** at **2014-04-11 15:39:11**  
(no subject)


Well, it surely can't be permanent, can it?

And I mean, some girls prefer to be bald. I've heard.

Anyway, I did tell Mackrell she had no right to complain about the hair on her toast, even if it was sort of all over that section of the table. Fresh platters arrived a couple minutes after you ran out.

I'd have come after you straight off, but--well, it was a bit chaotic.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-11 15:43:57](#)  
(no subject)

No, you were very sweet to know that I wanted time by myself. And to think about bringing me a hat. Yes, please bring one to lunch. That might help. A little.

I don't think those girls who prefer to be bald look like me.

Oh Merlin. Are you even going to want to kiss me when I am like this? ~~Don't answer that if it is no I could not bear it~~




 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2014-04-11 15:46:37](#)  
(no subject)

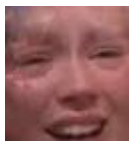
Well...maybe....does your guardian have any wigs?


I mean, just so you *feel* better. Not that it makes any difference to me.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-11 15:49:12](#)  
(no subject)

That is a good idea. I am going to ask Daphne though because she knows things about theatrical glamours and might know something that could help. Plus she is here. And I do not want to tell my guardian because she will get the vapours from me having been involved in something like this at all.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-11 15:45:54](#)  
(no subject)

It should not be permanent forever but apparently it is going to be for a little while. I don't know how long. But I might need that hat for a while.

**2014-04-11 10:53:00**

*private message to Sue and Daphne*



 **alt\_megan**

Daphne, I'm sorry for bothering you but do you perhaps know some theatrical glamour or charm that could make it look like I have hair until I do again? Or a wig? But wigs don't take care of eyebrows and eyelashes and I don't have those either. But there must be something, right? Because it doesn't look like any of the hair growth charms will work for a few days because the depilatory potion has to be out of my system entirely.

Sue could you please check on Fang and feed him if he seems hungry? He went under the bed and would not come out because he could not stand the sight of me.

Maybe somebody could just cast an invisibility hex on me. I don't know.



 **alt\_daphne** at **2014-04-11 16:09:10**

*(no subject)*

Pardon me?

Why have you taken a depilatory potion?



 **alt\_megan** at **2014-04-11 16:15:37**

*(no subject)*


You didn't ~~SEE~~ me at breakfast?

It was a dare. That I had to do. Because I had to.

But it is over now. Except I don't have hair and apparently won't for a while.

But the dare did not say I have to stay like this. So.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2014-04-11 16:18:06](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, for the challenge. Wasn't it Blaise who dared you?

Because he's my friend and housemate.




 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2014-04-11 16:20:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes he is your friend and housemate but he did not say I have to stay like this and if

You don't have to make it worse.




 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2014-04-11 16:23:04](#)**  
(no subject)

And I only asked you because you have very good skills and I thought perhaps you would use them to help another Hogwarts student who never did anything to you

but if you are going to be that way then you can go do what Sue sang about hedgehogs




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2014-04-11 16:30:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm a Slytherin. I help my friends and housemates first. And I don't think my dear friend would appreciate it if I undermined his efforts to succeed in our Lord's challenge for him.

So if you're a big girl then I'm sure you can find, all on your own, *Essential Stagecraft Illusions* in the library. It's by Alvin Valore.

You want the "luxury locks" glamour. It makes it appear as if you have hair, but there's actually nothing there.




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2014-04-12 02:50:48](#)  
(no subject)

You're all right, Greengrass. Not that you wanted to hear it from me, or anything.

But...yeah.

Don't worry, I won't let it get out.




 [alt\\_daphne](#) at [2014-04-12 02:54:45](#)  
(no subject)

Don't let it get out? If you insist.

Everyone finds a reason to like me, eventually!




 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2014-04-12 02:09:15](#)  
(no subject)

Megs, I'll come to the library with you while you look, if you like. And Fang will probably come around--he's startled right now but I don't think the potion changes your scent so eventually he'll be able to tell it's still

you.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-12 02:28:00](#)  
(no subject)

Yes please. That would be very helpful.

Thank you for being my friend again, Sue. And for looking in on Fang.



 [alt\\_susan](#) at [2014-04-12 02:46:42](#)  
(no subject)

It's the least I can do, really. My embarrassing moment was at least pretty brief; you're quite right that you haven't got to stay that way.

**2014-04-11 12:28:00**

*Private Message to Antosha and Razzer*

I don't know about you lads but I could certainly use a libation this evening - to celebrate the much-needed break from classes, if no other reason. (And I'm certain we can all think of ample other reasons.)




 [alt\\_horace](#)

Razzer, please extend the invitation to Aurora as well. I know you three frequently make plans for Fridays.

---



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2014-04-11 17:21:36**  
(no subject)

We can join you for a short while after dinner, but will need to make our excuses before too long. In addition to Rory's class tonight, we head down to Spence tomorrow and there are final preparations, which would be much better finished tonight rather than during tomorrow morning's chaos.



**2014-04-11 12:36:00**

*Private Message to Seamus*

Oh, Lakshmi, you know all those notes that fluttered down at lunch today? About Demelza Robins?



 **alt\_padma**

I was planning to do kinda the same thing at supper about Katrina's secret. But now everyone will think I'm copying.

Should I change it, do you think? I've only got a few hours to think of something else.

**2014-04-11 13:01:00**

*Private message to Ginny Weasley*

Ginny,

I had sent an owl to the Browns to ask permission for this, and I've just received a note back saying I had it. Would you like to come over Saturday once we arrive at King's Cross, and spend the night?




 [alt\\_luna](#)

Please say yes! You know what it's like for me at the Browns', and it would be so dreary to spend the first day of the holidays without a friendly face nearby. I'd like to show you my sketchbooks and you can show me your fashion sketches if you like, and we can talk and giggle over stupid boys and toast crumpets and stay up late like we used to do.

Please? I'm really hoping you can.


---



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2014-04-11 20:28:17**  
*(no subject)*


Of course I'll come, Luna. I'm sure my Mum won't mind. I sent her off an owl this morning to let her know -- I'll give her a kiss at the station and be home for dinner Sunday.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2014-04-12 04:42:41**  
*(no subject)*

Mum says it's fine, and would you like to come to Sunday dinner?



 [alt\\_luna](#) at **2014-04-12 14:29:36**  
*(no subject)*

I would love to. Thank you!

**2014-04-11 15:30:00**

*All for show*

Is it true that Harry's mudblood did an erotic strip-tease in 6th year Defence?



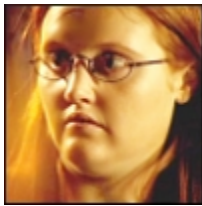
If so, I wonder who was responsible.


 [alt\\_hydra](#)

Whoever it is, perhaps they ought to date Demelza Robins, since they both have a shared interest in mudbloods gone starkers.

I'm glad it's Friday. It's been difficult to concentrate today.

---



 [alt\\_eloise](#) at [2014-04-11 21:38:29](#)

*(no subject)*

What do you mean, 'responsible?'

I heard that the mudblood is in love with Rizzer and tried to seduce him!!!



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 21:40:00](#)

*(no subject)*

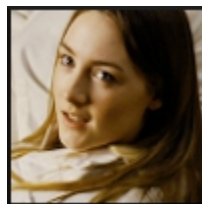
Harry's trained her too well to do something mad like that. It was probably a spell, maybe Imperius.



 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2014-04-11 21:43:33](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, come on, Midge, no one's that thick, even you.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 21:49:24](#)

*(no subject)*

What do you think happened, Smith?

I'd like to hear it from someone who was there. Who isn't thick.




 [alt\\_zacharias](#) at [2014-04-11 21:53:43](#)  
(no subject)

Looked like Imperius to me, anyway. She had this mad look in her eyes and, well, I've never seen a mudblood dance and I don't really care to again, if that's what it looks like, but her movements were jerky. And she'd only got her top unfastened before people started trying to make her stop, but she kept on like she *had* to do it, you know? And she was sort of whinging about it. 'No, no, I have to do it, don't you understand?' Things like that.

And when Daphs and the others tried to force her to leave, she sort of ... fought back. Not like, she was getting violent or anything, but like she didn't want to go.

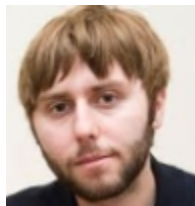
So yeah. My money's on Imperius.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 21:55:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, sounds like it.

Who do you suppose would want to see such a thing?




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-11 22:05:00](#)  
(no subject)

My thoughts exactly. Whomever it was has shockingly poor taste. It was well sickening.

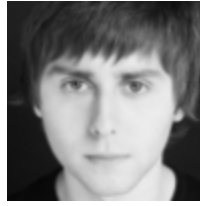
-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:08:10](#)  
(no subject)

Well, they mustn't have much respect for their peers. Or Professor Raz, for that matter.

To say nothing of Harry.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-11 22:16:15](#)**  
(no subject)


Indeed. And exceedingly bad timing, as well, what. Or perhaps that was the problem: He was running out of time before the deadline.

One thing is certain, which is I'm sure we will all be relieved for a change of scene and a break from the pressures school has brought this spring.

Enjoy your holidays, Miss Lestrangle.

-F-F



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-11 22:24:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Chalk it up to desperation and poor planning, then.

Enjoy yours as well, Effs.




 **[alt\\_zacharias](#)** at **[2014-04-11 21:56:18](#)**  
*Private Message to Hydra*

Which is odd, you know? Because the challenge was to *blackmail* someone into doing something embarrassing, not to *Imperius* them to do it.

If it had anything to do with the challenge, of course. And why wouldn't it?

Er. Look. He probably wouldn't want me--yeah, no. Nevermind. Sorry. None of my business, is it?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 21:59:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*


Yes, I know. That's why I didn't Imperius Vince and Greg to crawl around all day. They were happy to do it.

Who wouldn't want you what?

Or

Oh.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 22:01:39](#)

*Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Hydra, I see what you're trying to do, but have a little respect, why don't you?

Don't you think Hermione's been humiliated enough for one day?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:05:06](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

I'm not humiliating her, I'm humiliating the person who did that to her.

Demelza's been completely shamed all day for her confession about the family servant, so if everyone starts looking at Teddy like he's got a weird obsession with seeing Hermione starkers, too, then maybe he'll back off.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:11:09](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

I didn't think I'd have to explain this to you?

Hermione knows I feel terrible for her right now. We had a long talk yesterday, about just everything. When she sees the journals she'll know what I'm trying to do. I'm sure of it.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 22:14:19](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

You had a long tal

I'm not daft - I said "I see what you're trying to do,"  
didn't I?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:14:54](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Then what's the problem?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 22:19:05](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Wait -

You had a long talk with Hermione because you  
knew Teddy had something like this planned,  
didn't you? And you told Hermione and *no one else*?

Why would you *do* that?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:22:05](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Because it's her life. What Teddy's doing - she  
should be the one who decides who to tell, and  
what to do about it.

Watching the whole Order argue about what to do earlier this  
week, without even asking what she wanted...like they all knew  
better - it wasn't right.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 22:26:15](#)


*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Right.

Yes, I can see how -

But she doesn't even seem to be properly *afraid* of Teddy.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:28:43](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*


She is too afraid. I *know* that she is. And she knows that Teddy is dangerous, too.

But why are you acting like she's an infant? She's a witch and she can do magic, same as me or you.

And she's more clever than both of us, besides.

Maybe I'm just tired of seeing everyone make decisions for everyone else.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-11 22:32:57](#)

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

I'm not acting like anything, Hydra.

What's the point of us all banding together like a load of misfits if we're not going to ask each other advice and turn to each other for help, and nurse our worries and frets as if our lives depended on it? I thought that was the expression of choice around here.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-11 22:34:15](#)


*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

We can help each other, yes. That's why I told her she should talk to who she wanted to, for help and advice. If she even wanted it.

We're a load of misfits but in the end we're all alone, too.






 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-04-11 22:35:55**

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Oh bloody nightshade. You've gone all grim and macabre.

Don't start dressing like your mother, too.  
Dark colours wash you out.



 **[alt\\_draco](#) at 2014-04-11 22:58:20**

*Re: Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Fine. I'll concede that she should be able to make her own choices.

But she's not F-F, Hydra. She doesn't have a fake bloodline to hide behind, nor a body of peers who can protest, in public, about anything that happens to her. As much as we might wish it was otherwise, it's not.

**[2014-04-11 15:32:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Draco*




Right, so.

That's the sort of thing that would let people know. I mean. If you're not careful.

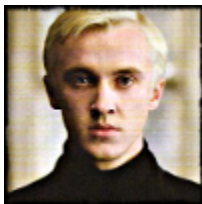
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)**




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-11 20:35:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I realise that. Don't worry, I would have stopped myself. I ~~think~~ But I appreciate your stepping in just the same.

Teddy's days are numbered, though.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-11 21:07:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Here's the maddening thing.

I already know what Hermione will say. She'll be embarrassed, but she'll argue that we should all calm down because it could have been far, far worse. Because when all's said and done, he didn't hurt her, exactly.

But he took her control away from her own body (which she doesn't even own, in his mind) and manipulated it for his own amusement. He sees her as something to explore and experiment with - not just *her*, but all the boundaries that hold him back. Harry's authority. Even Raz's authority. These traits have always been inside him, and the council challenge has brought them to the surface, full-force.

I'm not supposed to care about any of this, of course. If things had been different, I might have even been the one lending Teddy a hand, or not-so-silently cheering him on.

**2014-04-11 16:12:00**

*Private Message to Harry Marvolo*

Discipline your property. That behaviour was entirely inappropriate, no matter the reason.




 **alt\_rabastan**

Find out who made that happen. Proof if possible. Get the exact wording of the “dare” if this is related to the contest, if not find out why. Because everyone is leaving tomorrow, I need your report as soon as possible, so I know who was responsible for that dangerous disruption.



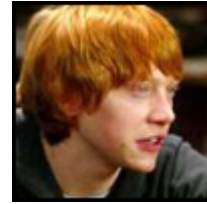
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 **alt\_harry** at **2014-04-11 20:31:21**  
(no subject)

Okay.

**[2014-04-11 16:19:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne and Harry*



May I just say? Maybe a hedgehog cannot be bugged, but Nott ought to be.

 [alt\\_ron](#)

Don't know whether you had a chance to watch him in all the rest of it, but, yeah. Did you get Hermione taken care of? Is she all right, then?

And what was with Malfoy? I mean, I expect you could have just let him take Nott out, really.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 00:04:40](#)  
(no subject)

Draco was furious. The thing is, I'm not sure he should even have been able to know it was Nott, and he certainly can't look even for a second like he's outraged at the abuse of Hermione, rather than

Harry's property.

That said I'm really seeing benefits to taking Nott out.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-12 00:15:30](#)  
(no subject)

Well, if anyone would know who'd got a secret off Harry's 'property', it'd be Malfoy, right? So that much was probably all right. And I don't know that anyone who didn't know differently would think he was upset about what was being done to her because she's a friend in a secret subversive society with him. I think anyone else would've reckoned he was just hacked off on Harry's part, right? Because, really, the other isn't even anything they could imagine. At all.

Not saying you were wrong. You probably stopped Malfoy from thumping Nott, but Nott likes getting smacked about, so. Yeah, I don't even.

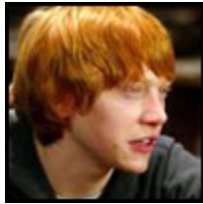
Could it just be tomorrow already?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 00:53:27](#)  
(no subject)

I suppose. It just seemed like there was the potential for too many questions, though.

I haven't seen Hermione since Defence. I hope she's okay.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-12 02:15:42](#)  
(no subject)

She's written Harry and Malfoy. Did you see?

I wish Harry would say something here. Just, y'know, that's she's all right. Or not. Or whatever.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 04:46:58](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I saw. I'm pretty sure she's in her cubby now.

By the way. I don't even know what to think about Dean Thomas deciding to reveal my secret by talking about how worthless half-bloods are -- maybe he thought no one would know he'd sent the note? -- but nice work sending him to the hospital wing. (At least, I assume that was you.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-12 05:18:23](#)  
(no subject)

That was definitely me. And he's lucky had any bollocks left after that curse hit him.

Not sure why I didn't pull a detention, but I'm not complaining.

You really have to go to the Strettons tomorrow? I mean, it's not as if it's the Christmas rush. Why do they care?

Ugh. Want to meet me now? I think Finicky's got to be asleep

by now, and even if he's not. Tomorrow's hols, right? It's worth the risk.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-12 05:21:56](#)**  
*(no subject)*

The Strettons want me to come so I can finish training Megan Jones. I suggested I just go straight to Pansy's but nooooooooo. But I turn seventeen in LESS THAN A WEEK and after that, I never have to go back there.

And yes, I'd love to meet you. See you soon!

**2014-04-11 16:43:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Mr Snape and Cedric Diggory*



 [alt\\_terry](#)

I happened to look at my journal in the middle of doing some brewing for the infirmary.


I am very sorry about the PepperUp potion.

I've cleaned up the mess and then I'm going to make myself scarce for awhile. But if you want me to come back and scrub out cauldrons or something after the meeting tomorrow to make up for wasting ingredients, I'll do that.

Cedric, don't expect me back tonight.


Oh. If Mrs Longbottom asks, tell her I promise faithfully I won't do anything stupid. Wand honour. And I will come to the meeting.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-11 21:56:58](#)  
(no subject)


Are we still on for travelling together? Remember we'll need to met a couple hours early.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-11 22:07:07](#)  
(no subject)

I'll be there in time. But don't expect me before that.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-12 05:33:32](#)  
(no subject)

I have cleaned up the mess in the laboratory already; I suspect tomorrow's meeting will run late enough that no one will wish to do anything after it is over but retreat to lick their wounds.

I trust this has emphasised the need for avoiding distractions whilst brewing.



 **[alt\\_tery](#)** at **[2014-04-12 12:58:17](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yes, sir. I won't do it again.



**[2014-04-11 16:51:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Hermione Granger*



Hermione?

It happened to me, too. The 'soiree,' remember?

 [alt\\_terry](#)

If you want to talk, I'll listen.

If you don't, that's all right, too.

I'm sorry.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 01:29:02](#)  
(no subject)


I remember.

It wasn't--I mean, it wasn't stripping that was the problem. I don't really care about that, somehow. I mean, I was prepared that Teddy would come up with something humiliating. If he'd told me to do it at supper, I probably would have said all right and made sure someone stopped me about as quickly as Daphne and Pansy did this afternoon. But I didn't want to disrupt the lesson, and when I told him I couldn't do that, that's when he put the Imperius on me.

And I mean, I've been under Imperius before. You know how it feels as well as I do, but it was--different, with Teddy giving the orders. Having his voice in my head, you know, that was worse than I anticipated. And harder to fight than I expected.

I'm all right. I will be, anyway. I'm not giving him the satisfaction of anything else. But I'm fine, in all the ways that count.



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-12 02:27:11](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad you replied.

I think I understand. When you've spent years as a mudblood, you have to detach yourself from your

body, and so it doesn't seem to much matter what happens to it. Certainly it's in the Protectorate's interest to humiliate as much as possible.

But you and I were okay because we kept our minds free. They were our own safe space. And then to have Teddy Nott invade it, that horrible, sick, scrofulous little shite--urgh.

I wonder if we could ask for more tutoring from the Order senior members on protection from mental attacks.

But you're right, you will be fine. If anyone can learn to jettison Teddy Nott from inside your brain, it would be you.

I'm glad Daphne and Pansy acted fast to get you out of there.

I'll see you at the meeting tomorrow, yeah? And I'll believe you when you tell me you're all right.



 **[alt\\_tery](#) at 2014-04-12 02:27:38**

*Order Only: Private message to Terry Boot*

I only wish I could tell you how much I love you.

I would kill Teddy Nott for you if I could.

**2014-04-11 19:58:00**

*Private message to Ginny*

I just received your owl, dear, and of course you may spend the night with Luna. Do thank the Browns for the invitation. I'll be there at the station to pick up Ron, and I can give you a kiss before you go off with Luna and the Browns, and then we'll see you for Sunday dinner as usual. Perhaps Luna can join us for that?



 [alt\\_molly](#)

I'm very excited that you're coming home very soon!

**2014-04-11 20:01:00**

*Order Only: Meeting tomorrow*

Luna's plan has worked, and so Ginny will spend the evening with her. The next Order meeting will begin tomorrow at around 3 pm, although there will be a break so that the Hogwarts contingent can be picked up from the station--we expect the train around four. And it will last, well, as long as we need it to last. We do have a lot to talk about.

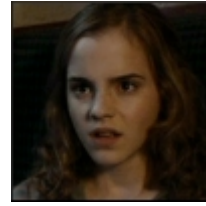


 [alt\\_molly](#)

I will serve dinner, if our business takes us that long, and for those who are able to stay.

**2014-04-11 20:44:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Draco*



Okay, that was not what I'd planned on, quite.


I'm just glad it's over. Harry, was Professor Lestrage really cross with you?

 **alt\_hermione**

I'm fine. But I'm glad everyone goes home tomorrow.

---



 **alt\_draco** at **2014-04-12 02:21:14**  
(no subject)

I knew you would say you were fine. It's okay if you're not, though. Just so you know.

So. What do you want us to do, Hermione? What do you want to do?



 **alt\_hermione** at **2014-04-12 03:43:29**  
(no subject)


Right now, I wish I could take a proper long soak in a hot tub.

But that's not what you meant.

I don't know if there's anything much *to* do. Who can make Teddy stop? His father, maybe. But why would his father care?

I think at this point even if we somehow got him dropped from the contest, it wouldn't matter. He'd just make a nuisance of himself from the viewing stands.



 **alt\_draco** at **2014-04-12 03:52:02**  
(no subject)

Maybe Hydra's on the right course. Make him face enough public scrutiny for his undue interests, and perhaps he'll leave off.

Or one of us could complain to Sarah Yaxley, again. Because if there's one thing Teddy might be afraid of, not making the council could be it. Notifying her didn't work so well last time, but who knows, could still be worth a try.

Bugger Yaxley and her stupid pumpkin-head anyway, for choosing him in the first place.




 **alt\_hermione** at [2014-04-12 03:56:22](#)  
(no subject)

You forget that Yaxley herself has sort of a weird sense of what's artistically evil. Remember those portraits she had in the gallery in New London?

She probably thinks there's great beauty in the sight of a blood trail.

I wonder if we could get Teddy an audience with Voldemort? That might wipe the smirk off his face, at least.



 **alt\_draco** at [2014-04-12 04:08:23](#)  
(no subject)

Yaxley's mental. Bellatrix Lestrange meets Daphne Greengrass. But her candidate is lagging behind, and there's nothing artistic about that.

You know, I reckon if Voldemort ever legitimised Teddy, he'd murder him right on the spot. Now that the Carrows are gone, there can only be one to hold the title of most sadistic in all of England.

Hey, do you still have Harry's cloak?




 **alt\_hermione** at [2014-04-12 04:18:08](#)  
(no subject)

I--

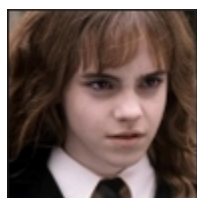
Yes, I have his cloak. It's the last night before holidays, you can't possibly be thinking of sneaking out now and getting into trouble? Or do you want to

wear it while you stand at Teddy's bedside and make him think the Bloody Baron's haunting him?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 04:21:31](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not planning any kind of trouble, no. But put the cloak on and follow me when I come out of the common room, yeah?




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 04:23:32](#)  
(no subject)

Why?

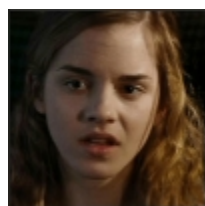
Is it important? Because the last time I put the cloak on and followed someone, I was stuck for a couple of hours and I'm really tired.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 04:25:26](#)  
(no subject)

I mean, it could be a couple of hours. That all depends on you.

I'm going to get you into the prefect's bath. Which would have been a *surprise*, if you'd ever let someone surprise you.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 04:30:00](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh, well, that's a lovely offer, Draco, but...  
No, I don't want a soak that badly. Besides, I'm in my cubby and it's snug again and I *am* tired. I'd rather not have to go out again, even under the cloak.

But thank you, anyway.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 04:33:55](#)  
(no subject)

Oh. Well, maybe Harry can find one at Buckingham where no one will notice.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 04:45:32](#)  
(no subject)

Well, don't get cross.

I'm just too tired to move right now, unless I absolutely had to do.

I don't need Harry to sneak me into a bathroom, either.



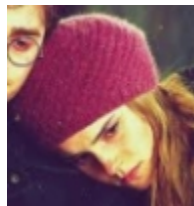
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 04:49:20](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not cross! Where did I say I was cross?

It was just a whim, and I can see now that you're not in the mood for whims.

Understandable.


So if you're too tired to move, maybe you should stop writing already.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 04:54:16](#)  
(no subject)

All right. I do need to sleep, so, yes.  
Goodnight.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 04:55:03](#)  
(no subject)

'Night.





 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-12 05:29:04](#)**  
(no subject)

He wants me to discipline you. We'll figure out something in the morning.

I think he was more angry at Teddy, really.

I'm glad it's over too.

**2014-04-12 01:22:00**

*Private message to Barty*

I am entirely too awake for it being so late, and it occurred to me while I was going over my outstanding odds and ends: have you had a chance to inspect the package you picked up yesterday?



 **alt\_antonin**




 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-04-12 06:27:22**  
(no subject)

No, but could.

Hold that thought.



 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-12 06:30:23**  
(no subject)

I do not wish to interrupt if you are otherwise occupied.




 **alt\_crouch\_jr** at **2014-04-12 06:40:49**  
(no subject)

Needed to set it aside, anyway.

Contents are significant enough, but slender. Gist is:

Lines reopened with AB, but quietly. Tentative still.  
SR favourable but still swaying. Not certain whether more pressure or more distance required.




 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-12 06:45:16**  
(no subject)

Not surprised either is coming around. They are not stupid; they know full well which side is more advantageous, and I did not think it would take more than a chance for sober consideration for them to realise.

You passed him the phials, yes? If I am to continue devoting myself to this farce, I do not want what little intelligence I have been able to coax out of that lot to be wasted.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-12 06:53:49](#)  
(no subject)

Doubt it demands sober consideration to see what CMx2 represent. Expected R, at least would circle back.

Phials in perfect condition. Stasis charmed.




 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-12 07:03:49](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, solnyshko; that is one worry off my shoulders.

I hate this so much. Particularly with recent developments to knock at one's confidence. And yet, every time I am tempted to leave off the plan, I am able to pick up another tiny scrap -- SD would not be so candid with me if she thought my alliances were still firm, for instance.

Let us hope we do not need to keep up the pretence for much longer.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-12 13:44:51](#)  
(no subject)

I ought to have realised the chance of sleeping in was vanishingly small.

I have forgone the pleasure of breakfast at the castle and supervising the merry departure, and am back home. Unsurprised you are not -- you are undoubtedly hard at work -- but I did find the photographs, and the notes on identification, that you left in the library. On the off chance it will be of use in your current work:

Item 0041: You are missing Dedalus Diggle (back left) and Edgar Bones (behind Black). I know that Bones is dead -- I was on that raid

as well, in point of fact, though Lucius was commanding. (You were finishing your NEWTs.) I do not know what happened to Diggle.

I hadn't recognised Remus Lupin until you labelled him -- I had never looked twice at him until he came into Our Lord's service after that whole business with Pettigrew. (Though I suppose that decision must be suspect now.) I do recall Snape endlessly whinging about him, Black, and Potter, however. If he is still alive, what is the possibility he's with Black? (I'm sure you've thought of tracing Wolfsbane ingredients to see if they lead you anywhere; I mention it only to be completist.)

Hagrid's first name was ... oh, I had it on the tip of my quill before I began writing that sentence. Rufus? Something that began with an R, at least. I will look it up again when next I am back at Hogwarts.


Item 0042: The one next to the Prewett twins is Elphias Doge. Believe he was killed Halloween '82. The woman next to Lily Potter whom you recognised but whose name you could not remember is Marlene McKinnon, and yes, that was me, with Travers attending -- that was the night you could not slip free of your father, remember? You were cross about it for weeks.

Item 0043: The man next to Dumbledore is his brother Aberforth. I've no idea on the older woman in the hat with the handbag either.

Item 0044: All three unidentified people look exceptionally familiar, but I cannot place any of them immediately. I'll try again after I've had my coffee.

So, no immediate leads -- most of those I was able to identify are dead or missing -- but perhaps there will be some useful familial connections to tug upon.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-12 16:37:32](#)  
(no subject)

By all the gods and saints, this is driving me mad.

The fourth photo, the one with the blond hair that goes everywhere. I know I know him. I don't think we killed him, but -- I want to say that raid in Brixton, where we burned out the townhome of that woman who'd been writing editorials to the Prophet in support of Dumbledore. He was one of

the ones who responded, wasn't he? Took a curse from Rookwood,  
and Gus was surprised it didn't kill him.

What was his name?

**[2014-04-12 01:33:00](#)**

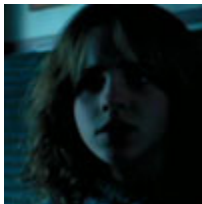
*Order Only Private message to Miss Granger*



 **[alt\\_severus](#)**

I do not wish to pile additional obligations to respond on your shoulders, so you need not reply if you are sick of discussing the matter: however, presuming you do not object, when you return from holidays we ought begin study in resisting coercive magic more readily. While it would not have been appropriate in this case to do so, you ought have the skill to hand should it prove necessary.

I am sorry that you had to undergo such an ordeal.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-12 20:51:47](#)**  
(no subject)

It's mostly that he made me interrupt a *lesson*. If he'd had me do it in the Slytherin Common Room or something, I'd have just said yes and made sure Pansy and Sally-Anne would stop me before everything went too far.

And more practice would be good, yes. I've resisted before but his Imperius was--different. Hydra said his thoughts were especially hard to discern, too, like they went all off in different directions. His Imperius was sort of like that as well, in that he was constantly shifting. But never quite letting go, either. So it wasn't that it was particularly *strong*; it was just *slippery*. And sort of slimy.

But I'm all right. Really. I knew he'd try something fairly prurient, so that much wasn't a surprise.

Only, something odd did happen last night. I mean, I knew I'd need to tell Draco I was all right, and I knew Terry would want to know, so even though I really didn't want to talk to anyone I did, because I knew they were just worried. But then Draco asked me if I wanted anything.

He's never done that before, for one thing, so I just said the first thing that came to me, which was that I wished I could soak in a hot bath for a while. And the next thing I knew he was trying to get me to

follow him under Harry's cloak so he could sneak me in to the Prefects' bath. Well, he was practically *ordering* me to come with him but that's because he said he was trying to surprise me.


Does that sound normal for Draco? It's not, is it. He just doesn't think about other people ahead of himself, not very often. And certainly not me.

Anyway, then he got all cross because I didn't immediately run out for a bath (though he said he wasn't but you can never tell with him when it's on the journals) but he started speculating that Harry would have to find a safe bathroom for me in Buckingham and I dunno, he was a bit obsessed with the idea that I needed a bath.

I was too tired to really argue the point but I really hope he wasn't trying to say I smell or anything.

It was probably nothing. Just that he didn't know what to say after that display in the lesson. I just don't want him to suddenly get all strange and have anyone else notice it. That would be really dangerous for him.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-12 23:26:25](#)  
(no subject)

Interesting. While the ~~victim~~ target of an Imperius curse can often sense nuances in the strength and sensation of being under the curse, depending on whom it was who cast the spell, that does seem a dramatic difference. Perhaps I ought manufacture a reason to take a look in Nott's mind myself, or ask Albus to do so; without meaning to slight Miss Lestrange's natural talent in the least, she is very new to the discipline, and may not be as experienced as necessary in interpreting what she perceives.

Or, of course, perhaps his mind may very well be significantly unusual. Still, if I am able to ascertain the ways in which his mindset differs from the average witch or wizard, I may be able to reproduce the sensation somewhat, to allow you practise in fighting against it. As it is clear Nott has chosen you as a target, in no small part because he is challenging Mr Potter's perceived authority and your own supposed inferiority is the battleground upon which he has chosen to fight, you will undoubtedly find yourself in another situation in future in which he attempts to suborn your will. While

you may find yourself needing to feign compliance, you ought not be forced to do so without a choice.

Mr Malfoy likely wished to allow you a moment of choice in contrast to the choicelessness you had thrust upon you; it is a natural human reaction when one sees a friend in distress. I would not be concerned.

Meanwhile: I will be brewing Lupin's Wolfsbane tomorrow. Do not risk yourself to win free; I cannot imagine you will not be observed. To compensate for the loss of the brewing opportunity, I have several other projects of equal complexity you may choose from when we return to Hogwarts.



**[2014-04-12 09:27:00](#)**

*Private message to Narcissa*

- Narcissa, hello. It didn't miss my eye that you wrote to Hydra.



Tell me, how is she doing?


 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)**

As much as I would like to inquire after her myself, Bella's definition of "interference" has become so tight that I'm keeping my quill to myself, for now.

To give you an idea of what I mean: I'm ensconced in my workshop at Le'Strange and am to be nowhere near St. James during the school hols. Not until I've proven my absolute trust in Bella's authority over our daughter.

And while it would be rather diverting to test the limits Bella's rules, I've only just recovered from the last time.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#)** at **[2014-04-12 16:15:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I am under similar restrictions. Bella says my influence would only 'confuse' Hydra at this juncture.

As for our girl, I can't tell. I think she feels she must conceal her reaction from Bella - wisely - but it seems to extend to anyone offering support. She has been feigning a certain sanguinity toward the proceedings which is admirable for a public front, but concerning when it continues in private. Either that or she really did not care for the lad as deeply as all her previous protestations would have indicated. I am not sure which option I prefer. If the former, surely she will lose her resolve and perhaps harm herself or others unpredictably. If the latter, then she led us on a merry dance for no discernible reason.

In any case, she did take the opportunity to tell me that young Nott lost no time insinuating himself into her routine. I am tempted to visit Brunhilda to see if she can convince her nephew to let the girl alone. She needs distance. And one would not like to think that her erstwhile paramour might seek vengeance against a new rival.

What a tragedy that would be.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2014-04-12 16:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

I admit, I'm almost sorry that Hydra developed those same gifts that Bella always valued so highly in herself. When she reached her seventh birthday with no indication of skills in either legilimency or occlumency (to say nothing of her introspective, subdued nature), Bella was disappointed in the extreme. That others saw value in this child who was quite different from herself only made Bella dismiss her more. On her insistence we tried again and got Rigel.

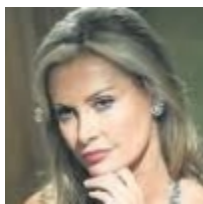
(Funny, I just now remembered how often she complained of you and Lucius at the time, having gotten your "perfect child" on the first go. You know how offended Bella is when the world won't let her have her way!)

Now, in seeing her daughter with fresh eyes, Bella has scooped her back up and taken her to the nest, prepared to fatten her up in all manner of ways.

None of this makes Hydra her mother in miniature (as much as Bella might insist otherwise). And I don't care to imagine what Bella will do if she's disappointed again. My ~~Dueki~~ daughter's current state is no doubt part-facade, part-armour, though it may be erected for more reasons than we can discern.

Every child wants their mother's love, and she finally sees a chance to get it. She knows all too well that it comes with fangs, but human instinct is difficult to overcome.

As for young Mr Nott, how serious are his intentions? He's on holiday. Perhaps I ought to pay him a visit and see for myself.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-12 18:13:15](#)  
(no subject)

I know. I had always hoped, given how difficult it was for you two to achieve any child, that Bella would cherish the result, barring Squib or other deformity.

Alas, Bella's love has always been a stingy commodity, given and taken, traded like she has only so much to bargain with.

I've no doubt Hydra is arming herself against the scrutiny Bella will surely be paying her over the holidays. I only wish I'd been able to convince her to drop that façade long enough to rid herself of the worst of her emotions, in order to better prepare herself for the onslaught of Bella's 'training'. But your daughter has always forged her own path, for good or ill. She has an inner strength which, I am sure, will stand up to Bella in its way.

I would have thought you'd be happy that at least Bella can no longer sift through Hydra's thoughts like so much sand. I love my sister but she does seem to think of your children as wholly hers, instead of people in their own right.

Perhaps that's why we were so lucky with Draco. He made his preferences and dispositions known early on and I never saw reason not to indulge them, particularly as they were (usually) perfectly acceptable. His exploits with Harry notwithstanding, of course, but boys together will always egg each other on, as I'm sure you and Raz can attest.

I confess I was much easier dealing with the two of them as a duo than I ever was with young Nott. I've no idea of his intentions, from the infinitesimal amount Hydra has seen fit to tell me. She only said that he was 'too intense' for her liking. Knowing the boy as we know the father, that could mean any number of things.



 **[alt\\_rodolphus](#)** at **[2014-04-12 19:07:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Bella always has plenty to bargain with. Not love, but other things. And while it is something to know that Bella can no longer manipulate Hydra the way she once did, if I know my wife then she will find another means soon enough.

Word, unofficial as it is, has it that Draco has performed outstandingly in our latest competition turned spectacle. There, too, I've heard that Hydra has held her own. I admit it remains outside the realm of my imagination to envision them in our

Lord's circle just yet. She's still a child to me, just as Draco must surely be a child to you and Lucius. But they do grow up fast.

Until I hear more on the matter of young Nott, I will leave it in Hydra's hands to keep him in line as she sees fit (and I know she can defend herself in this regard better than most would suspect). All dogs can be brought to heel, once you find the approach that sticks. Ask Alecto Carrow.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-12 20:02:20](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, Bella has never scrupled to leave anything off the table. Particularly when she smells any sort of weakness.

By the way, Hydra seems to believe you merely felt betrayed by her attachment to the boy, and that is why you've reversed your support (tentative though it was) of their promise to each other.

That wasn't the whole reason, was it?

How is Mrs Sandoval-Pennifold? It did not escape *my* notice that you've written her for the first time in a long while.



 [alt\\_rodolphus](#) at [2014-04-12 20:09:56](#)  
(no subject)

As you know, it is never a question of if dear Bella will use some nugget of knowledge against you - it's only a question of *when*.

She has impeccable timing.

I fully expect that Mrs Sandoval-Pennifold is well as ever.

**2014-04-12 09:35:00**

*Private message to Lana Sandoval-Pennifold*



 **alt\_rodolphus**

- Lana, should your weekend allow you respite from your other duties, I'm in my workshop at Le'Strange and could use the assistance of my former artefacts protégé.

I can tell you a bit about the items, should you need convincing that the visit is worth your time. One is undoubtedly remarkable, truly one-of-a-kind (words I would never use carelessly). The other appears rather unremarkable, given its state, but I anticipate that its appearance is highly deceiving.

Would you like to know more?

**[2014-04-12 14:48:00](#)**

*Private Message to Remy and Alfie Jugson*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Lads,

As you know, I've been spending mornings and evenings both with Professor Dolohov. The restrictions on my movement at school have made it jolly difficult to seek either of you out to explain more fully what happened between me and your cousin, so of course, no one could expect you to have any privileged information from me, and I've been unable to talk to you about the fallout which was inevitable. Consequently, I'm sure you didn't know that several publications contacted me to ask for my story, which of course, I declined, as any gentlewizard would do.

Nonetheless, I heard that yesterday's new issue of *Posh* features an article that directly addressed the circumstances leading to Hydra's announcement on Monday. Professor Dolohov received his copy and kindly allowed me to read it. Luckily, he believed me when I told him that I bally well had nothing to do with authorising anything to be put on the record.

Of course, as I said, I haven't had the opportunity to ask you if you know who might have spoken out of turn in order to contribute the statements made by the 'unnamed close friend' of mine mentioned many times as their source. I say, I don't need to know who it was and I don't *wish* to know. What I *do* want to do is to get a message to that person, which is that it was decidedly a dashed foolish, misguided thing to do.

I'm absolutely certain that whomever spoke to the author well believed it would be helpful to present the story as if Hydra and I have been ill-used. I'm certain that the source thought he--or she, what--was taking up the cause on my behalf and staving off any accusations that I took advantage of the daughter of two Council members. (At least, it's preferable to the alternative, which is that someone spoke out to deliberately capitalise on our misfortune, what.)

If you've heard any of the gossip on the train today, you'll agree that whatever the intention, the result twists our situation to make it seem as if Auror Lestrage is some sort of harridan and we are star-crossed lovers out of *Romeo & Juliet*. Which is certainly not the case, as you well know. It's a highly disrespectful interpretation of the situation,

inviting speculation when it was our hope to put the matter to rest quickly, quietly, and with a minimum of fuss.

Moreover, I'm very concerned because the magazine's source talks about details of the Lestrangle family dynamics which, whether true or not, should have remained private matters. If Auror Lestrangle were to decide to find the person who said that she looks down on the rest of her family as if they were the scrapings off her shoe--and that this same disdain is trained upon any potential suitor for her daughter other than Marvolo--I fear she could locate him or her easily, and would not be willing to listen to any argument in that person's defence.

I couldn't possibly comment on who might be privy to the intimate history of the Black, Lestrangle, Malfoy, Jugson, Pennifold or any other connected clans in your august and complicated family trees. But I strongly suspect that *she* might have ideas in that direction. I say, I would not wish her to feel her honour has been impugned by anyone close to me.

It's not that I don't appreciate an attempt at support, what. I merely worry that some well-meaning person waded into what could have been a simple case of two young people moving on in their lives and has fed the press a likely suspicion that there is more under the surface than might otherwise have deserved notice.

If you happen to know who might have provided any of the statements, I say, perhaps you could remind those persons that they had best make it the last time they attest to it. And absolutely the last time that they have anything to say on the subject.

I'd have sought you out to discuss this in person only, I think it's best that I remain separate for now. And you know I'm not coming back with you this evening, as well? I've been invited to stay with Ron Weasley for a day or two and by then I should be able to talk with your father about moving out on my own in time for the summer holidays. I'll miss you both but I think it's for the best, what.

Your affectionate foster-brother,

-Justin

**2014-04-12 15:25:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov and Raz  
Lestranger*




Raz. Free from your shackles?

Want a third for a bit of OL's business. You're just the wand we need.


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2014-04-12 20:47:57**  
(no subject)


Our kit is settled at Spence. I trust you have something strenuous in mind not sitting on our arses and staring at a window?



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2014-04-12 20:51:07**  
(no subject)

My dear, after the day you had yesterday, we would hardly bring you along if we were to have nothing more than frustration at the end of it.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2014-04-12 20:53:29**  
(no subject)

Good. Get to go in and smash or interrogation as well? What's the goal?

Getting my outing kit together. How late should I tell Rory I'll be?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2014-04-12 20:55:26**  
(no subject)


Took care of the business that required subtlety this morning.

Now it's pure sport.

Tell Rory you'll see her for breakfast.





 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-12 20:57:38](#)  
(no subject)

Surely you aren't insinuating it will take us that long to round them all up, solnyshko.


Unless you intend to take your time.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-12 21:03:36](#)  
(no subject)

What's the fun in rushing?



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-12 20:57:41](#)  
(no subject)

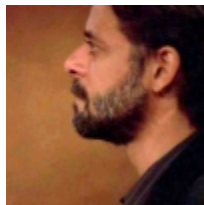
I'll be ready to go in a few. Where do you need me?




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-12 21:13:26](#)  
(no subject)

You'll want rain gear and proper boots: weather's been wet in the SW. Forecast is dodgy.

Farms out there are nothing but mud pits.



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-12 21:16:47](#)  
(no subject)

Meet at my townhome, and we'll proceed from there; as you may suspect from my involvement, this is not an MLE operation, but straight from Our Lord Himself. Tell no one.

We've unravelled a few nests of vipers. It's amazing how many leads can come from one seditious supplier. And how many people believe that no one will ever trace the ink.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-12 21:18:41](#)  
(no subject)

Rory knows I'm out on Our Lord's business, it involves you two, time of return and nothing else. I'm on my way.

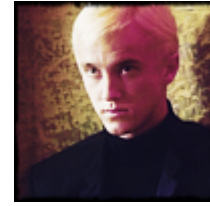


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-12 21:26:57](#)  
(no subject)

Have the perimeter stones. Grab the rucksack would you, as you come down?

**2014-04-12 15:42:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Harry and Hermione*

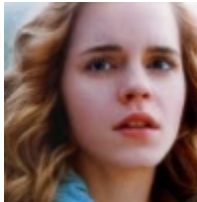


**alt\_draco**

Bloody nightshade. I ought to have stayed in New London with Daphs.

Weasley, G. just interrupted the Order meeting and all has erupted in chaos. And we're meant to trust these people to take down Voldemort without getting caught?

It was too loud for my liking so I've gone upstairs. Horrible little bedroom that smells of shoes. Weasley shoes. And there's a ghoul groaning at me.



**alt\_hermione** at **2014-04-12 22:20:27**

*(no subject)*

I saw Luna's post.

We just couldn't get away. First there were all those reporters and photographers waiting at the station (I still have spots in my eyes and they weren't even aiming for me, it was all Hydra and Harry together) and then as soon as we reached the exit there was Mr Broome waiting for Harry, telling him he was already late for--something.

Sounds like there won't really be much more of a meeting now, though.

Did they Obliviate her?



**alt\_draco** at **2014-04-12 22:29:00**


*(no subject)*

No. They gave her a choice between being Obliviated and joining, and she said she wanted to join.

It's just that easy, it seems. I thought to suggest they have Hydra legilimise her first, just in case, but I ended up not. If they've made a mistake we'll just have to live with the consequences of it.

Anyway, since the meeting went all pear-shaped I've got out of there. Snape, too, and some of the others.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-12 22:33:14](#)  
(no subject)

That's been happening a lot lately, hasn't it?

Things going pear-shaped, I mean.

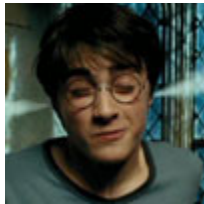
And here I thought this term was going to be normal. Relatively normal, I mean.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 22:34:36](#)  
(no subject)

Normal?

What's that?




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-12 22:36:58](#)  
(no subject)

You know, I'm really not sure.

I bet it'd be boring, though.

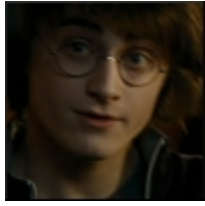


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 22:44:21](#)  
(no subject)

Only a Gryffindor would say that, Harry.

I'm back to New London and waiting at a cafe for Daphs. We're to see a concert tonight. Nice, normal teenager socialisation.

Too bad you can't both come, too.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-12 22:54:53](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah.


Have fun.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-12 22:38:19](#)  
(no subject)

I guess it's that easy if you're a Weasley and not Percy.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-12 22:54:53](#)  
(no subject)

But he has the red hair and freckles. Surely that's all it takes?

**[2014-04-12 16:19:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Jeremy Stretton and Ron Weasley*




Since apparently it would have been disastrous to the Order to hold its big meeting AFTER the 17th ... would one of you of-age people like to tell me if anything interesting happens?

 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)**

(And Jeremy, did someone cast a 'harridan' hex on your mother? she was nasty to Megan, she shouted at Philip about his marks and she just bit Gemma's head off for interrupting her.)

---




 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:27:27](#)**  
(no subject)

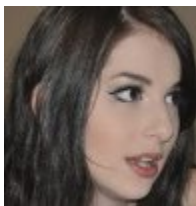
She's like that intermittently. There doesn't seem to be an arithmantical formula to predict it, more's the pity.

Nothing much here yet.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:29:01](#)**  
(no subject)

You're not the only one missing, by the bye. Harry and Hermione aren't here. Neither is Hydra.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:30:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah well Hydra's hardly surprising. Harry either. And Hermione would need some sort of convincing 'errand' in order to make it.

See, next week would have been better.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:31:17](#)  
(no subject)

Um

Did you see Luna's post?

Did you get WANTED FUGITIVE SIRIUS BLACK hustled under a bed somewhere before Ginny Weasley walked in?




 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:32:27](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh dear.




 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:33:54](#)  
(no subject)

Sirius is in dog form. (Merlin. I will never get used to that. Animagi are just startling.) So is Terry.

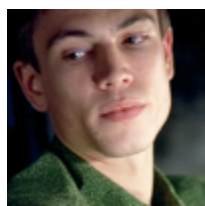
Oh




 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:36:11](#)  
(no subject)

RIGHT.

Yeah, this is going to go well.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:37:11](#)  
(no subject)

How loud do these Weasleys get?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:39:36](#)  
(no subject)

Very.

Very, very, very.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:38:30](#)  
(no subject)

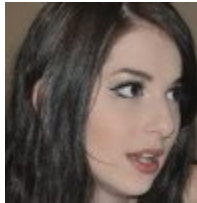
Right.

Weasley yelling. From multiple Weasleys.

Ginny, that's her, right? She's sharp.

She twigged immediately.


Oh, Merlin.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:40:34](#)  
(no subject)

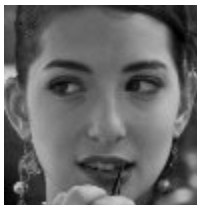
Well I think you should just LET HER IN. She signed on to treason when she helped us with that book.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:41:44](#)  
(no subject)

Right.

Shall I just give her your greetings then?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:42:10](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah okay you do that.






 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:49:28](#)  
(no subject)

Done.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:40:15](#)  
(no subject)

AND she's recognised the Longbottoms. We're in the cauldron now and that's no lie.

Oh.

Oh, Fu Lee.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:41:24](#)  
(no subject)

So everyone ELSE got to meet the muggle who blows things up but not me (or Hydra or Harry or Hermione)?

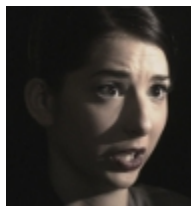
And now GINNY gets to meet him.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:42:55](#)  
(no subject)

Fu Lee just waited until there was a pause in the yelling, walked up to Ginny, stuck his hand out, and said "Welcome to the Order."


Man's got ice in his veins.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:45:18](#)  
(no subject)

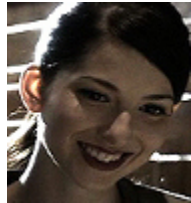
Well it's that or Obliviating her.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:50:24](#)**  
(no subject)

Right.


They're asking her right now.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:56:27](#)**  
(no subject)


Ginny's not going to say 'oh sure just make me think I went shopping.' No way. Any more than Ron would have EVER IN HIS LIFE.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 21:59:07](#)**  
(no subject)

Too right.




 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 22:02:53](#)**  
(no subject)

Right, then. She's in.

Everyone here taking break for tea, calming draughts, side conversation, eyerolling and

whatever.

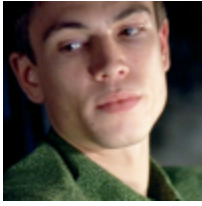



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-12 22:01:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh.

Heh.

Guess you haven't missed it, after all.




 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 22:04:08](#)  
(no subject)

Merlin's mandibles, you people keep a lively house.

How'd you manage ever to get a word in edgewise, growing up here?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-12 22:08:29](#)  
(no subject)

Who says I did?

That's why we've got be loud. When you do want to be heard, y'know?



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 22:09:20](#)  
(no subject)

Look, it seems to have settled down to a dull roar here, and I'm superfluous at the Weasley family joining-the-Order party. Be home in a tick. Might be able to distract Mother. She still in full harridan

mode?



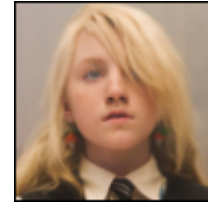
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 22:11:50](#)  
(no subject)

Well I haven't heard her in a while but I've been hiding out in my room. So. I guess be ready to duck quickly.

**[2014-04-12 16:23:00](#)**

**ORDER ONLY: EMERGENCY**

**Ginny and I were just settling in for a long talk when Mrs Brown came **STORMING** in to my room! Lavender tattled about me kissing Harry Marvolo at breakfast yesterday and--oh, Mrs Brown started scolding me like a **fury**, saying I was an ungrateful hussy, and an idiot to raise my eyes to the Lord Protector's son, and how could I bring such shame on their entire family, and then--**



**[alt\\_luna](#)**

**oh, she said I was in such terrible trouble that there was no way I could have a guest over, and she sent Ginny scuttling off to the Floo.**

**Ginny's going to be coming through at the Burrow Floo any second!**

**Is the meeting over?**

**Can you, I don't know, **HIDE!**?**



**[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-12 21:28:49](#)**

*(no subject)*

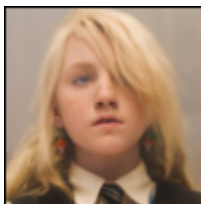
What?!



**[alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-12 21:29:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

oh merlin



**[alt\\_luna](#) at [2014-04-12 21:41:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

Is she there? Did she see anybody!?



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-12 21:42:32](#)  
(no subject)

Um. Yeah.


Just about everybody.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-12 21:42:48](#)  
(no subject)


Well, this'll simplify things.



 [alt\\_luna](#) at [2014-04-12 21:43:27](#)  
(no subject)

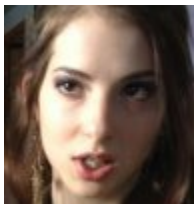
I'm so sorry...



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:43:29](#)  
(no subject)

Well according to Jeremy, Terry and Sirius managed to turn into dogs.

But she recognised Alice Longbottom. So...I'm not sure how much that helped.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:44:08](#)  
(no subject)

Well, the good news is:

it wasn't PERCY Weasley you had to lure to the Browns.

anyone know where he is right now?




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-12 21:51:18](#)  
(no subject)

Not at the Burrow, promise.

We changed the house wards so it'd backfire on him  
SPECTACULARLY if he tries to get in.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-12 21:52:06](#)  
(no subject)

Good move.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-12 21:52:56](#)  
(no subject)

Well that's good but a ward to keep Ginny from  
popping in mid-meeting was out of the question?


I mean I think you can trust her but it might have  
been nice to ease her into the idea...



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-12 21:58:40](#)  
(no subject)

Well, we Weasleys have a long history of surprises.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-12 22:38:43](#)  
(no subject)

Um.

So.

I know this is sort of not as big a deal as, you know, Ginny, and all,  
but would it help with the Browns if I sent a note or something?

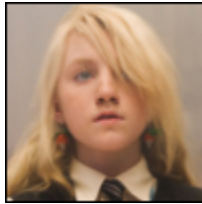



 **alt\_luna** at [2014-04-13 22:57:36](#)  
(no subject)

That's very kind of you to offer, but no, I think the least said, the soonest mended. (However, if you do appear in public the next couple of days with Katie or have any interviews where you mention being happy with her, that might help, too. I've told them and told them that you don't have the slightest interest in me, and I'm NOT trying to break up the Lord Protector's son from his girlfriend.)

I don't know if you have any plans with Katie over the holiday at all, so I'm not asking you to--to make a big point or anything. But if it's clear you're ignoring me, because I'm beneath your notice, I think their panic will die down a little.

I'm confined to my room for three days, but that's all right. It will give me time to catch up on my sketchbooks, and to study for my OWLs.



 **alt\_luna** at [2014-04-13 23:03:56](#)  
(no subject)


I just saw the *Prophet*. Um, I don't know if you want people to think you're with Hydra Lestrage. Perhaps it was her mother who arranged those pictures, because she wants people to think you're interested in her? I don't know.

Just--if anyone asks you if you're with anyone, please don't mention *me*.

I have a difficult time of not thinking that the whole thing is terribly silly. It may not be for Katie or Hydra, though.

I'm sorry if I've made things more difficult for you in any way, too.



 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-14 04:04:06](#)  
(no subject)

Don't worry about it, Lunes. I'll make sure you aren't associated with any of it.

For what it's worth, I think it's all ridiculous, and I'm sorry you're in trouble over it. I didn't say anything about it to anyone that'd suggest that I took offence or anything.



**2014-04-12 16:37:00**

*Order Only:*

An ambush....


Now THAT'S Weasley style!



 [alt\\_gredforge](#)

---




 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-12 21:41:00**  
(no subject)

Yes, only it's your sister doing all the ambushing.

Isn't the point of an ambush to use superiour numbers to overwhelm the other side?


-Justin



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at **2014-04-12 21:44:51**  
(no subject)


Am beginning to suspect that one Weasley IS superiour numbers, mate.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at **2014-04-12 21:53:45**  
(no subject)

Handy thing that your mother's good with Reparo. That's a nice teapot.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-12 22:03:10**  
(no subject)

You say that as if it's something to be proud of.

Has no one heard of floo wards?

**[2014-04-12 16:42:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Bill and Charlie*



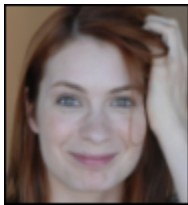
Here we are.


I know we were expecting to ease her in eventually, but Weasleys do tend to have an unerring tendency to jump right over carefully laid plans and land right in the center of things.

 **[alt\\_alice](#)**

I know Ginny has more than a bit to sort through, and I expect to have a more lengthy conversation with her about security protocol once the dust has settled. I also can imagine Molly is more than a little distracted with all that's happened today as well.


Keep an eye out, will you? You don't need to hover, of course, but I anticipate that once she's had some time to think through the reality of her situation, our newest recruit will need to know that she has your support. This is a large and sudden shift for her, after all.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 01:41:32](#)**  
(no subject)

And goodness, I don't believe I've ever encountered such joy at being told there's a revolution brewing under one's very own roof.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2014-04-13 02:50:20](#)**  
(no subject)

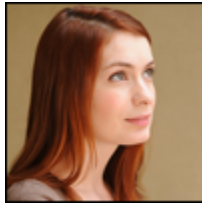
Right. Well...


Ginny talked with all of us a bit, and then I explained the lock to her and she went off to her room for awhile to read. Now I think she has some questions so she's closeted with Ron.

It's a bit like she's been on a three day binge of Fizzing Whizzbees.

It was a shock for Mum, and that's no mistake. I'm glad Poppy left some of that potion for her.

At least that's the last one.

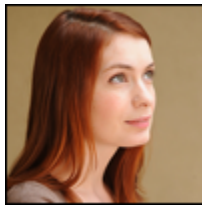



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 02:54:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Good on Ron.

I'm sure she'll settle eventually. This is, after all, quite a dangerous business we find ourselves in, and that can be quite sobering in the light of day.

I'm glad you're all in it together.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 02:55:31](#)**  
(no subject)

I'd imagine this is a very bitter sweet moment for all of you.


Still. I'm grateful that things sorted themselves out as they have with Ginny.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 05:19:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, and Bill, Charlie, I'd like to avoid making this sort of error in security protocol again. I hold you both personally responsible for reviewing the warding at the Burrow, and if we are to meet there again in any capacity, I expect you to oversee the security measures.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-13 12:55:25](#)**  
(no subject)


Sorry, Alice. We Weasleys are an excitable lot, aren't we?

Bill and I, and Fred and George, did redo the warding at the Burrow after Percy made it clear what he thought of us, but Mum would have flipped her lid if we'd proposed we didn't put Ginny on the exclusions list. Still, I should have thought about what happened if she had to come home unexpectedly, and I didn't.

I won't make that mistake again -- I'm sorry for making it this time.

I think we ought to be careful not to meet anywhere that isn't under Fidelius, even if it is inconvenient. If Sirius doesn't want the lot of us invading 12GP, maybe Aldrich would be willing to let us meet there occasionally in exchange for some work on the citrus groves? (Which, I mean, I'll stop in whenever I can and help them with that anyway, but still. If we trade something for the help, they'll be less likely to feel like we're their charity project.)



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 17:18:20](#)**  
(no subject)

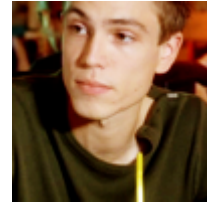
Agreed - whenever we've got people who are currently undercover, in disguise, etc., we ought to meet in a place secured by Fidelius. And as Sirius is no longer insistent about steering clear from Moddey, we can meet there.

I anticipate, however, that the Burrow will often become an informal gathering place for those of us not currently in hiding -- especially our young members -- where they may feel as if they can talk freely because they are all among fellow Order members and do not have to censure themselves around Ginny anymore. I would like you to revisit those wards to possibly add warning of unexpected visitors, and be vigilant about preventing the casual passerby or the deliberate spy from overhearing something they shouldn't.

**[2014-04-12 18:10:00](#)**

*Order Only: private message to Hydra and Sally-Anne*

Hydra, I was asked by Justin to fill you you and Sally-Anne in on what's happened today, as you two were not at the meeting.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)**


Right, then.

Ginny Weasley walked in partway through the meeting. Sirius and Terry changed to dogs, but Ginny knew something was up. Then she recognised Alice Longbottom and twigged to what was really going on. There was considerable yelling, mostly Weasley yelling. Alice and Remus offered her a choice between Obliviation and joining the Order. So she's in.

Oh, and in the midst of the yelling, when there was a break, Fu Lee walked up to her, stuck his hand out, and said, "You must be Ginny. Welcome to the Order." Dead impressive, that.

So. Questions?




 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-12 23:21:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. I wondered what that was about.

So... that's just it, is it? She was welcomed in without any questions, or anything?




 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 23:26:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, well. There were questions in the yelling part, but they were sort of all at once. Alice took charge then, and she and Remus talked with Ginny. I didn't catch all they said, but they seemed satisfied. Alice is sharp, and a good judge, so. Yeah, she's in.


I mean, I trust Alice. It was a bit of a whirl, though.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-12 23:28:39](#)**  
(no subject)

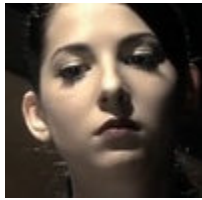
Apparently it's a Weasley tradition to learn about the Order by surprising a relative.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-12 23:29:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I see.


Well, what Mrs Longbottom says, goes.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-12 23:54:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I know they'd actually been thinking about it. About her, I mean, Ginny. Charlie asked about her in March. Ron was saying then that they should just tell Ginny and swear her in, though I don't imagine he was thinking it would be brilliant to have her just walking in to an Order meeting.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-13 00:03:19](#)**  
(no subject)

So all the Weasleys were thinking about it.

That's understandable. She's their sister.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-13 00:07:34](#)**  
(no subject)

Charlie asked everyone for their opinion, back in March -- I mean, he said 'especially the Hogwarts crew' but it was open to everyone on the lock. I imagine the people who didn't know Ginny (or care about her) just skipped right past it, though, it's not as if we haven't had other things on our minds.

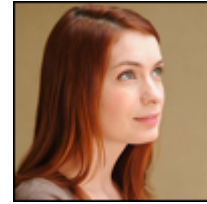
I think they were planning to feel her out over spring hols. Maybe tell her a LITTLE and see how she took it. So -- in for a knut, in for a galleon, I guess.

It bothers me more she was able to just walk in. When meetings are at 12GP it's under the Fidelius. Obviously they can't put the Burrow under a Fidelius but if they're going to hold meetings there... The Twins said that it was IMPOSSIBLE for Percy to get in, which is something. I hope they're right.

**[2014-04-12 18:36:00](#)**


*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Molly*

How are you holding up, dearest?



 [alt\\_alice](#)



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-13 02:16:59](#)

*(no subject)*

Poppy's calming draught helps. I may have a more coherent reaction in a day or so.

Oh, *Alice*. It's just such a foolish mixture of shock and pleasure and terror and weepiness and


I will never forget the look of utter contempt on the faces of Draco Malfoy and Severus Snape when they left. How *could* I have made such a blunder? I thought the arrangement with Luna and the Browns would suffice. Some of the others might not believe it, but the floo *was* warded, to everyone but the Order and family.

Well, except Percy, because the Burrow's wards have been changed since--you know.

Merlin, Alice, I'm frightened and delighted and so *very* sorry.

And oh, I wish Arthur could have been here tonight.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-13 02:46:57](#)

*(no subject)*

I keep thinking of him too. What he would've thought about all of this, and how very proud he would've been to see his daughter look over at us and say, 'Of *course* I'm joining in!' as if it made all the sense in the world.

And don't keep hitting bludgers at yourself, Molly. We can certainly learn from this, of course, and take more precaution in the future should we have any more meetings in the Burrow, but what's done



is done, and no harm came of it. In fact, something very good came of it.

**[2014-04-12 19:39:00](#)**

*Order Only*

I promise I will keep all your secrets and never, ever make you regret letting me in to your secret organisation, this is the most brilliant thing I've ever heard in my LIFE (and I got to meet SIRIUS BLACK and ALICE LONGBOTTOM today) and I'll keep all the secrets and thank you all so much, I'll try really, really hard to be worthy of this honour.



 [alt\\_ginny](#)



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **[2014-04-13 00:52:21](#)**


*Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

Oh, well, so long as you try really, really hard.

Ginny, I'm glad you're here and that the rest of your family doesn't have to lie to you anymore. But I hope you realize that people's *lives* depend on keeping our activities secret.

And the Order isn't just purebloods, it's muggleborns like me and Terry Boot and all the children your father and others rescued from the camps. Their lives depend on us, too.



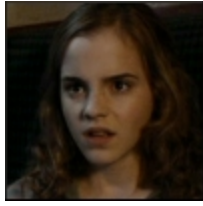
 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **[2014-04-13 00:54:24](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

I said I'd TRY to be worthy.

I said I'd KEEP YOUR SECRETS. Full stop.

And they told me there were muggleborns, you and Terry Boot and the babies -- well not babies anymore, some of them, like that boy Colin who was here, he was one of them, they said.




 **[alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-13 01:07:17](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

I just think we could use a little less excitement and a little more sober understanding of what it means to be part of us.

There are a lot of people who had to prove themselves before they joined. I don't think you'd deliberately betray anyone here, especially given what it would mean for you, personally, and I'm glad you think it's super nifty-keen. Only it's really not nift most of the time, it's just difficult.




