'Happy Birthday' is now officially Kevin's favourite song. He's led a veritable chorus of the younger children in singing it at dinner for the last few nights, and has drawn a dozen pictures of the party which I've promised to send along to Bea at his request. You can tell which one she is because he took a great deal of care colouring in her hair.

In other words, the party was by all accounts a rousing success.

Has Grimmauld recovered yet?

If 'Happy Birthday' is the worst of what any of them picked up, then I'll call it a success! We did try to keep Kreacher from teaching them anything new. Mrs Black may have overdone herself. We haven't heard more than a bit of rumbling from her since. Mind you, it still smells a bit singed around her curtains. Who knew she'd blow smoke if she got really properly upset about something? (Who knew we hadn't seen her really properly upset!?) They weren't upset by her, were they? It was a bit of luck Honour decided it was funny--that one's got an infectious laugh, though, doesn't she?

Bea's still a bit full of herself after being the centre of so much attention. The birthday tiara mightn't have been my best idea ever. We told her she has to wait until next year to wear it again, and she was not best pleased about that!

I'd imagine not!

And I don't think they were, no. Every now and then one of them will do an impression, but it's mostly
garbled nonsense (thank goodness) and everyone seems to take it as a joke. (Sara does the best one. She shakes her finger and rolls her eyes, and manages to look quite mad.)

Hector is still pouting about not getting to keep the dragon, by the way.

---

@**alt_alice** at 2014-06-02 04:03:58  
(no subject)

And Charlotte and Angel have both forgotten their sulk about how Bea was 'hogging all the boys', too.

---

@**alt_nymphadora** at 2014-06-02 04:15:19  
(no subject)

Charlotte and Angel had a point. Did you hear Bea say that she planned to marry both Kevin and Rory? Said they'd all live together in a big house with lots of animals and three babies.

She was very sure about that part. Three.

Who knows!

---

@**alt_nymphadora** at 2014-06-02 04:30:01  
(no subject)

Oh, And I'm sorry about the dragon. Maybe that should have been one of the things we put away, but the truth is (and don't tell her Uncle Charlie this), when she first opened it, Bea took a queer dislike to that dragon. Wouldn't have any part of it.

Until Hector got hold of it. And then you saw: it was her very most special thing and she couldn't think of giving it to anyone else ever. Not even to share it another minute.

I thought they stopped saying Noooooooo when they got to be three. Was that another myth put about by the Ministry to trick people into having more sprogs?
Oi. Anywiz, that's why the tiara had to go in its box until next year: by the end of the day, we'd all had enough of Princess Albia thinking herself Queen Bea!
Private Message to Ron Weasley

Ron,

I say, I think I may have found a listing we'll fancy. It's a shared bath but that's not too unlike the dormitories, what? And it's fully furnished. Best yet, it's available starting 15th June.

Shall I write to the landlord and inquire? There are two pictures in the listing if you'd like to see. We could go and look at it that first Sunday after we get home.

-Justin

Cheers, mate.

Bring it to supper and we'll have a look? I expect if you think it'll do, I'll be fine with it, y'know?

Has it got a Floo that works?

Now Ginny wants to know what it's close to.

I told her if we can afford it, it's probably not close to anything much. I mean it's not going to be next to Buckingham or the Ministry, and it's not likely to be where you can see the river or anything, is it?

I was thinking I might ask Auror Lamont where she lives and whether she's heard of any listings.
It's too far to walk, I think, but an easy Apparating distance. And yes, it has a Floo, though the fees aren't included.

I believe it's not too far from the river but no, I don't expect one can see the water from the walkup.

Asking Auror Lamont might be a jolly good idea.

-Justin
Thanks for the owl—exams are off to a good start and I'm sure it'll all be fine.

But your news! So you finally convinced Mum about Inderpal? That's wonderful, Pavs. How? I know you said it happened right after our birthday but tell me all about it! I want to know everything.

I just hope that doesn't mean she's holding that Mr Gowda in reserve for me, you know? I guess we'll handle it if it happens.

So when did you set the date? Not til I get home, right? I can't wait to see you and we'll talk for days and days.
**2014-06-02 20:56:00**

*Acceptance*

Dear Messrs Smythe and Postlethwaite,

Thank you, indeed, for the invitation to participate in your Robustious Recuperatives seminar. Expect my owl with payment in full tomorrow breakfast. As you know, I am ever in search of improved techniques and tonics to speed my young patients back to full bloom when accidents and ailments befall them.

---

**alt_poppy** at **2014-06-03 02:16:39**

*Private Message to Peverell Smythe and Theophrastus Postlethwaite*

I'm most grateful to have the participant list in advance, and most pleased with the list you've assembled. A promising group, indeed!

I shall be squeezing several stops in between finishing my end-of-term inventories here and arriving at Igtham Mote. Is there anything at all I might pick up for you along the way? (Alnwick, Mevagissey, Truro, and Grimsby, for certain. Others if time allows. Or requests dictate.)

---

**alt_sinistra** at **2014-06-03 13:01:41**

*Private message to Poppy*

Poppy -

I'd hoped to ask you about something last night, but when I came down, you were clearly otherwise occupied. I do hope everything's all right. You sounded rather upset.

Is your summer nearly scheduled, then?
alt_poppy at 2014-06-03 13:46:13
Re: Private message to Poppy

I'm sorry... I had several small catastrophes here last evening. It started before supper with another of Mr Oglethorp's sick headaches, which leave him so discombobulated. And then I had Mr Twee with a cursed splinter--the things children keep at the bottom of their trunks! And Miss Pummel with a flesh-eating spider bite.

And all that came before the runs swept through the Ravenclaw thirds... a batch of trick sweets shared whilst revising, apparently.

I was in and out, up and down, I'm afraid, but I'm very sorry if I missed you.

What

When did you stop in to ask about?

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-03 14:19:36
Re: Private message to Poppy

Oh, it wasn't the usual sort of thing. I know you can handle that with your usual skill.

Milland was being very sharp at you, and while you were clearly holding your own, I don't think I've ever heard him like that. And Mr Weasley, trying to stay out of the midst.

It did make me worry.

I came down because, well. A personal question I'd like your advice on. It's not urgent.

alt_poppy at 2014-06-03 14:27:00
Re: Private message to Poppy

Mr Milland does have a temper. Especially late in term. I suppose we all do. Fusses about disruptions, fumes about messes, frets about supplies and the like, and is downright fractious when his demands aren't met.
Do you have a free hour today? Between exams? Perhaps a quiet lunch here instead of the chaos in hall? I'm most eager to be of service, if I can be.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-03 14:31:16
Re: Private message to Poppy

I'm out in New London right after I'm done at noon. Not quite sure when I'll be back - might be eight, might be nearer ten, and then I've the evening exam to set up for.

alt_poppy at 2014-06-03 14:35:22
Re: Private message to Poppy

Oh.

Well, then.

If you should be back with time to spare, I will absolutely set aside any but the most urgent matters, now I know you've a need to speak with me. I hate that I missed you last evening, dear. Don't let that keep you from—

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-04 03:36:11
Re: Private message to Poppy

Just wanted to let you know you needn't wait up on my account. I'm only just on my way back - we rather lost track of the time talking and I do like to triple-check that everything's set for the exam.

Might manage time to come see you after supper tomorrow, but I'm entirely booked until then. And truly, what I wanted to ask can entirely wait until next week.
I confess, I was hoping you'd find a clear moment to stop in this evening.

Don't stay away out of concern you'd bother me. I will be most pleased whenever you are able to come.

As for the summer, I'm still trying to decide amongst seminars.

Would you attend a workshop called 'Perish the Thought: Reversing Putrefaction'?

It's that or 'Tackling Trauma: Triage Techniques'. Offered the same half-week. That always happens!

It strikes me that the latter's perhaps more useful than the former, here. At least given the past few years.
ORDER ONLY: Poppy or anyone at Hogwarts

Poppy: I've got three vials of dragon's blood for you. I drew it ten minutes ago, so the clock is ticking. I'll run it up to the cellar door down underneath the infirmary -- that's closest and easiest.

Goodness!

And to think I was just setting aside my book when I saw this. I shall be waiting for you when you arrive.

Three phials?

I would like to lay claim to one. It will help the Anti-Sleeper research immensely.

Only three. Hardly a glut to be spread about and risked on uncertain projects.

Did you get any of the blood?

I think P8.7 through P8.9 would respond well with a drop or two but only if it isn't from a Fireball.
I did, although Madam Pomfrey would not set aside her claim to any of the blood that was drawn while the beast was still alive, despite my insistence that the short viability window for the Cinnabar is means at least one phial would be better used in research.

The phials have been separated into two categories: those marked 'S' were obtained from the beast while it was still alive and salvaged from Mr Weasley's clothing approximately forty minutes later through the use of alkahest solvent, while those marked 'D' were obtained from the dragon corpse approximately one hour and thirty minutes after its death. (I pressed Mr Weasley for further specificity on the timing, but he was, alas, not able to provide more exact information.) I was also able to obtain multiple other ingredients of which we have been suffering the lack, including liver, pancreas, aquæous and vitreous humour, bile, and tongue, among others. They are all in the supply cabinet under the strongest preservation and stasis charms.

I do not know that the P8 line is the best use of our limited resources, though you may be correct that what has, thus far, been a resounding failure may be redeemed through the use of such a powerful ingredient — P8.9 in particular seemed most promising theoretically until it met the cruel realities of practise. I am, I am afraid, entirely too tired at the moment to perform the necessary calculations, though if your intuition is telling you there is potential there, I will do so with all possible haste in the morning. Do so as well when you have a moment, and we will compare our results.

In the meantime, there are several highly educational potions we have not yet been able to study for lack of the necessary ingredient or ingredients that are now open to you; before the end of term we will go through the list and I will allow you to choose which sound most interesting to you. Our poorly-stocked cupboard has kept you from significant sections of the traditional experimental catalogue.
Private Message to Charlie Weasley

Thank you, Charlie. I'll rest easier knowing we've got another three doses of Cinnabaris on hand.

Do be careful not to be seen.

(no subject)

Right, that's done and dealt.

I was on a fly-over in one of the spots up in the hills that isn't on our usual rounds when I saw one of the young bucks had been seriously injured and was dying. When I landed to check it out, I realised he was one of the wild dragons -- not tagged, not tracked. I got three vials of blood from him before his suffering became so acute that I couldn't in good conscience prolong it further just so I could draw more blood.

Poppy and Snape met me at the cellar door. There was a bit of arguing over who had rights to the third vial, made even worse that it had to be decided within a few minutes since the Cinnabaris has to be brewed so immediately upon the blood being drawn. Eventually we decided Poppy could have all three vials and Snape would extract the blood that had got in my robes, then come back with me to where the dragon had died and help me salvage what we can, since experimental potions research doesn't need the blood to have been drawn from a living dragon while the Cinnabaris does.

Alice: Tell Melli and Ragnik I'm going now (as soon as Snape's done with my robes) and I'm going to do my best to salvage everything I can. He was fairly young, looks like last year's clutch, but by that stage they're grown enough to have developed at least a few strands of heartstring.
himself. I can already tell he's going to try to get the blood off me next.

Also, I never (ever) want to be in between Poppy and Snape arguing like that ever again!

And it's a good thing it was just chilly enough tonight that I did stop to put on trousers under my robes before I went out flying -- I don't usually bother when I'm just going out for fun, not for a shift, if it's nice enough out.

-alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 03:24:46
Re: Private message to Tonks

Oh, no, I was wrong. It wasn't me he wanted to get the blood off of next. It was my trousers. So now I'm sitting here in Snape's contraband potions lab in nothing but my pants.

And here I was just thinking I hadn't had occasion to stop and think how ridiculous our lives are for at least a few weeks.

-alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-03 03:34:33
Re: Private message to Tonks

I saw that one coming a mile off.

If you're lucky, he won't want the pants.

-alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 03:40:20
Re: Private message to Tonks

Look, I like Snape well enough when he's not going out of his way to be a tosspot, but I draw the line at letting him in my pants! I'm easy, but I'm not that easy.

I hope he's not too much of an arse when we go back to where I left that poor dragon.
Re: Private message to Tonks

alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-03 03:45:25

I hope he has some reasonable things to let you wear. You'll freeze out there tonight. (No point exploring the double entendres in frost-bit. Sacrificing those is surely beyond the call of duty.)

alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 03:49:21

Re: Private message to Tonks

He says I can have them back when he's done with them, although looking at the solvent he's soaking them in right now, I'm not sure if I want them back when he's done with them. The trousers are a dead loss, but I should be able to wear the robes again, at least for tonight.

And yeah. I'm all for sacrificing for the Order, but not that much.

alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-03 03:41:08

Re: Private message to Tonks

Can't imagine it was very nice, caught in the middle with those two rowing.

Almost as bad as half a dozen little girls quarreling with Albia when she claimed all of the most eligible boys for herself. Or Hector Selwyn battling with her over rights to your lovely carved dragon. Expect you'll guess who won in each of those engagements!

alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 03:46:59

Re: Private message to Tonks

Merlin, yes. Given the choice between supervising a birthday party and trying not to get between Poppy and Snape, I think I'll take Poppy and Snape. They're at least embarrassed when you point out how ridiculous they're being.
I have no doubts at all who won each of those battles! That's my best girl.

Speaking of kids, though, have you

 alt_alice at 2014-06-03 03:33:37
(no subject)

I'll be sure to pass that along. I'm sure they'll be grateful for it.

 alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 03:58:50
(no subject)

Keep your fingers crossed that we can get something useful. I'll know more later.

And Snape's done with my robes, so off we go.

 alt_charlie at 2014-06-03 06:24:40
(no subject)

Right. Seven pieces of heartstring for Melli and Ragnik, although two of them are awfully short and exceptionally delicate -- I nearly tore both of them trying to extract them, and I did lose the eighth as I was trying to tease it loose.

And I took as much of the hide as I thought I could get away with. (We had to leave some of it to make it look like it had been a natural death and it was time, weather, and carrion eaters who took apart the body, not humans.) There's definitely enough for two sets of dragonhide protective armour robes, and maybe a third if the pieces are cut very carefully and pieced together by someone who knows what they're doing. Which isn't me, although I can show whoever's best at sewing a few tricks on how to work with dragonhide without breaking the needles off in it.

Snape has a trunkload of potions ingredients, too. He said he was heading straight back to Hogwarts to get them all under better preservation charms than the ones I cast before I went to deliver the blood to Poppy or the ones he cast as he was harvesting them.
I'm very proud of you, son. I know that couldn't have been easy.

Well done.

You know, if you want to make protective armour robes out of that hide, you really should talk to Fu. He knows EVERYTHING possible about making armour, and a lot of books in his library stash are on the subject. He'd be the best one to figure out how it could be stretched as much as possible. He'd figure out a way that there wouldn't be a single scale wasted.

I'm sorry for the dragon, of course, but I'm particularly glad you were able to get the heartstrings. Everything else, too, but particularly the heartstrings. I know it'll make Melli really happy and I hope that at least some of those wands end up in Muggleborn hands.

Thanks for your hard work. And thanks to Mr Snape for knowing how to use the other bits of it, too.

Merlin, Charlie. You all right, then?

It can't have been easy to put the buck down; I know how fond you are of those beasties. Even the worst-tempered ones. Harvesting heartstring's grim work, too.

I hope it's small enough to cover with brush or a stone cairn or something that isn't too obvious when you're through. I don't like
the idea of others at the preserve discovering someone is thereabouts who's after unregistered heartstring.

Be careful, little brother.

---

**alt_charlie** at 2014-06-03 03:57:38

*Re: Private message to Charlie*

Yeah, I'm all right. Tired, but nothing's new there. I'm waiting for Snape to be done with my robes (and my trousers) and then we can go salvage everything we can.

Yes, that does mean I'm sitting here in Snape's secret potions lab in my pants. Go ahead, laugh, Tonks and I already are.

It's not the first time any of us have had to deal with coming across the body of one of the untagged dragons -- this is the time of year when it's not uncommon for several of them to die unexpectedly. It's always sad, but it's part of the natural order of things. Depending on how much help Snape winds up being, I should be able to make it look like he's been dead a while and the elements and the carrion-eaters have taken care of most of him.

-- and Snape just asked me a few questions about the condition of the body to see what would be salvageable, and I mentioned you'd said to make sure the scene made sense to anyone who came along, and it turns out Snape knows (or maybe invented, I've never heard of it before) a spell to speed up time in a small area as long as the only thing in that area isn't alive. So we can make it look really convincing.

---

**alt_bill** at 2014-06-03 12:57:54

*Re: Private message to Charlie*

'done with your robe and trousers'?

Oh, of course--the blood.

Good idea about the spell Snape suggested using. Hope all goes well.
Are you all right? That poor dragon. Do you know why he was so hurt?

It happens, sometimes. He was a Hebridean Black, and they're right nasty sometimes, even to each other -- they don't share territory easily in the wild, and when the young males are first striking out on their own, if they accidentally stumble into someone else's territory it usually ends badly. The wounds on him were one strike to the back of the neck to paralyse, then all along his belly, the way a territory fight usually winds up looking.

I'm pretty sure I know who did for the poor bastard, that section of the hills is usually claimed by an ancient wild Hebridean we all call "Old Ironsides" for how long he's lasted and how he doesn't even have any scarring on his hide. He's been out there for as long as anyone can remember.

Still, I feel sorry for the poor kid. He was just trying to find a place to call his own. At least we can respect him by using as much of him as we can, for the purposes of doing good in the world.
If either of you are able to come, I need a word.
Before noon.

alt_poppy

I know what we decided, but I keep thinking of her sitting over tea with Delilah Mytens and that Campanella Wright, mulling over whatever exactly she did see and hear last evening--and while I would honestly trust Aurora in most every situation, I do wonder if she might not say something to those friends of hers that could have repercussions.

I trust the patronus reached Charlie, but I wonder if I really oughtn't to tell the rest of the Order what the danger might be.

But then I think whether it makes any sense to upset Molly if nothing comes of it.

alt_albus

Consider, Poppy, my dear, what an alarum would mean.

Chaos, argument, quite likely some foolish plan to intercept her at her cafe, the discussion distracting those students who are sitting exams this week, and Godric knows what else.

Her husband and Antonin Dolohov worry me rather more, in terms of her mulling over what she saw. But they are also likely to notice her responding oddly.

We might just try trust.
Trust.

It's funny: that's just what I hoped you'd tell me, and yet I find your other reflections leave me rather less relieved than I'd expected.

At any rate, if your intuition says that she's to be trusted and mine partly does, then trusting seems a sound course to follow.

In the matter of trust, there is no one who commands so much from me as you do, Albus. I mean that quite sincerely.

Thank you, dear woman. I am not trusting purely to intuition, mind.

If Aurora were the sort to denounce you immediately, we would not now be having this conversation. If she were sure she would in the future, I do not think she would have warned you that she overheard your conversation.

We risk as much by being hasty or causing others to worry over her behaviour as we do by trusting, I think, and we know she thinks well of you. And while she is one of Helga's own, she has learned a little subtlety over the years.

I am also minded both of her comments eighteen months ago, and of conversations with Alice in more recent months about how we must reach out to others about our cause.
2014-06-03 20:03:00
Private message to Padma Patil

I saw you wrote Parvati -- was the owl good news? (You looked like it was good news.)

alt_seamus

2014-06-04 01:09:53
(no subject)

It was mostly to wish me luck this week. But yes, she also told me that the horrible Mr Gowda has been rejected and she and Inderpal are formally engaged!

Are you pretty much ready for tonight's astronomy exam? I've got a few more notations to put into my chart but otherwise I don't think I could possibly revise another minute.

alt_padma

2014-06-04 01:17:17
(no subject)

I probably ought to revise a bit more, but I don't think it would do much good.

And congratulations to Parvati! That's brilliant. Do you know how she talked your parents into it? (They aren't going to try to convince YOU to marry Mr Gowda, are they?)

alt_seamus

2014-06-04 01:21:50
(no subject)

Well, that's how I feel, too. I mean, I just don't care! (And anyway, it's Astronomy. Who really cares about it other than using it for certain types of magic? And if it's that important, there's a whole Guild out there just looking for work, right?)

And that's just what I said to her! About Mr Gowda, I mean. But I don't think so--I mean, I think I can avoid it if that's what they're thinking.

alt_padma

She said she talked it over with Inderpal and Haruman and they
convinced Mum and Dad. I dunno what they said, though, I'll probably find out when we get home.

@alt_seamus at 2014-06-04 01:36:22 (no subject)

Well, if you're invited to be on the Council, you'd need Our Lord's permission to marry, anyway. It wouldn't really be up to your parents.

Did you send your letter?

I sent mine. I said if I were replacing someone I'd suggest Mr Rosier, because he's getting old, and I see how tired he is when I'm home on holidays; he's served Our Lord with such faithfulness for so many years, he gave a son to Our Lord's cause, and perhaps it's time to consider honourable retirement for the eldest people on the Council.

(And if they show him the letter, I know he'll understand.)

@alt_padma at 2014-06-04 02:00:26 (no subject)

Yes, if. I'm not sure.

I mean, we know Draco will be--who doesn't realise that at this point? And then I'm not sure. They never said how many would be chosen. If it were up to me I'd say you, me, Lestrange but only because it's a foregone conclusion, even if she's so young. But then I don't know if He'll choose that many of us, or just one or two. And if it's one or two, he might take Lestrange over the two of us, but he might pick only Draco. Or only one of the two of us. And I'm not sure I'd want that. I mean, I wouldn't want to not be chosen and I wouldn't want to be chosen and you not. You know?

Anyway. My letter.

I wrote mine about Professor McGonagall. I mean, she's utterly horrifying-looking lately, have you seen her? And when's the last time you can recall her doing anything remotely useful? I think she's well past it. Our Lord needs servants who can actually serve!
Oh, good thought!

At least she's mostly quit drinking, hasn't she? Remember when she sometimes showed up drunk for supper? But sometimes I actually forget she's a Councilwitch.

Anyway -- yeah. It's not that I'd want to be passed over, but I'd much rather -- well. It'll be hard enough, being one of the youngest, without someone to trust who was in the same situation.

I know.

I wish we had some idea where we all stood, though. Or if there's any chance Nott might get a Councillor's Mark.

Brrr. There's a terrifying idea.

Do you suppose they'll have us doing challenges all summer?

I don't think so, no. The initial letter said end of term, right? So that would be next week. Which means we're almost done.

But they might actually make us do one more super-hard challenge. I think we've already passed about every possible necessary test, though, don't you?
Yeah.

It seems almost a little anticlimactic, though. Having us write letters, for the last challenge.

Not that I'm complaining.

Me, neither.

I'd just as soon not have to kill someone else, thanks.

Though if I had to do, Nott would be a good choice. Did you hear he was trying to chat up Daphs a few days ago?

He was? SURELY he didn't think she'd actually be interested in him? Though she did go for Bole, I suppose.

The way I heard it, he was really more interested in whether she was really interested in Malfoy. On account of how he had tried to snatch up Lestrange when she dumped F-F but she went for Marvolo quick as you please. So Teds was trying to find out how serious Malfoy and Daphne were, you know?

Still. I can't imagine having Nott interested in me. I'd have to scrub twice a day just from the imaginary creeps!
All right, you can stop scowling at me. I wasn't going to tell you but I asked Ev for the key. She'll want it again at the weekend, though. Now, will you leave off?

....

So. Birthday tomorrow. Big one, too, right? Any particular plans? I imagine Daphs has something planned, she seems to be going out of her way to think of everything these days.

Is.... I mean, are you pleased with your arrangement with her? What I mean is, we seem to have loads of feigned relationships lately and it'd be, er, nice to think someone's actually enjoying themselves.

That wasn't scowling. That was contorting my face in concern.

Your well-being matters to me. I wish that my concern for your well-being mattered to you as much as Black's apparently does, but since it doesn't, then I'll just settle for being glad that you have the portkey back. That's what matters most.

Yes, almost of age now. Daphs is planning the party for Friday evening, though, so that it can be combined with an end-of-exams celebration. Father sent me an owl, as well - now that he's more or less re-established himself, it seems he doesn't see any reason to keep a distance from me. He wants to take me out for some Father-Son bonding activity on Friday afternoon, since I'll be finished with my own exams by then.

I'm not sure what you're asking, about my arrangement with Daphne. I enjoy her company, if that's what you mean. She's easy to get on with, and dead pretty, of course, but I'm not entirely certain that she is enjoying herself, these days. I'm not so thick that I can't see that she wants something more...authentic, I guess.
Sirius only said something else because you put him up to it. Honestly, do you think I didn't notice you'd sent him a message? I suppose what I should be grateful for is that you actually asked him for anything.

What sort of activity? I recall the last time you weren't very happy afterward.

I guess what I mean about Daphne is just that. I mean, it's fine for Hydra and Harry because neither of them really wants to be dating anyone else, so they can just be mates and pretend and there's no pressure. But it's not really all that fair to Daphne if you're just dating her for appearances but she wants it to be real.

There's no chance that you could fancy her back?

No, I knew you'd piece it together. I'd rather you be irritated with me for interfering than not have the portkey. It's no trouble for Evelyn to return it, anyway.

Father mentioned the Tornadoes' match as a possibility, but he made it clear that if I had something else in mind, I should feel free to suggest it. I think I'd rather just go see the Tornadoes, honestly. If we run the course at the Elysium he might suggest we get "massages" afterwards, or merlin knows what else. I'm glad I'll have to be back early for the party.

I thought Daphne and I were on the same page about everything being for the sake of appearances, but lately I'm not so sure. Either she's become dissatisfied with the way things are, or Teddy's made her feel insecure by needling her about it. But you're right, it isn't fair to carry on if she's wanting more than I can give her.

She's quite fanciable, in her own way, but it's just - no. I mean, you
can't just make yourself fancy someone. You of all people should

alt_hermione at 2014-06-04 17:39:58  
(no subject)

I guess it's awkward, spending time with your father when you know that you're working against the Council. I'm sorry. I know you used to really enjoy being with your parents. What's wrong with a massage, though? Aren't they supposed to feel good after exertion?

You said that Teddy had cornered her but you hadn't really talked about it much. Do you think he's going to do something to her, now? First Hydra and now Daphne?

alt_draco at 2014-06-04 17:57:58  
(no subject)

It wasn't that kind of massage. I mean, this kind is supposed to feel good, too, but I hadn't really planned on it, and I still had a girlfriend, at the time. It caught me off guard, I suppose. I think that was when I truly realised that all council members, even those who are married with children, partake of women as freely as they would of wine or good food. Consuming everything in sight is their right, and their reward, for being on the council. And a massage is nothing compared to, say, the polyjuice brothels.

My suspicion is that Teds is trying to get her to either end things with me, so that my "image" takes a hit, or trying to create drama between me and Daphs so that my performance in the council challenge is affected. But it's hard to say with him, isn't it?

alt_hermione at 2014-06-04 18:09:42  
(no subject)

Oh. Do you think she had a choice about it, though? The girl, I mean. (The polyjuice girls don't, you know.) I mean, do you think that's
what always happens at the clubs? Because--I dunno, your father may have had affairs with Miss Robins (and of course Auror Lamont is seeing him so she can spy on him), but he doesn't seem the type who'd use a brothel on a regular basis. Then again, I wouldn't know, I guess.

Whatever he's up to, it doesn't seem as...as malevolent as he was being with Hydra. I mean, he was really all over her and at least with Daphne he was just talking to her, right? Not that it's an excuse. Do you think you should talk to Professor Lestrange? He and Professor Dolohov were ready to put Nott out of commission if necessary. It might be necessary.

alt_draco at 2014-06-04 18:18:55
(no subject)

I don't know. I wasn't really thinking of her in that moment, I guess. She did seem worried about making sure she "did her job" to my Father's specifications, though.

I think brothels and hired girls and the like are reserved for group outings and celebrations, and that my father's preference is for affairs with one person at a time. As is my mother's. Ha, funny that I can write about this with very little emotional attachment. You can't imagine how gutted I was when I started to put it all together.

I don't think Teds has bothered Daphne since we've started exams. He's.. keeping his head down, it seems. Which isn't really like him at all.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-04 18:53:30
(no subject)

Ugh, I wonder why he thought that was necessary. And it makes me wonder what happened to her if she didn't meet his 'specifications'--not that that's a reason to sleep with her. You didn't, did y

I dunno. He saw Miss Robins but she was in Minister Fudge's office for a long time, and he needs to work with Fudge all the time. And he's seeing Auror Lamont but she's also embedded
in Director Mulciber's department, and Mulciber's a threat to him. And your mother...Auror Crouch may be horrible but he did pay a lot of attention to her. And your father can't have failed to notice, either, so maybe she was carrying on to make him jealous?

But it doesn't make a lot of sense to me, either, why they would do. I mean, they always seem perfectly in love. No, I can't imagine how you must have felt but I can certainly understand that it's really upsetting.

On that subject.... I dunno if I should say this or not. Auror Lamont. Some of us are nervous you're just waiting for the right moment to insult her, or shame her, or something. I'm not telling you because I think you will do. I'm telling you because you might want to say something nice to her, to put her more at ease.

@alt_draco at 2014-06-04 18:55:18
(no subject)

I'm sure his affairs are calculated to benefit him in a variety of ways, just as I'm sure that my mother's need for attention and validation has only increased as she gets older. And they are in love - it just isn't enough for either of them, I guess. Just like being pureblooded and wealthy wasn't enough.

As for Lamont.. isn't my saying nothing to her quite "nice," in the context of things? If anyone should be putting anyone at ease, it's her, not me.

@alt_hermione at 2014-06-04 19:12:27
(no subject)

Well...it wasn't enough for you, either, was it?

And look. I know you think you're the one with a grievance but honestly, she's doing a job, too. And she's the one who's new here. And you remember what it was like to come in and read all sorts of things people had said about you and not know whether people were saying it because they didn't know you or because they really thought you were a right wanker. I'm sure she feels really
uncomfortable about it. And what's she supposed to do, write to you out of the blue and say 'I know it's odd because I'm your father's mistress but don't hold it against me?' Who's going to do that? That's foolish even for a Gryffindor and she's not one of us.

alt_draco at 2014-06-04 19:19:57
(no subject)

It's different. I've never had a choice, I've been connected to Harry (and, thus, the Lord Protector) since we were babies. My parents could have just minded their own business when the Lord Protector was seizing power, but no, that wasn't enough. They had to be a part of it. There's nothing I can do to change that, but I do sometimes wish they'd chosen their path differently.

Being uncomfortable (or comfortable, depending on how you look at it) comes with her job, too. She's a big girl, and until I have reason to do so, I see no reason to exchange words with her. Silence is the best courtesy I can offer, right now.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-04 19:30:31
(no subject)

Didn't you tell Harry and me that your father used to look on Voldemort almost like a father, too? Maybe he just thought he was living up to what he was supposed to do.

Merlin. That almost sounded like I'm defending him. That's not what I mean. I wish they could change, too. Because--well, it means that to win, they're going to have to lose. And I'm sorry you'll have that to go through, too.

I guess if you can't be courteous talking to Auror Lamont then you're right, it's better not to speak to her at all.

Anyway. I should get back to the potions, Mr Snape brought back all sorts of dragon parts and it means there's loads to do.
Love -

Writing things down so they don't fall out of my head. (Which is full of other people's exams.)

First, an owl came for you when I was still having breakfast this morning. It looked like it might be related to whatever it is you said you were plotting, so I didn't open it and just left it on your desk. (Nashira's handy if you want to send a reply, and I won't need her for a few days.)

Second, can we practice those chained charms some more before we do another demonstration round for Harry? I've got the beginning of the sequence down - I like that variant of the shielding charm, quite a lot, actually. But when I get to the Deprehensio variant, I keep getting stuck, because I'm not sure what to do next. (I mean, I know it detects magical effects, it's figuring out what to do with what it detects that confuses me.) I might think faster on my feet than I used to, but there are times it's by a very small amount indeed.

Anyway. I'd rather not look a fool.

Third, Mum and Dad want to know if we'd come to supper once we're done here. I thought maybe not the first week we're off, since there's all the unpacking and things, but maybe the week after that? Mum thought Storm and Dittany and us, and that's it. (I think she sort of wants to talk about what to do about Theo, but I might be wrong.)

Fourth, Poppy

Going to try to get through as much of the exam marking as I can this afternoon, and I need to set up early again, but I'll be down for supper at the very least.

Ah yes. Just leave that owl alone. I'll deal with it later.

I'm always happy to practice whatever you need. I'm going back over some of my books on the sequences
so I can talk about them rather than just do them. You have not looked the fool and I would never set you up for that sort of fall.

Deprehnsio is odd. It complicates the sequence and can be overwhelming. Many trainees try to drop it out because of that. However, once you get used to the visual assault it provides it's completely invaluable. Antosha, Barty and I all try to weave it in wherever we can. Bella and our Lord use other means of getting to the same end. One of the surest ways of figuring out if an author is going to be teach rote sequences or an adaptive style is how they suggest using Deprehnsio and it's companions. It's also worse here at Hogwarts. Some night this summer we'll go out to one of the old muggle places with no lingering magic of any kind, miles from a ley line and you'll be able to see just the individual spells and their lingering effects from the duel, rather than picking up ever ghost trail and long withered ward that's crossed your line of sight here at Hogwarts. That's the sort of arena where the right caster, with enough luck can sometimes even see where the next spell is going to land, like lightning traces before it connects. Maybe we can sit and watch the stars afterwards and make a night of it.

When we're setting up on Sunday cast Deprehnsio a few times to get a feel for what the room looks like before we've started throwing all those hexes around. You can also watch others dueling with it up to get used to what you see that's useful and what's just rubbish.

Sometime that second week sounds good. Maybe the 25th or the 26th? We should also schedule the first time for Harry's group to come by Spence. I want to finalize the bit with the wards.

---

*[alt_sinistra at 2014-06-04 18:55:10 (no subject)]*

I know you wouldn't set me up to look bad, love. It's one of the things I particularly love about you, how you want me me to show my best. But there's nothing like a small horde of very intent teenagers to make one feel entirely self-conscious, really.

It makes sense the Deprehensio would be so much harder here. I might go and try it out on the grounds, see if that helps a bit, where there's at least less going on. I do like your idea of a nice magically inert hillside, a bottle of wine, some stars, and thou, though. Rather a lot.
I'll tell Mum either of those days, then, and you're right, that'd give us plenty of time to sort out the wards properly and whatever else we need to do.

Poppy might want to catch me tonight for a chat, but if she doesn't manage it, you want to try practicing for a little? Might do us both some good to have a break from marking exams.

The bottle of wine does sound like a nice extra. We'll have to make plans, maybe for the Perseids?

What does Poppy want to talk about? I'd be happy to practice this evening before diving into the endless marking. After glancing through what the booklets from today's second years, I'm already regretting a few of the questions I asked. Incendio and Incarcero are so obviously different spells with completely different uses. Of the top fire exams on the stack, three of them picked the wrong one.

Bottles of wine are often a very pleasant addition to plans. (Speaking of, Mum sent some stout she thought you'd like. It being marking season. Also some cider she thought I'd like, and you're welcome to try.) We needn't wait for August, mind, though meteor showers do make delightfully uncomplicated viewing, don't they?

My first years have some hilariously funny but rather depressing misunderstandings of the cosmos. (There's at least three who cannot get geocentric separate from heliocentric, for some reason.) The sixth years are better than I thought they might be (especially with fewer of them having the arithmancy), but there's a couple of gaping holes that need fixing for some of them if they're to manage the NEWT in good form.

Poppy, oh, I told you I was working up the nerve to talk to her about next fall, because really, there's quite a few relevant bits. (I mean, I suppose that Lizzie Stevens means she's better up on
that line of care than she might be some years, but I don't know if
she'd want to take it on, or ask.) And really it's kinder to give her
the summer to think about it, never mind the fact that I'd like to
ask her a couple of specific things.

Anyway, I went down late Monday night, but she was deeply in
the midst of something. (Had quite the list of calamities for me
when I checked in on Tuesday.) But of course, now she knows I
wanted to talk, and she's like a terrier sometimes. I don't want
her to fuss, but it's also not a topic I want to discuss with a
stream of students in and out. One bit. Time enough to be a topic
of gossip when we have to, and not a moment sooner.

Practice right after supper, and I'll tell her I'll come talk after
curfew and before the exam?
2014-06-04 18:55:00
Private Message to Professor Sinistra

Professor Sinistra,

I know you must be incredibly busy with final exams this week, but I was wondering if I might stop by next week during your office hours to ask about your recommendations for further reading this summer? Katrina Fitzgibbon and I are hoping to continue our project in Arithmancy over summer to see if we can expand it for our OWLs level work, and you've been so helpful about pointing me to additional sources, and I'd like to think about possible projects for Astronomy too.

I enjoyed your class very much this term.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Longbottom

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-05 15:56:18
(no subject)

Miss Longbottom -

You're quite welcome to come up. Frankly, if you're free tonight or tomorrow afternoon, I suspect a break from marking would be good for me. Or of course, the posted hours next week, or suggest something else.

I'm always glad to encourage further reading. I do make up a packet of OWL materials for anyone who's interested, and I can give you that, but if you've specific topics you're interested in, I can either duplio some specific articles or have the references handy.

I also have the list of the likely lectures for the Guild's summer projects. Most of them are likely to be a bit over your head yet (there seems to be a taste for extremely fiddly work this year) but there's one or two you might find interesting if you're interested.
I've got Transfig, History, and Runes tomorrow, so I'm afraid I won't be able to breathe properly until after all of those are done.

But yes, I would like to learn more about the lectures this summer, and the things I've been reading about locational magic sound like they would tie in just really well with the project Fitz and I are doing, so perhaps we could talk some more about that too?

Oh, goodness, yes, you'll be busy tomorrow, indeed.

My NEWT research project was on the effects of highly magical places on locational magic (using Hogwarts as a prime example, of course), and then I did a contract project for the Guild the year before I started teaching here about calculating measurements and effects at different points. (I covered Wales, other people did other places in the Protectorate.)

Anyway, I haven't done as much with it recently as I'd like, but I do keep up with the published works, and I'll put some copies together for you. Stop up when you'd like, whether that's tomorrow after your exams or next week.
So. It came today. Ministry owl.

Six weeks. Full-on trial for acceptance into the training programme that'll start up next summer. Reckon that means there'll be some other interns making a run at the same thing. Sound familiar?

And I still haven't...

---

Well, that's good.

Maybe?

I mean -- it's what you were trying for.

... Yeah.

We can come up with a way to get you out of it, if you want.

I mean

I know you want to be useful to the Order but there are a thousand ways to be useful. And they HAVE an Auror, even. If you don't want to do this.
That's probably a stupid thing to say, I mean, of course you don't want to.

**alt_ron** at **2014-06-05 02:29:24**
(no subject)

Right. They've got Lamont, and they may have Hydra, as well. Looks like.

So we don't need me to be there, really. Right?

Only Lamont said she expects to get found out sometime and thinks it would be good strategy if we have someone else embedded there. Someone meaning me.

But I'm a giant risk if I can't transform. Ugh. You know how hard I'm trying!

**alt_sally_anne** at **2014-06-05 02:34:06**
(no subject)

Yeah, I know.

I know.

Does Lamont think you should quit, if you can't work it out?

**alt_ron** at **2014-06-05 03:33:40**
(no subject)

She thinks I'm an eejit for not being able to do it.

I mean she didn't say that, but she didn't have to, yeah? She said if I'm average at Occlumency, then it should be alright since Auror Lestrange doesn't bother with interns or trainees much. But would you say I'm average at it? How do you measure that, anywiz?
At least she said not to back out now. She said keep trying the animagus transformation. Like I'm not trying every bleedin time I can get somewhere no one will see me.

Sorry. Anywiz, she said stick with it for now. Accept and then find an excuse to back out at the last minute if I have to.

I've been reading that Naked Mole Rat book Lamont gave me again. All that stuff about radical self-acceptance because if your inner animal is a naked mole rat, you need to embrace that fact or you'll never be able to transform. Oh, and owning the fact that your inner animal isn't random but says something about who you are. I mean, I'm trying not to assume I know what form I'll have, but that's so hard. I mean, how can you visualise changing and NOT have some idea what you'll be when you do? Argh!

You know what? Now, I'm just sitting here watching that origami animagus you gave me for my birthday. It's brilliant--a man then a bird then a pig then a cat then a lion then a dog then a owl then a man then whatever it thinks of next. I want that to be me so much!

Well have you tried turning into a naked mole rat? Or something else hideous unappealing?

Anyway Mr Snape could probably tell you if you're average at Occlumency or not, and whether you'd be safe provided no one's actually TRYING to peer inside your head. Though I can almost guarantee you that he'll be insulting about it.

I mean, I really thought I'd been feeling it start in those exercises Dumbledore set for me. But nothing happens.

He says I should keep trying, coming at it from odd angles, and
one of these times it'll just flow. Or unfold. Or shake out.

He's got all these ways of describing it.

I don't know.

Maybe make a huge list of animals and try everyone? Aardvark and antelope through yak and zebra?
**2014-06-05 08:46:00**

Happy Birthday, Draco!

To our dearest of all, we could not be more proud.

You should have received our present already but the finest presents are yet to come. I don't see how it's possible for you to be of age but here we are. Manhood becomes you, my son. As does the regard in which all others hold you.

See you soon.

All our love,

Mother and Father

---

**2014-06-05 16:06:07**

(no subject)

Thank you, Mother and Father.

I'm pleased that I can make you both proud of me, and look forward to whatever comes next - for all of us.

---

**2014-06-05 16:19:44**

Private Message to Draco

Spoke with Horace; you're released for the after-noon to-morrow. Snitch release for the Tornadoes is at half-twelve, if that's still what you'd prefer.

You did receive the timepiece? There's a list in the box of the charms and functions it features, but as it's in your great-great-grandfather's hand it can be a little difficult to decipher.

I am ... especially proud of the way you've conducted yourself through these sophomoric challenges. It was never a question of your place, as you know, but it has been all but assured. Am confident you will prove as - indispensable - to Our Lord as I have done, time and again.
You have proven yourself loyal to our family, to our realm and to wizardkind, son.

Happy birthday.

@alt_dracr at 2014-06-05 16:38:21
Re: Private Message to Draco

I can't think of much else that compares to an early summer Tornadoes match. I'll be ready by late morning.

Yes, thank you. I was honoured to be gifted with it. It's mindbogglingly ornate, for a pocket watch, and I'm certain it will take some time to discover all of its features. It's funny to imagine all those Malfoys before me, carrying it about on their day to day errands. And perhaps I'll one day have a son that I can pass it along to, as well.

I'm pleased that we'll no longer have to pretend to be aloof with one another, now that your indispensability has been thoroughly demonstrated. I expect I'll be on the council quite soon, and we'll have a new context through which to explore our father-son relationship.

@alt_lucius at 2014-06-05 17:10:54
Re: Private Message to Draco

Yes, of all the annoyances of the past few months, the necessity for a long game of patience has been one of the greatest. But as it seems to have had its benefits, well worth the cost.

See you to-morrow, son.

@alt_narcissa at 2014-06-05 16:45:32
Private Message to Draco and Lucius

Of course, Nanella has your Grandfather Black's pocketwatch for you as well, but it's quite delicate and I don't really trust the charms on it to keep it
from getting damaged. But it's your birthright, if you want it.

If we could access Grimmauld, your cousin Regulus's watch is even older and more valuable. It was the Black ancestral timepiece and it dates back to the late 16th-century. I only saw Uncle Orion with it a few times but it was quite impressive. The case was carved out of the darkest emerald I've ever seen. In fact, that should have been yours by right, but great-great-grand-uncle Sirius decided to give it to his namesake nephew, a long time ago. Otherwise it would have been your great-grandfather's in the first place.

Ah, well, Yet another crime for which that idiot traitor Black will answer, someday.

---

**alt_lucius at 2014-06-05 16:51:28**

*Re: Private Message to Draco and Lucius*

Yes, dearest. His list of offences grows ever longer but sooner or later we will find a way to access Walburga's home.

There's little point in giving the lad a pocket-watch he's afraid to take from his pocket.

---

**alt_draco at 2014-06-05 16:53:48**

*Re: Private Message to Draco and Lucius*

A shame.

I'd personally like to make him answer for those crimes face to face. And who knows - one day, I may even have the chance.

---

**alt_lucius at 2014-06-05 17:02:34**

*Re: Private Message to Draco and Lucius*

No doubt you will.
**Reminder!**

As all the birthday wishes for Draco roll across the journals, I wanted to remind everyone that Draco's birthday party will be tomorrow night and not tonight, so that we can all enjoy it with exams well and truly behind us!

The party is open to those in fifth year and above, and will be held in the Slytherin common room starting at 8 o'clock. Naturally, all regular school rules are still in effect, even when celebrating.

Now, that being said, many happy returns to you, Draco, on becoming of age! I'm sure all of those reading will agree with me that many wonderful things are in store for you as you transition to this new stage of your life, and I am so very pleased that I can be the one to accompany you down that path.

---

**Private message to Astoria Greengrass**

Just so we're entirely clear, the party is for fifth year and above, and that means fifth year THIS year, not next year. You're still in fourth, so don't even think about trying to crash with a gang of your miserable little friends. You'll drink all the punch and sick up all over the loo.

---

**Private message to Daphne**

That is SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

Both waiting until after exams and keeping out anyone below fifth year.

Can you believe we're almost done with our sixth year? Only one more year and we'll be done with Hogwarts altogether.
Well, they do have to pass through the common room, so I'm putting up a path of charmed streamers that you can't cross if you aren't given a letter "D" pin at the door. Clever, yes?

It truly is hard to believe, but I look forward to it. On to bigger and better things! Or so I hope.

I really hope Draco likes the party. I've spent weeks getting it organised, but one's so limited when having a party at school. There's just no way I could hire musicians, and having food sent by Owl, well, it won't be the same as on-site catering, but I hope it's passable.

I think I have everything ready. Flowers and ornaments by Fairchild's. Food by Quinsence (they'll send the owls at supper so that canapes are fresh). Cake and tarts by Brasserie. Oh, and Elsie agreed to the champagne punch fountain, so long as we have a two-glass maximum charm on most of the flutes (not yours, of course!). Gamp's agreed to take photographs and make sure they get to all the most important news outlets.

Could you please wear your charcoal-coloured dress robes? The ones with the cream accents. I think those will be the best match for my gown.

Now, what kind of music? People will want to dance, but we should start with something more subdued. Cymru Players, maybe?
Charcoal-coloured robes: noted. And Cymru Players sounds just fine.

Thank you for doing this. You're the best.

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-05 15:42:08
Re: Private message to Draco

Of course I managed to study.

Only fine? Do you want something other than Cymru Players?

Yes, I am the best, aren't I? So very clearly, obviously the best.

@alt_draco at 2014-06-05 15:44:48
Re: Private message to Draco

No, I don't want something other than Cymru Players.

If you're cross about expending all of this effort, well, you needn't have done so. I would have been content with a less elaborate gathering.

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-05 15:50:03
Re: Private message to Draco

And what kind of girlfriend to Draco Malfoy would I be if I didn't make sure that his seventeenth birthday was the most elaborate this school's ever seen?

I'm pretty, Draco. And I'm clever, and I can be quite kind, even, when I feel like it. And whenever we've snogged I know you've enjoyed it - that's not the sort of thing a boy can hide, you know, even if we girls are generally polite and pretend that we don't notice.
Daphne, you undoubtedly deserve to have someone who can appreciate you for all that you offer, and reciprocate in ways that make you feel good.

If what I'm providing doesn't meet all that, then you know I'll understand if you want to move on.

I don't want to move on. I want you to stop being so bloody stubborn!

Stubborn how?

BOYS.

Why are you all so thick?

Never mind, Draco. I don't want to have a row on your birthday. I'm sure I'm simply stressed out from exams. Tomorrow night will be lovely, you'll see.

Daphne,

Jolly good idea and cheers for arranging it all.
-Justin
2014-06-05 09:52:00
Happy birthday, Draco!

Congratulations on coming of age.

----

alt_sally_anne

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-05 14:57:30
Order Only

Do you feel thoroughly mature and adult today?

alt_draco at 2014-06-05 16:03:11
Re: Order Only

I think I'm mostly tired.

So. Yes?

alt_draco at 2014-06-05 16:01:44
(no subject)

Cheers, Perks.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-05 17:13:43
Order Only

Happy birthday.

alt_draco at 2014-06-05 19:30:04
Re: Order Only

Thank you.
Draco,

I say, cheers! Many happy returns, old man.

-Justin

alt_draco at 2014-06-05 19:30:34
(no subject)

Thanks, mate.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-05 20:25:23
(no subject)

Hear hear!

The party will be brilliant, I'm sure.

alt_neville at 2014-06-06 03:30:18
Order Only

Happy birthday, Draco!
Order Only: Private message to Ron and Pansy

You're not going to believe this.

I mean

You're REALLY not.

When I went up to the hospital wing this afternoon, Madam P had a letter for me that had been passed along from my mum.

Mum said again she was really sorry she hadn't told me earlier about Scott and she knows it bothered me a lot that so many other people knew and I didn't (and it did, I mean TERRY knew. I think BILL knew. EVERYONE who goes to Sherwood ever, basically, they all knew) so with this, she said she wanted me to know first so even though it's kind of early people are going to know soon and so she went me the note right away and she hopes it doesn't distract me from my last exams

and

she's pregnant.