 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 00:52:31](#)**

*Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

I'm glad you're in, too, Gin. I've been telling them you're old enough. You couldn't've pulled it off any better if you'd planned it, really. I mean this way Mum really couldn't say no.

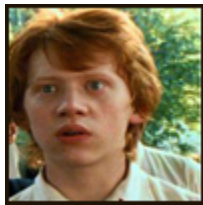
So well done, you.




 **[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 00:55:16](#)**

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

I don't think Granger Hermione Granger likes me.




 **[alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:02:13](#)**

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

Why? What did she say to you?



 **[alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:07:30](#)**

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

She just sounded really cross and sarcastic and like she thinks I'm not taking things seriously. Ron, I know that if anyone (especially Percy) finds out

about this they'll kill ALL of us (and probably worse) and I'm NOT GOING TO TELL. ANYONE. EVER.

I don't know what I should have said differently to make her believe that? Would they do something worse to her than they would to any other traitor, because she's muggleborn? Because really I'd think that there's a point after which things just don't get worse and I'd really think ALL of us would be there (except for maybe Hydra, why didn't any of you mention that HYDRA LESTRANGE was a member?)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:33:30](#)

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*


Um. Because there hasn't been time? I mean, if you want, we can sit down tonight or tomorrow or something and I'll tell you all the members I can remember and tell you all the things they've been getting up to.

I can tell you some about Dad, too.

About Hermione. It's a lot of things, I think. I mean, it's not so much what would happen if we get caught, but I think all of it just looks different from where she stands. Like a chess match looks different to the pawns than to the queen. You know how sometimes the pawns just get irritated that they've been sacrificed again? Anywiz. And she's had kind of a lousy week, Hermione. And it's because of who she is. Because she's a muggleborn and Harry's muggleborn, I mean. Teddy Nott imperiused her yesterday ~~to do some~~ didn't you hear about it?

I'd just give her time to get to know you. And know she can trust you.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:36:32](#)

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*


Oh. OH. I'm an idiot, I didn't even THINK about that.

I did hear about it, but you know, there was SO MUCH yesterday, all those secrets that got spilled (including the one about Sally-Anne, which was just horrid, poor Sally-

Anne, is she with her foster family right now at least?) it didn't really sink in.

But no wonder she's in a foul mood, after having that happen to her. I imagine I seem like a particularly foolish little kid, compared to her.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-04-13 02:09:36

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

Yeah. Sally Anne's at the Strettons.

Trapped there for now.

Anywiz, Dean Thomas deserves a lot worse than I gave him for what he did to her.



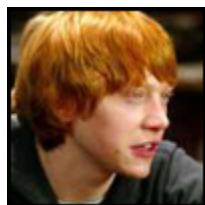
 [alt\\_ginny](#) at 2014-04-13 01:05:03

*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

So I went and looked in your old posts to see if you'd said anything interesting I couldn't see and mostly you had about a million private messages to Sally-Anne (I'd wondered why you didn't PM more, you know, some couples PM each other CONSTANTLY) but you ALSO had one to

ARISTA  
SELWYN

and Mrs Longbottom, so wait, did the Order rescue her when her father was discovered to be a traitor?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-04-13 01:38:07


*Re: Private Message To Ginny Weasley*

Um.

Yeah, actually. Some of us did. Not the grown-ups.

It happened the same day Professors Siz and Raz got married, and a lot of us were there, and Arista wrote me a note--it's kinda a long story. I'll tell you that, too, as soon as we get some time to talk.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-13 00:57:07](#)  
(no subject)

Welcome.

I suppose that will be another one from our year, which could be helpful. You never know.




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:00:40](#)  
(no subject)

YOU'RE in the Order? But you But your mother But

I guess given Draco Malfoy I shouldn't be so surprised? They told me about Harry but they forgot to mention you.

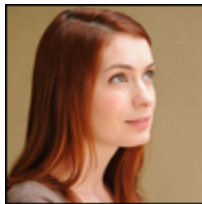



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-13 01:04:58](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, for a while now. Before Harry and Draco were, actually.

Also, I don't know if he was at the meeting but Mr Macnair, who tried to kill Harry in first year, is also in the Order.

I can't think of anyone else shocking who is. Not right now, anyway.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-13 01:08:37](#)  
(no subject)


To be fair, there was quite a bit to cover, dear.

We'll get the chance to talk further over hols, and I'm sure your brothers and your mother can answer immediate questions that come up. There are several years' worth of past entries if you're curious as well.

Jeremy Stretton and Cedric Diggory are two of our newest recruits who had a lot of catching up to do when they first joined as well -- you might see if they can pass along any words of advice.

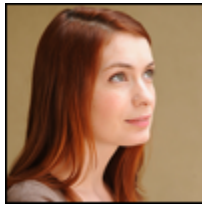
Welcome to the Order, Ginny.




 **[alt\\_ginny](#)** at **[2014-04-13 01:10:02](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Mrs Longbottom.

I'm not even sure where to start with the old entries.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 01:16:40](#)**  
(no subject)

There's no rush to know everything right away, and we certainly don't expect you to.

Take your time.

I imagine Ron can help you track down one or two things he found to be particularly illuminating as well.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 01:30:15](#)**  
*Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

I know today has been quite the whirlwind for you, and you've got a lot to process.

I know first-hand how very hard it can be to keep secrets from loved ones. I even fought about it with your father on more than one occasion.

Frank and I kept our Order activities from Neville and Evelyn for years, and only recently told them the entire truth. Neville even had to get obliterated once.


But Ginny, know that your family loves you very much. Yes, they kept this rather large secret from you, but this secret was not theirs to share.

Regardless of how you got here (and goodness, you certainly made quite the entrance!), asking you to join us was certainly something that your family was hoping for. We were actually

planning on testing the waters with you when you were going to visit Charlie over hols.

So you see, you were already on our minds as someone we would like to see join us, and I'm so glad that you have.




 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-13 02:01:14](#)  
(no subject)

Welcome to the Order.

If you want to skim, start with the meeting minutes. My other suggestion is to put your journal down before bedtime. Don't read in bed. I know I sound like I'm trying to be a parent saying that but it's from recent personal experience. I kept reading so late several nights running that I came close to getting in trouble at work the next day. Also don't read remotely near people that aren't on the inside. It's an incredibly emotional experience, both good and bad.

In case it hasn't been specifically said, I'm the only one in my family in the Order. I may well be the only one with sympathies this direction, so my parents' house is not a safe haven you could run to.




 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-13 01:49:06](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, what Alice said. It's a lot to take in at first.

Welcome to the Order.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-13 01:16:13](#)  
(no subject)

Seems it was bound to happen sooner or later. Nothing says "traitor to the Protectorate" more than typing Black's and Longbottom's names in all capitals.


You may find it more difficult to enjoy reading back and seeing what all your friends and loved ones had to say about you before you could



read what they wrote.

I suggest you save *that* for a night with wine and firewhisky.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:22:27](#)

*Private message to Draco Malfoy*

DID they say unkind things about me? Because, I had a cursed tiara for several years that made me a really pretty awful person, especially to my brothers, and if they said unkind things about me back then it wouldn't be too bad, because I really was not myself. Although if it's really terrible you're right, I might feel pretty terrible after.

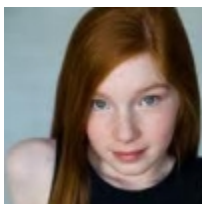


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-13 01:29:50](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco Malfoy*

I honestly don't know, but it's entirely possible. Then again, my perspective might be tainted, given what I had to read about me.

I doubt you'll find anything too terrible, but if it comes from a family member, or someone who you trusted, it may feel terrible, anyway.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-13 01:31:50](#)

*(no subject)*

Hello, Ginny.

Welcome to the Order.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-04-13 04:36:23](#)

*(no subject)*

Good to add another Gryffindor to the mix!



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 04:39:22](#)  
(no subject)

Ha! There are a LOT more Slytherins in this organisation than I would have expected!




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-13 02:34:00](#)  
*Private message to Ginny*

Like we said, we're dead chuffed that you're in, Gin.

But you need to understand that not everyone else is as pleased, not because it's you, but because it was quite a breach of security to have someone stumble right into the middle of an Order meeting. Even if it turned out to be someone who turned out to be thrilled to be there.

So there might be some fallout from that. Everyone in that room could have been facing terrible fates if you'd turned out to be somebody else. So don't be surprised if some are a bit prickly the next few days, yeah?




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 03:13:30](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ginny*

You're REALLY sure Percy couldn't have got in, yeah?  
You weren't just saying that?

REALLY sure.



 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-13 03:57:16](#)  
*Re: Private message to Ginny*

You don't have to worry. We're dead certain of it, Ginny.


The night he pulled that stunt, testifying against Mum, Charlie and Bill said it was time to protect the Burrow against him. So the four of us stayed up all night, took down the Burrow wards and rebuilt them from scratch so he can't ever get in again, even though he shares our blood. Not just the house, but

everywhere on the property. Bill used Dad's notes, since he constructed the original wards, and the defensive spells he'd learned from working with the goblins. Technical stuff, but you know that ward weaving's a skill that runs strongly in our family. Charlie says he reckons we got it from Mum, since she's so good with charms.

We had some of his hair, pulled from an old hair brush and we tested them with that, just to be sure.

No. He can't ever get in again.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-13 02:41:36](#)

*Private message to Ginny*

I'm about to take a kip on the floor in Mum's room, just in case of nightmares. She was a bundle of nerves, but she seems to have finally dropped off from the potion.

Anyway: if it's the middle of the night and you can't sleep and have questions and need to talk, come and shake my shoulder, and we'll go down and make some tea and discuss whatever you want to ask about. All right?

Love you, Gin. Glad we can be as honest and aboveboard as we've wanted to be with you, for a long time.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 03:16:39](#)

*Re: Private message to Ginny*

Thanks, Bill.

Ron says he'll stay up as late as I want to, but if he drops off and there's something I really want to know I'll come wake you.

I just, you know, when I found out I thought for a minute that it was all a ruse, with Percy. That he was in on it, too. And when you said no, he's not, and he can't ever find out because he'd turn us all in --

Now, I've really lost him, and I know I'm really not ever getting him back. Ever. Because he's our enemy. Percy is. That's just

I wish

I don't know.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-04-13 04:09:20

*Re: Private message to Ginny*

Mum and Dad fought as hard as they could to keep Percy, but he was always ambitious, you know, and proud, and I guess rather ashamed of his background.

And then Lucius Malfoy got his hooks into him.

I think all that's left to hope for is that somehow he'll see the error of his ways, before he's taken the Lord Protector's Mark and ends up on the Council. I don't know what it'll take to turn him around. But it can't be his family. It's simply too dangerous to try, because--and yes, this hurts--he doesn't care about us enough to listen to us.


I meet with him every week, you know; have lunch with him to pump him for information. It may be that he'll give us a tidbit we can use, and if that's the case, maybe if we have our way and the Protectorate falls, it'll be enough to get clemency for him.

I don't know if he'd even want it.

I'm afraid there'll be a lot of hard things you'll learn, reading the journals. We've had to make some painful decisions, and not all of them are admirable, by any means. I include myself; I've done things I'm ashamed of, for the Order, but I'm firmly convinced they were necessary.

I guess you'll see more clearly what a difficult and dangerous path some of us have had to walk. And maybe a lot of things about the last several years will suddenly make much more sense, in hindsight.




 **[alt\\_ginny](#) at 2014-04-13 05:01:39**

*Re: Private message to Ginny*

I guess some of it's just, you know, that could have been me.



 **[alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-04-13 13:00:51**

*Re: Private message to Ginny*

Oh, Gin.




 **[alt\\_kingsley](#) at 2014-04-13 04:34:54**

*Private message to Ginny*

Welcome to the Order. My old friend Arthur would be very proud of his daughter today.

He was quite a man, your father. A genuine hero, really. You'll learn a lot about him you didn't know if you go and read old back entries.



 **[alt\\_terry](#) at 2014-04-13 04:45:25**

*(no subject)*

Welcome.

I was there at the meeting, but you might not have seen me, because I transformed to my Animagus form right as you came in.

Anyway.

I owe the Order everything, and particularly your family. You can be proud you've been given the chance to join.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-13 12:28:37](#)**

*Private message to Ginny*

I would have stayed last night, but I didn't want to overwhelm you completely. Still, if there's something you want to talk about, you know where to find me. Has Mum stopped having kittens yet?

Still up for coming to visit next week, or are dragons not cool anymore now that you've got secret resistance organisations with wanted fugitives to learn about?



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-14 03:15:52](#)**

*(no subject)*

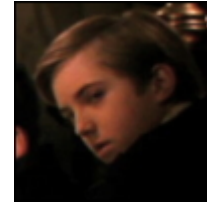
Hello, Ginny.

-Justin

**[2014-04-12 19:40:00](#)**

*Private Message to Megan*

So, er, how did your guardian react? To your, erm, hair problem?




 [alt\\_ernie](#)

At least you don't have to go out for a couple of days, now, right? But once you feel up to it, should we maybe get together in New London?

---




 [alt\\_megan](#) at **[2014-04-13 01:09:32](#)**  
(no subject)

The glamour that we got out of the book turns out to only last for twenty-four hours. And I don't have the book. And besides Sue was better at casting it than I was. I tried and it didn't take, it was just some wavy fuzz floating about an inch away all around my head and somehow that was even worse. So I am bald again. And Mrs Stretton does not like it because she says I would frighten people if I went on deliveries and give them a bad name. So she is yelling a lot. But it's not like she hits people so it's been quite tolerable really. Though Sally-Anne has been having to do all the deliveries. Which is not fair to her.

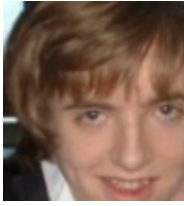
But I think I can transfigure this scarf I have into a kind of bonnet that might work. I should have thought of it before really. Except I was trying to get the glamour to work.


But yes New London sounds like a good idea when I am not so busy here. Because even if I am not doing deliveries there is a lot to learn and a lot to do. But at least it means they are likely to keep me on.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at **[2014-04-13 01:10:33](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh, didn't I tell you? I am at the Strettons. Because I have to learn the rest of the business things so that I can have the position here.



 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2014-04-13 01:11:22](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, right! I remember now. I forgot you were going straight there.




 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-13 01:12:30](#)  
(no subject)

How are your hols going so far, then?

I miss you already.




 [alt\\_ernie](#) at [2014-04-13 01:18:25](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, fine. The babies aren't really babies anymore, they're running all over. Mum said she tried to get a second mudblood but there weren't any for hire, so she wants to start looking for a witch to nanny them.

We just got back from a big supper in town. Pip and Laurie want to go flying just about every day but if Mrs Stretton wants help with deliveries, I'm sure I could convince them to do that instead.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-13 01:37:49](#)  
(no subject)

I think today would not be the day for me to ask if they could help. She really has been impressively cross. Jeremy Stretton is hiding in his room. So is Sally-Anne now that work is done. And it's not really all that much delivering anyway. It's just that she was cross that I couldn't do it. Or rather that she was cross at everything in the world today, and finding out that I was without hair and useless for deliveries was just one more baneberry in the potion.



**2014-04-12 20:22:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron Weasley*




This is a really, really private message isn't it? The Order can see that I'm sending it but NO ONE ELSE IN THE WORLD can read it. (Unless there's an Order member in the office that reads all our private messages? Do you suppose they really READ them all or just some of them? Anyway they can't read these, unless they're in the Order.)

 [alt\\_ginny](#)

Anyway I'm trying to read back through old messages and there are SO MANY, I don't even know where to start. I'm reading Bill's right now and there was this one post about an Auror and how everyone is studying occlumency -- OF COURSE everyone's studying occlumency. No wonder Hermione was so cross with me saying I'd keep secrets no matter what, she knows perfectly well I won't have studied it.

Where do you think I should go read? I mean, whose posts?




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2014-04-13 01:32:38**  
(no subject)

Wait, PADMA PATIL has a copy of Pure Victory? You gave one to HER?

I guess

Okay. I guess that's pretty funny. Do you know if she kept it?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-13 01:48:59**  
(no subject)

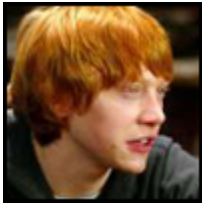
Yeah, no idea.


It's not like I talk to Patil much. About books or anything else.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:33:57](#)  
(no subject)

(I'm reading Sirius Black's posts right now. I was reading Bill's and then I saw something Sirius said and got distracted.)




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:47:58](#)  
(no subject)

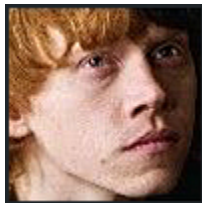
Yeah, read his. He's pretty hilarious sometimes. More than the rest of them.


And Mr Lupin's nice. Did you like him today? He's always like that--sort of everyone's favourite uncle, y'know? He writes summaries of all the meetings, and they're dead clever. He's got a sense of humour that sort of surprises you.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:51:04](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, he has meeting summaries? Maybe if I go read those some of this other stuff will make more sense? There's all these NAMES, I mean Bea and Strangeweale and Timothy and Maureen and everyone seems to know who everyone is so of course no one's explaining anything.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:54:56](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's the thing. It's not like reading a book, at all.

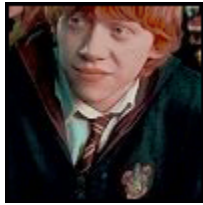
So don't feel as if you've got to read every single message ever.


They don't give an OWL in it.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:54:38](#)  
(no subject)

The first meeting summary I found mentions 'Strangeweale's breeding farm,' WHAT? WHY was he breeding PEOPLE?




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:58:15](#)  
(no subject)

Put down the book and come talk to me, yeah?

Or bring your book and you can just ask me stuff as you come to it.

Actually, you can camp in here with me tonight if you want. It's not like we've got to be up for lessons or anything tomorrow.




 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 02:02:49](#)  
(no subject)

I think I'd rather do that second thing, bring the book and ask you stuff as I come to it.


I'll bring my pillow and my blanket. How cross do you think Mum will be if we skive off chores because I was reading all your secrets until four o'clock in the morning?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 02:17:19](#)  
(no subject)

I think it's a dead excellent excuse!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 01:53:01](#)  
(no subject)

You should really ask Sally Anne.


I never really read all of them. I mean, it's years worth, innit? And so many people.

I read some of Madam Pomfrey's, I guess. And Mr Black's and Mr Lupin's.

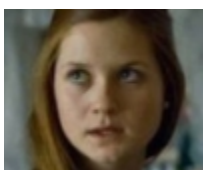
But mostly I read Dad's.


I don't know if you should. I mean, it was hard to read them, and if you think it'd be too hard, then don't make yourself do it. I had to, though. I mean, I wanted to.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:55:37](#)  
(no subject)


I haven't looked at Dad's yet.  
or Mum's.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 01:57:29](#)  
(no subject)


Oh and I see why things were so quiet at the Burrow over hols, you lot were really busy.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 02:07:58](#)  
(no subject)

Professor Brutka is ALBUS DUMBLEDORE?



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 02:20:13](#)  
(no subject)

Right right I'm actually coming this time.

the journal.

You can hear me yell things like 'BRUTKA IS ALBUS DUMBLEDORE' in person instead of reading them in

**2014-04-12 21:45:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Moony*

Merlin, what a day.

Justin's asleep. At least, he was going to get ready to sleep, poor sod. The double shot of whiskey he drank while we were talking will probably help, I bet.




 [alt\\_sirius](#)

I don't blame him. I'm exhausted just from that conversation and I haven't had anything like the fortnight he's had. But when you add our Evening with the Weasleys on top of the rest .... Firewhiskey doesn't even begin to cut it. Still, it gives me some thoughts about the next few radio addresses.

Hope Charlie and Dora are having fun, anyway.

Has the rain stopped? Only it'd be nice if you could close up early tonight.



 [alt\\_lupin](#) at **2014-04-13 03:10:46**  
(no subject)

It's been raining off and on. There's a few who've been lingering despite it, but I reclaimed their pint glasses a little while ago and told them I'm closing up. I still need to do Minutes, after all. Agenda Item 4: GINNY WEASLEY, OH BLOODY HELL.

**2014-04-12 22:01:00**

*Private Message to Mum and Dad*

I'll be there tomorrow morning after breakfast.

Just a reminder, I have my meeting with Transportation's Healer on Wednesday morning. I'm also scheduled with the Cannons for the first medical evaluation on the 22nd. I'll be gone for most of the day. To manage your expectations, even if I pass my relicensing for Apparition, I know that I am not yet fit flying form to be able to be hired yet. Dad, the **best possible result** of that evaluation is that they say they are excited to talk to me next month and that things are improving. ~~You know Dralworth is having another terrible season, so there's a tiny sliver of hope.~~



 [alt\\_cedric](#)

My exercises continue, so I'll be out very early and back for breakfast. I've also agreed to help a friend of mine every morning. Just last week he got placed on a similar regime as I am on and it would be terrible for him if he stopped over break so I'm going to help keep him on track.

**2014-04-12 23:43:00**

*Order Only: Meeting Minutes*



 [alt\\_lupin](#)

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Order of the Phoenix

Date: 12 April 1997

Location: the Burrow

**Order Members Present:** Sirius Black, Alice Longbottom, Frank Longbottom, Colin Creavey, Kingsley Shacklebolt, Albus Dumbledore, Molly Weasley, Dora Tonks, Charlie Weasley, Bill Weasley, Dorcas Meadows, Caradoc Dearborn, Remus Lupin, Poppy Pomfrey, Pomona Sprout, Fred Weasley, George Weasley, Lee Jordan, Severus Snape, Cedric Diggory, Jeremy Stretton, Terry Boot.

**Order Members Arriving Late:** Ron Weasley, Neville Longbottom, Evelyn Longbottom, Justin Finch-Fletchley, Draco Malfoy.

**Order Members Absent:** Nick Towler, Cecilia Perks, Walden Macnair, Minerva McGonagall, Arabella Scrim, Hermione Granger, Sally-Anne Perks, Harry Potter, Hydra Lestrangle, Rhymes with Rudy.

**Special Guests:** Fu Lee, Ginny Weasley. The meeting was convened at 3 p.m. Because we were expecting a substantial contingent (all current Hogwarts students) to arrive at 4 p.m., but we had quite a bit to get through, we started the meeting with status reports.

## **REPORTS ON ONGOING PROJECTS**

**1. Aldrich Town and the Radio Station.** Lee updated us on both. The radio station broadcasts at selected hours around the clock, since it's possible some people can listen only very late at night. They broadcast a mix of music, news, and commentary; they've been reading 'Pure Victory' a chapter each day, as well as some muggle classics; they're trying to provide content of interest to both muggles and wizards.

Overall, Aldrich is doing quite well, except for the citrus orchard, which survived the winter but is looking rather the worse for wear. Norman Bell, the resident wizard, has been rather too busy to keep it up; Lee has been similarly occupied. Considering the ongoing demand for oranges and lemons on the black market, they're wondering if any wizards with wands are interested in coming to live there to maintain it. I should note that the original arrangement, where Norman Bell's

wand was carried for him by a muggle who handed it over when it was needed, has been long since abandoned; both Norman and Lee are trusted members of the community.

Back in mid-March, Charlie helped a muggle Healer named Roger Harris to escape from Porlock and settle at Aldrich. The residents have been positively delighted to have him, particularly after someone fell off a roof they were repairing -- the man fell and broke his neck, and while Norman can do a few basic Healing spells, necks are more than a little tricky. Apparently Roger Harris was able to work with him to repair the damage. He's planning on a trip to Saltash to train what he calls 'paramedics,' and he's preparing some radio broadcasts on medical topics.

**2. The Bedford Collective.** Bedford saw the largest influx of refugees after the raid on Strangeweale's facility. Sirius was there on Mothering Sunday and says everyone's settling in as well as can be expected. Several of the women who initially refused wands are now asking for them. We wandered off on a tangential discussion of wand cores and how things are going with Ragnik (slowly, because apparently there's a goblin taboo against haste in such matters; also, it's customary to begin apprenticeships only in certain seasons, and I guess spring is acceptable but winter is not, or something like that). We agreed that if anyone finds an amiable unicorn in their back garden, we'd all appreciate as many tail hairs as it's willing to let you pluck. Ditto phoenix feathers and dragon heartstrings.

**3. Wands.** Alice mentioned that Arthur's wand has found a new owner: Pilar Mishraput, one of the youngest witches rescued from Strangeweale. Like many rescued muggleborn teenagers she was initially reluctant to touch a wand at all (and Alice noted that Arthur's wand was also clearly reluctant to be owned by anyone else, responding very poorly when picked up by various Moddey Dhoo children as they reached the age of needing a wand).

Last week, apparently Maureen may have been goading Pilar a bit about her reluctance, and apparently said that if she was that nervous, she should try Arthur's wand, as it didn't like anybody and she could count on not getting any sort of reaction. She picked it up, said 'lumos,' and every light in the house blazed up. So it's safe to say they were a good match.

**4. Octoberus research.** Jeremy delivered this report. He's been working with Cecilia Perks and a few others on mapping; they



discussed the latest stone and the intelligence at the Equinox from Rachel Brodie regarding the fact that Mysteries may have been as surprised as we were by which stone activated.


There was a bit more (my notes say 'pinging cycle'), but I got distracted by the arrival of the Hogwarts contingent, which happened in waves; we all took a bit of a break for greetings and a snack, then sat back down for the main part of the meeting, which was intended to include a discussion of Alice's overarching plans for the Order. This included some ideas from Fu Lee, and we'd just spread out a load of parchmentwork on the Burrow kitchen table when Jeremy spotted the message from Luna, warning us that Ginny was on her way. Sirius and Terry both transformed, and Dorcas and Caradoc Apparated away, and that was literally all we had time for before she walked in.

I'm not sure we actually had an official adjournment. After a period of ~~loud shouting~~ lively discussion, Fu Lee cheerily welcomed Ginny to the Order.

Most of the people at the meeting left; Alice and I took Ginny aside to try to give her a sense of precisely what she was signing on for; if she'd preferred NOT to be responsible for keeping secrets of this magnitude, we offered to modify her memory. She vehemently (and enthusiastically) asked to be let into the Order (and even knew it was the Order, given the note in the back of the copies of Pure Hunger that have been circulating at Hogwarts.) Alice swore Ginny in, and then we both left as well, to let the Weasleys talk with a bit more privacy.

We rather need to re-convene -- maybe in a week, at the Burrow again?



 **alt\_charlie** at [2014-04-13 13:15:29](#)  
(no subject)

Right, stuff I forgot to bring up at the meeting --

I was just saying to Alice, I don't think we should meet at the Burrow again. On the one hand, with the warding the twins and Bill and I redid a while back, nobody who isn't Ginny should be able to get in once we close things up, but I got to thinking about it a bit -- what if that had been MLE? They would have put out anti-Apparition wards. And I'm confident in our warding but I'm not confident it would stand against Barty Crouch and Bellatrix

Lestrangle, you know? And even if it did, all they'd have to do would be to wait us out. ~~Or set a fire and smoke us out, or~~


Sorry. Thinking of how bad it could have been. This should be our wakeup call. This time it worked out fine, next time it might not.

Sirius, I don't want to volunteer your house for you, but if we can't use 12GP for whatever reason, we should find somewhere else under Fidelius. I suggested to Alice, maybe we could trade work on the orchard to Aldrich in exchange for them letting us meet there.

I'm glad Healer Harris is fitting in so well. He really wanted someplace he could use his skills.

As for wand parts, I'll be stopping in this week with the centaurs to try yet again for permission to harvest the Forest, but things are touchy enough after what happened with the girl in the competition. There's a chance I might be able to get some heartstring -- we're about coming up on mating season, and sometimes some of the young bucks fight each other to the death. My first priority if I can is grabbing some dragon's blood, and heartstring is so much harder to do without getting caught, but I'll see what I can do.



 **alt\_sirius** at **2014-04-13 15:36:28**  
(no subject)

I've no objections whatever to holding meetings at Grimmauld. Moddey is our haven, but I'd be happy to consider Grimmauld Place our headquarters, after a fashion.

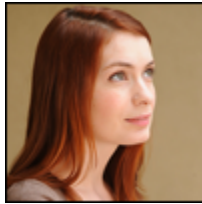
The only trouble is Kreacher. He did his nut when he discovered that the room we'd asked him to prepare for a houseguest was for none other than the blood traitor who had dared to consider himself an appropriate suitor to 'Mistress Bellatrix's eldest' and this morning when Justin arrived back from his run, Kreacher made sure to make his disappointment known. Kid took it well, no surprise, but it's clear that Kreacher still considers himself here under duress.


I'm confident that I've hamstrung him completely from revealing anything to our enemies. He's not allowed to leave the house except in specific instances. Those instances are extremely rare, and when we can't avoid them, he's under strict instruction that he's not to

speak to any creature, living or dead, other than to carry out whatever errand we've had to send him on. Which we almost never do, only because it takes almost as long to think of every possible loophole as it would to just go and run the errand ourselves.

And the Fidelius keeps him from allowing anyone else to come to the house, too.


So he's well and truly bound, but that doesn't make him any less of a risk when we're all gathered. The things he can overhear could well destroy us. I've habitually ordered him against repeating anything he hears in the house but I'd feel more comfortable if, when we're holding official meetings, we find a way to limit his exposure to our discussions, as well.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 17:20:08](#)**  
(no subject)

We could also meet at Moddey. It would require some coordination for our few members who cannot Apparate at the moment, but we would avoid the issues posed by Kreacher.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-13 17:23:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I agree that our currently undercover members should avoid amassing at the Burrow in the future. That does not exclude our Hogwarts contingent from gathering there, however, as long as they are careful should a neighbor or uninitiated classmate happen to stop by.

**2014-04-13 09:50:00**

*Private Message to Raz Lestrangle and  
A Dolohov*



Morning Prophet delayed. Promised it would  
make delivery for brunch reading.


 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Our work photographed well.

R. Especially good one of your tour de force. Glad you were along.

---



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at **2014-04-13 19:13:25**  
*(no subject)*

It was a pleasant exertion. Thanks for bringing me  
along.

**2014-04-13 11:18:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron Weasley and Luna Lovegood*



 [alt\\_ginny](#)


So the ten things I didn't know yesterday that surprised me the MOST:

1. I've been sitting classes for years with Albus Dumbledore.
2. And getting points taken from Gryffindor by Severus Snape for tracking in mud.
3. Professor Dolohov murdered Mum's brothers. However Professor Sprout, Headmistress McGonagall, and the Matron are all members of the Order.
4. Justin Finch-Fletchley is actually a muggleborn.
5. Draco Malfoy and Hydra Lestrangle think that muggleborns are just fine and ought to have wands. And in Hydra's case it WASN'T because Harry talked her into it, she's believed that for years. I mean I knew they were a bit subversive because they were there for the reading but it's a pretty big gap between 'there are things I don't like about the Lord Protector' and 'let's give wands to all the muggleborns.'
6. It wasn't the Order who rescued Arista Selwyn and her brother, it was the ISS. You and Sally-Anne. And Pansy Parkinson, Harry Marvolo, Draco Malfoy, Hermione Granger, Justin Finch-Fletchley, and Hydra Lestrangle. Everyone thought you were at the wedding and maybe in the loo but actually you were BREAKING INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF MYSTERIES BY YOURSELVES to rescue Arista.
7. Sarah Fawcett and Arista Selwyn are in the same place and Arista's being babysat by Maureen the muggleborn who came to the Burrow that time and they're hanging out with Neville and Evelyn's baby brother who's not actually a squib, that was a cover story (I guess that's actually more than one thing).
8. Our Mum has been friends for YEARS AND YEARS with Sirius Black, the Longbottoms, Kingsley Shacklebolt... are they a wanted fugitive from the war who isn't dead? probably our Mum has tea with them on alternate Tuesdays.

9. Our father wasn't just in a secret resistance organisation, he was the leader of it.

10. I found out because I walked in but you and the Twins, you worked it out on your own and told the Order you wanted to join, and I just -- HOW? I mean I was living in the same house and I never saw anything. I guess you had your own secret journal lock? But how did you guess about our PARENTS?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 22:12:01](#)

*(no subject)*

I know. It's all just mad, isn't it?

Especially #8. I mean, really?

But y'know, it was partly Mum that got me wondering about them. Well, both of them did things, really. Do you remember when Dad told us to remember a whole list of animals and if any of those brought us a message we should do whatever it said? I mean, first off, they weren't normal delivery animals. And he said it like they'd talk. Which they would, because turns out those are Patronuses for a load of Order people Dad would have trusted to help us run if they'd ever got caught. But there just were enough things like that, and... I realised. Well, Sally Anne and Pansy and all of us would talk things over, and we figured it out.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 22:17:08](#)

*(no subject)*

Oh, yeah. A weasel, a squirrel, a hawk, a cat or a Newfoundland dog. Those are people's Patronuses? I'd always been figuring it would be an actual squirrel. (Or weasel, hawk, cat, you know.)



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-13 22:18:56](#)


*(no subject)*

I feel like a dolt, thinking about that conversation. I mean I repeated all the animals back to him like he wanted, I promised to follow instructions, and ... then I never gave it another thought because it didn't

come up.

It was such an odd conversation and it never occurred to me to even wonder about it.



 **alt\_luna** at [2014-04-13 23:35:37](#)

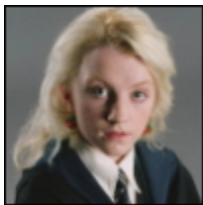
*(no subject)*


I just received my journal back from the Browns. I'm afraid I'll be stuck in my room the next few days because Mrs Brown is still quite angry with me, but I'll just use the time to catch up on my sketchbooks and study for OWLs.

It began with me because I was invited to join the I Solemnly Swear lock, and yes, that's the lock that Fred and George invented before any of us knew about the Order. It was a private way we could safely talk, and some of the things we talked about were the things that we noticed, but the sorts of things you couldn't dare talk about with someone you didn't trust.

And since we were all seeing different things, we started to put pieces together. Slowly. I started to wonder whether my father really did die in the epidemic. Other people were wondering about other things. It was as if...we all had pieces to the puzzle, and putting them together left an odd empty shape, that had something to do with strange little things we noticed that were happening. And that shape was the Order.

But yes, when we were finally able to read the Order entries, there were a lot of shocks.



 **alt\_luna** at [2014-04-13 23:41:19](#)

*Private message to Ginny*

When I joined the I Solemnly Swear lock, and then later the Order, I wished so much that I could tell you. But, well...I suppose you know now why we couldn't be sure it would be safe. The tiara.

(And after reading the back Order entries, I wished so hard that your Dad and Mum had been allowed to foster me, instead of the Browns.)

**[2014-04-13 11:47:00](#)**

*Private Message to Raz*



 **[alt\\_harry](#)**

Okay. So. It was Teddy.

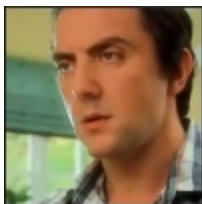
I didn't know what he was going to do exactly, but I told Hermione to let him give her a dare, and to do what he said. And that's what he had her do. And he put her under imperius to do it.


First off, I figured I had a choice. I could really push hard on this, or I could let him think he had a moment of victory so he'd leave off for a bit, and I could think of other things that would be more effective, because beating him up didn't work and I don't want

I'd rather think through options before it comes to that.

I know. It disrespected me, and you, and it was pretty much going against exactly what I specifically told him not to do. But he's let off a bit of steam, and there's Hydra to think about too, now. Not just me. So now I've got to figure out another approach, is all.

You told me to discipline her, so I have. But this was my call, and Teddy's action. Just so you know.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-04-13 19:18:46](#)**

*(no subject)*


He forced the interruption on my class, specifically and on purpose? That little sh

I understand your reasons for letting the dare go forward. It was probably the right choice at the time. If your orders were to accept the dare, why did he need Imperius? Which he is not licensed for, one lever we may be able to use.

Come by Spence when you can and we can discuss options. Bring your mudblood, it may be useful to take memories for evidence.





 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-13 19:21:53](#)  
(no subject)

All right.

**2014-04-13 14:00:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Ron,

How is Ginny adjusting to all the new revelations about the Order? I'm well pleased she seemed so ready to embrace the fact that her family are all resistance fighters, but one. I know you've all been quite tormented worrying whether she would really be able to throw off the Protectorate's propaganda, what. I hope she doesn't find us inhospitable, considering the circumstances of her discovery, and how tense things have been.

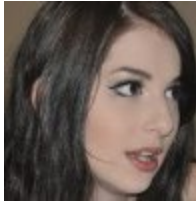
Speaking of tense--Sally-Anne, I'm sure you're relieved that all the other dares and blackmail stunts rather overshadowed Dean Thomas's tasteless fable but I did want to say that I'm well sorry he attempted to embarrass you that way. You and Hermione have had a jolly bad time of it, what, and please don't hesitate should you want support to teach Thomas when to restrain himself. Oh, and did I hear you've got an interview for an internship? Congratulations and good luck. I say, I'm sure you'll do brilliantly. How are things at the Strettons? Four days to go, right?

Cedric and I met and went running this morning and then he said that his mother was expecting us back for breakfast. They live quite near the Burrow, what, have you met his brother and sisters? Jasper's getting ready to start Hogwarts next year. I rather think his mother wasn't expecting someone who'd been in the papers but we got on well enough. Still, I doubt very much I'll be making a habit of coming back with him.

Ron, are we still on for Quidditch? I shall have to borrow a broom but it would be good to concentrate on something that isn't altogether catastrophic, what. Shall Neville and I be staying over or is it back to Grimmauld? (I've got to go back to the Jugsons on Monday but I say, I'd rather put that off if possible.)

-Justin

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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-13 19:30:17](#)  
(no subject)

Between Demelza Robins wanting to sleep with her family's muggleborn servant, Megan Jones drinking the potion that made all her hair fall out, and Vince and Greg crawling all over the school -- yeah. I think Ron taught Thomas a bit of a lesson, so there's that.

Things at the Strettons have been pretty wretched, Mrs Stretton is in what seems to be a permanent strop, she took Megan's baldness personally -- it didn't seem to occur to either of them that she could wear a hat or a headscarf -- and decided that I'd have to do all the hand deliveries until we could re-grow Megan's hair properly. At least it's not utter madness the way it is at Christmas. They do have an assistant of sorts these days but she let him go on holiday because she'd have Megan and I... Anyway. Yeah. Four more days. The interview is next week, with an older Russian lady who does ophthalmancy. Madam Pomfrey says she's brilliant -- she made Mad-Eye Moody's eye, apparently, but she REALLY doesn't like the implication there's anything mad about the eye!

Anyway how are you doing? Are you not staying with the Jugsons this holiday?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-13 20:10:23](#)  
(no subject)

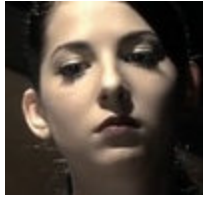
Oh, he did? I say, good show. I suppose we barely spoke on the train, what.

Jones did rather make a meal of her predicament, though it must be said that the table was well covered in hair after she'd done. I did think a scarf would be a simple solution. You told me how once you made Patil's hair fall out; didn't she just wear head coverings? I say, Ernie was well upset but mostly because *she* found the ordeal so upsetting.

I'm still living with the Jugsons, technically. I've been thinking of ways to avoid being there as much as possible, what--particularly with those photos in today's *Prophet*. Have you seen them? I expect Mr and Mrs Jugson won't be very pleased. And even if they don't travel in precisely the same circles as the Lestranges, I think it's best for everyone if I make my exit from the household as quickly as

possible. Sirius and I talked through a few options last night but we haven't got very far just yet. I say, we had more--pressing matters to talk about first.

-Justin



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-13 20:17:30](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll let Ron tell you what he did, I'm not actually sure what the specifics were but it definitely looked painful and I know Thomas spent the night in the hospital wing.

And yeah, Patil's hair. What was it we did? I think it was actually the Twins who made her hair fall out. Ron and Pansy and I caused the Great Insect Invasion of Ravenclaw Tower, but we didn't hex her bald, maybe the Twins did that because she was nasty to Terry? I can't remember. I DO remember everyone wearing scarves in solidarity (including me and Pansy, because, well, why not?) Daphne put a theatrical glamour on Megan but it wore off.

She really does look a bit strange, the potion made her eyelashes and eyebrows fall out, too.

Let me go grab the Prophet. I got sent out on deliveries this morning, haven't had a chance to look.



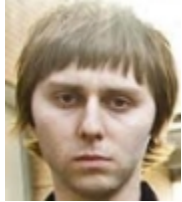
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-13 20:21:35](#)**  
(no subject)


Okay SERIOUSLY Justin no one's going to remember those photos of you, you're just standing there with Ron and anyway talk about being overshadowed. '27 traitors in Exeter taken in their lair in the act of plotting subversion,' with photos completely inappropriate to show in mixed company, over breakfast, or to small children.

Ugh. UGH. It's sort of extra awful when you think about the fact that the Burrow also had ...

heh

TWENTY-SEVEN traitors. In a 'lair,' if you want to call the Burrow that. Plotting subversion against Our Lord. No wonder Charlie thinks we should hold the next meeting at 12GP!




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-13 21:17:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not concerned with everyone 'remembering' me, Sally-Anne. I'd be perfectly happy if the whole business would settle down and never get mentioned again. But the Jugsons' attitude will be different from most people's. They'll be bitterly disappointed because they believed my relationship with Hydra improved their standing, if you follow me. I'm quite happy to be 'overshadowed' (though not that those poor people were killed, what)--I've just no patience for yet another dressing-down, particularly by people who have no business doing so and no authority over me. I'm sure you understand.

Were we twenty-seven? I suppose. No, 28 with Mr Lee. Twenty-nine if one includes Ginny, what, but by then several people had left.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-13 22:13:49](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, you're right, I looked at the minutes and counted 'Order Members,' I wonder why they didn't list Mr Lee as a member? Just because he can't read the journals? But he'd certainly count as part of the 'nest of traitors' if MLE had walked in.

Are the Jugsons truly upset about those pictures of you in the Prophet? You know you were in Posh as well? Though Posh seemed to be on your side, if not exactly ... well, I just don't want to be in the gossip magazines at all, but if I AM in them, I want them to be breathless about how pretty I am, you know, not sighing over my tragedies. (Although that's better than them calling me vile names.)



 **alt\_justin** at **2014-04-13 22:44:36**  
(no subject)

Yes, I've seen the *Posh* article. I hope they haven't--if anything, they'll be much more upset about that, even if it does appear to take my part. I say, did you read the section on the Lestrangle family? They hide behind their 'anonymous source,' what, but that source has given them a perfect excuse to attack Bellatrix for her snobbery and almost accuses her of tyranny over Hydra, her husband and indeed, her entire clan.

It's entirely too accurate, what.

Even if the Jugsons agree with the sentiments, I can't think they'll be happy with the idea that Bellatrix Lestrangle will take it into her head to find out who told intimate tales of the family's dynamics. I'm not afraid they'll think it was me, what, though that is of course a possibility. I'm afraid they'll be justifiably fearful of her revenge.

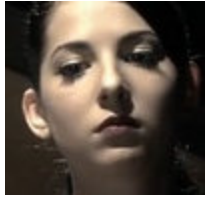
And anything that paints us as tragic, mistreated lovers is hardly going to help Hydra at present.

I can't even imagine anything good coming out of it, what. Such as Teddy f Nott reading it and realising how out of line he's been.

On the whole, if they had to cover the story at all, I'd rather they called me every vile name imaginable and left her family untouched. It's just dashed unfortunate that the magazine clearly saw a chance to strike at Bellatrix and used us to do it.

Ron and Ginny are feeling ready to play Quidditch, what. I think I'll volunteer to play Beater.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-13 22:48:55](#)  
(no subject)

SURELY Bellatrix would consider it below her dignity to take revenge on anyone because they complained she's a snob! ~~Do you think it was Remy who~~ But yeah. No, I can't imagine Teddy Nott reading it and thinking 'oh my, perhaps I should leave Hydra alone for a bit.'

I don't know what Posh was thinking going after Bellatrix at all. She's just not someone you tangle with, if you can avoid it.

Have fun flying. The Strettons just got a late order for a rush delivery, they're sending me out again.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-13 22:51:30](#)  
(no subject)

Wish you could be here. We've got quaffles and a snitch and brooms and bats and bludgers. And mud! in case anyone gets clumsy.

But we don't have you!

Think you could sneak out?

You and Jeremy could both come and then we'd just add you in on the sides?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-13 22:52:46](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, ha. That would be brilliant, BUT, someone just firecalled with an order of some extra-extra-extra large basket with special handling and I'm being sent out with it because they might as well get every last bit of free work out of me that they can, right?

Looking at the note here, I'm going to hazard a guess that some bloke's mistress is really, really cross with him right now and he's trying to make it up to her.

**2014-04-13 20:25:00**

*Order Only: Pandora's Box*


Right, so. What, if anything, did we know about these Pandora's Box people MLE massacred yesterday?



 [alt\\_sirius](#)

If I'm not mistaken that's the remains of a printing press in one of the photographs. Does anyone in our network know what they printed? Or does MLE hope that people will conclude *these* are the people who printed our copies of *Pure Victory*?




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2014-04-14 02:07:15**  
(no subject)

I've not seen a copy of the *Prophet*, but that's a name I've never heard (of course, they may have called themselves by a different name).

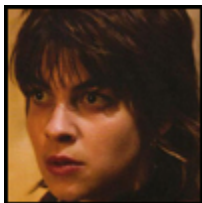
Alice, I'll talk with Davidson about making some inquiries with the button network.

Bill, can you get any information from your MLE contact?



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2014-04-14 03:35:47**  
(no subject)

Perhaps Sam Fawcett knows something about it.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2014-04-14 02:35:28**  
(no subject)

Never heard of them. Not in the camps nor anywhere else I've been.






 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-04-14 02:53:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Mac might have run across something.

I was hoping he'd be there yesterday.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-14 03:36:49](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, that's a good point.

Mac, if you're reading this, it'd be good for you to check in and let us know you're all right.

**2014-04-13 22:27:00**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Good holiday so far? When are you going to meet Parvati's ... I guess he's not a boyfriend, is he? The young man she mentioned.



 **alt\_seamus**

I was trying to remember all the secrets that got shared this past week and I think I'm missing a few.


1. Demelza Robins fancies her parents' muggleborn servant. (I can't imagine what her 'dare' was that she chose to have THAT shared.)
2. Katrina Jacobson fancies her uncle and spies on him in the bath.
3. Sally-Anne Perks has a father who's a drunk and knocks her around. (That was Thomas, I think...or at least Weasley thought so.) Also a mudblood mother, but that's hardly a secret!
4. Megan Jones drank a potion that made all her hair fall out.
5. Crabbe and Goyle CRAWLED all over school for an entire afternoon. And let people SIT on them.

I think I picked a good week to tell everyone I snog other boys.

Igraine Archer did her dare -- you know what, I think she was relieved I wasn't told to just expose her secret to the whole school. She'd have done just about anything.

I know I'm forgetting a few. Oh, Loony Lovegood snogging poor Marvolo. She was lucky he was a good sport about it.



 **alt\_padma** at **2014-04-14 03:54:14**  
(no subject)

Zach made Portia Rubens stand up and announce the 'Qualified wizards' sentence. I mean, that's about the easiest thing in the world. Except I guess Rubens has a stammer.

Bones had to sing that *filthy* song.

And don't forget Granger going mad in our Defence lesson. Of course, I guess we can't be sure that was a dare, but someone Imperiused her to do it. (Which I think means it shouldn't count because honestly, if they had to use the Imperius then it wasn't blackmail, and it wasn't really a secret, either.)


Lares made his target scrub a toilet with their own toothbrush, but he wouldn't tell me who it was. You can't have missed Rickett streaking at lunch on Tuesday.

There have to have been more, I just can't remember.

And I'm not sure now if I'm going to meet Inderpal. Mum was saying something tonight about maybe having found someone better for Pav. It was a bit of a scene, honestly.

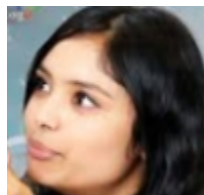
Did you see those pictures in the *Prophet*?




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-14 03:57:17](#)  
(no subject)

I remembered another one, I heard Frobisher spewed in the library. I assume that was a dare and not a bad stomach, but I suppose you never know. I don't know who made her do it, mind you.

The pictures in the *Prophet*, of the dead traitors? Or something else?




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-14 03:59:11](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, gross.

And yeah, I meant those. Even grosser.

I've never heard of that group, either, Pandora's Box. Why do you suppose all those bodies were arranged? Do you think Yaxley had something to do with it, she really fancies the macabre like that.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-14 04:02:54](#)  
(no subject)

Oh yeah, she does, and she's a photographer, isn't she? So maybe? Does Zabini think she might have been there?

There weren't exactly the sort of thing I'd want to see over breakfast. Mr Rosier took one look and had the elf take the paper to the drawing room until we were done eating.

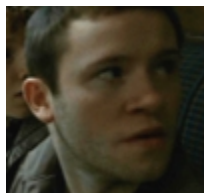



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-14 04:15:24](#)  
(no subject)

I dunno, I haven't talked to Blaise. Being home, you know, I can't exactly spend time with him without having to answer loads of questions.

And yeah, they were pretty gruesome. You know what was the weirdest thing, I think? That they weren't *moving*. I mean, I know, they were all dead, and honestly moving dead bodies would have been so much worse, but *nothing* in the photos were moving. You know? It was eerie.

I'll tell you who *was* moving, though: Harry. Did you notice in that shot how he was shielding Hydra? It was actually rather sweet.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at [2014-04-14 04:20:15](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't really notice. Mostly I was thinking that only an idiot would get in Hydra Lestrangle's way with a camera.

You're right about the photos -- not even the grass, yeah, and the blood was all dried out, it wasn't moving either.




 **alt\_padma** at [2014-04-14 04:29:04](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not a bit surprised about the reporters. Her announcement was big, I mean, even we were shocked by it, and now that we're all getting older I'm sure people are interested in who people like Harry and Draco and Hydra decide to date. They'll be interested in a few years when they get married, and then again whenever they start having kids. It's just how it is.


Oh, hey, what are your hols like, I mean your schedule? Pav and I may need to escape now and then.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2014-04-14 04:31:23](#)  
(no subject)

By all means come over! I'd love to see you. We don't have much of anything planned -- Mr Rosier has organised a few informal parties but those are mostly in the evenings. Besides, you should come; he wants me to meet some of the other Councilwizards, and you'd benefit from that, too.



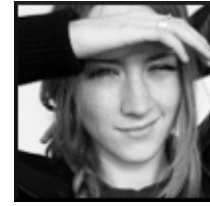
 **alt\_padma** at [2014-04-14 04:33:39](#)  
(no subject)

Nift. Cheers!

I have to go. Pav's just had another round with Mum and I think she might need eryl talk.

**[2014-04-14 08:58:00](#)**

*Order Only - Private message to Harry and Draco*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

So. As awkward as it is to request directly, I think you will have to specifically and pointedly invite me to Tea Appreciation, Harry, if I'm going to be able to attend.


Having Draco do it won't be enough. Mummy won't even let me see Auntie Narcissa.

You could write her an Owl, or just mention in publicly in the journals somewhere, or even just show up at St. James on the day of. It doesn't really matter. If it's your idea she won't question it.

I'm not sure why I'm so worried about attending, only one day soon Mrs Longbottom will remember that I have access to Auror Lestrangle's hair and will want to pull me aside for a chat, I'm sure.

Speaking of Auror Lestrangle, Mummy's taking me to MLE with her today. I don't know what I'll see, but I hope that it doesn't involve her killing someone.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-14 16:26:52](#)  
(no subject)

Sure.

That's fine. I can do that.

And if you're worried, just let us know if you want us to stay close, yeah? For support. Or in case you don't want to talk about something.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-14 16:29:04](#)  
(no subject)

And Hydra

I know

Well, I don't, really, but

Anyways. I'm sorry for what's happened. And what you've had to do to get through it. I can't imagine all those news stories are making things easier.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-14 17:04:57](#)  
*(no subject)*

That's alright, I'm not worried.

None of the stories have really been about me.  
They're all either about my parents and the  
Jugsons, or about Justin, and I'm just the reason to write stories  
about both.

**2014-04-14 18:01:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

Raz had me come over to Spence today and asked for Hermione to come too.



It was mostly just confirming what I told her, and what Nott did, and he really didn't take it any further than that. I think he's really hacked off that Teddy deliberately interrupted Defence, because of how dangerous that could've been, and that he used Imperius to do it, because Raz was really focused on making sure those two things were clear. I mean, we had to lie a bit about my ordering her to take the dare, because that was sort of her idea that we agreed would be best, but he wasn't angry at her at all. Or me. Just Teddy.

 [alt\\_harry](#)

So that's that, really.



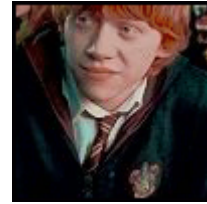
**2014-04-15 07:33:00**

*Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*

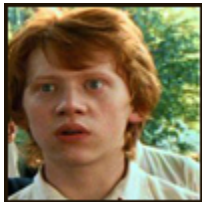
I got an owl this morning before breakfast. A Ministry owl. From the Aurors.


Am I serious about pursuing admittance to their training when I finish school? If so, report today. Half-eight. For a battery of physical and personality evaluations.

So, um, yeah. That's where I'll be today.



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-15 12:38:36**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne*

A battery.

I just bet.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-15 14:47:03**  
(no subject)

Good luck.

**2014-04-15 07:39:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

I got a Ministry owl this morning from the Aurors. I'm supposed to go in today for interviews and examinations to see if I'm really interested, and suited, I guess, for their training programme.




 [alt\\_ron](#)

So, yeah. That's where I'll be today.

---




 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2014-04-17 05:06:38**

*(no subject)*

Ron -- That's good to hear.

How do you think it went? When do you think you'll hear back?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-17 05:17:17**

*(no subject)*

Seemed like it went alright, but who can tell?

And I'm supposed to get a letter about a summer internship if I did well. Or not if I didn't. They didn't say when to expect it. But, I mean, so far they haven't given much notice about anything. Just Bang! Here's an owl telling you to turn up next week or tomorrow.

I'll tell you when I hear anything. If I do.

**2014-04-15 09:56:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Hermione*

So how did the questioning with Raz *really* go? (It would seem others are too busy welcoming Ginny Weasley to ask for more details.)



 [alt\\_draco](#)

Any idea what he'll do to him? Teddy, that is. Because I can't imagine he's pleased about the whole thing. And as genial as Raz typically is, he's still not someone to cross.

---




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2014-04-15 16:10:38**  
(no subject)

It was fine. It helped that we could mostly tell the truth, that he put the Imperius on me because I was afraid to disrupt the lesson. He didn't even ask why Teddy made me do that particular thing.

Oh, and he's here, by the way. Teddy. With his father. To apologise for disrespecting Harry by using his property without permission. Mr Nott told Harry that he can Cruciate Teddy if he wants to do, and that Razer already has done.

I'd say I'm sorry that he got Cruciated except just maybe I hope it means he'll leave off.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-15 16:18:04**  
(no subject)

That's good. It shows that Teddy is the one whose behaviour stands out as odd and unseemly, rather than anything you or Harry have done.

Nott Sr., must feel that Jr. is making him look bad. Also good. He's perhaps one of the few people who can hobble Teddy, at least temporarily.

So did Harry Cruciate him?




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 16:21:42](#)  
(no subject)

No, he said he didn't think it was necessary to do it twice. But then Mr Nott said he respectfully disagreed and he did it instead.

How is Hydra? I saw she wrote to you and Harry but he said she didn't really seem to want to talk.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-15 16:36:24](#)  
(no subject)

Too bad. I would have done it, had I been there. Though Nott Sr. probably delivers more of a wallop than Harry could.

Oh you know that Hydra's been odd since she and F-F broke things off. She wrote that she was going to be with Bellatrix at MLE and hoped it wouldn't mean seeing people killed, only the way she wrote it made it seem half a joke. Harry tried to let her know he's sorry for what she's been through, but she mostly shrugged at it.

Oh, and she said Harry will have to invite her directly for anything that involves her leaving Bella's clutches.

I suppose it's fortunate that I'm relatively free to go where I please, at the moment. Daphs and I had lunch at Harrod's with Elsie and Hermes Tamblyn yesterday. They both wanted to know who Hydra would date next - Harry or Teddy. As if Teddy stands any kind of serious chance.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 16:46:00](#)  
(no subject)

We talked about it a little, before holidays. I mean, Hydra and I, and she said that she's been trying *not* to feel anything because if she lets it out, even a little, it'll hurt too badly and, I think she's afraid she'd never *stop* feeling awful.


I sort of felt the same when my parents--when everything happened with them. So I know just what she means. I'm sure you do, too, how you pretend to be strong long enough that you just are, because that's how it has to be.

It's going to be so hard to pretend that nothing's wrong, though, but I can see why she'd want to act that way.

Those pictures in the papers on Sunday--and that article yesterday, the one all about how she was obviously deceived by his 'Continental' influences--I'm sure that's what's got people wondering.

You know.... Oh, no. Nevermind. Bad idea, I think.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-15 17:00:25](#)  
(no subject)

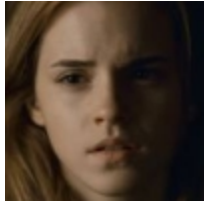
I'm not really sure Hydra's ever opened up to anyone the way she must've to F-F. Perhaps she doesn't really know how to do that with anyone else, or is afraid that if she does, that person will be taken away, too. Like all her rabbits.

We're all becoming experts at pretending. Of course, the trick is making sure you don't actually become what you're pretending to be.

Too bad for Bell. That picture of Harry shielding Hydra from the photographers has a lot of people forgetting Harry is already meant to have a girlfriend.

How does he *really* feel about Bell, though? He's never talked about her joining the Order or anything. He's never been caught with her after curfew, either. I'm not sure they even get together after curfew.

Whatever your idea is, I'm sure it's not bad.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 17:16:17](#)  
(no subject)


I think Justin might be the first person who ever saw her for herself, you know, and not for what everyone thought she was or was supposed to be. Even your mother has expectations for her, and I think next to Justin and her father, your mother's probably Hydra's favourite person.

And I was thinking about Katie, too. I don't know how Harry feels. I mean, I know he likes her, and he might even fancy her but I can't tell if he cares because she's nice and isn't intimidated by him or Voldemort, or if it's more than that. I know he feels awful that she's mixed up in the challenges basically because they've been dating.

I was wondering if they might not all want to--to *switch* things, you know, so that Harry does appear to be going out with Hydra now, and Katie's just a friend. But that probably really is a bad idea because people can't just switch feelings off, can they? I mean, even Hydra's not switching off, she's just burying it all. And I wouldn't want her to be even more unhappy, and it doesn't seem right to ask Harry and Katie to be unhappy for Hydra's sake, or to have to sneak about like they're two-timing, if they are really serious about each other.

So, yes, probably a bad idea.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-15 17:28:50](#)  
(no subject)

She likes our cousin, too. Dora.

Ah, I should have known. I was trying to get you to come up with the idea first, because I knew if I suggested it you would tell me that it was a bad one, but now that you've come up with the idea you're taking it all apart and scrutinising it, anyway.

I think it has an elegant simplicity, myself. Harry is the only person Bellatrix would allow Hydra to date. If they present themselves as a couple, it gives Hydra a good deal more freedom, *and* has the added benefit of putting Teddy in his

place, while raising Harry's profile at the same time.

But yes, he may not agree to it if his feelings for Katie are genuine. Even if they are genuine, what kind of future do they really have together? Not much of one, things being what they are right now.


I suppose I'll have to ask him about Bell. I hope he doesn't go odd about it. He's never really been the sort of mate you can talk to about girls. Too much the chivalrous Gryffindor.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-15 17:38:51](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, because you've told him every last detail about snogging Daphne and Demelza and Pansy, I suppose?

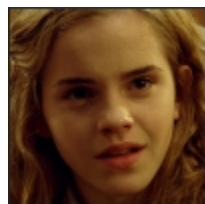


 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-15 17:43:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Don't be mad. I haven't snogged *Demelza*. That was her sister, and she -

She's honestly not worth mentioning.

The blokes who do tend to talk about that sort of thing are like Blaise, or Gamp. They want it known that they can make a girl weak in the knees. Harry's pretty much the opposite of that, and so am I, except in situations where such banter is called for.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-15 17:46:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Demelza hasn't got a sister at school.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 17:46:31](#)  
(no subject)


Oh.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 17:46:48](#)  
(no subject)


OH!



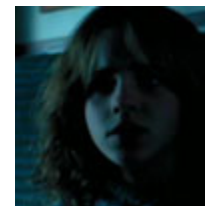
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-15 17:51:35](#)  
(no subject)

She practically assaulted me, if you must know.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-15 19:53:08](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway, what's my romantic life, or lack thereof, got to do with Harry?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-15 22:27:35](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't say it had anything to do with Harry. You said he never talks about girls, but if you never talk about girls, why should *he*?

And. About Rowena Robins...I didn't think that sort of thing happened to boys. I mean, I suppose I didn't think any boys I know would say No to that sort of thing, if it were on offer. I mean, I can think of reasons why a boy might not *want* to snog but I always thought--well, *you* know, that once things--once things reach a certain point, I mean--that boys would rather *do* than *not* do, you know?


Unless the boy were in a position where he *couldn't* say no.



Like those men Strangeweale had for studs. And...things like that.

I mean, if you didn't want her to 'assault' you, you could have just told her. Or hexed her. And no one would have said anything about it.



 **alt\_draco** at [2014-04-15 22:57:43](#)  
(no subject)

I used to talk to him about Pansy, some. But it's different now, with Daphs.

Generally speaking, you're correct. Mostly because boys are encouraged to sow their wild oats and get lots of experience, while girls are advised to wait for True Love. But just because boys are encouraged to do something doesn't mean they automatically want to do it.

I couldn't hex Rowena because she was talking about my father and I wanted to see what she was going on about. And it isn't as if it's *easy* for a bloke to gracefully remove himself from such an entanglement, once it gets going. So while it wasn't precisely an assault, I really can't say I enjoyed it.

**[2014-04-15 17:18:00](#)**

*Order Only - Private message to Harry*



 [alt\\_draco](#)


Alright? I heard about the Notts visit to Buckingham. Can't believe that you passed up the chance to Cruciate Teds, but I suppose it sends a better message that you resisted. Plus, how humiliating for him to get it in front of everyone from his own father, yeah? I would know.

Anyway, I've been meaning to speak with you about how things are going with Katie Bell. It's obvious to everyone that she's not keen on being one of the challengers, and knowing you, you're probably suffering massive guilt and blaming yourself for her having been chosen to begin with.

What I'm really wondering, though, is - do you care about her? I don't mean deep friendship, either, but real caring, the kind where you can actually see all the seriously flawed and even annoying things about her, and still think she's pretty brilliant. I mean, do you love her? Or something close to that? Because I need to know before I tell you about the idea I've had.

I was talking to Hermione about it, earlier. I couldn't get her to say whether it was a good or a bad idea, and then we ended up talking about something else and I don't know, she might be upset, or something. I'm not sure. Does she seem fine?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **[2014-04-16 00:14:39](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, first off, Hermione seems okay to me. Just thoughtful. And annoyed, but it's the usual amount of annoyed. Not like she's hurt, or sad, or anything like that. I asked if she was all right, and she said, 'Oh, honestly, I'm *fine*,' and sort of rolled her eyes a bit.

~~What did you~~


Is there anything I ought to know about?

Or, you know, whatever. It's okay. If she wants to tell me, she will.

And yeah. It was weird with Nott.

I figure if I let Crabbe and Goyle do my dirty work, I should keep it up. I could tell he was used to it. And he said all the right things, said he'd learned his lesson, but I know he didn't mean it.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-16 00:20:06](#)  
(no subject)

I think I hacked her off by being myself, as usual.  
But I'm used to it now, so.

Yeah, I'm sure Nott Sr. doesn't go light on the cardinals when it suits him. We'll just have to see how Teddy acts after hols. Or during the party at Spence House.

As for the other business, take your time.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-16 00:30:24](#)  
(no subject)

And.

Um.

Yeah.

It's sort of

Okay.

I guess I've been thinking about it since she got chosen. About what we are and all. Siz and Raz talked about it some too. Like I had a decision to make. They invited us over to tea at Spence so we could talk.

The way I figure it, we used to do stuff together because it was fun, and she was nice, and didn't get too scared off by all the gossip and stuff, and it was good for her and good for me. And when this contest happened, it wasn't fun any more and it wasn't good for her either.

I really like her. A lot. But.

I don't know if I could really love her like that. Let her get close.  
Because it just wouldn't be safe, or fair, and I don't know if I'm going

~~to I don't know how she'd~~

it was sort of nice to have something normal. As normal as it could be. You know.


But I'd rather she was safe. And happy. And she wouldn't be either one with me.

And that's another problem. Siz said I needed to stop making decisions about the two of us and actually talk to her about it instead of assuming. But I'm playing with more cards than she is, and I don't know if I could let her see my hand.

So no.

I don't love her.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-16 00:36:33](#)**  
(no subject)

But if the plan means hurting her or something

Like really hurting her

I don't think I can do that.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-16 00:37:25](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, consider yourself lucky, then. It would make everything three or thirty or three thousand times harder, if you did. Love her, I mean.

Yeah, forget Siz. Her advice is well-meaning but she doesn't know a thing about the multitude of secrets you're harbouring.

Are you thinking of ending it, then?




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-16 00:45:05](#)  
(no subject)

I guess it's either get a lot more serious, to make it clear that means hands off, or split up. But in a way that made sure everyone knew I wasn't hacked off.

And yeah. The first option might put an even bigger target on her, and I'd have to lie a lot. Or tell her everything. Which, no.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-16 14:12:45](#)  
(no subject)

If you are resigned to the idea of ending things for her, for her own continued safety, then I have a proposal:

Once things are settled with Bell, ask out Hydra. You don't have to be serious with each other. You can just be friends who carry on as if you're dating. if that's what you both want. It would be beneficial to both your image, and hers. And in the case of Hydra, since Bellatrix won't let her out unless you've invited her, it would give her a good deal more freedom. Not to mention that it would put Teddy in his place, seeing as he's been panting after Hydra ever since she and F-F broke up.

I know you don't think of her that way, but you'd never have to lie to her. There's something valuable in that, isn't there?



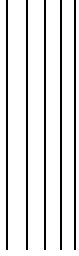
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-17 00:03:06](#)  
(no subject)


I thought about it last night.

Yeah.

Okay.

I'd want to make sure it'd be all right with Justin and Hydra though.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-17 01:16:30](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I understand your desire to have F-F's blessing, but it's Hydra who will be most affected by this, in the end. So I'd address it with her, first.

**2014-04-15 20:56:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mac and Kingsley*




 [alt\\_alice](#)

Mac, this business with the Pandora's Box group and our own minor security breach has me feeling a bit touchy. If you could check in, that would do me some good.

Kingsley, have you seen Mac around lately? If you do see him, please let me know.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2014-04-17 00:34:01**  
(no subject)

I haven't seen Mac, no. His ties with Sherwood are pretty casual, and it sometimes takes him a week to check in if someone's looking for him.

I'll send word out on the button network, though, and hopefully that'll speed up the chance for us to hear some news.

**2014-04-15 21:59:00**

*Order Only: What Rachel has figured out about the Pandora's Box raid*



 [alt\\_bill](#)

This is in answer to Kingsley's question to me on Sirius' journal entry, about what Rachel Brodie might know about that raid reported in the *Prophet*. It took us a couple of days to coordinate schedules so that we could meet together, outside the Ministry. When we finally were able to touch base, this is what she could tell me, from what she had gleaned from the photos.

Rachel hadn't heard anything about this Pandora's Box group, either. You'll note that no one's claiming credit for the department; instead, it's being attributed in photo captions to 'Our Lord's strong hand.' But she could tell that the raid was Auror work because of the perimeter stone in one of the photos. Those are used to lay down anti-apparition wards and as part of a spell to bring down the existing wards and replace them with the Aurors' own wards. I asked how she could distinguish it from any old stone, and she pointed out the shape; you can barely see it, but it's approximately pyramidal, with rounded edges. Some Aurors have their own sets, with different spells on them and slightly different shapes, but once you've seen a few sets, you'd know. There's a spell that spreads them out around the perimeter you describe with your wand. Handy that; Aurors don't need to walk or run or crawl around to trap their targets. The stones then set a basic protective ward that allows the Auror using them time and cover to complete whatever rituals are necessary under the circumstances.

The spells on them are extremely complex; it isn't as though Rachel could just whip out her wand and demonstrate them to me. I asked whether there might be a way the Order could see one of these stones to study it, maybe for 24 hours? But she blanched and shook her head, no. Even the ones that aren't part of a particular Auror's personal tools are kept under very tight control. They're made with Blood magic and thus very easy to trace, so it'd be way too risky for her to try removing one for us to examine.

Disappointing.

Anyway, back to the photos: there's also scarring around the door of the house, visible in one photo; that's the usual "break down the door" spell, but it's the perimeter stone that's the main giveaway that one or more actual Aurors were involved.




She's pretty sure Barty Crouch was there, because he sometimes signs his work with an Ouroboros brand, and there was one in the soil in front of the smashed press. She's also quite sure that Antonin Dolohov was involved, because she looked closely at the pictures of the bodies; one body's mouth was open slightly, and she saw the glint of a galleon inside. It's one of Dolohov's signatures, you'll remember: paying your ferryman's fee, if he kills you.

But as for those poor wretches in the photos--no. She doesn't know any more about them than we do. Not Dogstar, she's sure: they never meet in groups that big. (I'll admit I privately winced when she said that.)

She also thinks it's quite possible that Marvolo's bodyguard at Hogwarts, Rabastan Lestrage, was present, too, since there were Private Messages from Crouch to him and Dolohov the night before and the morning after, but his work doesn't have quite such a distinctive style or signature, so she couldn't be sure.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 03:44:47](#)

*(no subject)*

Blood magic, hm?

I remember MLE was working on more consistent perimeter spells right around when we left, but this sounds like they've taken it up a few notches.

Damn right it'd have to be complex to wipe out existing wards. Powerful, too. And I wouldn't be surprised if it involved significant Dark magic.

Reminds me a bit of the modified fidelius. With the stones and blood, I mean. Wonder if they were working from a similar playbook, yeah? Only took it in a different direction.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-16 03:48:17](#)

*(no subject)*


I wonder why they didn't run it through an official MLE operation. Did Rachel have any theories about that? Was it so they could indulge their brutality or does Crotch think he's got a leak in the department?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 03:51:25](#)  
(no subject)

Looks like it was personal.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-17 00:29:29](#)  
(no subject)

Well there are a few possibilities she floated:

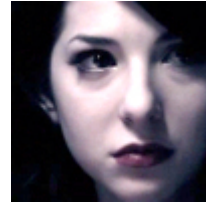
- It could be that Barty Crouch was trying to deny credit to Cadmus Mulciber, as part of their ongoing power struggle, and so kept it secret.
- On the other hand, maybe Barty is trying to keep it secret from Bellatrix. Which would be extremely surprising, since Barty and Bella are generally understood to be closely aligned, but it's possible. (And if it's true, it's very very interesting).
- This was, as Frank suggests, a personal grudge, had nothing to do with MLE, and accusation that these people were traitors was a cover for murder.
- Barty's keeping things close to his vest because he thinks there's a leak in MLE. Which is less worrisome to Rachel than you'd think, because this isn't something she'd likely have been involved in anyway. Maybe instead, this suggests an opportunity, i.e. maybe there's a DIFFERENT leak, which could be identified and either recruited or exploited.

That's what she's come up with so far; take your pick.

**2014-04-15 22:11:00**


*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

How did it go today?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-16 03:25:32**

*(no subject)*

I survived?

I'm dead tired.

Oh, but. When I was finished? I was walking out of the changing room and who do you think was waiting to have a word? You've guessed, yeah? Avery. Noticed I was in the paper without you, getting off the train. Sharp, that one. But he didn't like our ideas at all.

I told him to get bludgered.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-16 03:30:38**

*(no subject)*

Ugh.

Did he make any threats? I mean what did he say back?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-16 03:39:58**

*(no subject)*

He didn't have a chance, really. Auror Travers came out just then and Avery buggered off.

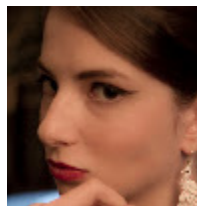
I'll have to tell you the rest tomorrow.

I mean, I feel like I've had my brains pickled.

Are you going to get to come to Pansy's for your birthday, after all?  
I mean,

well, nevermind. You don't need me to tell you what to do.

I'll talk to you tomorrow, yeah?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-16 03:54:33](#)**

*(no subject)*

I'm heading to Pansy's at DAWN.

Or, you know, whatever time I wake up.

Yeah. I should go to bed too. Mrs Stretton woke me up early today to make ANOTHER round of deliveries. I really don't think anyone wants to see their fruit basket at 7 in the morning but apparently.... yeah, anyway.

**2014-04-16 08:59:00**

*Private Message to Lucius and Barty*

Have either of you spoken with Ursula recently?



I'm sorry, she's here and she's quite out of sorts and I just haven't time to write to you separately. You may feel free to ignore each other's responses if that is still your preference.

 [alt\\_narcissa](#)

I've only a moment to ask. Something about Julius taking the Mark and - I'm sure I don't know. I hope I shan't be quite so distraught when Draco becomes one of Our Lord's chosen.

If either of you have any idea what might have upset her please let me know. It might be some time before she can be coherent. Or Barty, if you've spoken to Tosenka and he's mentioned her lately, that might be helpful as well.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at **2014-04-16 15:35:59**  
(no subject)

Ursula?

No idea at all.

Not as if he's just been Marked.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2014-04-16 16:04:43**  
(no subject)

Yes, it's nothing of concern. Believe she may be talking about the *circumstances* under which Julius took the Mark. It may have come up in conversation this morning.

Kindly do your best to convince her she has nothing to worry about, provided her choices are wiser from here forward. And her son's, of course.

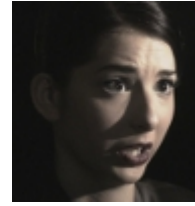
While I have you, dearest, pray do not expect me for supper to-night.

I've accepted an invitation to dine with Stephen that will likely keep me out all evening.

**2014-04-16 09:52:00**

*Private message to Mrs Stretton*

No, I don't have the order forms from two days ago. I put them in the 'done' basket, like I always do. I don't remember making a delivery to Kettering but when I'm popping through the floo I barely know whether I'm in Scotland or Cornwall let alone the precise town I'm in.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I'm sure your usual delivery assistant would have known where to go, since it's a regular delivery. Maybe you should have kept him on this week instead of suggesting it would be a good time for him to take his holiday? ~~How on earth did you expect me to~~ All I know is what's written on the delivery order.

**[2014-04-16 13:17:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Black and Alice*



 [alt\\_severus](#)

Black: So that you are aware for future reference — and to prevent future disasters much like the disaster avoided this morning — the ingredient dumped into Miss Turpin's cauldron to circumvent the chain-storm before it could take hold was cascarilla bark. I learnt exceptionally quickly during my abortive foray into teaching that keeping a good quantity of diced cascarilla bark on hand and easily reachable was vital whenever the students were brewing anything with mint and mandrake leaf, as inevitably someone will mismeasure the mandrake or stir improperly.

The use of cascarilla bark to break the chaining before it proceeds to explosion is not a well known remedy, but cascarilla's low specific thaumaticity makes it suitable for deployment to avert nearly every emergency in the brewing of that genus of potions. It works significantly better than the commonly-accepted method of vanishing the cauldron, and saves the cauldron as well.


If you inform me of your planned curriculum for the next several months I shall provide you with a list of the most likely disasters each will entail, and what measures a responsible teacher ought to be prepared to take to avert each disaster. It is incumbent upon the teacher of potions to be ready to prevent such significant mistakes at a moment's notice lest they spiral out of control; had Miss Turpin's cauldron been allowed to proceed in its reaction we would have lost the building at minimum, and likely the majority of its occupants.

Alice: As I spent the early morning going through the last of Stephen's papers, I will take this opportunity to write you as well: Do not let me forget to discuss the state of the Sleeper research with you. If I am to spend the summer engaged in attempting to move it forward — which I believe I may be prepared to do — we ought to discuss the question of human trials now, to allow time to address the logistics.

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 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-16 19:15:45](#)  
(no subject)


You're ~~assuming I have a currie~~ It so happens I *do* think through the possible failure modes, Snape. I had it under control.

Vanishing the cauldron would have worked just fine, even if it's not as elegant a solution, and I was perfectly prepared to have to do it at least once today. You were a bit too busy shoving Miss Turpin aside to notice I had my wand out. How lucky for us all I have the reflexes not to have vanished *you* when you got in the way.

Never thought you went in for heroics. Isn't that what you're always reminding us, how you're not in this for any sort of glory? Guess you didn't consider that when an opportunity came up to save the day and undercut me in front of a dozen-odd impressionable students.

Don't imagine I couldn't hear the muttering in the back long before Miss Turpin's potion came to ruin. What happened to telling Alice you didn't want to be anywhere near teens or pre-teens this holiday?




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-16 20:04:43](#)  
(no subject)

Any 'muttering' you may have perceived was, I assure you, nothing more than my habit of thinking aloud as I work; you may verify with Miss Granger that I am often not aware I am doing so.

I am aware you were prepared to vanish Miss Turpin's cauldron — had you not been, we would be having a considerably different conversation at the moment, albeit posthumously. I was not attempting to cast aspersions on your ability to convey the material, simply offering to impart some experience in laboratory management. I will ~~grudgingly~~ admit you are an adequate brewer and ~~less of a disaster as less incompetent~~ a barely tolerable instructor; however, the ability to conceptualise the potion being taught, identify all possible failure modes a student is likely to hit upon, and prepare in advance the means for averting each disaster is something Slughorn did not teach and those who have not studied for their Mastery do not have experience in doing. As you have no doubt discovered, students are endlessly inventive in their capacity for disaster.

As you are clearly not interested in my assistance, however, I shall cease to bother you.




 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:25:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Inventive is not the euphemism I'd use.


Not saying I need 'assistance' but if you happen to have a list of common failures for Sections 3 and 5 of Jigger, that's what we're working on for the most part. Don't strain yourself over it. But having one would save time I can use on other things, like coordinating with Bedford or working on the radio addresses for Aldrich.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:33:18](#)**  
(no subject)


Looks like you both have things well in hand, then.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:36:18](#)**  
(no subject)


I will endeavour to provide a list. I would not wish to distract you from your many and varied important tasks.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:32:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Thank you, Severus. If you have time tonight, we might sit down and thoroughly hash it out?

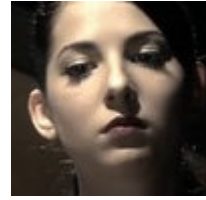


 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-16 20:36:59](#)  
(no subject)

That will do, or any time this week. I simply wished to ensure I would not forget again.

**[2014-04-16 14:21:00](#)**

*Private message to Megan Jones and  
Jeremy Stretton*



I'm leaving.


Sorry.

 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)**

Jeremy -- I said goodbye to Gemma and I'm sorry this upset her so much, I told her she'll be able to see me again but I don't think she believed me. Maybe you can bring her somewhere to meet me next week? or even in a few days. Don't tell your mum, though.

---



 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2014-04-16 21:12:19](#)**  
(no subject)

You're leaving? I mean, you've already left? But

Oh. Mrs Stretton was yelling a lot, and then she sent me off on a delivery because now my hair is back --  
THANK YOU for helping with the charm! It looks right again! I thought the depilatory potion would NEVER get out of my system but now it is all right -- anyhow she sent me on a delivery and then on another one and I thought you were just in another room fixing baskets or something and I didn't have time to look at my journal until now

Did she do something to you?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-16 22:24:52](#)**  
(no subject)

I left. She, well, no. She screamed a lot and she told me I'd have to pay for a basket that went to the wrong house, even though it went to the house that was ON THE DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS and it's not my fault that was the wrong address, it's hers, and I'm just well

I'm turning seventeen tomorrow anyway and I didn't think she'd come after me. And she hasn't, has she?



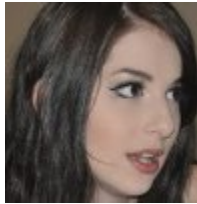
 **[alt\\_megan](#)** at **[2014-04-16 22:30:10](#)**  
(no subject)

No, she is still here roaring like a constipated dragon. I should probably not say that but I heard Jeremy say it earlier and it is so funny because the expression on her face is just like you would

imagine.

Did you leave her a note or something so she knew you were gone for good?

If she asks me I am going to pretend I don't know anything. She believes that anyhow, so it won't be much work.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-16 22:33:07](#)**  
(no subject)

A constipated dragon is dead on.

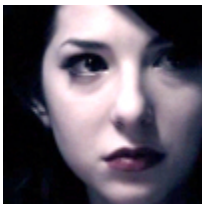
I didn't leave a note but I said to her face I was leaving, so.


She'll be able to see that I PM'd you, anyway. You can just tell her I let you know I was going. And yeah, really, if you're not a Ravenclaw she always gets surprised that you can read and do simple addition.



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)** at **[2014-04-16 21:17:44](#)**  
*Order Only: private message to Sally-Anne*

You all right?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-16 22:25:13](#)**  
*Re: Order Only: private message to Sally-Anne*

Sort of.

**2014-04-16 15:04:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Centaurs and wand ingredients*



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

Right, then, I've got good news and bad news.

The good news is, I've just come back from another go-around with the centaurs, and I've finally got them to agree that it's all right for some of our people to have free passage through the whole Forest, including their territory, for the purpose of scavenging wand parts like by checking bushes for unicorn tail hairs and the like. They even gave me a list of places that would be good to look.

The bad news is a little more complex. First off, they won't provide any kind of escort or guard -- anyone who goes in will be at-their-own-risk. Second, they were very concerned about the well-being of the other inhabitants of the Forest, so whoever goes scavenging can't kill anything while they're in there, for any reason at all -- not even self-defense.

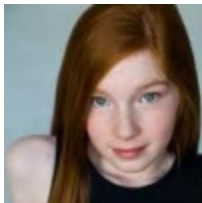
Third, they said they'd only accept "foals" who were "pure of heart, body, and magic", and they'd consider it a breach of the agreement if anyone who wasn't came through. This was the sticking point for a long chunk of the conversation, because I couldn't figure out what they meant. I thought at first they meant "pure" like, you know, acceptable-to-unicorns pure. (If you know what I mean.) Turns out, yes, that's part of it, but not the whole: they want our emissaries to be under the age of adulthood (the younger the better) AND virgins AND to have never "acted with hatred towards another in their hearts" AND to have never cast any Dark magic. Which I tried to get them to define, because from how they were talking I didn't think they just meant the Cardinals, but all they'd say was that whoever we sent must not have been "corrupted by the touch of the magic ruled by Mars", whatever that's supposed to mean, ~~Merlin I am so tired of trying to get them to make bloody sense~~


So. On the one hand, hurrah for getting them to agree to allow some of us in to collect supplies. On the other hand, that's a bloody inconvenient set of restrictions, and it doesn't escape me that our youngest members -- the ones most likely to meet their requirements - - are also the ones who are least likely to be able to take care of themselves in the Forest, which is bloody dangerous at the best of times. And given the state of the Hogwarts curriculum, do we even

have anybody who's never cast Dark magic?

I'm not going to ask about the virginity thing, that's just awkward all around, but can any of you say for sure that you've never cast Dark magic and have never "acted with hatred towards another in your heart"? (And how would they tell about that last, anyway?)

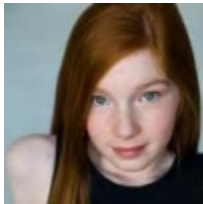
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 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:38:52](#)**  
(no subject)

I cast confundus on Cormac McLaggen once, when he was trying out for Quidditch.


It was awfully petty of me, but I don't think it was with hatred in my heart, though. I might have to think further about it, so I can be sure.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:44:09](#)**  
(no subject)


And there's theoretical Noble Arts, which is different from Practical. We mostly study theoretical backgrounds, write papers, and watch demonstrations.



 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:39:55](#)**  
(no subject)

What about Hagrid? Can he keep an eye out?




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:47:02](#)**  
*Private Message to Charlie and Colin*

Not going to happen.

No bloody way.


Not without supervision.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-16 20:52:40](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Charlie and Colin*

Not gonna argue with you, mate, you're her father and I'm not, but ask yourself if that's the father talking or the soldier. What will you do if she's the only one of them who qualifies?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 21:16:12](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Charlie and Colin*


The NEWT level students who are the top of their classes and competing for places on the council couldn't cut it in there. And they went in teams, for

And yeah, not having the centaurs actively attacking might make it slightly less dangerous.

But even if we could be sure that she meets the requirements, the vague as hell requirements that we wouldn't be sure she met until she tried it and didn't get


It'd still be a risk I'm not sure we should take.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 23:12:00](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Charlie and Colin*

I don't like the idea of Luna out there alone either.




 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 23:13:39](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Charlie and Colin*

(Mr L, Charlie, I might also qualify. I'm Luna's age, and they didn't say it had to be a girl, did they?)

If all three of us gave it a try as a team, we'd fare pretty well, I think.)






 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-16 20:49:34](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I asked him to keep an eye out a while back. He says he hasn't seen anything -- apparently the unicorns have narrowed down their territory quite a lot after that time Voldemort and the Death Eaters went hunting them. The spots they frequent now are the spots Hagrid won't go, because it's deep in centaur territory. He's on good terms with them, but not that good.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-16 20:52:01](#)  
(no subject)

I think I speak for almost everyone when I say no, none of your younger members meet that set of criteria.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-16 21:31:06](#)  
(no subject)

Luna might.

And I'd trust her to handle herself against almost anything in there.

Except maybe the spiders.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-16 23:04:15](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps. But why not the spiders?

The rest of us will simply have to continue along the path of utter degradation and debauchery.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-16 23:10:53](#)  
(no subject)


An enormous hardship, to be sure.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-17 01:17:01](#)  
(no subject)

Because they're giant spiders.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-17 01:21:10](#)  
(no subject)

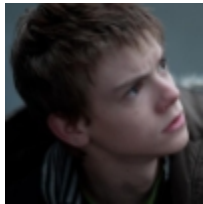
I'm aware, but I have an feeling that even the spiders might leave her be.


Not that I think we should put that to a test.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 23:21:34](#)  
(no subject)

(I was just saying to Mr L and Charlie that I might be able to lend a hand as well, and that if it was all three of us, we could have a fair chance at keeping safe.)

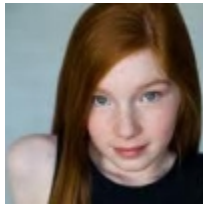



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-16 23:26:00](#)  
(no subject)

(That's to say

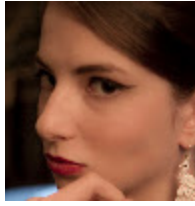
I don't intend to presume on behalf of Luna and Evs.

But I believe I'd qualify. And I'd want to put my name forward.)



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-16 23:37:28](#)  
(no subject)

That is a thought, yes.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 02:06:09](#)  
(no subject)

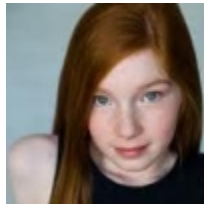
What about Neville? He's also avoided Dark Arts, anyway.


Can any of you younger lot (other than Neville) apparate? Because, at least you'd be able to get away from the giant spiders, if you ran into them.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 03:41:21](#)  
(no subject)


And I mean it's Easter hols so if Luna and Colin and Evelyn haven't learned apparition yet it's a good time to do some lessons.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-17 05:04:47](#)  
(no subject)

I'm practicing over hols, and Colin Apparates with dad all the time, so I'm pretty sure he's solid on side-alongs.



 [alt\\_frank](#) at [2014-04-17 05:10:42](#)  
(no subject)

(You can Apparate in the Forest? That makes things easier, hey?

I'm used to taking Mr L all over the place, I'm pretty sure Evs or Luna would be easy.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 05:15:38](#)  
(no subject)

I guess I don't know. It's Hogwarts grounds that are the boundary, and I don't know if the whole forest is on the Hogwarts grounds, or just part of it, or none of it.

Mr Macnair would know.

**[2014-04-16 16:09:00](#)**

*A little lesiure*

I'm always rather amazed at how the spring hols feel so different from the winter ones. Part of it, of course, is a chance to be outside a bit more (I've had one very pleasant lengthy ramble already, and I hope for one or two more.) And of course the social commitments are much less hectic than over Christmas and New Year's.



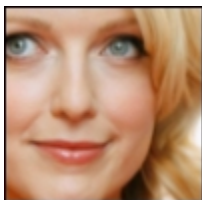
 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)**

Naturally, there are a few events I'm looking forward to. The Astronomy Guild lecture next Monday has a number of people attending already. Now I've seen the final programme, I think it's going to be a wonderful combination of explanation and demonstration. (We're already talking about topics for the summer series at the country Guild Hall, and for a lecture series to run through next year, so we're also taking suggestions for future topics. Here, or there'll be a box Monday night, or you can contact the Guild directly.)

And of course, I'm looking forward to our own plans a week Friday.

Beyond that, mostly I'm delighting in the chance to catch up with some reading, relax a little, and have a number of conversations we never seem to find time for during term.

(Mum, yes, I'd love lunch on Friday if you're still free.)



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-04-16 20:16:10](#)**

*Private message to Raz*

Love,

I've enjoyably taken over the kitchen, and have half a dozen kinds of pie in progress. The elves are one part delighted at the number of dirty mixing bowls I'm producing, and one part still not sure they should be letting me cook.

Anyway, mostly want to check when you plan to be back, so I can be done with the kitchen parts. And perhaps have less flour on my nose.

(If it's still 6, no need to answer, but if you'll be later, it'd be handy to know sooner than not.)



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-17 03:08:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Oh love. Pie and dinner. I should have remembered. I love you. We're making the right decision and we'll get through all the trouble it will bring.

And we'll do it **right**.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-17 15:56:20](#)

*Re: Private message to Raz*

Raz-my-love,

There have to be some benefits to you to having a rather obsessive and detail-focused wife, really. Feeding you pie for dinner with purpose seemed only fair. (And you know how I am about living up to the virtues of my house.)

Yes. We'll do it right.

My Friday's acquired more things - lunch with Mum, and then I'm going to go talk to Georg a bit more about some of the practical details.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-17 16:26:35](#)

*Private message to Gilly Chadwick*

Gil -

The pies were delicious. (I've never baked for you, right? If you're free for tea this week, I'll feed you. Assuming Harry doesn't eat them all whenever we see him next.)

The conversation went better than I expected. Vastly.

I don't think he'd have brought it up himself, but once I did, he was surprisingly agreeable. With all of it, and autumn being the best time to make a try and why. (All right, he was just slightly amused about my thinking about the practical bits until I brought out several feet of parchment with notes and alternate suggestions in case the initial plans don't work out. And then he just started laughing and laughing.)

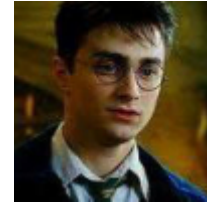
We were up absurdly late talking (and yes, other things) but that's what I love about hols. It's like Saturday every day, with him not needing to get to sleep right away and me not needing to go teach. (And don't we just sound like highly responsible mature adults when I say that. Guess we're supposed to, right?)

Really excellent rambling conversation. And all the better for it after the beginning of the week, really.

**2014-04-16 17:08:00**

*Private Message to Raz and Siz*

Hey. That offer for tea with Katie at Spence still on?



 [alt\\_harry](#)



---

 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at **2014-04-17 00:37:58**

*(no subject)*

Still glad to, of course.

Just not tonight, please, if it's not urgent.

Pick your time after tomorrow morning, though, and just let us know? We're out Monday evening but between now and then's quite clear.

**2014-04-16 17:09:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*



Um, just so you know, I had a huge fight with Mrs Stretton and I went to Sherwood. I mean, I apparated there.

 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)


Someone from the Sherwood band found me and took my wand and now I'm at the camp waiting for my mum (they gave me back my journal so I could write to you so you wouldn't worry).

(They seem to think I should be writing to Mrs Longbottom but I guess I'd rather not, it's not as if I had her permission to turn up here?)

The bloke who gave me back my journal is named Mr Brownmiller and he seemed to think I should know who he was, do you remember him in the old entries? I mean I remember his name but not anything about him.

My mum and Sarah Fawcett are off doing something, I guess they'll be back in a bit and once my mum confirms for everyone it's me I can have my wand back.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-16 22:36:13**  
(no subject)

Oh. That must've been some fight, then. Do you think she'll get you in trouble at all? With the foster people, I mean? It's only a few more hours until your birthday, I really hope she isn't an utter cow about it.

Brownmiller sounds sort of familiar, but I don't remember much about him either.

I think he was helping with the Strangeweale people? Maybe? Isn't his first name Steve or something? Sort of short?





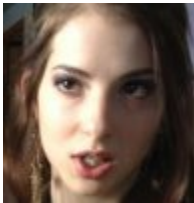
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 01:00:50](#)  
(no subject)

I was so angry I didn't care.

It's Scott, not Steve.

And he's

Ugh.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 02:15:21](#)  
(no subject)

He is SNOGGING my MOTHER.

I mean they are HAVING A RELATIONSHIP.

And it's not as if I don't think she should get to have relationships, you know, but THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE SOMETIME LAST SUMMER AND SHE NEVER TOLD ME.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 03:42:05](#)  
(no subject)

She never!

I mean, oh. That's, um- That reeks, yeah?

Sorry I'm just seeing this. Did they give you your wand back?  
You're all right, aren't you?

About Brownmiller. My dad used to work with his wife. It's in the old entries. She got mixed up with Dogstar and they arrested her. He had to run for it. Dad helped him and his kid, I think. Guess he got them to Sherwood.

You're not staying there, are you? Tomorrow, I mean. I was planning...

Course, that just got a bit complicated, too. Percy wrote and wants to have lunch. Can you believe it?

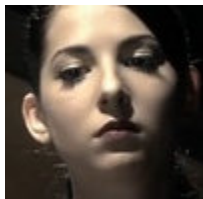


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 03:52:00](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, they gave me back my wand and ugh, they want me to LIKE him, which is good, I guess, but

They didn't tell me. THEY DIDN'T TELL ME. I mean, when were they thinking they'd mention it? If my mum got knocked up and they needed to tell me I had a half-sibling on the way?

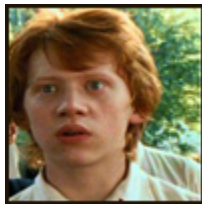
Anyway I was thinking I'd leave tomorrow morning and go to Pansy's, like we'd planned, although Mum got all ... she wants me to stay here at least for a little while. Even though there's really not -- well, I probably shouldn't have just shown up.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 03:52:44](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, and

PERCY wants to have lunch? with you? why???



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:13:43](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I don't even. Says he can tell me about some of the people in the Auror department. Note he didn't do that over Christmas hols when I was actually there every day and it would've been useful. I mean, it's not like he works with any of them. I suppose some of them must be connected to Mr Malfoy.

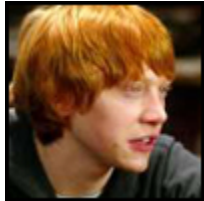
Whatever. I'll go hear what he says. Can't hurt. I know Bill goes to lunch with him to see if he can get any intel out of him. So, yeah.


I don't imagine we'll talk long.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:18:29](#)  
(no subject)

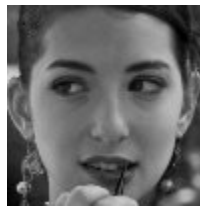
Yeah, if Bill can stand him...you can always leave, right? Where's he taking you?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:42:02](#)  
(no subject)

Some place called the Brasserie. Ever heard of it?

I mean it's not as if I know loads of new London restaurants.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:52:53](#)  
(no subject)

The Brasserie??? It's dead posh. Though not 'sixteen styles of fork' posh, at least.

The Malfoys like it (I mean, Mr and Mrs Malfoy like it -- I don't know what Draco thinks of it.) I think Zabini might have taken Daphne there.

The afters there are supposed to be brilliant, but I'm not sure there's a pudding on earth that's worth an extra fifteen minutes of Percy's company. Your call, I guess!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 05:03:47](#)  
(no subject)

Huh. Good thing he's laying out for it.

We'll see about pudding. I wouldn't wager we'll get through the mains before one of us

walks out.

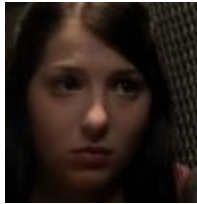


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 03:56:06](#)  
(no subject)

By the way my cousin's here. Delancy. One of the people we rescued from Strangeweale.

He was out somewhere but when he heard I'd come he came straight back because he wanted to see me -- he said he remembered me from the rescue, but he wanted to get a chance to meet me properly now that he knew I was his cousin.

Sarah Fawcett's here, too.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 03:59:21](#)  
(no subject)

Terry's not here because he's at Hogwarts right now but he WAS here, you know, until a few months ago

which means HE knew about Mum and Mr Brownmiller.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:14:49](#)  
(no subject)

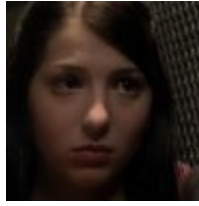
Well, now, that's just annoying. Ugh.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:19:04](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I mean, I guess I can understand why he didn't want to say anything. I probably wouldn't either.

It's still annoying.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:21:21](#)  
(no subject)

It's kind of noisy here. I wasn't expecting that. But you know, all these people in tents. There are some people having a conversation over by the fire and they're quiet but I can still hear voices, and there's someone snoring in the next tent over. Stuff like that.

I mean there's noises at school, too, of course. This is just different.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:40:14](#)  
(no subject)

You could come here if you want. Gin could budge up and let you share. She wouldn't mind. And Mum wouldn't.

I mean, if you can't sleep.

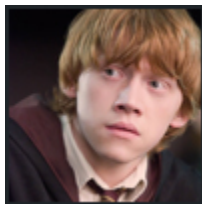
Was it nice meeting your cousin? What did you think of him?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:42:27](#)  
(no subject)

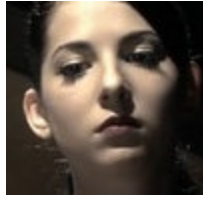
I think if I leave before tomorrow my Mum will think it's because I'm furious at her about Mr Brownm Scott (they told me to call him Scott). And I AM furious that she didn't tell me but I don't want her to think I'm so furious I'd LEAVE.

I mean eventually I'll fall asleep, I can always cast a sound dampening charm around my own bed.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:45:48](#)  
(no subject)


Are you warm enough?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:54:05](#)  
(no subject)

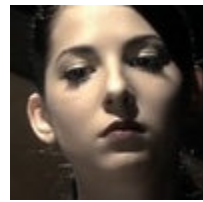
Scott put a warming charm on the tent.  
Running to the loo (which isn't exactly a LOO  
so much as -- well, I'll spare you the details)  
just now was pretty chilly, though.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:59:09](#)  
(no subject)

It must be so odd. Meeting someone your  
Mum's seeing.

I can't imagine my Mum... Do you think she  
would?



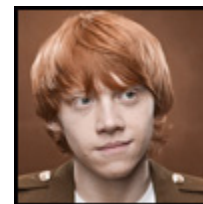
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 05:06:49](#)  
(no subject)


It would have to be someone in the Order, I  
can't imagine otherwise.

So, who's in the Order and available? Mr  
Shacklebolt, Mr Snape, Mr Dearborn, and Mr Macnair.

No, no, no, and no.

So no, I guess.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 05:11:27](#)  
(no subject)

Well, as long as she doesn't meet someone at  
Sherwood. I don't think she goes there,  
though. Or not much.

I want to hear more about what it's like. Tomorrow, though.

I'll see you then.

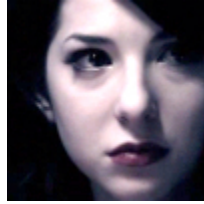
Missing you like mad, y'know.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 05:14:04](#)  
(no subject)

I miss you, too.

And yeah, she'd have to spend more time in Sherwood to meet anyone here!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 04:47:08](#)  
(no subject)


And my cousin --

He's the same age as the Twins. I mean, if he'd been able to go to Hogwarts he'd have been there pretty much the whole time as me, which is just WEIRD to think about, you know? He'd have done his NEWTs last year. Anyway I said something about that, how so many of my classmates have cousins at the school and how brilliant it would have been to have one and we wound up talking for an hour, about what it would have been like, he wanted me to try to work out which House he'd have been in (I decided on Gryffindor and that pleased him) and things like that.

I tried to get him to tell me about himself, I mean about his real life -- before Strangeweale, of course, I didn't want to try to make him talk to me about anything really painful. But, he didn't want to talk about it, he said it was more fun to hear about Hogwarts and imagine what it would have been like to go.

He should have. You know? Like Hermione should have. It's just wrong, all those people who've been kept out this whole time.



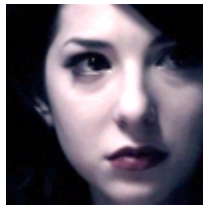
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:56:37](#)  
(no subject)

Huh. It's odd to imagine someone else rooming in with the twins and their lot. Or with mine. I think, sometimes about what it would've been like if Harry'd been with us instead of in

Slytherin.

And, yeah, it's horrible about people who should be at school, but couldn't come. Or who've had to leave--like Fawcett.

Instead, we're stuck with people like Nott and McLaggen, right? How is that fair?




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-17 05:03:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Like if there hadn't been anyone to overrule the Hat? Yeah. Though it would've left Draco with no one to be mates with but Teddy, and that wouldn't have been good for Draco...

Poor Hermione would've been stuck sharing a dorm room with Parvati Patil and Lavendar Brown. Well, and Kitty Bundy, that wouldn't be too bad.

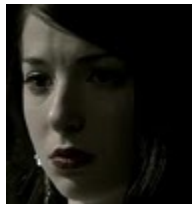
Anyway yeah, it would've been Fred and George, Lee Jordan, Hooper, Towler, Kirke, and Delancy Ambleston (though who knows, maybe the Hat would've put him in Hufflepuff? I don't think Ravenclaw. He doesn't like books enough.)



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-17 04:59:25](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm glad you get on with him, at least.

He sounds loads better than *Scott*.



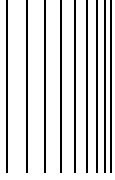
 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-17 05:08:44](#)**  
(no subject)


Scott's fine, honestly.

He's clearly good to Mum. And I don't want her to be lonely.

I just wish they'd TOLD me.





 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-17 05:22:55](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Yeah. That blows.

**[2014-04-16 19:34:00](#)**

*Private message to Ronald Weasley*




 **[alt\\_percy](#)**

I had my weekly lunch with Bill today and learned that you spent a day at MLE yesterday, undergoing some tests. Would you care to meet for lunch tomorrow to discuss? Perhaps I can give you some insights into the thoughts of several people you met Tuesday which will help you position yourself for however you wish to advance, whether its along the Auror track, or greater service yet, toward the Council?

I'd suggest the Brasserie at noon. Are you free, and open to the suggestion?

My treat, of course.

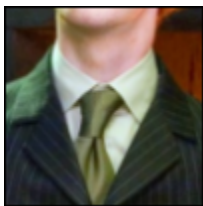



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-17 03:27:36](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah.

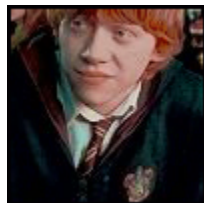
Alright.


Where's the Brasserie? That near the Ministry? Or... ?



 **[alt\\_percy](#)** at **[2014-04-17 12:01:33](#)**  
(no subject)

Closer to my office than the Ministry, so why don't we meet there, and I'll give you the details so we can apparate there.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-17 13:02:29](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah. Alright.

See you.

**[2014-04-16 21:06:00](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Dolohov*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Professor,

Forgive me for interrupting you on holiday. I shan't take too much of your time, I hope.

I simply wondered if you had any further recommendations for reading; I've finished the first volume of *Speed and Spellwork* that I'd borrowed. Is there something specific you'd suggest to follow?

I say, I did receive a very kind letter by owl, from Mr Pontner at International Magical Relations, assuring me that he sets no store by recent events and my continuing internship this summer is mine if I still wish it. I've been thinking about languages as a result. Obviously I'm conversational in French, I've got a little classical Latin and Greek and I picked up a smattering of German while the students from Durmstrang were also here. But I wonder if you have any recommendations on a primer in Russian? I'm afraid I shall have to start right from the beginning, learning the Cyrillic alphabet and such. I'm not sure whether there are other languages that would be useful--perhaps Dutch or Portuguese, or do you think Gobbledegook might be more useful?

I appreciate any thoughts you might have, sir. There's no rush to answer; I simply wished to take advantage of the holiday to put in a little preparation, if possible.

I hope you're enjoying your rest and the excellent spring weather.

Looking forward to your reply,

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-17 11:35:39](#)

(no subject)

My dear boy, you may write me anytime you would like; it isn't an imposition at all.

For reading -- I can owl you a number of titles (or the books themselves) I have read recently and enjoyed, but perhaps it

might suit you better if you drop by to peruse my library and make your own selections. The collection I keep at home is generally less popularly accessible and more scholarly than the books I keep at Hogwarts, and many of the books are older and in languages other than English -- when my family left the motherland, we were fortunate to have had enough time to pack the familial library -- but I do not think you would have difficulty with the former, and as for the latter, there are plenty of tomes in the languages you already know.

As to that question of languages: I have discovered there is a great deal of difference between fluency in a language and ability to teach it to others, but I am happy to do what I can. I'll have a look through the library and see if there's anything that might be of use, and if not, I will at least write you out the alphabet for you to begin studying and keep an eye out for a useful primer. Do you know if you learn languages best by immersion or rote repetition?

Mr Pontner would likely know more about what languages are most useful for International Magical Relations' purposes, but in my travels, the ones of mine I found most useful -- for diplomatic and not scholarly uses, of course -- were French and Arabic. Mind you, that last was a self-fulfilling prophecy, as the fact I do speak two dialects of modern wizarding Arabic, in addition to classical wizarding Arabic, allowed me to represent the Protectorate's interests among those with whom we had not had an embassy in years. Still, there is quite the opportunity for outreach among the wizarding governments of that region. I suspect Mandarin might also be useful in the future, but I do not speak it myself. Should you be interested, however, I would be happy to ask around on your behalf.

Speaking from a professorial, rather than professional development, standpoint, I would recommend that you pick up a language as far from the family of languages you have already studied as possible -- a non-Romance language at very least, and ideally a non-Indo-European one. (Hence why I suggest Arabic, but there are many others that would likewise suffice. The difficulty, of course, would be in finding a native or near-native speaker with whom to converse.) If you are interested in communication and language acquisition, the younger you study a wider variety of languages, the greater the chance you will be able to add additional languages in the future without resorting to magical intervention.


At any rate, if you would like to stop by sometime today and browse the library, just let me know. If I am called away, I'll let my elf know you may be stopping by; she is perfectly capable of giving an

introduction to the library as well.)

In service,

A.



 **alt\_justin** at **2014-04-17 14:01:08**  
(no subject)

Thank you very much for the kind offer, sir.

I almost suggested Mandarin, in fact, only I wasn't certain it would truly be pertinent within International Magical Relations. I confess even after a brief two weeks there over Christmas holidays, I am not sure how far-flung the Protectorate's ambassadorial efforts run. Of course, I do believe it is our duty to continue to make the case for wizarding community, what, and one never knows where the ideals of the Protectorate might take hold in foreign minds.


One hears a great deal of Arabic (and also Farsi, though your point about non-Indo-European roots is jolly good) in France, and you're quite right that it's a fascinating linguistic form. One imagines it might be entirely helpful to higher Arithmantic pursuit, as well, though perhaps that's best left to those who thrive on statistical maths, like Mr Moon. Certainly one can see how it is a well-travelled tongue. I shall have to write Mr Pontner to find out which areas of focus are most needed, I suppose.

I've heard from others about your library and its treasures. I should be grateful to come, perhaps a little after luncheon?

Thank you again, Professor.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-17 14:21:34**  
(no subject)

After lunch should be fine; I am expected at Court, but not until the late afternoon. If I am called away unexpectedly before then, I will let my elf know to expect you. The Floo address is "Cottesmore, New London", and someone will be by to escort you out of the arrival room as quickly as possible.

And yes, Arabic is quite helpful in Arithmantic study, but in multiple other disciplines as well -- there are many medieval resources on the Arts that have not been translated, for instance (or rather, have not been translated yet; I live in hope that I will someday find the time) and I have been teaching Professor Sinistra so that she might have access to the Astronomy texts of the time that have likewise never been translated. I will admit my partiality to the language does stem partially from it having been one of my childhood tongues, but it has been exceptionally useful throughout my life in both scholarly and diplomatic circles. To this day there are large sections of the Arts about which I think in Arabic and must mentally translate before teaching; it was the language of my Mastery studies.

I will see you after lunch, at which time we may discuss things further. I have faith you will be able to find something with which to keep you occupied for the remainder of your holidays.

In service,  
A.

**[2014-04-16 22:28:00](#)**


*Order Only*

I am once again licensed for Apparition. It's not as smooth as it used to be. I won't side-along anyone outside of most dire need. I'm a bit wobbly afterwards. It won't be my first choice of travelling unless I'm in a big hurry.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)**



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2014-04-17 02:48:23](#)**

*Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

We should talk about what I can do on the weekends or in the evening to help out. I'm uncoordinated and wozzy for several minutes after Apparating, so I can get out of of places but shouldn't be going into situations that might require quick action.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-17 04:54:47](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

Good to know.

Thank you, Cedric. I appreciate your willingness to help, and I'm glad you're able to Apparate successfully. We'll make sure to keep in mind your current limitations. Just let me know when you get to the point where you can side-along and are able to Apparate without disorientation.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-17 02:48:53](#)**


*(no subject)*

Cedric,

I say, good show! Well done, old man.

-Justin




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-17 03:43:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Say, are you thinking about going to get yours?

We could go in together. Only, not tomorrow. But after that, it'd be great. I mean, we ought to get it done.



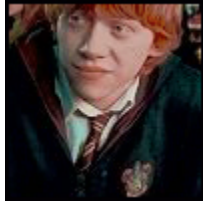
 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-17 03:46:09](#)**  
(no subject)


Ron,

I say, that's an excellent suggestion.

Friday would be fine for me, what. I'll come round for breakfast again and we can Floo from yours.


-Justin



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-17 04:28:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Wizard.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-17 03:54:36](#)**  
*Private Message to Ron*

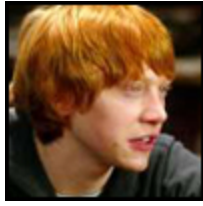
You've plans for Sally-Anne's birthday, I take it?

I've a small present for her. She'll be going to Pansy's in the morning, I expect. I was thinking to hold on to it until we could have a party for her emancipation from the Strettons, what, but I've not heard whether Pansy was going to host anything. Or you, old man.

Perhaps I'll bring it tomorrow and you'd be good enough to take it to her, if there isn't to be more inclusive celebration?

-Justin





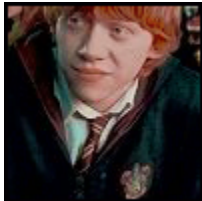
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 04:28:14](#)


*Re: Private Message to Ron*

I don't actually know what Pansy's planning. I'm going along, but I didn't want to ask about what she was planning because... well, I don't know. I just didn't ask.

And today Sally Anne rowed with Mrs Stretton and went off to visit her Mum, so I'm still sorting out what she means to do tomorrow.

But, yeah, I'd be glad to take her your present if you want. Sorry I don't know more.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-17 03:28:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, cheers, Diggory.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-17 04:50:38](#)

*(no subject)*

Ace.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-17 12:34:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Well, it's not my first choice of travelling, anytime. But I know it's a big hurdle for you and it's a superb show of progress. Cheers!




 [alt\\_gredforge](#) at [2014-04-18 01:51:42](#)

*(no subject)*


Excellent!



 [alt\\_terry](#) at [2014-04-18 01:52:43](#)  
(no subject)

I know you've worked very hard at it. I should think the extra Deliberation should make you very steady at it!



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-18 01:54:21](#)  
(no subject)

Still it's a big step (and a big relief, considering your personal safety, considering we still don't have Portkeys). Congratulations.

**2014-04-17 08:31:00**

*Order Only: Happy Birthday, Sally-Anne!*



Today's the day you leave the Strettons, right?

(No offence, Jeremy, I know it's not you or your siblings Sally-Anne despises!)

 **alt\_hermione**

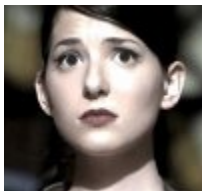
That means Luna, Hydra, Neville, Harry, Draco, Evelyn and Colin are the only people left on the lock now. Isn't it funny how there were so many of us for so long? And now it's just dwindling down to a few.

It's a shame we couldn't have found more people to add but honestly, considering what's behind it now, I don't know if I'd have been comfortable with too many more.

Anyway, what I mean is: HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Are you going to get your Apparation licence over the holiday? (Who else is thinking of that, by the way? Not that it matters, of course, because it's not like Harry's going--although! I bet if Harry wanted to get his early--Draco, do you think you could, too? Neither of you are 17 yet but you've taken the lessons and you did it in CCF, I'm sure no one would stand on legalities like an age limit. Oh, I think that's a really good idea, actually, Harry. You could show everyone you're able to get your licence before you're 17, isn't that the sort of privilege we're always looking for? And it doesn't involve Cruciating anyone, either.)

Sorry, Sally-Anne. I keep going off on tangents. I hope you have fun at Pansy's--that's where you're going, isn't it? Let us know when you've settled so we can all throw a proper housewarming. (Pansy, how likely is it that your mother and step-father would come there? Because it might also be a good place for us all to come practise over the holidays.)




 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **2014-04-17 14:59:30**  
(no subject)

I actually left yesterday after a fight with Mrs Stretton and went to see my Mum.

I was so distracted I didn't even think to write a goodbye to the lock.

Anyway thanks. I'm going to Pansy's later today. And good thought on the Apparation licence.



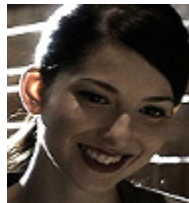
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-17 16:10:59](#)

*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

When are you coming by, then?

I was hoping you'd be by first thing, but I suppose you wanted to spend some more time with your

mum.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 17:44:58](#)

*Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

I am on my way.

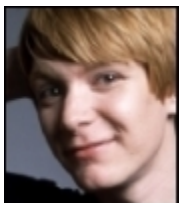



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-17 16:08:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Anyone who can come over this evening should. We can have a bit of a party or something. There will be cake, and plenty of it, Hitty is absolutely *thrilled* to be showing off her baking skills.

And yes, the house is now officially mine, and I've asked Rosa and Prospero to let me know in advance if they plan on stopping by. Mum might not if she's feeling contrary, but she doesn't tend to come to London very often, and George is helping me with the wards around the place too.




 [alt\\_george](#) at [2014-04-18 01:50:05](#)

*(no subject)*


And very fine wards they will be, too.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-18 03:41:12](#)  
(no subject)

I've got the brilliant George Weasley on the job, I'd expect no less.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-17 16:22:56](#)  
(no subject)

Happy returns, Sally Anne.

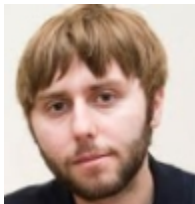
Getting licensed early for Apparation is a good idea. I wonder if it'd be best if Harry and I went together. Surely they'd be more likely to allow it for me if it were at Harry's request.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-17 16:43:30](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, sure, we can go together.

And Happy Birthday, Sally-Anne. I'm not sure I can make it out today, but maybe later this week, yeah?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-17 16:43:47](#)  
(no subject)

Draco,

Perhaps it's a chance to see whether your own performance in the competition has any effect on the Ministry's perception of you. Though having Harry along couldn't hurt, what!

Ron and I plan to go tomorrow morning to see if we can qualify. I say, if anyone else would like to come, we could all celebrate afterward, assuming we all pass, what. Or perhaps it might be better not to all arrive at the same time. It seems the sort of record one could access later and draw conclusions, if one were MLE. Does anyone know if there are only a limited number of tests given each day? I say, that might be a factor, too.

Pansy, a party tonight sounds jolly well delightful. Count me in!


-Justin



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 18:15:37](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks for the birthday wishes. I'm at Pansy's now. We're thinking we'll go together to test for our licence sometime next week.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-17 21:03:57](#)  
(no subject)

Happy birthday, you. And many happy returns.

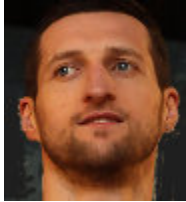
**2014-04-17 13:17:00**


*Private message to Bill Weasley*

Some rather nice flowers arrived in Auror Lamont's office this afternoon. From you?



 [alt\\_corax](#)




 [alt\\_corax](#) at **2014-04-17 18:30:52**

*(no subject)*

Did you do something you had to apologise for?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-18 01:26:27**

*(no subject)*

Nothing particularly comes to mind.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-18 01:27:21**

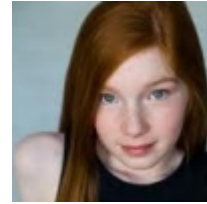
*(no subject)*

They are rather nice.

As to who they're from, I'm sure that's her business.

**2014-04-17 13:19:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ginny Weasley*



Hello.

How've you been?


 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

Nev and I were going to head over to Pansy's tonight, for Sally-Anne's birthday, and I wanted to see if you were coming too. I think it'd be fun.

And.


We've been spending the last few afternoons at Moddey, me and Nev, and if you wanted to come along and see the place, you can feel free to join us whenever you'd like. I'd love to show you everything, and make introductions, and I'm sure you'd get on famously with Pilar and Clara and Morgan, and Colin's sometimes got things to do with dad, but if he's free, you could meet him too. We could invite Luna to come along and make a day of it, if you'd like.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at **2014-04-17 21:45:53**  
(no subject)

Oh...do you think it would be okay? For me to come to Sally-Anne's party, and also Moddey, because really I'd love to come to both but I don't want to intrude.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2014-04-17 21:56:25**  
(no subject)

Of course it would be. And if you start feeling a bit out of place at Pansy's or people start talking about something that goes over your head, you can always pull on your ear or something and I'll catch you up or we can talk about something we both know plenty about or play exploding snap.

But really, it'll be just like going to a party with some people you know from school, only now you get the chance to get to know them even better.



And it would make me so happy to get the chance to show you  
Moddey, Ginny. Really and truly.

**2014-04-17 15:37:00**

*private message to Sally-Anne Perks*



 [alt\\_megan](#)

It is a lot quieter around here today. And Mrs Stretton is being super nice to me, I think because she tried to get her usual helper to come back from his hols but he wouldn't come, and now she is regretting that she yelled at you and tried to make you pay for that wrong delivery that was her mistake anyhow. Or at least regretting that you left because of it.

She actually asked if I were happy, this afternoon.

I think too that she is regretting you are gone because Gemma was howling all yesterday but today she is not speaking to her. Gemma, I mean. Not speaking to Mrs Stretton.

She doesn't like me as much as she did you, Gemma I mean of course, and why should she? But today she is sitting under that table where we pack the baskets. She has made a little cave down there, and I am just pretending that I don't see her. Like I do with Fang when he is in a mood and doesn't want to be petted but does want to be around humans but doesn't want to actually be nice to them. So I can do that. And she's fine right there, really. And I think mostly Mrs Stretton is glad she's not howling any more.

How long can does Gemma usually keep up the silent treatment?

But this was not what I set out to write to you about at all. What I meant to write is happy birthday. So happy birthday! I hope it is a good one.

Also I meant to say thank you. So thank you for putting in a word for me here, and for helping me get used to it and for teaching me things. I know we were never friends at school ~~and things happened~~ but I think we had some fun times helping each other out here and that is something. So thank you for that too.

And happy birthday.

---




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 21:03:37](#)  
(no subject)

Thanks for the birthday wishes.

I'm going to miss Gemma. I mean, I think Jeremy will bring her to visit and I'll get to see her, but I won't see her as often, you know? If you want to soften her up you could offer to let her wear your school tie or something else with a Hufflepuff badger on it. She wants to be in Hufflepuff House when she goes to school.

Anyway, she has definitely mastered badger stubbornness. She can keep up her silent treatment for days. But probably she'll save that for her Mum, not you.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-17 21:46:03](#)  
(no subject)

I did not know she wanted to be a Hufflepuff! How wonderful! Not that Slytherins are not nice too, of course.

When I had a break between sorting the jams by date, I went to my room and got my little Hufflepuff coin purse for her. You know the charmed ones where the little badger pulls the zip partly closed, climbs into the coin purse, and then reaches one paw out to zip it the rest of the way closed? She thinks it is the most nift thing ever. I can hear it zipping and unzipping as I am working.

(Do you have one of the Slytherin ones? Only I think it is so clever how the Slytherin snake doesn't pull the zip closed, because of course it doesn't have paws, but just comes out and **hisses** at the zip and it closes itself!)

Anyhow she is still under the table. And she sniffles now and then but she is mostly playing with the coin purse. And glaring at Mrs Stretton when she comes by to give me something else to do.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 22:03:42](#)  
(no subject)

I didn't tell you about Gemma's fixation on Hufflepuff House?!? Oh, that's right, I was assuming SHE'D tell you. Yes, she decided years and years ago she wanted to be a Hufflepuff because her favourite colour was yellow. When she was four, I assumed it was sort of a whim -- you know both her parents were Ravenclaws, Jeremy was a Ravenclaw, Phillip's a Ravenclaw... but she's stuck with it. And it's not just the yellow anymore. She had me explain the four Houses at some point and she APPROVES of Hufflepuff House. And Helga Hufflepuff. And the fact that you're near the kitchens. Just....all of it.

I don't have one of the Slytherin coin purses though I've seen them! They are nift.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 22:06:49](#)  
(no subject)


Oh and believe me I tried plenty of times to talk her into wanting to be a Slytherin but that effort was doomed to fail.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-17 21:05:38](#)  
(no subject)

And about helping you get the job for the Strettons -- I just hope it works out well. I'm glad Mrs Stretton is being pleasant to you at least for the moment.



 [alt\\_megan](#) at [2014-04-17 21:52:43](#)  
(no subject)

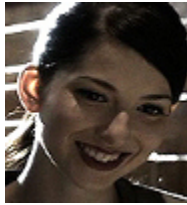
So far anyway.

And really, anything is better than Umbridg Madam Umbr that some people were. You know who I mean. People w

People we don't miss.

Anyhow it is OK here for now. I'm just sorry she was so awful to you. It doesn't seem fair that she is being nice to me to make up for being awful to you. Only she probably isn't anyway, it's just that she's afraid of being without help at all. But it's still not fair.

If you ever want jam I could send you some? If the Strettons keep me on over the summer hols I mean.



 **alt\_sally\_anne** at **[2014-04-17 22:04:30](#)**  
*(no subject)*

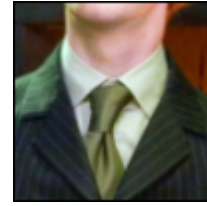
I'm sure they'll want you back for the summer. If you wanted to send me some jam I wouldn't complain.

**2014-04-17 20:32:00**

*Private message to Julius Avery*

Your methods seem to have backfired. At the very least, threatening Miss Parkinson was a spectacularly bad idea. Both in terms of the effect on Ron, as well as persons looking out for her.

I did what I could. A fact which I hope you will remember in the future?



 [alt\\_percy](#)

**2014-04-17 22:29:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Draco Malfoy*

So.

14 months, 6 days,

or 426 days.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

**2014-04-18 11:20:00**

*Order Only: ISS Business*

(Ginny, 'ISS Business' includes you, it just means 'for the young people rather than the grizzled old grownups like Sirius Black and Bill Weasley.' Though I suppose Cedric and Jeremy are allowed in, I mean you're not automatically excluded just cause you're of age or I'd have to stop reading these.)

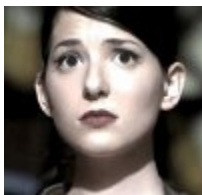


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

Thanks for coming over last night, everyone who came, it was brilliant to see everyone.

So weird to be Officially Of Age.

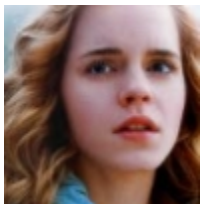
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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-18 16:25:51**

*Private message to Hermione*

Are you okay? You seemed upset last night when you left.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2014-04-18 16:28:04**

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

No, I wasn't upset. I just realised how late it was and I didn't want anyone at Buckingham to see me coming back.

Why, did I look upset? I wasn't upset.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-18 16:36:23**

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

Well you seemed to be in a hurry but I suppose if you'd just noticed the time that would explain it.





 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-18 16:38:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

Yes, that's all it was.

I'm not upset.

What's Draco saying



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:43:58](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

Well

If you ever are actually upset about something do you have someone you can talk to about it? I know you're better friends with the Order Adults than most of us but they're still grizzled old grownups and sometimes it just seems like they haven't been teenagers in about a hundred years.

Anyway you don't have to talk to me if you don't want to, I just -- I mean, you should have someone. Everyone should.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-18 20:04:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

I....

No, not really. I thought I did. I mean, I was starting to think I had but--

Well, right now it's not an option.

But it's not--I don't *need* to talk to anyone, about anything.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-18 20:05:34](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

Anyway, I can talk to Sirius or Mr Lupin or Mrs Longbottom or Mr Snape or Ms Tonks if I really need advice.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-18 20:05:57](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

I don't mind as much as you do that they're grizzled.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-18 20:06:41](#)

*Re: Private message to Hermione*

What did Draco tell you?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 04:57:12](#)


*Re: Private message to Hermione*

He told me what happened last night, because I already knew that he had feelings for you.

(Because I'd guessed, not because he'd told

me.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 16:28:09](#)

*(no subject)*

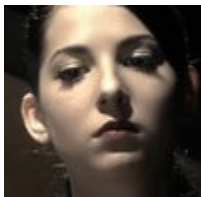
It was wizard. Welcome to the other side of the age line!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:58:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Thank you!



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:28:48](#)

*Private message to Draco*

~~Did you tell Hermione you~~

What happened last night? You and Hermione slipped

away and then both of you just left. Hermione at least said bye, you disappeared.

Are you okay? Okay'ish?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 16:30:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

You sent a private message to her.

What'd she say?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:35:46](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I asked her if she was upset last night because she kind of looked upset to me, when she said goodbye, and she said she just realised it was very late and she should get back to Buckingham before anyone noticed she wasn't there.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 16:43:01](#)

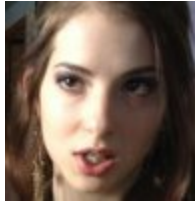
*Re: Private message to Draco*

She was upset.

That girl - when she wants to know something, she's like a dog with a bone and won't let go.

We were talking about Rowena Robins, and she was all *concerned* that I was irreparably damaged, or something. I suppose she was thinking of Ollivander, and what happened with him. So I tried to get her to see that I was fine, but she changed tracks and decided that I must be tragically in love with someone and that I was keeping it a secret.

Here's the funny bit - she thought it was you I was in love with.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:47:11](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

WHAT?

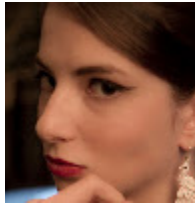


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 16:51:48](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Right?

No offense intended. You're fit but I don't fancy you, as you well know.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:58:12](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Thank you, no, I don't fancy you either. Was she thinking you'd kept it a secret because I was seeing Ron, or because I wasn't up to your blood purity standards, or ... I mean, if we did fancy each other we could have snogged and no one would care that much as long as you made it clear you were only taking advantage of me and weren't intending anything serious with it. It would have to be one of those things that everyone pretends is a secret, but it wouldn't have to be an ACTUAL secret.



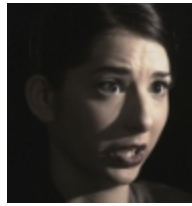
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:04:01](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

This will make you laugh:

"She's the only girl you spend loads of time with who's unavailable."

Genius comes with its own blindness, apparently.

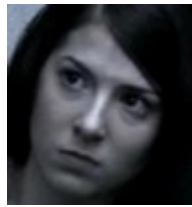


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:12:28](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

...

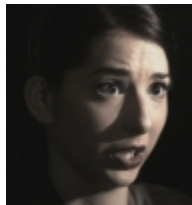
oh for Merlin's sake.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:13:23](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Well I suppose technically she's available. She's not seeing anyone, after all. ~~Maybe you SHOULD~~



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 16:51:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

That really is pretty funny. No wonder she didn't want to tell me what was going on.

Did you tell her the whole truth? or just that no, you are not secretly in love with me?

...and hold on, did Rowena Robins do something to you? This is Demelza's older sister -- wasn't she Dolores Umbridge's assistant years ago when Umbridge was Minister?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:01:24](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Oh. Right, I forgot that you wouldn't know about that.

Last year at Christmas hols, Rowena tried to seduce me to make my father jealous, and seeing as it happened only days after something else unpleasant - well, it wasn't necessarily a welcome experience. Not the same as what Ollivander did to Hermione (or what Bletchley did to you), for all sorts of reasons, but learning about it seemed to provoke her sympathies, somehow.

Anyway, I did set her straight and make it clear that I'm not in love with you.

But then she started talking about the stupid *prefect's bath* again.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:11:30](#)


*Re: Private message to Draco*

Rowena tried to -- OH. Ugh.

Does Hermione feel like she was irreparably damaged by Ollivander?

What happened with the prefect's bath? ~~Did someone--I mean, was she~~



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:23:26](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I don't think she wants to believe that, no, but how should I know?

It was after what happened in our Defence lesson. I asked her if there was anything she needed, and she mentioned wishing she could have a bath. So I had an idea, a truly a stupid whim, I suppose, and asked her to meet me outside the common room in the invisibility cloak. I was going to sneak her into the prefect's bath.

But she thought I was ordering her around and didn't like it.

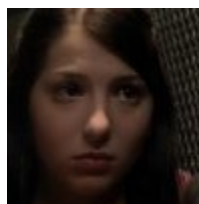
So, she brought that up again and said that she interpreted it as an order because it was never up to her to decide whether she was being told what to do or being offered something.

And I said that I know that. Because I do. I just... forgot in that moment, when I suggested the bath.

So she got all sympathetic again, because to her I'm a rich pureblood who has trouble understanding privilege and power dynamics, but it's so touching to see me *try*. And she put her hand on my shoulder and I - I suppose I froze, or something. She looked as if I'd slapped her. And then I blurted out that she shouldn't do that, and she was really hurt, then, and I

could see that she was interpreting it all wrong, thinking I was pulling away from her because I was disgusted by her mudblood presence.

I couldn't let her walk away thinking that, so I told her. The truth, I mean.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:27:21](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Oh.