I'm going to have a (half) brother or sister. Scott's the father, obviously.

They're not even mar

REALLY?

Really?

Do you think they planned it?
I don't know! It sounded -- well she didn't exactly sound SURPRISED. And I guess it's really early. If they weren't trying, she wouldn't have even checked to see -- you know?

Well, and I mean, she would know how to not have one by now.

Uh...

I mean, did you even think she'd...?

Isn't she sort of old for having sprogs?

My Mum's about the same age as Sirius Black. She's younger than Mr and Mrs Longbottom and they just had Kevin not that long ago so...no, she's not really all that old for sprogs, it just seems that way because she's my MUM.

Sorry I didn't see this earlier. I was...

Still no change.
Private Message to Sally-Anne

What do you think'll happen if he can't properly transform?

I mean, he's utter pants at Occlumency.

Snape says I've gotten loads better at it this term, but I guess Ron just doesn't have the head for it.

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Well I guess Auror Lamont told him she didn't think anyone would go out of their way to legilimise him, so long as he could keep from broadcasting his treasonous thoughts all over MLE. But he also told her he was average at occlumency, not pants at it.

If he needs to back out at the last minute I can think of about a dozen ways to help him fake illness or injury.

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

Honestly

Auror was never on his list of things he wanted to do, you know? It's just, he got their attention and they're open to it and he feels like he has to, because he can.

At least he didn't feel like he needed to try to get on the Council.

Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne

I know Lamont is all kinds of paranoid, but it's for a good reason.

If he doesn't get it sorted out, he'll get himself killed.
2014-06-05 20:24:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Terry Boot and Colin Creevey

(Hey hey, Professor.

I was talking to Mr and Mrs L earlier, and they said the new tent would be ready for you lot by Sunday. Mrs L just has to fiddle with some of the charms on it first. Weatherproofing and concealment and the like. Thought I'd pass it along, so everyone can pack up their gear and get ready to move in to the new digs. I'd imagine the current one is pretty crowded, hey? Sarah said she couldn't even imagine how it slept four when she took over your bunk, so five's got to be pushing at the seams. I hope they're not making you kip on the floor or something.

Sherwood treating you well enough? I know it's no Hogwarts.)

---

@alt_terry at 2014-06-06 03:37:51
(no subject)

It's not difficult for me to kip on the floor when I'm the Professor, but we'll be glad to have the new tent. Dudley really likes to spread his stuff around and--yeah. More space will be nice.

It's all right being back, although you're right, it's no Hogwarts. There's no place like Hogwarts.

Still, it's better being back here.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-06 03:57:23
(no subject)

(Really? I know you were really excited to go back.

I get to see the outside of the castle every now and then when I go to the Forest.

Sometimes I wish I could go inside, just to see what it's like, but I guess it's different if you've lived there.)
I think it's because I've been there before that it didn't quite work out.

Don't get me wrong. Cedric was just as nice about things as he could be, a really considerate flatmate.

But I went back expecting things to be like they were before, but they're not. I had to change so much to escape from Carrow, that going back felt as if...as if I were trying to go back to fit back into a shoe I'd outgrown.

I wanted to be useful. But I think Ron felt he was getting more out of working with Professor Brutka--Dumbledore--than me. And Mr Snape had others to help him who are much better brewers than me. Like Hermione.

(Yeah, I can see how that'd be hard.

And she's quite something, isn't she? Sometimes I forget she's just a year older than I am. Div's in awe whenever Mr Snape sends along his reports. He figures he'll poke along at diaper rash cremes while she does all the heavy lifting, hey?)

She outclasses me, always.

To be honest, going back to Hogwarts I'd hoped for something different there, with Hermione, I mean. I reckon it's not too difficult for you to be able figure out how I feel about her, reading back entries and maybe talking to Mr and Mrs Longbottom. It's more than just fancying her. I've carried a torch for her for years.

But that's another thing that just doesn't fit anymore: the hope...
that she'll finally turn around and notice me standing there, and suddenly realise that she feels the same way.

I've become convinced it's never going to happen. I didn't get this far by lying to myself and I don't want to start now. She doesn't feel the same as me. And I don't think she ever will, so there's not much point in even talking about it with her.

I think, deep down, that's what really made me leave Hogwarts in the end.

alt_frank at 2014-06-06 06:07:39  
(no subject)  

(Sorry to hear that, mate.  
I think you've got a point, though. About how it's better to come to terms with something even though it hurts, instead of letting it take charge.)

alt_frank at 2014-06-06 06:11:51  
(no subject)  

(And who knows, maybe stepping away from this will make it easier to take a chance with someone else you wouldn't have thought of otherwise.)

I know, probably not what you're wanting to think about right now, but just because she didn't feel that way doesn't mean you're a lost cause, hey?)

alt_terry at 2014-06-06 17:02:52  
(no subject)  

It will be different if I take up with a girl who never knew me when I was Carrow's slave. But in a way, it might be kind of nice, too.

(Not that I have anyone in mind, though, really. I've only just made this decision.)
Anyway, what about you, Colin? Do you have your eye on someone?

(Oh, I don't know. Luna's really brilliant, and pretty, and we have these amazing conversations. She's like that with everybody, though.

Anyways, can't really afford to be too picky, yeah? I'll probably still look like a twelve year old when I'm thirty.)

I think you and Luna would be great together, actually. I know you're both interested in art.

And she's...well, there's no one quite like her. She's also very kind, but you never know what's going to come out of her mouth next. Life with her would certainly never be boring!

I think what finally made me 'come to terms' with it, as you put it, was that for the first time I thought about what Hermione would want me to do. If she knew (but I don't think she does.) She's very kind. She wouldn't want a boy mooning hopelessly after her just because it makes her feel important or special. She'd want me to be happy, too.

And she's always so practical. I remember all the times we
practised charms together, and she would say, 'If something's not working, don't let yourself get stuck. Try something else if you're going nowhere, or even rethink your goal.'

Realising that made the decision to leave sort of obvious then.

We have so much history with me as boot, too.
Hey, ducks,

We've been wondering whether your bookbag has swallowed you, or maybe the giant squid. We sent the sketches for the additions to the autumn line maybe three weeks ago, and haven't heard anything back.

And the next quarter's budget, too. I know it's the end of the year and all, and SOME of us are more conscientious about exams than others, but we really do need to have you sign off on it. Mum's been on our arses about making rent, and we really want your input about how much to increase advertising; do you think the figures we've conjectured are too high, considering the returns we've had so far?

Hope everything's okay. Say hello to the Hogwarts contingent from us peons in the working world.

Ugh.

Snape is making me brew Blood-replenishing potions until they're coming out of my ears, I've got Transfig AND Defence exams tomorrow that I've not had the chance to properly revise for, every day I keep expecting an owl telling me what the next bloody awful challenge is they're planning for us, Harry's got us training with Raz in our free time (which is something I. Do. Not. Have. ANY. Of.), and I barely got through May, which you KNOW isn't a good time of year under the best of circumstances, and at this point I can barely think twenty-four hours ahead.

So no. I will not be getting you that report back any time soon. Unless you want something half-arsed, or want me to utterly foul it
up. So you can either sort it out yourselves, or give me until the end of term.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-06 03:46:11
(no subject)

And for the love of Merlin, don't call me ducks.

alt_george at 2014-06-06 03:53:47
(no subject)

Uh, obviously I've raised this at a bad moment, and I'm sorry about that.

Um. See, you're one of the co-owners. So we can't get away with neglecting to get input from you.

Obviously, things will have to wait. If we have to drop items from the autumn line, so be it.

alt_george at 2014-06-06 03:59:38
(no subject)

And whatever you say.

Miss Parkinson.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-06 04:02:28
(no subject)

Oh, don't be silly.

Which is like asking water not to be wet.

Justin calls Hydra that. Called her that, I mean. It was a thing they did. So it'd be just weird. That's all.
Justin called Hydra 'Miss Parkinson'? Now that IS weird.

You are utterly ridiculous in every way.

You're doing what you should do by running things by me, but right now I just can't give you what you need back.

I trust you both. How about you go with what you've projected, and if we need to scale back or ramp up after I've had a chance to look at it properly, really properly, we can adjust.

All right, we'll just bungle along as we've been going and you'll bail us out again after you have time to draw some deep breaths.

(And Pans? Good luck on your exams tomorrow).

Ugh.

Don't remind me.
I just need to survive the next two weeks.

And I honestly wish that last bit was hyperbole, but really, with the way things have been going, it isn't exaggerating much.
Hey. Sorry I didn't chime in with a welcome the other day. I've barely time to breathe at work, much less scrape up the time to write privately in my journal. Mulciber's -- well, I'd say he's been on a tear, but he's always like this lately. Alternating looking almost worried, then glowering, then narrowing his eyes and smiling. It's the smiling that's worst.

Sorry. Blathering on there. Blame it on exhaustion. I was going to say that I hadn't time to write in the evenings either, being so tired I'd just crash into bed, but now it's bloody insomnia time. Just to add to the fun, no doubt.

So seeing as how I'm awake now whether I want to be or not, I thought I'd write a proper welcome to the Order.

Rather a relief to have you in, and Ginny. I quite fancy not being "the new one" any longer.

Anyhow, welcome.

---

Thanks.

I've been trying to read back. It's a bit overwhelming and I don't have a lot of free time.

What was the bit you found the most startling to find out about? Dumbledore working at Hogwarts incognito? The fact that a bunch of Hogwarts students broke into Mysteries, rescued the Selwyn children, duelled Barty Crouch and Antonin Dolohov, and survived? The fact that Draco Malfoy and Hydra Lestrange are secret traitors?
Most startling? Difficult choice, that. Too many strong candidates.

Malfoy and Lestrange, yeah. And definitely Dumbledore. But also Snape!

Also, finding out that when we used to call Longbottom, Neville I mean, a blood traitor, we were speaking truer words than we knew. Because he is.

And so am I.

Yeah.

Back in my day, it was Dora Tonks who was the butt of every ... well. Ironically, I don't think she WAS a traitor at the time. She worked her way round to it eventually, though.

She rather did, didn't she?

Have you been sparring with her yet?

No. We've talked about it, but haven't found time.
People are being rather courteous, treating me as 'the new one' and not 'the one who killed Stephen McGivern' or 'the one who's sleeping with Draco's father and everyone's supposed to pretend they don't know' (that's a bit awkward, I have to admit. I think I'll stay out of the discussion about Draco being the new 'most eligible bachelor,' not that I have anything useful to add, other than possibly an assessment of just how careful the newspapers are being at the moment to avoid the wrath of Lucius Malfoy. My current evaluation: very.)

You're not the first one who killed somebody on our side to be let in, you know. Likely you haven't read that far back yet, though. Fascinating little discussion, the one where Dumbledore informed the Order that Macnair and Snape were to be joining.

Who on our side did they kill? They were both proper Death Eaters at one point or another, but Macnair rather more recently than Snape.

I went back and looked, and either I've conflated things, misremembered, or have the wrong entry. Sorry, should have double-checked my references before making the statement. Vector would have taken ten point from our House in fine old Ravenclaw tradition for me not doing so.

What Sirius said was that Macnair had killed for Voldemort. And
then Frank chimed in with "he also tried his level best to kill Harry."

alt_rachel at 2014-06-06 21:54:13 (no subject)

The fact is, I knew when I joined MLE I'd have to kill people I'd rather rescue. That I might have to torture people for information I'd rather see buried. (Though mercifully there's relatively little of that in my department.)

On balance I think it's worth it. Overall.

alt_jeremy at 2014-06-07 04:47:06 (no subject)

Reading back, I think you'll want to pay attention to Arthur's entries. Arthur Weasley, that is. He had hard choices to make, and apparently judged it worthwhile overall as well.

Not the same hard choices. Nevertheless, he seemed to have endured an evil position for the sake of the good he could do whilst in that vantage point.

He was killed before I came in. Rather wish I could have met him. I mean, wish I could have met him after I was in, knowing the truth and all, and being able to discuss things.

Sounds like he was quite a, well, hero, really. In his way.

alt_jeremy at 2014-06-06 18:35:36 (no subject)

It was Bill arguing against, in that one. 'Til his dad told him to stubble it.
That discussion has a lot to recommend it. Albus gives Sirius a carpeting for resembling Bellatrix Lestrange in certain matters of temperament, for one.

Must say, discipline and motivation amongst the Order is a complex set of mechanisms.

I'm starting to notice.

Dogstar, well. One advantage of a cell structure is that there's far fewer people to argue with. (As well as far fewer you can betray.)

Alice has a slightly different style from Ridley. Slightly.

Reading back about Ridley suggests you are understating the case there.

How was it, really, being part of Dogstar? At first, I mean?

I might be slightly understating the case, yes.

Being part of Dogstar...well. I'm sure you can understand this: until I found them, I had never known another person who felt the way I felt about the Protectorate. That I knew about, at least. That, all by itself, was intoxicating.
Thing is, I came to it differently. It wasn't so much the Protectorate I objected to, as that aspect of the Protectorate that made it impossible for me to be with someone I

No. Made it impossible to ever find out truly if my feelings were even returned. Constrained as she was. Though I hadn't thought it all through, yet. And didn't, until suddenly she was gone. And when I sussed out what must have happened, that someone had helped her escape, I made a lucky guess based on a thing or two I'd seen.

I would have done anything for her. Join the Order, fight Voldemort with an olive fork, whatever. Rather lucky I found the Order rather than Dogstar, really, or it would have been broken eggshells all the way down.

As it was, I joined the Order because I would have joined anyone who gave her what she needed. Safe haven. That, and a chance to be herself. Though that penny didn't fully drop until I was talking with Alice.

I joined for her. Maureen. But I stayed for me, and for everybody. And yes, I stayed for her -- but not so I could have her.

So she could have herself.

If the best I can do for her is to leave her alone to figure out who she is, who she can be, then that's what I'll do. And meanwhile, this bloody system that's set things up to use up people like her -- and her parents, too -- keeping people like me comfortable and rich and from having to lift a bloody finger?

I will tear it down stone by stone given any chance. Or Galleon by Galleon. I've got some ideas I've been meaning to talk to Alice about, actually, on that score.

Anyhow, yeah. I came to the Order because I was desperate with love, or so I thought. And then I found something bigger. It's still love. But less selfish. I hope.
Eh, it’ll do.
Chaining spells are *brilliant*. I think I was just getting a handle on that first part last night and it sort of clicked into place that one time, with two of the spells, and I could feel it, you know? Anyways. I think we’ll have a lot to work on over hols.

Raz and Siz have this duelling suite at Spence that we can use, and they told me we’d be able to come over whenever to work on stuff. The people in the training group, I mean. And we can pass it on, too.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-06 16:38:03

*Private Message to Draco*

So do you think Daphs'd be up for joining in this summer, or would it be too weird?

I was thinking if we brought in Blaise *and* Daphs, we'd have to watch ourselves more, but it'd be good practise, and it might be worthwhile depending on how things shake out at the end of term with the contest.

---

**alt_draco** at 2014-06-06 17:10:31

*Re: Private Message to Draco*

If you'd asked me a few weeks ago I would have said yes, but now I'm not so sure. She's been in a bit of a... mood, I suppose.

She's giving me all sorts of signs that she's frustrated with our staged relationship and wants something real. And in her mind there's no reason we'd not make a perfectly good pairing.

She thinks it's a bit unfair that I get to have so many "secrets," too.

I really don't know if she wants to learn about the Order, though. Or if the others would even have her.
Yeah.

Maybe she just feels left out? I guess that's different from actually wanting to be a part of things. And she doesn't know the half of what she'd be getting into, either.

If she's invited to Spence, it might be a way to get her feeling like she's a part of something.

Hydra can check her out over hols, just to see what's going on, maybe?

I've indicated that the "secrets" I have are probably not things she would want to be a part of. Either she's finding it harder to believe me or she feels that she ought to be able to be the judge of that for herself. I'm not at all unsympathetic to her position.

You mean "check her out" as in legilimise her? See where her thoughts might really lie?

Yeah.

I was just thinking about how with Katie, I never gave her a chance to make those sort of choices. Because I was worried about keeping her safe. Which is important, but I can see why she'd get hacked off.

I don't know.

I think it's worth thinking over, though.
I haven't even considered Daphne's safety very thoroughly. I probably should. I don't fancy her the way I suspect she wants me to, but I don't want anything bad to happen to her, either.

If we did give her the choice to learn about the Order, and she said yes, turning down obliviation... well, I'm worried she'd only say yes because of me.

Hydra can check that part out, I guess.

And I guess as long as she knows you don't feel that way, it's not like you're leading her on.
I'm looking forward to your birthday party tonight, Draco. Daphne and Lizzie already put up some of the ornaments and decorations this morning. I think when she's finished we won't even recognise the common room.

Has anyone seen the articles that have come out in the papers and magazines this week? Some of them are are more serious in tone, and they discussed how the current generation of council members are bringing their children into the fold, and they profiled Harry, Draco, me, Teddy, and Pansy, and spoke of how impressive we are and what an asset we'll be to a "maturing Protectorate." And then there was some mention of the "newcomers" like Ron and Padma and Finnigan and some speculation on whether or not they will be able to keep up. The article made it sound as if we all already had the mark. So I guess the news sources are under the impression that you're doing well, Pansy, though I don't think they have any specifics on the challenge at all and are just speculating. And it's funny because they also described Harry, Draco, and Teddy as "old chums."

And some of the more gossipy magazines were going on and on about Draco finally being of age and how Harry will soon be, too, and they had photographs of Draco looking rather regal (though the caption said "smoldering"). They did mention Daphne but wondered if she would just be another schoolgirl fling, like her mother was for Raz. Oh, and they also said that with Raz being married now, and Barty Crouch getting up there in years, that Barty couldn't really carry on as the Protectorate's most eligible bachelor. So they named Draco as "the newest, freshest most eligible bachelor in the Protectorate" and had a list of things he loves in a woman.

Draco, did you know that you love a woman who wears designers fashions, keeps her hair in curls, speaks French, doesn't swear, and smells like evening primrose?

Well, I enjoyed reading something entertaining for a change.
alt_harry at 2014-06-06 16:08:54
(no subject)

That sounds pretty daft. All round.

alt_harry at 2014-06-06 16:09:21
Private Message to Hydra

Did they say anything about Justin, then?

Good or bad?

alt_hydra at 2014-06-06 16:22:05
Re: Private Message to Hydra

No, they didn't say anything. If they had, I wouldn't have written about the articles.

alt_harry at 2014-06-06 16:44:02
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I guess that's better than trying to set it up like we're enemies or something.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-06 16:25:16
(no subject)

I've been reading those articles every time I get a chance. I thought it was interesting the way they wrote about Teddy -- on one hand they clearly didn't want to hack off Mr Nott but there are some interesting bits between the lines. Like, they don't tell you what sort of girl Teddy likes, or talk about how he's eligible, or go on much about his eyes. Even though he's not exactly bad looking, if you can get past the minor detail of his entire personality. They mention him getting in trouble at school but they try to make it sound like it's schoolboy antics, as opposed to Professor Dolohov giving him the boot last year from the Practical section of Dark Arts.
The way they wrote about Pansy was also pretty interesting. It's clear everyone's always assumed that she was destined to become a society wife (there are all these comparisons to Mrs Malfoy), but her performance in the Challenge made people rethink that a bit. The whole unspoken bit was, 'my goodness, perhaps she's not a witless pretty face after all, WHO EVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!' which is more than a bit insulting. The only hint I saw about the joke shop was this one article that mentioned that she's been 'dabbling in business investments' since coming of age (though, I haven't seen all the articles -- I don't have any subscriptions, it's all scrounging, though most everything gets left in the common room sooner or later.)

There was one article that mentioned Zabini making a name for himself in philanthropy. He got something named after him -- I guess a youth quidditch pitch in some village in Yorkshire is now the Blaise Zabini Outdoor Recreation Facility?

I'm glad to hear Draco's smoldering looks are getting some proper recognition and respect. They talked about Harry's 'boyish charm' but seemed to realise they ought not to call him an eligible bachelor before he comes of age -- just wait, though, it's clearly coming. There was one article that mentioned Katie, but they spelled her name wrong (and made it clear she was an ex.)

Teddy would be handsome if you only knew him from photographs and had never once been in his presence. But as soon as you're around him, you feel all crawly.

You know, there really wasn't much discussion about our sponsors. People like Lana and Ned and Jason. I wonder why that is. Maybe they think it's safer to write about people who are still at school. But then that doesn't stop them from implying that Barty Crouch ought to have been married by now.
Did it give any predictions for how soon you and Harry will start producing the third generation?

Hullo,

I wonder how Mr Crouch will feel about being supplanted, what.

-Justin

He doesn't seem the sort to care overly much. Though they did suggest that he ought to follow Raz's example and finally settle down.

I know your handwriting well enough to decipher most of that, you know.

I'm sorry if it hurts you. I don't enjoy it either.

I didn't mean to sound resentful, what. I know you're only doing what you must, we both are.

You're better at it than I am, I suppose. More practice, what.

I'm so tired. Well glad the year's almost over, only one more exam (Runes) and then one more week and away from here.

-J
Maybe you are resentful. I know I am. It might be better to go somewhere alone and just let yourself feel it, instead of pretending it isn't there. Because it won't go away.

I'm tired, too. I miss you.

Good luck on your last exam.

Only I'm not ever alone, really. I can't afford to be.

And no, it's not going away. I'm sorry if I've been--shirty, what. It's not your fault. None of this is. It's just more difficult than I anticipated, seeing you all the time. With h

It's one reason I've been just as happy that Professor Dolohov has been restricting my movements so much, including the duelling training that Harry's arranged. Though it does sound as if you're learning valuable skills.

Summer will be easier, what.

-Justin

Will it really be easier? We're bound to both be at 12 Grimmauld and Doughty Conduit at the same time. Where we could be alone. Unless you plan to stay in your new flat all summer. Unless my mother chains me to her.

I don't suppose this conversation is helping, at any rate.

At least dating Harry seems to have put Teddy off. He almost seems to be avoiding me. But that doesn't mean he's stopped being peculiar. Cressida and I were just helping in the common
room and he came trodding through and dropped a mess of things, including a little pocket mirror, like the sort a girl might check her hair with. Cressida tried to give it back to him and he just laughed and said he's finished with it. I hope it doesn't belong to some other girl he's been pestering.

Will you be skipping the party?

alt_justin at 2014-06-06 22:09:40
Re: Private message to Justin

I'm sure we will be but we won't have to pretend not to be miserable, at least. And we don't have to stay there if we don't want to do. I may be at the flat more, I'm not sure. Did you hear me mention that we might have found one? I say, we liked the look of the listing and I wrote the agent and she's showing it to us a week and Sunday. I suppose it all depends on how Ron and I get on once we're actually sharing a flat, what.

Good that Teddy's avoiding you. I'd heard he tried to chat up Daphne, what, but if ever there were someone who needed a thrashing, it's him.

Professor Dolohov has promised to let me go in time to attend part of the party, provided I 'behave myself,' what. One can't very well skip the whole without appearing to snub Draco, to say nothing of the fact that it won't do to make people think one's still sulking and maudlin after so many weeks.

It hasn't been so very many weeks, though, has it. Only a few.

I say, I'm getting quite good at achieving a meditative state. There's a silver lining, I suppose.

-J
Sally Anne mentioned that you and Ron might've found a flat, yes. I'm happy for you both.

Teddy was pestering Daphne, yes. I'm not sure I have all the details, but Daphne now seems quite intent to show everyone how serious she and Draco are. Except, of course, they're not.

How long has it been? I feel I've lost track of time completely. It seems like it's been ages, though, and yet not long at all. Strange.

I suppose I'll see you at the party in a bit, then.

If you find the one that talks about you, I hope you find it funny.

They mention your ginger hair, your freckles, your sister's brief modeling career, and the fact that your father died saving a Councilwizard (though they left out which one). Then they go on at some length about how poor your family is and they hint that your family is a bit disreputable and suggest that your excellence in the challenge could redeem your family, which ... I don't even. I think they tried to get a quote from Percy but couldn't get him to say anything on the record, and I think they tried to get a quote from Bill and couldn't get him to acknowledge they were trying to contact him, and thank goodness I guess they couldn't be bothered to show up at the Burrow and harass your Mum.

It's sort of funny in the same way that the one where I was supposedly sobbing in front of the reporter was funny later.

One of the profiles about Pansy mentions me, though not by name. I'm her 'plain, quiet shadow.'
Oh, bloody nightshade. I wouldn't know the scent of evening primrose if it took up house in my nose.

I suppose this is just the beginning of what's to come, though. Might as well get used to it.

Well, if you're curious, stand close to Antigone Fletcher tonight and take a whiff.
2014-06-06 19:11:00
Order Only: Private message to Rachel Brodie

All right then? You've been rather quiet all week.