Yeah. I can see why you told her.

What did she say?

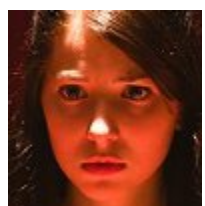


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:29:53](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

"Lovely."

While frowning.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:33:18](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

~~Well, she's probably never even thought about whether she likes you~~

Was there more or did you both flee head in opposite directions at that point?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:35:37](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

She also didn't believe me. I just *think* I fancy her. I don't really fancy her.

By the time I convinced her, all she could say was that she was sorry. Because she doesn't feel the same way, which I completely knew, of course.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 17:39:42](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

'You don't really fancy me you just THINK you do' is possibly the dumbest thing to say ever, how on earth did she think you got confused about THAT?

Anyway

Yeah

Do you think it'll help? Knowing (for sure) that she doesn't feel the same way. I mean, if she were a pureblood and you'd fallen for her and she didn't like you back you'd just have to get over her, right? You'd have asked her out years ago and when she said 'no, I don't like you that way' you'd have moved on. So maybe -- I don't know.

I'm sorry.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 17:52:25](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I don't know if Hermione herself has ever fancied anyone, or thought about someone fancying her. You can't study about that in a book. It's understandable that she'd get it

wrong.

I've been trying to get over her all along, so I suppose this can only help, if it does anything at all. But now we may not ever become real friends, either, and I'm sorry for that.

Maybe we would have never, anyway.



 [alt\\_ginny](#) at [2014-04-18 17:01:44](#)

*(no subject)*

Happy birthday, Sally-Anne, and thank you for letting me come to your party.



**[2014-04-18 11:30:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Padfoot*

Apparently YOU'RE a grizzled old grownup, despite your consistent willingness to point out that I'M the one going grey around the edges.




 **[alt\\_lupin](#)**

Think Tonks is counted with Bill as a horrifyingly ancient grownup or with Cedric and Jeremy as an honorary Youth? I suppose if we ever desperately want to put in our knut on one of those threads we'll try to talk her into doing it for us.



---

 **[alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-19 01:04:34](#)**

*(no subject)*

Well, I am older than you, after all. But I guess taking myself off the market has turned me even older. I've heard that happens but seems it's time to fight the rising tide.

Anyway, it's always been clear they've got their own way of handling - well, everything. Doesn't surprise me in the slightest that Miss Perks is sending clear signals for us to keep out.

**[2014-04-18 16:07:00](#)**

*Private Message to Corax Mulciber*

Seen the evening edition of The Prophet?

Truly impressive the coverage your department attracts. Top notch people you hire there.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-18 21:32:55](#)  
(no subject)

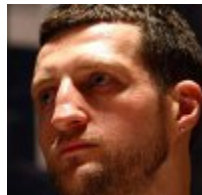
Oh, do tell me how some lackey's illegal potions use is my fault, Crouch.


This is an enormous department. Occasionally people will make mistakes. They'll pay for them, but it doesn't mean it won't happen.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-18 21:41:29](#)  
(no subject)

Doesn't reflect on you at all. Of course, not. We all have contraband deliveries arriving in our departments.



 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-18 21:45:19](#)  
(no subject)

I'm glad you're aware it's likely as common in MLE as it is in PA.

Just rather likely less to wind up in the papers, since journalists are rather less worried about crossing Magical Commerce and Pureblood Affairs than they are the Auror department.




 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-18 21:55:39](#)  
(no subject)

I'll let MEU know that you suspect your brother's as soft on security as you are. Presume they'll contact you for a statement once they've opened the file.

Expect that will be take second priority behind investigating your department's vetting procedures, though.



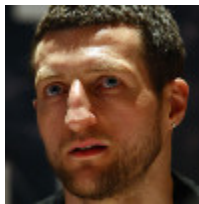
 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-18 21:59:38](#)  
(no subject)


The other applicant for the position was a bloody half-blood.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-18 22:02:22](#)  
(no subject)

Deep candidate pool you attract.



 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-18 22:06:39](#)  
(no subject)

We can't all offer the excitement and rewards of Magical Law Enforcement.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-18 22:12:35](#)  
(no subject)

True.

Your allure may improve once they see the notoriety and limelight that could be theirs if they pitch in with you.

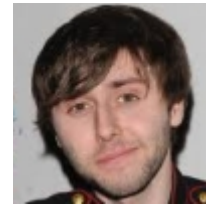
Front page of The Prophet. Quite the perquisite.

**2014-04-18 16:25:00**

*Order Only: Apparation*

Hello, all,

Ron, Harry, Draco and I went down to the Ministry today to test for our Apparation licences. I say, they were a bit taken aback that Draco and Harry were there, what, but they let them fill out the parchment and pay their application fees without any question.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Harry went first, then Draco, then they called me in and Ron went last of us.

We all passed but one and Ron plans to go back again on Tuesday. (I say, think nothing of it, old man, I quite agree it was bally well ridiculous of them. You've Apparated loads of times, what.)

Congratulations again, Harry and Draco, and Ron, Tuesday's sure to go perfectly.

Sirius, I'm expected with the Jugsons on Sunday but I ought to be able to come by after dinner. Around 7:00? Or is that too close to Bea's bedtime and I should wait?

Sally-Anne, if you want to know more about Professor Dolohov's house before you go, I say, I'm happy to tell. We never did get back to it after that last round of Snap.

-Justin

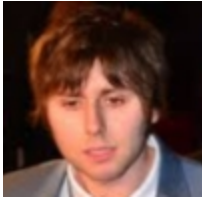


 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-18 21:28:33**

*(no subject)*

Good to have one more thing out of the way.

You'll get it next time, Weasley.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 21:31:26](#)

*Private Message to Draco*

Draco,

I say, is everything all right? You were much quieter than one expected. Not nervous, were you? Seems there was nothing to worry one, what.

-F-F

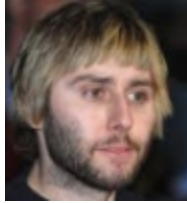


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 21:35:08](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Not nervous at all. Too much to drink last night, no doubt.

How are you doing, is the better question. Are Professor Dolohov's extra-curricular activities providing sufficient distraction?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 21:44:32](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Oh, yes, you *did* leave rather suddenly. No one seemed to know where or when. Sorry to hear it, old man. Didn't seem to affect your Apparation, what, so good show.

Sometimes I think nothing is going to provide sufficient distraction but every day is a tiny bit easier. At this rate, I should be completely fine by the time we're, oh, 80.


No, that's not true. But the alternative doesn't bally well bear thought, so one must carry on.

In any case, I should say that so far it seems as if Professor Dolohov is more than willing to provide any diversion in which I might express interest. The hard part is pacing oneself not to appear over-eager.

You must feel somewhat the same, with the challenges and such.

-Justin



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 21:51:29](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

We will live to 80? I hope not, unless it can be in a vastly different England than the one we're currently stuck with.

Just know that you're not the only one who has to live with the fact of not having what one wants. But you did have it, so that's something. Something that can't ever be taken away.

My strategy with the challenges has always been to appear as if I already belong. Effectiveness, then, rather than eagerness.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:08:50](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Yes, and you execute it jolly well, old man.

I would never presume to be the only person left wanting in the Protectorate, what, nor indeed, certainly, the world. I'm beginning to think no one truly gets what he wants. It's enough that one strives to make the best of what one must do.

What's been taken, if you don't mind my asking? I assure you I ask only out of friendship and if you don't wish to answer, it's bally well all right.

-Justin



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 22:15:31](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Oh, nothing that was mine to begin with. Just mourning an opportunity that never was, and never will be.

Sorry to be vague, but it's really not worth bringing up the specifics.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:23:09](#)


*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Ah, well.

Would that something be vaguely five-foot five inches with light brown hair, perhaps?

-Justin



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 22:24:35](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Those sound an awful lot like specifics.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:27:25](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*


Not necessarily. We know quite a few people with brown hair, after all.

And a few blokes who are that short, as well,

what.

-Justin

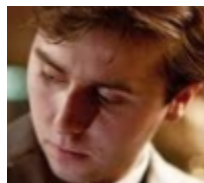


 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 22:29:59](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

She's not a bloke. Actually, it'd be handy if she were, seeing as I've no interest in blokes.

Anyway. Yeah.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:33:06](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Right.


Well ....

No. I suppose you've no options, even if you told her how you feel.

It's utter bollocks, isn't it. That...longing.

-J



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-18 22:37:20](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

Bollocks is one word for it, though I'm surprised to hear it from you.

I'm not saying I know what you're feeling, but I have an approximation. And you're right, making the best of what we can do is all there is to do.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 03:40:10](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

I'd use far worse words if it would change anything, what.

But no, of course that's not what you're saying, no more than I'm saying I know what it's like in your shoes.

I say, this idea of yours, Harry and Hydra dating, It wasn't simply so we could all be miserable together, was it?

My first impulse was to say yes, anything if it would make Teddy desist. The more I consider it, the harder I think it's going to be to maintain the illusion that everyone is content with the arrangement.


But then, while it's kind of Harry to ask for my blessing, neither he nor Hydra need my *permission*, what.

A sober realisation, to be sure.

-Justin






 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-18 21:32:34](#)  
(no subject)

We'll have to go out to celebrate after Tuesday.

Think you'd be able to come over to Spence for poker, Justin? I was thinking we might get the group together sometime this weekend.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 21:35:32](#)  
(no subject)

Harry,

Yes to both. Not Sunday, obviously, but perhaps tomorrow. Or Easter Mon--or no, one can't, can one, that's the house party they're having, what.


-Justin



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-18 22:06:57](#)  
(no subject)

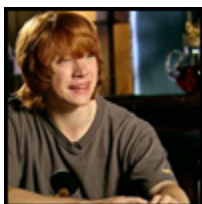
I had a quick firecall over to Spence, and it looks like Saturday would work for them.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:09:43](#)  
(no subject)

Jolly good!

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 21:37:24](#)  
(no subject)


What bleeding bollox! A few hairs!!

It was completely that bloke's fault, and he knows it. I mean, of course I looked when he dropped all those things just as I was Disapparating. Anyone would've done.

I can't believe he failed me.

Complete load of...




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 21:47:23](#)  
(no subject)

Ron,  
Quite!


-Justin



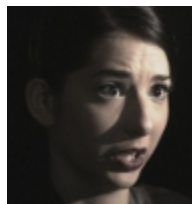
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-18 21:56:35](#)  
(no subject)


You'll pass on Tuesday, no problem.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 21:57:35](#)  
(no subject)

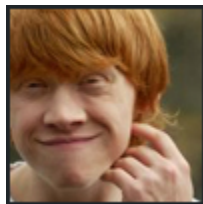
I mean, that was no way a splinch!  
Half an eyebrow? Honestly!




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 22:16:04](#)  
(no subject)

Half an eyebrow?!

Were you at least bleeding? I don't know how they even NOTICED half an eyebrow.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 22:25:27](#)  
(no subject)


Erm. I may have said, 'Ouch' and fallen over.

But seriously, it was nothing! Not everyone lands on their feet when they arrive!!

And Mum says she can barely tell!! So it was totally trumped up.

Ginny thinks they have a quota and probably have to fail somebody every day.

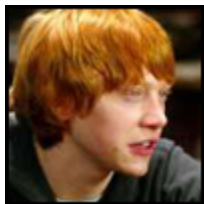



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:29:28](#)  
(no subject)

Ron,

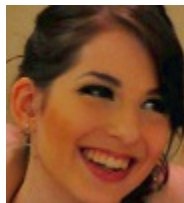
I was wondering the same, about the quota--but then if so, make sure there's at least one other person there before you, Sally-Anne and Pansy try, what!

-Justin



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 22:32:04](#)  
(no subject)


Actually, I think I should go first. That way they know they've got all session to bin someone and it won't need to be me.



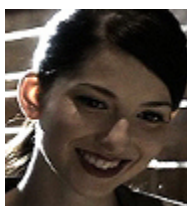
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 22:29:31](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, I like Ginny's theory.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-18 22:33:44](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, she's clever, that one. The Weasley influence is finally showing through in her.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 21:56:20](#)  
(no subject)

So is there anything else I really ought to know about his house? I mean other than the shoe thing, you mentioned that before we got interrupted. I'm going on

Monday, to meet Healer Korotkova over tea.

Pansy and I were planning to go take our Apparation licencing tests on Tuesday, maybe we'll see Ron there. They let Draco and Harry test, really? That's hilarious.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-18 22:03:45](#)  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

Yes, I'd mentioned he doesn't allow shoes. There's a jolly good number of slippers one can borrow. And one pair that are obviously well used but not Professor Dolohov's, what. (I'll come back to that in a moment.) I went stocking-footed but next time I'll know to bring my house slippers. I say, I don't think you'll want to do that unless you want him to realise you've spoken to someone who's been.

What else? Well, as I said last night, the 'receiving room' hasn't any way back out except the Floo. I mean to say, there's a door into the house but it only opens when someone who is authorised opens it. I'm bally well sure it's a blood spell of some sort.

I know I've told you his library is *immense*, what. It looks as if he's expanded the room several times (or I say, *someone* has done, he mentioned his brother often during the afternoon).

There *is* something else--a little less obvious. I'm pretty sure Auror Crouch spends significant time there. Those slippers--Professor Dolohov was barefoot--and there were two beakers by his coffee pot. And...there was a reading table with four chairs but *two* of them were cleared and one had a small pile of reading at it but the other had letters and such.

I could be wrong, of course but they *do* PM each other rather a lot. Do you suppose they could be partners? Anyway, you'll have to look when you're there and tell me what you think, what.

-Justin




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-18 22:09:50](#)  
(no subject)

They do PM each other a lot, but when Hydra legilimised Professor Dolohov she mentioned he thought of Barty Crouch as his son.

So if they ARE, you know, like ~~Sirius and~~ that, it's a bit creepy. Auror Crouch could still be living there, though.

Anyway I'm sure Professor Dolohov wouldn't be bothered if I'd spoken with you about his house but I'll leave my slippers at home, if he goes around barefoot I'm sure his floors are very clean.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-19 04:18:06](#)  
(no subject)

It's not like that at all. Family is very important to Professor Dolohov. Having someone remember him who is family after he dies. So I think he really did adopt him, and really thinks of him like

a son.

**2014-04-18 19:38:00**

*(no subject)*

Draco and I were tossing around ideas about what to do over hols. Anyone up for poker at Spence tomorrow? Blaise, Justin, Ron? Ced, you game? And Moon, you can come if you promise not to count cards. Siz says we can use the duelling salon if we get bored.




 [alt\\_harry](#)

Long-distance flying club should get in at least one session. I'm thinking we haven't gone up the West coast yet, which should be interesting. So if you're up for it, let me know. Plan for it taking up the whole day.

And I was thinking we might do a Tea Appreciation next week too. Hydra, which day works best for you?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-19 02:52:45**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

We need to talk.

Draco had an idea that I should date Hydra. So Teddy'd stop bugging you, and to make things easier with your mum. And I could make it clear that we're still mates, Justin, and that there are no hard feelings or anything.


It wouldn't be

I know that it would be for show. And that's okay.

Anyways. That was his idea. And I thought I'd see what you thought about it.

And. I've gone ahead and broken things off with Katie. So. There's that.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 02:55:39](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

What?

It was Draco's idea? To date me?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 02:59:42](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

To *pretend* to date you.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 03:03:14](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

If we pretended we'd have to make people believe it, which is almost the same as actual dating.

It's one thing to help me with Teddy and Mummy, but what about you? What good would it do you?



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 03:22:02](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Yeah. We would.

I couldn't keep on with Katie because we could never be equal. And I could never tell her the truth. Or trust her. And because of that, I couldn't ever love her. Not really.


I don't know if I'll ever get that chance for real with anybody. Ever. And that's okay. I've thought about it lots, and that's just how it is, and whinging about it or feeling sorry for myself isn't going to change things.

I guess

I mean, I don't need it, no. But I'd like to have someone next to

me that I can be honest with. And be myself around. And helping you would be something that would make me happy. Knowing that you would be a bit better off.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 03:28:36](#)


*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Oh.

I understand. That all makes sense. I -

But I want to think about it first. If that's alright.



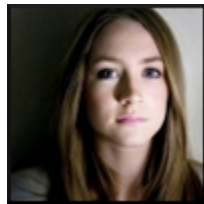
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 03:42:14](#)


*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Okay.

It's up to you.

And Justin's right. We can sort out something else if you don't want to.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 16:01:26](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Alright. I'll do it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 16:37:11](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Right.

Okay.


Do you want to wait until Tea Appreciation next week? Or should I swing by tomorrow or something? How do you think



this would work best?

I figure people will make up their own stories about why we're together, so we don't need to come up with a reason or anything.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 17:15:16](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Well. I suppose you might as well pop over, to get them used to the idea that it's going to happen more than it did before.

And yes, they're already making up stories, thanks to those photographs in the paper. We don't have to say anything.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 17:17:49](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

See you tomorrow, then.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 03:02:56](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Harry,

I see.

I say, I wish you hadn't gone and done anything permanent about Katie, old man, until we'd all talked this through properly.


That said.... Yes. I can see how it would make things easier all round. *Some* things, what.

If Hydra agrees, I can--I *think* I can stand it. And if it stops Teddy, well, it might be the best arrangement one could hope for.

Hydra, if you don't want to do it--we'll I'm sure you'll think of something else.

-Justin



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 03:08:13](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Katie was

We were seeing each other because it was fun and we got on and there wasn't any harm in it. But it's my fault she got selected for this, and we either would have to get a lot more serious or break it off to keep her safe. And I'd rather she wasn't with me and was safe instead of making her commit to me and have to lie to her all the time.

So.

It was something I needed to do anyways.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 03:14:33](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Justin and Hydra*

Well, my condolences, all the same.


It's a jolly good point about making people believe you've taken up with Hydra. I suppose it could be a very chaste sort of relationship but that's hardly fair to either of you....

Dash it. Perhaps it wouldn't work at all.

Anyway, it's not really my decision anymore, is it? I only mean to say--I shan't stand in the way, what.

-Justin



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 03:09:52](#)


*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry*

That is....I'm sorry, I ought not to have assumed you broke off with Katie to clear the way for this plan. Or was there more to it?

Either way, it's a generous offer, Harry. Perhaps that's a bally well odd thing to say but--I don't want Teddy anywhere near her if it can be avoided, what.

-Justin



 [alt\\_harry](#) at 2014-04-19 03:33:03

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry*


It isn't odd. I don't want him in the same county.

And look, I'm not

I know I'm not you. And I know she loves you, and that's okay. I wouldn't try to replace you. And who knows how things will sort out. Maybe we'll get to the point where we can all stop pretending.

If she decides to go along with it, I swear, Justin, I'll respect her.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-04-19 03:54:39

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry*

Thank you, Harry.

But--that's a better offer than one can rightfully expect. As I said, it's hardly fair to her or to you to hold her to an agreement which is no longer valid.

There are no guarantees, you see. She might find that it's easier to be herself around you, as well.

I mean to say, I shall be prepared if that were to happen.

I realise I reacted--I was thinking of her well-being but not of her happiness.


Harry, we broke up to avoid being selfish. Just as you've done. We ~~fucking~~ broke up. Every bit as permanently as you and Katie, old man. You might wish for a pretend girlfriend but our situation is anything but pretend.

I'm so sorry, I can't seem to get used to that for more than a day or so at a time.

It's not your fault this is so bally well dashed difficult. I--

~~Fuck.~~ Dash it all.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 04:09:42](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry*

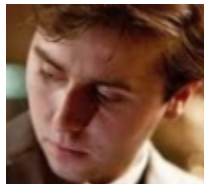
I know you didn't pretend to break up.


That doesn't mean you don't still love her though.

And we're all friends, and we're all in this mess together, yeah? And that means I'm going to try and do right by her, and try and do right by you too. As best as I can.

You're right. Things could change. I don't know what'll happen a year from now. I don't know what'll happen next week. I've got a prophecy hanging over my head, and Hydra's trying to join the council, and we've all of us got secrets that would get us killed. But if we all come out of this alive, I'd respect her enough to let her decide what came next. No matter what.

I'm sorry, mate. I really am.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 04:26:46](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Harry*

No, I'm sorry.

You're only trying to help and make the best of a bally well bad situation. And it is a good suggestion, on its surface.

This would all be much less complicated if it weren't for Nott trying to get his leg over.

I can't tell you I'll be thrilled at the thought of you and Hydra snogging, what, even if it is just for show. But as I said, I've no say in the matter anymore.

And the sooner I bally well learn to live with that, the better for all of us. It's simply that every time I believe I've controlled

myself something comes up, what.

That's no excuse, though. I've simply got to make up my mind not to let it bother me. Whatever it takes.

-Justin



 **alt\_hydra** at [2014-04-19 02:52:45](#)


*(no subject)*

Hullo, Harry. Just let me know what day it's planned for, and I should be able to attend.

From,

Hydra




 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-19 02:53:46](#)

*(no subject)*

Ace.



 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-19 02:59:08](#)


*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Pans and Evs*

I've broken things off with Katie. It's for the best. But look. I know you two have kept a bit of an eye on her during this contest thing, and helped her a bit, and I'm really grateful for it.

And I'd like you to keep doing it. Helping her, I mean. What'd you call it, Pans? Failing with grace? She might get some fallout from my breaking things off, and I'm going to try and make it look like we're still friendly and she didn't do anything wrong.

It's important to me that she stay safe.




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-19 06:15:44](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Pans and Evs*

All right, Harry.

I'm sorry.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 03:08:59](#)

*(no subject)*

Sure. Sounds nift.

What time?



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 03:16:17](#)


*(no subject)*

Harry,

Yes, splendid idea. Just say when.

-Justin




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 03:55:03](#)

*(no subject)*

Let's say four, and anyone who has to leave for dinner can, and whoever wants to stay can make a night of it.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 21:15:29](#)

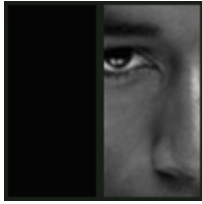
*(no subject)*


Harry,

I say, sorry, but Ron and I were out this afternoon and we've just come back to the Burrow to freshen up, what. Only there's been a bit of trouble here with the goat pen and, well, Ron's got to stay and sort it. I offered to help as well.

We're not going to make it, I'm afraid. Some other time, old chap?


-Justin



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2014-04-19 04:27:41](#)  
(no subject)

Count on me.




 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-19 04:41:16](#)  
*Private Message to Harry*

I assume I can make the stakes?

I'm in.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 05:11:52](#)  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

No worries.


I'll make sure you can cover your bets.



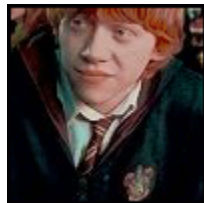
 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-04-19 15:07:31](#)  
(no subject)


I'll come along on the long-distance flying.



 [alt\\_neville](#) at [2014-04-19 15:09:52](#)  
*Order only*

Yeah, pick your jaws up from the ground. I've *got* to get better on the broom, and I'll do my best to keep up. If you'll have me.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 15:14:52](#)  
*Re: Order only*

Do come. I'll pair with you and make sure you're doing alright.

And, listen, if you want, we can do some flying here first. Just to get you more comfortable, yeah?

Good on you, mate!




 **[alt\\_neville](#) at 2014-04-19 17:51:21**

*Re: Order only*

Thanks, Ron. And yeah, some early practise is probably a good idea.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at 2014-04-19 15:42:53**

*Re: Order only*

As long as it's not Tuesday I should be able to come along. I'll stick with you, Neville. Don't know how long I'll last though. I've been working on getting my control back, haven't been working on my endurance on the broom as much yet.



 **[alt\\_neville](#) at 2014-04-19 17:51:48**

*Re: Order only*

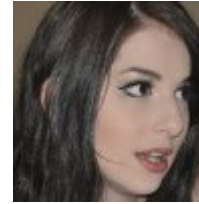
Excellent idea, thanks.



**[2014-04-18 20:40:00](#)**


*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

So I didn't get a chance to ask yesterday -- how was lunch with Percy? Was the food at least good?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)**



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-19 03:36:10](#)**

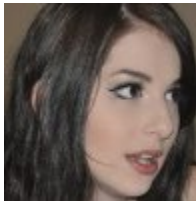
*(no subject)*

Yeah, I didn't want to spoil the party, talking about it.

It was all a load of 'grasp the opportunities you're being given, Ronald' and 'pedigrees matter quite a lot, but beyond that connections matter most of all' and 'there's nothing more important than making a good impression'. Mind you, he didn't stop with that. He has twenty minute lectures on each of those topics.

Mostly, I just ate and let him gas on.

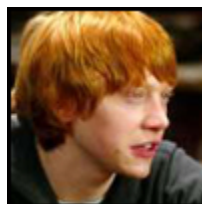
Pretty sure his food got cold.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-19 03:38:10](#)**

*(no subject)*

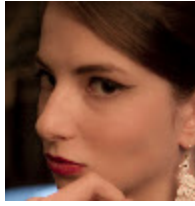
He really likes to hear himself talk, doesn't he? I remember that from when he was Head Boy.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-19 03:46:20](#)**

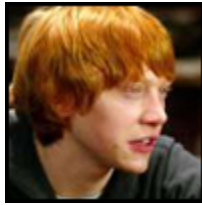
*(no subject)*


Yes, well. He was acting very pleased with himself. I mean, he's having audiences all the time now with the Bloke with No Nose, and obviously that makes Percy Very Important. In his own head.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 03:52:13](#)  
(no subject)

So why did he want to have lunch with you? Just trying to help you onto the Council for old times' sake or did he want something from you?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 04:36:32](#)  
(no subject)

Wants me to stop being an embarrassment like the rest of them and start being more like him, apparently. He didn't come out and say it, but I think he's trying to use me to get in better with people like Avery and Pennifold. Shame I'm not exactly on best terms with Avery at the moment.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 04:47:00](#)  
(no subject)


Ah. Figures.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 04:50:22](#)  
(no subject)

I saw he PM'd Avery, did he tell you you should do what Avery said and break things off with me?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 05:10:50](#)  
(no subject)

Actually, he didn't say a thing about it. I expected he would.

But he didn't. Mind you, you weren't the sort of alliance he was blahblahblahing on about.

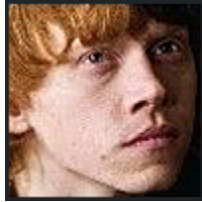



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 05:14:08](#)  
(no subject)

Go figure.

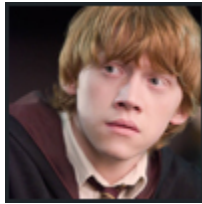
I SHOULD be the sort of alliance he was going on about. I'm friends with Pansy, Harry, and


Draco!



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 05:19:52](#)  
(no subject)

Shows what he knows.

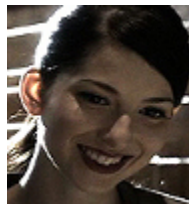


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 05:17:28](#)  
(no subject)

And I'm not going to do that, y'know. You do, don't you?

It's actually sort of hilarious, if you think about it. I mean, if that's what they were talking about, Avery couldn't've picked a worse person to go after me than Percy if he hoped I'd fall in and do what he wants.

But, really, Percy didn't even hint about that. So I've no idea.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-19 05:25:21](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I know.

And now I'm trying to decide if Avery recruiting Bill to go after you would be better or worse

than Percy.

**2014-04-19 09:38:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Draco*

I know we've been teaming up on this challenge, and I've been allowing you to lead the way, mostly. But the next time you come up with a grand idea to turn my life inside-out, how about you discuss it with me and Harry, rather than convincing Harry first, then having him present it to me in a way that makes it impossible for me to say no.




 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I realise that the fake girlfriend approach has worked well for you, but that doesn't mean everyone else wants or needs to follow suit.

---



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-19 15:52:54**


*(no subject)*

It's never impossible to say no. N. O. See? So perhaps the reason you're finding it impossible is because you see how much easier it will make things. Do you really want to spend all summer with your mother at MLE?

And what do you think that will do to you, if you do?

Is it not far better to have your mother's permission to come and go as you please because your boyfriend, the son of the Lord Protector, is longing for your company? It's the sort of coupling the public wants and cheers for, and you'll have your way in the papers and in other social situations, too.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-19 15:57:13**

*(no subject)*

I don't know. What do you think it will do to you if you spend all summer with council members?

You can stop trying to sell this to me, Harry already did that. I just want you to promise that the next time you have an idea that affects me, you'll tell me yourself. I have enough people telling me what to do without you adding to it.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-19 15:59:43](#)**  
(no subject)

Hydra: I promise that the next time I have an idea than affects you, I'll tell you first.

Is that better?



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-19 16:00:31](#)**  
(no subject)

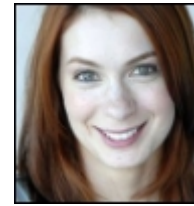
Not really.

But thank you for promising.

**2014-04-19 09:39:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

I had my long-overdue meeting with Rachel Brodie this morning, and I believe we sorted out a great deal in a way that was satisfactory to both parties.



 [alt\\_alice](#)

She wants to join up with the Order, and after spending some time talking through our long-term goals and practices, I think we're both on the same page, and I agree that she'd be a good fit for us.

Currently, her obligation to Dogstar is her main priority, and will continue to be as such until she's formally quit of them and joined our organisation. I respect her loyalty, and believe the exchange we bargained for with Ridley is a fair one, and now that we're no longer experiencing a shortage of materials, we can afford the fee. Furthermore, I believe it would be in our best interests to not actively make enemies with Dogstar by snaffling a valuable operative from under them without the agreed upon process, and maintaining contact would be useful rather than burning all bridges. Along those lines, once we've sorted out the particulars, Rachel expects that she will continue to pass along intel to Dogstar from the Auror's office, but we agreed that her primary duties and obligations would be with the Order, and as such, she would not be passing along information to Dogstar about us unless we explicitly told her to, and that if we needed her to edit her reports to Ridley or pass along communication from us she would do so.


She will be an incredible asset to the Order. I also hope that our working together will be good for her as well, and that we can show her a future worth fighting for.

We were able to spend some time at the end of our meeting reminiscing about her parents, Melinda and Carmichael Brodie - such good people. Carmichael was an incredible Auror, unfailingly optimistic when it came to thinking the best of people, and Melinda was so sharp. She put together that I was pregnant with Neville before Frank and I had told a soul. We were at tea, and I'd had a chamomile and was complaining about how hot the weather had been, and she just quirked her eyebrow and asked me if Moody knew the good news yet.

I look forward to her joining us. Her parents would've been so proud of her, and I'm glad we've found her again after so many years.

---




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-19 17:02:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Rachel Brodie. Isn't that the one who's sleeping with my father, but we're not supposed to know about it?

Yes, I'm sure she has many skills she can offer us. Perhaps she can do a special workshop on intelligence-gathering disguised as pillow talk, for the young women in our group.



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2014-04-19 17:45:24](#)**  
*Private message to Alice Longbottom*

As for your announcement, *good*.


As for young Malfoy, I promise to keep my temper.

Is she going to be put on the Lock? Maybe not now, but eventually?

Because if so, it'll be Draco who regrets something he's written. For a change.


Might be good for him.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-19 18:14:09](#)**  
*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom*

Once she's done with Dogstar and takes her vows, then yes, that's the plan.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2014-04-19 18:01:19](#)**  
*Private message to Alice Longbottom*

Oh, Alice. If you're *sure*. Very sure?

I know we can't check her loyalties with legilimancy, since she's an Animagus. I just can't like it, even if Bill's convinced she can be trusted. If he's wrong--well, it was an Auror who took down Dogstar, don't forget.

I don't like the *influence* she has over him. Do you think she's corrupted his judgement with...well, by using her wiles on him? Irregardless of what Draco said!



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-19 18:23:56**

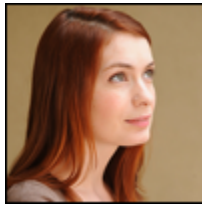
*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom*


I believe she has a good heart, Molly. She's had to be so careful all these years in her line of work, but I think that what she saw in Bill was another good heart, and that he was worth the danger and risk.

I have a feeling that he has influenced her just as much.

She's not joining the Order because of Bill alone, however -- although he certainly plays a part. She's joining because of her parents, and Sirius, and our principles and methods, and because she believes that our cause is worth fighting for.

And yes, I trust her.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-19 18:35:50**

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom*

And Molly, I trust Bill as well.


When I asked him to back off, before we knew she was with Dogstar, he did what I asked without questioning it. And since then, he's handled himself in a forthright and honourable way.

I had my concerns at the start of things, before we knew who Rachel truly was. But since then, he's proven himself worthy of trust and shown his sound judgement.

I think that he was able to look beyond the layers she'd built up over the years, and see who she was underneath it all -- and that was the person he fell for.





 **[alt\\_frank](#) at 2014-04-19 18:40:45**

*Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

Are you back, then?

We're about to head off to Saltash.




 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-19 18:43:56**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

I'll linger in Grimmauld for another hour or so -- we've just settled down to tea.

Have a good visit, love.

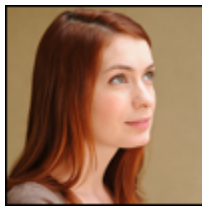



 **[alt\\_frank](#) at 2014-04-19 18:45:39**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

Will do.

I think they're both curious about the null field, and what it'll feel like. Evie keeps shooting questions at me like she does when she's excited.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-19 18:47:41**


*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

Of course.

And they want to see what you accomplished, too, I'd imagine.

Saltash wouldn't be here if it weren't for you.

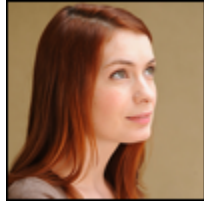


 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-19 18:48:37](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

We'll be back before dinner.

Good to hear about Rachel, too.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-19 18:50:11](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Colin Creevey*

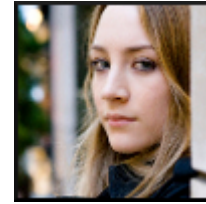
Yes.

We'll talk more about it tonight. But I'm very pleased, on the whole.

**2014-04-19 10:03:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Justin*

I told Harry yes. I'll try it, at least. If I don't like it, I'll put an end to it.



I can't tell you all the things I want to say because if I did I'd never stop writing. But you know me and you know my heart and you know who it belongs to, always. I can't imagine anything in this world that could ever change that.


 [alt\\_hydra](#)

That's all.

See you at Tea.



---

 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-19 16:53:48**  
(no subject)

Hydra,

You're not cross with me, for thinking it's worth trying?

I know you could handle Teddy if you decided to do. I just want to make sure you're safe--as safe as we can manage, what.

I'm sorry if it seemed I was making decisions for you, what, that's not what I meant, at all. I just wanted you to know that--it's all right. Well, not *all right*, what, but I can see how it's a useful idea.

I'm not saying it shan't be dashed difficult to see you with Harry. I rather *hate* the thought, in point of fact. But it's a dashed sight better than it could be. Besides, I've always told your father I'd step aside in favour of Harry, if he showed an interest. Perhaps this will work out for the best, as you might be able to honestly say you two had a go at it together.

I say, I don't like the thought that Harry broke things off with Katie for our sake. He says he didn't but it did rather put the pressure on, what.


You said we have to convince everyone we're serious about not being together and you're right. And this is part of that process, if you

follow me. Dash it, I know just what you mean about not being able to start writing because it's so impossible to think of stopping. I've torn about a hundred pages out starting messages to you and remembering myself in time. So stop I must or I won't be able to keep from telling you how much I miss you.

Tea. I say, might as well rename it Torture. See you.

-J



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-19 17:12:29](#)  
(no subject)

No, it's fine. I wouldn't be able to do it if it caused you pain. ~~Which it will~~

I'm not looking forward to it, really, but it could be worse. Harry is respectful, and he's a friend. I'm sorry for Katie, but I don't know if she and Harry had much of a future together - which was probably the point.

Yes - I'm afraid to write anything else. It... I'd better put my quill down. I'm sorry.

**2014-04-19 12:26:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

we're sending someone to get you and mrs king, E  
hang on



 [alt\\_frank](#)



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at **2014-04-19 19:35:03**

*(no subject)*


We both felt it.

The ground shaking.

Why aren't you

Is everyone all right?



 [alt\\_frank](#) at **2014-04-19 19:40:03**

*(no subject)*

no.

just get inside.

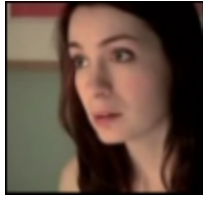



 [alt\\_neville](#) at **2014-04-19 20:10:55**

*(no subject)*

Neville here. Am with Colin. We were apparating some refugee muggles into the tunnels when the shaking started. Colin and I almost splinched ourselves, but we're okay. Mostly. My ankle's sprained, I think.


But Dad--Dad was separated from us by the rockfall. Digging to get him out.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-19 20:19:33](#)  
(no subject)

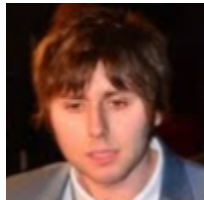
What?




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-19 20:25:42](#)  
(no subject)

When we got to Saltash, we apparated to an area outside the wards so Colin could show Nev how to get to the caves, and we ran into the Kings, they'd escaped and were going to try and get the attention of people in Saltash so they could get let in but that wasn't as safe as bringing them to the caves with us and so we waited for an hour just in case it was polyjuice and then Nev and Colin took dad and Wendy and came back for Mr King and Phillip and then while Mrs King and me were waiting for them to come back for us there was this rumbling sound and

And now we're waiting for someone from Saltash to come and get us.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 20:29:34](#)  
(no subject)

Evelyn,

I say, anything we can do to help?

-Justin



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-19 20:34:45](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know.

The men just got here. They can take us inside.

They said no-one should Apparate into the caves until we're sure they're clear and safe. So the only way to get in is by going up to the border and getting someone to come out and

give you the secret.

Which is dangerous. Because of the patrols.




 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:35:41](#)**

*(no subject)*

But they know we're coming. Mrs King and me.  
So they'll be ready for us.



 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:43:15](#)**


*(no subject)*

Do they need help clearing away the fallen  
sections? The more people and the faster one  
can get it cleared the better.

Is there still a great deal of MLE watching in the area?

-Justin



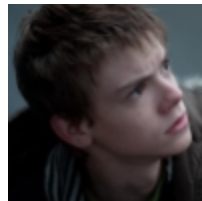
 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:52:09](#)**


*(no subject)*

(There are regular patrols. Ev's right, it's  
more dangerous to go in over land, but it's  
possible. Long as you're quick about it.

And if you've got the secret in-hand, you ought to be able to  
run straight in.

Mrs L, still no sign of Mr L. We uncovered a guard, though.)



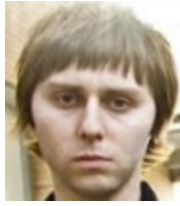
 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:53:42](#)**


*(no subject)*

(not a lot of wands around here

and some of it's in the warded section and has  
to be cleared out by hand anyways

so yeah. any help would be good.)




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-19 21:07:48](#)  
(no subject)

Right. Just let me make some excuse to Harry, publicly, and I'll be there.

-Justin




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 21:11:36](#)  
(no subject)

Tell him we're together and got held up by something unexpected, yeah?

I'm on my way. Unless you want to meet up and go out there together.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 21:16:17](#)  
(no subject)

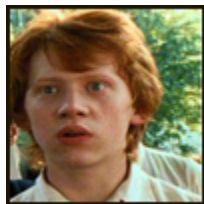
I can just cancel.


Tell Blaise and Moon that something came up.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-19 21:40:32](#)  
(no subject)

There. I said something came up suddenly, and that we'd have to reschedule.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-19 20:35:13](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. I'm available if you need anything. Just say.





 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:27:49](#)**  
(no subject)

You're all right, though.

You're okay.




 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:38:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I think it was an earthquake. Mr Broome and others have been running around Buckingham and the Minister for Magic is here and Mr Malfoy and loads of people.

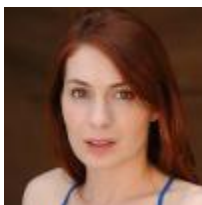
They don't seem to be taking much action, though. Maybe if they aren't sending anyone out, Harry and I could come, too.




 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-19 21:46:09](#)**  
(no subject)

I have to invent something that came up. Something obvious.

Hydra, you okay with me coming by today? That can be the something, I guess.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:46:26](#)**  
(no subject)

Evie, Colin, Neville, keep us all posted.

Evie, if you can read this, tell the men who came to fetch you that they can expect more people stopping by.

I have access to Saltash, and can go in to get secrets for those who need them.

I don't know how much good we can do, but I cannot stay here.


Any of you who can get away easily can rendezvous with me in the northeast corner of Saltmill park, by the coastline.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2014-04-19 20:52:59](#)  
(no subject)

Dorcas , Caradoc and I are on our way. We can provide backup, in case of patrols.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-19 20:54:12](#)  
(no subject)

Yes.

Thank you.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-20 00:07:07](#)  
(no subject)

Kingsley, once you and Dorcas get here with Dr Harris and his assistant, take them straight to the hospital building. We've got a triage unit set up for all those injured in the earthquake.

We still haven't


If he's needed down in the tunnel, I'll be sure to let you know.



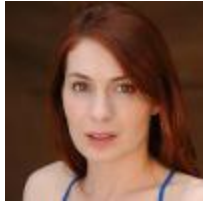
 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-19 20:55:38](#)  
(no subject)


Alice, I can come. In case...in case anyone needs medical help, I know enough to help even Muggle ways.



 [alt\\_molly](#) at [2014-04-19 20:56:59](#)  
(no subject)

Ginny wants to come, too. Shall I have her come, too, or sit tight?




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-19 20:59:46](#)**  
(no subject)

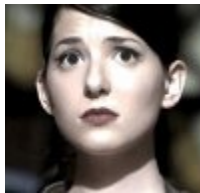
As she cannot Apparate, you'll have to stick very close to her in case you need to leave in a hurry if getting in proves too great a challenge.

But yes.



 **[alt\\_molly](#)** at **[2014-04-19 21:02:15](#)**  
(no subject)

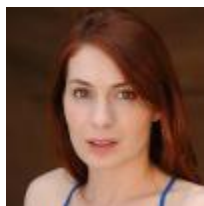
Understood.




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-19 22:44:35](#)**  
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom I can apparate and I have a First Aid Kit for muggle style healing and it's not quite the same as wizarding healing but I have read several books about it.

An earthquake probably caused injuries in Saltash itself, as well.  
~~Tell me where to go~~ Please let me go.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-19 22:47:27](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. I'll have someone meet you at the Northeast corner of Saltmill Park.

Thank you.



 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-04-19 22:51:28](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll get Mr Luke. He'll fetch you, Sally-Anne. He'll get you a slip of paper with the secret on it so you can both run straight in, just like he did with me and Mrs King.

|||| He's tall with dark hair.

**2014-04-19 14:02:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

I'm in.



It took some doing to get down to the tunnels. There were loads of people by the lift making a lot of noise. But one of the men who came to fetch me -- Mr Luke -- he shouted a lot and said I was Frank Longbottom's daughter, and they let us pass.


 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

There's a lot of dust. It's hard to breathe. Colin and Neville are taking turns keeping Shielding charms on the ceiling in case more rocks fall.

We have to move the rocks slowly so they won't shift around.

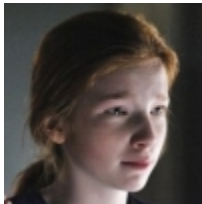
They still haven't found dad. Wendy King is missing too. And they found one guard, but not the other.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-19 21:27:51](#)

*(no subject)*

Alice, I'm on my way as well.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-20 00:47:57](#)

*(no subject)*


They've found the second guard.

He's dead.

I don't know what his name was.


There's a fire on Symons road that needs help putting out, if anyone can be spared.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-20 01:08:35](#)  
(no subject)

Sounds like it's pretty bad over there.




 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-20 01:10:54](#)  
(no subject)

We can't use the journals at all unless we're in the tunnels. And patronuses don't work either. So I've been running messages back and forth.

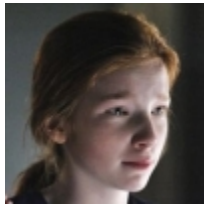
There are loads of buildings that have fallen down, and people are trapped in some of them, but we can't use magic to get to them.


Yes. It's bad.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-20 01:13:49](#)  
(no subject)

I can make it down for a few hours. Buckingham's going sort of insane. They won't notice. Can you have that person meet me too?



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-20 01:14:36](#)  
(no subject)

Okay.

I'll get him.

**2014-04-19 14:30:00**

*(no subject)*


Sorry, mates, something's come up.

Next Wednesday work for you lot?



 [alt\\_harry](#)




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **2014-04-19 21:37:41**

*(no subject)*

Yes, the elves just told us, as well.

Next Wednesday will be fine.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-19 21:39:48**

*(no subject)*

Good.

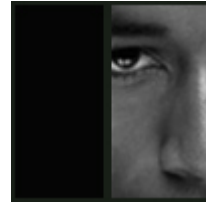
I'll make sure it's worth the wait.

**2014-04-19 16:37:00**

*Private Message to Padma Patil*

Say. I find I've this evening free.

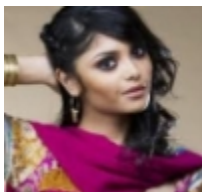
What do you say we have a nice supper somewhere. The Thames Room, maybe? We could walk the Embankment before since the weather's fair.




 [alt\\_blaise](#)

I'll stop for you at half-five, shall I?

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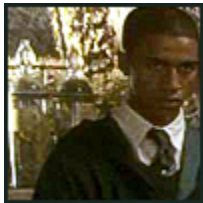
 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2014-04-19 21:44:18**

*(no subject)*

Oh.

Oh, I'd *love* to--but I can't. It's been so mad here, and we've been cleaning and cooking all day because Mr Gowda's coming tonight. Ugh, I can't even express how utterly horrid he is. Mum's totally *convinced* he's a better match for Pav to Mr Sharma.

Pav's just been a wreck. We can't seem to think of any argument Mum will listen to.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **2014-04-19 21:50:47**

*(no subject)*

Find something on him that will change her mind.


I mean to say, if you could find out he's got a wife already. Or that he's taken all the gold out of his Gringott's account and put it in Bubotuber research. Or that he's a regular client at Mistress Firkin's. Something dodgy that would make her change her mind.

So why should you have to be there tonight? It's not as if he's thinking of marrying both of you.

Never mind, then.





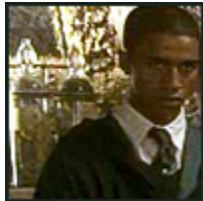
 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-19 21:55:24](#)**  
(no subject)


Well, he's already a widower. I guess we could speculate that he murdered his first wife but he doesn't seem the sort. He's too flabby.

I have to be there because it's family. Mum and my aunts would never let me hear the end of it if--

And there's Pav. She needs moral support, too.


I'd invite you but you know that's asking for trouble. Look, what about tomorrow?



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2014-04-19 22:24:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll have to look at my day book. Mother had something or other planned, I think, but I expect she'd as soon I begged off. We could take in a museum in the afternoon, if you like. If there's an exhibition you were wanting to see?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-19 22:26:24](#)**  
(no subject)


I think just being out of the house would be a relief, honestly.

What about coming to yours? We don't have to do anything special.

And. Would you mind terribly if Pavs came along, too? Only I think she really needs to not be alone with Mum, they're just screaming at each other almost all the time now. It's worse when the aunts are about, too.

I've got to go, the family are arriving. We've got about 20 people here tonight. I told you it's mad.




 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2014-04-20 00:09:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, why not. Bring Parvati.

Do you want me to ask someone along to even the numbers?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-20 00:23:22](#)**  
(no subject)

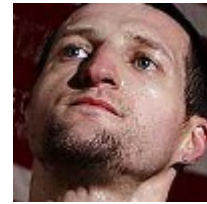
Anyone but Teds.

The last thing she needs is a little creeper like him, all right?

**2014-04-19 16:45:00**


*Private message to Bill Weasley*

You're needed in the office.



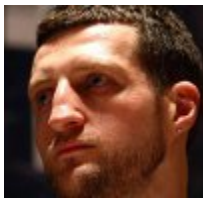
 [alt\\_corax](#)




 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-19 22:32:32**  
(no subject)

Yes, sir.

Um, whatever you can tell me to bring me up to speed will allow me to be of help much faster, I'm sure.




 [alt\\_corax](#) at **2014-04-19 22:35:30**  
(no subject)

There was an earthquake in Cornwall. Caved in a bunch of mines. Need you to assemble some replacement work crews, and arrange transport.

I'm surprised you didn't feel it, given where your family lives. Spending the weekend with your girlfriend?



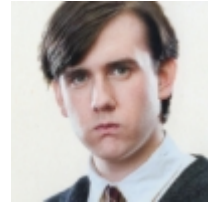
 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-19 22:43:19**  
(no subject)

I've been with my *brothers* in New London, spending the afternoon at their shoppe. Sir.

I'll get right on the task. Thanks.

**2014-04-19 18:07:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Frank Longbottom*



 **alt\_neville**

Colin has your journal, and he's with me, and I know you couldn't answer anyway.

But hang on, Dad. It *can't* end like this. I won't let it.

Digging as fast as we can. And Mum and Ev and Kevin and me, we're all safe.

Just...hang on.

**2014-04-19 20:12:00**

*Private Message to A Dolohov*

Not a good day to be Bode.


Suspect one would find that Merlin warned the wise to avoid Buckingham unless summoned tonight.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)



---

 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2014-04-20 04:45:51**  
*(no subject)*

I have certainly been making myself scarce.

If Bode is being held to task, then they've decided the instability was caused by (or influenced by) the Octoboroses, then? I must admit I have been quite curious about the things, but of course Bode holds his cards close to the chest. Perhaps once the dust settles, I will be able to use this as a lever with which to pry loose more of Mysteries' mysteries.

Do be careful, dear heart.

**2014-04-19 20:33:00**

*Private Message to Virgil Crispin and Rhombus Spencer-Wells*

Anything further to report? Received word that there were aftershocks reported in St Austell and Bodmin. Further fatalities?



 **alt\_lucius**

What is the estimated time it will take to repair the flooding reported along the River Fowey?

Expect another report within the hour.



 **alt\_lucius** at **2014-04-20 01:39:03**

*Private Message to Virgil Crispin*

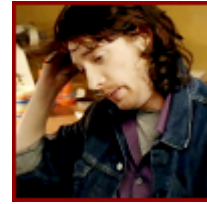
Trying to reach Bode. Has he been on scene at all?

If there is any truth to the possibility that the new warding system magnified - or worse, *caused* - this disaster, we may need to find another lead Unspeakable for the project. One who can correct the problem without dismantling the whole damned mess.

**[2014-04-19 21:59:00](#)**

*Order Only*

Merlin, everyone at Saltash....hope you're all right.  
And that you find Frank--yeah.



 [alt\\_bill](#)

Mum, I know you and Ron and Ginny are probably there, so there's probably little point in even saying this, but I won't be home tonight.

Nick, I need you in the office.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **[2014-04-20 05:57:55](#)**

*Private message to Bill*

You know who I've been thinking of through all this?  
Dad.


Not just because the Longbottom kids are worried sick about Frank, but also, I've been spending the past few hours helping to transport the wounded, and seeing Dr Harris at work fixing people up the Muggle way, all I can think of is, Dad would be fascinated by what he's doing.

Sewing people together like they're a shirt that needs mending. It sounds barbaric -- Merlin, it is barbaric -- but when magic doesn't work inside the perimeter and we have to carry people into the tunnels if they're so bad off that magical healing is their only chance, sewing people up like shirts is actually sodding working.

I'm so glad we got Dr Harris out of the camps. There are a lot of people who've got a solid chance of making it through this who wouldn't have, if it weren't for him.

--and they're finishing up with the latest one who needed magic badly enough to risk moving her, so I'm needed again to carry her back to the actual hospital. Right. Back to work.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at 2014-04-20 13:04:31

*Re: Private message to Bill*

I've been thinking of Dad, too. And yeah, not just because of the Longbottom kids, although that's part of it.

Kingsley and the rest *did* make it with medical supplies Nick and I sent, didn't they?

You know, it was almost like I felt Dad at my shoulder last night. Quite strongly, more than ever before. I felt so much like him because here I am in a job I hate, but every once in a while it allows me to grab a chance that actually saves people. I was so sodding glad I could do that last night. Just like Dad, it's the only thing that keeps me going, sometimes. Or that gives me a mental shield the next time Mulciber orders me to do something horrible, anyway.

I'm also glad we could get Dr Harris out of the camps. Ugh, his methods do sound barbaric, but if they work...yeah, Dad would have been fascinated. I hope Dr Harris can train others, too.

I'm glad you can be out there in the field helping. And Mum and Ginny and Ron, too. That's another good thing, that this happened during the school break, so they could be there. It's quite an introduction for Ginny to some of the work the Order does. And did the twins come, too?

Give Alice and the rest all my love. I'm so glad she isn't facing widowhood today.


I suppose the waiting to get word about Frank might have brought back tough memories for Mum. Unless she was kept busy enough, and Merlin knows, if there's anything Mum's good at, it's keeping busy.

Just paused to read Colin's message again. Frank managed a shield spell? That's fantastic. Maybe his magic really will start to come back.

Urgh, I'm exhausted. There are a number of people here working, though some are pausing to get a few hours kip. I still can't quite believe it. A bloody *earthquake*. They just aren't supposed to *happen* here.





 **alt\_charlie** at [2014-04-21 05:38:19](#)

*Re: Private message to Bill*

Yeah, when I first saw the news, all I could think was somebody had to have got the wrong idea. Earthquake. Bloody hell.

Yes, Kingsley and the others did make it with the supplies, although they ran out fast -- there were so many people in need of them. Snape came by late last night with a load of potions and pastes, some of which didn't need working magic to work on someone, and that helped as well. I didn't see much of Ginny, but yeah, she was there helping, and the twins too. She's scheduled to come up tomorrow and stay for most of the week -- I'll see what she's thinking about what happened. I imagine it was a bit sobering, to see all those people hurt and know that nobody else is coming to help and we're it. Hopefully we can sit down for a long talk.

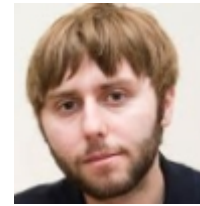
And yes. Dad would have been fascinated. I kept thinking of how torn he would have been, doing everything he could to help the people elsewhere who needed his help but secretly wanting to hover over Dr Harris's shoulder and asking him what all the things he was doing were and how they worked. For the first time I can really remember, I thought "Dad would have loved this little part of all this mess", and I waited for the flood of sadness to come pouring in behind it, and instead I just found myself laughing at the thought a little. The mental picture of Dad carrying people in to the infirmary and hesitating just for that little half-second before turning back around. It was a good thought, you know?

**2014-04-19 22:05:00**

*Order Only: Mr Longbottom*

Hullo,

Just a quick update: Mr Longbottom's alive. He's trapped but they've been able to talk to him through the rock and dirt and all. I'm not sure whether the cave-in managed to create a pocket, what, or if there was something else at work. Sorry, I'm afraid haven't many details at present, just that he's still stuck and they're working on getting him out.



 [alt\\_justin](#)

He's got a little girl with him, as well.

I've got to get back inside the null zone. About half the buildings collapsed and we've been clearing it away all evening. There was an aftershock about two hours ago that caused a bit more damage and injuries, including some of the rescue crews. I say, we're all rather tired but there's still loads to do.

But Mrs Longbottom wanted everyone to know as soon as possible. She's there with the digging crew, what, and Sirius is as well.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at **2014-04-20 03:13:58**  
(no subject)

Thank Merlin. Excellent news--not about the damage and injuries, but glad Frank has made it.

Still quiet here at the perimeter. Guess MLE and the Ministry have other things to do than harass anyone here tonight.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-20 03:17:28**  
(no subject)


Mr Shackbolt,

He's still trapped. They're working as quickly as they can but I wouldn't say he's made it until he's actually out of the tunnel, what. But yes, it's very good news that he's able

to speak and they should be through the gap soon. So one may be optimistic.

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-20 03:19:10](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, thank God. I've ~~been so afraid~~

Alice, let me know what's needed. We're in a mad scramble here at the Ministry dealing with the reports coming in, and in the confusion, I may be able to 'lose' some shipments so as to divert supplies.

Or, not Alice, you have other things to think about.


Sirius? Let me know.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-20 03:20:31](#)  
(no subject)

Or Kingsley, or Justin. Whoever can get me word.

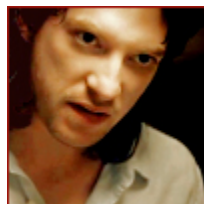



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-20 03:28:01](#)  
(no subject)

Bill,

Blankets, certainly. Bandages and sticking plasters, food, particularly if there's any broth that can be spared, clothing--almost anything.

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-20 03:34:55](#)  
(no subject)

Right. We've calls for medical supplies coming from all corners of that region, so St Mungo's has been preparing all sorts of things for apparition drop

shipments.

I have Nick here, and I'll have him miniaturise and apparate at least two of the field hospital kits to the blind drop point closest to Saltash. Kingsley, you and Dorcas go pick them up and bring them in, and I 'll lose the parchment work. It'll be easy tonight in all the confusion.


Hang on, help is coming. Kingsley, are you free to move safely?



 **[alt\\_kingsley](#)** at **[2014-04-20 03:37:31](#)**  
(no subject)

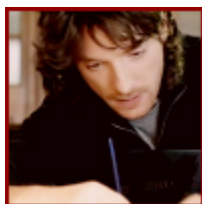
Yes. Understood, Bill, and yes, we've seen no kind of surveillance or pursuit. I judge it safe to take the risk.




 **[alt\\_justin](#)** at **[2014-04-20 03:33:15](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, and if you can manage it bruise paste, salves for pain control (not potions) and antiseptics.


-Justin



 **[alt\\_bill](#)** at **[2014-04-20 03:38:37](#)**  
(no subject)


That'll all be included. I think Nick and I can have it to you within the hour.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-20 04:41:11](#)**  
(no subject)

I have just reached a point on the potions I have been brewing today at which I can pause should it be necessary. If additional hands are needed, I will come; otherwise there are several medicinals that I can prepare quickly that do not depend upon ambient magic to function. Let me know what is needed.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2014-04-20 05:13:28](#)**  
(no subject)

Severus,

Long-acting palliatives. Blood replenishers.  
Numbing ointments. Anti-infectives. Burn cream.

Thank you.



 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-20 05:26:52](#)**  
(no subject)

Coincidentally, today's brewing was a series of palliative potions, as I had noticed the stock was running low and they are not something I would trust the children to brew effectively. I began a course of bruise-healing and burn-healing pastes when I wrote; they are cooling now. They will be ready in twenty minutes; I will press one of the children into service to pack up what else I am able to find, and be there in precisely thirty from this mark.

Have the secret-keeper on hand to allow me in, or someone to accept delivery, at that time, and if I am delayed I will inform you.

I will also bring restoratives for those engaged in rescue work; they are no doubt in need of them.

**2014-04-19 23:17:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

(They're both out and safe.

They're up with their families getting checked out by the doctors, but they look to be in good shape and good spirits despite everything.



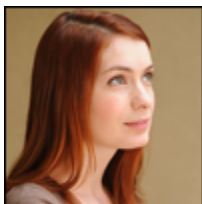
 [alt\\_frank](#)


Mr L said to tell everyone he's a hard-headed stubborn bastard who doesn't die that easily. He also wanted to pass on to Madame P and Mr Dumbledore that when the rocks started falling, he cast a wandless shield without even thinking. He said he could feel it strong as anything, like he'd never lost it, only he couldn't hold onto it for more than a minute.

I guess that minute made all the difference, though.

Mr and Mrs King also wanted to express their profound gratitude to everyone for helping to free Wendy.

We need to clear out as much of the Apparation space as possible so we can more easily get supplies in from Bedford and Aldrich, and we need to shore up the tunnel to make sure it won't collapse again. I figure I'll stay down here and see what I can do, hey?)



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2014-04-20 18:53:49**

*Private Message to Colin and Frank*

I cannot thank you enough.

You and Neville both kept your heads under incredibly difficult circumstances, were careful and quick in your actions, and you worked so very hard.

You took care to get Evie and Mrs King to safety in the chaos. You and Neville worked as a team to take charge and coordinate a dozen volunteers, and had things running like clockwork by the time we arrived.


And when we'd cleared Frank and Wendy King from the rubble, you kept going.

I'm so grateful, Colin. I'm so very proud.

We'll all talk further about this Forbidden Forest possibility when you've had a chance to rest up for a bit, but know that you've proven yourself more than capable.

I hope you've managed to get some rest, as you've certainly earned it. I don't want you splinching when you come back home. Let me know once you're ready to make the journey, and I'll fetch you.



 **alt\_frank** at **2014-04-20 19:06:24**

*Re: Private Message to Colin and Frank*

(The honour's all mine, ma'am.

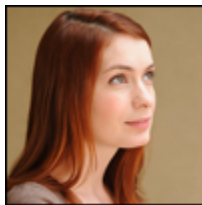
I'd do anything for you and Mr L.


I'm just glad to be of use.

Nev was a brick, too. Couldn't have done it without him, hey? And he was the one wrangling volunteers. I just followed his lead.

We left off around eight or so this morning, after the tunnel passed some stress tests and trial Apparation runs, and I kipped for a few hours. They're making regular trips back and forth from Aldrich and Bedford with volunteers and supplies now that the tunnel is more secure. There's a few more side tunnels that need looking at, but if you'd get me in time for dinner, I'd appreciate it. Might go back tomorrow, too, if that's all right by you.

And give my best to Mr L and Nev and Evie, will you?)



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-20 19:09:26**

*Re: Private Message to Colin and Frank*

I shall, love.

I'll be by around six.

And yes, that would be fine by me, as long as you're careful not to overwork yourself. Saltash certainly could use the help, and Frank is not going to be travelling until he's had the chance to rest up a bit.

**2014-04-20 03:56:00**

*Private message to Antonin Dolohov*

Χριστος Воскресе, Воистину Воскрес!



 [alt\\_antonin](#)



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 [alt\\_antonin](#) at **2014-04-20 08:30:38**

*(no subject)*

(Oh, Antoshka. "And I only am escaped alone to tell thee" -- may next year's Saturday not be so rife with ghosts.)

May Christ our true God, who rose from the dead, through the intercessions of His most pure mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the lover of all mankind, Amen. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to the history of ages, Amen.

Χριστος Воскресе, Χριστος Воскресе, Χριστος Воскресе. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. Lord, have mercy upon me, a sinner.  
Ἄγιος ὁ Θεός, Ἄγιος ἰσχυρός, Ἄγιος ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, Amen.



**2014-04-20 10:19:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Justin*

Is everything alright? Are you back to the Jugson's yet?




I ask because I think I'm going to need to give you Jack.

 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I've been keeping him in my room, but Rigel's either found a way in, or he's heard Jack's meowing, because now he keeps asking to see the kitty. Even if I do keep my room locked and warded I'm worried Rigel will make Mrs Baylock get Jack for him to play with. And you remember what happened with Tevis, don't you? Rigel decided he liked him and after that, Tevis never stopped following him around. He still does, even now.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-20 16:43:58**

*(no subject)*


Hullo,

Yes, I got back around four in the morning, what, and cleaned up and slept. It's still rather dire there but at least we've accounted for everyone and they've done what we can to help them. Mr Snape's supplies arrived just about 1:00 so even had one been near to leaving, there was suddenly much more that could be done. I suppose it's a fitting use of one's time at Eastertide.

And of course, everyone was jolly well ecstatic about Mr Longbottom's magic showing itself again. It's quite a hopeful sign. I think Mr Longbottom was more grateful about it than he wished to let on, in fact. Understandable, what.

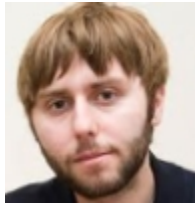
Sorry, you bally well didn't need me chuntering on. Jack. Yes, I suppose I could look after him. He's used to being with me at school, at any rate. Will your mother let you come here? Or shall I have to send Remy to collect him?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-20 16:53:08](#)  
(no subject)

I felt quite useless, being unable to do anything from here. But I'm happy for Mr Longbottom.

We're all going round to Nanella's in a while for supper. Draco will be there, and I'll tell him he needs to take Jack to you later tonight. He'll have to do it, he owes me.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-20 16:58:21](#)  
(no subject)

It was...good, to be occupied with helping others.

Why does Draco owe y--Oh, I see.


Yes, all right. I'm going to Grimmauld after dinner at the Jugsons, but if I've gone when Draco arrives he can give Jack to Maggie or Remy.

How are

Maybe having him will mean I don't have to bally well exhaust myself just to get a little sleep.

-J




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-20 17:21:50](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not sure it's been "good" to be occupied helping Mummy at MLE, but it's been interesting, in a way. She's been sharing her opinion on everyone with me, as if we're co-conspirators of a kind. With her in charge, of course.

If you're wondering what those opinions are, it's usually one of two: "useless idiot" or "has some use, but is still an idiot."

Anyway, yes. That had occurred to me, as well. I know you like Jack to sleep with you, and now he can.




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-20 17:17:52](#)  
(no subject)

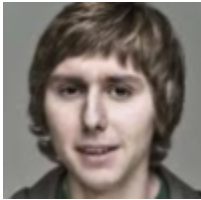
I say, I'm sorry you feel you have to send him away, though. Are you certain Rigel will annex him?


-Justin



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-20 17:22:46](#)  
(no subject)

I'm not certain, but I'm not willing to risk it, either. I can be with Jack at school.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-20 17:29:41](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, of course.