I know it's a lot to take in, and rearranging the mental furniture when you get a huge load of information dumped on you at once can take a lot of energy. Especially when you have to carry on as normal in front of Lestrange, Mulciber, etcetera, as usual.

I'll leave you be if that's what you'd prefer. But if you want to talk, or ask questions or--or anything...I'm right here.

---

2014-06-07 00:19:29
(no subject)

Oh, I'm rather accustomed to carrying on as usual.

Mostly I'm worried that I'll miss something important. Reading back, I mean.

2014-06-07 00:25:54
(no subject)

That's one thing I do rather envy you: your ability to compartmentalise.

I'm definitely better than I used to be. The occlumency exercises that Snape bull I've been doing have helped.

Since I was the one who came up with it, I've been in on the secret from the beginning, so I don't really know what it's like, to have this whole other world open up all at once, explaining the curious things happening all around you. Cedric talked a bit about it, more than some of the others who had joined, and it made me realise, yeah, it IS a lot of information.

That's one thing your auror training helps you with, I suppose, isn't it? Processing a tonne of new data very quickly.
@alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 00:31:55
(no subject)

I can't even remember when I learnt to compartmentalise. A long time ago, well before I decided to try to become an Auror.

Anyway, processing data... I suppose. There's only so many hours in a day, though. I read quickly, but it's not as if I can prop the book open on my face and let it all drain in while I sleep.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 00:40:31
(no subject)

You've teased me a few times about working too hard. The reason I work so hard is that if I'm the one going through a set of files for evidence of treason, and I find it, I can cover it up. Only, I can't cover up EVERYTHING I find, and I wouldn't want to -- first of all, if I never found anything, that would be suspicious (or make me look useless at my job). Second, some of what I find is straight up corruption, the sort of thing anyone would want stopped. But of course, it's not as if I can necessarily tell what I'm seeing, so I have to follow up just enough to know whether I should hand it over or bury it where it'll never be found.

Sometimes it's clear, like the evidence I found that time Massopust had collected on you. Sometimes it's not. All I can do is work as hard as I can, and hope I don't miss anything.

The good thing about the Order Lock is now, if I'm not sure, I can ask. (So long as I'm not being observed.) On the other hand, there's so much -- history, I guess. So much more to know, to remember. I feel like I'm never going to get through it all, and I NEED to, because what if there's something everyone assumes I know, and I don't?

@alt_bill at 2014-06-07 01:09:19
(no subject)

Well, I have a reputation for a pretty decent memory, but even I have to ask others to remind me of things at times. The problem is, the Lock
was created for a much smaller group of people, so the information we were collectively remembering—and the security risks—were commensurately smaller, too. I suppose the reason it's spread so far and so fast is that it's so powerful and useful. But I do worry that we've raised the stakes so high that if it all goes to hell, it might come at a price that will be more than we can bear paying.

It's particularly difficult for you because of your job, of course. I'm threatened at work, but not the same way, and not nearly as badly. Minerva and Poppy play a dangerous double game, and of course, those at Doughty Conduit are disguised, and our younger cohort are getting more adept at artful concealment and deflection all the time.

But none of them, like you, are charged chiefly with the task of ferreting out enemies of the state. (Well, Ron could be, if he joins you.)

I'm full of admiration that you've done as much as you have without collapsing merely from the stress of it all. An Auror—and we all know how tough their requirements are—who has assisted not just one but two rebel groups.

I know that you're rather unfavourably impressed with our security, as compared to Dogstar's (and I haven't forgotten that the Aurors took most of their network down.)

Is there anything you think we're doing better than them? You did transfer your loyalty to us, after all. You can't blame me for being curious as to why.

I like your goals better.

I go back and forth about your methods. Dogstar is too willing to accept casualties— to sacrifice a few in the service of a larger goal. I think the Order is too unwilling. You know the old saying about omelets. Alice wants an omelet, but not only does she not want to break the eggs, she wants to keep them all wrapped individually in cotton batting.
On the other hand, Dogstar will sometimes say, 'let's have ourselves an omelet!' and when they're done, there's shell and yolk splattered all over the wall and nothing on anyone's plate.

@alt_bill at 2014-06-07 11:59:40
(no subject)

Yeah. I remember several of their projects that ended up like that.

@alt_bill at 2014-06-07 12:01:15
(no subject)

Or pepper ended up in somebody's eyes.

@alt_bill at 2014-06-07 12:05:02
(no subject)

Uh, don't ever mention that joke to Kingsley, by the way. It's still rather a sore subject with all the Players. Especially now that Emmeline's gone.
Daphs, as always, you throw the best parties.

Many, many happy returns, Draco. Here's to the future.
celebrations and completions

As term continues the inexorable process of drawing to a close, it is fitting that amidst the challenges of completing our exams and finishing our work, we have a reminder of the joys of life in the form of celebration of a natal anniversary. Best birthday felicitations, Malfoy!

Best wishes too to all at Hogwarts, as we stand poised on the cusp of the future! Excelsior!

Private Message to Professor Sinistra

I have got a missive from Magical Transportation! I shall be doing a short internship there over part of summer hols!

Thank you so very much for the letter of recommendation. I shall of course be writing to Guild Master Bright to thank him for his as well, and for allowing me to continue to assist with Guild work before and after the internship. Really, I think I've grown so happily acquainted with the Guild House in one short year that it wouldn't feel like proper summer were I to absent myself completely from it.

I shall no doubt be requesting your guidance on which reference texts would be most prudent for me to acquire for the internship -- in addition to Astronomy in Locational Magics, of course. But this can wait 'til the morrow, as can everything else except my saying once more: thank you, Professor, from the bottom of my heart.

Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

THEY WANT ME THEY WANT ME THEY WANT ME! Magical Transportation, I mean! For the internship -- it'll be much of July.

I am in RAPTURES! We shall CELEBRATE!
alt_lavender at 2014-06-07 17:29:39
Re: Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

Last night was quite a pleasant time, wasn't it?

Greengrass really does throw an excellent party—a perfect excuse for some celebrating of our own! And of course many happy returns to Malfoy too.

alt_linus at 2014-06-07 17:41:28
Re: Private Message to my sweetest Lavender

It was indeed. Everything was quite splendid -- and you, my fairest blossom of Protectorate beauty, outshone everyone else there.

We shall have to think up an outing for which you can wear your hair in that lovely arrangement again. Perhaps we might plan something for the very start of hols, before my internships get properly underway? (Yes, I know, technically I only have the one, but Guild Master Bright and Professor Sinistra both have small projects for me before and after my stint at Magical Transportation, so I expect to be at the Astronomy Guild House as much as ever, at least in June and August.)

I know! We could try out that new concern, the one with the ... Leviosa Picnic, that's it. They pack everything up for a splendid day out, and include a flying carpet rental.
On this day in June, 1997.

Party, friends, celebrations, secrets.

Still not right in the head. Too much punch, now wondering vaguely if my mind concocted what's come thru the colocation box/ring. But I recognised the parchment. Off-cream colour, cheap. Rumbled, I mean rumpled.

-----

Draco,

Happy birthday. I hope you enjoyed your party. I suppose you're all grown up now.

I could hear it from my cubby. Everyone sounded so happy. I couldn't help but--

I wish things were different. That I could be at the party with everyone else, and with you. A proper student, instead of having to learn in secret. And that we could tell everyone.

I know it's a dangerous thing to imagine, but sometimes I can't help it. And some nights, after we leave the hidden room and you go back to your dormitory and I go back to my cubby, I keep talking to you in my head. It almost feels like you're with me. Almost.

And when I close my eyes, I can still see you. I've been fighting it ever so long but there are some things you just can't fight. And I know that's no good, too. It doesn't help matters, not one bit. I know you don't want to hear it but I just have to tell you, now that you're grown. Now that we both are.

Whatever can I do?

-Hermione

-----
How to answer, how to say it. If she really means this... What now, indeed.

S.S. will be displeased.

Got to sleep. Dreams, I can already guess what they'll be.

H E R mione

Her

ˌɪˌmɔːnˈiː
2014-06-07 09:35:00
Private message to Cadmus Mulciber and Theodore Nott, Sr.

Got your owl.

I'll meet you at Hogwarts.

alt_corax

alt_corax at 2014-06-07 14:38:16
Private message to Cadmus

Yes, this could certainly change the whole game -- or at least radically shift the pieces. But the evidence would need to be overwhelming, given Our Lord's endless and unaccountable fondness for a certain blond-haired dandy.

Nott seemed quite convinced, but then, he would. Have you ever met his son? Is he reliable? Just -- I don't want to overstep until we're certain.
Hi.

Sorry about sending that letter through the colocation box so late. It must've been what, 2 or 3 in the morning? I couldn't sleep until I wrote it.

I should probably also confess that I was still a bit pissed from the party punch when I wrote it. But even so, I meant everything I wrote. It just wasn't necessarily as eloquent as it ought to have been, and possibly had a few misspellings.

I'm not sure what we do now, but talking seems first in order of things.
**2014-06-07 09:56:00**

*Private message to Antosha Dolohov and Rabastan Lestrange*

Raz, Tosha -

I'm leaving for Hogwarts within the next quarter hour. Raz, prepare your floo, please. I'll have Delia Forney with me. Do not alert the Headmistress nor anyone else.

-B

---

**alt_rabastan** at **2014-06-07 16:40:19**

*(no subject)*

Are we preparing an outing?

---

**alt_bellatrix** at **2014-06-07 16:47:38**

*(no subject)*

Corax, Cadmus, and Theo are either at the school or will arrive shortly. Do not allow them to apprehend and isolate either Draco or Harry's mudblood until I am present.

Forney's been looking to rise up since Maidstone. She came to me this morning with information regarding the Notts, who've built a case against Draco and have brought it to the Mulcibers' attention. Miscegenation and instruction in magical arts to legal nonpersons.

---

**alt_rabastan** at **2014-06-07 16:49:51**

*(no subject)*

Bloody Hell. On my way. Obviously a frame job.
Perhaps. Perhaps not.
I'll determine that for myself.

When found where do you want them taken?

Back here to your office. Don't tip your hand.
I have some good news and some bad news.

The good news is -- you know how Ron has been trying to learn the animagus transformation? He transformed! Just now! Into a snake. (No WONDER he had such a hard tim

Except he immediately tried to eat Sebastian and when Sebastian ran away he followed him into this little crevice in the wall and he's not coming out. That's the bad news.

Also, when you're an animagus you're still YOU, right, and Ron would never try to eat my pet, so -- he couldn't have accidentally just transfigured himself, could he? I mean, you sometimes hear stories about people transfiguring themselves while trying to learn the animagus transformation and not being able to change back from being a rabbit or whatever because they've actually turned into the animal. But, he didn't have his wand out, so surely --

He's red, by the way, and he's not a very big snake so he really could be anywhere. If you're in the castle and you see him could you try to -- I don't know. Don't tell anyone it's Ron, though, I don't think that would be a very good idea.

And I'm in that classroom that's around the corner from Alecto Carrow's old office (everyone still acts like it's haunted so it's a nice private quiet spot.) Only Ron slithered off into the wall. He could be anywhere.

He's WHAT?

He actually

I mean, of course, you saw it happen, but

Wow.
I'll be there soon.

Yes, he's a snake! A SNAKE.

It's no wonder he had such a hard time working out what his inner animal was! I'll have to ask him later if he'd prefer a naked mole rat.

He's actually a really pretty snake. Orange and red stripes. So, you know, basically the most Gryffindor snake EVER, which is kind of extra funny. If I ever have time to seriously try to learn the transformation, I'll definitely start out trying to turn myself into a lion. A bright green lion.

Sebastian just turned up. So Ron definitely didn't SUCCEED in eating him, but no sign of him.

Maybe we could use Sebastian as bait or something?

Sebastian's hiding at the bottom of my bag. I think if I try to use him as bait he'll run away and never speak to me again.

Do you think Pyewacket could go look? Megan Jones just saw him, I'm trying to get her to tell me where. (Or, at least, she saw a snake! I'm just assuming Ron's the only snake wandering around at present, but who knows, maybe Snake got loose.)
alt_pansy at 2014-06-07 16:12:54
(no subject)

Pye's been in a mood lately, but I'll go fetch him to see if he'll be of any help.

alt_evelyn at 2014-06-07 16:45:52
(no subject)

I can help if you need it.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 17:08:40
(no subject)

Well it's almost lunch time. If Ron's going to show up anywhere, he'll show up for lunch, right? Keep an eye out and stuff him in your pocket with a snack if he turns up, maybe?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 16:09:22
(no subject)

Well, congratulations to Ron.

It's not at all unusual to have trouble shifting back to human form, that first time. And if he got startled into the walls of Hogwarts -- well, he certainly won't be able to shift back if he's in a crevice sized for a snake.

The thing about food -- things look tasty when you're transformed that don't otherwise. It takes time to get used to that. So he could have gone after your pet just out of instinct he hasn't learned to properly manage yet.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-07 16:13:59
(no subject)

How can we tell if it's a transfiguration or a proper transformation?
Should we make him change back, or should he do it on his own?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 16:17:07
(no subject)

You'll need to find him first either way, won't you?

So find him. Get him somewhere quiet and private and give him some time.

alt_terry at 2014-06-07 17:30:10
(no subject)

Well, I'll be buggered. Congratulations, Ron! Another animagus to join the party!

If I were still at Hogwarts I could track him. Or at least smell out where he's hiding. But I suppose a dog on the prowl would draw as much attention. If only I were a cat.

Damn.

Could the Headmistress find him?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 17:33:09
(no subject)

In theory, I guess.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-07 17:38:28
(no subject)

It'd be too suspicious to have a dog wandering around inside Hogwarts unless we could come up with a good reason.

But if he doesn't turn up in a day or so, we might have to come up with something.
I'm looking too, and of course I'll let you know if I find anything.
THIS IS NOT FUNNY

I DO NOT CARE THAT IT IS EXAM TIME AND EVERYONE IS BEING STUPID
PUTTING A SNAKE IN THE CORRIDOR IS NOT FUNNY
I ALMOST TRIPPED OVER IT WHEN I CAME ROUND THE CORNER
AND FANG JUMPED OFF MY SHOULDER AND WENT AFTER IT
AND NOW THERE IS A TEAR IN MY ROBES AND FANG IS ALL UPSET

NOT FUNNY

I DON'T CARE IF IT IS A REAL SNAKE OR A TRANSFIGURED BERTIE BOTTS BEAN
IT SHOULD NOT BE INSIDE THE CASTLE SCARING PEOPLE
AND YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF FOR PUTTING IT THERE, WHOEVER DID.

Private message to Megan

Oh, that is inconsiderate. Where did you run into it? Snakes don't bother me any, I'll go pick it up quick before it startles anyone else.

Re: Private message to Megan

It was in that corridor by the statue of the grumpy knight. You know the one that the Gryffindors do imitations of? That one.

But I don't see it now. But that's where it was.
@alt_megan at 2014-06-07 16:02:08

To any other Hufflepuffs

For goodness' sake keep Ophiochus Helpmann out of the corridor by the statue of the grumpy knight. Because when they did snakes in Creatures he utterly lost it. And then some other third-years were teasing him and it was awful—he is not partial to snakes and does not need to be startled by one.

I think it went back into a crack in the wall or something, I can't see it any more, but it might still be there. So don't let him go there, whatever you do.

@alt_susan at 2014-06-07 17:50:27

Re: To any other Hufflepuffs

Thanks, Meg! I'd forgotten that about him & snakes. He's friends with Carrie, so I'll tell her to keep an eye out.

And actually, I think I'll go take a look in that corridor myself. Professor Brutka or Professor Grubbly-Plank might want to have a look at it if someone can catch it.

@alt_megan at 2014-06-07 19:06:23

Re: To any other Hufflepuffs

Thank you. You're a true friend, Sue, and a good 'Puff.

@alt_susan at 2014-06-07 19:28:52

Re: To any other Hufflepuffs

You too.
It's very bad luck to trouble snakes, you know. I would leave it strictly alone if I were you.

Troubling a snake is the very last thing I would set out to do! I don't mind them! Although I do not like almost stepping on one and then my cat going berzerk!

SOMEONE SHOULD TELL THE SNAKE THAT IT IS BAD LUCK TO TROUBLE ME. OR FANG. BUT ESPECIALLY FANG.

He is still all hissy and puffed up.

Which way did it go? I'm used to snakes, because we have them a lot in gardens, you know. If I can find it, I'll make sure to get rid of it.

Which way was it heading?

Into the wall.
2014-06-07 11:13:00
Private message to Bellatrix Lestrange

Surely you aren't under the impression that you're needed here.

alt_corax

alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-07 16:25:35
(no subject)

You overstep yourself again, Corax. Exposing nonpersons to the magical arts is MLE’s jurisdiction, not PA’s. I can't imagine why Cadmus neglected to alert Mafalda, but I'm sure it wasn't at all intentional.

alt_corax at 2014-06-07 16:30:59
(no subject)

Naturally, because who better to question a suspected young criminal than his own affectionate auntie?

This one isn't for you. Or Barty, for that matter. If you think an auror’s needed, send over someone who isn't a close blood relative of the principle accused.

alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-07 16:37:30
(no subject)

Yes, all across the Protectorate I am well-known for the affectionate sentimentality I hold for my family.

Do not attempt to order me, Corax. I answer to a higher authority than you.
Don't try to tell me Our Lord ordered you here. If you'd been to Court this morning, I'd know.

No. If our Lord disapproves of my actions, then He will make it known in good time.

I don't care if you disapprove.

See you at the castle.
Order Only - Private message to Sally Anne

Is Draco with you lot, helping you look for Ron-the-snake?

Oh, and have you seen Teddy around?

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 18:09:33
(no subject)

No, Draco's not here. I sort of assumed he was somewhere in Slytherin, nursing his hangover.

I did see Teddy. He was lurking near the Potions classroom, looking pleased with himself.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 18:10:09
(no subject)

If I see Draco I'll let him know you're looking for him.

Should I give you an update if I spot Teddy again?

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 18:16:29
(no subject)

Yes, please.

I don't know if any of this is important or not, but with Teddy we can't be too careful.

Daphne wrote to Harry and me because Teddy was gloating to her about how the "truth about Draco" was going to come out, and she knows that Draco has some kind of secret, and she's concerned that Teddy is going to reveal it - to hurt his standing in the challenge, I suppose.

But I don't know if Teddy was just trying to wind Daphne up or not. He's been doing that to her lately, so it's a possibility. But Draco does have secrets, far bigger than Daphne could imagine. I don't
think there's any way for Teddy to know any of them... but I need to find him and legilimise him, just to be sure.

I was going to say, maybe check with Hermione to see if she knows where Draco is.

Have you seen Hermione? I mean

In terms of secrets Teddy could have found out

She's not here either. I assumed she was off working on a potion for Snape.

No, I've not seen her. Which is why it's so important I find Teddy, first. This might be nothing, just another of his games. Or it might not be.

You know that Draco is in love with Hermione. I think you and I are the only ones who know that.

Could Teddy have found out? I can't think of any way he would have, but that doesn't mean he didn't.

Teddy might have hurt Hermione in front of Draco, and Draco could have given himself away in his response.

Or they might have been just a little bit careless in the wrong place at the wrong time, and Teddy overheard them talking like mates.
Or maybe Hermione decided to give it a try with Draco and they snogged and Teddy caught them at it.

I went up to the secret room and checked. It's empty.

Yes, any of those things might've happened, as well as others we've surely not thought of.

Teddy's been leaving me alone. I was relieved, but now I wonder if he didn't want me to read him. And his taunting Daphne about her relationship with Draco... he might've done because he found out about Hermione.

The last time I read him he was thinking about cutting Hermione apart so that he could get to the truth about how she works. And now he's told Daphne that everyone will know the "truth" about Draco.

Okay. Right. Why am I trying to imagine what could be happening when I could just find Teddy.

Neither of them have answered, have they?

What do we tell everyone?

To quit looking for Ron for now, and look for Draco, Hermione, and Teddy, instead.
2014-06-07 12:24:00
(no subject)
draco check in pls - HEL

@alt_galleon
IF ANYONE SEES NOTT LET ME OR HL KNOW RIGHT AWAY BE CAREFUL DON'T LOOK BY YOURSELF AND IF YOU SEE HIM DON'T ENGAGE JUST KEEP AN EYE OUT -HM

@alt_galleon
2014-06-07 12:50:00
Private Message to Rory

It's going to be a bad day.
Brown Dwarf, but Draco.

alt_rabastan

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-07 16:59:25
(no subject)

Draco?
Already done.

I'll keep an eye out for updates.

Love you.
Has anyone seen Hermione?

Mr Snape, is she brewing for you today? Do you know if she's in the secret room? I mean she hasn't written in her journal but if she's brewing something complex that wouldn't be surprising.

Also -- has anyone seen Draco?

I've not run into either of them while I've been out and about looking for Ron, but I haven't been anywhere near the dungeons either.

I'm down with the Cannons for another meeting & training day. Is something happening?

I am in the laboratory and she is not, so no. Have you checked the greenhouses? She may have gone to harvest some ingredients.
**2014-06-07 13:25:00**
*Private message to Harry Marvolo and Hydra Lestrange*

Have either of you seen Draco?

I was returning from lunch and I saw Teddy on the stairs. He was giving me one of his smiles...you know, the gloating kind. I asked him if he had something to say, and he told me that I was in for a big surprise. That we're all in for a big surprise. "Wait til you learn the truth about Draco," he said.

Well, I just ignored him and went on my way, of course.

Only now I can't find Draco. He wasn't at breakfast or lunch, either, but I thought he might've just imbibed a bit too much punch last night.

It's you two that Draco's closest to. Do you have any idea what's going on? What's Teddy going on about? It's just nonsense, surely. Isn't it?

---

**alt_hydra** at **2014-06-07 17:48:32**
*(no subject)*

Hullo Daphne. I saw Draco a few hours ago, he was going through the common room. He seemed fine, maybe a little tired?

Teddy might just be trying to upset you. He has a tendency to do that sometimes. But if you're worried about Draco I'll help you look for him.

From,

Hydra

---

**alt_daphne** at **2014-06-07 17:56:38**
*(no subject)*

I'm not worried so much as bothered. There's no doubt that getting under people's skin is something Teddy enjoys - nay, excels at! - but it isn't like him to gloat without good reason. And what could he mean,
"the truth about Draco?"

What I mean to say is, Draco has always made it clear to me that he has certain secrets. I don't know what those secrets are, but could it be that Teddy found them out, somehow?

Draco is fond of making himself seem more important than he really is. I doubt he has any secrets that would interest Teddy.

Let's just put this to rest. You keep looking for Draco, and I'll see if I can find Teddy.

From,
Hydra

We'll keep an eye out, Daphs.

Draco told you that Daphs has been a little moody lately, right? Or maybe she really is upset right now, it's so hard to tell from writing. Teddy is good at knowing how to upset people.

I couldn't tell her that I think Draco is off helping the others look for Ron-the-snake.

That is what he's doing, isn't he?
alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 18:01:23
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

I need to find Teddy.

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 19:14:45
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

Yeah.

Yeah, that's probably good.

Do you want me to help you find him?

alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 19:18:20
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

We need to find him, Hermione, and Draco.

And - alright. The reason we need to find them is that Sally Anne and I think Teddy might've figured out a secret about Draco and Hermione, and that he's got them somewhere right now and is planning to hurt them.

The secret he might've figured out is that Draco is in love with Hermione.

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 19:20:09
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

uh.

Right.

Okay.

Yes. We do, then.
@alt_harry at 2014-06-07 19:22:00
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

And it's a real secret?

Not one Teddy made up?

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 19:23:13
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

Yes, it's real.

I'm sorry I didn't tell you. It wasn't my business to tell.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-07 19:41:36
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

It's fine. You're right. If it was something they thought I should know they would've

It's not important. We've just got to find them and make sure they're okay.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-07 19:19:21
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

I don't want you going after him on your own.

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 19:20:51
Re: Order Only - Private message to Harry

Thanks.
Right.

Where have you lot already searched?

We've cleared most of the dungeons.

We thought the greenhouses might be a place either of them might be laying low on a Saturday, but no. We've checked them all. Not there.

I checked the greenhouses earlier (although I was looking for Hermione) and the secret room (ditto) and Pansy and went down to the area near Alecto Carrow's old office where Ron and I were earlier, and we searched that whole bit. (Because if Teddy wanted to do something awful to someone, that would be a good spot area is pretty quiet, not a lot of people go there.)

And he's not in the main stairwells or the library.

We're searching the grounds. We've just been to the pitch, the locker rooms, and the broom shed.
Try the Owlry.

Yes.

Good idea.

Did you see the Galleon post? Nev saw Teddy. He's in the Charms classroom with Acton. Just, you know, getting help with a spell or something.

So

Where are Draco and Hermione?

Could he have stunned them and hidden them somewhere?

That just seems plain odd, though...

Harry and I could try to get past Acton. I don't think she'd be so quick to shut the door in our faces.

Yeah.

We're headed up there.
He could have stunned them and cursed them and left them somewhere, yeah. He's done similar things before.

It's weird that he's doing something normal. Ugh.

Watch.

This will all turn out to be something ridiculous where they're just off doing something and don't have their journals.

Yeah I keep hoping I'll open my journal and see Hermione making fun of us for going into a panic. That would be fine. She and Draco can laugh at me for the rest of June.

Yeah. Ed and I have been checking the grounds near the Quidditch pitch and the lake. No sign of anyone.

Should we keep up the search, then?
Yes.
HE'S A SNAKE?! WHERE IS HE?

YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM! HE COULD BE HURT! HE COULD BE TRAPPED! WHAT IF HE'S A WATER SNAKE? HE COULD WANDER INTO THE LAKE AND BE EATEN BY THE GIANT SQUID!

MERLIN, YOU HAVE TO FIND HIM!!!

What the--

My journal chimed at Mum's message since it was...a bit urgent; I'm just catching up.

He did it? He did it! Congratulations, Ron! Er, whenever you see this.

(Mum, stop panicking. What does the clock say?)
It says he's at school.

Well, there you go, then. I suppose he's holed up for the moment, which is probably the best thing he can do, to stay out of people's way.

THE LAKE IS PART OF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. AND HOW'S THE CLOCK SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHAT'S MORTAL PERIL FOR A SNAKE?!

I'm sure he's fine, Mrs Weasley. It can take a bit of time to get your bearings when you first learn the transformation, but it's quite rare for new animagi to wander into dangerous situations. In fact, it's far more likely that the reason he hasn't turned up yet is that he feels more secure in the safety of the walls, and is instinctively trying to keep himself safe.
Since he's a snake, he might gravitate to somewhere warm, too. Snakes like warmth. Someplace like behind a fireplace might be my guess.

I dunno, depends on how much he's thinking like a snake instead of thinking like Ron. What do you think, Miss Brodie?

That's a really excellent thought. Even if he's thinking like Ron, he's got the physicality of a snake -- surely Ron would go sit by a fire if he's cold, right? Snakes get cold very easily.

Fine? FINE?! HOW CAN HE BE FINE WHEN HE'S A SNAKE AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS?!!!

Mum, please. I know you're upset, but yelling at Rachel isn't going to help. She, if anyone, might have the best idea of where to find him.

I'm sorry, I--I'm sorry. I'm just so upset. Oh, how I wish your father was here.
Of course you know where he is. He's at Hogwarts. You didn't know exactly where in the school he was BEFORE he turned into a snake, right?

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have--I shouldn't have written back so stridently. You're only trying to help, and I'm sorry I took my worry out on you.

It must seem enormous to him, and oh, he must be very frightened and confused.

If he isn't, I'm frightened enough for both of us!

Sally-Anne said it was a classroom near Alecto Carrow's old office. Which is a really cold part of the castle, trust us, so it would make sense that he'd head for somewhere warmer. Or back to Gryffindor Tower. Or both.

Well, and he was spotted near Hufflepuff. Hufflepuff's always warm, since they're right near the kitchens.

What you're saying makes sense, so I do hope--

Oh, of course you're right. He'll be okay. Probably come out in a day bragging to his friends about mastering the transformation.
I am proud of him, and it's a huge relief, since he seems to be headed for the Auror programme.

About Mum...I'm sorry. She's just really sensitive about all our personal safety. Especially after what happened to Dad.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 18:58:05
Private message to Bill Weasley

Never in all my life have I been quite so grateful that Mum (by which I mean my aunt who raised me) has never been privy to any of the details of my life I did not choose to share with her.

@alt_bill at 2014-06-07 19:09:21
Re: Private message to Bill Weasley

I can imagine.

@alt_gredforge at 2014-06-07 19:01:41
(no subject)

A snake? That's brilliant.

And at least it'll make his Slytherin girlfriend really happy!
So far the lad's story hasn't changed. He's utterly indignant at the accusations and says Nott Jr made everything up out of jealousy. They're both in the Challenge, of course. I haven't checked the standings but Nott Sr insists Jr had no reason for jealousy.

Let's see. Young Malfoy further accuses Nott Jr of obsession with the mudblood girl. Said he wanted to see her naked, touched her things, etc.

Nott Sr wants to try some physical pressure. Your thoughts on this? I'm not averse to the idea, mind you, just not sure there's a good reason for it yet.

And is Theo being open with you about how he escorted his son before Harry and Cruciated him in Harry's presence, precisely because said son was interfering with Harry's creature?

And has Raz told you of how Theo's son used Imperius on the creature during one of his lessons? Had it perform a strip-tease, no less.

The letters could easily be forged. I admit the recordings are more convincing, on first glance, but more more careful study will be required to verify their authenticity.

The creature is playing stupid for now. This gives me pause, because it should not have to play.
Oh, indeed? His explanation was that his son has always been fascinated by animals, both outside and in, and has allowed his enthusiasm to run away with him once or twice.

Crude. There’s nothing there to be fascinated by.

Let me con

The little bitch has a wand.

I removed the binding and she kept touching her wrist. Found some kind of bracelet there, searched further and found the wand.

I think we’ve just found our reason to get physical.

Oh, I didn’t imagine that this would be fun, did you?

This is going to be a far more pleasant day than I was anticipating.

And a wand. A true wand, not some sort of fraud or plaything?

HOW?
I've tested the wand. It's authentic.

Now the creature is insisting that "Master Nott" told her to take the wand and wear the bracelet, and that she was only following his orders.

I'm not sure I believe the words it says. The mind would tell more, but ugh, such a dirty place.

Search Draco. Tell me if you find anything of note.

---

He's got a very attractive antique pocket watch and he was wearing two rings. One's heavy silver, has a dragon engraved on it. The other's got a little compartment. He says that one's for passing things to Harry.

He was also carrying three galleons, four sickles, and a knut, and a packet of ice mice.

Maybe you want a look in Draco's mind, eh?

He's not changed his story. 'Wand? The mudblood had a wand? Merlin, that's horrifying. She slept in the Slytherin common room!'
As to your findings - he and Harry do own a pair of boxes for such purposes, and the watch was a birthday gift from Lucius.

Yes, let's swap. Don't mind the creature's missing finger. There was something peculiar moving there, so I removed it. It, too, was a ring. Very plain, but something magic about it.

Quite a collection of jewelry for a mudblood to be wearing.

I suppose she claimed that, too, was a gift from the Nott boy. Maybe we should bring him in for a chat next, eh?

I'll be over straight away. Any spells I shouldn't use on the creature? Other than anything that could be prematurely fatal, obviously.

Theo insists on speaking for him, for now. I think he's aware that the boy has, historically, not presented himself to authority figures in the most favourable of lights.

Keep it alive and reasonably able to speak. Anything else is acceptable.

Understood.
Antonin wants to try to be the 'good Auror' -- so I'm letting him wipe the creature's tears for a minute, nauseating though that is.

Any news on your end? Did Draco prove enlightening?

Not as hoped. Far more skilled at occlumency than I would have anticipated. And yet, if his story about young Nott setting him up is true, what could he possibly have to hide from me?

I'd rather hoped I'd not have to use enhanced techniques, but so be it.

Draco knows how to occlude? Fascinating. Did you teach him?

I did not. My daughter is a legilimens, however, and she and Draco have worked closely on the council challenge. I believe he asked her some time ago to help him learn occlumency, in addition to spell-cast legilimency, under the pretense that it would help him to better serve our Lord.

Of course, he may have had other reasons for wanting to learn.

Though it pains me to cast suspicions upon him, he'd hardly be the first decent, pureblooded man to be seduced by a conniving, filthy mudblood.
He might be the first to go to the trouble of learning occlumency in order to cover up his unnatural lusts, though.

Any success with your 'enhanced techniques'? By all means let me know if you'd like to let someone else soften him up a bit, Auror Lestrange.

Lusts? And just when I was beginning to think you were more clever than the typical man.

Seduced into teaching her magic, Corax. Which comes with camp internment at best, execution at worst, and Azkaban somewhere in the middle. And he's of age now.

I always knew my sister was too soft on him. For all that, he does take Crucius quite well. The sight of blood tends to inspire more willingness - keep away from his face, though. If we can get a confession, he may not be ruined.

Raz is getting anxious. Ignore him.

I'll keep well away from your nephew's pretty, pretty face.

Blood, eh? That's easy enough to arrange.
**2014-06-07 14:15:00**

*Order Only*

Right. I'm sorry Mrs Weasley, but we need to stop looking for Ron and start looking for Draco, Hermione, and Teddy Nott. I think this is rather more urgent.

If you find Teddy, keep him in sight and tell Hydra right away. Stun him if you need to and can do it safely but don't do anything that would put him in the hospital wing, Hydra needs to ask him some questions and he'll need to be conscious and able to answer them.

Daphne went to Hydra because Teddy was gloating about doing something to expose one of Draco's secrets. We're very concerned that Draco and Hermione are in real danger from Teddy. If we find just Teddy, Hydra can find out from him where they are. If you find Hermione or Draco, let everyone else know.

Professor Sprout, Mr Snape, if you can look too -- that might be a good idea.

---

**alt_evelyn at 2014-06-07 19:23:30**

*(no subject)*

I went to Professor Brutka's office to see if Professor Dumbledore could help with Ron, but he isn't there either.

---

**alt_hydra at 2014-06-07 19:24:00**

*(no subject)*

Hermione still has the portkey?

---

**alt_evelyn at 2014-06-07 19:25:05**

*(no subject)*

Yes. We were planning on going out tomorrow, so she's still got it.
That's a spot of decent news, then.

Oh, dear.

I--but of course you're right. I know Ron will be fine. He'll be fine.

Just--just find Draco and Hermione, make sure they're both safe.

I think we need to stay in teams. No-one should be looking for Teddy Nott alone.

Sally-Anne, I think what you put about how to handle him if you find him is good.

Do you think we should use the galleons to get everyone looking for Teddy? People could report back if they spot him.

Yeah. I put something up.
Neville and I are one team.

If we run across Teddy Nott, I'll use the sphincter-release spell on him. It usually distracts people nicely until you can stun them.

Good thought, Luna! Ed just came panting down the corridor holding his Galleon, so he and I are heading out to look together.

Good on Ed.

Kitty Artie and me just ran into Summers, Brocklehurst, and Capper. Summers gave us a wink and a nod, so I think they're looking too.

I could try tracking them, if I were there.
alt_gredforge at 2014-06-07 19:30:57
(no subject)

No. Don't you go charging in there, Terry.

alt_terry at 2014-06-07 19:31:42
(no subject)

Oh, bugger. Cedric's out of the castle, so I don't have an 'owner' to give me credence to being there.

Bugger, bugger, bugger.

Please find her. I mean--find them. Find them both.

(And bloody hell, Teddy Nott doesn't deserve to live one more day.)

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 19:35:25
(no subject)

So noted.

alt_alice at 2014-06-07 19:37:44
(no subject)

Agreed. We hold until we know more.

alt_alice at 2014-06-07 19:35:59
(no subject)

Thank you for keeping us informed, Sally-Anne.

We'll be on standby. If an extraction of some sort needs to occur, remember our protocols.
2014-06-07 15:34:00
Private message to Hydra Lestrange

Hydra,

A series of unfortunate happenings have brought me to the castle today. It seems that your cousin may have been caught up in some unsavoury activities.

Now. Mummy would like your absolute compliance in what comes next. No questions. I will fill you in on what is necessary for you to know. Let's test just how strong your abilities - and stomach -are, shall we?

I've a plaything for you. We're in Tosha's offices. Come alone and tell no one.
JUST SPIED TN HE’S IN CHARMS CLASSROOM TALKING W ACTON CALM AS YOU PLEASE ASKED TO SPEAK WITH HIM BUT ACTON SHUT DOOR IN FACE--NL
2014-06-07 15:53:00

Ahem.

Speaking as a Prefect, I feel it behooves me to remind all and sundry that just because a Hufflepuff went into a panic over seeing what might or might not have been a snake does NOT mean that the entirety of the student body ought to be rampaging up and down the halls in a game of Hunt the Serpent.

Or if you must do, at least try to maintain some decorum. Have a little respect and consideration for others.

alt_linus at 2014-06-07 21:02:09

(no subject)

That goes double for Prefects. Bones, this means you. Do try to summon up the memory of the dignity of your office, even if the vaunted Hufflepuff fellow-feeling crowds it out of your consciousness.

alt_susan at 2014-06-07 21:35:16

(no subject)

Oh, come on, Moon! You know people will take any excuse for amusement this time of year.
**2014-06-07 16:02:00**

**ORDER ONLY**

Kingsley.

The distractions are not working.

I need you to move. Now.

We're bringing a contingent from Sherwood and Moddey to provide some additional support.

---

**alt_justin** at **2014-06-07 23:05:13**

*(no subject)*

Mrs Longbottom,

Oh, good. I had just written to say we need this.

Jolly good. I shall raise an alarum immediately.

-Justin

---

**alt_kingsley** at **2014-06-07 23:05:18**

*(no subject)*

Understood. Going in. Will take great care to avoid collateral damage.

---

**alt_kingsley** at **2014-06-07 23:06:31**

*(no subject)*

We have all donned the disguising masks, too, by the way.

---

**alt_alice** at **2014-06-07 23:07:11**

*(no subject)*

Yes.

Good.
We're on our way.

Us and Lee are along for the fun, too.

We have the masks, too. And we promise not to break the castle, and let the more experienced fighters do most of the partying. We’ll be there mostly to guide the Sherwood and Moddey support.
2014-06-07 16:10:00
(no subject)

THANKS -HM
2014-06-07 16:11:00
Order Only

In the loo don't have long. H looks bad, I made it worse. H told me what to say via legilmns.

H is in D's office, D is in R's.

T.N. set all up. Had evidence.

B found wand, bracelet, ring - portkey in bracelet. Bracelet in cabinet in D's office.

I reported to B that H's wand was stolen from buckham. They think D was teaching H magic, but H told me to say that H was learning in secret, D not involved.

---

alt_pansy at 2014-06-07 22:28:21
(no subject)

Ron's just slithered away.

It was a determined sort of slither, not a scared one. I think he's got a plan. We tried to get him to tell us what it was, but he's gone into the walls again.

---

alt_molly at 2014-06-07 22:30:00
(no subject)

Oh, no.

---

alt_molly at 2014-06-07 22:30:28
(no subject)

And the clock just reports that he's 'at school.'

This clock is USELESS!!!
Look, I hate to say this but: What reason have we to think Draco won't take this deal he's about to be offered and sell us all out?

Perhaps we should all be ready to fall back to Moddey Dhoo.

Mr Malfoy will not betray the Order.

Much as I respect your opinion, Severus, how can you be so sure?

At the very least, you or someone ought to ensure he can't speak out.
It was, after all, scarcely a month ago that he was threatening to leave the Order.

I have spent the past six months working with Mr Malfoy on Occlumency; there is little of his mind unfamiliar to me.

He will not betray the Order, and you ought be ashamed for thinking it.

At this point, it seems as though they're focusing on Hermione's learning magic, and Hermione's relationship to Draco rather than a larger plot.

If that is the scope of their focus

Draco may have to make some difficult choices. But I have every faith.

Bloody hell.

That changes things.

He's not leaving without her, is he?
Have to agree. His family will protect him and he knows it.

Severus tells me he has every confidence in him. Which is to say that I had the same question, and I cannot say that I'm vastly reassured.

It's strange for me to say it, but...I believe he won't, actually.

I don't know exactly why, but I just think he won't. His pride won't let him. I know all about teenage boy pride. He'll want to die, first. Unfortunately, that may not be an option.

We should be prepared for a security breach regardless. It is common sense to do so.

But Draco Malfoy will not betray us.

I believe that Hermione is attempting to take the fall here.

They are both fully aware of what is on their
shoulders.

Merlin help them both.

Harry, is there any movement at all within the castle?

[@alt_harry](no subject) 2014-06-07 22:53:52

No. It's not doing a damn thing.

[@alt_severus](no subject) 2014-06-07 23:04:03

I have seen Hermione, when I went to attempt to pull Dolohov out to deal with the distraction. (Unsuccessfully.) She is in extreme duress but is still alive.

I was unable to reduce the number of people in the office to make a full-on assault practical, but if there is no further movement and we are unable to recover Hermione's portkey to enable her escape, I will not allow her to continue being tortured.

[@alt_alice](no subject) 2014-06-07 23:06:39

Yes.

I see.

[@alt_sally_anne](no subject) 2014-06-07 22:57:04

Well, since Hydra's busy I suppose I'll say it.

He won't betray Hermione or the Order. Because he's in love with Hermione.
Sally-Anne,

Yes, he is. It's true. Unfortunately she doesn't feel the same way about him.

That can turn someone quite bitter, what, but in his case I don't think it has done.

-Justin

He WHAT?

...  

Sorry, just woke up and looked in here and found the world had gone mad.

What can I do to help?

AND HE WHAT??

Get to Hogwarts. Meet up with Kingsley.
On my way.

Do you want me? I've just now finished with the Cannons.

Yes. Make sure you're disguised. Remember, the goal is to distract, not to fully engage.

2014-06-07 16:25:00
Order Only: Centralisation

Draco and Hermione have not yet been found. Those of you who see them regularly, please check in when you've a moment and let me know when and where you last saw either or both of them; if we are able to produce a timeline, it may allow us to centre the search in the most fruitful places.

Has anyone located Nott? If so, Miss Lestrange or I can find an excuse to legilimise him to see if he had anything to do with their disappearance.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-07 21:31:54
(no subject)

Neville found Nott. He's in Acton's office. Can you pry him out?

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 21:33:38
(no subject)

Acton's not answering the door. And it's locked.

alt_pomona at 2014-06-07 21:34:10
(no subject)

I have a half dozen children who persist in having hysterics. One over the snake sighting, two over being sure they failed some exam or another, and three for no reason I can sort out, except that such things are contagious.

I have seen nothing of him near my office or the sett.
Pomona.

Thank you for keeping most of that out of my domain. The fewer casual observers here, the better, perhaps.

Draco got sort of pissed last night and didn't come up until really late.

Hermione usually does her own thing on the weekends. I didn't see her this morning and thought she was doing potions stuff or something.

Has anyone seen either of them at all today?

Bellatrix Lestrange is in the castle. Dolohov's offices. She says she came to investigate some 'unsavoury activities' involving Draco, and wants Hydra to come and help.

Shit. Shit. Shit.
Am I the only one seeing this?

Bellatrix

Bellatrix is here.

I can't remember what we're supposed to do but I'm pretty sure it's not supposed to just be us doing it.

Yes, I see.

Get somewhere from where you can get to an outside-enabled Floo quickly. Watch your journals. Do not panic.

Severus, I stand ready to assist in any way I'm able. And am perfectly willing to apply unorthodox means should they be needed.

Standard MLE procedures would involve disabling all the floos. You might want to test them before you rely on them as an escape route.
Fuck

Yes, you are correct, they are disabled.

But Ron...no one can find Ron!

Sally-Anne just said she found him. He's still in snake form but she's got him, she can bring him if they have to evacuate.

Oh, thank Merlin.

I just checked the clock. It's...it's not at Mortal Peril. For anyone in the family.

Yet.

Which means if Hermione and Draco are being questioned, they haven't broken yet. They're holding up against--god.

Rachel, please. Is there anything you can think of that we can do?
I can tell you this: killing them both before they break is going to be easier than pulling off a rescue.

If you're dead set on a rescue, Sirius Black's suggestion of showing up somewhere is your best shot. Because it's about the only thing that would draw off Bellatrix.

Tell Alice that. **Quickly.**

Harry, get to Milland's office or the Infirmary immediately and be prepared to evacuate the castle.

How good is Hermione at occlumency?

Skilled enough to keep from casual snooping, but if Bellatrix is determined to break her, she will not hold out long. No one could.
alt_harry at 2014-06-07 21:54:34
(no subject)

No.

They go down, we're all going down, and this'll be where it happens. I'm not letting them take Draco and Hermione out of this castle.

alt_bill at 2014-06-07 21:53:01
(no subject)

Bugger.

Just went hunting through my journal.

There have been an exchange of Private messages today between Bellatrix and Corax and Cadmus Mulciber. Oh and Dolohov and Rabastan Lestrange's names have been popping up, too.

alt_justin at 2014-06-07 21:58:35
(no subject)

Hello,

Yes. There are some spells repelling people from Professor Dolohov's office. But I went up to see if I could find anything out, based on the Private Message notices and saw the Auror Lestrangle and Mr Nott when the door opened for a moment.

Harry, I'm keeping a lookout round the corner. We could activate a diversion with the Galleon, perhaps?

-Justin

alt_alice at 2014-06-07 22:02:11
(no subject)

Justin -- a diversion would be potentially useful, yes.
I'm bringing together some outside people who might be able to help on that front.

@alt_severus at 2014-06-07 22:04:01
(no subject)

I am prepared to do the same inside Hogwarts when you are ready.

@alt_ginny at 2014-06-07 22:03:19
(no subject)

I have an entire BOX of Fred and George's best fireworks. Should I go set them off right now?

@alt_severus at 2014-06-07 22:11:56
(no subject)

Nothing that can be traced back to the twins' business; it would be too suspicious.

Go to Milland's office. Open the cabinet behind the door, remove the cleaning supplies, and tap the back of the cabinet with your wand while saying 'augmentum visibilis'. Take the flasks labelled '12' and '22'. Bring them to as many places as possible and pour a tablespoon or so of each on the floor, being certain they combine. I suggest you then move quickly out of the way; they will create quite a mess.

Do not apply them anywhere near any of the evacuation tunnels or anywhere any of us might need to go.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-07 21:58:44
(no subject)

Did Hydra go?
Ms Brodie,

Hydra just arrived. We couldn't speak for long, what, but I've chosen to stay here in case something goes wrong and she needs assistance.

Oh, dash it--when she opened the door I believe I heard Hermione. Crying, what.

Harry...we'd better devise something and quickly.

-Justin

Well, I have some good news, which is that Ron turned up.

He's still in snake form but he's acting like an animagus who's having a little trouble shifting back, not like a snake. He's currently coiled around my left arm and I'm, um, giving him an update on what happened.

I feel a little odd telling a snake about my day

Anyway if we have to evacuate Mrs Weasley I've got him.

Well that's something.
Sally-Anne,

He won't be able to do it if he's not calm. You might want to not agitate him quite yet, as upsetting as this situation is.

And Alice, if you need Sirius Black to suddenly appear somewhere halfway across the country, say the word.

More distractions cannot hurt.

Yes.

Be careful.
2014-06-07 16:41:00  

Private message to Gilly Chadwick

Gil -

Sorry. Something's up with the floo, clearly. I can see it try and make the connection and then it just fizzes out. The connections here are always a little tricky, but this is much worse than usual.

No sense making you sit around and waste the afternoon. If they come back up while I'm still in my office, I'll write, yeah?

Not like the notes can't wait a week till I'm back in New London, anyway. There are such things as owls to get them to the couple of students who are interested.

A.
Draco

Where are you

alt_harry

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 23:50:03
(no subject)

DRACO WHERE ARE YOU DAMMIT

alt_draco at 2014-06-07 23:52:13
(no subject)

sectumsempra

alt_draco at 2014-06-07 23:52:43
(no subject)

running have to get clear to apparate

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 23:54:21
(no subject)

get to the shack if you can.

alt_draco at 2014-06-07 23:55:16
(no subject)

is she okay?
YES.

She's alive. She's at Grimmauld. She wrote us.

Get to the shack.
The mudblood's confessed to stealing the wand from Buckingham, was learning magic all on her own, apparently. So she says.

Now, whether Draco has a hand in this or not remains to be seen. Let me speak with him. I'll convince him that if he confesses to having been seduced by the mudblood, and at least "entertained" ideas about teaching her magic, that we will sort this out amongst ourselves. He'll believe me.

I'll give you the mudblood. I'm done with her.

Let my daughter watch - she still has much to learn.

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to educate her a bit.
**2014-06-07 16:58:00**

ORDER ONLY: *Hogwarts Floos disabled*

To ensure everyone sees this:

Hogwarts' Floos are disabled. Bellatrix and Nott are present in the castle. Draco and Hermione are under questioning.

All of you: Prepare for evacuation, but do not act precipitously. With the Floos disabled, you will need to place yourself within range of one of the tunnels outside the castle. If I or anyone gives the signal, get out as quickly as you can, without stopping for any reason at all.

---

**alt_ginny** at 2014-06-07 22:05:20

(no subject)

Should we warn the people who have galleons? I mean, just galleons, rather than being in the Order?