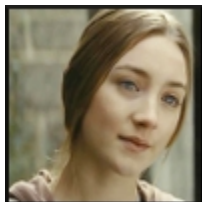
If Professor Dolohov keeps on as he's done, what, I shan't have any trouble there, after all.


I went to see him, last week. I think making him believe he's worn me down, or rather that I've come round to his patronage, is working.

I--

No. Sorry. Better stop now.

-Justin



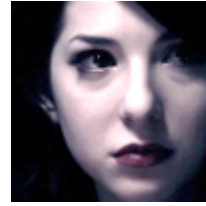
 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-20 17:34:06](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I know.

'Bye, Justin. Jack will see you soon.

**2014-04-20 15:08:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Madam Pomfrey*



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I'm back at Pansy's. When I left Saltash the injured people were all either stable or gone to Aldrich.

People argued some this morning about whether it made sense to take the less-injured people to Aldrich once they had time and resources and the tunnels were stabilised, since a broken bone can take months to heal properly if left to itself and a Healer can fix it in a few minutes. There were sixteen muggles with fractures. (They've all been set and splinted.) Of those, there were six who absolutely wanted to stay in Saltash and let them heal on their own. There were four who would like to go to Aldrich once it's safe and have someone Heal them the rest of the way. The other six weren't sure -- well okay one of them was in a LOT of pain still and I think his biggest reluctance was just how much he'd have to get jostled, moving him down into the tunnels. Dr Harris thought it might be worth dosing him up with a pain potion and doing it, though we were able to get him stabilised without moving him so that was good.


Muggle healing is a whole lot messier.

Dr Harris said I did a good job helping, though. We talked a little once things slowed down some and he said it was a shame I was a witch, since he needs an apprentice with steady hands and a strong stomach for gore. (I mean, he meant it was a shame I was a witch because he agrees it makes more sense for me to become a magical Healer but if I couldn't do that, he thinks I'd make a decent doctor, or at least a good paramedic.)

By the way there was one bloke we sewed up and THEN once he was stable sent him to Aldrich because we could get him stable but not really fix him very well. I heard he survived but I'm wondering -- did you pull out the thread, or vanish it, or what? I knew we were going to have to send him to Aldrich, if we could keep him alive for long enough, and I wondered about that the whole time Dr Harris was stitching.

---



 **alt\_poppy** at **2014-04-21 04:53:52**  
(no subject)

You did very well, my dear. I'm pleased Dr Harris made time to speak with you about your work for him. I'm certain he was glad to have your assistance, but it's clear you were more help than he'd dared hope.

For my part, I was grateful you were available to us and able to take over my part in the triage process at Saltash. Needless to say, I was of more use outside the null zone, and then at Aldrich.

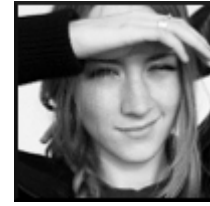
The patient you ask about is, indeed, considerably better today. In point of fact, I placed Iaso's Charm on the darning thread, leaving it in situ for the time being. I do plan to vanish it tomorrow morning and expect to find the patient ready for release.

It is a bit of a question what to do with the people we transported from Saltash. Several more were brought to us today, mostly those with broken bones. Some, of course, wish to return as soon as we're able to Apparate them there, but some of these will be little help with the rebuilding there and one wonders if they might not remain at Aldrich at least for the time being. The two older gentlemen, for instance, and the young woman with Scoliosis. I should very much like to help her, but that process requires time.

**[2014-04-20 15:28:00](#)**

*Order Only - Private message to Hermione*

I've just seen Draco. He's going to bring Jack over to Justin... Well, that's not why I saw him, we've just had supper at Nanella's. It's really more duty than celebration, and no one lingers for long after the table is cleared.



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I - I'm not sure how to say this, because for all I know, you may not want to talk to anyone at all. That's for you to decide. But then again, you can't know who to talk to unless someone makes it clear that they're willing to listen. And that's what you did for me, after Justin and I broke up. Which seems *so long* ago and yet like it just happened, and I still don't know what I can say about it. What is there to say? We've made our decision and that's the end of it. But even though I didn't feel like talking, I appreciated it when you said that you'd listen, if I needed someone.

The thing is, Draco has been occluding around me for ages. I could feel it, at first, but now he's gotten better and I couldn't really tell, but I assumed that he was. For practice. I had no idea he was actually hiding something.

And today, even though he didn't really ask me to do anything, as soon as we were alone at St. James to get Jack, I could feel him drawing me in, intentionally, so I looked. And I saw.

If I was surprised, well, I can only imagine how you must have felt.

He didn't want to talk about it, but he thought you might need someone. He might be right, he might be wrong. I don't know. But here I am, if you do.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-20 22:21:46](#)  
(no subject)

Why are you giving your cat to Justin? Did he ask for him?

None of my business I suppose.

I'm not sure what Draco showed you but--well, that's really annoying of him. Sorry. It's not your fault he's being so frustrating. Ironic,


that's what he said I was, which is one reason I think he's just mistaken and he'll realise it sooner or later. There are other reasons. But it doesn't really matter whether I think he's fooling himself or not, because so long as he thinks it's true it's not going to help any to tell him he's wrong.

Anyway, it's annoying because I promised him I wouldn't talk to anyone about it--that I would keep his little guilty secret for him--and that meant really there wasn't anyone *to* talk to. Only it turns out at least one other person had figured it out and offered to talk about it and now he's gone and let you into the circle. So he's still deciding what I get to do about his revelation.

He offered to Obliviate me, too. Like that would help anything. It's just.... I don't know how to help him see that he's just wishing for what he can't have and not really as interested in *me* as he is in an accessible muggleborn who happens to not find him charming or arresting.

Maybe I should act like Pansy and just fawn all over him, and then he'll stop.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-20 22:41:35](#)  
(no subject)

No, I asked if he would take Jack, because my little brother's got his eye on him. Rigel has this magic - well, it's a bit spooky. He can make people, and creatures, I suppose, want to make him happy.

That's the best way I can describe it. A while back he decided he wanted my rabbit, Tevis, and now Tevis won't leave his side. I don't want the same thing to happen with Jack.

You sound angry. That's alright. I feel that way often, especially lately. Do you think it's just him that you're angry at? Or about?

What he showed me was only from his point of view, of course. He didn't plan on telling you, though he's actually been wishing he could for ages (I don't think he even realises that, though), only he couldn't let you leave feeling hurt... so it came out. And now, I think he's worried that he should have let you walk away feeling hurt, because it might have been better than whatever it is you're feeling now.

As to whether his feelings are genuine or not, it's hard to say. He wouldn't let me in that far. But I had an impression that they were taking up a great deal of space. If his head were a house, your picture would be hanging in almost every room.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-20 23:02:26](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I *was* angry when I thought he was mocking me. But I think that's not what it is, it's that he's decided I'm something I'm not.

Terry's the same way, you know. He thinks I'm perfect and it's just not true, but it's different with him because he didn't have anything really for comparison for a long time. Not that Draco thinks I'm perfect. Far from it. You should have heard him. It was all 'It's barking to fancy you' and 'I wish I didn't' and 'Pretend you don't know'--like it's so inconceivable that *he* can't even understand why he'd feel that way. And of course it's because he doesn't.

I mean...there are stories all the time about wizards--or witches, too--who go and have sex with muggles or muggleborns because they enjoy the feeling of power over them. And it's not that I think that's what Draco wants--that's what Ollivander wanted--but it just goes to show that even Draco isn't seeing *me*. Because if he did....

Well. He wouldn't want me, then.

So sooner or later he has to realise that.


Are you angry all the time? I mean, I think you've got every right to be angry. It seems like the grownups don't understand how hard it has to be for you and Justin. I mean, when I think of people who love each other, I think about you two. Or Mr and Mrs Longbottom. Or the way Mr and Mrs Weasley were, before he died. I know you didn't really know him but they were completely enamoured of each other even after seven children and I dunno, 30 years together. Or even Sirius and Remus, though that's a bit different because they're both men so they take the piss a lot more than other couples. But I can't really imagine them not with each other, any of them, you know, and that's just--not what I think



about when I imagine Draco and me. I mean, I've never really imagined it. But that's not what I think about when I think about myself, with anyone, I mean.

I don't know, it's all hopelessly complicated.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-21 01:34:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Maybe he thinks it's barking to fancy you because it puts both of you - though admittedly you, most of all - in such a terrible position. Because I'm fairly sure no one's ever said "Oh, I can't believe I fancy this person who I can't fathom fancying!" unless they'd been confounded or taken a bad love potion.

Perhaps those stories about witches and wizards using muggleborns for sex, the way Demelza Robins might want to, is another reason why he wishes he didn't have feelings for you, because he doesn't want those feelings to have that taint to them.

I don't know if we ever can be fully, 100% seen by another person. Maybe not even with legitimacy. Because we're changing all the time, and we don't really understand ourselves sometimes, either. But Draco's had a long time to figure out what he feels, I think. Four hundred something days? I kept seeing that number. Anyway, I used to think that no one would want me, either. Because my own Mother didn't. And then I found Tom and I thought, oh, here's someone who likes me and needs me, and it was all a horrible lie of the worst kind.

But then there was Justin. That didn't mean it was easy, because it's hard to let someone like you, or love you. You have to decide that you're worthy of it.

I suppose that's why I'm so angry. Because someone ~~loves~~ loved me and I loved him, but someone else decided what we could and couldn't have. It's a small thing, really, compared to what some people don't get to have.

What do you think about when you picture yourself with someone? I've always thought that Terry might have imagined himself with you because you were the only girl he knew who was muggleborn, like him, and lived at Hogwarts, like him, and so on.

But for whatever reason, Draco must have started to see you as the one he wanted to be with - but he couldn't see a way for it to be reality, or for it to be fair on your end, maybe. And now he's flailing about being annoying.



 **alt\_hermione** at **2014-04-21 02:05:39**  
(no subject)

Yes, he said it wasn't fair to me. And it's good that he recognises that but you see, I think that's partly why he's so focused on the idea. I think he just doesn't have any context for caring about a mudblood, so he's confused it with love.

I know it wasn't easy for you to--to adjust to the revelation that Justin was muggleborn, but at least you already cared about him before you knew it. I wasn't sure whether you'd feel betrayed or not but I worried you might. But it gave you concrete proof that you could love someone no matter their birthright. But Draco doesn't have that. He just has the notion that because he finds me clever or good at magic or retentive, or whatever, that it must mean I'm special. And I'm not.

And that's not thinking I'm not worthy of Draco, by the way. That's recognising that what he's reacting to is someone who's not going to back down to him, who isn't impressed with his pedigree or his marks or his looks or anything else. But the problem is that if I turned round and told him I loved him back, he'd lose interest because I wouldn't represent a goal anymore.


And then there's the other part of the problem, which is that I don't love him back. I like him, more than I ever thought possible sometimes, but mostly he's petulant and nasty and entitled. He's brave, though he doesn't want anyone to point that out, and he's clever, but--No. I can't imagine snogging him, or anything.

What I think about.... I don't know. I think I haven't yet met anyone I could imagine being with. Everyone in school is so young but the men in the Order are either way too old or they're already involved with someone. Or both. Or not quite right, somehow. Or--all those things.

And Terry.... You know he tried to kiss me once? On the cheek, to

say goodbye. That's how we found out that Mr Weasley had put a cantrip on me to protect me from someone like Ollivander making advances. (Which was awful of him but now I understand why.) Terry's been 'in love with me' for a while. I just don't know how to tell him that I love him but not that way. I think if I'd realised that's how Draco felt, I could have just changed slightly how I treat him, like I have with Terry, just to close the door a little more kindly.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-21 02:21:28](#)

(no subject)

Now I'm wondering what would have happened if *Justin* had been Harry's slave. Would I have still fallen for him, and he for me? Or would it have just been too complicated to even comprehend...

So you think Draco only likes you because you're the one person he could never have - not just because you're muggleborn, but also because you don't coddle him or flatter him.

That might be part of why he likes you. He has more respect for Mr Snape than I've seen for almost anyone else, and it's because Mr Snape always tells him the truth, even if it's a difficult truth. That may be part of why he likes you but I don't think that's all of it.

As for closing the door, isn't it already closed?

And I didn't mean to imply that you don't see yourself as worthy of love. I was thinking of Draco, actually.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-21 02:55:55](#)

(no subject)

I don't know, I can't imagine Justin as a slave *at all*. There's just something that happens when you grow up in service. And depending on who he'd served he'd be more like Dennis was, or Terry, before the ISS, I mean, or--I don't know. Some of the ones in the camps. Worse than that, he could have been like John Turner and gone hot-headed and then he'd probably have

been killed. But if he'd been here at Hogwarts or something, I don't think he'd have dared look at you and I don't think you'd have ever noticed him, either.


Mr Snape doesn't pull his jinxes, it's true. And Draco doesn't care for some people in the Order who always try to coat things in treacle and yes, I'm sure that's why he started looking at me as more than a mudblood. I'm not saying he only sees a mudblood. Though while we're on the topic, I don't think he sees *muggleborns*, plural, yet, I think he sees me and Justin and even Terry as examples of mudbloods who've risen above our circumstances.

And yes, it's closed. But I could have closed it for him without embarrassing him first, is all.

Oh, by the way, I went and looked back around the 400 days because that struck me as odd. I think I know what it was. It was just about that long ago that I touched his hand, remember? The day he was trying that spell on the colocation boxes? And he jerked away and I thought it was because he was disgusted. Just like the other night, when I touched him and he went all over stiff and I thought he liked me well enough as long as I didn't take any liberties like that. Only that time I was touching him because he was admitting he had been a prat.

So maybe you're right and he has a problem with anyone being tender to him? But that's also a self-fulfilling prophecy, isn't it. Because if I did care about him the same way, then sooner or later we'd try snogging and he wouldn't be able to go through with it because of his own problems.



 **alt\_hydra** at [2014-04-21 03:10:34](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, I suppose you're right. About Justin, I mean. What an odd thing to ponder, though.

That's interesting, about the 400 some days ago. I had forgotten that you asked me about his jerking away from you. You were showing him how to do the wand movement, weren't you? I suppose it must have been around

then that he started to think of you differently.

This isn't legilimency, just a guess, but maybe he thinks he needs to do something deserving of tenderness before he can allow himself to have it. He's so fanatical about infiltrating the council and acts as if he wants to be the one to kill Voldemort with his own two hands. Voldemort didn't even do that much to him, comparatively speaking, but Draco acts as if he did. Do you reckon maybe Draco thinks he would have been a different person if Voldemort had never risen to power? That he would have started out seeing muggleborns as no different, for starters.

But if you don't feel that way about him, and he knows it already, then what happens next? Do you think you can go back to being friends, or whatever it is you were?

By the way, if I had known that Justin was a secret muggleborn when he was showing interest in me, I probably would have assumed he was just getting close to me because it would be a secret thrill to sully the daughter of Auror Lestrangle; a goal, as you might say. Which wasn't at all true, of course, but that probably would have been my assumption.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-21 03:25:59](#)**  
(no subject)

It might not have been something you noticed because he didn't seem different from any of the other students when they came over, but the thing was, when he first joined the ISS,

Justin was really apologetic to me and Terry because he was getting the education we should have been able to get. But it was never anything I resented, anyway, and I don't think Terry, either, because it was actually harder to think of him as a muggleborn than as a pureblood. Well, except for when he didn't know things but mostly he did a good job covering that up and most people figured it was because he was raised in France.

I can see how you'd have thought he was deliberately seeking you out because he wanted to twist your mother's nose but of course, that would have been completely unlike him.


It's funny how he says he resisted fancying you for a long time, when that's just what Draco said. Only somehow it wasn't a compliment when Draco said it. (Honestly he really doesn't know how to talk to a witch, except when he's pretending to flirt with Daphne or something. Did you know that his and Harry's first year he had a crush on Lavender Brown? I mean, really, Lavender Brown.)

Anyway, I do think he thinks he has to prove himself but I think it's because he's sure the Order don't really trust him and they're just waiting for him to go tell his father all about us. But mostly I think that's because he's so closed off about everything and apart from Mr Snape, he hasn't really given the adults a chance to get to know him, so all they have is his reputation. And his sarcasm.

I don't know if we really were friends. I don't know what I'd call our relationship before all this. But I would like it if we could at least go back to being comfortable with each other. I don't want him to hate me or to pine for me or to think I'm flirting when I don't hate him and I'm not trying to make him interested or anything.

I'm just not sure how to get there, except to give him time to get over it.



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-21 03:40:44](#)**  
(no subject)

No, I don't know if I ever saw Justin be apologetic to you and Terry, but I know that he was. We talked about it later, but just knowing him, I could guess that's how he would be.

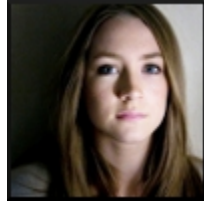
It's funny that Draco's so committed when I'm just going along with the council challenge, and my Mother's tutelage, because I don't know what else to do. Because the only other option would be to run away to Moddey, or something. And the Order would lose a lot if I did that.


I guess giving him time is all you can do, then. Do you want me to tell him anything? To leave you alone for a while?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-21 03:44:20](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe.... Tell him I'm not cross, or upset, or anything, and if he wants to talk to me it's all right, and if he doesn't for a while, that's all right, too.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-21 03:47:39](#)  
(no subject)

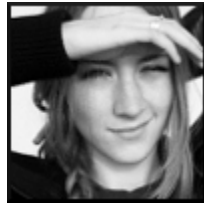
Okay, I'll tell him that.


Just wondering, but do you want to talk to him?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-21 03:49:41](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I don't want to argue with him. But--yes, for my part I don't have any reason not to want to talk to him.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-21 03:51:26](#)  
(no subject)

~~So do you or~~

I think you have plenty of reasons, but sure. Alright. Goodnight then, Hermione.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-21 03:56:10](#)  
(no subject)

Goodnight and--thanks.

**[2014-04-20 19:40:00](#)**

*Private message to Bill Weasley*



 [alt\\_corax](#)

Got a firecall a little while ago from the overseer of the Sparkwell Mine. Apparently loads of the tunnels are partly caved in, narrowly enough to keep out muggles of normal size. You'll need to go to the South Hams muggle camp tomorrow and find a hundred muggle children for a replacement work crew, no taller than 4'4" and he'd prefer runty older children provided they're in good health, the younger they are the more likely they are to whinge instead of work.

Send a dozen or so adults with, to mind them when they're off shift.

South Ham's only about ten miles from the mine, so you shouldn't need carpets or whatnot for transport, just have them walk. Expect that to take most of the day, considering, but you ought to be able to have them there and ready to work by Tuesday morning.

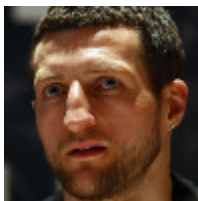


 [alt\\_bill](#) at **[2014-04-21 00:58:18](#)**

*(no subject)*

One *hundred* muggle children?

If the tunnels are partly caved in, is there enough room for that many to work the first day? Particularly if they must be trained?



 [alt\\_corax](#) at **[2014-04-21 00:59:56](#)**

*(no subject)*

Do you have a problem with these instructions, Weasley?



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **[2014-04-21 01:29:39](#)**

*(no subject)*

Not in the least, sir. Just trying to get a handle on the practicalities. If they want the work done, it helps to know as much as they've told you.




Housing: I suppose the children would stay in the dead miners' quarters.

Have they apparated the corpses out from under the tunnel rockfall yet? I'm thinking of the spread of disease. Children would be more vulnerable to that, and it wouldn't do Sparkwell much good to bring in new workers if a high proportion falls ill. Then they'd have to bring in yet more new workers and train them *again*.


Oh well, if you don't know, I'm sure I can find out tomorrow. I'll firecall South Hams and tell them to expect me at eight in the morning sharp. That's a half hour before they sign off on the regular shift roster, so I'll be able to look over the prospects before they scatter to their ordinary shifts.



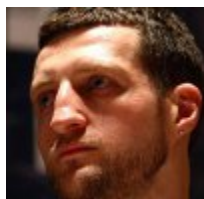
 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-21 01:32:14](#)  
(no subject)


The practicalities are up to the Sparkwell overseers. All you need to do is provide the workers and their caretakers.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-21 01:32:42](#)  
(no subject)

And they think a hundred will do it? They aren't expecting to need to call in another contingent later?



 [alt\\_corax](#) at [2014-04-21 01:35:24](#)  
(no subject)

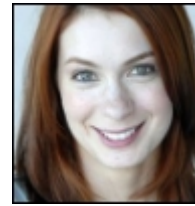
Ask them yourself.

**2014-04-20 19:41:00**

*ORDER ONLY*

Thank you all so much for your help yesterday.

We're still sorting out what happened exactly with Frank -- whether it was a one-time response to life-threatening circumstances, or a sign of his magic returning, but for now, what matters is that he's here, and in one piece, and I am so very grateful for it.

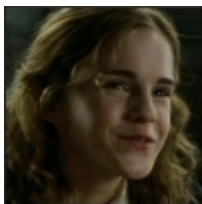


 [alt\\_alice](#)

Saltash will need our continued support to rebuild, heal, and replace what's been lost. Now that the Apparation tunnels are clear, Aldrich and Bedford are better able to provide aid as well, which is good to hear indeed. Kingsley, Fred, George, I'm hoping you'll be able to head up specific efforts to sort out their specific needs and determine how we might best help, but anyone who is able to volunteer their time would be much appreciated in the coming weeks, I'm sure -- especially since we're heading into a vital point in the planting season, and their food stores for winter cannot be neglected.

Have we any further news about the earthquake and its aftereffects? Is there any idea as to the cause? If it was natural, it was certainly rare, which makes me think there was something more to it.


There's also still the matter of wrapping up our aborted meeting -- which will be held either at Moddey or Grimmauld this time, naturally. Thursday, perhaps? Harry, Draco, Hydra, we might be able to coordinate with your Tea Appreciation, in which case I'd imagine Grimmauld would be easiest. (Regardless, it is after the 17th, Ms Perks! Many happy belated returns.) Are there any other tasks left to accomplish during hols that require immediate attention, and cannot wait for our meeting?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-21 03:30:47](#)  
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom, it has to be a really good sign that Mr L was able to use magic, and I'm so glad that he's going to be all right.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-21 04:44:00](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you. It's all quite overwhelming, to be honest.

And yes, we'll see what comes of it -- Frank is quite optimistic, as am I.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-21 03:54:37](#)  
(no subject)

Mrs Longbottom,


I'm well glad so many of us were available to come and help. And that Mr Longbottom was restored to safety.

Thursday ought to be fine for me and since I've been at Grimmauld about half the holiday, that's as easy a place as any.

If there's more one can do at Saltash in the immediate future, please say the word.

-Finch-Fletchley




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-21 04:53:06](#)  
(no subject)

Thank you, Justin.

Now that you can come and go using the caves, it ought to be much less of a risk to access the site.

I'd imagine at this point, if you show up and ask to be put to work, they'd find something for you to do and be very grateful for it. It would probably consist of manual labour, although I'd imagine you might be able to take various materials down into the tunnels to fix magically, which would also be extremely useful.




 **[alt\\_frank](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:10:07](#)**  
(no subject)

(Just spent the day there myself, working in the tunnels. I didn't get out and about much, but there's certainly plenty to do.

Mr Arscott was coordinating the tunnel work -- you can also ask for Mr Luke Ferris. Evie's Mr Luke. He knows quite a bit about what's going on, at least from what I've seen so far.

Oh, and Mrs L, Mrs Fitzhugh wanted to pass along that they're all safe and sound, Gilly's doing well, and she sends along her best to Mr L.)




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:02:07](#)**  
(no subject)

I should like to come have a look at Frank, if I may.

I'll be in Aldrich first thing tomorrow to examine and, Hygieia willing, pronounce fitness for most of the patients we transported there.

Where might I expect to find the redoubtable Mr Longbottom were I to look for him tomorrow noonish?




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:16:30](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course.

I'll make sure he doesn't wander too far afield tomorrow. You can just come to Moddey.


He says to tell you he feels like he's twenty-five again, and to forgive him for the state of his knee, but being in a tight spot for twelve hours or so will take its toll on anyone.



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:23:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Tell Frank I'll bring him something to ease the knee. I'm sure he is feeling it after his ordeal.




 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:19:39](#)**  
(no subject)

If you see a woman named Anna -- I don't think I ever heard her surname, but she's an older woman, looked to be in her sixties or so, brown hair going grey, was badly injured by falling brick -- will you let me know how she's doing? She really stuck with me -- half unconscious from blood loss and clearly in a load of pain, but she was flirting with me the whole time, and kept trying to tell me there were others who were far worse off and I should go help them first. I liked her quite a lot. I really hope she's all right.

And if she is all right, tell her the ginger bloke who promised to make her biscuits after she was feeling better says hullo.




 **[alt\\_poppy](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:34:19](#)**  
(no subject)

I shall tell her first thing tomorrow.

You did well to get her to me when you did, and she did the rest: your Anna has a strong will and was in no mind to be defeated by a load of rogue bricks.

I agree, she's entirely charming.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-21 05:43:50](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, I'm so glad to hear that. I was pretty sure she'd be stubborn enough to make it through by strength of will if nothing else, and I'm so happy I was right.

(I was trying to keep her conscious by talking to her as we tried to get her out from under the bricks, so we were talking a bit about favourite foods. She told me there was no way my oatmeal biscuit recipe could be better than the ones she used to bake back before the world went to shite -- her words, not mine -- so I told her she'd just have to get better quickly so I could prove it.)



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-21 05:46:12](#)  
(no subject)

Oatmeal biscuits? Sounds lovely!



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-21 05:48:25](#)  
(no subject)


Is that your way of angling for a batch of your own?



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-21 05:50:47](#)  
(no subject)

That obvious, was it?



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-21 06:03:19](#)  
(no subject)

Nah, I could only tell because of the way our long and close association allows me to interpret your subtle and cunning hints.

(Last time I made them, I splurged and used a tiny bit of the cinnamon I had saved up. They're even better that way. You get me more of the cinnamon, I'll bake you biscuits with it?)




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-21 14:49:46](#)  
(no subject)

Sent you an owl first thing. It's the last bit of the really good stuff we had in the shop.

Or so I'm told. I can't say that I ever gave much thought to the difference between one spice and another, let alone grades and types of cinnamon--until I fell into this shopkeeper's life.

Take warning from me the dangers of falling for a bloke with a soulful gaze and sly sense of humour. And now look at me: shopkeep, barmaid, magical maintenance 'specialist', and subversive. Oh, the glamour!




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-22 07:27:53](#)  
(no subject)

Honestly I don't know much about the difference myself, all I know is that some kinds work in the biscuits I bake and some kinds don't!


I was a bit insomniac after Ginny went to sleep, so I stayed up a bit to do the first round of baking. Poppy, Anna's batch should be arriving tomorrow morning or thereabouts. Tonks, I'll send yours once the owl gets back -- sorry, luv, you're on the roster after the little old lady.



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at [2014-04-21 05:49:40](#)  
(no subject)

I'd be pleased to serve as courier if you want to send a care parcel. If you can't make the delivery yourself, that is.




 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-21 05:55:56](#)  
(no subject)

Ginny's visiting this week, so she and I can probably pop out one evening under the excuse of brother/sister bonding time. If we get stuck for time, though, I'll take you up on that offer!

Or, since Tonks is fishing for biscuits too, maybe Ginny and I will use the time to bake a cartload or two of biscuits so everyone can have one or two.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-21 05:11:04](#)  
(no subject)

I'll drop in when I can and provide some manual labour. All those years helping Mum out in the garden ought to be good for something, right?




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-21 05:42:04](#)  
(no subject)

Thursday would be fine for a meeting, and I think it would be lovely if we could meet at ours this time.

I expect it will be the weekend before I can get away to Saltash unless there's a sudden need for us to go all in again.



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-22 12:08:47](#)  
*Private Message to Alice Longbottom*

I'm terribly sorry that I have been unable to come down to Saltash to help.

We were on the edges of the effect. Shelley was terribly upset and Mum worked herself into a tizzy. Yesterday was my last real day home and I couldn't come up with a good enough excuse to vanish.

If you ever need me, I'll make whatever excuses I have to to bunk out. This weekend I just couldn't see any excuse that wouldn't make things difficult with my family over the long haul.



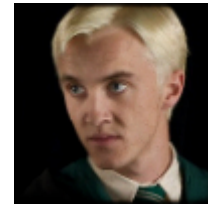
I have my first evaluation with the Cannons's healers today and tomorrow I go back to Hogwarts.

**2014-04-21 11:52:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Hydra*

Well then?

I know you've spoken to her by now, I saw your private message go up.




 [alt\\_draco](#)

I don't want you to betray her confidence in any way. I just want to know that she's alright.

---




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-21 18:04:02**  
(no subject)

Yes, of course she's fine. Having a boy fancy you never hurt a girl - well, unless the boy is someone awful like Teddy. It just creates complications. I don't think Hermione has ever thought much about relationships or whether or not she, herself, is fanciable to that many people, and she certainly never thought she'd be fanciable to you. It's thrown her for a bit of a loop, you see.

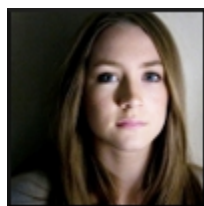
But anyway, would you rather talk about this at Tea Appreciation? I'm starting to see why Mummy never uses the journals. Having a conversation in writing feels so much *less* than talking to someone in person, now. Even if I'm not actively trying to legitimise someone I can sense so much in their voice that I couldn't pick up on before.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-21 18:05:11**  
(no subject)

I prefer to discuss it now. She'll be a Tea, for one, and for two, I'd rather not wait.

Don't worry about sparing my feelings, either.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **2014-04-21 18:18:53**  
(no subject)

Well. Alright.

She finds it annoying that you're deciding who she gets to talk to about this, by sending me to her (it *is*

rather presumptuous, you know).

As she sees it, you don't really like her. You just like that she's the first muggleborn you've gotten to know, and also that she's clever, and that she never pulls her jinxes on you, and never flatters you the way a lot of other girls do. So she's a challenge and - well, Draco, you do like challenges, yes?

It didn't help that you said things like "It's barking to fancy you" to her. I think I understand what you were getting at but she didn't take it that way. What she must have heard was "It's mad for me, Draco Malfoy, son of Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy, to fancy a lowly mudblood like you, and yet, here I am!"

She may or may not be right about the reasons why you like her, I don't know. Have you thought much about what it is you like about her?

But even if you have, I'm sorry to say that she doesn't feel the same way about you. She likes you sometimes, but you're too sarcastic and entitled. She doesn't really fancy anyone, but if she did he'd be like some of the older Order members, like Sirius or Remus, maybe even Charlie Weasley and Mr Snape.

Also, she can't believe you ever fancied Lavender Brown. And did you, *really*? Why?

Anyway, she hopes that with enough time, you can maybe go back to being comfortable around each other again, at least.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-21 18:33:06](#)

(no subject)


Lavender Brown - what's she got to do with anything? I was eleven. *You* fancied Professor Slughorn when you were eleven. Did you tell her that? I could have asked Lavender out as many times as I wanted since then and I haven't. She hasn't got an ounce of depth to her; her charm is all on the surface, with little to speak of beneath.

And Sirius and Remus embody her idea of the perfect man, while *Snape* does, too? I can hardly comprehend that.

Back to being "comfortable" around each other. When was that, I wonder?

I knew she didn't feel the same way, but it's quite a revelation, having it spelled out in such specific detail.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-21 18:41:22](#)  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, I'm not trying to make you feel bad about yourself, and I don't think she'd want that, either. We both think you're too hard on yourself, sometimes, even though you don't like to show that you are. Isn't that why you're so sarcastic?


I don't know, Draco. Maybe you could have just... lived peacefully with your feelings. Instead of fighting them. I don't mean that you should have pursued her, but just accepted your attraction and fondness. Because the fact that you fight those feelings away, well, it says that you see love as something that will make you weak or hold you back, rather than something that will make you stronger. I mean, you told me yourself that love makes people weak. Isn't that what you meant?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-21 18:42:11](#)  
(no subject)

Isn't that why you ended things with F-F?




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-21 18:44:31](#)  
(no subject)

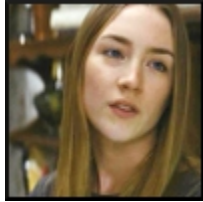
No, that wasn't why at all. And I didn't end things, we decided together.

You're sort of proving my point right now. About the sarcasm.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-21 18:53:56](#)**  
(no subject)

For the record - and you can pass this along or not, I don't care - I do accept my feelings for what they are, and the only reason I've tried so hard to rid myself of them is because facing the disappointing reality of what can never be is just one more unbearable thing that adds to the load we all carry, every day, and sometimes I don't know if I can endure it. And now that burden's been put on her, too. I hope she can forget about what I told her. I can't - but it sounds as if she, perhaps, can.



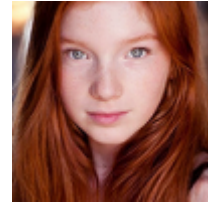
 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-21 18:55:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I wouldn't be too sure of that.

See you at Tea, Draco.

**[2014-04-21 12:12:00](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Sinistra*



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

Professor,

I'm frightfully sorry, but I'm feeling under the weather, and Gran wants me to stay home today, so I won't be able to attend your salon. It's nothing a bit of Pepper-up and rest won't cure, but I am not at my best, and Gran is putting her foot down, and if you've ever met her, you'd know that once she's made up her mind on something, it's best to not put up a fight.

I was very much looking forward to coming as it sounded quite interesting, and like such a wonderful opportunity. Will there be other meetings this summer?

I hope you and Professor Lestrangle had a good Easter weekend.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Longbottom



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-21 19:43:43](#)

*(no subject)*

Miss Longbottom -

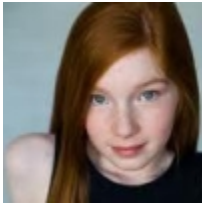
Sorry to hear you're doing poorly. I certainly wouldn't dream of disagreeing with your Gran - she has quite the reputation in some circles.


We are talking about a few more events of this kind, for a general audience, maybe one this summer and then more next school year. There'll be the usual Guild lectures at the summer Guild hall, too, but those are much more technical.

That said, if you were interested, at least one of the planned projects is something that you might be able to enjoy, with a bit of reading about things you won't have covered in class yet. (It's looking at observations of the planetary moons.)

We did have a pleasant weekend, thank you, and I hope you and your gran and your brother had the same.

A.S.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#) at [2014-04-21 19:53:52](#)  
(no subject)

Professor,

We did have a very pleasant Easter indeed. Thank you.


And moons! I would certainly be interested, yes. I remember you mentioning once that sometimes things like moons are so small that we can't actually see them, but we know they're there because of planetary orbit patterns. I think that's just fascinating. I'd love to learn more. And I'm glad to hear you're thinking about additional sessions.

If you need an extra hand with any of these upcoming events, I can only imagine how much work it takes to put something like this together, and I'd be happy to help, even if it's just something small like sending out invites or helping to set up the space.

Thank you again,

-Evelyn



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-21 20:12:05](#)  
(no subject)

That's true about the moons. It's also true about binary stars: sometimes we can't see the star itself, but we know it's there, because it crosses in front of other stars we can see.

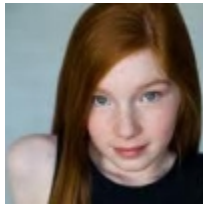
But the moons are even more complicated than that, actually. We can only see most of them because of some very complicated telescope design that allows us to focus on the moon and not all the other things that might interfere, being between us and the planet and its moons.


It's a highly specialised use of both arithmancy and astronomy, basically describing the moon by arithmancy and then creating a telescope that looks only at that one thing and filters everything

else out. (Hogwarts has telescopes for about ten of the moons, so we can study them in class, but of course the Guild has a complete set.)

We barely go into that part at all in class and even the project this summer is only going to touch on it. One of my good friends in the guild focuses on making telescopes, so I've picked up a bit more over the years than most people.

I appreciate your offer, too. It's often handy to have someone who doesn't mind that kind of thing, or can be relied on to hand out programmes or what have you. I'll certainly remember to ask.



 **alt\_evelyn** at **2014-04-21 20:36:31**  
(no subject)

Please do, Professor.

And I'm very much looking forward to this summer as well.



**2014-04-21 15:49:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Ron*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Ron,

I say, best wishes tomorrow on your retest! I'm sure you'll ace it this time round, what.

I stayed at Grimmauld again last night. Sirius and I talked more about my plans for the summer. I've written to Mr Pontner to confirm that I do want to go back to the Ministry and I've already informed the Jugsons I'll be moving out. I wanted to talk to Sirius about how he made arrangements when he was younger, what, although he pointed out that he got his first flat before he was even of age.

In any case, we talked about my living at Grimmauld most of the time but agreed I shall need an official address, and I was thinking.... What would you say to being flatmates?

I'll be able to pay most of the rent, what, out of my monthly allotment, so you'd only have your own expenses. And those might well be covered by the stipend. I thought, if you're serving with the Aurors, you shan't want to Floo or Apparate all the way to Ottery St Catchpole every day. Staying somewhere in New London would be loads more convenient, what. Besides, if I spend most of my evenings at Grimmauld, then you and Sally-Anne would have the run of the flat, if you follow me. I mean to say, she'll likely be staying with Pansy but you might want more privacy than either Pansy's or your mother's could afford.

And that way, the flat will be occupied most nights, in case anyone from the Ministry comes looking.

I say, you're not allergic to cats, are you? Only Hydra had Draco bring me our cat so her brother wouldn't claim him for his own, what, and he'll have to come along wherever I move. (I had him with me at Grimmauld last night. Ordinarily he helps me sleep, what, but last night I think he was bally well irritated that we'd introduced him to two new environments in a day. Unfortunately he expressed his displeasure by means of spraying one corner of my dresser, what! But that's not normal for him.)

Think about it, old man. If you decide you don't want to leave the


Burrow, I say, that's perfectly understandable.

I'm off to Saltash again. I was there for a few hours this morning, came back to Moddey for lunch and I'll likely stay until supper, what, or even later if it's needed.

-Justin

---



 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-21 22:16:21](#)  
(no subject)

You've been at Saltash all day? So've I been. Clearing brick around the old school building. I brought my own lunch, though, and didn't really see any Order people except first thing.


You're serious about getting a flat together? That sounds dead nift. I mean, supposing the Aurors really do invite me. When would you need to know? They haven't exactly been early with their invitations for any of the things they've offered.

Anywiz, it would be brilliant to be in New London and not have to spend all summer at home.

Not sure what Mum'll say about that, but I can usually talk her around to things.

It's worth a try!



 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-21 22:31:39](#)  
(no subject)

Not allergic to cats, no. I quite like having them around. Course, Jack'll have to promise not to eat Sebastian. You don't think that'll be a problem, do you?


And, y'know, it's not like you'd have to stay away. Not from your own flat.

I don't know about the lease. You're sure about that part? I mean, I'd rather pay my own way, but I doubt a summer stipend would cover that. Y'know Percy had an awful time trying to find something he and Clearwater could afford when they set up together.

Did you want to try to look at some places this week? I'd feel funny doing that if we're still needed here at Saltash, y'know? But maybe we could work it in. Do you know any leasing agents we could ask?

Suppose I could ask Percy about that, but he already thinks he's done me a tall favour, taking me to lunch and sharing tips about the Lord Protector and some of the younger Councilwizards who're sponsoring candidates in the challenge. But I could ask him, I guess.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **2014-04-21 22:59:16**  
(no subject)

Yes, I'm serious. I'm getting a flat anyway so it's no trouble. You'd be doing me the favour, in some ways, by being round.

As for timing, I'm not sure if it's too early to go looking. I mean to say, if we found someplace we'd either have to take it straight away or hope that the agent will hold it until we're ready.

On the other hand, it probably wouldn't hurt to get a sense of what we could get for the budget I've in mind. And it's possible that it would take a month or more to arrange for a move-in date and so on. I say, what do you think is better?

I quite agree that Saltash takes priority, what, but if necessary, I think we'd be safe enough waiting until the next Hogsmeade day to slip away, or to write to agencies and see if they can provide us with tours in the first week of holidays. Ideally I'd like to get something set up so that I could go straight there after term.

I was thinking furnished, as well, to save us that trouble or expense. It needn't be anything fancy, what. I don't think we'll need to bother Percy, do you? Perhaps Dora might have insight; she had to find some place years ago and whatever she was looking at is probably much closer to our range.

Sirius thought we might want to get some letters of recommendation from our professors to see if we can't get a better rate, as well. I say, it oughtn't to be a problem for Professors Sprout or Dumbledore (Brutka, one should say).

Oh, and--I really am serious about mostly living at Grimmauld. So

it's no trouble if you and Sally-Anne want privacy. Not that I'd stand on ceremony if I had to come back, what, but I should jolly well hope I can at least send you a warning!

-Justin

**2014-04-21 20:30:00**

*Long-Distance Flying Club*


Anyone up for a flight tomorrow?

We'll be meeting at Cardigan at eight o'clock, and flying up the coast to Coed Y Brenin park, where we might stop for a bit, and then we'll keep on going for as long as there's enough daylight and we've got the energy for it.



 [alt\\_harry](#)




 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-22 03:54:37](#)  
(no subject)

Harry,

Jolly good. I've asked Remy and he says I may borrow one of his brooms. It might be a touch pokey, what! But I say, I'll come along at least for a while.


-Justin



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-22 03:55:47](#)  
(no subject)

Ace.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-22 04:16:27](#)  
(no subject)

I've got to miss. Sorry, mate. I've got my re-test for Apparition to do.

I could try to meet you up the coast somewhere, say at half-ten? But that might be ticklish to coordinate.



 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2014-04-22 04:53:27**

*(no subject)*

That wouldn't be a problem at all. I'll send you a quick note about where we are around then, so you can meet us. It'd be a good time for a break anyways.

And you'll totally pass. I'll bring along a cake or something so we can celebrate, yeah?



 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at 2014-04-22 11:49:26**

*(no subject)*

Sadly I'm a bit busy today. Have fun!




 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at 2014-04-22 11:51:33**

*Order Only Private Message to Harry and Neville*

I've got my medical evaluation all morning with the Cannons.

Sorry Neville, hope you do well!



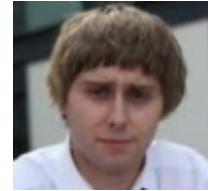
 **[alt\\_harry](#) at 2014-04-22 17:23:06**

*Re: Order Only Private Message to Harry and Neville*

That's brilliant. Hope it goes well. See you tomorrow at poker, yeah?

**2014-04-21 21:45:00**

*Private Message to Professor Dolohov*



 [alt\\_justin](#)

Professor,

Thank you again for the loan of the books and for the pleasant afternoon's conversation last week. I'm quite enjoying the D'Angier-LeBrun, what; his depictions of the use of battle magic on a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century campaign are jolly well evocative. And it's been some time since I had a chance to read in French. I've gone through the first three exercises on the Arabic figures, as well. I'm afraid I've not yet started Norton's *Impractical Duellist* but I expect to get to it by Thursday or Friday.

I hope you spent a pleasant Easter Sunday and Monday. (I had meant to look for a modest service in New London but didn't find one to my liking. I expect it's even more difficult for Eastern Orthodox, what. Perhaps by next year I shall have found a parish. Though I'm aware that's not fashionable in the Protectorate, it somehow feels wrong not to go a few times a year.)

I say, I had a question related to our project for the end of term. I was flipping through ibn Waḥṣīya's *Commentaries* and I know we've not covered Essay #24 yet, but, as you know, our group work figures heavily on Calidus' instruction regarding the use of compulsion magic in combination with elemental intensifiers, so I thought I'd see what ibn Waḥṣīya had to say on earth elements. But in the third section--I say, it seems as if it could be a translation irregularity. He's discussing the effect that certain wand woods (oak, thorn and yarrow, specifically) may have when the spell being attempted also includes metalliferous components (iron, for the most part, what, but also in certain cases silver or gold). Footnote number 17 mentions using quartz as a focus to balance the effect, but, I say, from the context, I wonder if it's more accurately translated as *any* sort of crystal? If it's an accurate translation then could you provide any insight as to why aiming the spell through quartz would produce a more reliable, powerfully-focused spell than, say, diamond or glass? (One can well understand why a coloured stone would taint the result, what, but it would seem that if clarity is desired, any type of clear crystal would do. Quartz is notoriously not perfectly clear, however, which makes one wonder why it would intensify the spell effect or nullify the interaction of iron with a wand of yarrow, for example.)

You see my confusion, what.

Perhaps there's another resource that addresses this same anomaly? If so, I should be very interested in reading it. I'm sure it will be pertinent to at least a portion of our survey.

Looking forward to your answer,

-Finch-Fletchley



**alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-22 04:10:58**

*(no subject)*

You are quite welcome, Mr Finch-Fletchley. Should you run out of reading material before the end of the week, do feel free to let me know; I would be happy to have you back for further exploration of the parts of the library we did not reach due to the distractions of our conversation.

I did have a pleasant Easter Sunday, yes; I trust yours was likewise pleasant, though I suppose holidays do bring home your separation from your family. Christmas and Easter, as well as several holidays you have likely never heard of but that my mother's family celebrates, are always bittersweet for me for that reason.

Still: Христос Воскресе. (You may consider that a challenge to decipher the meaning.)

I do know of a Church of England congregation that continues to worship in New London whose observations are not entirely watered down; I shall provide you the address. You are correct that I am, to my great sorrow, one of the few Russian Orthodox faithful remaining in the Protectorate, and have not been able to attend a proper Divine Liturgy since my return, but they have made me welcome enough on the occasions I have joined them.

As to your inquiry: you have rediscovered a question that occupied many fine minds throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As it happens, the translation is accurate; several scholars likewise questioned whether other clear crystalline structure might do better, and the great minds of the Arts spent a good thirty years experimenting with all sorts of options. To everyone's surprise, the only material that performed even remotely as well as quartz was a particular variety of achroite tourmaline. No one has ever been able to explain those results

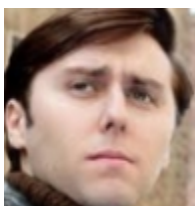



satisfactorily; the conclusion, after quite a great deal of ink had been spilled in the analysis, was that the interaction depends on some factor we have yet to be able to measure.

That conclusion having been reached, most practitioners simply accept it and move on; to the best of my knowledge it has not been revisited in centuries, nor has the vast majority of the work been re-done under more modern methods of measurement and observational rigour, although I believe the Department of Mysteries has been making motions in that direction recently. Should you be looking for a question to study in more depth for your research project next year, I would be pleased to accept a proposal to -- at the very least -- rerun the experiments that were previously conducted, to see what further research might be warranted. I cannot say that Mysteries would be willing to be forthcoming without certain guarantees of confidentiality, but I would be happy to speak to some of my contacts there and see if there were any modern reference they were willing to part with.

Material interaction and magical focus is not my speciality, but I do believe I have some references beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> century academic slapfight (which is worth studying if for no other reason than to be amused by it). I'll turn them up and pass them along when we return for next term.

In service,  
A.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at [2014-04-23 01:07:52](#)  
(no subject)

Professor,

I say, I had no idea I was opening a two-century old debate! It does sound well intriguing, but I've a feeling other subjects for research will present themselves with more immediate practical application, if you follow me.

I *would* like the name of the parish, but it's interesting you should think I miss my old life. I say, that's not precisely the case. Naturally one is not immune to nostalgia, what, for some of the amenities which were readily available outside the Protectorate. But I assure you, despite my current--disappointments--I am still jolly thankful to have found my true homeland. I shall always be grateful to my

mother, regardless of her defect, for providing me a fine early education and many material advantages. But, in the end, we both knew there were more important things she could never provide. So it was only right to leave. Indeed, it already seems a lifetime ago.

I rather doubt I shall need more material before our return to school but perhaps if there are titles you think would make a good sequel to my current selections, you'd be kind enough to bring them? I presume I am to continue in your office during the evenings, so with your permission, I could exchange these volumes for new ones then.

-Finch-Fletchley



 [alt\\_antonin](#) at [2014-04-23 03:10:36](#)

*(no subject)*

No, of course I was not intending to imply you regretted your decision -- not in the least; you are clearly thriving here. Only that one's thoughts, on holidays, inevitably turn to the absent friends and missing family with whom one would once have celebrated the holiday. Or mine do, at least.

I do not doubt you have been collecting a number of questions that are worth further exploration as you go, and yes, you strike me as the sort of scholar who prefers his research to have immediate tangible benefit. (An attitude I have learnt, despite it not being my natural inclination; in another world I would alternate teaching with burying myself in research so arcane less than a dozen people could even follow the formulation of the question. But this is not that world, and what I have been called to suits me well enough.) Still, if you are interested in following the question a little, you may find it is less academic and more practical than you might think.

I will bring a collection of things you might enjoy reading. Our evening sessions will indeed continue -- for your own protection as much as discipline, I trust you understand -- and I see no reason why you ought not make free of the library while you are there.

In service,  
A.

**[2014-04-22 03:07:00](#)**

*Order Only private message to Alice*

I have left you a hangover potion in the kitchen for tomorrow morning. I must apologise for my dreadful display.




 **[alt\\_severus](#)**

~~thank you for listening~~

---



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-22 07:21:59](#)**  
(no subject)


appreciate the care with the lock love

Lord I could use a spliff.

no need for apologies but the potion is a lovely thought.

Do us a favour and don't stay up too much later, please. Sleep is rather nice, I've heard.




 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-22 07:26:52](#)**  
(no subject)

yes it is. ~~wish I could do it more~~

I will no doubt be mortified tomorrow but for now it is quite nice to not care.




 **[alt\\_severus](#)** at **[2014-04-23 02:40:56](#)**  
(no subject)

As predicted, the embarrassment is far worse today than the hangover, and at least the hangover can be treated with a potion.

You have my utmost apologies for my shameful display of emotion and drunkenness both; I prefer not to indulge in either.

I cannot remember much past the point at which I reached Lily's death my unlamented departure from the Dark Lord's service. If I have cause to apologise for anything additional, kindly inform me.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-23 04:30:25](#)**  
(no subject)


Oh, Severus.

That's what friends *do*.

You did nothing that requires an apology. Believe me. Sharing a heavy load with someone who's willing to bear it is not something to be ashamed of. I'm glad we talked. I very much hope you don't regret it.


And I'll keep my promise to hold what we talked about in strictest confidence.



 **[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-23 04:41:46](#)**  
(no subject)

I suppose I am too accustomed to keeping my cards close to my chest.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-23 04:53:21](#)**  
(no subject)


Which is quite understandable.

I respect you just as much today as I did Monday morning, Severus.

If not more.

I know such statements make you uncomfortable, but it is the truth.



 **[alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-23 05:04:18](#)**  
(no subject)

There is nothing I can conceivably say to that, so instead I shall simply be grateful and move on.

I have faith in, and appreciate, your discretion.

**2014-04-22 11:48:00**

*Private message to Professor Dolohov*

Thank you so much for the introduction to Healer Korotkova. I thought by the end she seemed to be warming to me a bit.



 **alt\_sally\_anne**

I've sent her a thank-you letter by owl; it didn't sound as if she used the journals much.



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 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-23 02:31:19**

*(no subject)*

You are quite welcome, my dear. I was so pleased to see my instinct in introducing you was correct.

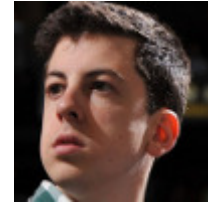
I could tell that you were uncertain how you were being received, but as I said afterwards, if you had not impressed her favourably at least a bit she would have called you an idiot far more often; she does not cast wide her hexes.

Do let me know when she lets you know that she has made a decision?

In service,  
A.

**[2014-04-22 12:15:00](#)**

*Private Message to Professor Dolohov*



 [alt\\_linus](#)

Sir,

A considerable number of eventful days have transpired since that fateful luncheon when you first discussed with me the two paths of the scholar and laid out a choice before me. It was not only my wish to atone for my lack of prudence regarding the ill-fated duelling club that made me choose the path I did. You were then and still remain quite correct when you say that the scholar who regards knowledge as a collection of Chocolate Frog cards, to be collected and admired and added to may be led about by things he does not know yet. As you said, "He will be used again and again by those around him who need his knowledge, his dedication, and his skill, and care little for the person in whom they are made manifest." That was my plight then. I will not have it be my plight now.

The other path, the one I chose, is as you described it: being a scholar to whom knowledge is a skein of yarn, to be knit up into connections, woven into garments, made into items that can be used and transformed -- and the scholar thus working is aware of the tapestry of the world in which individual facts and figures are woven.

I have never regretted my choice, sir, and see no reason I ever should.

In keeping, then, with that choice and that calling, I must now make report to you, for reasons you will soon see.

While Mr Montague stated at the outset that these challenges will test all the talents and strengths I have, I am not in the slightest confident that he is aware that among my strengths is the opportunity for counsel from one of the strongest and most loyal minds of the Protectorate. Indeed, the sole reasons I have only availed myself of your counsel sparingly thus far is that I hoped to stretch and grow and prove myself worthy of your great generosity in training me so far.

Mr Montague has offered me two options for the present challenge. Either I am to steal something valuable from Professors Siz and Raz while at the party at Spencer House, or I am to steal something valuable from your own New London abode.

The degree to which this challenge appalls me need not be stated.

However, as you have taught me, appalling things are not merely a spur to epic poetry and daring deeds of renown. While I would be loathe indeed to comply with such a challenge in the normal order of things, if there is a way in which either complying or seeming to comply would serve purposes or advance an agenda of yours, I should be glad of it. (Perhaps a charmed object that reports the conversations of my sponsor -- though he did not say that I was to turn the stolen object over to him directly.)

After my regrettably unspectacular showing in the matter of the omnioculars and Finnegan's lack of proper security protocols and safeguards for those about whom he purports to care, I should wish to make a better showing -- and yet, such a challenge as this one makes me again question the wheels within wheels in this whole endeavour. As you are training me not only to think for myself but to recognise when I have come up against the limits of my knowledge or perceptions or ability to analyse, I must needs be true to that training. Herewith as a faithful hunting falcon I lay this intelligence at your feet.

Professor, will you guide me in this? For I believe it involves greater things than blunting one small instrument of the Protectorate. Certainly, as that instrument, I would not willingly have my ability to serve damaged or diminished. My sponsor is bent on inducing me to commit an act that would either destroy or strongly impair the excellent working relationship I have with the professor whose skill and knowledge in Astronomy is opening up whole galaxies of knowledge to me, or committing a similar act against the best mentor I have ever known outside my home. Either is repugnant to my personal honour, particularly given our discussions in the past of guest-friendliness and the rituals of hospitality.

Thus I await wisdom and guidance, having prudently alerted the one who is more a touchstone of discernment to me than a jumble-pated challenge sponsor could ever be. My thanks in advance, for this as for all your cultivation of my abilities.

I have the honour to be  
most sincerely  
Linus Moon

P.S. Should you find it necessary to assign me some detention or other

in the course of whatever action seems necessary, I shall, per our earlier agreement, feel free to complain of your being a wholly unreasonable bastard who expects me to work my tail off at your whim (to use your own words).

---



 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-23 02:08:56**

*(no subject)*

~~Oh, dear. You shouldn't have~~

Undoubtedly Montague has noticed your partiality and is looking to test whether you are able to set that partiality aside in following instruction.

It is a truth of the Council that we all serve at Our Lord's pleasure, and our other loyalties are to be suborned to His desires. Should you proceed to earn His favour and His mark, there are times when His instruction may contradict your own preferences and your own qualms; too many others see only the power His Council can command, and do not see that the most important quality in a Councilwizard is our perfect submission to His will. There have certainly been times in His service when I was required to do something I did not think the wisest option, but His wisdom is greater than ours, and in those instances I was wrong and He knew better than I did.

You know that I find the opportunity to assist you in reaching your full potential to be a beautiful example of the joys a professor can find in mentorship, and your loyalty to me in return is touching. You are facing this challenge, however, as a Ravenclaw might, and forgetting that those who are setting the tasks are Slytherin through and through: this is, no doubt, an information-gathering expedition. And while I find your loyalty endearing, and quite proper for a wizard to his mentor, I have not ever wished for your loyalty to me to supplant your commitment to Our Lord and His dictates. I am Our Lord's loyal servant, as Professors Lestrangle and Sinistra are, and we all understand that what Our Lord commands -- directly, or through one of His hands, such as in this challenge -- overrides all other preferences and always will.


My advice to you: remember that in pursuing this competition and selecting candidates for Our Lord's consideration, Jason Montague is doing Our Lord's work, and his commands to you should be treated as coming to you in Our Lord's voice. That reminder alone should



suffice to make your next steps clear.

In service,  
Professor Dolohov




 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-23 03:53:41](#)**  
(no subject)

Understood, sir.

In service,

Linus Moon




 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-23 03:58:32](#)**  
(no subject)

And in that case, might it be possible for me to obtain an invitation to visit you at your New London abode in the near future?

In service,  
Linus Moon



 **[alt\\_antonin](#)** at **[2014-04-23 04:02:59](#)**  
(no subject)

Of course, Mr Moon. I have been meaning to invite you to come take a look at my library.

**[2014-04-22 20:23:00](#)**

*Order Only: Apparation?*

Ron, Sally-Anne, Pansy: I say, how did your Apparation tests go?




 [alt\\_justin](#)

I'm sorry I wasn't there if you joined the flying later on, what. I'm afraid I'm bally well never going to be a long-distance flyer of any stamina, try as I might. Then when we gained altitude to crest Snowdonia I started feeling a bit light-headed.

Oh, and Sally-Anne, wasn't your interview with the Healer yesterday? Everything went well, I trust?

-Justin



 [alt\\_justin](#) at **[2014-04-23 01:38:45](#)**

*Private Message to Cedric*

I say, old man, how did your appointment go? Did they give you any news right away or are they making you jolly well wait and wonder?

-Justin



 [alt\\_cedric](#) at **[2014-04-23 02:28:16](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Cedric*

It went about as well as I expected. I'm on the mend. I'm not well enough to play professionally yet. We discussed where I would need to be in the fall for them to consider it. It's -- ~~dicey unclear~~ I don't know where I'll be by then.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2014-04-23 02:53:06](#)**

*(no subject)*

First off, it was a different examiner. And, thankfully, this one saw sense. So at least I've got my license now.

Yeah, they told me you'd decided to call it a morning before I caught

up with them. Wizard scenery out there, innit, though? Someday I'd really like to go out to Snowdonia and spend some time trekking and flying and camping and wotnot. Shame there's that dirty great private preserve out there to worry about trespassing into.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-23 14:35:10](#)**

*Private message to Justin*

We all passed. Thank goodness. We decided not to try to catch up to Distance Flying Club, though.

It was hard to tell at the time, but I think the interview went quite well. Professor Dolohov said that he could tell she was impressed because she only called me an idiot a few times (mostly near the beginning) and toward the end we got into a long conversation about how form and magic affect each other when you're making something, and the times you have to be precise vs the times you have to NOT be precise.

How are you doing? ~~I mean,~~ are you

**2014-04-22 21:55:00**

*Order Only Private Message to  
Hydra Lestrage*




Will you be able to come on Thursday?

I've been hoping to see you this holiday,  
but I didn't think it a very good idea to  
write you openly and annoy your mother.

 **alt\_nymphadora**



 **alt\_hydra** at **2014-04-23 13:42:47**

*(no subject)*

Hullo. Yes, I'll be there, only because Harry's asked  
me, though.



 **alt\_nymphadora** at **2014-04-24 03:22:44**

*(no subject)*

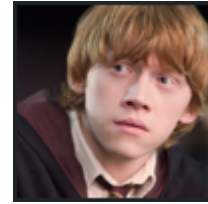
I'm so glad.

I was really sorry to hear about what happened with  
you and Justin. ~~I hope you are~~— I suppose that's all I  
can think to say about it--that I'm sorry and wish for you that it  
hadn't happened.

**[2014-04-22 22:32:00](#)**

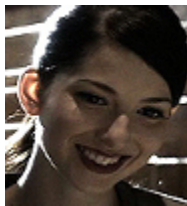
*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne*

So did Doves answer you yet? I hope he told you she liked you just fine. I mean, he told you from the start that she's a difficult sort, right? So I'm sure she was impressed even though you couldn't be sure.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Can we do something tomorrow? I mean, I'd come there, but... How's Pansy? Was it better after you got home? I was nervous, too, mind you, but I wasn't snipping at everyone. I don't think. I wasn't, was I?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-23 04:03:46](#)  
(no subject)

Professor Dolohov assured me that I'd done fine and that if I hadn't impressed her, she'd have called me an idiot far more times. So....I guess now I just have to wait and see if she decides to take on an intern for the summer, because she almost never does. I really do think she'd decided by the end of tea that I would be more of a help than a hindrance, because of the conversation about origami, actually, but yeah, we'll see.

I'd love to come meet you. ~~Just so long as Pansy doesn't~~ Pansy, well, I think she's a little calmer than she was when we were testing. And no, you were fine.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-23 04:14:27](#)  
(no subject)

I think it's hilarious that you might get hired because of those paper animals you make. I mean, they're brill, but she should see the other stuff you can do--make stuff out of bits and bobs, and fix almost anything that's got bunged up or that's got its charms skewed, and upgrade the spellwork and runes on almost anything. She'd be mad not to hire you.

What if we went for a ramble somewhere. You could come here, only then Mum'd want us to have lunch at home and she'd want to talk your ear off. We could go off somewhere like Dover or Rye or


something and just see what's there. I think the weather's meant to be fine.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-23 04:17:22](#)  
(no subject)

Anyway. I just want to get away from everyone for a day, I think. (I mean, everyone except you.) Your mum's not so bad but maybe we could pack a picnic?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-23 04:26:07](#)  
(no subject)

All right, then!

Why don't we pack some sarnies and go to Sandwich? (I bet Pansy could make a good joke about that. If she were feeling jokey.)

We can see if there're any sandy witches along the shore.

(Yeah, I know. That was naff. Sorry.)

What'd'you say?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-23 04:45:15](#)  
(no subject)

Yes. Let's.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-23 04:25:09](#)  
(no subject)

And we got onto the paper animals because Professor Dolohov had told her I was good at making things, and she wanted to know what I'd started with, and I told her a little about the origami. She asked me to tell her some things I knew how to fold, and then she asked me what were some things I DIDN'T know how to fold, and then she said she wanted me to fold one of those, and

talk through what I was doing. So, why was I making each fold. She wanted a bear, which I hadn't ever folded. So first I drew a bear, to get a picture of it in my mind, because they're not something I've seen very many times. And then I thought about what they were like that I already knew how to fold, and I decided that I could probably modify a cow, because they have a heavy body. Although bear legs are thicker and shorter and the heads are rounder -- so then I talked about how I was modifying it as I went, both in terms of the paper and in terms of the magic (because I wanted it to move like a bear, not a cow, and it needed to be balanced right so it could stand up on its hind legs, which is something bears can do (and cows can't)).

Anyway. I'd never actually tried to explain how I make those animals before. So on one hand it was a bit silly, because it's NOTHING like making an eye, you know, or glasses. But on the other hand, I guess she wanted to see how I thought, and that turned into a conversation about all the ways that the physical form affects the magic.

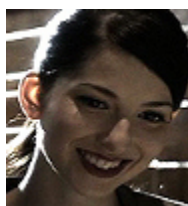


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-23 04:30:49](#)

*(no subject)*

Huh.

She's definitely going to hire you. She has to. You're perfect for this.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-23 04:45:56](#)

*(no subject)*

Well YOU know I'm perfect and I know I'm perfect and Professor Dolohov knows I'm perfect, but people make silly mistakes all the time so who knows.

**[2014-04-23 12:43:00](#)**

*Private Message to Linus*



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)**

Linus darling,


I *urgently* need to see you today! Can you get away at all? I assure it is important and not at all frivolous.

Somewhere we can have privacy would be best.

Love from your Lavender

---



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-23 20:37:42](#)**  
(no subject)

As the queen of my heart commands. Will ten minutes from now, in our usual spot, be suitable? I shall go now and wait there, unless countermanded, o fairest one!




 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2014-04-23 21:30:16](#)**  
(no subject)

I'll be there momentarily.

And thank you. For listening.



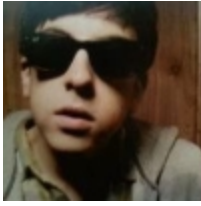
 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-24 16:13:46](#)**  
(no subject)


My dearest,

I shall never speak slightingly of Divination again, as it and you have been vindicated! I must confess that when you spoke of my objective being the Sun I was bewildered, but all became clear last night. Professor Siz gave me a bit of a tour of Spence House, and suddenly all was illuminated. So to speak.

I shall strive to make you and Our Lord proud of me!






 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-24 16:14:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Needless to say, I am looking forward to attending their party with the loveliest creature in the Protectorate on my arm.




 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-24 16:16:56](#)**  
(no subject)

Um, did I mention that my father will be in attendance as well?

I shall of course introduce you. It will go wonderfully, I am sure.



 **[alt\\_lavender](#)** at **[2014-04-25 21:03:55](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm sure it will go splendidly! I'm ~~more~~ ~~worr~~.

I've been playing with my ensemble all afternoon, and I've finally got a look I'm really happy with.

Let's plan to shine!

**2014-04-23 16:15:00**

*Private Message to Julius Avery*

So, I got your owl.

Yeah, there's a match coming up. May 10<sup>th</sup>,  
against Gryffindor.



 **alt\_zacharias**

Only...

Are you sure you meant Hufflepuff's kit? Because either side could be really dangerous. But my own House--I mean, that's just not on.

I can do anything, though, right? It doesn't have to be, well, something that would get someone killed. Or anything. Just...sort of a lark? I suppose that'd be all right. Well, not all right, it's not sporting at all, but--

Well. I guess I'll think of something.