Because Hermione and Draco know all those names, too.

---

**alt_susan** at 2014-06-07 22:11:45

(no subject)

I was going to ask the same thing. And particularly, can I get my siblings in range of the tunnels? Ed and Carrie have Galleons, and even though they don't know anything, I don't think that will help them.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-07 22:15:33

(no subject)

Right.

So two things they need to do. Make some chaos, and then know where to go if they need to evacuate. I'll get on it.

Gin, yes for the fireworks.

Ev, get to Peeves.
@alt_evelyn at 2014-06-07 22:30:13
(no subject)

Right, I found him, he's got all the dungbombs I could get my hands on in Gryffindor.

@alt_severus at 2014-06-07 22:14:06
(no subject)

Prepare to do so, but do not make a general alert yet: it will only cause panic.

@alt_susan at 2014-06-07 22:17:05
(no subject)

Understood. Thanks, Mr. Snape.

Ed's searching with me, so I can send him to find the others.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-07 22:07:42
(no subject)

We can provide a substantial diversion, and wand support in case we need to invade the castle.

Fred, George, Lee, nothing that can be traced to whizbangs. And for the love of Merlin, you will NOT put yourself in a position where you can be recognised or caught. With any luck we can pull a few MLE out of that blasted hallway. Harry, you coordinate similar efforts inside Hogwarts.

Kingsley, Dorcas, Caradoc, you'll meet the twins and Lee at the shack. Be ready for a fight.

@alt_kingsley at 2014-06-07 22:19:25
(no subject)

We're ready and in place, Alice.
Mrs Longbottom,

This isn't working. Nothing's making any of the Ministry people leave, nor Professor Dolohov.

Auror Lestrange is leaving but no one else, what.

-Justin

If any of you can get to the tunnel to the Shrieking Shack, you can Apparate away from there. It's not under Hogwarts' protections.

Everyone,

Hydra just came out. She only had a moment but she told me that Draco's being held in Professor Lestrange's office. With Auror Mulciber and Mr Nott. They're going to try to make him confess for immunity. Hydra's being asked to legilimise Hermione so they'll know just what to have him say.

-Justin

Reckon I could be confused cos I've just now noticed this rabble, but what's he meant to confess to, exacrly? What's the Nott kid got them pegged for?
Mr Macnair,

Hermione's accused of seducing Draco and enticing him to teach her magic.

Apparently Teddy has been compiling rather a lot of evidence. I gather much of it's circumstantial but--perhaps there's more to it.

And they've found Hermione's wand, what.

-Justin

Private Message to Severus Snape

Do you think Mr Malfoy will hold firm?

I have every confidence in him.
2014-06-07 17:16:00
Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

If you have any hope of accomplishing a rescue, having Sirius turn up somewhere is possibly the only thing that would draw off Bellatrix.

I gather you don't much care for apparating? I hope you've got some ginger in your pocket, because I imagine you'll need it.

alt_rachel

alt_sirius at 2014-06-07 22:20:16
(no subject)

I'll be all right.
Milland and McGonagall just burst into Professor Dolohov's office. Corax Mulciber didn't realise that they weren't there to chat, I guess. Snape killed him and the Headmistress asked me to leave so I did.

There's people running around everywhere. What should I be doing?

The Headmistress didn't look well.

---

@alt_harry at 2014-06-07 23:26:07
(no subject)

Right. So that leaves Draco.

Let's go get him.

As many of us that can.

@alt_neville at 2014-06-07 23:26:58
(no subject)

I'm in, Harry.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-07 23:28:10
(no subject)

Okay.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-07 23:35:38
(no subject)

For Merlin's sake.

Godspeed. Be careful.
alt_harry at 2014-06-07 23:38:20
(no subject)

He's not here.

No-one is FUCKING HERE.

Wai

alt_luna at 2014-06-07 23:39:51
(no subject)

There's blood on the floor. Wherever he is, he's bleeding quite a bit.

alt_harry at 2014-06-07 23:38:53
(no subject)

snape and dolohov are fighting.

don't see draco though.

alt_susan at 2014-06-07 23:31:53
(no subject)

Got caught up with some non-Galleon Prefects and had to act the part for a bit, but I'm free now if you need another wand.
OPERATION MAYHEM THIS IS AN X SITUATION NOT A DRILL ONCE YOU HEAR THE FIREWORKS I NEED SOME STAGED PANIC

@alt_galleon
KEEP YOUR HEADS ON THOUGH AND KEEP AN EYE ON THIS -HM
TEDDY

your plan didn't work

meet me by the creatures shack. I have something I know you want to see.
2014-06-07 17:45:00
CALLING ALL PREFECTS

We must act! This is INTOLERABLE!

STUPEFY THEM ALL AND LET MILLAND SORT THEM OUT LATER.

@alt_linus

@alt_padma at 2014-06-07 22:52:30
(no subject)

ALL PREFECTS REPORT IMMEDIATELY.

ANYONE with dungbombs, fireworks, bubbles, vanishing powders, portable lakes of fire, ice floes, noisemakers or ANY OTHER contraband will lose 150 points for their house.

HONESTLY. All right, it’s the end of the year but for Lakshmi's sake, would you all get a grip?

@alt_padma at 2014-06-07 22:53:03
Private Message to Linus

That goes for you, too, Lines.

Get a grip.
2014-06-07 17:50:00
Private Message to B. Lestrange
ALERT
BLACK SIGHTED @ GRAVESEND
CONFIRMED

@alt_crouch_jr

@alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-07 23:02:21
(no subject)

What.

Interesting timing. I'll be there shortly. I'm dealing with another matter, but Theo can keep it warm.
2014-06-07 18:15:00
(no subject)

DELAY GOING TO COMMON ROOMS IF YOU CAN, STAY OUT OF THE MAIN HALLWAYS. DON'T BE SEEN DON'T GET IN ANYONE'S WAY
-HM

alt_galleon
Hermione is out of the castle. Mulciber is dead.
So is Minerva.

Draco.
Severus, you need to get to Draco.

She begged me to
yes.

My god.

She had--she had removed her bracelet. The one she showed Mr Snape.
And she had my portkey, and she told me to use it.
Oh, my dear girl.

Where has the portkey taken you? Are you getting medical aid?

You're okay, though.

You're okay.

No, of course I'm not okay! Professor McGonagall's DEAD, Harry. She let herself get killed just so that I could get away and it's all horrible and Bellatrix Lestrange was--

And Draco's just written to Teddy and he's going to get himself bloody KILLED, too.

No, I'm not okay.

You're alive.

And so is he.

Last I checked.
I'm back, safe as houses.

Where is everyone else?

Ellie had Hermione go through to Grimmauld, and she was here when I got back. She's well upset; I've just been getting her something to steady her. Lost a finger as well, Poppy. I've bound it as best I can.

Alice, should I go to Hogwarts for support?

Merlin. Minerva.

Still got a contingent at Hogwarts.

Draco's posted, so he's still alive.

Once he and Severus are in hand, and I'm sure we don't need to bring anyone else along with us, we're pulling out.

Hermione's had a fair amount of Cruciatus. I'm getting her some lemon tea and whatever else I can get for her.

Poor kid. Poor all of us.
2014-06-07 18:27:00
(no subject)

I'm with Mr Malfoy and Mr Nott.
They have Teddy and Raz.
I don't know what has happened.
I plan on finding out, though.

alt_harry at 2014-06-08 01:35:56
(no subject)

What's happened to Teddy and Raz, Harry?
And do let me know if I can help in any way.

alt_harry at 2014-06-08 01:37:35
Private Message to Hydra

I need
I don't even know what I need.

This is a bloody

alt_hydra at 2014-06-08 01:39:43
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I know.

alt_harry at 2014-06-08 01:51:41
ORDER ONLY Re: Private Message to Hydra

I thought about going with them, you know.
I came up with a story about seeing Teds through a window and following after and getting there after everything happened already
and I don't even know what to say about Draco

**alt_hydra** at 2014-06-08 01:52:27
*Re: ORDER ONLY Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Tell them that Draco was a blood traitor. That Teddy tried to tell you, but you wanted to believe the best in Draco, so you wouldn't listen. But now you know you should have. He was right about your mudblood being sneaky. You have to disavow Draco and say that he was corrupted by Hermione.

I know it will be hard, but they're safe now.

**alt_hydra** at 2014-06-08 03:04:00
*Re: ORDER ONLY Re: Private Message to Hydra*

When they let us out of here I need us to stop by the hospital wing on the way back, and I need you to keep watch while I go in, just for a minute.

Please.

And then we can go back to the common room. I'll stay up with you, if you want.

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-08 03:09:37
*Re: ORDER ONLY Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Okay.

Yes.

Of course.

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-08 01:40:47
*Private Message to Aurora Sinistra*

I'm sorry.

I didn't get there in time
I am so sorry.

-alt_harry at 2014-06-08 02:50:41
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Draco and Hermione

You're both really ok alive, right?

You're both really there, and you're safe, and you're together, and you're not dead.
2014-06-07 18:44:00
Private message to Minerva

Apparently there is a bit of chaos going on in the hallways; Milland came to me when he could not find you or Septima. I am not free to deal with it right now.

alt_antonin

alt_mcgonagall at 2014-06-07 22:48:12
(no subject)

I am aware think nothing of it
wand flashes drew us out to the creatures shack

We can see a silhouette on the ground, male, slighter than a full adult, but not draco, I'm quite sure. Hair's not blond.

There's a duel going on over the body, which isn't stirring. Rabastan Lestrange and someone else.

Alice: do we engage or fall back? Draco isn't here, and they haven't seen us yet.

---

alt_alice at 2014-06-08 00:08:45
(no subject)

Do not engage.

Draco, once you're safe, the rest of us are pulling out. Check in.

alt_kingsley at 2014-06-08 00:09:42
(no subject)


Rabastan Lestrange is dead. I think his killer was Nott.

Pulling back.

alt_alice at 2014-06-08 00:14:01
(no subject)

Any sign of Draco or Severus?
None.

Ron's turned back up.

He's still a snake. But, I just wanted people to know, if we do have to run for it I've got him with me.

And.

Harry just sort of took off running.

After he read about Professor Raz.
2014-06-07 19:01:00
DANGEROUS CRIMINALS?!

I just went out into the corridors to try to find some of our missing firsties because really an awful lot of people are not where they are supposed to be right now.

And I saw Professor Dolohov and Finch-Fletchley in the corridor by the library and they were duelling!!

I mean--they weren't duelling each other. It was someone who looked familiar and then I realised where I had seen the face. It was on Ministry Wanted posters years ago.

It was Severus Snape!

And yes I know that a long time ago I started a scare about him but I'm not in 2nd year any more.

Please everyone be careful and avoid this person if you see him. He's quite tall and very fierce looking and has graying black hair. Really avoid any strangers you haven't seen around the castle before.

And for Merlin's sake--get to your Common Rooms!

 alt_lavender at 2014-06-08 00:12:57
(no subject)

Get to cover and stay safe, my love! I could not endure it if you came to any harm from that traitorous scum!

 alt_lavender at 2014-06-08 00:15:56
(no subject)

I did find some first and second year students and we're all being as careful as possible!
Severus Snape? INSIDE HOGWARTS? You can't be serious!

I'm completely serious. Be careful!
Look, could one of you come and sit with Hermione?

Terry's shown up, out of the blue, in his animagus form.

I think it's more about him satisfying himself that she's all right than it is about him wanting to comfort her. I don't want to leave her alone, poor thing, but under the circumstances, she's liable to cling on to him for dear life, and neither of them need that kind of complication. (Especially since, well. We've already had one unrequited love exposed tonight. Merlin. Still processing that. You know I teased him about fancying her and I thought it was just that: a joke.)

I wouldn't ask while the garden's open except. To be honest, I could use a little time as Padfoot myself.

Right. On my way, then.
2014-06-07 19:11:00
STUDENTS TO COMMON ROOMS

You all heard the announcement Professor Vector just made: GO TO YOUR COMMON ROOMS. Calmly and quietly.

There's no need to panic. Prefects PLEASE assist.

@alternity
@alt_padma

trusted_user

@alt_lavender at 2014-06-07 23:40:54
Private Message to Padma

I'm working on it!

Have you heard anything more about what's actually happening?
2014-06-07 19:15:00
SNAPE AT LARGE

Get everyone safely into their Common Rooms NOW.

Weasley, one would have expected a Prefect to have learned where the proper staircases were by now. Does chaos run in your family? Honestly! Your brother Percy would be ashamed of you.

---

alt_ginny at 2014-06-08 00:22:23
Order Only

Why yes, chaos DOES run in my family. Much like perpetual obliviousness and a permanent stick up the arse must run in yours.

alt_ginny at 2014-06-08 00:22:40
Re: Order Only

Er.

Sorry, Mum.
NO, MR SNAPE, YOU CAN'T HAVE--

Oh, please no. She's

She was

I'm
clear from fight with AD but PJ wore off

draco where are you we must retreat NOW
Carrie--get Pete if you haven't already. HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE OF THESE. SB
2014-06-07 19:22:00
Order Only

Snape and Draco are with us. I'm calling for a full retreat. Don't think any of the fighters who joined us were wounded too badly, and no one's identity was compromised as best as I can tell.

Alice, I'm taking them to Grimmauld Place. Draco in particular is in need of medical attention, but he's insisting on staying on his own two feet. Nevertheless, I'm side-apparating him; he's been through enough tonight and I don't want him splinching himself.

Oh, and Jeremy Stretton managed to disarm whoever it was who was duelling with Lestrange. A bloody lucky shot, and the wand sprang right to Jeremy's hand. We're bringing his wand with us.

---

alt_alice at 2014-06-08 00:29:36
(no subject)

Thank Merlin.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-08 00:32:47
(no subject)

Bloody Erebus, you actually got them both out alive?

You're all utterly mad. I'm ever so glad I decided to join you.

alt_bill at 2014-06-08 00:37:12
(no subject)

Yes, we did.

And yes we are. I'm glad you've joined us, too.
But we've lost Minerva. And Snape's cover's blown, sounds like. And what Draco and Hermione went through--Merlin.

Can you find out for us exactly how many the other side lost?

I think I can find that out, but right now I think you have a better idea of that than the Death Eaters. Did you see Dolohov just sent a PM to Raz Lestrange? Presumably he doesn't know.

If you're called in to help mop up or investigate, please do use your lovely talent at burying incriminating information.

Oh, Bill. Why else do you think I sent the message to Dolohov? (Well, there's also the fact that I'd like to know what THEY think is going on, and he's at Hogwarts, in a good position to know, and might plausibly tell me. He still seems a bit distracted, though. Not chatty.)

It's tempting to just go, but it would be much too suspicious if I just showed up.
I will cede to your greater knowledge of Auror tactics, my dear.

Oh, I just thought--Lucius. He will be bloody upset over Draco. And maybe Minerva, too.

Be careful. Well, you always are. Just.

Be careful.

Lucius. Yes.

Depending on precisely what they decide Draco is guilty of, at the end of the evening, Lucius may be sent home to his wife so they can grieve their lost son, or he may find himself answering questions from his sister-in-law under thoroughly uncomfortable circumstances.

I'm not inclined to remind anyone that Lucius and I are friendly until we see how this shakes out.

But yes.

Lucius has found out, or will shortly find out, that he's lost two good friends and his son. 'Bloody upset' might cover it, if spread thin.
Some really odd posts coming from Hogwarts right now -- everything all right there? What's going on?

A busy evening.
You may be called later; stay available.

Understood.
2014-06-07 19:32:00
Private message to Bella and Raz

Bella: Minerva is dead, your prisoners are missing, and I have excellent news for the Auror department: I have located wanted fugitive Severus Snape.

I have slightly less excellent news for you: he was under Polyjuice as the castle caretaker, I do not know for how long, and he appears to have recovered from his stay in Azkaban; he provided enough of a fight that I was unable to apprehend him.

The castle was under attack by unknown forces. They've retreated now, but things are still in chaos.

Raz: Where are you? I could use the extra wand.

2014-06-08 00:59:26
(no subject)

I see. So. What I'm hearing is that you two let everyone who was important escape as soon as I left the premises.

Fine. While I send someone to file the arrest warrant for Draco and the mudblood, I'll leave you with the task of telling Lucius and Cissy that their son is now a fugitive.
2014-06-07 19:36:00  
*Order Only*

Right. Ron's back in human form, but he didn't have his diary with him, so I'm posting to let you all know. He's walking really oddly, but I'm going back to the Slytherin common room before I fall under suspicion for ... something. Also, I want to find Daphne. Ron's on his way to Gryffindor. That's okay, right? We don't need to run for our lives?

---

@alt_alice at 2014-06-08 00:39:31  
(no subject)

No.

No one besides Severus was compromised. Draco and Hermione held.

---

@alt_molly at 2014-06-08 00:40:58  
(no subject)

Oh, thank goodness. And thank you, dear, for letting us know.

---

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 00:54:52  
*Private message to Harry*

Harry, people are worried. Really worried. There's a rumour in the Common Room that you and Draco are both -- well, it would make people feel better if you wrote something so they know you're okay, if you don't want to come back yet.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 00:55:33  
Re: Private message to Harry

And I'm sorry. About Raz.

alt_harry at 2014-06-08 01:09:05  
Re: Private message to Harry

I don't know what to say.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 01:01:09  
(no subject)

Also, I've been counted but I don't think I can slip out just yet without it attracting attention. But later, if you need a Healer, I can come to 12GP. It's going to be hard for Madam P to get away, tonight.

alt_neville at 2014-06-08 01:13:12  
(no subject)

He made it back here safely.

It's thanks to him that Hermione's bracelet isn't in the hands of MLE. He slithered into the cupboard where they'd stuck it while questioning her, wrapped it around his body, and made off with it. Dunno how he got it to her, though; he shut up and drew the curtains around his bed when I told him the Headmistress was dead.

He's okay, but looks well knackered.
If your son runs to you sit on him. Don't let him leave don't take him to StM's. Don't let him out of your sight or it will all be far far worse.

WHAT?

What will be worse? Razzer, what's--

What the fuck is going on up there?

Chasing him now. Notts & Mulcibers accused him of teaching the mudblood magic she had a real wand. Obvious frame job. Political.

What?
alt_lucius at 2014-06-08 00:05:19
(no subject)

BLOODY EREBUS.

I'm coming up there. Right now.
I was in my workshop when I became distracted by a chiming noise upstairs. I investigated, and there it was, on the tapestry:

*Rabastan Lestrange*
*26 May 1958 - 7 June 1997*

Being 40 isn't so bad; you needn't have gone so out of your way to avoid it. After so many near-misses, people will be disappointed to learn that you did not, in fact, possess nine lives.

I know I am disappointed.

Though not in you. And I should have said it more often, brother.
hey.
figure you're staying the night up there, yeah?
how're the troops?

Shaken. To the core.
Draco has yet to say a word.
Every time I think Hermione's come to the last of her tears, there's more that come bubbling up, along with a great deal of anger and anguish.
And Severus is doing a poor job of hiding how hard he's taking things, which in and of itself speaks volumes.
I'm glad he's here with them. He cares about both of them so very much.

Our Hermione
It was a close thing.
For all three of them.
Oh, Frank.
alt_frank at 2014-06-08 03:20:00  

(no subject)

sounds like min took an out on her own terms, love.

and you're right.

we could've been looking at something a hell of a lot worse. but our people held their own and did what they had to do, and did a damn fine job doing it.

alt_alice at 2014-06-08 03:20:50  

(no subject)

Yes.

Yes. They did.

alt_alice at 2014-06-08 03:24:22  

(no subject)

She cut off her hand at the wrist, love.

She cut off her hand, and cauterized the wound, and went to free our Hermione.

Oh, bloody hell, I'm crying again.
Finch-Fletchley?

I'm sure he's probably all right if he's with Professor Dolohov...but maybe we should keep an eye out as we're escorting everyone back. Just in case he's hurt.

Thanks, Brown. I'll do that.
2014-06-07 20:42:00
ALL CLEAR

You can go back to common rooms etc now. If asked where you were make something up. SB

ぴんたん galleson
"I got nervous & hid" shld work. Or "I wanted to see!" if in Gryffindor--SB

@alt_galleon
Hullo,

I say, I'm all right. Madam Pomfrey's given me a compress to hold on the leg for the time being but she pronounced it a clean wound, shouldn't take her a moment to heal it.

She hasn't got a moment at present, what.

But everything seems to be settling down. I believe the threat to the castle is at an end, though I should all stay snug in your common rooms if I were you!

-Finch-Fletchley

Sir,

Are you quite all right? I say, I'm ever so sorry my shot hit you instead of that brigand, what.

And I know, I ought to have gone straight to the common room with the others but--I say, I simply couldn't allow you to go off alone like that. Not without some sort of backup.

I suppose I ought to have known my limits.

I do hope everyone else is unscathed.

If I might ask, what on earth happened here today? Why were we attacked?

-Finch-Fletchley
Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 01:47:09

alt_justin at 2014-06-08 01:47:09

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 01:54:31

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 07:15:45

It's all right, Mr Finch-Fletchley. You held your own quite well; it is not your fault you were injured and your shot went wide. I trust that Madam Pomfrey has healed your leg?

But sir, it's because of me that that wizard got away. If I hadn't hit you by accident you could have finished him off, I'm sure of it.

Bones says they're calling me a hero in the set. I can't explain to him how untrue that is.

I am still attempting to discover what happened. I will tell you what I can when I know it.

It has been my experience that rumour pays little attention to one's actual deeds when it decides to christen someone with the title of hero or failure. It is wisest not to protest; doing so will only convince the most determined that it is false modesty, and cause rumour to strengthen.

Please do not fall into the trap of self-recrimination; it is exceptionally difficult for two people to fight in tandem in close quarters, without having practised doing so, and not get in each other's way at least somewhat. That it was you striking me rather than the reverse was simply chance and greater experience. Had I found you more hindrance than help I would have sent you away, as would I have done had I thought you incapable of defending yourself successfully, but you performed very well.
There are not many students I would have allowed to join me in that fight; Severus Snape is an exceptionally dangerous man and a fugitive from Our Lord's justice, who is a powerful opponent for even the most seasoned duellist. His time in Azkaban has clearly only made him more dangerous. I do not know how long he has been impersonating Milland, but we will do our best to find out.

I will stop by tomorrow to see how you are doing. We can discuss the possibility of further training in the future, should you wish it; I would be pleased to have you fight at my side again, should it become necessary, and at the very least you should know more techniques for fighting side-by-side with someone without getting in each others' way.

I am very glad you are not irreparably injured.

---

@alt_justin at 2014-06-08 07:27:51
Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

But we were drilled in tandem duelling in CCF. And duelling club. Er, club. Sorry, sir, matron gave me a poison. No, a poisson... a POTION. And it's left me jolly well groggy. Can't settle down to sleep.

I've been meditating most nights, what, to get rest....

Oh, yes. Training. Training. Would be jolly smashing. One feels as if one could be of use.

That was Snape? Oh, I say.

Jack. Jack's come to see me. Hullo, Jack.

Sorry. Yes. Training. Thank you very much sir, I know what a compliment that is from you.

-Justin
Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov

I know that you have trained in tandem duelling in CCF, but if you will recall, I also taught you all that the reason Aurors and Our Lord's Council train so often in tandem duelling, and with as wide a range of partners as possible, is because one must do a great deal of training to have a hope of doing so successfully in the heat of an actual battle. It takes years for the skill to be second nature, Mr Finch-Fletchley. Do not berate yourself for a single slip, particularly when you are not accustomed to fighting for your life rather than for a duellist's trophy.

If you cannot sleep, I am certain Madam Pomfrey can provide you with a sleeping draught. Get some rest and allow your body to heal. We can discuss matters further tomorrow, or in a day or two.

You did very well today.

Order Only

Mr Snape,

I'm well glad you got out of there. My leg's going to be fine.

I say...I'm so sorry about the Headmistress. And for those to whom it matters, Professor Lestrange.

Mr Nott's here in the hospital wing, demanding to be patched up, what. That's why Matron's had to let me sit while she works on him. He's quite furious about his son.

I can't say I sympathise wholly.

Are Hermione and Draco all right? And everyone else?

-Justin
I'm alright. I can't think straight, but I'm alright.

I'm glad you're okay.

Du Hydra,

I don't know how much it helped, what. Or will do.

Has your mother returned?

-J

No, she was called out to look for Sirius. I expect they'll keep up for a while yet before they determine it was a false alarm.

And, at some point, she'll decide that it was all very convenient that there was a Sirius sighting just as Snape decided to show himself to everyone in the castle.

This isn't over yet.

I'm so glad you came up.

But

We can't let that happen again. Sorry. Selfish of my. Me.

Sleepy. Matron gave me something. For the pain, what. Can't quite sleep, tho. Though.
Thinking about you

Sorry. Shouldn't. Blame the postion, what.