**[2014-04-23 17:54:00](#)**

*Private Message to Lucius Malfoy*

**Official Enquiry. Confidential & Private.  
Prompt Attention Demanded.**



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)

Investigation in progress: younger Glendower dec'd.

Have perpetrator in custody: RR (sec. to Minister).

RR insinuating involvement of others--hopes to mitigate punishment. Has called in question your whereabouts last evening. Require verifiable account (brief) re. your location before/at/subsequent to 10:00PM.

Assume you'd prefer to avoid official questioning. Response requested ASAP.

Auror B Crouch, Jr  
Lead Investigator: Glendower assassination



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 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2014-04-23 23:07:55](#)

*(no subject)*

Glendower? Most unfortunate. Lovers' quarrel, perhaps?

Certainly, happy to oblige.

Dined with Narcissa in New London. Alhambra, around eight. Returned to Manor about, oh, 9:15 or so? Fire chats with Stephen re: disruption to Cornish labour caused by last week's earthquake. We spoke for perhaps thirty-five minutes, from half nine to just after ten o'clock. Then fire chat with Crispin on reparations to the three communities that suffered irreparable damages. Planning a trip for the Minister to show concern on their behalf. That must have been another twenty minutes, I would say. Yes, we finished around half-ten.

Thereafter .... Well. Payed a visit to Narcissa before she turned in for the night. Need I continue?



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-24 00:01:59](#)  
(no subject)


No need.

Will seek corroboration of details separately from each of those you've named.

Doubt we'll need to trouble you further.

Unless you wish to offer information to assist us re. RR's history, motives, habits.



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at [2014-04-24 01:37:14](#)  
(no subject)


Haven't spoken with her more than a polite word or two at formal occasions for some time.

Am aware that she accosted Draco at the New Year's celebration at Buckingham last year (not this past but the one before). Not sure whether she wrangled the invitation from the late young Glendower or had her claws in someone else at that time. Made no report then at my son's request but - confess it made me wonder whether she had become somewhat disturbed by the changes in her fortune, Mr Cameron's untimely demise, &c.

She even fancied for a time that my interest in her career went deeper than mentorship, as you know.

Well. Best wishes in your investigation. Please do let me know if you need any follow-up.



 [alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#) at [2014-04-24 20:38:57](#)  
(no subject)

Update. Wizengamot has acted: Azkaban.

Tried again to pull your name into it. Roundly rejected as slander. Understand from Thicknesse the consensus reached put it all down to Glendower's using intimacy for purposes of manipulating Fudge and having it

backfire spectacularly.

Apparently the Sr Undersecretary didn't care for being exploited. Evidently G lacked the sense to protect himself. Idiots.

Prophet to run official story in evening edition.



 **[alt\\_lucius](#)** at **[2014-04-24 22:00:47](#)**

*(no subject)*

Curiosity consumes - just what sort of drivel did she spew at you regarding my alleged involvement in her caper?



 **[alt\\_crouch\\_jr](#)** at **[2014-04-24 22:29:02](#)**

*(no subject)*

Claimed she'd been working with Glendower and that one of the things he wanted her to do was spy on you on account of your past acquaintance.

Maintains that when she made contact with you, instead of seducing and ensnaring you, you seduced her.

Said she broke down and told you everything, including that she'd never stopped loving you.

Claimed you declared you'd never felt the same passion with anyone else and nothing would do but you must have her back.

Claimed you'd jointly decided to turn Glendower's ruse back on him, allowing him to think she was still tied to him and then using him so she could obtain useful information about his allies.


Maintained that she'd turned much useful information over to you, but that a point had come when G was no longer useful.

Said you promised her that after she killed Glendower, you'd set Narcissa aside and devote yourself to RR.

There might have been more... it was quite a sudsy romance she spun out. Amusing to all. Vasperger let her go on with it as long as she wished.

And naturally there was 'proof': a hotel room where you've been meeting; a florist who could attest to flowers you've sent her; a neighbour who noticed she'd had late night company; certain articles of clothing said to belong to you; a cloak clasp. None of it worth the breath that delivered it. No requests from the Wizengamot for substantiating witnesses. All took it as you'd expect: desperate fantasies.



 **alt\_lucius** at **[2014-04-25 01:49:14](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Well, she has a florid imagination.

Or had, one should say, if she's for Azkaban.

**2014-04-23 21:30:00**

*Private Message to Auror Lamont*

Ms Lamont,

As you no doubt saw, I was just speaking with Auror Crouch, on the matter of ... personnel turnover at the Ministry. He suggested I talk to MEU and naturally, you came to mind.



 **alt\_lucius**

The Minister is concerned regarding a potential morale deficit with all the departures of the last year or so. He asked Administration to run a check and it seems that our friend Corax Mulciber's department, Protectorate Affairs - the department where you have been assigned oversight - has overtaken MLE as the department with the greatest turnover, including some quite high-profile positions. There was that fellow Cook who was exposed in the papers last week for his potions addiction and, oh, a few other prominent figures, along with several clerks and lower-level posts.


With Gauge's permission, should like to meet with you to-morrow to go over the files. Would you be free at teatime, perchance?

Shall we say Blaison at four o'clock?

Yours in anticipation,

Lucius S. Malfoy



 **alt\_rachel** at **2014-04-24 03:00:53**  
*(no subject)*

Oh, absolutely. I have a number of theories about the issues in Protectorate Affairs and I'm eager to see the files.

**2014-04-23 22:51:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne*

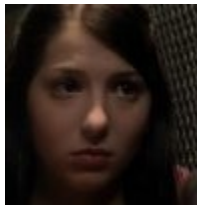
Merlin.

I didn't mean to make her cry!

Is she better now? Should I write her and say sorry?



 [alt\\_ron](#)

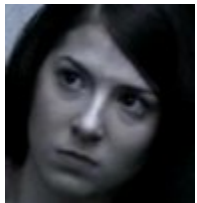


 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-24 03:59:38**  
(no subject)

She's gone into her own room. I

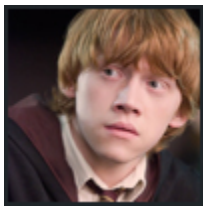
I don't know. I wouldn't have expected her to be this upset about you planning to room with Justin, you know? Or us going off this afternoon, or -- any of it.


I don't know if you should write to her or not.



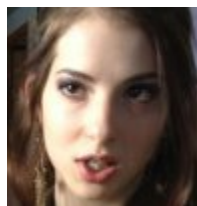
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-24 04:00:04**  
(no subject)

Right now I'm thinking I'll go to bed, and tomorrow maybe she'll be acting like herself again. Lately that's ~~seemed to work~~



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-24 04:04:30**  
(no subject)

D'you reckon it's just, y'know... her monthly?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-24 04:09:49**  
(no subject)

oh my god people KEEP ASKING ME THAT.

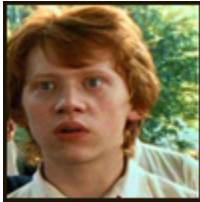
No, it's not her monthly.






 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 04:10:25](#)  
(no subject)

But you know maybe I should try that tea I use, anyway.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 04:13:00](#)  
(no subject)

For you or for her?

Um. I think I'll wait til tomorrow before I decide if I should write her. It's probably a good idea to get some sleep now, yeah?

Everything will look better in the morning.

Probably.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 04:15:20](#)  
(no subject)

For her, I mean. I could give it to Hitty and suggest she just make it for Pansy every morning. Or I could give Hitty a packet of soothing herbs to put in. I'll have to think about it.

Anyway. Yeah. Everything will look better in the morning.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 04:24:28](#)  
(no subject)

G'night, you.

Hope you can sleep soon.

**2014-04-24 12:57:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

Plans proceeding at anticipated pace.

Beginning next Tuesday and going forward, replace three o'clock tea with AB. Here for now; do not wish a publicly affirmed reconciliation quite yet.



 **alt\_lucius**

Also, obtain guest list for Lestrangle party to-morrow night. The Rizzer ought to be able to provide.

Next, need time with Rookwood, Bode and Bode's assistant early next week. Helpful if it is before Minister's visit to Cornwall (co-ordinate with Mavis Sewell to find out who his acting undersecretary will be; have it on good authority that Miss Robins has left the Ministry).

Next, understand young Avery was here this morning during my meeting with Fudge. Give him fifteen minutes to-morrow, whenever you can fit them in. If Ursula calls you may let her know how to find me.

Do not anticipate returning this after-noon.

**2014-04-24 16:11:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*



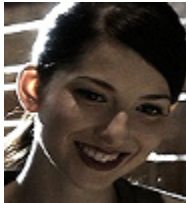
So. I got Avery's owl today.

It says I've got to undermine either Malfoy, Hydra, Patil or Finnigan in some way that would significantly impact their standing in the contest.

 [alt\\_ron](#)

So, I mean, the first thing is which of them to target, right? Not Malfoy and not Hydra, obviously, but, really... Finnicky or Patil?

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 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-24 21:26:54**  
(no subject)

Ooooh, hard one.

I'm inclined to say Finnigan, actually, because I would expect Draco to be more likely to be able to control Patil and use her as an ally when he needs one. On the Council, I mean. Finnigan is more of a wild card.



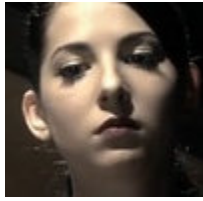
 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-24 21:38:51**  
(no subject)

I could ask him. Malfoy, I mean.

But, yeah, I think Finnigan's what he'd say. And, anywiz, I don't want to just have to do whatever he wants if it ends up it would be better for me to go after the other one.

See, I'm thinking Finnigan would be easiest to hex or poison or, y'know, 'undermine'. But it's pretty likely he'd guess I'm the one that's done it. Patil's harder to get at, but it would also be tougher to guess it was me that did it to her. (Not that she doesn't expect I'd try something, but with all the challengers to pick from, she'd probably think it was someone who had easier access to her. I mean, supposing I pick the right sort of thing to do to her--not a rune that attracts giant bugs!)

Y'know. I wonder if this means that those are the top four? Do you really think Patil's come that high in the standings so far?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 21:49:23](#)  
(no subject)

I doubt Patil's that high. But maybe Avery particularly dislikes Ned Pennifold and Lana Sandoval. Sandoval sponsored both Patil and Hydra, and Pennifold sponsored Draco. That doesn't explain Finnigan. Well, unless Avery also dislikes Crispin.

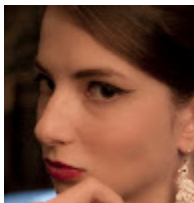
Anyway, yeah, if you poison Finnigan he'll assume it was you even if you make it look like Thomas or McLaggen did it. There's no guarantee Patil won't blame you, though; she blamed us for the bugs even though she couldn't prove it.

I think it's probably worth asking Draco and Hydra.



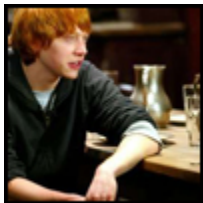
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 21:50:45](#)  
(no subject)


Though it doesn't say 'hurt them,' it says 'make them fall in the standings' -- I mean, maybe you should think about runes again, there's probably something that would be brilliantly distracting that they might not even realise was a hex.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 21:27:08](#)  
(no subject)

What are you thinking you'll do?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 21:52:48](#)  
(no subject)

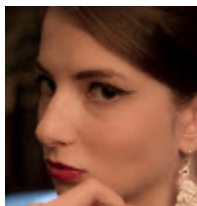
Well.

I was thinking you might know something that makes a person weaker and weaker over a couple of weeks or a month. Something that creeps up on you. Maybe it

should be a Rune we'd put somewhere they wouldn't find it. Like under the inner lining of a shoe or the lining of a robe.

Or it could just be a curse put on my badge and then I'd switch badges with them. Like we had to do before, but then everyone knew people were doing it. Now they might not think of it again because it's already been done. (Or maybe they'd think of it right away and I'd just fail this one.)

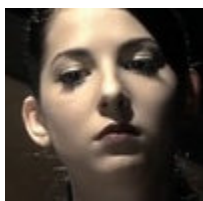
I don't know. It would be perfect if there were a way to squib someone, because that would definitely interfere with their ability to compete. Or do anything else. And I'd almost do that to those two if I could figure out how. But it's not like I can get them to try that spell that took Mr Longbottom's magic.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 21:59:25](#)  
(no subject)

If there were a spell that you could cast on a wizard to turn them into a squib, they'd cast it on Hermione. So I'm glad there isn't, even though that would certainly be convenient.

Let me think about this. You could definitely use a rune on Finnigan that would give him insomnia. But, eventually he'd go to Madam P and she'd probably give him a potion at least for a few nights. For that matter, if he scribed a rune for peaceful sleep on his own bed it would probably counteract whatever you'd done, so... hm.

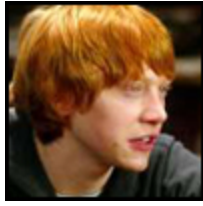



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 22:03:04](#)  
(no subject)

Other things that are distracting (because that's really what you need, fundamentally: they need to be distracted).

Fatigue  
Dizziness  
Nausea  
Having to go to the loo all the time  
Headaches

the trouble is, Madam P could fix any of these.



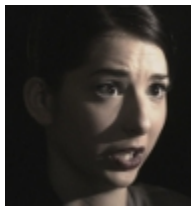
 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 22:07:41](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, I was thinking about dizziness, except that would totally do for us in Quidditch this season, wouldn't it? As if we need any help.

And, yeah. It can't be anything Madam P can just set right straight away. Or really anything that would make him think right off that he should go to the Hospital Wing. It's got to be more subtle than that.

Too bad, because I really like the idea of making him have to piss all the time. That would be super distracting. And also hilarious.

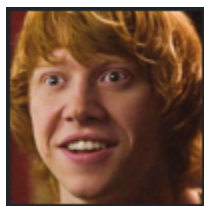
Well. Maybe there's something that just causes a slow confundus-type fuzziness in your head. Something he wouldn't notice because he'd be addled enough he wouldn't think of going to Madam P.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 22:10:24](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, well, you could make Patil dizzy instead of Finnigan. She doesn't play Quidditch.

The confundus fuzziness is a good thought, but Patil would take Finnigan to Madam P even if he didn't realise he needed to go. Maybe you could do it to both of them? Do you think Avery would mind if you went after two of the four?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 22:33:45](#)  
(no subject)

Oh.


OH.

No, you know what?

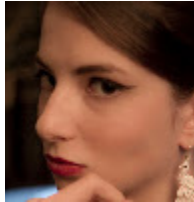
I've got the perfect thing. I just need to talk to the twins about it.

A love potion. There are some really strong ones and they're a lot like confundus, really. You'd never notice it yourself if you were under one. Only it needs to be the kind that doesn't wear off--for a long time, at least.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-24 22:35:21](#)  
(no subject)

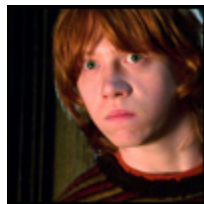
And that's actually a good idea, trying it on both of them. That way even if one of them missed taking it somehow, one of them would.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-24 23:18:20](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think you could make them fall in love with each other? Or would that not work, given that apparently Finnigan doesn't actually like girls that way?

A love potion would be FANTASTICALLY distracting. There are antidotes, but the person would have to know they'd been dosed, right?

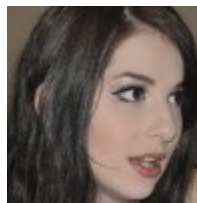


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-25 12:32:53](#)  
(no subject)

Okay. I've been thinking about this and the only downside I can think of is...

...what if Finnigan fell in love with ME?

That would be awkward.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-25 14:25:21](#)  
(no subject)

Well, MOST love potions are targeted, you put in a tiny bit of hair or fingernail or whatever from the person you want them to fall in love with, which could be complicated, actually,

since you'll have to get it. (Most of the time when a lad feeds someone a love potion it's because he wants that person to fall in love with HIM. Your own hair is easy to come by.) There is one that makes you fall in love with the next person or creature you see. Definitely don't use that one on Finnigan. You use it while they're sleeping, so odds are good he'd fall in love with you, Neville, or Thomas. Or possibly Trevor. Which would be a laugh, but the other thing about that one is, anyone with half a brain would work out what had happen and that potion is also dead easy to reverse.

Anyway, thinking about this, you definitely do want a target that would be plausible. With Patil, you could make her fall for Moon; that would give her plenty to do, because although I'm pretty sure he used to fancy Patil quite a lot, he's dating Lavender Brown now, and he's far too gentlemanly to just throw her over. So Patil would need to scheme against Lav.

With Finnigan, hmm. I suppose you could make him go utterly MAD over Remy. If they're actually in love it wouldn't make that much difference probably but if it's casual... do you know? I suppose he doesn't confide in you much.

Anyway, if you need a hair from Remy, Justin or Hydra should be able to get it. Moon, you know, that would be harder. There are some other options with Patil, though. You could make her fall for Cedric -- him, you could just ask for a hair. Lares Tambllyn wouldn't be any sort of stretch, everyone would believe that was for real.

It's tempting to try to hit two birds with one hex and use Teddy Nott, but I don't hate Patil THAT much. Ugh. Besides, people would work out that had to be a love potion, though they'd probably assume Teddy gave it to her.



**2014-04-24 16:43:00**

*Private Message to Tosha*

The black colt is lurching about and after recent events it's clear he'll never be broken to the halter. He's just too damaged to take direction. Even if some miracle trainer thought he'd broken him, I'd never trust him under me in combat.




 **alt\_rabastan**

Eventually he's going to lash out, either just going after his herd's stallion or going rogue entirely. Do we want to watch him and see what herd he goes after or do we want to put the lame horse down while hoping his sire and herd aren't too offended?

---



 **alt\_antonin** at **2014-04-25 19:19:05**  
(no subject)

I'm sorry, dearest; I got caught up with Mysteries and haven't had a chance to touch my journal.

Given the nature of the herd, I think it best to avoid taking precipitous action until there's no other alternative, particularly given how easily the sire takes offense. Best not to make irreversible decisions until our hands are forced; the fallout would be unpleasant.

But you are quite correct that certain wands are not to be trusted at our sides, much less at our backs. I will watch closely, and if it appears that matters are heading in that direction -- well, there are options.

We'll talk more about this tonight.

**[2014-04-24 22:52:00](#)**


*(no subject)*

I'm quite excited for the party tomorrow. I've got quite a few errands to run as well -- hols has just flown by. Ardenia's managed to squeeze me in at the last minute -- when I went in for a refill, Mlle Givaudan said it was high time to revisit my profile. I'm excited to see what they've come up with. And there's all sorts of lovely spring sales that I have yet to take full advantage of. Parvati, your mother's latest line is just lovely. I especially appreciated the orange and pink shimmery fabric she's been using.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)**



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-25 06:17:41](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric*

If you want a not-date tomorrow, I'm game.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2014-04-25 12:37:27](#)**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric*

Sure!

I'll be done working with Dolohov after lunch. I'll be flooing down to New London after cleaning up.

Which house are you at today so I can pick you up?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-25 15:06:54](#)**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric*

My own.

Depending on how long some of my errands take, I might be a touch late. If it looks like I'll be late, I'll let you know, and you can just go on to the party and I'll meet you there.




 [alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-25 18:41:35](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric*

I'm headed to the city. If you're not around, Hitty ought to be able to let me in if you aren't back yet.

See you soon!



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 20:36:32](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Cedric*

I'll be back within the hour.

And it'll take a bit for me to get tidied up myself. But we'll certainly have time for tea. If Sally-Anne's around at all, she can join us as well.

Thanks, Ced.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 06:19:28](#)

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George and Fred*

It's such good news about Powell's. I'm so glad you finalised the contract with her for the party tomorrow, and I can't wait to see the House fireworks you both have come up with.



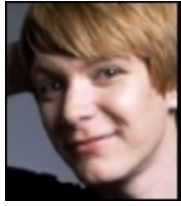
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 17:52:12](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George*

I wish hols were longer. And that we were all less busy, what with challenges and meetings and earthquakes and running a wildly successful business.

I wish a lot of things, I suppose.

Anyways. I'd like a proper goodbye before I go away to a stuffy school for weeks and weeks, and I could use a great deal of cheering-up. Do you have an idea of anyone who'd be able to help a girl out?




 **[alt\\_george](#) at 2014-04-25 23:10:18**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George*

Okay.

Tomorrow. You. Me. Back rubs?

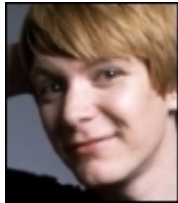



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-04-25 23:12:16**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George*

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Maybe dinner first? That little Indian place we went to over Christmas hols?




 **[alt\\_george](#) at 2014-04-25 23:12:50**

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to George*

Sounds like a plan.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-04-25 20:35:07**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

Imogene's Apothecary had what I needed. It was quite costly.

Thank you, Mr Lupin. I did exactly what you suggested, and it worked quite well. I didn't even have to cry.

I've picked up the other ingredients that are more common in two additional shops, to spread things out a bit.

I can start brewing on Sunday night, if you're available to supervise, Mr Snape.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-25 21:19:32](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

I will be, yes. I will write you out a version of the instructions that is less ... opaque, but do promise me you will not attempt the brewing on your own; I dislike the prospect of you attempting to do so without assistance. This is not a potion that is forgiving of error.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 21:33:01](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

Thank you.

And no. I wouldn't.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-25 21:51:55](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

Good.

It is not that I believe you incapable of the task; it is that the consequences for failure are dreadfully high, and the margin of error is exceptionally narrow. I will respect your wishes and not help you directly, but I will feel significantly better if I am able to observe your work and verify that you have brewed it properly before you ingest it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 23:04:49](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

It won't be me who's taking it.

They're making me test it on someone I trust.

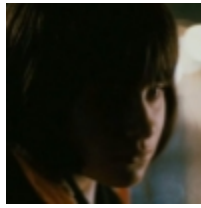



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-25 23:11:19](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

I see.

Then you will be doubly motivated to brew it correctly, I suppose.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 23:13:34](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Mr Lupin and Mr Snape*

Yes.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 20:40:08](#)

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

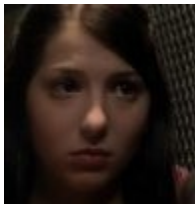
I got the supplies.

Mr Lupin said I ought to buy the most expensive thing in the ingredients case without haggling, and then imply that I'd heard she had access to more rare ingredients.

It worked. Merlin, it cost me, but she happened to have a stock of the Diviner's Mint, and one of the two other ingredients that are really hard to come by, and I just looked a bit desperate and scared (which didn't take much), and paid up without balking.

So that's the first step done.

Anyways. I'm headed back. Ced'll be at the house too, if you want some tea before getting ready for tonight.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-25 20:51:07](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Right.

I'm really glad Mr Snape can supervise -- I mean, not that I don't trust you, but everything about that potion is dodgy, including the instructions for how to make it. It's

like a recipe for pie crust that says 'add sufficient water,' you know, and expects you to just understand that's going to be less on a damp day.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-25 20:51:51](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

At least the visions should be interesting. If it works I don't know if I believe that it ACTUALLY lets you see into the future; if it did, wouldn't they learn about it in Divination class?

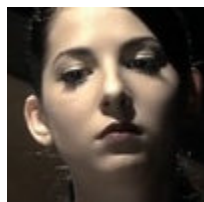


 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-25 20:59:35](#)

*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

I think it might be something they save for NEWT levels? I can see how they wouldn't want to risk that people would make it on their own and try it, because if you use it a lot, it's really not good at all.

And maybe the visions just aren't really reliable, or clear. We can always look it up some more at the library when we get back, to see.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-25 21:08:47](#)

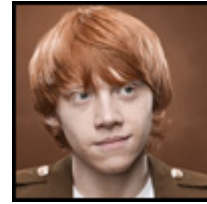
*Re: ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

Well, Lav is in NEWT Divination. I could see if she's ever heard of it.

And yeah, the fact that it makes you go mad if you take it too often probably means they don't suggest you use it.

**[2014-04-25 11:15:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Fred Weasley*




 [alt\\_ron](#)

The red, glowy vial's the one I want to put Jugson's hair in, right? And then it can get tipped into a drink or be put into a choc or a cake or some other food, yeah? It doesn't matter. You're sure the potion goes neutral as soon as it's in whatever it's being served up in?

And the grey, nasty-looking one is the heart's true desires potion. And that has to go in liquid, right? Will that one show? I mean no one'd want to drink that sludgy horrible-looking stuff.

Glad we could help each other out with this, yeah? Shame you won't be around school to see what comes of it!



 [alt\\_fred](#) at **[2014-04-25 22:14:45](#)**  
(no subject)

You have it right, yeah. (Glad the instructions weren't too smudged. George was eating chips while writing them out, and yeah, the parchment got a bit greasy there.)

You're right, the heart's true desire potion does look awful. We're working on that. But at least they're both easy to disguise in a drink (and the grey-sludgy one in food). As for getting your victim to ingest it, we suggest serious distraction. You're a Weasley; we're sure you can figure it out.

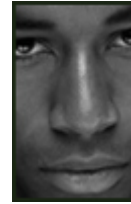


**[2014-04-25 16:06:00](#)**

*Private Message to Padma Patil*

Trust you've received the flowers.

What time should I stop for you?



 [alt\\_blaise](#)



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **[2014-04-25 21:16:03](#)**

*(no subject)*

Yes, they're beautiful! Thank you. I'm just charming the biggest, best of the roses to go into my hair. The colour's absolutely *perfect* for the sari I'm wearing.

I'm almost ready. Only don't come and collect me, I'll just meet you outside Bubble and Squeak, all right? In about 20 minutes?




 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **[2014-04-25 21:19:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

Don't they wonder whom you're going with?

Fine. I'll see you there.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **[2014-04-25 21:27:29](#)**

*(no subject)*

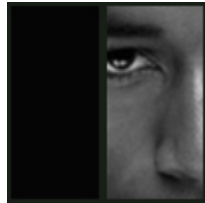
They know I'm going with mates - which *they* think means Lines and Lav and so on.


Look, you know how things are so why do you keep making me point it out?

Anyway. I'll be there by quarter to five if I can get out without another scene. (Last night Mum was insisting that Mr Gowda's already got everything Pavs could ever want so why would she gamble that Mr Sharma *might* achieve something more with his life and--oh, it was just impossible. The aunts got into it and Nani had to put in her two knuts and Pav threatened to *elope* if she had to. Mum went positively spare and Nani said that girls who sassed their mothers in *her* day got locked in towers with no magic and--well, all we'd need is you to knock on the door and they'll *all* do

their nuts. Honestly.)


So it's really best to just stay as far away from this mental ward as possible. Trust me, I'm doing you a favour.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2014-04-25 21:34:24](#)  
(no subject)

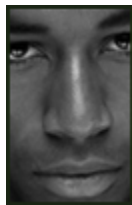
So Pav's really set on this Sharma chap? Is he all that?




 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-25 21:42:29](#)  
(no subject)

Well, I met him (we went out and I chaperoned them) and he really is rather fit. And interesting. And if Mum and Dad are set on Pav getting betrothed then she may as well be with a young, promising bloke who can carry on a conversation and who's athletic and charming, instead of an old, fat, balding *buddhi* who'd probably crush her on their wedding night. I mean, honestly, he's really rather dashing. Sharma, that is. And moreso in comparison.

If we keep writing we'll be late. Did you still want to walk to the embankment on the way to Spence? It should be a nice enough night and we'll have loads of time.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at [2014-04-25 21:45:01](#)  
(no subject)

Yes, let's.

See you soon!

**[2014-04-25 16:45:00](#)**

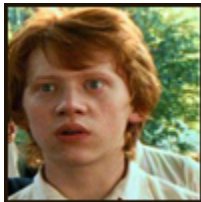
*Order Only: Private message to Ron*


Did you want to show up at the party together, or separately? I mean -- I should also say that if you'd prefer I just stay home so as not to antagonise Avery I can.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

If we're going over together did you want to come here? Pansy's back and Cedric's here already so you can come anytime you want, right now we're all drinking tea. (I gave Hitty this soothing tisane -- oh, right, I told you about it.)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-25 22:55:06](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm sorry! Ginny just hit me with my journal and said you'd written.

I've been trying to track Fred down and couldn't find him, but he finally wrote, and I've got it all together, I think.

I'll come there as soon as I change robes, all right? We could go get something to eat first. I mean, I reckon there'll be some kind of food, right? But do you think it would look wrong if we tried to eat enough to make it supper?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-25 22:57:49](#)

*(no subject)*

There'll be tons of food but you're right, people act like it's rude if you eat like you actually want a meal's worth of food even if it's supper time. Let's go grab some curry and then at the party we can delicately nibble on tiny canapes like fancy people do.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-25 23:02:39](#)

*(no subject)*

On my way.

Got the potions. And the invitation. In case we have to show it, right?

Be there in a tick.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-25 23:03:28](#)**  
*(no subject)*

Right, it's THAT sort of party, isn't it?

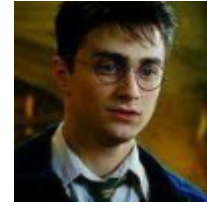
I'll see you soon.

**2014-04-25 19:12:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Pansy*


Pans

If you see this, do me a favour and check on Katie?



 [alt\\_harry](#)



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-26 02:25:01**

*(no subject)*

All right, Harry.

I'm not sure if she'll talk to me candidly, though. It looks like she's not in a particularly good mood, even though she's laughing.

She's also a bit in her cups. More than a bit.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-26 02:43:46**

*(no subject)*

She said she was moving on, and that she was sick of boys and their games, and wanted a man instead.

I'm sorry, Harry.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-26 02:56:40**

*(no subject)*

Okay.

**2014-04-25 19:51:00**

*Private Message to Cordelia Carpenter*

Dear Professor Carpenter,

Thank you so much for allowing me to test your very own Tarot design for my readings over the holidays! I feel certain that my interpretations are clearer and my connection to the Divinatory forces more sensitive in general.



 **alt\_lavender**

I've tried my best to take good notes on all the readings I've done, and I hope they're useful for your research. I suppose it's been some time since I've thought about the challenges of receiving a difficult or possibly upsetting reading. The position of the Tower and the Eight of Cups was really quite ominous, although I was able to offer my querent some reassurance due to the positioning of the King of Swords. And I recently learned from my querent that the role of the Sun, which I found puzzling at first, has become clear.

Still--this reading was for someone I hold dear and I feel rather anxious especially as the moment of decision approaches. But I can honestly say I've done everything I can to help my querent and from now on it is in the hands of Fate.

Are you attending the festivities this evening at Spencer House? It sounds as though it will be quite the entertainment, not that one would expect anything less from a party planned by Tallie Powell for the Professor Lestranges.

With deepest sincerity,

Lavender Brown

**2014-04-25 20:03:00**

*(no subject)*

The party's just wonderful so far. The illusionist was quite amusing. I particularly liked his interpretation of the invention of Apparation. And I had the great luck to be standing by Mr Deller, who provided a bit of context for us about early Hogwarts. He's got quite a talent for storytelling.




 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Professor Siz, I absolutely *love* what you've done with Spence. It's just beautiful.

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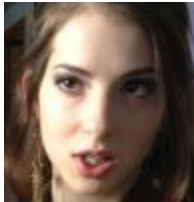
 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-26 03:22:57**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Hydra*

How're you doing, then?

If you want some company, Ced and I are taking a turn by the buffet.

Looks like Harry could use some distracting, too, so we might head over to him and try to get him to smile a bit.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-26 03:26:15**

*Order Only*

What on earth has got into Teddy?

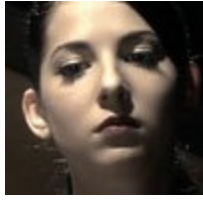
He's being quiet, polite, friendly, and ... inoffensive.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at **2014-04-26 03:34:04**

*Re: Order Only*

Maybe he's under Imperius?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 03:40:25](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Oh, good thought. That's probably it.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 03:39:25](#)

*Re: Order Only*

By the way -- Lucius was just talking to Avery. I couldn't hear a thing, but Avery wasn't looking happy at all. He was trying to argue back, shaking his head, but Lucius told him something just now, and Avery looked like he's been slapped in the face. Lucius just smirked a bit and walked off, and Avery's still standing there a bit stupidly.

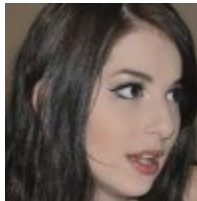
Thought you and Ron ought to know.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 04:23:09](#)

*Re: Order Only*

...I checked around, and I think Avery's completely left the party.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 04:26:20](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Huh.

I wish I knew what Mr Malfoy said to him.




 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 04:38:06](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Whatever it was, it didn't take much. A sentence, at most.






 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 04:28:02](#)

*Re: Order Only*

Yeah, I haven't seen him around lately.

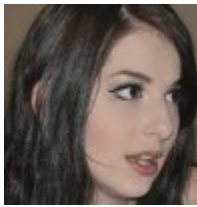
And what happened in the Palm room? Whatever it is, Ptolemy Baddock doesn't look happy about it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 04:29:52](#)

*Re: Order Only*

It really looks like a giant mess in there. I couldn't get a good look, because House-elves are cleaning it up, and they didn't want me going in.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 03:39:47](#)

*Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Did you know that Siz invited about a dozen Healers? If anyone suddenly gets ill, they won't have to go far to find help.

Maybe I should ask Draco to stay far away from them? Because they might notice Padma.

Siz introduced me to two of them, although the one I'm finding most interesting to listen to is Healer Kosta. He's a specialist in Dark Curses and treated both Raz and Professor Dolohov.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 03:43:03](#)

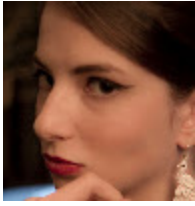
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Ooooh.

I wonder what he'd have to say about Mrs Longbottom?

Never mind. Probably not a good idea to ask.

Do you really think she'll go wobbly and start taking off her robes or break out in hysterics? That'd be *brilliant*.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 03:47:10](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Well, the downside is that if Patil goes THAT wobbly, people will realise straight off she's under a potion or spell or some such.

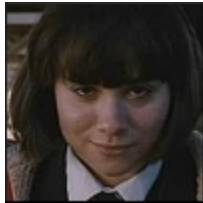



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 03:50:58](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Point.

It'd still be brilliant, though.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 04:48:19](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Oh.

Sweet and merciful Merlin.

It's everything I'd ever hoped for and more.

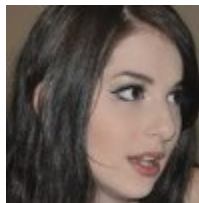
Is she... oh, now she's clinging to his leg.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 04:51:51](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Did she seriously just shout that he was the only non-Hindu her parents would let her marry?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 04:52:06](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Are you taking notes for Fred and George? This was the 'heart's desire' potion, right, not the love potion? Because I don't think I've ever seen a love potion that resulted in someone clinging to the other person's leg and sobbing, 'I've always loved you.'

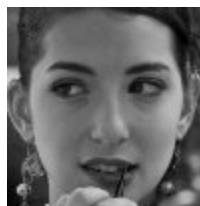
Downside: I don't think you need to be a Healer to guess she's under some sort of hex.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 04:53:50](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Oh, believe me, I am.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 05:02:20](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

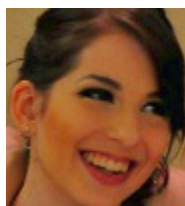
Speaking of the Twins, these are excellent fireworks. Do you know if the Twins supplied them?



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 05:05:03](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

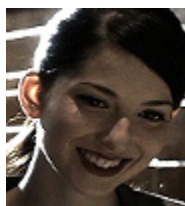
They did! It took a few lunches and demonstrations, but we landed a contract with Powell's, and I hope there's a good enough showing to keep working with her in the future.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 05:08:10](#)

*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

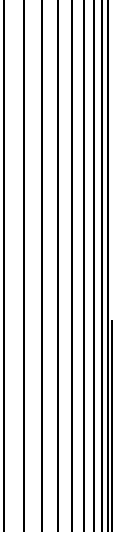
Oh, brilliant.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 05:08:52](#)

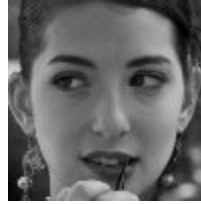
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*


How late do you want to stay, do you think?



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-26 05:12:00](#)**  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*


Let's stay as long as the dancing's still good, but before the crowd gets too thin and too tipsy.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-26 05:15:22](#)**  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy*

Sounds good.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-04-26 15:29:15](#)**  
*(no subject)*


Thank you so much - and I hope you had an excellent evening.

It's a pleasure to get to use some of that space to its full potential for once. I can really only take much credit for some changes to the library and the addition of the duelling salon. Much of the rest just is letting the good bones of the original house show to their best advantage (very magnificent and showy bones, mind.)

Perhaps sometime I can show you more of the details - there's a room we closed off for the party that's one of my favourites, for example. I admit I spend most of my time when we're at Spence there, if I'm not in our private rooms, the library, or sometimes the kitchen.


I'm also delighted you enjoyed Sulo Blandis's work. I particularly liked how he dug down to find something other than the same old stories we've all heard dozens of times. (Granted, he emigrated a couple of years ago, and I suppose there's a freshness of perspective that comes with that.)



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-04-26 16:50:16**  
(no subject)


I'll have to invite myself over for tea and a tour some time this summer, then. I'm in the process of redecorating my own home, and I'd love some inspiration. You do marvellous things with colour.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-04-26 16:51:52**  
*Private Message to Siz*

I also particularly appreciated the fireworks display. Thank you.




 **[alt\\_sinistra](#) at 2014-04-26 16:59:31**  
*Re: Private Message to Siz*

It was fabulous, indeed. I'm very glad we worked out a way to not be too overt about the source - much as I wanted to be, there's a delicate line, you know. And I know Tallie handed out at least a dozen cards to people who were very interested in their work.

Do pass on my compliments to the twins, if you would? As I said to Cedric, I particularly appreciated the house animals being done so thoughtfully. And I thought that one of the quidditch brooms was exceedingly clever too, all of them spinning off and then coming back together.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at 2014-04-26 17:58:48**  
*Re: Private Message to Siz*

I'll be sure to. And I appreciate your discretion. I think it helps a great deal that Lucius is no longer actively displeased, but it's still a bit of a balancing act.

Honestly, though, they're so clever, it's well worth the investment.




 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 16:56:07](#)  
(no subject)

I'd be delighted to have you.

Really, I think the house does most of the work itself. The light's so gorgeous in some of the rooms, it doesn't take much to set things off gloriously. And even at night, with the lighting charms, the proportions of the rooms frame things so well.

Some of the work for finding the furniture for the party - we needed to replace some things for more comfortable seating, really - is very much the work of a couple of people I consulted. I'll send the names and details round, if you like.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 17:20:55](#)  
(no subject)

Please do!

**2014-04-25 20:16:00**

*Private Message to Martin and Ellen  
Bones*



Have a wizard night tonight! You both deserve it.

I promise not to throw any wild parties of my own while you're gone!

 [alt\\_susan](#)

Oh and Mum, I read in the Prophet's arts section that Moira Grantworth will be there! I'm so glad you lent me her newest book--the one on the roots of pureblood families in the legendary period of British history--and I'd love to hear about what she's like if you get a chance to meet her.

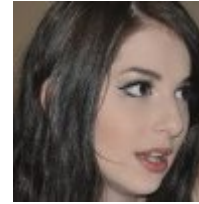
You know Dad will want to have a chinwag with Professor Raz and all the old Quidditchers (sorry Dad, you know it's true!) so I'm relying on you for some good party stories that don't involve the Wronski Feint.

Love you!

**2014-04-25 20:57:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

So I've been trying to keep an eye on Patil and Finnigan. I don't know where Finnigan's got to, but Patil's looking a little woozy and upset. So I think it's working, though I can't tell -- what was it the Twins told you? That it'll make her go after some person really aggressively, and it'll be whoever her heart truly desires?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)

I hope he's at the party, whoever it is.

---




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 02:39:23](#)  
(no subject)

Okay, don't hold me to this if I'm wrong or anything, but I *think* she's following Draco around.

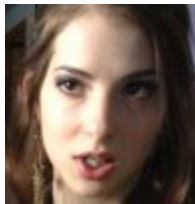
Still don't see Finnigan.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-26 03:00:02](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, yeah.

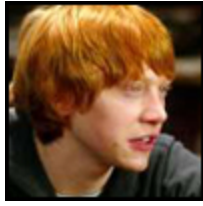
She's definitely shadowing Malfoy. He just set down his cup and she picked it up and... snogged it. I'm serious. That's what it looked like.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-26 03:18:47](#)  
(no subject)

She snogged his cup. His CUP? That he was drinking out of?





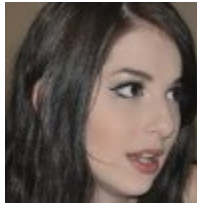
 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-26 03:29:49](#)**  
(no subject)


Exactly.

And she didn't put it down. I think she put it into her handbag.

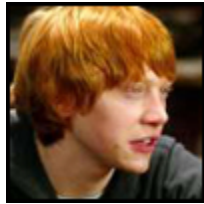
And now she's watching him dance.


Have you seen Zabini?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-26 04:25:31](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. He's pointedly ignoring her and flirting with other girls.

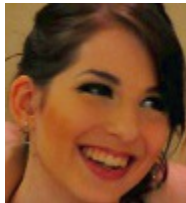


 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-26 04:28:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Electra Bobolis, last I saw.

Looked like they were appreciating each other. Rather a lot.

Still having happy Healer time? Or do you want to go dance a bit?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-26 04:32:45](#)**  
(no subject)

They've mostly either gone off somewhere they can shake off eavesdropping students, or gone home for the night, depending on whether or not they're ancient. I'll come dance.

**2014-04-26 00:50:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*



 [alt\\_padma](#)

Look, I know you said you don't love me but I don't care. I'll do anything you want, anyway. You have to give me a chance, you just have to or I'll die. I'd be perfect for you if you think about it.

This whole holiday Pav's been absolutely in tears over getting betrothed and fighting for the suitor she wants, and I understood but I didn't really know how she had to feel, getting so desperate to make the right choice forever. And I guess it got me thinking about my choices, and whether I'd really ever be happy with anyone else. So when I saw you tonight with Daphne like that I--I just couldn't take it anymore. Knowing that you don't see me. I had to say something. I had to make you understand.

You're the only gora I've ever wanted, the only one my parents would approve of, too. Lares, Grant, Davies, even Blaise--no, *especially* Blaise--they were all just placeholders. It's always been you. It's never not going to be.

And I don't care who knows it. I don't care if it means I have to crawl behind you every day, or if it means you make me act like a mudblood for you. Just as long as I can be near. It's like that line in Shakespeare:

*I am your mudblood, and ...  
The more you beat me, I will fawn on you:  
Use me but as your mudblood, spurn me, hex me,  
Neglect me, curse me; only give me leave,  
Unworthy as I am, to follow you.  
What worser place can I beg in your love,  
And yet a place of high respect with me,  
Than to be used as you use your mudblood?*

It's just like that.

Isn't it odd how a wizard who's been dead so long can know just how I feel?

I love you so much I think my heart's going to burst. It feels like the only way to make it stop is if you'd love me back, and if you can't or


won't, then I may have to just cut it out of my chest to stop it hurting so much.

Give me a chance to prove it to you. Give me a chance to see if you *could* love me. Please.

I'd rather be unhappy loving you, even if you made me suffer every day, than try to be happy with anyone else.

---




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 15:41:09](#)

*(no subject)*

Padma, now that it's morning I hope that you've been given an antidote to whatever potion you took.

If so, I'm sure we can put this all behind us.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-26 16:14:44](#)

*(no subject)*

I didn't take a potion! It's not that. I've always felt this way, since even before we ever met, I've seen your pictures and been interested. And you keep getting better and better and more perfect.

Where are you today? I have to see you. I just want to be around you, like a planet orbiting a sun.

I knew you didn't feel the same way--I mean, of course I did! And I'd resolved to move on, I really really had. I shouldn't have said anything. It's like in the poem:

For, knowing that I sue to serve  
A saint of such perfection,  
As all desire, but none deserve,  
A place in her affection,

I rather choose to want relief  
Than venture the revealing;  
Where glory recommends the grief,  
Despair distrusts the healing.

Thus those desires that aim too high

For any mortal lover,  
When reason cannot make them die,  
Discretion doth them cover.

But then.... I don't know what came over me. It was so powerful,  
seeing you there last night.

I don't know how I can make it stop and I'm not sure I want it to.  
Lines is right, the only way to describe it is Byron:


And when convulsive throes denied my breath  
The faintest utterance to my fading thought,  
To thee - to thee - e'en in the gasp of death  
My spirit turned, oh! oftener than it ought.

Thus much and more; and yet thou lov'st me not,  
And never wilt! Love dwells not in our will.  
Nor can I blame thee, though it be my lot  
To strongly, wrongly, vainly love thee still.

Draco, I--I can't stand it. It hurts too much. There's got to be a way.

I'll *make* it stop.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 16:32:51](#)  
(no subject)

Padma, perhaps your feelings are genuine, but they've obviously been amplified in some way that has caused you to lose control of yourself. I suggest you find your healer brother and ask him to perform a thorough examination. He'll be able to make it stop.

**2014-04-26 08:34:00**

*Private Message to Padma Patil*

Interesting choice.

But your approach lacked ~~fine~~ judgement. I expect better. Much.




 [alt\\_lana](#)

I do appreciate that you jumped straight in. You'd only just got my owl.

But, honestly, what were you thinking?



 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2014-04-26 15:21:50**

(no subject)

What choice?

Lana, you don't think I'd do anything to my Draco, do you? I couldn't. He's the air I breathe and the sun in its heaven. I would rather *die*.


I'll do something to Thomas. He's a filthy little upstart and always has been. Five years he's lived in proper wizard society and he still stinks of the camps. I don't care if Peakes is his patron or where he stands in the contest so far. He doesn't deserve Our Lord's favour.

But Draco... Oh, sweet Sarasvati, he's so perfect. His eyes...and his hair, so blond and...he's so *capable*...and rich and *important*....

Do you think he's still in New London? Maybe at Kensington Palace? I don't think he's really staying with his parents much these days, on account of his father. I know he says he doesn't want me but you see, Lana, I've just got to win him. I mean, I've just got to *show* him how much I care about him.

And if he still doesn't want me back--I'll, I'll--



 [alt\\_lana](#) at [2014-04-26 17:37:59](#)  
(no subject)

Patil.

Oh, for Merlin's sake.


Have you said anything about this to your family? Your brother's a Healer, isn't he? You should ask him to have a look at you.

But, all right. I agree. Thomas is a good choice. Not as interesting as Malfoy, but I didn't really expect you'd have gone after him, though I'd have been properly impressed if you had done.

Take time to work out your strategy: this challenge is the most important so far.

And, Patil. Don't do anything foolish until whatever you've been hexed with wears off.



 [alt\\_padma](#) at [2014-04-27 00:03:06](#)  
(no subject)

I'm back from St M's.

I suppose you'll have heard what happened but in case you didn't, Draco took me there because I tried to find him at Kensington. I was so off my head that when he went to the tea trolley I tried to slit my wrists.

They've removed the enchantment. Only now Zabini's binned me.

But even without the effect of the potion, I still think Thomas is the best choice. Of the ones you gave me. I mean, I'd rather go after Parkinson or Weasel but if it's a choice among Draco, Seamus, or Dean Thomas--well, it's a clear decision.

One thing's certain, I'll make sure that whatever he decides to do, it'll be under his own power.

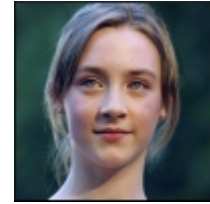
That was a million times worse than Imperius.

**[2014-04-26 10:41:00](#)**

*Private message to Harry Marvolo*

Harry,

I had a wonderful evening last night. Thank you for escorting me.




 [alt\\_hydra](#)

From,  
Hydra

---



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at **[2014-04-26 16:44:27](#)**


*Order only Private message to Harry*

People will see that I wrote you, I suppose, and note the significance.

The party itself wasn't so bad. I'm glad, though, that Justin wasn't there. Because, well. I don't know if I could have smiled much, otherwise.

Do you know what happened to Katie? I hope she's alright.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **[2014-04-26 17:07:45](#)**

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*


Yeah. He did seem a bit wound up at the meeting the other day. I can't imagine he'd enjoy the party at all.

I think it was something for the contest. I mean, it's not like her to do that sort of thing at all, and even though

I know, I split it off, she could be well angry with me, but we'd talked it over, about how it'd be best to try and keep it friendly, make it clear there were no hard feelings, and how I'd keep an eye out for her.

So something must've happened. I suppose I'll find out one way or the other when I have people report to me.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:09:11](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*

Oh. And. If you want to get out of the house for a bit, you can just let me know. We can go shopping or something.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-26 17:45:17](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*

I think most of the initiates received challenges this week, but I didn't, and I know Draco didn't, either. I'm not sure why.

But I agree, leaving the party with a man so much older - that's really not the sort of thing I can see her doing.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:53:12](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*

She said something to Pans about how she was done with boys and their games, and was looking for a man. So yeah. It didn't sound like her at all.

You didn't get anything?

That's weird.

Maybe it'll come later? Or maybe they don't think you need one? Or maybe you've just got to be on the look out for other people trying to do things to you. But I think what happened with Draco and Padma was someone trying to do something to her, not to him.

Sandoval didn't say anything about it at the party?



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-26 17:59:54](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*

An *old* man! I think he's Raz's age, isn't he? Cal Pummel, I mean.

No, nothing. I wonder if that itself is a challenge?




"Guess what it is that we want you to do." Maddening.

But yes, they might have decided Draco and I don't need one. I'm not sure. And maybe what happened to Padma was only meant for her, but it really did inconvenience Draco an awful lot.

Sandoval only complimented me on my robes and asked about OWLs. I think perhaps she didn't want to discuss the competition in public.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 18:07:21](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*


Yeah.

I hope she's

If it was something she really wanted, that's one thing. But I don't think it was.

I think if you haven't been given anything to do, you might take advantage of someone else, or make it harder for them? If we can sort out what it is they've been asked to do.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-26 18:17:10](#)

*Re: Order only Private message to Harry*

Well, he is a famous quidditch player, and she plays quidditch and so do you, so... maybe he seemed the most palatable option.

I think Ron and Pansy were given challenges but I don't know what. They didn't discuss them with me, and probably didn't with Draco, either.



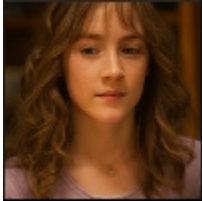
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:02:34](#)

*(no subject)*

Hydra,

I'm so glad that you had a good time. It was my honour to escort you.

Do you have any last-minute errands to run before we leave tomorrow? I need to pick up some new quills and parchment, and restock my Potions supplies.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-26 17:38:34](#)  
(no subject)

I can always use a trip to the shops to get new supplies. Shall we go together?

From,

Hydra



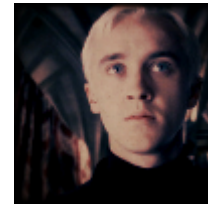
 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:40:29](#)  
(no subject)

Sure, yeah, that'd be nice. I'll be by in a few.

**[2014-04-26 10:49:00](#)**

*Order Only*

If any of you reading are responsible for Padma Patil's current state, I'd appreciate knowing what you gave or did to her. One of the elves caught her trying to scale the palace wall and break the wards on the window. She looked like a mad woman, scratched up and with her hair all wild, still wearing her robes from last night. Once I pulled her in she threw herself upon me, raving about love and passion and the ache in her heart, insisting that she can't go on knowing that I don't return her affections.




 [alt\\_draco](#)

I've Apparated her over to St. Mungo's. Since her case has been classified as "non-priority" we're in a waiting room with a dozen or so other people ahead of us. And she's still spouting dark love poetry.


This will all be over much faster if I can tell them what's been done to her.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 17:06:47](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, bloody nightshade. I stepped away for a moment to get a cup of their truly awful, dirt-flavoured tea, and came back to find one of the healers stood over Padma. In that half-minute I was away, she opened a vein in her arm with her wand and sprayed blood everywhere. They closed it straight away, but now she's crying about how she can't even kill herself for me right.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-26 17:23:38](#)  
(no subject)

She did what? That's-

I mean, obviously, that's terrible.

Are they seeing to her now? I mean, it was pretty obvious last night she's been hexed or given something compulsiony, right? Because, no offense, I don't think that was the sort of response most people have to you, Malfoy.




 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 17:31:09](#)  
(no subject)

They sent for her brother, Haruman. She's in his hands, now.

Yes, obviously she's been hexed or something. Why else would I have brought her here?




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:42:39](#)  
(no subject)

Hydra and me are going to go shopping. Do you want us to stop by and

I don't know


Wait with you?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 17:46:59](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, I've left already. She's with her brother and he'll make her normal again, hopefully.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:49:59](#)  
(no subject)


Okay. Well, if you want to join us for tea or something, just let us know.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 17:50:53](#)  
(no subject)


Who is included in "us?" Just you and Hydra?  
Will Hermi



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 17:55:42](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah. Just me and Hydra.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 18:18:08](#)  
(no subject)

Alright, I'll meet you.

**[2014-04-26 11:29:00](#)**

*A wonderful way to end hols*

Raz and I both were delighted to host last night and we're certainly hoping to do something again over the summer. It was a particular pleasure to see people from different parts of our lives having such excellent (if sometimes extremely lively) conversations. I kept catching hints of all sorts of serendipitous discoveries of mutual interest in one topic or another.



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)**

I would never guessed that my father talking to Lionel Moon about some of the arcane beauties of accounting would turn into a conversation about the golden ratio and the implications for garden design, but I suppose I shouldn't be that surprised, it all being the beauty of numbers at root, as it were.

When I pointed out the new garden design that's going in now is based on various numeric patterns, they started laughing. Clearly, we'll have to have both of them and Septima over sometime this summer just to see the effect in full bloom. (And Pomona and my mother, of course, so someone will appreciate the actual plants properly.)

Anyway, the whole evening felt rather like that, introducing this person who was interested in this thing to that person who would love to talk about it. My particular thanks to those who were so generous with their time with both my current and former students. I'm sure they'll reward your attention at least five-fold.



 **[alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-26 15:43:14](#)**

*Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Congratulations, my dears! Quite a success.

I've always said it's not a real party without public drunkenness, destruction of property, or a murder.

And you hit the trifecta! Well done.

Even the unplanned entertainment was diverting.

Aurora, dear, you had nothing to worry about. You handled everything splendidly. And I'm sure had young Mr Tamblyn not

stepped in to remove the unfortunate Miss Patil from the floor, you would have done so yourself in moments. Really, just how much punch had she had? It's a wonder she or Miss Bell were able to leave under their own power. (Though in Miss Bell's case, she did seem to find herself an escort!)



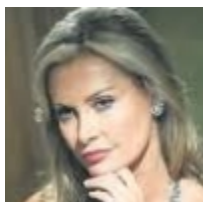
 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 16:01:38](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Narcissa -

It does seem to have gone quite well, really. You do set an exceedingly high standard to live up to, mind. (I had rather thought we'd avoided too much mayhem, but perhaps there's a story no one's told me yet?) I am afraid that sculpture you and Lucius gave us for Christmas is a total loss, however - it's entirely small component bits.

And really, given the number of people, and knowing that tensions are a trifle high from the challenge, really, I was expecting something might go rather oddly. Very good that Lares was right on hand, though, and I hope it didn't spoil the rest of Draco's evening. (And as to Miss Bell, I asked Harry a little more about the circumstances this morning - he stayed over - though of course one wants to let the younger generation figure out their own lives as much as possible.)



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-26 16:17:28](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Which sculpture was that, dear?



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 16:32:23](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Ah, had you missed that bit of story? The one that you and Lucius gave us for Christmas - one of Fergus Cooper's works - with the solar system done in Quidditch items.

It was in the Palm Room, on the ground floor, and I'm not quite certain what happened (I think Raz heard more of the specifics),

but the chaos decidedly affected all the attachment charms. But as you said, one must expect a certain amount of property damage with so many people and some feelings quite high and all.

Speaking of, I should see about checking some of the things we moved out for safety are back where they ought to be.



 [alt\\_narcissa](#) at [2014-04-26 16:35:09](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Oh. I'd heard about something being utterly destroyed, of course - I had no idea that was the item.

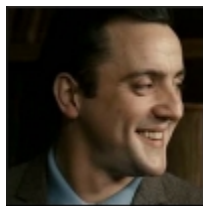
Well, think nothing of it, dear. One has so many presents one is obligated to give on an annual basis. I confess I don't even remember what it looked like.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 16:52:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Ah, well, I'm glad you're not upset.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-26 20:32:41](#)

*Private Message to Rory*

I'm sure Linus did something and it was related to the ~~dam~~ contest from the way he reacted to my questioning. I told him to keep the contest out of our house in the future. Then laughed it off. I know how you felt about that... thing.

Though it appears that several others may have needed that warning as well. Have you heard what happened with poor Ms Patil?





 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 20:52:21](#)

*Re: Private Message to Rory*

Glad and gladder that thing's gone, and it's just as well that Narcissa is not being fussed about it. (Well, at least to our faces.)

As to Ms Patil - she wrote back a few minutes ago, saying she's better now, but no details at all. Not that I'd push. It really was very embarrassing last night for her, I'm sure. I'm just glad Lares was handy, he's got a good sense of how to manage her.

I admit, I'm rather worried about Katie, too. Especially after talking to Harry this morning. I can see his point, and yet - well. This matter of being a role model is so very complicated sometimes. Especially when they deserve the right to choose for themselves the things they get to choose. (Could you have a word with Cal, or would that make everything worse?)

The rest of the house and our guests seem to have survived well enough, though the elves just fished another dozen glasses out of odd places in the library. And Mum sent round a lovely note (from her and Dad and Diane and Chiron) you can have a look at when you wander down here again.



 [alt\\_rabastan](#) at [2014-04-26 20:28:43](#)

*Re: Private message to Razzer and Aurora*

Ptolemy was drunker than he thought he was and even though he was the one who went arse over tip, came to me claiming it was all his brother-in-law's fault and that he'd let Linus hex him

somehow.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 15:49:46](#)

*Private message to Tallie Powell*

Tallie -

Exuberant thanks, as always. I do think everything worked out well. Glad to give Sulo Blandis a testimonial (and besides being funny and excellent, he was very easy

to work with, which is rather a pleasure in an entertainer, I believe.) The fireworks were entirely snitch, though that, of course, I completely expected, and I'm so glad we decided to make that work.

And please, don't fuss about that (former) sculpture in the Palm Room. Raz had the relevant word with people before telling me, the elves had it cleared in minutes, and.... Look, you *know* my tastes, and what I'm likely to think of a sculpture of the solar system with Quidditch items for the planets, no matter what its pedigree and its provenance. You know perfectly well, too, that we locked up anything really valuable to us, being sensible people about the complications of teenagers, adults, alcohol, and more potential differences of opinion than I could catalogue in an ephemeris. Anyway, none of it is your fault at all.

As to the matter with Miss Patil - ah, well. Next time round, we'll be a bit more specific with the staff for the night about what 'tell us promptly about anything the least bit odd' includes. Though one can hope this challenge will be done by then. It does rather complicate planning for what might go wrong.



 [alt\\_sinistra](#) at [2014-04-26 16:05:47](#)

*Private message to Padma Patil*

Miss Patil -

I just wanted to check in with you today - I hope you're feeling more yourself.

If you're not, a few of the Healers who stayed to chat last night after the fireworks assured me that St M's would be glad to take a look, and suggested I encourage you to stop in if you've the least question. You really weren't much yourself.

I do hope you enjoyed the evening before that.

A.S.



 **alt\_padma at 2014-04-26 20:08:31**

*Re: Private message to Padma Patil*

Yes, I'm all right now, thank you.

**[2014-04-26 12:08:00](#)**

*Party!*

Thank you Professors Raz and Siz, last night's party was wizard. I enjoyed the stories from the illusionist. Anyone who did better in History know if they were all true? That one about Helga Hufflepuff's granddaughter was simply silly and implausible. Funny though.




 **[alt\\_cedric](#)**

I hope everyone had fun. Pansy, I was, once again pleased to provide an escort. I hope you enjoyed yourself as thoroughly as I did.

Wonderful Wizarding fireWorks to end the evening as well.

Cheers all!

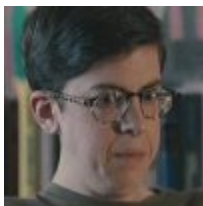


 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-26 16:23:44](#)**

*Private Message to Linus*

I know you spent a bunch of time in the Palm room. What in Mordred's name happened in there that destroyed that wizarding quidditch sculpture? Did it have something to do with how upset your brother-in-

law was?



 **[alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-26 16:36:50](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Linus*

Quidditch sculpture? Oh, the solar system sculpture. Quite, yes, it rather did get destroyed, didn't it? I'm afraid I didn't help much, as I was more concerned with picking Ptolemy up than preserving the art.

As near as I can ascertain, it is not completely clear to Ptolemy precisely why he pitched into the thing, and he averred that he hadn't had that much to drink. Ah, well, perhaps it is just the way of parties.

I did apologise to Professors Raz and Siz at various points for the, ah, unfortunate and inadvertent destructive actions of the Moon clan. I do hope they aren't too hacked off at me.




 **[alt\\_cedric](#)** at **[2014-04-26 20:36:31](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Linus*

Ah well. Things happen. Sorry to see art get smashed up though.

Did you have a good time of it? I saw your father around, how'd he take to Lav?



 **[alt\\_linus](#)** at **[2014-04-26 21:05:57](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Linus*

Yes, pity. I understand it was very valuable, too. It was a gift from the Malfoys, so one might expect so.

Other than all that, I had a delightful time. Father quite approved of Lav -- as I was completely confident that he would, of course -- and all was well. He made her smile and blush when he said something about how strength and beauty often ally in Gryffindor girls, stalwart and true.

My mother was off chatting with Professor Siz's mother and aunt and Professor Sprout just then, but when the Hufflepuff Women's Auxiliary meeting was over, we tracked her down and made proper introductions. She loved Lav, of course, but that was never in doubt.

Did you enjoy the party? You looked as if you were having a fine time, at least in the brief glimpses I caught. With whom were you attending?



 **[alt\\_sinistra](#)** at **[2014-04-26 16:42:17](#)**

*(no subject)*


So glad you enjoyed yourself. On that story, improbable as it sounds, it does have some seeds of truth. Or at least documentation. (Though as any scholar of history knows, those are by no means the same thing.)

There's a bit of research I was doing last year that involved digging

in some very old sources about the school. Sulo gave me a couple of others I intend to go read, too, but that bit about her spending a year as a finch for her health is apparently referenced in quite a few places if you go looking.


So glad you enjoyed the fireworks. I thought the badger particularly clever (mind, I admit some bias here, but people too often poke fun.)



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-26 16:54:36](#)**  
*(no subject)*

It was a lovely party, and the pleasure was all mine.  
Thank you, Cedric.



 **[alt\\_cedric](#) at [2014-04-26 21:29:08](#)**  
*Private Message to Susan Bones*

Could you tell your dad it was very nice to talk with  
him last night?

In general it was good to talk with all the quidditch  
players. Talking to people further along in the career I hope for was  
wizard.

**2014-04-26 14:03:00**

*Private Message to Seamus and Lav*



I'm at St M's. Draco brought me but then he left.

I don't blame him. I made such a fool of myself.

 [alt\\_padma](#)

Lakshmi, I'm so tired. I couldn't even sleep last night, I was writing poetry and thinking about ways to win him for myself, or kill Daphne. (Omigosh, Daphne! She probably hates me, I was so horrid!)


They said it had to have been a love potion or a love compulsion but they can't ever be sure unless someone else comes in with the same exact problem. It wasn't one of the commercially available potions, the Healers said. MLE were here just to take a statement but the Junior Auror said not to expect much in the way of investigation. There just isn't anything to investigate.

Haruman's been talking to them and the Healers and to Mum. They want to keep me for a while in case I relapse. But Pav brought me my journal, at least. So maybe I can think of something to say to him. Thank you for saving my life, for a start.

It was *horrible*.

Oh, Rama! **BLAISE!!!**




 [alt\\_lavender](#) at **2014-04-26 19:14:28**  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. I'm so glad to hear you're feeling better!

I just knew you weren't yourself.




 [alt\\_seamus](#) at **2014-04-27 04:24:05**  
(no subject)

You're at St Mungo's?

I'm sorry, Padma. Are you okay? What was it that happened at the party?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:32:45](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm home now.


Did you read what I wrote at all? Someone slipped me a love potion. Or a love curse or something.

Didn't you notice me making a complete ass of myself to Malfoy?

And now Blaise has completely binned me, too. Which I just hope doesn't create trouble in our Noble Arts group but if it does, well, Flinch-Fetchley's doing most of the work, anyway.

I'll see you on the train tomorrow, right? And then we can talk about things.

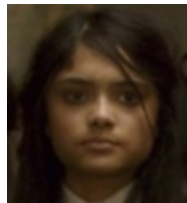



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:36:34](#)**  
(no subject)

I did read it, but I wasn't sure how you thought you'd made a fool of yourself at the party. I guess I wasn't there for that bit. So wait, someone gave you a love potion to make you fall in love with

Malfoy? Ugh, that's not on. I don't know why Blaise would be an ass about it, though, everyone knows people aren't responsible for what they do under those sort of influences.

Anyway, sure, we can sit together on the train. You don't mind if Remy sits with us, do you?