Love yu. More than ver.

-J

alt_hydra at 2014-06-08 05:01:11
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Hydra

I was the one who came to see you. Selfish me, too.

I don't care right now, but you're right. Not again ever.

I love you so much, you know my handwriting well enough to read this, don't you? goodnight goodnight

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 00:58:53
Private message to F-F

What happened? You're sure you'll be okay? I'm safely back in my common room now (I've been hiding -- nothing like one message saying 'get to your common rooms' and then another saying 'oh, by the by, apparently wanted fugitive Severus Snape is at large in the school!' I decided they could take points if they wanted, I was going to cower precisely where I was.)

alt_justin at 2014-06-08 01:05:13
Order Only: Private message to F-F

Sally-Anne,

Oh, yes, I shall be quite fine in a few minutes. Matron's given me a little something for the pain, and I'm holding pressure on the wound.

I followed Professor Dolohov to 'help' him defend the castle. We duelled Mr Snape, and I was able to interfere just enough to allow Mr Snape to get away. Mr Snape cast a spell to cut the back of my
calf, what, when I signalled him that his Polyjuice had worn off. As I went down, I turned my wand to the side, so that the curse I'd been casting hit Professor Dolohov. I've told him I was aiming for Mr Snape, of course.

Mr Nott's in a strop over Teddy, what. And I think Mr Malfoy's arrived but it's hard to tell from the way Mr Nott's raving.

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 01:13:47
Re: Order Only: Private message to F-F

You took Professor Dolohov out of a fight with fake friendly fire?

That's bloody brilliant.

alt_justin at 2014-06-08 01:07:39
Re: Private message to F-F

Sally-Anne,

Yes, I shall be quite fine.

I saw figures approaching the castle, what, and I went to tell Professor Dolohov. He ran off in pursuit but I say, I just couldn't let him go alone, what. Even if he is a great Councilwizard and perfectly capable.

They're saying that the man we duelled was Snape, yes. I say, it wasn't as if I thought about what I was doing, or I'd have been well cleverer to hide somewhere!

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 01:15:01
Re: Private message to F-F

That's the sort of 'courage, or utter stupidity?' move that's usually associated with one of the other Houses.
Good on you. I guess. Next time I think you should leave that to Councilwizards and Gryffindors and hide under a table. I'm glad you weren't hurt worse!

---

**alt_susan** at *2014-06-08 01:01:07*

(no subject)

Thanks for letting us know! A lot of people will be glad to hear you're alive if not uninjured.

You're something of a hero to the school right now.

---

**alt_justin** at *2014-06-08 01:12:03*

(no subject)

Sue,

A hero? No, no, not at all. Nothing could be further from the truth, what!

-Justin

---

**alt_susan** at *2014-06-08 01:17:59*

*Order Only: Private Message to Justin*

It was bloody heroic though--just not for the reasons I'm saying out loud.

---

**alt_justin** at *2014-06-08 01:21:14*

*Re: Order Only: Private Message to Justin*

It was a calculated risk.

I suspect this will go quite a long way to earning Professor Dolohov's trust.

And perhaps Lestrange's

-Justin
Well--you know how to calculate them I guess.

I'm glad you're as well as may be.

If I'm a little obnoxious about House pride over the next few days--I hope you'll forgive me. It's one way to deflect awkward questions.
Severus, or whoever's at 12 Grimmauld Place now.

I'm coming to...to help patch up whoever needs patching. Poppy certainly won't be able to get away, and Sally-Anne might not be able to, either.

Now, don't tell me you can brew all the healing potions they might need. I know that perfectly well. But I can spare you the cooking, and Hermione might need a Mum's shoulder to cry on, and for all I know, Draco might need someone to rage at. I'm very experienced at withstanding teenage boy raging.

Anyway, I'm coming, so don't bother to tell me to stay away.

Hermione could indeed use someone to cry on. I am afraid she is taking events poorly, and does not understand why Minerva could not be evacuated as well.

I am sitting with Draco at the moment. His reaction is shock, not rage, and he is in less physical distress than Hermione; see to her first.

Whatever your actions were tonight, I know they were absolutely necessary, Severus. It's amazing your cover held as long as it did.
I'm just gathering my kit, and I will be there in two shakes of a dragon's tail.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-08 01:58:45  
(no subject)

Floo's open, Molly, and yes, your help would be welcome.

@alt_charlie at 2014-06-08 02:12:01  
(no subject)

If all of you are at Grimmauld, I can go take care of the beer garden.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-08 02:13:02  
(no subject)

That would be very helpful, actually. Yes.

@alt_charlie at 2014-06-08 02:15:05  
(no subject)

Right. I'll sort it out. You lot take care of things there and don't worry.

Hermione, Draco, I'm very glad you're both all right.

@alt_molly at 2014-06-08 02:30:10  
(no subject)

Thank you, Charlie. I'm sure Tonks can use all the help she can get, and probably would be grateful for the company tonight.
Can you use another pair of hands? Kingsley's done with me here, all reports made. And I could use a glass of lemon squash in a nice quiet noisy beer garden, after tonight.

Sure, come on over. The more the merrier

I just got off shift and saw this. Merlin. Where do you need me?

Hermione's left ring finger is gone. With whatever spell that wretched Lestrange woman used on it, I'm not sure you'll be able to coax it into growing back. Severus at least has treated her for the pain and shock, and put her hand in stasis, as long as there's a faint hope.

I know you'll be trapped at the castle, but as soon as you can come, or at least send a pertinent healing tome, please do.

Draco's injuries were dealt with by Remus quite competently, as far as I can tell, but you'll undoubtedly want to check him over, too.

They've both refused offers of Dreamless Sleep for now. Well, Hermione said 'no,' and Draco turned his head away. He hasn't spoken a single word yet.
Poppy: Kindly check on Aurora at your earliest opportunity. She is almost certainly suffering backlash, and I have not been able to get away.

Storm: Your sister needs you; her support system here are all otherwise engaged. Apparate to Hogsmeade and walk up; go straight to the tower. It is in your best interest not to notice the condition of the castle. If you are challenged, tell them that I sent for you.
2014-06-07 20:59:00
private message to tosha

raz is dead
am in office
dont know what
or harry

@alt_sinistra

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 01:05:23
(no subject)

oh. Oh, darling. I am so sorry.

I am making sure the castle is secure but I will be there as soon as possible.
2014-06-07 21:07:00
Private Message to Narcissa

You'll need to come up to Hogwarts.

Draco is ... unharmed. Come and we'll discuss it.

alt_lucius

---

alt_narcissa at 2014-06-08 02:11:07
(no subject)

Thank Merlin. I've been reading the journals for any news but -

Snape was there? Truly?

And Black made an appearance at just the same time.

What's happened? Why do you need ....

What is it?

alt_lucius at 2014-06-08 02:12:18
(no subject)

Narcissa. Please, just come to the school.

We'll discuss it in person.

alt_narcissa at 2014-06-08 02:14:31
(no subject)

But -

... All right, Lucius. I'm on my way.
**2014-06-07 22:03:00**
*Private message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy*

I have Draco.

You may rest assured that I will treat him better than either of you ever treated me.

---

**alt_lucius** at **2014-06-08 03:17:58**
*(no subject)*

Listen to me, you upjumped, shit-licking, grease-haired halfblood Dementor-addled traitorous fuck. Let him go. So help me, I will find you and I will see you writhe in agony at the point of my wand.

Let. Him. Go.

---

**alt_severus** at **2014-06-08 03:21:44**
*(no subject)*

Temper, temper, Lucy dearest; is that any way to speak to the man who has your son?

He will come to no harm, so long as you are not stupid about matters.

---

**alt_lucius** at **2014-06-08 03:35:59**
*(no subject)*

Very well: What is it that you want? A pardon? Ransom?

You would do well not to act stupidly yourself, Snape. You know there is only one way you get out of this with your miserable skin still attached to your body.

Give him back. Now. And we might consider your request.
Since Corax is dead, and good riddance, I'm heading into the office to see if I can get into his private stash of information. If he had any life-based wards in place, this might be a golden opportunity. I even have a decent cover: as his adjutant, I'm responsible for smooth transition of power, etcetera.

Rachel, if you aren't called in by MLE tonight, I could use you as backup. Hell, you'd probably have a better idea than me of what to look for.

Thank Merlin the goblins taught me so much about undoing curses.

---

**alt_bill at 2014-06-08 03:55:35**

Private message to Ron Weasley

Ron: please reply me when you can, to reassure me that you're all right.

And well done.

**alt_bill at 2014-06-08 03:57:56**

Private message to Ginny

Thanks for your help with the distraction/mayhem contingent. Doing your Weasley heritage proud.

Stick close to Ron tomorrow, or at least until he tells you to bugger off, yeah? If he tells you to bugger off, it'll mean he's feeling more like himself.

**alt_ginny at 2014-06-08 04:33:29**

Re: Private message to Ginny

Okay, Bill.

I'm glad I knew what was going on today. Really glad. And glad I could help.
I am, too. It's a relief to have you in with us.

Right. Dolohov said he might call me in later, but not a word since, and I can leave from the office as easily as from my flat.

We'll either want to look sharp, or look like people who decided to work late out of an excess of work ethic. Either will do. I'll see you in ten.

Thanks. See you soon.
**2014-06-07 22:37:00**

*ORDER ONLY: Private message to Harry Potter and Alice*

Harry: Draco and Hermione are safe, have had their wounds treated, and will be given whatever they need to recover from today's ordeal.

You must disavow Hermione entirely. Play stupid about her wand and her lessons: you lent her labour frequently to "Milland" to assist in keeping the castle clean, since you did not have enough work to keep her occupied yourself, and you had no idea Milland was a wanted fugitive in disguise. You are horrified by the idea that she was learning magic, glad that the deception has been revealed despite the means by which it was, and are upset by the thought that she has had a wand the whole time and could have done you harm.

Do not, for the moment, say anything about Draco's involvement: as far as you are concerned, Draco is loyal to the Protectorate, treated Hermione precisely as the listener would expect him to treat a 'mudblood', and you cannot imagine Nott's evidence is anything other than an attempt to frame Draco for treason to remove him from the competition.

I have written to Lucius Malfoy to let him know Draco is alive and well, and done so in such a fashion as to make him think I have kidnapped Draco at wandpoint. This will buy us time while we see what additional evidence Nott had, and what his father knows. It may very well be that Draco is thoroughly compromised and cannot be redeemed; it may very well be that Draco does not wish to return to the school and would prefer to join in more decisive action against the Dark Lord. Either way, tonight is not the time to make those decisions, and my message should at least provide us time to make them in less haste.

I am sorry for today's trials, and that I am no longer there to help you through them. If you can, find one of the girls and have them sit with you in the common room for now; you ought not be alone.
Okay.

I was with Raz. I had to make sure. And when I got there, it's not like I could just leave him.

Mr Malfoy and Mr Nott came to get us.

I told everyone I was worried about Teddy trying something, and wanted to talk to him today because of what Daphs said he told her, and followed him out to the creatures shed only it was too late to do anything.

They haven't asked much about Draco and Hermione yet. I think they're still sorting out how they escaped and what happened with Raz.

Hydra's staying up with me.

I am glad that Miss Lestrange is with you.

That is a very good story, and you would do well to stick to it. Fortunately, there is a great deal of evidence that Nott had a vendetta against you; it should lend credence.

I am sorry that Lestrange's death came about in such a fashion. Though he and I had our differences, I know that you were close.

Oh, Harry.

We'll pull through this. We will.
I'm sorry.
Draco,

We have been in conference for some hours now with Cadmus Mulciber and Theo Nott, Sr. They have quite a tale to tell concerning your relations with that mudblood servant of Harry's.

Son, there is no reason to stay away. You may fear repercussions for having run but if you return immediately, we can sort this out. It is clear that this is a vicious attempt to discredit you for having outperformed Nott's son so roundly in Our Lord's service.

As for the incidents that occurred as you fled, we will of course cooperate with MLE and resolve them. It is no secret that Teddy Nott harassed your friends; it will be no great difficulty to produce witnesses to corroborate that testimony and prove that, however Theo Nott believes himself wronged, his son provoked you and you acted in self-defence.

If there is any truth in their story, it is only that the mudblood clearly has been colluding with a traitor to Our Lord's realm for some time and likely has attempted to ensnare you into her plans. Naturally, it would be shameful to admit any temptation but you would not be the first wizard to find himself so tempted. We know that you could never have committed any such depraved acts as Nott and Mulciber have concocted. Come back, Draco, and set the record straight.

The longer you stay away, the more guilty you appear to be. We know you may be frightened but please, trust your Mother and Father, who only want what is best for you and who will do everything in their power to protect your life and clear your good name.

Do not let your uncle's sacrifice on your behalf go in vain. Come home, now, and we will settle this matter together.

Father and Mother
2014-06-07 23:41:00
Order Only: Private message to Pansy

I'm glad we'll be sneaking out in a bit. I don't feel the least bit like sleeping. I feel like I am never going to want to sleep again. At least this way we can go do something useful, yeah?  

alt_sally_anne

alt_pansy at 2014-06-08 05:05:22
(no subject)
Yeah.

I hear you there.

Because seriously Hermione?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 05:09:19
(no subject)

And you know what Mr Snape told me -- Hermione tried to use her ring. Bellatrix SAW IT CHANGE and CUT OFF HER FINGER, that's why -- well. I'd sort of wondered, you know? Because in that situation, I'd have used mine.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-08 05:07:18
(no subject)

Ugh.

I'm glad Draco and Hermione are all right though. And Mr Snape.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-08 05:10:37
(no subject)

Yeah

I wish
I don't know. I mean I know he was a Death Eater and we couldn't trust him and he wasn't on our side. But I liked Raz.

I kind of think he was on Harry's side, even if he wasn't on the rest of ours.

I feel kind of guilty that I feel sadder about Raz than about the Headmistress.
Private message to Bella and Lucius

Inventory of note from Milland's office:

- Seven flasks Polyjuice;
- In false back behind cabinet containing cleaning supplies: 17 flasks with unidentified substances, numbered 4 through 25, excluding 7, 9, 12, 22, and 23, none identifiable by standard spells.

Inventory of note from Milland's quarters:

- Nine flasks Polyjuice;
- Fourteen flasks standard medicinals, each labelled with contents, in Snape's handwriting; dust patterns &c indicate they have been there some time;
- Nine potions texts, most obscure, several containing handwritten marginalia (also in Snape's handwriting) and bookmarks;
- Handwritten journal (in Snape's handwriting) containing potions recipes, most of which appear to be variations on standard recipes.

No brewing equipment, no hair or other Polyjuice ingredients, no sign of Carolus Milland.

And Snape claims to have my son.

Blast.

Narcissa's with Rodolphus. Believe they are making lists relevant to Razzer's funereal rites.

Will have to search the entire castle. The real Milland can't be far away if he had that much polyjuice.

Double blast.
How in the name of -

Fuck.

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 05:06:57
(no subject)

We can begin the search in the morning; it is late, and it has been a very trying day. If Snape has been in a position to harm Draco for this long, and has not done so, he will not do so tonight, either.

I am so fucking sorry, Lyoushka.

alt_lucius at 2014-06-08 05:11:40
(no subject)

Спасибо, брат.

When I think of all we have gone through these past months, all that has transpired - and now for this, under our noses?

Not good, brother mine.

I am not in the mood for sleep. I am in the mood for justice.

alt_antonin at 2014-06-08 05:36:00
(no subject)

And I will help you in whatever ways I can; we will get him back safely, and we will make it exceptionally clear to Snape what happens when you evade Our Lord's justice.

But we will do so tomorrow. Nothing more will be accomplished tonight, and the stakes are high enough that the matter is best approached with a clear head.
Fine.

Rod has occupied Razzer's old quarters to-night. We shall be in Minerva's.

On the morrow, then.

Private message to Antonin Dolohov

O you who bring beneficient souls into the house of Osiris, do you bring the souls of Rabastan and Minerva together with you into the house of Osiris, let them see as you see, let them hear as you hear, let them stand as you stand, and sit as you sit in the house of Osiris; O you who give bread and beer to beneficient souls in the house of Osiris, do you give bread and beer at the two periods to the souls of Rabastan and Minerva who are with you; O you who unclose the ways and open the roads to beneficient souls in the house of Osiris, unclose the ways and open the roads to the souls of Rabastan and Minerva who are with you. Let them enter boldly and come forth in peace at the house of Osiris, without hindrance and without repulse. Let them enter at their pleasure and go forth at their will, triumphantly with you, and let that be executed which they shall order in the house of Osiris.

May the Lord God grant their souls find rest where the righteous repose. I ask for the mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the forgiveness of their sins from Christ our immortal King and God. May your memory be eternal, dear brother, for you are worthy of blessedness and everlasting memory. May your memory be eternal, dear sister, for you are worthy of blessedness and everlasting memory. With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Your servants Rabastan and Minerva, where there is no pain, nor sorrow, nor suffering, but life everlasting. Sanctus Deus, Sanctus Fortis, Sanctus Immortalis, miserere nobis. Ἁγιος ὁ Θεος, Ἁγιος ἰσχυρός, Ἁγιος ἀθανατος, ἐλησον ἡμᾶς. Holy God, Holy Almighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us, both now and ever and to the history of ages, amen.
Draco and Hermione are safe and recovering. There are several loose ends that need to be tied up, however.

Miss Weasley: The phials I had you fetch as part of the distraction should be destroyed completely. Smash them to the smallest pieces you can manage, scourgify the dust, and flush it down the toilet.

Miss Parkinson and Miss Perks: Borrow Harry's invisibility cloak and go to the laboratory as soon as possible. Be certain the coast is clear and that none of the security charms have been disturbed or added to; I do not think it likely Dolohov or Bellatrix have found the lab as of yet, but I would be very surprised if they were not already searching Milland's office and quarters. Once you have confirmed the security charms have not been disturbed: take the case under my workbench (which can be miniaturised) and the entire contents of the fourth shelf of the supply cabinet (which cannot). Leave the rest of the supply cabinet. Scourgify every surface twice and cast Solaflammi on the workbenches and the floors. That should be enough to prevent the Aurors from deducing any information from the scene that would implicate others, should they find it.

Pomona: I hesitate to suggest this, but as the castle is likely to undergo heightened scrutiny in the days to come, it might be wisest to harvest as much of the fluxweed as possible, prepare the rest for transplantation to Moddey, and burn out the beds.

Everyone: I urge you all to think carefully about whether there is anything else that could implicate any one of you should it be discovered. Assume our enemies will be looking at everything in exceptional detail.

I will write up a précis of the day's events tonight when I am able for those who were not present.
Done.

And thank you for your efforts today. The smallest bright spot in the midst of all this chaos is that I will no longer be responsible for cleaning up the results.

Ron got the bracelet but Hermione also had a ring -- did Bellatrix Lestrange get it away from her? And Draco had one, too.

Hermione and I made the rings. There are techniques for looking at things like that later -- they won't directly point to me, but they could narrow it down a bit.

It's difficult magic, I wouldn't have been able to do it without Hermione, so hopefully they'll think it's too advanced for a student to have managed.

But, okay, the other thing is that loads of us have matching rings, and the rings are all linked magically. Maybe I should have made this a PM.

Fortunately Ron got the bracelet. I made the bracelet and the Twins made the beads. But I should probably note that lots of us also have bracelets that are similar. They're under notice-me-not charms and all the rest, but so was Hermione's, of course, and Auror Lestrange found it anyway.

We'll take care of your laboratory tonight.
Bellatrix removed the rings and you should assume they will be studied. It would be wise for those of you who are wearing them to cease doing so for several days. Though I know you will not like to.

Okay. Do you think it's safe to keep them in our trunk or should we leave them somewhere they can't easily be traced to us?

Keeping them elsewhere is wisest.

The secret classroom, perhaps?

Or the room of lost things. It would take a thousand years for someone to stumble across them there.

Well, Pansy and I are going to be stashing things in the Secret Room yet tonight. We can drop off rings for anyone who wants them dropped off. Or anything else incriminating you want out of your trunk.
They didn't work, anyway. I mean, if Bellatrix Lestrange found them before they could be used.

Maybe they didn't want to use them?

Hermione attempted to activate hers; Bellatrix saw it moving and removed the ring, and Hermione's finger, before she could succeed. Draco's was removed before he thought himself in enough danger to decide to activate it.

You may wish to retool them to be less obvious in their functioning. Though I must confess to being exceptionally glad Hermione did not succeed.

Ugh. I tried so hard to come up with something that could be used even if someone was in a full-body-bind, that also couldn't be used by someone who wasn't truly in dire danger. Because Pans... But, yeah. If someone's looking closely and had really quick reflexes --

I mean, I'm glad. That it didn't work. But that doesn't mean -- well. If I need it to work, then I NEED IT TO WORK. That's the whole point of these rings.

I understand. This episode has, however, made it clear that there will always be situations that cannot be predicted.
I do not have an answer for you, I am afraid.

**alt_sally_anne** at **2014-06-08 04:32:04**

(no subject)

Oh, also, do you want us to deliver the case and the contents of your fourth shelf to Madam P or Professor Sprout or should we hide them in our trunks or in the secret room? Or did you have some other plan? I still haven't seen Professor Brutka.

**alt_severus** at **2014-06-08 04:39:38**

(no subject)

Leave them in the secret room for now; they can be fetched later. The case contains research journals; the ingredients on the fourth shelf are those that cannot easily be replaced. Neither is immediately necessary — my notes are more *aide-mémoire* than *sine qua non* — but it is best if they are not discovered.

**alt_pansy** at **2014-06-08 05:00:17**

(no subject)

Noted.

**alt_severus** at **2014-06-08 05:01:35**

(no subject)

Thank you, Miss Parkinson.

**alt_severus** at **2014-06-08 04:49:44**

(no subject)

Poppy or Pomona, or Albus when you return: Someone needs to secure the Book.
Oh, Merlin...

All the Muggleborn babies that will be born now...we MUST secure it.

I just got back to my rooms. I'll go. Better now than later.

Mr Longbottom. If you can come at half-six in the morning, we will do what we can about the fluxweed. If anyone stops you, say I asked for your help harvesting some of the rosin rose for potions for Poppy. If they press, go back to your dorm.

Of course. I can be there even earlier, to prepare pots for transplant. Six o'clock.

I'll not argue with you. The travel cases are in Greenhouse Three, back corner, by the work bench.

I'd like dearly to know where Albus is. We've seen neither hide nor hair all day.

Blasted man.
Re: Private message to Poppy and Severus

You are not the only one. I dearly hope that whatever errand he has disappeared on proves to be worth what it has cost us.

Private message to Alice

I keep seeing her face when I close my eyes. And hearing her begging me for quietus. Her death was a mercy and I do not regret delivering it, but oh, Alice, her face.

Hermione will not wish to see me for some time, I do not think; it is clear that she blames and resents me for being the agent of that mercy. I cannot blame her, but — look after her closely. She is far more fragile than she seems.

Draco has fallen asleep; I will be in the stillroom brewing several of the potions he and Hermione may need in the next several days. If you have time I would rather like

You'll brew what they need for tomorrow morning. And once you're done, you will go to bed, Severus.

I can make sure you don't fall asleep partway through, if you don't mind the company.

And love, know that she's here, and safe, and I know in my heart of hearts that Minerva would be so glad to know that Hermione's here with us, and that she played a part in getting her here.
Sleep is not likely without aid. But yes, I would appreciate the company; I do not much fancy the thought of being alone, and everyone else appears to be seeking solace in the arms of Morpheus by now.

I do not doubt in the slightest that Minerva sacrificed herself for Hermione without regret. I have watched over the past year as her life, what little of it there was left, became more and more a misery. I do not regret having offered her peace; I am not burdened with self-recrimination and will not carry her death upon my shoulders as one of the actions for which I must atone.

But I cannot stop seeing her face.
Beer garden's done for the night, pint glasses collected from wherever they ended up, everything scourgified that needed scourgifying. Heading home myself. Charlie says he'll spend the night here so Tonks and Bea aren't alone.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-08 06:13:26
(no subject)

Nicely done today.
Thank you, Jeremy.

@alt_jeremy at 2014-06-08 06:18:27
(no subject)

Only reason that move worked is all the practice with Tonks. She gets at least half the credit, or half of whatever's left when we take the luck out of the equation.

@alt_jeremy at 2014-06-08 06:19:27
(no subject)

And there was a lot of luck in it.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-08 06:32:58
(no subject)

that's what it takes, kid. luck and reflexes.
Students: I must thank you all for your cooperation during today's difficult events.

I am aware rumour is no doubt running wild; we will make a statement about what has happened as soon as we are able to conclude our investigations. In the meantime, I must ask you all to remain in your Houses, for your own safety and to avoid interfering with those investigations, until further notice and unless told otherwise by your Head of House. Meals will be provided by the house-elves at the usual times in your common rooms.