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:42:37](#)**  
(no subject)

You weren't there when I pushed Daphne away from him and fell to my knees and declared my undying devotion? Wish I hadn't been, either.

It was a little more complicated than just making me suddenly fall in love.

Look, I'm tired and it's been a really long day and the blood-replenishing potion Haruman gave me is apparently really weak



compared to what they used to have. It's all just too shameful to think about.

Can we talk about it tomorrow? I-- Er. Look, I don't mind if he sits with us for part of the trip but if we could be alone some, too, that'd make it easier for me, if you don't mind.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:45:15](#)**

*(no subject)*

Merlin, really? That's wretched. Anyway, yeah, I don't want to keep you away from your bed. I'm sure we can find some time to talk tomorrow.

**2014-04-26 14:30:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ginny*

I'm so glad you were able to come along to Moddey yesterday. Isn't it lovely there? I'm going to make earrings out of the shells we found. I think they'd suit Luna very nicely.



 [alt\\_evelyn](#)

And just think. When it's summer, you'll be able to visit whenever you'd like. After you learn Apparation, of course. I'm sure you'll pick up on it quickly enough. I'm so close. If I had another week I know I could do it.

It's too bad we're leaving for Hogwarts on Sunday, because Sunday dinners are the *best*. It's tradition to have a big meal with everybody, and all the older kids come back for it. Terry, too. Do you know, he told mum at the meeting that Dad was smelling more like he used to? Before he lost his magic? It's funny, I never knew magic had a smell to it like that. I suppose he'd know.

Anyways. I hope you had a good time, and I'm sure I'll see you on the train tomorrow!

**2014-04-26 14:43:00**

*Private Message to Parvati*

Pav,

How's Padma? Have your parents taken her to see a Healer yet?



 [alt\\_lavender](#)

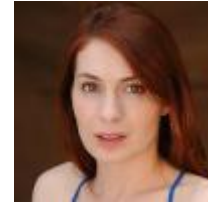
It simply has to be a spell or potion of some sort. Even if she did have secret feelings for Malfoy, we both know how much she positively loathes scenes. I suspect Weasley, the beast. Or maybe Parkinson. Though I suppose it could have been Thomas, or really anyone who wanted to undermine her. Not Smith, though--I don't think he's twisty enough to fake that almost-Confunded look.

I feel rather badly about not being able to do more. I was in another room most of the night, and by the time I returned she was running off and only seemed to want to be left alone.

Between this and your suitor troubles, you've both had a difficult hols. Care to come over to mine later, for tea and cakes and a respite from your troubles? Padma is absolutely invited, but I'll understand if she feels too overwrought still.

**[2014-04-26 15:28:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Ron Weasley*



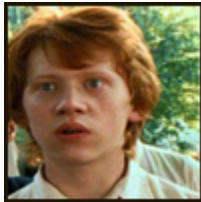
I want to know what's happened.

And I do not want excuses. I want the truth.

 [alt\\_alice](#)

From what I can see, while he was at St Mungo's, Draco very specifically asked for help. Is he correct in saying that you knew what had happened, and deliberately kept this information from him?

Is there anything else other than that I ought to know about?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **[2014-04-26 22:42:52](#)**

*(no subject)*


He wanted to know what the potion was so he could tell them, but it was obvious to everyone it was a love potion and that's all I could have said.

But I didn't want him telling them he knew somebody'd given her a love potion because then they'd have wanted to know who, and that would've led to Fred. (There were two potions he gave me, and I gave one to Patil and one to Finnigan. That's all I can tell you about it, really, except that the one for Patil was a heart's desire potion, and the other one had a hair from Remy Jugson in it, so it was a targeted potion, and Jugson's the bloke Finnigan's seeing, so it's not like I tried to make either of them go after anyone they didn't already like.)

Look, I'm sorry Malfoy's got worked up about it. And I'm sorry if Patil actually hurt herself, but she was already at St Mungo's. ~~I mean, she was probably playing it up so it would look more serious than just a stupid~~ But it was just a love potion, and that was the least horrible thing w I could think of to use for the challenge.

I don't know what's got him so cheesed off about it, but, um, I'm not going to say anything on his entry because that wouldn't do anyone any good.



 **alt\_alice** at [2014-04-26 23:58:52](#)  
(no subject)

I see.

So let me be clear. You neglected to inform him what was happening at the party. And after Draco specifically asked for your help, rather than, say, telling him you gave her a heart's desire potion, and that you were worried about protecting Fred, who made it, you pretended as if you knew nothing.

And while you were withholding this information, Ms Patil attempted suicide in his presence.

If he had known of the danger to Fred, he could've helped Fred *and* Ms Patil.

Regardless of your intentions, things clearly got out of hand, and keeping Draco ignorant did not help matters.

Did you honestly believe that he'd knowingly turn Fred in? Or did you merely want to see him be made uncomfortable? Your behaviour either demonstrates a fundamental lack of trust in a fellow Order member, or petty callousness and disrespect. Both are deeply problematic, and Draco has every right to be angry.

I know that you are capable of far better.

This is only going to work if we trust one another, and communicate with one other. And it's only going to get more difficult from here. We cannot afford this. The stakes are far too high, you are *all* under a monumental amount of stress, and these cracks can lead to fractures that, unless addressed promptly, *will* destroy us.


I am not asking you to like Draco Malfoy, or be his friend. I am asking you to trust him, and treat him with the respect he deserves. And if you cannot trust him, trust *me*, and know that I consider Draco Malfoy to be an equal member of this organisation.

Goodness knows where the future will lead us. But if you are truly serious about joining the Aurors, you will be putting yourself at enormous personal risk, and will have to give up so very much in order to make this possible. I greatly respect the sacrifice you're

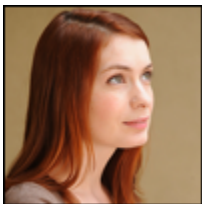
willing to make, just as much as I respect Draco's resolve. I hope you can see how similarly precarious your positions both are. Furthermore, chances are very great that Draco will regularly hold your life in his hands in a very real way. Likewise, Draco's life will most certainly be in yours. Trust is *everything*. It is all we have that stands between us and the abyss. And right now, Draco feels as if he is not trusted, and as a result, is rightly angry, frightened, and uncertain of his future, and I do not blame him one whit. He has turned away from his own family, from everything he has ever known, and has made the choice to throw his lot in with us, and that an incredible thing. I hope to Merlin that we can be worthy of that choice, and that he decides to stay.


You face a difficult and dangerous future if you go down this path. I need to know that you are capable of working in the best interests of our organisation, and all of our members. I need to trust your judgement. And right now, I need you to realise the extent of what you have done, own up to it like an adult, and sincerely apologise to Draco Malfoy. You need to tell him what you did that was wrong, and what you will do to remedy it for the future, and you will do your best to keep your word. It will most certainly not be enough, but it is a start.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-27 00:01:58](#)**  
(no subject)

And know that Sally-Anne and Pansy's silence on your behalf was unacceptable as well.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-27 17:47:18](#)**  
(no subject)


Thank you, Ron.

**2014-04-26 16:08:00**

*Order Only - DONE*

Okay, that's it. Call a meeting, make a circle, do a chant, kiss a goblin. I don't care what it involves, I want out of this organisation. Make me an auxiliary member. I'll pass along what I feel like sharing via Mr Snape and Harry.



 [alt\\_draco](#)

I am entirely serious.

I want the fuck out right now. Not tomorrow, not in a week. NOW.

---



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2014-04-26 22:15:40**


*(no subject)*

What?

Why?

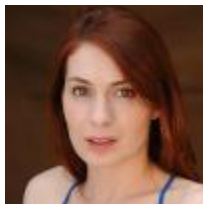
What's wrong?




 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-26 22:26:43**

*(no subject)*

Plenty.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2014-04-26 22:27:48**

*(no subject)*

Clearly.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-26 22:40:56**

*(no subject)*

Here's your report, Frau Commander General Madam:

- At the Spence House party last night, Padma

Patil made a fool of herself by declaring her love for me - all night long. It wasn't clear to me if someone was merely having fun with her, or if it was some kind of test for *me* that had been set up by my Sponsor, who hasn't sent me a challenge for this round, yet. While this sort of thing would have merely been an inconvenience last year, this year's Councilwizard challenge changes everything. Every move matters. Every response counts.

- This morning when I elicited the advice of our esteemed organisation about Padma Patil's condition, which had become suicidal, Ron Weasley (and whoever else knew) said NOTHING. He only confessed that He was the one responsible for her condition after ascertaining that she had reverted to normal.

- I seriously doubt Ron Weasley was the only one who knew precisely why Padma was behaving the way she did last night, but I wasn't informed because I would "tell." Or, more likely, it was just too bloody hilarious to watch me try to shake her off all night.

- It was also hilarious to spend all morning trying to stop Padma from offing herself. No, really. It was. You should have been there.

- Now, revoke my membership already.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 23:16:12](#)

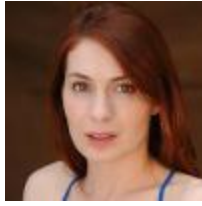
(no subject)


Are you kicking me out yet or not?

Because if you're refusing to let me out, then at least spare me one of your little "chats" the next time I'm at a meeting, telling me how *hard* you know this is for me, and how you'll do "whatever you can" to help.

I'm sure that you, your husband, Black, Mrs Weasley and the others all sleep tremendously well at night, so pleased that you've convinced your enemies' children to do your dirty work for you so that your own children can go utterly unnoticed and untouched.





 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-27 01:08:39](#)

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

First of all, know that I do not condone what Ron has done. He has treated you with a lack of disrespect I find shocking, and has shown incredibly poor judgement. His personal feelings towards you will not interfere with his communication again.

I completely understand your anger, and feelings of betrayal. You have every right to be concerned, and I can see how this would lead you to question your role in this organisation. Know that Ron's actions do not speak for the Order, and that I trust and respect you for the choices you've made, and for what you are willing to do.

There are certain things I have little control over, Draco. You and I both know that your position is a rarefied one -- that there are only a handful of people in this Protectorate who have your access, and your abilities. It is your burden, and ultimately, your choice as to how you will use this power.

You are right to say that you are in a greater position of risk. You are correct to think that I need you very much, and depend on you, and that there is only so much that I can do for you in return. And yes, to be blunt, if this depends on the willing sacrifice of children who are able to do what I cannot, I will take what I can, and will hate myself for the necessity, and do my utmost to make those sacrifices count.

We both work towards a common cause. I very much hope that we can work together, as the Order will undoubtedly be more capable with your help, and your ability to be effective without a ready support system would be greatly reduced.

My plan calls for a move within the next two years to even the playing field significantly. Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, it will be dangerous. But I would not keep you on the council for a decade while we wait for a damned Horcrux to be found and destroyed. I would rather strike as soon as we were capable, knowing that his death would be temporary, and hold off his return while we shift the tide of things. And if at all possible, I would do it with you at my side, as a trusted and valued member of this organisation. You provide a voice of clarity and honesty, and

have from the start. You hold us all to a higher standard.


I would not be able to provide you with security, or comfort, or understanding, but I would use what you would give me to a far greater purpose, and I would make every effort to see that you and your family survive this.

Please, Draco, I ask you to reconsider, or at the very least, take some time to weigh your options.

If you truly wish to consider yourself as an auxiliary member, reporting what you see fit, and no longer under my direct orders, there's very little I can do to punish you, or force you to comply, nor would I want to. The decision is ultimately yours to make, not mine.

Know that should you decide to continue to serve with us, for our common purpose, I would welcome it.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-27 01:15:00](#)


*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Your thoughts are noted.

I won't leave, but that's not because of what you say here. It's only because of the case Hermione made to me.

So I'll tell you what I told her: I'll stay, but if anything like this ever happens again, I'm gone.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-27 01:22:05](#)

*Re: Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

Understood.

Thank you.



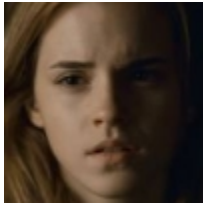
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 22:23:32](#)  
(no subject)

And you can tell Ron Weasley and *whoever else* knew what was going on with Padma Patil last night the following:

Both myself (and Hydra, probably, and Harry, definitely), are putting our lives on the line so that we can walk into the lion's den and help you while you SIT SAFE AS HOUSES in your cosy little family hovel, or your magically protected home in New London, or your secret base on the Isle of Man, raising babies and making wands.

And we're NOT EVEN OF AGE. Hydra hasn't even done her OWLs.

Yet Weasley and his MATES treat this like a game and don't pass along crucial, possibly life-saving information when it's needed. Because they're too worried about making sure they don't have to be the ones picked to make the hard choices. What Gryffindor chivalry! That's one for the books, it is.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-26 22:33:33](#)  
(no subject)

Where are you? Kensington?

Will you talk to me about it if I come there?

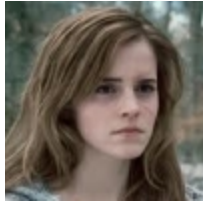


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-26 22:37:31](#)  
(no subject)

Not sure if you

Right.

I could come too.



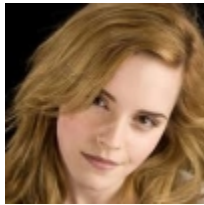
 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-26 22:47:36](#)

*Private Message to Harry*

Let me go alone first and then once he's calmed down a bit, I'll tell you to come along.

Because--well, things are awkward enough as it is. He's likely to think you were part of everything, too, at present.

Just--let me talk to him first.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 01:02:07](#)

*Re: Private Message to Harry*

It's all right, you can come over.

He's not going to leave the Order.



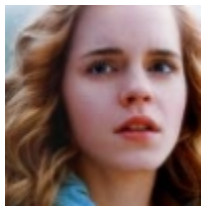
 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 22:42:40](#)

*(no subject)*

What?

Yes, I'm at Kensington.

I mean, yes. If you want to.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-26 22:45:18](#)

*(no subject)*

I'm coming over, then.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-27 00:38:38](#)

*Private message to Draco*

I will spare you the hand-wringing you are no doubt receiving from other quarters, and simply say once again that whatever you need that is within my power to provide, I will.

If that is for me to distract Alice from wanting to have a Hufflepuffian chat about feelings with you, simply say the word.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-27 01:04:06](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Thanks, but I think I'm seeing things more clearly, now.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-27 01:19:27](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

I trust that part of what you are seeing is that you are far from the only one to find Ronald Weasley an idiot and a child who has never learnt to judge when something needs to be taken seriously. I will be having words with him, and with his co-conspirators, when we return to school.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-27 01:25:44](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

And now we get to have all the Weasleys, except the one they don't want.

To think I was actually beginning to believe Ron was the most tolerable of that lot.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-27 01:53:38](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

There is nothing to say you are not correct in that assessment, given that it is relative and not absolute.

The Order of the Phoenix, even under Albus Dumbledore, has often been bad at navigating any situation requiring nuance, and organisationally uncomfortable with the notion that one cannot simply declare oneself 'good' to avoid having one's actual actions questioned. (And, conversely, that one cannot likewise declare one's opponents 'evil' and have done with it.)

Weasley, like much of his family, is too accustomed to thinking of himself as the hero of his own story and to casting those around him in roles in that story without regard to their own wishes in the matter. I am familiar with how infuriating it is to find oneself being enlisted as a player in the drama of some self-styled hero's life — your Weasley was, and continues to be, my Black, and for many of the same reasons.

You and I are not the type of men meant to be storybook heroes, and others find that difficult to accept. It is easy for those to whom the world appears black and white to revile those of us who live in the shades of grey. That does not, however, mean that you should be treated with the contempt Weasley has shown you, and it is well past time he is made to realise his lack of judgement has consequences.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-27 02:05:00](#)

*Re: Private message to Draco*

Storybook heroes only exist in storybooks, don't they? Real "heroes" (blimey, it's difficult for me to write that word in any serious way) are those who tell the truth, who show kindness (nope, don't like writing that one, either) when it's needed - not because it's the right thing to do, or to make themselves feel better, but because they genuinely feel compelled to.

I'm not kind but I am honest, so there's that going for me.

I can't say I like Black much better than Weasley, you know. Cut from the same cloth, they are.

Anyway, you've never been anything but honest with me, and I appreciate that.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-27 02:16:16](#)

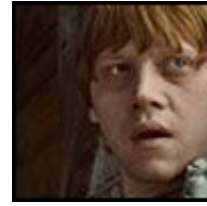
*Re: Private message to Draco*

I have always been of the belief that honesty is the only form of kindness worth the name.

**[2014-04-26 16:09:00](#)**


*Order Only Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

So, um. Is Patil better? You're not still at St M's, are you?



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 21:26:45](#)

*(no subject)*

No, I left when her brother came for her. She wrote to Lavender instead of me, so they must have fixed her to some acceptable degree.

Why do you ask?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-26 21:34:31](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I saw that she wrote them. I just was hoping you'd know whether they reversed it, is all.

Because it was my challenge that caused it, but I couldn't tell you that while you were there or you'd have said something to the Healers, and that could have caused a lot of trouble for the people I got the potion from.

Anywiz. As long as she's all right.

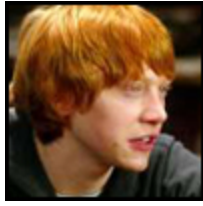



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-26 21:43:26](#)

*(no subject)*

You made her that way? And didn't see fit to say a word until now?

Oh, I wonder how many others knew what was going on last night while you got to enjoy the show of her clinging to my leg, and then again this morning while she was trying to off herself in front of me. Let me guess: you plus two, at least.




 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-26 21:52:46](#)**  
(no subject)

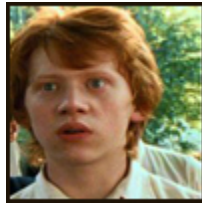
It was just a love potion. Well, actually a heart's desire potion. Who knew you would be her secret crush?


I mean, really. I figured it would be Finnigan. Or Professor Lestrangle. Or, I dunno, Tamblyn or Vaisey or someone.



 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-26 21:55:01](#)**  
(no subject)

Get bent, Weasley.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-26 22:05:37](#)**  
(no subject)


Why are you so hacked off?

I mean, the challenge was looking for me to do something heinous to knock her or Finnigan (or you or Hydra) down in the standings. I figured a love potion would be the soft option. Because I'm not trying to do especially well at this thing.

Who knew it would be so... effective?

The irony is, Avery's all pleased about how it came off. Said it was a brilliant off-speed quaffle. So, yeah.




 **[alt\\_draco](#)** at **[2014-04-26 22:00:58](#)**  
(no subject)

I can't believe you thought you'd have to protect the "people you got the potion from" from ME. Or that I'd "alert the healers" if I had known what was going on.



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE SAME TEAM, YOU IDIOT.



 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-26 22:07:36](#)  
*(no subject)*

Well, you said you wanted to know what it was so you could tell them what had been done to her.

That wouldn't have been good.

And, anywiz, it was obvious it was a love potion. I couldn't have told them any more than they knew by looking at her. Or, y'know, listening to her.

**2014-04-26 16:43:00**

*Private Message to Blaise*

Pav said your house-elf wouldn't admit her to see you.

Look.



 [alt\\_padma](#)

It wasn't really me, last night. It was a spell or a potion or something. Someone else must have targetted me because of the competition.

So I didn't mean anything I said. Or to embarrass either of us. Or Draco.

If you didn't talk to Pav, you won't know that the spell made me so heartsick that I tried -- to kill myself when he kept rejecting me. Draco brought me to St Mungo's and then I had to talk to MLE and it's just been a horrible day all round.

They're finally satisfied that they've got whatever it was out of my system, so I'll be going home in a few minutes.

If you...if you wanted to come over, we could talk.

**2014-04-26 16:54:00**

*Private Message to Draco Malfoy*

I can't believe you.

For the record, I'm not taking it as a compliment that you share my taste in witches.




 [alt\\_blaise](#)

You could at least wait until I'm done with them before you try pulling them at parties.

---



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-26 22:02:48**

*(no subject)*

Pardon me?

Don't start with me today, Blaise. I'm not in the mood. Padma went to St. Mungo's. I'm sure they'll sort her out and she'll be back in your arms in no time at all.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **2014-04-26 22:15:50**

*(no subject)*

Never.

Not when I hear you're the wizard of her dreams. Her heart's bloody desire.

If one more 'concerned friend'...

I'm the laughingstock of everyone we know.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at **2014-04-26 22:56:55**

*(no subject)*

Whoever jinxed her or dosed her certainly had her believing that, yes, though I find it rather hard to believe myself, seeing as she's never once given me any signals of such interest.

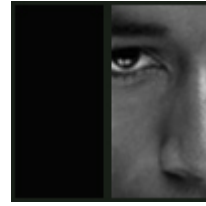
And I know you saw how I was attempting to disentangle myself from her all night. I have no designs on her whatsoever.

Don't forget we're being tested all the time, and how you react to this one will no doubt be noted. Surely you're above caring overly much.

**2014-04-26 17:32:00**

*Private Message to Parvati Patil*

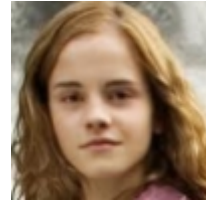
You can tell her to save her breath and ink.



 **alt\_blaise**

**2014-04-26 20:02:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom*



I talked to him.

He's not going to quit but he's really cross with Sally-Anne and Ron and Pansy. And from what I can see, he's got every right to be.


 **alt\_hermione**

He's calmer now but it's unfortunate we're back to school tomorrow because I'd like him to talk to you when he's not feeling so strained but that's not going to happen while we're at Hogwarts.

He--it's been hard for him this holiday. Harder than usual. And I didn't help matters but we're all right now, I think.

Anyway. At least he's seen that it's better to stay than go it alone.



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-27 01:20:18**  
(no subject)

You're right. He does have every right to be furious. And although he said a great many things that were designed to hurt, there was a significant truth to them, and I took no offence.

You can tell him if he wishes to talk, I can arrange to meet him at the Shrieking Shack, and that it wouldn't be out of concern for his loyalty, but out of a desire to do better by him, and because his opinion matters very much to me.

Thank you, Hermione.

I know he trusts you, Harry, Hydra, and Severus, and that's so very important. I'm glad he has you all, so that he knows he's not alone in all of this.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-27 01:26:59](#)**  
(no subject)


Harry's come over to Kensington. We're having a little campout in the library here, with sausage and toasted cheese in the library fire. I think he needs some simple companionship.

I don't want to speak out of turn for him, Mrs L. But I did try to get him to see that he needs to talk to more of the adults in the Order--you and Sirius and Mr Lupin, not just Mr Snape--so that he'll feel more comfortable and appreciated.

He thinks...well. I should let him tell you. But he thinks the Order values him and Hydra less because of their parents. Only that's not really it at all. You see, *he* values himself less because of his parents. Sort of, in a way, I mean. Not that he'd realise it. And the other thing is that he said, when he tries talking to you lot, all he can think of is that you've all tried to kill his father, at one time or another, and how betrayed his parents would feel if they found out.

So, he's still fairly sore. But he knows we all need each other.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-27 01:46:08](#)**  
(no subject)

I think that would be a good idea, yes.

He shouldn't be left to wait until a crisis hits to see how he's valued.

And his love for his family, regardless of how complicated that makes things, is part of who he is, and I respect that.

...which would be best heard directly from me.

I'll leave you to your evening, Hermione. And thank you again.


**2014-04-26 20:12:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Neville*

Ugh. I hate this hideous contest.

It's making us tear each other apart. Will accomplishing our goals be worth it if we can't stand each other or ourselves in the end?



 [alt\\_susan](#)

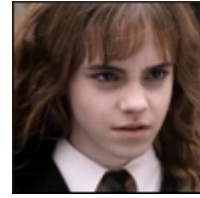
But I don't feel like I can say that because I know very well I'm not the one taking the biggest risks here. And--truthfully, I did think it was a bit funny when I first heard. It's not nice of me at all, but I enjoyed the thought of Patil getting a little of her own medicine.

Now it seems a lot less funny. And I'm sure you'd have felt for her right away, which is why you're a better person than I am.



**[2014-04-26 20:17:00](#)**

*Order only: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Pansy*



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)**

Look, I can't PM all three of you, but I'm really disappointed you and Ron didn't think of a way to let Draco know what was happening.

He could have humoured Patil long enough to get her help. He could have avoided her or at least told St M's that he thought it was a potion. Did any of you think to *trust* him not to only tell what he needed to tell, without getting any of the Order into trouble?


And even if he didn't have to tell anyone, he *deserved* to know why she was going after him. He thought it was his challenge!

It wasn't right to do that to Patil, either. She's a horrible cow but *no one* deserves being forced to humiliate themselves in public. Terry and I should know. And certainly no one deserves to be driven to try to commit suicide. Someone should have been ready to watch for a reaction like that. Love potions are really dangerous, even mild ones. And it's positively cruel to play with someone's feelings, no matter what the reason.

I know you have a history with her but that's all it was: Cruel. And unfair to Draco, too. And I thought you were all better than that.

That's all.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-27 01:56:58](#)**  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne's been at Sherwood all day. I went with her in the morning, and then went out for dinner, and only just now saw everything because I wanted to check and see if she'd written as to when she was getting back.

I didn't know Padma'd tried to commit suicide. And I'm sorry to hear that. And maybe we should've told Draco about it last night, once she started clinging to him, but we thought it was *obvious* that it was a potion, and that her *friends* or the half-dozen Healers in the crowd

would handle things.

Ugh. What a mess.

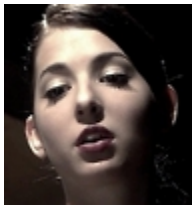
Anyways, yes, I'm sorry we didn't tell Draco last night, and that it got to be such a trouble for him today, and I'll tell him. I do think he was overreacting, though. Threatening to quit and everything, I mean. Do you think there might be something else going on that'd set him off like that?



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-27 01:59:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, there are other factors. But it's all right--I mean, it's nothing that can be fixed instantly.

And I guess it wasn't as obvious to everyone else as it was to you, but then no one else knew you'd done anything.



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-27 03:09:04](#)**  
(no subject)

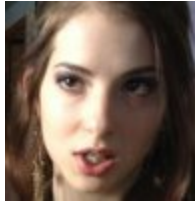
Just got back. Pansy told me I should come read my journal and I'm only about half caught up.

It wasn't a targeted potion. If it HAD been a targeted potion, Ron wouldn't have targeted Draco. It was supposed to make her go after her 'heart's desire' and there was absolutely no reason to believe it was Draco until she started following him around, at which point there was no way to tell him discreetly because he was ignoring his journal completely last night.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-27 03:13:00](#)**  
(no subject)

There were all sorts of ways to tell him discreetly. You were all at the same party! Would it have been so impossible for one of you to distract Patil long enough for he and Ron to go somewhere semi-private and talk?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-27 03:22:05](#)  
(no subject)

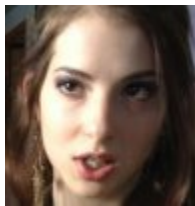
Um, YES. It would have been ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE to distract Patil, given that she was under a love potion that was making her CLING TO DRACO'S LEG.

Which is why I find it baffling that her friends couldn't tell. Or maybe they could, but were perfectly happy to see her humiliated because secretly they can't stand her either. (And SERIOUSLY you're going to lecture us on humiliating Patil? The people in the challenge are supposed to be AUDITIONING TO BE DEATH EATERS, humiliating a vicious pureblooded mean girl at a party is ... just about the least-awful thing Ron could have done without failing this challenge outright. He needs to fail 'gracefully' and I think some people in the Order are not aware of just how delicate a balance that is.)



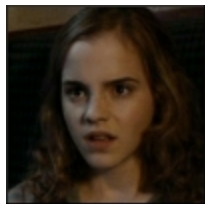
 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 03:35:37](#)  
(no subject)

Right, well, I'll try to remember that when someone uses a compulsion on one of you to do a striptease in the middle of dinner or something.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-27 03:43:06](#)  
(no subject)

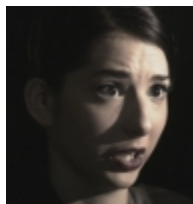
You know, someone already decided it would be brilliant to Imperius me into sharing a secret and then telling the whole school I get beaten by my father. And Pansy's challenge this time round is to brew a dangerous potion that's poisonous if you do it wrong, and test it on me. Fortunately, she can have Mr Snape watch her brew it and hopefully he'll know if she's done it properly, but you know, I'm the best friend of one competitor and the girlfriend of another AND I'm a half-blood. In Slytherin. So don't let's pretend I'm not potentially a fat, juicy, tempting target for all sorts of possible challenges.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 03:45:55](#)  
(no subject)

No one's pretending anything of the kind. But it doesn't give us the right to strike back with the same, nor should we. I'm not saying the challenges aren't difficult but there have to be more creative ways to meet them without completely compromising common decency.

Damn it, Sally-Anne. We're supposed to be *better* than they are.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-27 03:48:22](#)  
(no subject)

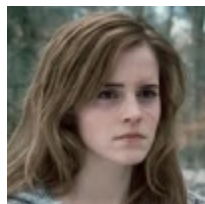
Ron was told to do something to seriously harm Draco, Hydra, Patil or Finnigan in the standings.

This WAS the creative way to meet that challenge that didn't compromise common decency. (That was NOT supposed to target Draco.)



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-27 03:50:27](#)  
(no subject)

I mean, that was the idea, and I still think it's way less awful than the other things he could have done.



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 12:36:28](#)  
(no subject)

How awful isn't the point.

Have you forgotten the time I had to go about with 'Filthy Mudblood' on my forehead? Or when Carrow made Terry's clothes disappear? There are loads of awful things that have happened or could happen. We've endured them before and will again.

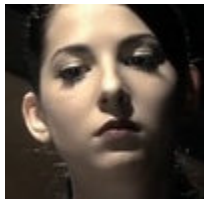
The point isn't about shaming her publicly (though I still say that it just makes you as mean as the person you're shaming).

It's having done it in a way that robs her of her self-control. I'm sure it was funny at the time, and I'm not saying I wouldn't have laughed, too, but I would have laughed harder if it was something she'd brought on by herself, instead of being forced to behave so ridiculously.

You could have come up with any number of solutions that didn't involve taking away her choices. If the idea was to harm her in the standings, you could have convinced or confunded some of the sponsors so they'd hate her and downgrade her on the next few challenges. You could have cast an illiteracy hex on her when the next round came, so she couldn't read the assignment. You could have obliterated her memory of her next task. You could have snapped her wand, or damaged it somehow so that she couldn't cast spells correctly.

And if we'd all been talking about it together, we might have come up with one of those options. Even if we'd decided in the end that this was the best possible course, then at least the others would have been prepared for it. I don't just mean Draco, I mean him and Hydra and Madam Pomfrey and Professor Sprout--everyone who was there.

I know you absolutely hate to admit when you're wrong, Sally-Anne, but...you're wrong this time, about this.



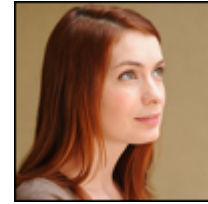
 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-27 03:47:00](#)  
(no subject)

I can think of worse things that could happen to me before June than being forced to perform a strip tease.

Though I'm sorry that happened to you.

**[2014-04-26 21:11:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Remus and Sirius*



 **[alt\\_alice](#)**

I might need to invite myself over tomorrow for a bit, if you three are up for tea and brainstorming.

Something's a little broken, and I'm not quite sure how to go about fixing it. I'd say it can wait til summer, but this contest is going to make us all go barmy first, and I'm rather tired of being Frau Commander General Madam, expressing my extreme displeasure when mistakes happen instead of making it less likely they'll happen in the first place.



 **[alt\\_sirius](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:47:15](#)**  
(no subject)


Of course, Allie.

It's been quite an eventful few weeks, hasn't it?

I don't mind telling you that suddenly playing host to a teenaged foster son has been its own rather interesting challenge.

Come along and we'll compare notes. I've a few ideas but hadn't wanted to put in my oar uninvited.




 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:50:04](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. To say the least.


Thank you. And thank you.



 **[alt\\_lupin](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:51:16](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, this has definitely been a week where I'm glad not to be herding this particular flock of cats.



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-28 00:34:29**  
*(no subject)*

The three of you are worth your weight in gold, I hope you know that.

**[2014-04-26 22:24:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Alice*



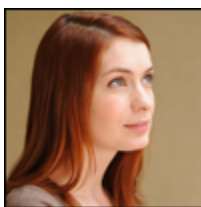
 **[alt\\_severus](#)**


I believe I can say, without violating any confidences I have vowed to keep, that the core issue behind Draco's upset today is that he has taken Mr Weasley's actions, and Miss Parkinson's and Miss Perks's failure to inform him of those plans, as a sign that Draco is not trusted to keep Order confidences or to keep other Order members safe in a situation where that goal comes into conflict with his other necessities. There is also likely the subtext of his resentment of the cliques that have formed among the children, and the fact that Mr Weasley, Miss Parkinson, and Miss Perks thought nothing of informing each other while failing to inform the remainder of their cohort.

You have likely divined as much, but I present you that information anyway.

The first is a perception that cannot be addressed directly. However, as a precaution to avoid future mistakes touching upon the second I propose a change of procedure: from now until the end of this 'contest', you ought require each of the children to update you, me, and each other of their assigned task and their plans to complete it.

To avoid the issue of too many duellists interfering with the hex, I advise you instruct the other Order members against opining on those plans, much as we all pretend we do not read the posts the children make requesting no adult involvement.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-27 02:54:40](#)**  
(no subject)

Depending on how things go, I might streamline a bit through Harry, but yes. This contest has played Mab with our ability to predict the future, and has revealed some rather telling rifts in our communication that must be addressed, and I'll see what we might implement for the future.

I have pieced together enough to know precisely how furious I ought to be with Ron Weasley and his compatriots, and am relieved beyond measure that we have the ability to address these very real issues and recover from them rather than experiencing a permanent



consequence.


Draco's ability to trust his fellow Order members is vital.

It is also something that is earned rather than presumed.

I've told him I trust his opinions, but I believe it would be useful to take the time to listen more directly to what he has to say. I don't wish to jump down his throat, but perhaps I might swing by the Shack sometime next week, and all three of us can talk more extensively about his thoughts regarding the political landscape, and the role he sees for himself now that he has a clearer idea of our trajectory. Do you think that he'd be amenable?

It's far easier to have a conversation with three instead of two, and seeing as both Draco and I communicate with you tolerably well, I think it would help to have you there as an interpreter of sorts.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-27 03:34:34](#)  
(no subject)

Had I thought to propose this before this weekend's debacle, communicating through Mr Potter might have sufficed, but for all he is mature beyond his years, Mr Potter is still possessed of a fierce streak of independence and a learned distrust of what he perceives as authority. I would feel more sanguine with matters should at least one pair of adult eyes be involved in the planning.

Yes, this is an opportunity for us to address rifts in our communication, but perhaps not in the way you might think.

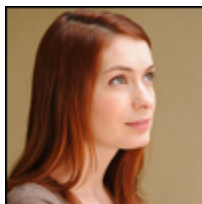
I do not blame the children for that learned distrust of authority. They have never known a world in which authority is not synonymous with atrocity, and many of their trials have reinforced their perception that adults at Hogwarts are incapable of ensuring their safety and the adults of the Order are ignorant of the realities of their day-to-day struggle and too quick to rush to moral judgement. Far too much of my rôle here has involved doing everything I can to show them that while I may not understand the emotional toll growing up in the Protectorate may take upon them, I can at least offer them a sounding-board free of that judgement (though, admittedly, that task is harder with several of them than it is with others; I will not be able to avoid communicating my


judgement of Ronald Weasley for quite some time), and that effort is successful less than half the time; they are exceptionally slow to trust and Draco's characterisation of the Order's adults as ineffectual at best and outright obstacles at worst is notable as an opinion among his cohort only in degree.

It is well past the time when we must accept that no matter how often we express disappointment in them for failing to keep the Order apprised of their plans, they will not think to do so when the next crisis is upon them, and — when they are chastised for that failure — they will never agree that they are in the wrong, no matter what they say to appease us. Historically speaking, I cannot even say that they are in the wrong for believing themselves more capable of decisive action than the Order as a whole, but if we are ever to have a hope of their coming to us in a moment of crisis, we must begin to show them, as often as possible, that they can do so and receive support for that action.

It is only once we have demonstrated that we are capable of providing that support, without the endless dithering and debate that is the worst downside of our constant communication and our organisational structure in which everyone's opinion can be considered, that we will have a chance to gently influence the worst of their bad decisions before they have consequences from which we cannot escape.

Yes, I will interpret for you. Be prepared, however, for Draco to treat you as the enemy — not because he does not trust you, but because he has learnt he cannot trust anyone.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-27 04:02:05](#)**  
(no subject)

I assumed they were coordinating more closely with one another as a matter of course, which is obviously not happening as effectively as it could. And you're right that not having direct oversight to a certain extent encourages this tendency, but there is a fine line indeed -- we cannot try control every detail, nor would it be effective or useful. And too much information can sometimes be a hindrance rather than a help.

I can see how it would be important to clarify when advice is being solicited, and when excessive debate is unnecessary and not

useful. I can attempt to curtail those elements when they crop up, certainly.

Demonstrating capability of support is difficult when there is very little one may actually do to provide immediate and real assistance. Expressing concern has often been our method of handling feelings of helplessness or worry in the past when one of our own has experienced difficulties, but I can see how it would ring a false tone when there is a gulf of age and experience.

I'll have to think about this further.



 **[alt\\_severus](#) at 2014-04-27 04:19:12**


*(no subject)*

It is a fine line indeed. I do not have an answer — well, you are fully aware that if I did, I would have long since made my opinion known.

I do believe that requiring the children to share all their plans for this contest is a start, however. If for no other reason than it will force them all to begin thinking of themselves as one team working in concert to manipulate the standings to the desired end, rather than a collective of individuals who happen to be pointed in roughly the same direction.

I do remember that mindset of distrust exceptionally well, however. I will continue to think about what would have reached me at such an age.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-27 03:11:55**


*(no subject)*

Have you settled back into the castle yet?

You were sorely missed at tea. There was too much grumbling and furious scribbling on my part to properly enjoy the biscuits. Frank had my share, and he managed to talk me down from the ledge and check my spelling, so there's that.

It does help wonderfully that he's been in a rather good mood lately.




 **alt\_severus** at **[2014-04-27 03:31:59](#)**  
(no subject)

And yes, I have settled in well enough. I had hoped to check the Book whilst Minerva was at supper tonight, but she took her meal in her office. I will create an excuse to miss supper tomorrow night and do so; she will not avoid supper on the night the children return.

She is not doing well; she is pale and drawn enough that I swear you can see the light shining through her at times. There is little enough I can do for her, however.

I am pleased Frank is doing well, both on his behalf and on yours.




 **alt\_alice** at **[2014-04-28 00:27:44](#)**  
(no subject)

All right. There we go. It's a small step, but I hope it helps.

And I do hope to talk more regularly to Hydra and Draco in addition to Harry as we go -- starting with a conversation this upcoming week. Hermione had a very valid point, there.



 **alt\_severus** at **[2014-04-28 02:54:32](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes, it ought help. And I will keep an eye upon them as well.

**2014-04-26 23:19:00**

*Private message to Remy Jugson*

Last night was brilliant.

Today was brilliant.

YOU are brilliant.

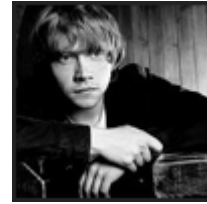
I'm so glad you had time to meet me today. Tomorrow we're going back to school, and we'll hardly see each other AT ALL after that, since we're in different Houses and different years! I don't know how I'm going to stand it.



 **alt\_seamus**

**[2014-04-26 23:20:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Draco Malfoy and Alice Longbottom*



(This is really to Malfoy, but I know you want to see what I'm saying, Mrs Longbottom.)

 [alt\\_ron](#)

I'm sorry I didn't tell you it was a love potion today when you asked. I should have told you.

And for what it's worth, I'm sorry that I used a potion that did stuff I didn't know it might do. Like make Patil want to kill herself. I thought using a love potion was a solution to that challenge that would mean I didn't have to physically hurt anybody, but I was wrong about the potion and it didn't turn out that way.

If you want, I'll tell you what all my challenges are when I get them. And tell you what I'm thinking of doing to meet them. We haven't been doing that, any of us, but if that will make things work better, I'll do it.

I know you said from the start there could be times when you'll have to turn on some of the rest of us. Still true. I know that. But I've got your back in a fight, and I'm sorry I didn't see that this thing with Patil was going to drag you in.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-27 05:03:30](#)

*(no subject)*

Why does she need to see what you say? Maybe because she's the one who asked you to apologise.

As much as I might enjoy drawing out my acceptance of your apology, I won't; because in truth, your apology doesn't mean much to me, and my acceptance of it probably doesn't mean much to you.

So then I do accept your apology, but (and Mrs Longbottom knows this) if anything like this happens again, I'm done with the Order.

I don't need your back in a fight, I need your back at all times - in theory and spirit, even if it's not possible in actuality. What you've done suggests to me that you don't see us as equals, and you don't see us as on the same side. Maybe after you work out just why that

is, we can have a talk about it, but until then I'd actually rather not speak to you.

**2014-04-27 07:42:00**


*Order Only Private Message to Ginny Weasley*

You finished packing?



 [alt\\_ron](#)



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-27 12:47:23**

*(no subject)*

Only, I've been thinking.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-27 13:03:10**

*(no subject)*

about what Dad

Think I'll go for a walk.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-27 13:05:23**

*(no subject)*

If you wanted to come out, I'll be down at the fishing stream.



**2014-04-27 11:58:00**

*Private Message to Draco*

How are you doing after the party? I'm sorry no one caught on earlier than they did.



 **alt\_rabastan**

There was a time that the runes around Wimbourne pitch failed. Instead of keeping their infamous seagulls out, they attracted them. The birds were just throwing themselves at us. Ugliest game I've ever played. I think the team elves just threw out all our kit and made us new ones. So we know that blokes don't always love it when birds throw themselves at us and when you don't want them it's ugly. Back in the day it happened to me more than I care to remember in my now advancing years. But I remember what it's like. If you want to talk about it, or get any suggestions from an old hand on how to handle it, you know where to find me. Any time. We'll go somewhere else or Rory'll clear out.

On a completely different broom, I'm sure you're on Harry's list. I know how close the three of you are so the offer I made to him is really for you and Hydra as well. If you want to talk about it, catch me whenever and we'll talk.



 **alt\_draco at 2014-04-27 18:33:59**

*(no subject)*

Right. I don't imagine Padma Patil was operating under her own volition. As you've seen, the effects of the council challenge are far-reaching. I think most "seagulls" are aware that I'm with Daphne, now, and that won't be changing any time soon.

You know, what I could really use some insight into are the techniques that are deliberately kept out of the classroom. Things that only council members use or know about, especially the seasoned ones, like yourself.



 **[alt\\_rabastan](#)** at **[2014-04-27 21:32:18](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, the offer stands if you change your mind in the future.

Whatever you want to know, I'll try and teach you. There are some things I would ask you to wait on because we'll have to build to them, others we'll need to talk about the side effects and make sure you are willing to bear them. I'm sure you've heard all that from Antosha.

I avoid group work in class because no one other than MLE or those on the Council need it. The offer includes those you trust with a wand at your back. You three tell me who and we'll talk about when we can meet. I'll bring Rory and we'll keep it quiet and in the family.

**2014-04-27 12:20:00**

*Order Only - private message to Harry and Hermione*



 [alt\\_hydra](#)

I saw Draco in the prefect's car this morning, but he was busy with Daphne so we couldn't speak. Not that we could have really talked about what happened while riding the train, anyway, but I have no idea what's happened and I'm sure others are confused, as well. I only saw him say that he's quitting, and all his reasons why, and then there were a load of private messages between people.

It was thoughtless of Ron and the others not to tell anyone what they were doing, or what their challenge was to begin with. I didn't even know what Ron and Pansy's challenges were, I only knew that Draco and I hadn't received any. I told that to somebody when we were at Tea appreciation, only I don't remember who.

I can see why Draco was cross, but I was surprised that he decided to quit. He isn't quitting, is he?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at **2014-04-27 18:36:42**  
(no subject)


No, he's not quitting.

It took a little convincing to calm him down, though.

And he's still rather cross. Ron apologised but I think only because Mrs L told him he had to do it, and Draco barely acknowledged it (well, that's what he said, anyway, of course it was a PM so no one else would know). And Sally-Anne's being her usual self about it, trying to justify any part of the decision that could possibly mean she was wrong or irresponsible or reckless.

Hydra... do you feel like Draco does, that the Order would be happy to see you sacrifice yourself so long as the others stay safe? I mean, the Weasleys and the other ISS who aren't the children of Death Eaters. That was one of the things he was most upset about--that the Order adults have tried to kill his family members but he's expected to trust them and open up to them and all. Do you think that's how they feel, or is it just Draco?



 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-27 18:52:39](#)**  
(no subject)

I think that the Order probably considers itself very, very lucky to have the Malfoy, Marvolo, and Lestrangle children on their side. It must feel like a tremendous asset. The Longbottoms and Mrs Weasley would probably prefer that we die instead of their own children. I'm not saying that they wouldn't be sad, but it's probably only natural to want your own children to be safe before somebody else's.

I know that when Justin and I were caught by Montague, Sirius was more worried about Justin than me.

But if Ron and Justin were in danger, well, I'd be worried more about Justin. That doesn't mean I want bad things to happen to Ron, though.

So what I'm saying is that it's complicated. And it does feel like we're more on the outside, and that we're taking more risk, so it's lonely, too. Mrs Longbottom always tells us how much she appreciates what we're doing, and that she knows it isn't easy, but even with all that she says it doesn't change the fact that things are a little unfair. No one told me or Draco that we should try to be on the council, but you know they would be secretly disappointed if we didn't try for it. And no one told Ron or Pansy that they should try *not* to be on the council (well, not where I could read it, anyway), but you know that people would be disappointed if they decided that they wanted to be on the council, after all.

But everything's a little or a lot unfair for everyone, so I suppose I don't see the point in dwelling on it.




 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-27 19:20:13](#)**  
(no subject)

Yes. I said something really similar to Draco, too. He asked how the Order would react if he decided *not* to join the Council. And I said they would be disappointed because it's such an important source of information but that they would also be relieved he had chosen not to put himself at that level of risk. And then he asked it the other way 'round, what would happen if Ron or Neville decided that they

really *did* want to join the Council. And I said that they'd tell them that it was probably a poor plan--but not just because they'd be sentimental about it. But because strategically, Ron and Neville aren't really equipped to survive the Council. Not the way Draco is. Or you. It just wouldn't make loads of sense for them to do it, and it would be even riskier and more dangerous for one of them compared to you. But he just said he thought that the Order find him and you more 'expendable' than the others.

We talked about how much trouble he has trying to be friendly because he keeps thinking how much everyone in the Order hates his family, and his parents. You must feel the same way about that, too, but you don't show it nearly as much.



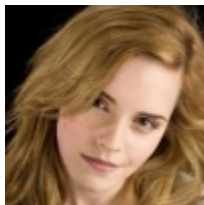
 **[alt\\_hydra](#)** at **[2014-04-27 19:30:12](#)**

*(no subject)*

I guess a better question might be to ask why Ron and Neville haven't been prepared to survive the council, or anything like that, because the council have been the "enemy" for a while, haven't they?

So why haven't they been raised to face down and fight the enemy? Instead, maybe they've been raised to go un-noticed. I grew up always *trying* to go un-noticed, but my mother hated that, of course. So it's hard for me to imagine being raised differently, to keep my head down, and such.

Draco is only friendly when he's acting, or when he's truly, genuinely happy. And in between those times I think he's very angry.



 **[alt\\_hermione](#)** at **[2014-04-27 19:42:03](#)**


*Private Message to Hydra*

Yes, you're right. But *why* is he always so angry? I mean, is it because he was always the one punished whenever Harry did something wrong?

I can see how that would make him resentful but you'd think it'd be of Harry.

I guess that's one reason--well, nevermind.



 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-27 19:45:57](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

That might be part of it. But I don't see how he can be resentful of Harry, Harry had no control over that arrangement. I mean... it was his parents who agreed to that.

Which - explains a lot, really. He can't bring himself to be angry at them, so he gets angry at other people instead.

You two didn't row, I hope?



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 19:55:44](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

No, we didn't row. I--it was good that he was so distracted by being angry at Ron that he forgot to be angry at me, I think. So we were able to...move past things, a little bit. It's not perfect, you know. I don't know if we'll ever be exactly right. But I think it meant he would listen, you know, when anyone else he probably would have just screamed at them and gotten sullen and slammed all his mental doors.

I do think he feels very guilty for still caring about his parents. But he does get angry with them. He's really, really angry that his father's been sleeping with Auror Lamont, for example.




 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-27 19:56:57](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Oh, and I don't mean that I'm *glad* he was angry at Ron, or that Ron didn't tell him about what he did to Patil.

I just meant...well, it made making peace with him a little easier.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-27 20:02:47](#)

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Yes, I know just what you mean.

I'm glad you didn't row and are speaking to each other. I do think he needs a friend like you, but you know, do you need him? Maybe if he can move past his feelings for you, you'll be real friends.




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-27 18:38:20](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. I'm glad he changed his mind.




 [alt\\_hydra](#) at [2014-04-27 18:54:12](#)

*(no subject)*

What would you have done if he'd left?




 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-27 20:28:31](#)

*(no subject)*

I guess I would've talked to him about what he thought he should do next. What we should both do.

And then I would've told the Order what we thought should happen, and ask for their help in doing it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-27 20:29:04](#)

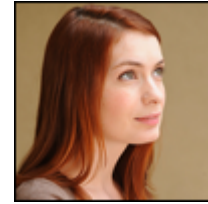
*(no subject)*

I wouldn't have quit the Order.

But I'm never quitting him. So.

**2014-04-27 16:43:00**

*ORDER ONLY*



 [alt\\_alice](#)

After some conversation, Draco has decided to stay with the Order. However, this incident, and others that have happened this term, has raised some valid concerns that need to be addressed. I'm very much hoping that what we cover today will be in the spirit of making the Order a better, stronger, and more effective group. It's not meant to single any one person out, but to point out systematic difficulties we've been having in communication and meet them head on.

When it comes to the council challenge, here are some basic guidelines that I would like to see put in place.

- 1.) I will be touching base with Harry regularly regarding the contest's progress, and your collective strategy. I want us all to be aware of the general plan and how it's working, and modify it if necessary.
- 2.) When you receive a challenge, you will let one another, Harry, and myself know what your challenge is, and if you have a specific strategy in mind for what you plan to do. If your challenge would significantly impact a fellow Order member who is not competing, I expect you to keep them informed as well.
- 3.) If you need help or advice, please, make sure to ask. I and the rest of the Order will do our best to provide our support, our resources, and our understanding. Likewise, if you need to coordinate something more complicated amongst yourselves or using other members of the Order, I anticipate you'll identify what you need, and work together as a team to accomplish it.

I understand that you may need to make quick decisions, and may not have the ability to keep us in the loop right away. But as a general policy, if you encounter an emergency situation that risks extreme personal injury to yourself, a fellow Order member, an unintended target, or presents a security risk, try to tell another Order member right away, and let us know what happened after the fact.

I anticipate that as we progress, we will have to make adjustments - but I hope that we can approach future challenges with a united front. There's a difference between communicating every little thing and



chewing over it endlessly (Remus said it best, we're a chatty and opinionated bunch), and being able to use our information intelligently, as a group. I hope to foster the latter.

---



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-28 00:25:10**


*Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne*

I'm assuming you've had the chance to talk to Ron and Draco by now.

I did want to tell you both that I appreciate the thoughtful way you've handled Pansy's latest challenge -- approaching Severus, Remus, and Tonks for advice and making sure that Severus supervises the brewing were all good instincts, and I was gratified to hear that you'd taken those steps on your own. I very much hope things go well, and am glad you've taken steps to ensure safety. I hope you are successful. And Pansy, I know your goals are different from that of your fellow competitors, and that comes with its own challenges and difficulties. Please let me know if you ever want to talk further about it.

Sally-Anne, I know that you've been directly impacted by these challenges, and have often had to provide much-needed assistance. Just because you are not being directly challenged does not mean you aren't an important part of all of this. I wanted to thank you and Ron for telling me about Avery, and what you both were planning to do to address things. Please keep me informed if anything else should crop up.




 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-28 15:05:46**

*Re: Private Message to Pansy and Sally-Anne*

And the both of you ought to be aware -- Ron is currently in the hospital wing, and based on what has been done to him, and what he's been asked to do in turn, I have every reason to believe that Pansy is currently at a very high risk of becoming a target.

Be extremely cautious, Pansy, and assume your moves are being watched. Don't travel alone, and be very careful when going to Severus for your brewing sessions so as not to expose him.



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-28 01:03:00**

*Private Message to Justin*

As I've said to Sally-Anne, I know that you aren't a competitor, but I recognise that you have been directly impacted by these challenges, and may get wrapped up in them in the future. Just make sure you ask for help if needed, and let those who are competing and me know if you're deliberately targeted or become involved in any way.

Thank you for telling me about your apprenticeship to Antonin Dolohov.

I understand that you are facing a distinct challenge yourself closely involving Dark Magic, which has its own dangers. I know you will be serving the needs of the Order regardless of what you may be asked to do under Dolohov's tutelage, and I respect your decision. Please know that I don't expect you to provide me with a detailed confession of every thing you'll be asked to learn or do, but I'm hoping you will keep me informed of relevant information you learn about Dolohov, the council, and things that could impact our research programmes, and that you will let me know if you face significant danger. I will give you whatever support I can.

And I also strongly recommend that you have a person who can serve as a touchstone through this process -- someone you trust completely, who will be able to provide you with a sense of perspective.




 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-28 01:53:23**

*Re: Private Message to Justin*

And Justin, I've been giving some thought to what you told me regarding your reasons for staying at Hogwarts, and not informing the Order.

I would always prefer to look for a solution that keeps our members alive for another day, and would value your continued assistance in whatever capacity you could provide. I would always be willing to take the risk to attempt to help you. However, I know that we may not necessarily agree on this particular matter. If you were to make a similar judgement call in the future, I would only ask that you tell me of your choice, and I will abide by it.



 [alt\\_justin](#) at 2014-04-28 12:54:30

Re: Private Message to Justin

Mrs Longbottom,

Perhaps I *was* feeling rather self-destructive at the time but I can't say I wouldn't make the same choice again, what, if Hydra's future depended on it.

As I said, I was trying to spare everyone the obligation to offer rescue. It's not that we didn't consider running away; we did do. But we decided it wasn't the most productive solution to our problem.

As for my 'apprenticeship,' I should hesitate to call it that just yet, what. Though I grow more certain that Professor Dolohov desires exactly that opportunity, he has made no formal offer and I have been cautious about appearing to be too willing. Given my previous objections to his subject, a sudden and complete reversal of my position could only seem to him as if my mind has turned toward revenge. Of course one can't properly call it that when in some way it has *always* been my goal to neutralise Hydra's mother and to some extent her father, what. Nonetheless it would be bally well foolish to let Professor Dolohov think I desire vengeance when he seems so close to accepting that his constant barrage of twisted morality is achieving the effect he wants. I say, it helps that I had started coming to his lunch salons well before all this happened. It will make my progression seem the more genuine, what.

But you're quite correct that I have every intention of putting myself to the Order's use as another spy in his lair, if you follow me. Cedric has access to matters of his correspondence, which are undoubtedly enlightening, but I hope I may be able to infiltrate deeper into the Professor's network, discover weaknesses among those he calls friends and above all, learn what he knows about Voldemort's apparent invulnerability. There would be no point in my risking personal disaster to obtain intelligence and not share it with the Order, what, in a timely fashion and with relevant recommendations.

I...shall give serious thought to your suggestion about a trusted confidante. The one I would choose is, of course, unavailable. I say, it may not be possible or advisable to entrust anyone else fully. I've

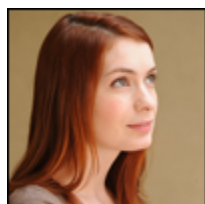
actually spoken with Professor Snape, quite briefly, about the types of exigency one can expect from the rôle I mean to play. We agree that keeping one's own counsel in this situation may well be the best, safest option.

I have been thinking quite a lot lately about the circumstances which forced Hydra and I to give each other up. I say, not that I would wish it over again but, I don't know if either of us would have fixed on our current course had we remained paired. Perhaps our paths have been set in this direction because, in the end, it's necessary for the Order's eventual success.

I jolly well hope so, what. It would at least give our separation some meaningful purpose.

In any event, I do not wish anyone to worry about my loyalty or my commitment to what I mean to do. I had already decided to take advantage of Professor Dolohov's offer in order to benefit our side, what; I am fully cognisant of the risks I am undertaking and, my response to Mr Lestrage aside, I have no wish to die in the attempt, what. My goal is to end this conflict, successfully, so that we can all bally well enjoy freedom and a chance at happiness.

-Finch-Fletchley



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-28 15:25:50**

*Re: Private Message to Justin*

Justin --


I will never doubt your loyalty or commitment, nor your motives in working under Dolohov. To be clear, the purpose of my writing was to let you know that while I'm fully aware that your future actions may not reflect your own moral principles, nor what people generally would find acceptable in an ideal world, I know that you are ultimately serving a higher purpose, and that the sacrifice to your principles are made on our behalf and for our cause -- and I very much believe that what you learn will prove valuable and useful in our efforts. I am grateful for your resolve to take advantage of this opportunity despite what it will cost you, and I know that your reasons are sound.

The best of intentions and principles can sometimes become

warped without checking, however. And often, the burden can become far too great to bear on one's own. Severus spent years with no-one to confide in but himself. I do not believe he is better off for it.

I am very glad to hear that you are looking to a hopeful future. It is our younger generation that must rebuild this world, and reshape it in the image of what they hope to see -- and I very much hope that you are able to join them, and lead them to a path of peace and forgiveness, and experience that happiness yourself.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-28 02:32:14](#)**


*Private Message to Hydra*

Hydra --

I'm glad we were able to talk a bit more over hols about how things are going with the current challenge, and our overall plans for the future. I hope we get the opportunity to talk more before summer -- I'm meeting with Draco and Severus at the Shrieking Shack this upcoming week, and I would be more than willing to extend the same to you.

I also very much appreciated your telling us about Teddy Nott. Please keep us informed if anything requires immediate action, and let us know if you need any assistance in your plans. Should extreme measures be required, I am willing to do what is necessary.



 **[alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-28 02:41:30](#)**

*(no subject)*

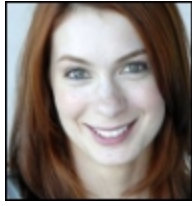
Understood, ma'am.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-28 02:42:59](#)**

*(no subject)*

Thank you, Harry.




 **alt\_alice** at [2014-04-28 02:56:37](#)

*Private Message to Harry*

I'm planning to meet with Draco in person, and have extended a similar invitation to Hydra. I would also be more than happy to meet with you as well, so that we can spend a little more time working through the strategy you all have in mind, and your plan moving forward.

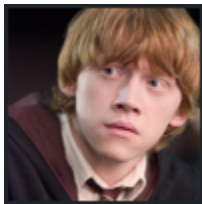


 **alt\_alice** at [2014-04-28 02:50:50](#)

*Private Message to Draco*

I'm hoping that you, me, and Severus will get a chance to meet sometime soon to talk more directly about your future. I can easily meet you both at the Shrieking Shack.

Know that I'm not asking we meet so that I may reassure myself of your continued membership -- I take you at your word -- but I do want to hear your opinions regarding the plans we discussed on Thursday, and your thoughts about the current political landscape.



 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-28 03:12:33](#)

*Private Message to Mrs Longbottom*

Alright.

Only, at the beginning we all agreed that Malfoy would probably have to do things that targeted some of us. And we said--I mean, I know I expected--that to make that work it would have to be a surprise. So we didn't, y'know, give away that we knew it in advance by flinching or looking or not looking or anything that would let anyone guess we knew it was coming.

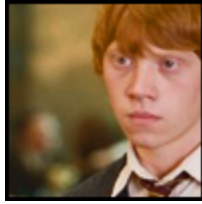
So you're saying we have to warn each other, right?



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-28 03:19:38**

*Re: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom*

That's a valid point, Ron. I'd anticipate that if it were necessary to have it be a surprise, that Draco would still let me and Harry know about it, and that we'd be able to confirm the necessity for it.



 **[alt\\_ron](#) at 2014-04-28 03:28:51**

*Re: Private Message to Mrs Longbottom*

Alright, then.

That's what I promised, so no problem.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at 2014-04-28 03:25:25**

*(no subject)*

Ron's raised a good point. If you believe it necessary to keep your challenge from others who are involved so as to have an element of surprise, you must still tell Harry and myself. If truly needed, I would not require you to share your task with the people who would be impacted.

**2014-04-27 17:31:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Draco*



I'm sorry I didn't tell you what was going on with Padma.

 **alt\_sally\_anne**

Hermione's right, I should have done that. I mean, she's right about that part, anyway. Once it was clear you were the one she'd fastened on to, I should have told you.


I wish we all still had the ISS lock, something where we could talk to each other without the whole Order nosing in. It would make discussing challenges less like the candidates were all trying to get a signed note of approval from all the Order grown-ups.

Anyway. I should have told you. At LEAST I should have sent you a message to read that night, and I didn't do that, either. ~~Because I was~~ I'm really sorry I didn't. And not because Mrs Longbottom is cross. I really don't much care whether Mrs Longbottom is cross. But because you should be able to trust me. I'm one of the other Slytherins, ~~I'm NOT one of the Slytherins who's your ex-girlfriend, and~~

anyway

I'm sorry.



 **alt\_draco** at **2014-04-28 14:28:42**  
(no subject)

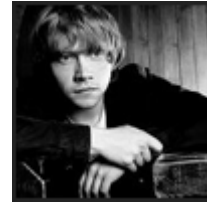
Accepted.

But like I told Weasley and Pansy, if it happens again, I will leave the Order.



**2014-04-27 21:19:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*



 [alt\\_ron](#)

So, Finnigan. I can't tell. It could've been a complete dud, y'know, or it could still be building. Fred said it would start out subtle and grow. And last.

I mean, they were definitely together on the train and did you see them come in for supper?

But F seems all right. Not sure where he is tonight, but, y'know, he doesn't seem to be writing poems or thinking of topping himself. I got Madam P Fred's notes, though, so if something does happen she knows everything she could know. She looked them over and said to keep an eye on him for a while. She could see the way it's meant to be long-acting, but she didn't think anyone could say how long without having a sample of the potion, and maybe not even then because it would depend on him. Finnigan, I mean. How he absorbs it and processes it, so she called it idiosyncratic. And unpredictable.

Which is great, because imagine how they'll all react if something happens to him.

Or maybe not. I mean none of them seem worried about Finnigan, do they?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-28 02:35:47**  
(no subject)

Well they're not worried about him NOW. If he decides to jump off the astronomy tower or something, THEN they'll worry.

Anyway. The problem when you dose someone with a love potion to make them love someone they're already dating casually is that it's a bit harder to tell from the outside. Remy seemed to be in a really good mood when he came back to Slytherin after supper, though, for whatever that's worth.



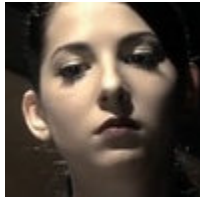
 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-28 02:42:51](#)**  
(no subject)

So Jugson's there in Slytherin?

I wish Finnigan would get back here so I know he's not up one of the towers or out walking into the lake or whatever he could do.

I'm going to go spare worrying about him. Which is sort of the opposite of what I was supposed to manage with this challenge.

Meanwhile, Avery thinks everything's rosy. (I mean, if I needed a reason to think I cocked it all up, having Avery all pleased with me is a giant sign.)




 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-28 02:46:12](#)**  
(no subject)

Well, he was earlier. He might have gone out again, I'm up in the girls' dorm so I wouldn't have seen him.

Do you have an antidote? You could slip THAT to Finnigan.

Did Avery owl you? Does he even know you slipped something to Finnigan, as well, or is he just going based on what you managed with Patil?



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-28 02:54:24](#)**  
(no subject)

No, there's not an antidote. Not a specific one. They weren't planning to test this on anyone until I asked for something like it. I don't know. I think usually they just try things out on themselves and don't worry much about antidotes. Unless it's something that makes you bleed a lot.

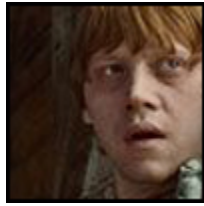
Yeah, Avery knows. I told him the idea was distracting Finnigan and he liked it. Said it was ambitious of me to try two in case one squibbed. Another mistake I made, wasn't it?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-28 03:23:21](#)  
(no subject)

It would be pretty odd to try out a love potion on yourself, but with the Twins, who knows what they'd planned on.

Anyway, Avery. Yeah, I think maybe you overshot the mark this time.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-28 03:40:49](#)  
(no subject)

I'll have to figure out how to be totally disappointing next time.


Dammit, Finicky, get back here. I don't want to have to go looking for him. I mean, they're snogging someplace, right? Don't you think?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-28 03:50:19](#)  
(no subject)

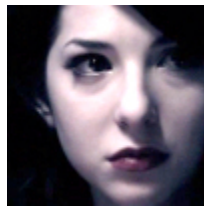
They are SURELY snogging someplace. I haven't seen Remy. I wonder if Finnigan sneaked him into the Prefect's bathroom?



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-28 03:51:35](#)  
(no subject)

Alright. I'm going to go check where he is.

See you tomorrow, yeah?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-28 03:52:49](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, tomorrow.

Good luck.

**[2014-04-27 22:46:00](#)**

*Order Only: The Book*

Today while Minerva was at supper, I checked the Book:

Jonathan Griffin, Bedford  
Mary Lowrey, Bedford  
Poppy Harris, Sherwood  
Megan Watkins, Bedford  
Leah Pistle, Bedford  
Laura Wilbourn, Bedford  
Murari Haryana, Bedford



 [alt\\_severus](#)

That does at least save us some effort.

---



 [alt\\_poppy](#) at **[2014-04-28 03:34:36](#)**

*Private Message to Severus*

Thank you for managing that, Severus.

She has utterly stonewalled me of late. I hate watching her waste away, but even if I could get her to allow an examination, there's almost certainly nothing to be done.




 [alt\\_severus](#) at **[2014-04-28 03:39:54](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Severus*

I believe she has been avoiding us to protect herself; if she does not know the mechanism of operation of the sword of Damocles under which she is living, she may fear that any conversation with us at all might trigger its reprisals.

That does not, of course, make it easier to bear — but it does make it easier to understand.




 **alt\_poppy** at [2014-04-28 03:57:11](#)

*Re: Private Message to Severus*

Yes, exactly. That 's been my assumption.



 **alt\_sirius** at [2014-04-28 13:15:46](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, it saves us having to rescue them, but I can't say I'm glad to hear that Strangeweale had successfully bottled up all conduits of muggleborn births in the last six months.

It makes me twitchy, like we've missed something.

**2014-04-27 23:15:00**

*Private Message to Linus*

Usually I'm rather sad when hols are over--but right now I find I'm relieved.


At least your father seemed to like me! And having a breakthrough in my Divination was quite exciting really.

I can't help worrying though.



 **alt\_lavender**



 **alt\_linus** at **2014-04-28 04:28:31**

*(no subject)*

Ah, beauteous one, what is worrying you?

True, the part of the Divination that specified there would be dangers was quite correct. The loosening hex went slightly wrong ~~four~~ several times before I got it just right -- and then it went off rather more emphatically than I expected!

Still, all's well that ends well, isn't it? Successfully completing the Challenge as well as introducing my dear lady to the mater and pater made it truly a red-letter day!

I couldn't help noticing you wrote to Pav. Is Padma... doing better? I considered sending her a note, but if I know her, she'd much prefer no one call attention to things she'd rather forget. I did pick up a fancy new quill the other day which I think I shall give to her tomorrow; it's a lovely iridescent blue, and it might be distracting and pretty and whatnot, don't you think?

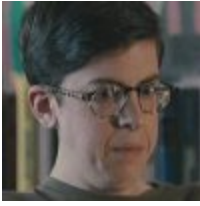



 **alt\_lavender** at **2014-04-29 02:40:51**

*(no subject)*

I can't see to shake a sort of general foreboding and I truly can't tell if the Divinatory forces are trying to reach me or if it's simply nerves.

And a note to Padma would be a thoughtful gesture, I think. I'm sure she knows she has your support and friendship, but it never hurts to hear it.



 [alt\\_linus](#) at [2014-04-28 05:29:33](#)  
(no subject)

Oh, dear. Something just occurred to me. Do you suppose that Montague will be displeased because I didn't take the entire sculpture?


I had thought that the Sun, as crowning glory, would be sufficient proof of valour. Then, too, the Sun-Snitch was the only piece small enough to fit in your handbag -- for which I thank you again, my brave Gryffindor beauty.

What did that Divination say about danger, again?

Also, I think Ptolemy is still hacked off at me, even though Professor Raz did ahem ahem speak to me about the disturbance. If only Ptolemy had been a bit more in his cups, or if someone else had been standing near enough to serve the purpose....

Ah, well, no use crying over spilled pumpkin juice. And the reading did indicate all could turn out very well, didn't it? So it's probably quite all right, and these are just after-adventure nerves.



 [alt\\_lavender](#) at [2014-04-29 02:43:09](#)  
(no subject)

Ought we to be talking so openly, even in PMs?

I mean, it's all in the greater cause of serving the Protectorate so hopefully no one would be too cross,

but even so...

**[2014-04-28 07:35:00](#)**

*Order Only Private Message to Alice and Neville Longbottom*



 **[alt\\_poppy](#)**

I've just spent the last hour and a half reversing curses suffered by Mr Weasley last night when he was ambushed by his dormitory mate, Mr Thomas, who seems to have rigged a silent alert to tell him if Mr Weasley should ever leave his bed in the night. There's no point dwelling on details, but it would seem that the attack began with Petrificus and a silencing spell, after which Mr Thomas piled on every hex and battering curse that came to mind. Mr Weasley thinks Mr Finnigan may have added several of his own curses when he returned from an after-curfew tryst.


In any case, Mr Longbottom seems to have slept through all of it--which is entirely understandable, Mr Longbottom: there's truly no need to berate yourself for not having heard a magically-silenced assault--but it was Neville who found Mr Weasley on the floor this morning and brought him to me.

All will be well, but I do think Mr Weasley feels rather as he did when he got wrongways with a hippogriff in the Creatures pen--or, as he put it, as if he's been run over by the Hogwarts Express.

Suffice it to say, he will not be attending morning lessons and asks to be brought word of any assignments. I shall be sending the usual notifications to his teachers.

Alice, I'm writing you rather than Molly at Mr Weasley's request. He'd rather she not know about this.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-28 14:47:33](#)**

*(no subject)*


I see. Thank you, Poppy.

And Neville, love, it seems as though this was specifically designed to be something you wouldn't notice.

We might set up some alarms of our own for the future, but goodness knows this was not your fault.



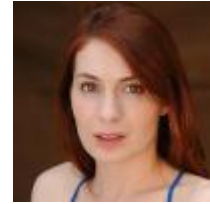


 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-28 17:16:22](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I anticipate you might see an uptick in injuries from the competitors this week, Poppy. It seems as though things have increased significantly in viciousness.

**2014-04-28 08:52:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco and Hydra*




 **alt\_alice**

Based on additional information from Ron, it is even more clear to me that many of the candidates are being told to attempt to interfere with their fellow competitors in a significant and extreme way. To provide some context, Ron was severely beaten by Thomas (with assistance from Finnegan) last night, and this morning, he received orders from Avery to completely remove Ms Patil from the competition.

I wanted to make sure you were aware of the current environment. Please both be careful, and take the necessary precautions. I've told Pansy similarly.



 **alt\_hydra** at **2014-04-29 01:40:41**

*(no subject)*

Alright. Draco (as far as I know) and I still haven't been given any challenges. I'm not sure what that means, if anything.



 **alt\_alice** at **2014-04-29 06:38:57**

*(no subject)*

At this point, I haven't the slightest idea. It seems as though this challenge is decidedly more risky. Perhaps they're looking to narrow the list of competitors, and you and Draco have already made the cut.

Perhaps your challenge is how you react to facing a direct threat from another competitor.

Regardless, they've certainly escalated things significantly.

**2014-04-28 08:57:00**

*Order ONLY Private Message to Mrs LongbottoM + Harry Potter*



I got anotheR owl FRom AveRy.

Says 'Press your adVantage. I want to see you take PaTil out completely.'


 [alt\\_ron](#)

That'S underlined about Five times.

He wants me tO kill her.

I doN't think he meaNs just knocking her oUt of the competN.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at **2014-04-28 15:00:25**  
(no subject)

I see.

First of all, there is room for interpretation, although you'd risk angering him by not taking it as intended.

Sending her to St Mungo's for a month or two would technically give him what he asked for.


I would not condone your actually killing her. We could make her disappear if it comes to that.

However, I believe that by appearing to kill her, you would either decisively launch yourself into the top tier of candidates, or fall into a rather nasty trap. Her parents are not overly influential, but should it come back to you in any way, I am not sure Avery would support you, or that the contest would protect you. Both outcomes are less than ideal.

What do you think?


(And please, Ron, if you can't process this properly right now, rest up first. I'm sorry for what happened.)



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-28 15:01:14](#)  
(no subject)

I would also continue to be very careful around Mr Thomas. He may be under a similar set of orders.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-28 15:18:26](#)  
(no subject)


Well If he was supposed to Kill me he coUld'v done.

BuT yea

SeemS lIke everYthings goIng tO be mor intense now.

SA thinkS I should tell PatIl and get her to help me st uP somethIng wher I trY but fall. I don't know.




 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-28 16:03:37](#)  
(no subject)

That is a distinct possibility. She would owe you a rather large favour, which could possibly pay dividends in the future. A failed attempt would both put her in good showing, and would go along with our current strategy as I understand it.

There's always the risk that she'd tell someone you were attempting to circumvent the rules, but this is an extreme enough personal threat (and it would benefit her enough) that it may hold her tongue.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-28 17:20:21](#)  
(no subject)

Maybe


Maybe if you brought me in too. So she knew I was a part of it, and I was okay with it, and would cover for both of you?

I think that if you attempt to kill her without telling her, or we

make her disappear, that'll make things worse for everyone. I mean, they're going to get worse, but they'll get worse a lot faster. I don't want other people thinking that's a line that's okay to cross. Or at least hold it off for as long as we can.

I'd rather she knew she could come to me if she got something like that in the future.



 **alt\_ron at 2014-04-28 17:45:08**  
(no subject)


Yeah

Obv I'm not going to TrY klllIng her fr real

Hav tO thInk tho

I donT want tO tell PatIl Im thrOWIng the competN but mayB it wrkS yr waY.




 **alt\_harry at 2014-04-28 18:43:33**  
(no subject)

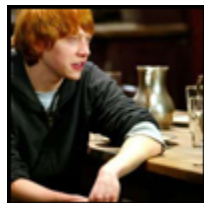
We could always obliviate her or something if it doesn't work out?


Maybe we can have Hydra check her after you tell, to make sure she'll keep it a secret?



 **alt\_harry at 2014-04-28 20:07:29**  
(no subject)

And we can play it not like you're throwing the competition, but that even though you want it, this is a line you don't want to cross. I think she'd see the value in that.



 **alt\_ron at 2014-04-29 02:13:27**  
(no subject)

All right. I can think better now.

Look. I think you've hit on the thing. I've got to

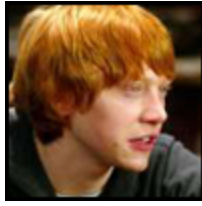
tell Patil, and tell her this is a line we're not going to cross or else we set up a signal to all the sponsors that it's time to just make this a gladiatorial fight to the death, right?


I need you to set up a meeting, though. Some place no one'll see us talking and at a time when no one'll miss any of us. Don't tell her what it's about. I mean, you could let her think it's about the contest, sure, but don't mention me at all. Because, y'know, Baddock's the one in charge of monitoring private messages now, so he's got to be looking for what we're saying about the contest. It'd be to his advantage to be doing that, anywiz, so I think we have to expect he is, even if he's not.

Anywiz. I'm going to tell her Avery got a scent of blood in the water after what happened to her at the party and decided she's vulnerable, so he's told me to eliminate her permanently. Which I'm not going to do. I mean, really, there aren't too many ways to knock someone completely out for the next two months, are there? Not with Matron able to heal almost everything over night. (More or less. Ouch.) And St Mungo's able to do more if more's needed. So, I mean, what really are the choices? I could Oblivate her completely and leave her drooling and needing toilet training all over again. Or I could do something that would, I don't know, completely destroy her eyes or her arms or something, but even that... I don't know how quickly they can get you fitted up with magical limbs and prosthingummy eyes, but she could be right back in it a week from now for all I know. So, really, dead is the only really permanent solution except for horrible mind-mangling curses or really Dark wasting curses that would put her on the curse ward forever.

And we don't want the contest to start on that sort of thing. I hope she doesn't want that either. I mean, think of what happened to her little brother, right? She can't really want-


So, yeah. Would you set up a meeting? For tomorrow if you can. You'll have to work it out with her timetable because I think she's taking EVERYTHING. I've just got Arts in the morning and Transfig after lunch.



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-29 02:21:21](#)**  
(no subject)

And, yeah. If you're the one setting up the meeting, you could be the one to say that you're not going to let the contest cross that line. So we have to figure out a way around it.

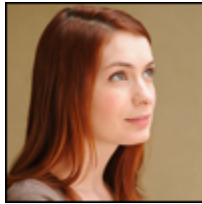



 **[alt\\_harry](#)** at **[2014-04-29 03:53:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Okay. Yeah. I can do that.

And no, I don't think she wants it. At least it's worth it to assume that she doesn't.


I'll set a meeting up, and let you know when and where it is.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-28 16:04:52](#)**  
(no subject)

So you're aware, I believed it necessary to inform Pansy, Draco, and Hydra of recent events, as it relates directly to their own personal safeties.

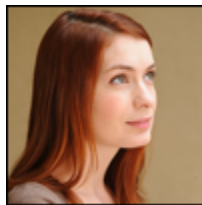



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-28 17:39:38](#)**  
(no subject)

Sory. I know I was supposed to

I thought telling Harry-

I shouldv wrItten theM



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-04-28 18:42:05](#)**  
*Private Message to Ron*

There's no need to apologise, Ron. Goodness knows, you've had quite a day of it. You did the right thing by telling me and Harry about things.

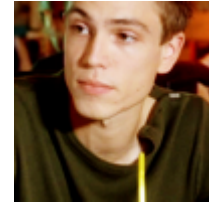
I know you wanted to keep things quiet. I just wanted to let you

|||| know I'd told, so you wouldn't be taken by surprise when other people knew about it.



**[2014-04-28 18:15:00](#)**

*Order Only: alert for Thursday from ad hoc arithmancy and ley lines working group*



 **[alt\\_jeremy](#)**


Thursday's Beltane. We expect one of the Octobori is going to light up, with associated ley line activity. We could use some flyers to check things out. Mulciber's in a mood, so no time off for me, though I'll fly an early-morning pattern around the local leys before work. Unlikely to tell us much, though. Sunrise is 5:20, and midday is 1:05, which is when we'd really expect to feel anything if it work as previously.

As to where, based on what we think we understand of the pattern there are two leading hypotheses which diverge strongly. We particularly would like the Isle of Skye and Peterhead watched. Cecelia thinks it's probably the former, and she knows more about this than anyone, but really, be alert to everything. Any detectible activity anywhere at all on Thursday will tell us a lot.

Can anyone help us out around midday and after?

---




 **[alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-28 23:21:16](#)**

*private message to Alice*

Right, my head's still spinning from our talk a bit ago. Had a mad dream last night we were hosting negotiations between centaurs and house-elves.

More chat soon? Could be Wednesday evening; promised to swing by Sherwood and assist Cecelia going over some calculations about Thursday, but can make a jam run beforehand if timing's good for you.



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-29 01:25:32](#)**

*Re: private message to Alice*

Yes, please.

Crises have a way of making us focus on the here and now, but I'd welcome the chance to look a bit further ahead. And now that you know more of our planned trajectory, I'd appreciate your input, certainly.

House elves are a cypher I'm not sure we'll crack in our lifetimes, but it's certainly something I've been chewing over as well.


Wednesday evening would be lovely.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-28 23:35:10](#)  
(no subject)

I can fly on Thursday. Anyone else?



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-29 01:17:33](#)  
(no subject)

Think the bike's ready for a test flight?


Joking. But I'll come along. Sounds like we'll need two scouting parties, anyway.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-29 01:32:50](#)  
(no subject)

Excellent! You can zap me if I look like I'm falling asleep on my broom.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-29 01:30:05](#)  
(no subject)

I'm good for it.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-29 01:34:17](#)  
(no subject)

Bring biscuits?


It's hungry work, flying is!



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-29 01:55:54](#)  
(no subject)


Oh, I see what you're after. You only love me for my biscuits.



 [alt\\_kingsley](#) at [2014-04-30 01:36:56](#)  
(no subject)

Count me in, along with Dorcas and Caradoc.




 [alt\\_bill](#) at [2014-04-30 01:41:15](#)  
(no subject)

Jeremy's right about Mulciber not exactly being in the mood to give people time off.

Wish I could join the expedition, but not this time.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-29 01:41:47](#)  
*private message to Sally-Anne*

I have got a problem. Don't want to talk more about it to Alice. Don't know anyone else I can, really. So.

I see Maureen when I take jam to Moddey. I don't linger, don't pressure her to talk. She looks well, doesn't run screaming if she sees me, but I'm in limbo. I think of her ~~every minute~~ of every day. I know she's got to get used to being free, I know she never had one free choice in her life before you all helped her get out, but...

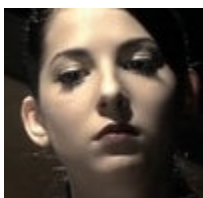
Look, you've been in the Order longer than I have. Have a muggleborn and a pureblood ever worked out if they started out knowing each other not free?

Merlin, this is impossible, isn't it.

Sorry to dump this on you but I'm hitting a ward here. Don't know if I should press on or give up. Don't know which would be worse. Not

that pressing on would be pressing. Waiting, more like. Just more limbo.

Sorry. I'm a right mess just now. But if you have got any of those clever Slytherin thinky thoughts on the subject, I could stand to hear them.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-29 01:58:56](#)

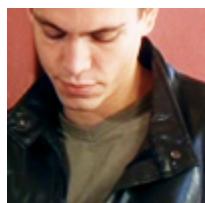
*Re: private message to Sally-Anne*

~~Funny you should bring this up.~~

Look, there just haven't been all that many people in your and Maureen's situation.

I mean, okay. My Mum is in a relationship with Scott Brownmiller. She's a muggleborn and he's a pureblood. But, they didn't meet until AFTER she got away from my father.

So I can't tell you that there are any. But I also can't tell you that this means anything, because most of the people the Order's helped to shelter were babies, you know, so they didn't grow up feeling like they were slaves AND they're mostly still too young for that sort of relationship anyway.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-29 02:05:24](#)

*Re: private message to Sally-Anne*

...

Right, then.

If there are no prior examples, guess I've got to be one. Even if it's only an example of letting someone be.

At least I know she's alive and safe and she looks happy. Which is a good deal more than I had before. Or she had. Which is rather the point of all this. ~~Her. Not me.~~ 'S why we're doing it, right?

Thanks.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-29 02:11:04](#)

*Re: private message to Sally-Anne*


Yeah.

I don't know how Maureen feels. I don't know if she'll like you back at some point, or if she'll never feel that way and you just have to try to get over her.

But, you can know that if she DOES decide she likes you, she's making that decision out of her own free will. She's not saying it because she's afraid to refuse, or because she's hoping you'll protect her from your parents.

I don't know if that helps or not.



 [alt\\_jeremy](#) at [2014-04-29 02:22:43](#)

*Re: private message to Sally-Anne*

It does.

I mean, it doesn't make me feel any better at present, but it IS better, if you get the distinction.

Right. So I'll stop blathering at you now. Am sure you've got more than enough in your cauldron to keep track of already.

**2014-04-28 20:57:00**

*Private Message to Padma Patil*


We need to meet tomorrow.

When can you be free? Shouldn't take more than an hour.



 [alt\\_harry](#)




 [alt\\_padma](#) at **2014-04-29 04:13:47**

*(no subject)*

We do?

About--about what? I've apologised to Draco, he's not cross with me. And it wasn't really my fault, anyway. I mean, someone put a spell on me. Only I don't know who, so if you're looking for a report. Maybe you're looking for a report? The thing is I can't really tell you who did it.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-29 04:19:04**

*(no subject)*

Yes. We do need to meet.

And it's not about that. I'm not cross. But I can't tell you over the journals.

I also need you to keep quiet about the fact we're meeting.

**[2014-04-28 21:01:00](#)**

*ORDER ONLY*

The potion will be ready tomorrow night. It needs to season for another twenty hours or so before it has achieved full potency. Harry, can you be there to witness?



 [alt\\_pansy](#)

Draco, Hydra, I suppose I ought to let you know. I was told to purchase the products for a Propheying Potion, brew it, and administer it to a trusted friend. Sally-Anne's volunteered. I got the ingredients in Knockturn over hols, and Mr Snape's been supervising the brewing.

And Mrs Longbottom, I got your message, and I have been careful to not let anyone catch me alone.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-29 04:11:41](#)  
(no subject)

Right.


I should probably try to work ahead on my homework, then.



 [alt\\_severus](#) at [2014-04-29 05:24:16](#)  
(no subject)

Miss Parkinson may have already passed along this information, but on the chance she has not: we have made quite sure the potion was brewed successfully, and so you need not fear the repercussions that result when one takes an inferior draught. I did not allow her to set the potion aside for the resting stage until it was acceptable.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-29 06:08:50](#)  
*Private Message to Sally-Anne*

He made me restart it *three* times before he was satisfied. You'd better believe he wouldn't let me give it to you unless it was done to his standards, which means it's as close to perfect as it can get.



 **[alt\\_pansy](#)** at **[2014-04-29 06:34:59](#)**

*Private Message to George*

Hitty was rather pleased you stayed for breakfast yesterday.

I was rather pleased as well.

I wish summer hols weren't weeks and weeks away.

Wish us luck tomorrow, yeah?



**2014-04-28 21:26:00**

*Private message to Remy Jugson*



 [alt\\_seamus](#)

We'd probably better not sneak out and meet tonight. Last night was AMAZING but then when I got back to my dorm, Thomas had a lovely little surprise for me: Weasley, half-dead on the floor. He suggested I get a few curses in, too, so I did. Anyway, I don't think I want to assume that Thomas won't get me in the back next, even though he doesn't have any particular reason to hold a grudge, but I ESPECIALLY had better not turn my back on Weasley, and I think he's out of the Hospital Wing.

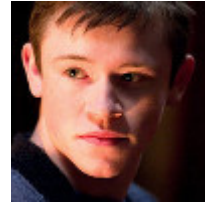
Anyway. If you want, we COULD get up early. For some flying. Or just, you know, we could tell people we were going flying.

Good night! I love you.

**[2014-04-28 21:31:00](#)**

*Private message to Padma Patil*

So how are you doing? Any better? You got any thoughts about who did this to you? Weasley and Parkinson are certainly the obvious candidates but it could have been nearly anyone.




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)**

Nearly. I mean -- I would never do that to you. Ever. EVER. I hope you know that.

I had a chance to cast some curses on Weasley last night and I took advantage of it. So if it WAS him, you can consider those cast on your behalf, if it helps any.


---



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-29 02:51:21](#)**  
(no subject)

Also, I kind of need a favour. But only if you're up for it. (It's not -- I mean, you wouldn't have to do much. It's not like, 'sneak out of Ravenclaw Tower and meet me to break into Sprout's office' or anything like that, I just need you to take care of something important to me for a little while.)




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-29 03:19:11](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, you must have written this while I was writing mine.

Of course, I'll help if I can. I just said I might need your help, too, so we'll be even.



 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-29 03:16:01](#)**  
(no subject)

I'm all right, I guess.

I suppose it's obvious to everyone that Blaise binned me, which isn't too surprising. Daphs wasn't precisely warm but then, I didn't expect her to be, or really need her to be. But she at least agreed to give him his birthday present from me. He'd

have just made it burst into flames if I'd tried to give it to him directly.

And Draco--was pretty good about things. I mean, he spent half his Saturday getting me to St M's and then making sure they took care of me, and he could have just let me.... Well. He was quite decent.

Lines gave me a nift quill, which was sweet of him. And Lares has been attentive. I guess he's sort of happy Blaise is out of the picture. And he said he knows it was the love spell and anyone who holds me accountable is being really unfair.

Only. I mean, the spell made me act like a complete squib, but the thing was that it *wasn't* making me fall in love with Draco. Or I should say it wasn't making me fall in love with *Draco*. It's odd to try to explain it. You know how most love potions have a target, and you add in hair or something from the person you want the drinker to love. Which is easy if you're brewing a potion to make someone love yourself, and more challenging if it's someone else, but the point is that the brewer chooses who's going to fall in love with whom. You know? And some are with the first person you see after drinking it. But this wasn't either of those. It was like...like the potion (or spell or whatever) made me think of who I'd want if I could have had anyone in the world.

And it's true, if I could have anyone, I'd want Malfoy. Only I've always known he doesn't fancy me and I've always known it was foolish to even try.


And most people think I was made to go all bonkers over Malfoy deliberately, and I prefer it that way, honestly. But *I'll* know it wasn't that simple.

Anyway.

I do think it was probably Parkinson or Weasel. Or both of them, you know they've got to be helping each other, it's the only explanation for why they haven't got themselves chucked out already. I know it wasn't you.

Have you been given a specific challenge yet? Because Lana gave me one, and I've been thinking about how to do it. And I might need your help.



 **alt\_seamus** at [2014-04-29 03:34:52](#)  
(no subject)

That's a really weird form of a love potion. Why do these even exist? I mean, it makes sense that a girl might give a bloke a love potion to get him to fall in love with her, if she loved him and he didn't care for her. Who'd give someone this sort of potion? I suppose maybe if she believed that the bloke really did love her and was just to shy? I doubt it works out that way very often.


And yeah. I mean -- I've fancied more than a few people who were NEVER going to fancy me back, you know? And I always got over them (and of course, now I've got someone who DOES fancy me back, which is ever so much better.)

Anyway. My challenge came today, yeah. I need to abseil down the Astronomy Tower. Which should be fine. Before I do it, I have to give my wand to another challenger for safekeeping, and that person is supposed to come watch. And then we are BOTH supposed to submit memories of it to Harry, so they know I didn't cheat, I suppose.

I don't know if this is supposed to mostly be a test of my climbing, or of my bravery, or of my ability to know who I can trust. I mean, I'll be a pretty easy target while I'm climbing down. I think it would probably be best to do this right after sunrise, so I'm not making my way down in the dark, but none of the other challengers will likely be around (I wouldn't want you to have to fight Weasley off for me. Or Thomas, for that matter.)

What do you need from me?




 **alt\_padma** at [2014-04-29 03:57:51](#)  
(no subject)

I can do that. And that way you'll have someone standing by if something goes wrong. Do you have a deadline?

Here's mine: 'raise your own standing by significantly undermining the standing of another challenger' - and she gave me three names, and I've chosen Thomas out of the three.

I don't want to do something crude like Imperius him or put him under a compulsion. What I thought is that I'd make him think he's getting a special challenge. I think maybe you could help me make him think it's genuine, either by the way it's written or the way it's delivered.




 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-29 04:05:54](#)**  
(no subject)

Hmm. Who's Thomas's sponsor, do you know?

Who were the other two names?




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-29 04:10:30](#)**  
(no subject)

His sponsor's Baddock.


And I don't want to say who. Thomas is the best choice of the ones she said I could pick.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-29 04:16:33](#)**  
(no subject)


My notes have just come by owl. They've been in Mr Crispin's handwriting with an ouroboros seal. I'm not sure about the notes from Baddock, how Thomas has been getting them.



 **[alt\\_seamus](#)** at **[2014-04-29 04:10:03](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh, and what does Marvolo want?




 **[alt\\_padma](#)** at **[2014-04-29 04:10:57](#)**  
(no subject)

I don't know, I'm wondering that, too!

Let me look.




 **alt\_padma** at [2014-04-29 04:16:48](#)  
(no subject)

He says 'We need to talk tomorrow.'

Talk about *what*?

At this point I'd be surprised if it's not a setup for someone *else* to have a go at me. Honestly. Just because someone caught me unawares once doesn't mean I'm going to fall for an ambush when it's that clumsy.




 **alt\_seamus** at [2014-04-29 04:18:24](#)  
(no subject)

Do you want me to come?

Marvolo bloody well SHOULD'N'T be setting you up like that. He's supposed to be all unbiased.

But, he's a Slytherin, and he's mates with Malfoy, so who knows.




 **alt\_padma** at [2014-04-29 04:23:19](#)  
(no subject)

He says he can't tell me over the journals and that I'm not supposed to talk about the fact that he asked to meet.

I think you'd better come but stay hidden in case.

I've got lessons all day, so I'll tell him after four. All right?



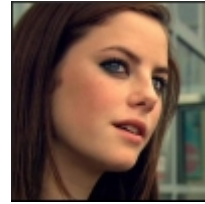
 **alt\_seamus** at [2014-04-29 04:33:14](#)  
(no subject)

Yeah, that should be fine. Just tell me where.

**2014-04-29 08:24:00**

*Private message to Blaise*

So did you bin her gift into the fire or do the decent thing and open it? Or at least put it aside until you're feeling less raw about the whole thing.

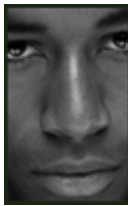



 [alt\\_daphne](#)

But you didn't really think you'd end up with Padma in the long haul, did you? Her parents would never allow it, and whatever excitement you got out of quarreling together would have eventually gone sour.

And I hope you're still not holding Draco responsible. You know as well as I do how mortified he was by that entire display.

Anyway, as far as birthdays go, I'm sure you've had better. But you are of age now, so at least there's that.



 [alt\\_blaise](#) at **2014-04-29 15:57:59**  
*(no subject)*

Cuff links. Attractive, but meaningless.


No, of course, I've never thought of her as more than a phase. And if it weren't for this competition...

Whatever. It may be better being certain she's not an ally than to wonder when she'd turn.

How are you, then? It can't have been pleasant for you, either.

As for Draco, I suppose we we've both been collateral damage. Being made a laughingstock was not what I needed at this point in it all. It damages my position and makes everything far riskier. I imagine Draco feels the same.



 [alt\\_daphne](#) at **2014-04-29 16:21:33**  
*(no subject)*

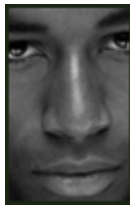
Do cufflinks ever have meaning? They're meant to keep your cuffs closed. Though I suppose it depends on the design...


It does seem this contest has the challengers thinking a great deal about who's an ally and who's an enemy. I'm not sure why that is, when really, we're all loyal to the Protectorate together, yes? Though perhaps that untrusting mentality comes with the territory of being a council member, which itself seems somewhat fractured of late.

Yet there's plenty of evidence to suggest that Professors Raz and Doves have complete trust in each other, isn't there? Or Professor Doves and Barty Crouch, they're practically like father and son.

I don't believe Draco is *concerned* about his position, per se, but he is, as ever, entirely mindful of what this pursuit entails.

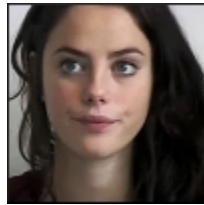
But I'm fine, of course. I do feel a bit badly for Padma, knowing now how extensive her jealousy of me is. She is rather used to coming out on top.




 **alt\_blaise** at [2014-04-29 20:08:34](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know. The more I look at it, the more I see that while there was a long time when things were stable on the Council, that's not true now. Even old allies are turning on one another. Take Mr-. Nevermind. The closer they were and the longer they were close, the more toxic things get when they turn.

Padma will manage. I'm glad you're alright.

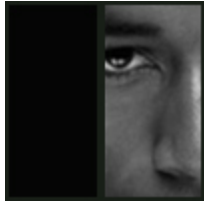



 **alt\_daphne** at [2014-04-29 22:01:33](#)  
(no subject)

Perhaps that's precisely why our Lord is looking for new blood - to re-invigorate the council even further. If you make it, have you given much thought to who you'd most like by your side while you're there?

Oh, and was your recent challenge to break up with Padma? Because if so, I suppose you owe whoever gave her that potion a bit of thanks, for giving you such a handy reason to not look back.





 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2014-04-29 22:51:37](#)**  
(no subject)


As an ally, you mean? Or a lifemate?

I don't think Yaxley minded Padma. Who knows what she'd have done if I'd kept on after the party, though. You might be right.

But, no, my most recent was to do something decisive to show that mother and I are worthy of Our Lord's favour. Since ours is not a Council family. (Naturally, I didn't point out that Mother had tried that once.)

I popped up Regent Street to the offices of the Protector's Fund (you know, aiding families of those fallen in the service of the realm) and made a rather grand donation in Mother's name. Best I could do on short notice: I didn't get the owl until Saturday morning.




 **[alt\\_daphne](#)** at **[2014-04-29 23:25:04](#)**  
(no subject)

I mean allies, of course. Since when do you use words like "lifemate?"

Oh. Well, that one doesn't sound too difficult. Or you handled it quite easily, at least.



 **[alt\\_blaise](#)** at **[2014-04-30 02:18:00](#)**  
(no subject)

Ha. No idea, really. Suppose it sounded right at the time.

And, yes, this challenge allowed me to use all the skills I've learned from Mother.

**2014-04-29 08:50:00**

*Private Message to Percy Weasley*

About to leave for Bode meeting ....


Think you might wish to come along. May prove educational for you. Experience, if nothing else.

Shall be ready in five minutes.



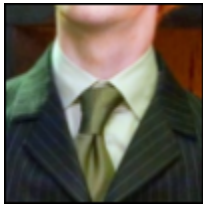
 [alt\\_lucius](#)



 [alt\\_lucius](#) at **2014-04-29 14:53:17**  
(no subject)

Well done, young man.

Enjoy the rest of your day off.



 [alt\\_percy](#) at **2014-04-30 01:33:35**  
(no subject)

Thank you, sir.

That is--thank you.

**2014-04-29 13:00:00**

*Order Only: Private Message to Harry*



 [alt\\_sirius](#)


Hey, kiddo,

How's it going, with you and Hydra? I know I've been a bit more focused on Justin at present but don't forget I'm here for you, too. No matter what the circumstances it's not easy, breaking up, and just because you're not in this competition, it doesn't mean you're not feeling the pressure as well.

Don't think I didn't notice you were pretty quiet at the meeting. And before it. And after.

If you ever want to talk, you've only to say.

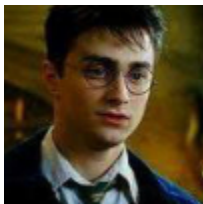



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-29 18:13:34**  
(no subject)

It's okay, I guess.

I mean, Hydra's still really sad about Justin. But we're talking a lot, which is good. And we're working really hard to be a team -- to plan out things together, and talk about what we want to do and how we're going to do it, so we can do it together.

It's sort of hard sorting out things with Justin, but I'm trying. Like I want it to be really clear that Justin's still a mate, and that he's okay with it, but that means he'll have to be around us, you know? And it's all kind of complicated. And it's really awkward sometimes. With both of them. But Justin especially.



 [alt\\_harry](#) at **2014-04-29 18:18:10**  
(no subject)

And.

I got the report from Katie today.

She just sort of dropped it on my plate at lunch.


She was told that since she was no longer under my protection, that

she needed to find someone else, and she was told right out to seduce a council member who wasn't a sponsor. So she did. Cal Pummel.

I didn't

I know she's really angry with me, and that's not what I wanted to happen. And it's my fault.

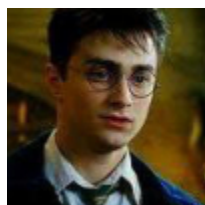


 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-29 19:34:53](#)

*(no subject)*

Circe, Harry, you don't half start with the easy stuff, do you?

Well, look. It's not your fault, what she did. It's those bastards' fault for setting her any kind of a challenge like that in the first place.

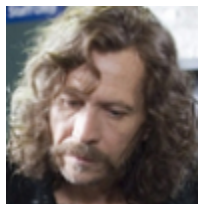


 [alt\\_harry](#) at [2014-04-29 19:41:14](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah. But it was because of me she was chosen to begin with, and now I've dropped her, and I guess I told myself that it would be better for her, you know? Only it really isn't.

And I can't help everyone all the time, I know that. And I'd rather I guess I'd rather Hydra was okay, if I had to, you know, pick.



 [alt\\_sirius](#) at [2014-04-29 21:33:13](#)


*(no subject)*

Have you talked to Katie about how things are? Have you asked her what she thinks about the Council and enslaving Muggleborns and so on? I think she's aware of how bad it is all round, isn't she? So she won't hold any of this against you forever. And if she does, in the short term, well ... that's not your fault, either. She has every right to be angry for what they've made her do. She's taking it out on you because she knows you'll care, while they obviously don't.

Harry, you thought breaking up with her was for the best. You can't stay with someone forever just because you think you're protecting her. You can still try to protect her, you know, unless you think that would harm her more. What about telling her sponsor or this Pummel bloke to get bent?

As for things with Justin and Hydra - yes, it's bound to be awkward. I've a feeling you're in another situation there where you're doomed no matter what. It helps that he knows you two aren't really in love or anything, even if it's going to be difficult for him to act as if he doesn't care. I suppose the best thing I can recommend is to make sure you spend as much time in public with each of them alone as you do publicly all together.



 **alt\_harry** at **2014-04-29 22:07:29**  
(no subject)

That was one of the problems we had, I guess. Not really talking about stuff like that. We sort of avoided it before the contest. Maybe I was afraid of what she'd say. And it was nice to be normal sometimes. You know.

Once she's not as hacked off, I might see if she'd talk more about it. Maybe it'll be easier to talk about when we aren't dating.

And yeah, I told her I'd keep an eye out for her, and I meant it. And Ptolemy Baddock can jump off a bridge.

**2014-04-29 17:36:00**

*(no subject)*

Anyone bring any good books from home? Book exchange, Saturday at 7, secret room.



 **alt\_galleon**

**2014-04-29 17:39:00**

*(no subject)*

ILL BE THERE LORD OF THE RINGS WAS  
BRILL EVERYONE KEEP ON LOOKING OUT  
FOR NOTT LET ME KNOW IF HE DOES  
ANYTHING HM



 [alt\\_galleon](#)

**[2014-04-29 22:05:00](#)**

*Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom*




 **[alt\\_molly](#)**

First of all, I want you to know that when I confronted Fred and George, they ended up confessing their role in Ron's latest...manoeuvres, with the challenges. I made them swear they won't be forwarding any more experimental products to aid one or another candidate--unless you order it and all candidates agree. I do think their promise will hold.

I want to say something to Ron. I was angry, of course, furious, but a Howler is out of the question, and besides, I know perfectly well he wouldn't react at all well to my scolding him like a child. But I can see he's been sending plenty of private messages, although he hasn't said anything to me.

Should I be worried? Should I wait for him to say something to me, or--what would you suggest?



 **[alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-04-30 03:48:35](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I do agree that experimental potions and untested products ought to be avoided -- as should anything that could be directly traced to them.

And Molly -- I can only imagine what you're feeling at the moment. But if it helps matters, I believe he's thoroughly learned his lesson. He also offered a sincere apology to Draco, and I consider the matter resolved. As far as his recent activity, he's very much taking to heart what I asked for, to keep Harry and his fellow competitors informed and aware, which I wholly appreciate.

You're quite wise when it comes to teenage boys, and I think you're right -- too much lecturing can turn things sour, and obscure the message.


I've been talking a great deal lately to Severus about what it means to provide support without fear of judgement -- how sometimes,



simply offering unconditional trust, love, and respect can be quite a boon. I certainly hope to try and foster that environment as best I can.

One of the things I think about when I think of you is your deep and endless capacity for love, Molly. It's one of your greatest strengths. All our young people are going through such a stressful time right now -- Ron included -- and it can never hurt for him to hear that he has your support.



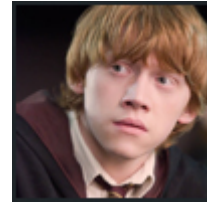
 **alt\_molly** at **2014-04-30 04:12:48**  
*(no subject)*

I will do that.

Thank you, Alice.

**2014-04-29 23:04:00**

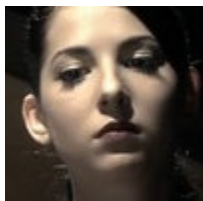
*Order Only Private Message to Sally Anne Perks*



 [alt\\_ron](#)

Have you and Pansy decided when you're going to have to take that potion? I mean, does it go off after a certain number of days? Or is it good for a while?

You're not going to go and take it without telling me, are you? I'm serious about wanting to be there.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-30 04:14:23**  
(no subject)

It's good for a few days. I was thinking maybe the weekend. But probably Friday night, actually, so I'll have all weekend to recover.

I won't take it without you there, I promise.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at **2014-04-30 04:18:09**  
(no subject)

Good, because-

Alright, it worries me. I mean, this is a serious potion. Not that I think Pansy's not got it right or anything. I mean, everyone says Mr Snape's really good at brewing. But, well-

You talked to Professor Carpenter about it, right? Did she know anything that hadn't turned up when you were reading about it?




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at **2014-04-30 04:22:13**  
(no subject)

I'm sure she's got it right. Mr Snape apparently made her start it over three times. So -- he knows what to look for, he watched her brew it the whole time, and he wouldn't let her get it wrong.

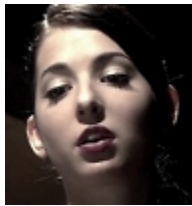
It's still -- well, there are some risks. Mostly, they come up if you take it over and over, the way people did hundreds of years ago


when there was rather a fad for it. If you take it over and over, it drives you mad. So it's not worth it, especially since of the things you see, some of them are real glimpses of the future (or at least of a possible future), some of them are real glimpses of the past or present, some of them are real but completely misleading, and some of them are just completely untrue. Professor Carpenter said it was more 'recreational than practical' and then told me not to use it (but like I said mostly the risks come up if you use it more than once).



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 04:26:41](#)  
(no subject)

Mostly?



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 04:31:50](#)  
(no subject)

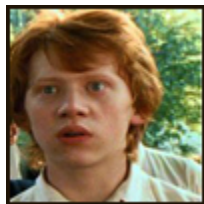
I'm not going to go mad, don't worry. There are stories about people going mad after trying it one time but I did some reading and they all drank like a GALLON of the stuff.




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 04:32:24](#)  
(no subject)

And even they stopped being mad eventually.

It's the people who took it over and over who wound up in the St M's curse damage ward.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 04:43:34](#)  
(no subject)

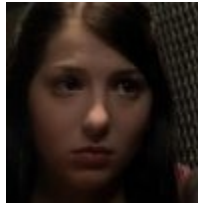
Okay. You're sure?

Did you ask Mr Snape about it? I mean, he usually tells it straight even if it's not what you want to hear.

I mean. Argh. I mean, what if some people are just more...

receptive or sensitive to it? And what if you're-

Sorry. I'm sure it's going to be okay if you say it is.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 04:52:13](#)  
(no subject)

Mr Snape said it's a lot more dangerous if it's not brewed properly and then he assured me it would be perfect. So.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 04:52:30](#)  
(no subject)


I hate this stupid challenge.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 04:52:50](#)  
(no subject)

I mean the whole thing, not just this bit.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 04:59:58](#)  
(no subject)

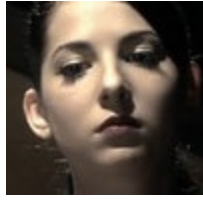
Me, too.

All of it.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 05:03:43](#)  
(no subject)


How did things go with Padma?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-30 05:07:17](#)**  
(no subject)

(You don't have to stay up and answer if you'd rather go to sleep. Sorry, I should have asked earlier and instead I was thinking about the potion and ... other stuff. Anyway.)



 **[alt\\_ron](#)** at **[2014-04-30 05:28:14](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah...

I don't even want to think about that tonight or I'll never go to sleep, y'know?

I'll tell you tomorrow.

Alright?



 **[alt\\_sally\\_anne](#)** at **[2014-04-30 05:37:55](#)**  
(no subject)

Yeah, of course it's alright.

I'll talk to you tomorrow.

**2014-04-30 11:03:00**

*Order Only*

ISS mostly

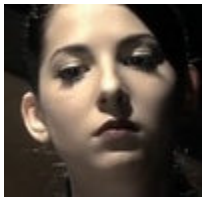
Did you lot see that Zabini's fa- step-father was found dead? It's about four pages back in the Prophet. Bundy saw it.



 [alt\\_ron](#)

It says he was found in Cardiff yesterday and MLE are investigating, so it must've been suspicious. I mean, I guess I'll say something to him if I get a chance at lunch or in Potions this afternoon, because that's awful. I don't expect he cares much what I say, but still.

---




 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 16:26:13](#)

*(no subject)*

He's lost other stepfathers. I mean -- this definitely wasn't the first, he's had five or six others or maybe even more, I'm not going to ask him considering it's a slightly sensitive subject.

That reminds me, though. Did you see Demelza's sister was sent to Azkaban?

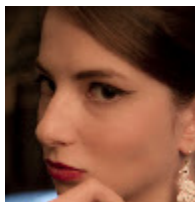


 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 16:37:29](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, I knew there were some others. That many, though? Huh. I mean, his mum-

Oh, yeah. People are being really quiet about that in Gryffindor, though.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 16:50:37](#)

*(no subject)*

Yeah, with Blaise's mum, it's one of those things that everyone knows but nobody says.



 [alt\\_sally\\_anne](#) at [2014-04-30 16:51:09](#)  
(no subject)

I had rather got the impression she liked this one, though. Better than Blaise did, anyway. But presumably she liked all of them for a while....



 [alt\\_hermione](#) at [2014-04-30 16:40:39](#)  
(no subject)


Yes, and there's a notice that the Ministry are hiring for a number of 'choice positions' in a number of departments, as well. I think one of them's her job but it mentions Protectorate Affairs as well.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-30 20:20:46](#)  
(no subject)


Tsk, what a shame.



 [alt\\_pansy](#) at [2014-04-30 20:44:01](#)  
(no subject)

I wonder if it was political, or if she actually killed someone.



 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 20:51:42](#)  
(no subject)

She's meant to have killed one of the Glendowers, yeah?


I mean, I heard he was her lover, but that could've just been talk.



 **alt\_draco** at [2014-04-30 20:20:08](#)  
(no subject)


Daphne and I discussed it this morning, as the news had her singularly perturbed. She wondered if Blaise's mother was involved, but the more we talked about it the more she seemed to entertain the idea that it was Blaise himself who was responsible. She wouldn't really reveal why she came to suspect such a thing, but she did tell me that his latest challenge was to do something to demonstrate that his family was worthy of Voldemort's favour.



 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-30 20:37:47](#)  
(no subject)

I guess I'll find out if he tells me in his report.




 **alt\_ron** at [2014-04-30 20:56:28](#)  
(no subject)

Do you think he'd tell?

I mean... If he did admit it, or take credit for it, would MLE go after him for it?

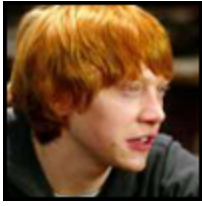



 **alt\_harry** at [2014-04-30 23:05:52](#)  
(no subject)

I don't know. He wouldn't get credit for it unless he told *someone*, but I can see how he'd tell his sponsor but not me.

Still. If he trusts his sponsor to not use that information as blackmail further down the line, he's barmy.






 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 20:48:44](#)  
(no subject)

She thinks he'd actually do that?


That would pretty well mean we were wasting our time yesterday, trying to keep murder out of this.



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-30 20:51:27](#)  
(no subject)

Not with his own wand. Arrangements of another kind, no doubt.




 [alt\\_ron](#) at [2014-04-30 20:54:53](#)  
(no subject)

Hm.

Well, that's sort of his approach. In the contest, I mean.

But I wouldn't have picked him for being the first of us to kill someone. Would you?



 [alt\\_draco](#) at [2014-04-30 21:02:23](#)  
(no subject)

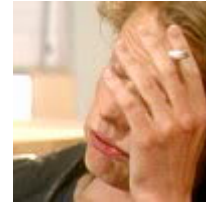
I don't know if it's safe to say that he's the first.  
You came pretty close

**2014-04-30 12:54:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private message to Tonks*

Has Dumbledore talked to you yet?

Half the time I swear I can't tell whether that man is constantly taking the piss out of all of us.



 [alt\\_charlie](#)

I told him I had to talk to you first. And that I'd go with whatever you decided. Once I was done boggling at him, at least.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2014-04-30 17:15:09**

*(no subject)*

I mean. How the sodding dragon-shelled fuck do you come up with something like that?

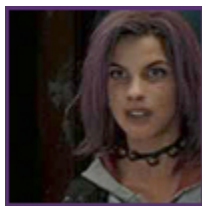
~~It's like a teenage wizard's wank dream or something~~



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at **2014-04-30 17:16:27**

*(no subject)*

He has to have talked to you first, right? He wouldn't have started with me. ~~Or if he did that's bollocks~~



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2014-04-30 18:46:29**

*(no subject)*


I was asleep. Until Kreacher realised that the nasty blood traitor wouldn't get out of the fire until he'd got me to talk to him.

I've no idea what gets into him- Dumbledore, I mean.

But, honestly, now I've had a cuppa and a chance to think about it half a moment, it's not as if I haven't thought of having another. And, really, it wouldn't hurt me. What could it hurt?

Oh, but. I don't mean that to put pressure on you. I'm not assuming you'd want that.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2014-04-30 19:46:41**  
(no subject)

No! No, it's not on my behalf that's I'm sitting here wondering if he's gone round the twist, it's just -- how the suffering wings of Ladon and his little golden apples do you even think of something like that? And then bring it to people with a straight face?

And how did he think that we were the ones to talk to about it? I mean. ~~It's not like we've told people~~

-- okay, I've been sitting here ever since I got out of the fire with him and trying to pull together my thoughts and I just keep coming back to the same few things and turning them around and around and not coming to any conclusions. Let me try and see if I can put it in words, and you forgive me when it comes out a bit jumbled, or when I put my foot in it, yeah?

It's your body and you're the only one who gets to have the say about what gets done with it. There's nothing in the whole world that could make me agree to this if you weren't completely, totally, entirely on board. I don't care if Dumbledore thinks that rite might be able to crack the wards. Hell, I wouldn't care if Dumbledore thought that rite could cause Voldemort to spontaneously combust and take all his Council with him and wake up all the Sleepers and, and, give them each a million Galleons and a pony.

But. I know you've been thinking about having another kid for a while. And I know you've been thinking about, how would you do it, and who would you get to be the father, and how it might fit in to your family and your work with the Order and and and, and I told you -- oh, it was a good while back now, you may have even forgot -- that if you did want another, you could call me, and I'd help. And that's still true. Because you're

Well. You're a good mum. No, strike that. You're a great mum. Bea's happy and healthy and she's never known a day of being lonely or scared or uncertain. And if you have another kid, I know they'll be the same.

And, look. I know we both said right up front that you and me,

we're in it for fun and we're friends no matter what, and that's true. I don't see it changing anytime in the future, either. I'm fine with us being in this together. I trust you. I trust you'd do right by the kid and I trust you that we could work out any problems we had between the two of us.

I've always wanted kids someday, yeah? That's not the issue.

And I'd do or be anything you wanted me to as part of this. I'd help support it, even though the three of you are doing just fine supporting yourselves and Bea. And I know we'd have to work out stories carefully, because you and 'Mr Ponds' are still married and all, but I could be your old school chum there to give you a hand and take you to the Healer and bring you toast and tea.

If you wanted me to, I mean. Not that I think you couldn't handle it by yourself, just that -- you shouldn't have to, not if I could help. I mean, I know you have Remus and Sirius and all, but ... Merlin, I'm blathering. I just want you to know that I'd be willing to do as much or as little as you wanted, yeah?

And once it's born, if you wanted me to be the baby's father figure, I'd be fine with that. However we could make that work, and I do think we could make it work. It would take us a lot of talking it out to see what that meant for us, but if there's one thing I've learned over the last, oh, six years or so, it's how to have a talk about relationships, not just sex or love relationships I mean, all kinds of people relationships, without everybody winding up screaming at each other and going off to sulk in the loo for hours on end. We could work out something that everybody was happy with -- you, me, Sirius and Remus, Bea, everybody. (Oh, Merlin. Mum. I don't know how Mum would react.)

And if you wanted me to be Uncle Charlie who stops in when he can and babysits and brings the kid indulgent toys that make noise and drive you bonkers and that's all, I -- think I would be okay with that? I keep coming back to that and thinking, could I stand to watch my kid calling somebody else Da, and not be bothered by it, and I keep coming round and round back to the answer that -- well, that if the kid's happy and healthy and never knows a day of being scared or lonely or uncertain, as long as the kid knows that they're loved and cherished and secure, that's the important part. And I know you can do that. I can't be absolutely certain how I'd feel once the kid got here, but -- like I said, I trust

you. I would trust you with my kid. (Our kid. Merlin.)


So I keep going around and around and around and not really getting anywhere. Sorry. That's a page and a half of blather and even I don't think I'm making any sense.

But it's your decision, love. It is absolutely, without a doubt, one hundred percent your own sodding decision. If you're on board with the idea, I'm on board with the idea. If you're not on board with the idea, or even if you're mostly sure but still have even a little bit of doubt, Dumbledore can shove it.

And mostly I'm just sitting here and thinking, who the fuck goes and tells somebody "oh by the way, I have this idea, tomorrow's Beltane, how would you like to spend it fucking for England" and suggests you go try to make a baby as part of a ritual to try to, I don't know, save the world or whatever -- with less than a day's notice?

Albus sodding Dumbledore, that's who.



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-30 19:49:42](#)**  
(no subject)

Sorry. Sorry. I didn't realise how much of a mess that all was until I finished writing it all out.

Look. Let's you and me talk about this later tonight, all right? I'm on shift until ten, but if it's all right, I can come down after. It can be just us, or we can bring Remus and Sirius in, or ... I don't know. I just don't want to decide anything entirely by journal without talking about it in person.



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-04-30 20:28:46](#)**  
(no subject)

Oh. Phah.

I just started laughing so loudly, reading yours, that Padfoot and Bea came in to see about me. I'm going to have to tell him something!

Sorry. I wasn't laughing at- well, I was, rather. You know we're going to try this, don't you?

I mean, why not? There's nothing says it'll work. I'm not at the right time of the month, I don't think. I mean to say, I suppose I don't know exactly what the right time is so much as when it's really not, but what are the chances?

What are the chances the old man's right?

And it's worth a wild try he might be, isn't it?

You know what they all say about his being omniscient. I hadn't thought it until you said, but how did he have any notion to ask us? I mean, we've kept your mother from suspecting, and she's got special Mum sensors for picking up on that sort of thing, hasn't she?

Actually, though. That's the thing we need to talk about. Really, truly.


Tonight.

And I do want us to talk and then all of us to talk if Themselves are able to be here. Remus and Ellie can cover the garden so I can leave whenever you get here, and then he and Sirius can come join us after they've got things done up for the night at Doughty.

But... I have to admit: I think it sounds like a wicked lark, don't you?

And now it's got me tickled again.



 **alt\_charlie** at **2014-04-30 21:04:08**  
(no subject)

I know. I keep breaking out into fits of the giggles and then realising how serious it all is and fretting about it for five minutes before it strikes me again how absolutely mental this whole idea is and losing it again.

Fucking for England! Shagging to save everyone! Bringing new meaning to the phrase "field of engagement"!

Maybe that's why the old man asked us specifically, he needed experts at it!

Ahem. Yeah. You're right, aren't you. We are going to do this. It's mad, it's absolutely sodding barking, but I guess we are the best choice, because no matter what (or who) comes out of it, we'll be able to handle it, you and me.

Right, then, I'll head straight down as soon as I'm relieved. And I'll spend the time until then working out all the six score questions we really ought to have settled between us before we tell the old man Yes or No for sure, even if the Yes is pretty inevitable. (Yeah, like 'what do we tell Mum'. Or, really, 'do we tell Mum', and 'do we tell anyone', and 'no, really, how can we tell anyone without cracking up from the absurdity', and all that.)


And I mean it, you know. This is going to send you into fits again, I just know it, but, you're the only girl in the whole world I'd be willing to bang for the war effort. (Merlin, I can't even write that with a straight face.)



 **[alt\\_nymphadora](#)** at **[2014-04-30 21:12:33](#)**  
(no subject)

There you go, banging on about it!



 **[alt\\_charlie](#)** at **[2014-04-30 21:06:59](#)**  
(no subject)

I mean. Really.

ALBUS SODDING DUMBLEDORE TOLD US WE  
NEED TO GET A LEG OVER AS PART OF  
DEFEATING VOLDEMORT.

Our lives, Tonks. Our bloody lives.




 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-30 21:11:15](#)  
(no subject)

I know, what?

Well, count me as ready to take one for the side.



 [alt\\_charlie](#) at [2014-04-30 20:08:47](#)  
(no subject)

And. The more I think about it, the more -- you know, I would really like to someday meet a little person who was a little bit of you and a little bit of me.

And if we do this? Let's you and me swear right now that neither of us will ever tell the kid how they came about. Because I wouldn't want them to ever think they were there for any reason other than because we wanted them.

I mean. If we did this.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-04-30 20:18:36](#)  
(no subject)

I swear.

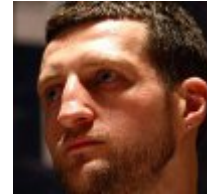
That sounds just right.



**2014-04-30 13:41:00**

*Private message to Bill Weasley*


Need you to order some flowers. The 'sorry about your tragic loss' sort of bouquet. Have them sent on my behalf to Amara Cooper. Amara Mitiku. Whatever she's going by at present.



 [alt\\_corax](#)

Belladonna, oleander, and a cluster of eight black roses with a red rose in the center. Figure out a note. I'm sure you know what a condolence letter is supposed to say. She won't need a signature, she'll know who it's from.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-30 23:29:04**  
(no subject)

They will arrive this evening.

**2014-04-30 18:31:00**

*Order Only: Broderick Bode*

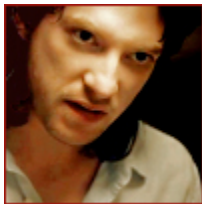
For those of you who missed it, there was an item in the *Prophet* today announcing the dismissal of Broderick Bode, MLE Unspeakable. His assistant, Chelsea Burris, had some unflattering comments about how his 'reckless experimentation' at the Ministry inadvertently amplified the effects of the recent earthquake felt in Cornwall and southwestern portions of Devon.




 [alt\\_bill](#)

*That* is certainly suggestive, of the Octoboros network, I mean. And it suggests that the Unspeakables are really quite unhappy about how they're performing. Or perhaps how they've been fiddled with.

Even more suggestive: I had lunch with Percy today who confirmed that Broderick Bode is not just sacked, but dead. I am not sure whether this is the only way Unspeakables may leave their employ under our present regime.



 [alt\\_bill](#) at **2014-04-30 23:51:59**

*Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley*

There's more that was discussed at that lunch, but I'd rather not say it in front of Mum.

Bode is dead because Percy killed him. A ritualistic execution, and, I think, a gauging of Percy's ruthlessness, which apparently he was quite willing to demonstrate. Percy used the killing curse. He told me not to let the news go any further, but I rather think he's testing me, to see if the news filters up from Corax Mulciber's right-hand man to Mulciber.

I had laid the groundwork, I think, by telling him of my work the past week, stuffing little kids down a wulfram mine. That made him decide I was as cold-hearted as he is, I guess, the bloody bastard. When he boasted of killing Bode, using Avada Kedavra, I kept my composure, although it was difficult.


He hinted that it was a test of his mettle, and he immediately started speaking next of Virgil Crispin, his mentor, and how he was recently elevated to the Council.

I think there's a good chance that Percy will be invited to take the Lord Protector's Mark soon.

Bloody hell.

I'm glad that Dad will never know.



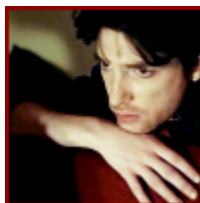
 **alt\_charlie** at **2014-05-01 00:36:13**


*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley*

Oh, Merlin. I don't know what to say. On the one hand, I've been waiting to hear that news, or something like it, for ... Merlin, half a year now, it has to be. On the other hand... oh, Percy.

I'm sorry you had to sit through all that. I'm not wasting one more moment of compassion on Percy ever again, because he's made it dead clear what he thinks of us and of compassion both and I hope he chokes on it, but I'm sorry you had to sit through that.

There's the whole Order thing for Beltane tomorrow and I need to spend tonight getting some details for arranged, but depending on how it goes tomorrow, we could meet up tomorrow night? Or Friday, Friday's probably safer to plan on. Friday night, let's you and me have a drink and play some chess and you can pretend I'm Percy and yell all the things you really want to yell at him, at me instead. Would that help? Or would it just be too painful?




 **alt\_bill** at **2014-05-01 00:59:30**

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley*

Actually, I think that would be just about perfect. Friday it is.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **2014-05-01 04:26:39**

*Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Charlie Weasley*

I'm so sorry, Bill.

Thank you for telling me.

If it helps at all, the button we've set up at the mines seems to be doing its job -- at the very least, they'll be able to exchange messages back and forth.

**2014-04-30 20:09:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Evelyn Longbottom*



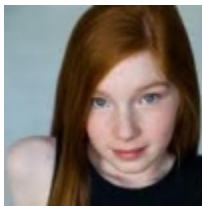
 **alt\_neville**


You have no idea how lucky you are to get along for the most part with your dormmates. Although who knows; maybe the Protectorate'll try to set you at each other's throats when you're studying for NEWTs, too.

I don't have time for this. I finally blew up at all three of them, saying 'Dammit, you lot, act like civilised beings, would you?' Surprised Seamus and Dean and even Ron, because I'm generally the peacemaker, but the latest skirmish was just the last straw.

So I told them: there will be no more fighting in *this* dormitory. Period. I looked up a klaxon charm that responds to ANY magic cast in the room aside from Lumos and Nox. I'm the only one who knows the warding and disarming spells. I take it off in the morning when *I* wake up, so the rest of them can open up their blood-warded trunks and do whatever dressing spells they use. I put it back on when *I* go to bed at night, so they'd better have what they've needed from their trunks and locked them again by then. I even made Nearly Headless Nick promise to go get Hooch and maybe Milland and the Headmistress, if necessary, as soon as the alarm ward goes off. So there will be NO more ambushes. PERIOD.

(Now I know what you mean when you're always going on about 'Boys.')




 **alt\_evelyn** at **2014-05-01 04:45:16**  
(no subject)

Boys aren't *all* bad.

And if you'll recall, Ragnilda didn't talk to me for the first six months we were at Hogwarts. I suppose the silent treatment isn't nearly as bad as what your dorm has been going through, though.

That was incredibly mean-spirited of Thomas and Finnegan.



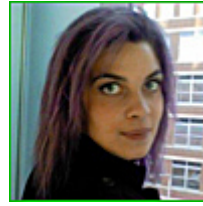
 **[alt\\_evelyn](#)** at **[2014-05-01 04:46:50](#)**  
*(no subject)*

I know Draco was going on about how we're kept out of harm's way, but I'm so glad you're not part of this, Pete.

Besides, we'll show him harm's way this weekend, won't we!

**2014-04-30 22:31:00**

*Order Only Private Message to Alice Longbottom and Kingsley Shacklebolt*



Charlie and I are still on for tomorrow, but we've been handed a bit of a side mission by Albus. It means that as soon as the newly activating stone gets found, we need to both be called if we're the ones chasing our tails in the wrong location.

 [alt\\_nymphadora](#)

Albus has a rite he wants us to perform along the ley, as close as is practical to the activation site.

I'll brief you tomorrow, but it's going to require some of the rest of you watching a perimeter around us while we do it. The rite. I'll explain. Or Charlie will.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at **2014-05-01 03:50:13**

*Private Message to Alice*

I just realised you're not going to be there to hear what Albus has put us up to.

He's been looking into things and has the notion that this old Beltane rite he's reworked might weaken the wards if it's performed close to the new ward stone tomorrow during the flare if there is one.

You see what he's asking? (We're not mentioning this to everyone just yet.)

He just contacted us today, mind. Charlie's here, and we're talking through the details now. Sirius and Remus will be here soon, and we'll work through it again with them. About what we'd do if it's... successful. Or, anywiz, if it gets me knocked up.

We've decided it's alright with us. Unless you think it's a terrible idea.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-05-01 04:36:27](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Oh, goodness.

He'd mentioned something *incredibly* vague last we met, but I was not anticipating it'd take this form.

I must tell you

This is not necessarily the first time he's had this sort of idea.

You see, when Albus heard the prophecy, he did the maths, and there were two couples he knew of who had defied the Dark Lord three times, and there were about nine months to go before the end of July.

If we weren't couples already, I have a feeling he would've asked us to try for it anyways.

We didn't know the full extent of the prophecy at the time -- typical Albus -- we didn't hear it in its entirety until Severus told it to us a few years back.

Still. I don't regret what we chose. Not for a single instant.

Just

Be careful, Tonks. Be sure. And if you are, then all my best to both of you.

It is rather like him, isn't it? To swoop in and declare something utterly mad.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-05-01 04:51:17](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Colin and I can come out and help serve as lookouts, if necessary.



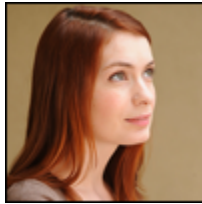



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-05-01 05:04:19](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

It would be lovely if you did, Alice. But I'm not sure Colin ought to be on this detail, do you think? Perhaps he could be one of the ones watching to be sure MLE don't come barging in for a look at

the stone.



 [alt\\_alice](#) at [2014-05-01 06:27:40](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Yes. Goodness yes. I was only thinking every extra pair of eyes and a broom would be of use.

He can certainly scout things out further afield.



 [alt\\_nymphadora](#) at [2014-05-01 04:53:10](#)

*Re: Private Message to Alice*


Remus and Sirius think it's Albus through and through, definitely. You should have seen the look they gave each other when we told them.

Anywiz, Sirius reminded us that trying isn't the same as succeeding. And it's not as if we're definitely about to be parents, though Remus is being much more practical about it all, thinking about what we need to be prepared for if it did happen. 'Bea's only just started sleeping through the night. And responding to instructions occasionally!'

Thanks, Alice. For understanding. We think it's worth seeing if anything comes of it, and we're prepared if a baby does.

We both ask, though, that we be left to tell Molly in our own time. And not until there really is a baby to tell her anything about. I hope we're not putting you in an awkward place by asking that.



 **[alt\\_alice](#)** at **[2014-05-01 05:02:07](#)**

*Re: Private Message to Alice*

Of course, love.

I completely understand.