Prefects: if a student in your House is in need of Madam Pomfrey's care, you may escort them to the infirmary, being certain to go there and back without delay. We are confident of Hogwarts' security and you are not in any danger, but no one is to be in the corridors alone, for any reason whatsoever.

Private Message to Professor Dolohov

My dear boy,

I believe I have grown far too old for these upsets. I had been planning to make an announcement at the Leaving Feast on Friday, but now as it seems there shall be no Leaving Feast, I wanted you to know--I had tendered my decision to retire to the Governors over the Easter holiday break.

This business makes me feel as if I ought to have taken that decision years ago. To not have recognised extensive use of Polyjuice in our own castle! And to think that he was training Marvolo's mudblood, in the bargain.... it seems we have all been blinkered.

Thank you for taking point for so much this year, and in your condition as well. My sincerest condolences to you and to Aurora, for the Razzer. I will miss him, too, but I know you were particularly close. And to all of us, for M-- for all our losses last night.

Oh, but in the midst of your competent management, I regret to inform you that there is one among the staff who took, dare I say,
umbrage, at your announcement. I fully realise you had little opportunity to consult Septima and were only thinking of the well-being of the school and our students. However, despite the lateness of the hour, you ought to have informed her before posting your school-wide reminder. She is, after all, Acting Headmistress in M-- Until such time as the Governors can determine who will assume the rôle on a permanent basis.

I confess, I am sorry I will not be with you all next term, to aid that transition, but after all these years, I cannot bear the thought of returning without our old friends.

---

*alt_antonin* at 2014-06-09 00:53:32

*Re: Private Message to Professor Dolohov*

Sir,

I apologise that I have not yet had time to reply to this. As you can imagine, today has been quite full of one task after another. (And I must thank you about letting me know about Septima; I shall smooth that over as much as possible.)

I cannot help but understand your desire for a peaceful retirement, though of course we will miss you here. I must confess the idea of next year without Raz or Minerva is a daunting thought to me, and that's only after a few years. I will miss you, and your institutional memory, a great deal.

I am berating myself as well for not having recognised Snape -- I ought to have; I knew him quite well. And to have missed this all going on under our noses ... well. We have all failed the children, Draco in particular. We will find what we can find, and do what we can do, and do our best to root out the malign influences on the children. One foot in front of the other, yes?

Do let me know if there's anything I can do to help you with your retirement preparations, sir.

Yours,

Antosha
I am back at Hogwarts.

Poppy, Pomona, Septima is quite peeved at Antonin's taking the reins of authority, but we can do nothing about it at this juncture, I think. If you have need, tell me, otherwise I intend to be helpfully present and see what might be learnt while attending to various repairs in the castle.

Mr Weasley, congratulations.

Minerva was one of my first students, and brave to the end.

Thank you for the useful update on Vector, Albus. Where the hell were you all day yesterday?

Horcrux research.

It was - difficult.

It is a relief to see you're back among us, Albus.

We're still processing everything, but losing Minerva has been quite a blow.

I'm so sorry.

We'd talked before about the possibility that the castle might still recognise your authority as the former head. We might have a window to test that theory while the next head is up in the air, to
gain a foothold of sorts. Please let me know what you are able to find out.

Alice,

Indeed. We should discuss further, when circumstances allow.

As to the office, I fear we will get nowhere near until they are done with the investigation. Rather many enforcers on the grounds, and outside her the office stairs. If there is something else you wish, I will consider it, but things are very tenuous here.

Yes. Once things have settled. And I wouldn't want you to gain any unwanted attention right now, please, tread carefully.

You know more of Hogwarts than anyone alive, I'd warrant. The most vital thing is the book, but as long as it remains hidden for the time being, it will wait. We may have an opportunity to access it this summer. There's also the matter of the magic of the castle, and whether you could harness it for protective purposes... But I am uncertain how you could test this without exposing yourself. As it is the end of term, however, I doubt they'll move immediately to find an official replacement, we may have a few weeks to test these things carefully.
2014-06-08 10:49:00
Private message to Harry

Harry,

Words are so hard.

He loved you. Wanted you safe. Wanted so much for you. This. I won't lose you too. Come talk? If you want can?


No matter what else happens.

---

alt_harry at 2014-06-08 17:39:57
(no subject)

Yeah.

I know.

I'll come up when I'm done answering questions. Don't know how long that'll be.

And. The same goes for you, okay? Anything you need too.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-08 18:59:48
(no subject)

Whenever you can. My brother's here. He'll let you in.

I don't know what I need. Besides the obvious.

We'll muddle on together, yeah? Somehow.
**2014-06-08 12:33:00**
*Private message to Sally Anne and Pansy*

Most of the decorations for Draco's birthday party are still hanging up in the common room.

I can't think of anyone else to ask for help in taking them down, and I'd prefer not to do it alone.

**Everyone's staring at me**

---

**@alt_pansy** at **2014-06-08 18:43:02**
(no subject)

Of course, Daphs.

---

**@alt_daphne** at **2014-06-08 19:16:35**
(no subject)

Thanks.

---

**@alt_sally_anne** at **2014-06-08 18:53:41**
(no subject)

Yeah, I'll be right there.

You must be feeling

---

**@alt_daphne** at **2014-06-08 19:16:52**
(no subject)

Okay.
I'm glad to report that Mr Longbottom and I were able to get all the fluxweed out early this morning. We harvested a third, and the other two thirds are transplanted.

I passed them through to Smythe and Postlethwaite. Mr Jordan, could you fetch them from there to Moddey Dhoo? They'll keep a day or two if needed, and they're wrapped so they are not obviously forbidden plants at first sight. I trade materials with them regularly, so even if they check the floo logs, there will be nothing out of the ordinary.

I'm going through the greenhouses now, as I can, for anything else that might cause problems, but we have legitimate need for most of it, and formal permission.

Mr Longbottom also asked about the choice of trees for the memorial garden here. For Minerva and Rabastan. I can ask Auri, but I thought perhaps Mr Potter might have some idea of preference, too. It would be easier to present her with two or three to choose from.

Miss Bones, I'd be obliged if you could stay in the sett and keep an ear out for anything that might require my attention. If anyone needs to go to Poppy, see if it can be one of the other Prefects who takes them.

I was thinking of maybe a grey willow for the Headmistress. (For those of you not familiar with them, before the male 'catkins' come into full flower they are covered in fine, greyish fur, so they're likened to tiny cats. In the United States, there's a similar tree they call the 'pussy willow.') I think it would be a nice way to honour her as a cat animagus.

If it's agreeable to you, Professor Sprout, we could also plant a small bed of scotch thistles around it, like the ones on the brooch she often wore.

I like to think it would please her. And maybe even make her laugh.
I like that idea a great deal, and you are most right, I think it would have made her laugh, at least in happier days.

It will suit well with what's there, too, and there's that spot nearer the water we'd not filled yet.

yeah. I'll think about it.

Thanks.

Does anyone need any help with anything? I'm at loose ends today and feeling the need to DO something.

we're doing a debrief of the diversionary tactics today at Moddey, talking through what worked and what didn't. you're welcome to join in.

I'll get set to go for a fly and come to you.
About to head out there, Professor.

Mrs L or anyone there, can you tell Mrs Lee or Lisa I'm coming? Sure they'll want to get things in the ground soonest.

(Can do.)

Right, Professor. Will do. Some of the younger ones might need a bit of Dreamless tonight, if we can get some from Madam Pomfrey.
2014-06-08 14:31:00
Private message to Mr and Mrs Malfoy

I am so unspeakably sorry.

Please let me know of any way I may be of assistance.

2014-06-08 20:17:04

Weasley.

Thank you. For now, kindly observe the usual protocols regarding requests for statements, interviews, &c. Cancel appointments for Monday and Tuesday, as well, apart from Court to-morrow.

In consultation with the widow, the Lestrange service will be to-morrow in conjunction with Headmistress McGonagall's. And the Nott boy's.

Interment arrangements still pending.

Should you receive any sort of communication that purports to originate with the Order of the Phoenix, Severus Snape, Sirius Black or any of their cohort, notify Aurors Crouch and Travers immediately.
Milland has been located.

The real Milland, that is.

He does not appear to be in dire need of medical assistance but it would be prudent to have him checked by a professional. Madam Pomfrey, if you could join us at your earliest convenience. Tosha, we may use your office again?

Will be most interested to hear what he can tell us.

I shall be there shortly.
Private message to Padma Patil

So

Alright, then?

How are things in Ravenclaw?

Utterly mad. Everyone thought we had another week to pack and they're all going spare about Snape having been here for who knows how long. Maybe years! Maybe ever since he escaped. Maybe three days ago. Who knows?

Remember when Lav and me thought we saw him in the park that time, and everyone was suffering creeping gooseflesh all weekend? It's like that but worse.

You?

I remember that, a bit. That was on our YPL trip, wasn't it? I probably made fun of you at the time.

Sorry about that.

Anyway. Gryffindor's a mess. Someone started crying about Raz and started a load of others off. Weasley spent most of the day in bed. We're supposed to walk over anyone who needs the matron -- that's been most of the first and second years, today, with stomach aches or for calming potions or whatever.

And every time I have a minute to think I think about all the times I saw Snape and didn't know. If it's true he was hear for years -- everyone in Gryffindor seems to think so, does Ravenclaw think maybe it's just been the last few days?
alt_padma at 2014-06-08 22:06:26
(no subject)

No, it's fine. We were probably just as intolerable as the firsties have been about this. Though they're not crying or carrying on about Professor Raz--well, I guess some of them are, but Lares had a few of us go and get a bunch of remedies so we wouldn't inundate Madam Pomfrey with all of them. Only a few have been bad enough to have to leave the Tower.

By the way, Finks-Furiously was still up there, holding court. Can you believe he deliberately tagged along like he could actually hold his own with Professor Dovs as a duelling partner? And lived? And is getting praised for it? Honestly.

Do you think anyone in Slytherin is crying about Nott? I don't.

Oh, I think he was probably here for at least a little while. I'm not sure about years and years, though. You'd think someone would have noticed. But not three days. Edgecombe's the only one who seems to think he'd have been caught almost immediately so he must have been moving quickly.

What I can't work out is why so many people were going insane yesterday even before everything started. I mean, before the attack--hours before it. And why on earth they took such a cursed long time going back to their common rooms! Absolutely insane, every one of them.

alt_seamus at 2014-06-08 22:19:35
(no subject)

I know, I've been going over it in my head and it doesn't make any sense. It didn't seem like a normal post-exam celebration sort of chaos, either.

F-F's lucky to be alive and I hope he knows it. What an utter show-off.

About Nott. Yeah. Remy and I managed to run into each other for a few minutes today and he said no one in Slytherin's going to miss him. Apparently he's killed people's pets, more than once, and he creeps creeped out everyone, and he got in Hydra
Lestrange's way more than once. The theory I've heard that he tried to frame Draco... totally plausible. Totally.

alt_padma at 2014-06-08 22:36:55
(no subject)

He was desperate to win all the Council challenges. Teddy, I mean. I bet it really set him off that Draco seemed to meet them all so effortlessly.

I wonder what's going to happen, now? With Draco--missing. I mean, who's going to get selected. Or if they'll hold his place for him, in case he's released. (I've heard about Teddy framing him, too, but do you think there could be any truth? They say Harry's mudblood had something to do with it. And he never seemed quite perfect with Daphs and, well, we know he didn't want me.... You know, I sort of wish I had told him how I felt ages ago? Because as soon as I did, and that spell got lifted, it all went away. And now I feel like I dodged a curse, you know? Because look at Daphs, now. And she's got to cope with all the stares of people thinking Draco could have preferred that filthy mudblood to her.)

Do you think F-F's stunt was to get noticed by the Council? Or by Bellatrix Lestrange?

alt_seamus at 2014-06-08 22:41:59
(no subject)

If I'd been supposed to guess who had an inappropriate crush on Marvolo's mudblood, I'd probably have guessed Marvolo. He's always been a little too kind to her. But

yeah

who knows, honestly. Draco, when he ran out of the school, he looked awful. (I saw him because I was trying to round people up and get them into their common rooms.) He'd been -- well, they hadn't been treating him like Mr Malfoy's son. They'd been treating him like someone who was withholding information. On purpose.
I don't even know what to think. Bellatrix Lestrange can legilimise people. So if he had nothing to hide, well, she'd have known. Right?

alt_seamus at 2014-06-08 22:42:39 (no subject)

Oh, and F-F...probably Auror Lestrange. Maybe he's hoping she'll give him permission to get on with things with Hydra.

I don't know. I've been thinking more about Draco.
I've just been having a word with a kitchen elf, my dear, and hear that you've not managed much today.

I quite understand why that is, but naturally I'm concerned.

If you don't mind, I believe I'll stop up now to see for myself how you're managing--and see if I can't tempt you with a few, easy to eat items of my own devising.

I've tried. Nothing tastes right.

Please do, Poppy.
I got asked a lot of questions today.

It was mostly just sorting out what happened yesterday again, in more detail. And they asked a little bit about the boxes, and Draco, and Hermione, but not as much as I expected.

Hydra being there helped. A lot.

They made an announcement that they're planning on keeping some people around to ask them questions after everyone else leaves. It's mostly people in our year. Hydra, do you know, are you going to be in on those too? Because that'll make it loads easier than having to handle your mum or something.

We might try to get the galleon holders in our year together to clear up some things, just so no-one panics or something. Do you think they'll let us out of the common rooms tomorrow?

And.

We're going to have a problem with the journals.

They'd have to look back a ways, but if they got to the older stuff, before we joined the lock, and read the stuff Draco and Hermione and me wrote to each other it wouldn't be good. They can already see that we all wrote each other private messages and things, so they'd probably want to read them. All of them. And if they go back far enough they could tell I was in on it too.

Merlin, Harry. Didn't you lot use codes in your messages?

That's urgent business, then. Maybe Dora can get in tonight. Rachel, Bill, do you think you could come up with a plausible reason to go in to the Ministry and assist? It'll have to look like an accident.
Sorry, kiddo, that you're having to go through that.

**alt_rachel** at 2014-06-09 03:44:22  
(no subject)

MLE makes an effort to hire clever people. Coded messages will only make them more suspicious. If they can't work out the code, they'll ask Harry.

**alt_severus** at 2014-06-09 03:51:36  
(no subject)

It would be best if no one with a cover to lose was involved, or could be implicated; we ought not open the possibility for more losses this week.

I had two doses of unimprinted polyjuice in my belt at the time I left the school — it was my habit to avoid adding Milland's hair until the last available moment. I will offer them up as necessary.

**alt_nymphadora** at 2014-06-09 03:52:37  
(no subject)

I can try, but I have to be honest: I'm not likely to get into those archives, and if I do try, I'm pretty likely to get caught in the wards.

They don't let us in that corridor at all when we're down on that floor, so I can't even say how it's all set up. Only, I've heard talk about it being a huge room with loads of bound books where all the journals are recorded--somehow. I mean, I can't even imagine how they keep all what everyone in the Protectorate writes. That's an enormous amount of ink and parchment, don't you reckon?

Anywiz, we'd need a plan for what I can do to be sure I get the right books if I get in the door, and for how I could completely erase what needs erasing before the enforcers can get to me if I do get snared.
If we want to be selective, we should kidnap one of the monitors. Ned Pennifold oversees it. We'll need someone to legitimise him, I doubt he'd explain it all voluntarily.

Otherwise, burn the whole thing. I'd suggest Fiendfyre. Any of you lot know how to cast it safely?

My magic is too unstable at the moment to trust it'd work.

I can, as much as anyone can ever.

As I am the boogeyman du jour, I will certainly volunteer.

I'm willing, but as noted earlier, I do have a cover to lose.

There's a small staff that works nights in the archive, pulling things that have been questioned. I think it's less than a dozen people. It's probably possible to draw them all out but it will certainly attract suspicion and make it less likely that the overall mission will succeed.
Is there an alarm that would empty the building for evacuation that could be triggered?

No.

There's an alarm that summons MLE, and the people working in the archive know to get out of the way for that. It is possible you could duplicate the alarm and make them think Aurors were coming.

I don't know, Severus: the area is pretty tightly secured, and people with access have to disable a series of wards. I know that much.

I'm not saying we couldn't maybe arrange for you to Polyjuice into someone with the right clearance, but you'd have the same trouble I would not knowing the sequences and spells for moving through the wards in that department. It would surely be better if we could get someone who has the right clearance and knows the protocols.

Brodie, I can't see what you're saying. Do you have clearance?

Do I have clearance. Let me think about that. I have certainly been in there, but someone else escorted me back.

I paid attention to the wards and so on when I went in that time. Not because I was planning on breaking back in to
destroy the archive, mind you, or I'd have paid better attention. I THINK I know the sequences and spells. Though this was -- six months ago? -- they might have changed them.

Alternately, depending on where you started the fire, it might not matter. Dogstar's talked about burning the entire Ministry down, though nothing's ever come of it.

Miss Brodie suggested that night would be a more logical time, as there are fewer support staff available then.

Given the urgency of the problem, Alice is coming over to Grimmauld to discuss matters — if you are available to join us it would be appreciated.

Me?

Yeah, I can come. Isn't that under Fidelius, though? Someone's going to need to come give me the secret. I can meet you at my flat.

My apologies; I had intended Miss Tonks. I cannot extend an invitation to Grimmauld.

I have an idea; let me refine it somewhat.

I thought she lived at Grimmauld! Sorry.
alt_alice at 2014-06-09 05:28:24
(no subject)
I'll pop right over and fetch you, shall I?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 05:34:50
(no subject)
Sounds good.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 04:45:43
(no subject)
What I was noting to Severus and Alice is that there would be people working back there, even in the middle of the night.

Obviously if we burned down the whole Ministry, casualties would be significantly higher.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 03:41:36
(no subject)
Currently, the journals are monitored by a group of Aurors chosen for their discretion and loyalty (not merely to the Lord Protector, but to Lucius and Barty's faction.) They have a list of individuals whose private messages they are not to read, and Draco, Harry, and Hydra are on it. Also Narcissa Malfoy. There are a few others.

However, under the circumstances I think it's highly unlikely that Lucius will be able to keep people out of Draco's messages, even the ones to Harry. Just how compromising are these private messages? Are we talking about minor disloyalty, questioning things you're not supposed to question, genuine sedition, treason...?
alt_hydra at 2014-06-09 03:47:55
(no subject)

Well, I did call my mother a bitch in one of them.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 03:58:55
(no subject)

Do not lose sleep over that one.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-09 03:49:04
(no subject)

Oh, only that was to Justin, I suppose.

Not Harry or Draco.

But if they check any of my messages and look at the ones I exchanged with Justin, it could be very, very bad for him.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 03:59:43
(no subject)

You're on the same list as Draco. Even if they look at Draco's messages, if they don't suspect you...

Hmm.

Maybe we should just burn the whole archive. Quickly, before they start looking.

alt_harry at 2014-06-09 03:55:20
(no subject)

If they read between the lines, yeah. They'll see us talking to Hermione like she's an equal, and she never said anything daft like she had a wand and knew how to use it, but we did question things. A lot.
And we talked about Sirius. In code, but we figured no-one would look closely as long as we didn't use his name outright. So it wasn't very good code.

---

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 04:00:28 (no subject)

You talked about Sirius?

What sorts of things did you say?

@alt_harry at 2014-06-09 04:03:40 (no subject)

I'd have to look, okay? It would've been several years ago. I don't know.

It's enough. If they're looking for proof that we weren't loyal, it's enough.

---

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-09 03:52:05 (no subject)

I was told that I should "remain available." I suppose that means they'll either use my abilities, or have me there to make people think I will use them.

I haven't been told to expect Mummy, but we already know that she doesn't mind showing up unannounced.

---

@alt_harry at 2014-06-09 04:21:26

Private Message to Hermione and Draco

Are you

That's a stupid question. I know you're not okay.

I keep turning around to ask you something only you're not there. And I keep thinking about what happened. What they did. And I was just wandering around the castle looking for you and Teddy and the entire time

I should've known. I should've sorted things out sooner.
Mr Lupin suggested that reading my journals might make me feel better, seeing how concerned people are and so on.

I haven't even really looked at it since arriving here and letting everyone know that I'm here.

It's not your fault, Harry.

There's nothing you could have done.

And I don't have my two best friends around and I know you've been through a bunch of stuff and you probably don't want to think about things or talk and you shouldn't if you don't want to but it's like I've lost you too. And I've got to sort out what to do and I have to watch every word I say and I can't even take the time to just sit and breathe and I've got to pretend like I'm not drowning but I am.

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry.

You've got enough of your own stuff to worry about.

It's not your fault either.
I didn't mean to

It's been a long day.

I'd rather talk about stupid things than not talk at all.

Oh, Harry.

Look. I just--can't right now. All right?

And you wouldn't have had me, anyway. Not there, not with them.

I suppose one thing is that it doesn't really matter what you do today. You can mourn as hard as you like and they'll understand. They'll draw their own conclusions about why but they'll understand.

It's not that I don't care, Harry. I'm sorry you feel alone right now. But you're not.

And--Well. That's all, really.

It just doesn't end, does it?

I'm glad you're writing.

And I'm glad you aren't dead, and that maybe I can see you again sometime, and maybe when you're feeling more up to it we can talk about what on earth we're going to do next.

Draco, I don't know if you're even going to notice this, but it's shit, it's all shit, and I know it is, but I can't lose you too. Okay?
I'm sorry.

You've voiced your faith in me for some time now, and I've let you down in more ways than I can count. I've let us all down. I overestimated myself to immeasurable degrees. I don't know how I can begin to make up for it, but I'll do whatever it takes, without protest.

And the others in the Order, whatever they decide to do with me - it doesn't matter what it is, I'll do it.

I don't know what else to say.

Draco, you need not make apologies, or excuses, or justifications, and I will not stand to hear anyone berate you, whether that person is yourself or otherwise.

I have known all along we were placing an unbearably cruel burden on your shoulders; I was willing to do so was because I knew you had assumed that burden on your own and would not relinquish it. That circumstances, mistakes, and the actions of others prevented the continued carrying of that burden does not change the fact you were willing to shoulder it.

I will not absolve you of your involvement in yesterday's actions. I cannot absolve you: no man can ease another's conscience. But your mistakes were not unforgiveable. I have told you before that my own exposure to the Dark Lord came from the slip of a syllable; yours was at least due to the active deception of another.

The life of a double agent is fraught with danger and exposure is simply a matter of time. Your time came early; that is something to regret. But you are alive and at liberty, and that must be counted a success. We will decide what happens next once everyone has a few days to collect their thoughts.
You have not let me down and I will not countenance you thinking that you have.

**alt_draco** at **2014-06-09 03:13:09**

(no subject)

I know that others are disappointed in me. No. *I am*. And everyone I care about - if they're not, they should be.

I ought to have seen through Teddy's ruse, but I wanted so badly to believe that she

I never even got to where I was supposed to be, to do what I was supposed to do. What good can I even do now?

I know you can't answer this or say anything to make it right I just feel so. So something. Lost? Gone.

It sounds like you're trying to convince me to forgive myself but you haven't even forgiven you.

So. You first.

**alt_severus** at **2014-06-09 03:25:20**

(no subject)

It would be exceptionally unusual were you not disappointed in yourself. You have spent a great deal of time and effort preparing yourself for something that now will not likely come to be, and your life and your view of the future has undergone a very significant trauma in the past twenty-four hours that will take time for you to process.

You are not, however, useless. Your worth to the Order has never rested wholly in your ability to infiltrate the Council, and your worth to yourself has never rested wholly in your worth to the Order. If you remain willing, there will always be a place for you. As long as I breathe there will

That I have not forgiven my own failures — truth. But although I am not likely to ever forgive myself for them, I have done what I could to redeem them, and will continue to do so until I am dead.
or the Dark Lord is. Forgiving oneself is not necessary to keep going; one must only get up and keep working towards one's ultimate goal.

Your previous life and previous plans may be dead, but you are not. Do not mourn yourself as though you were.

---

@alt_draco on 2014-06-09 03:37:19
(no subject)

I just don't know what else I can do. I can't even think, or picture it.

That's why my goal will be to do whatever the Order asks. It's the only thing I can think of that might make up for all I've done.

Worst thing of all? Even in the middle of this whole mess I caused, I'm still thinking about her. Even though that's what caused all of this.

---

@alt_severus on 2014-06-09 03:41:39
(no subject)

I wish I knew a better way to help you.

I will speak to Alice about what your next steps might be.

For now, however: I am in the stillroom brewing, with Black assisting. Come down and help; it will take your mind off things.

---

@alt_draco on 2014-06-09 03:43:37
(no subject)

I don't think any potion brewed by me right now would be worth much.
alt_severus at 2014-06-09 03:49:54
(no subject)

I have ruined nearly every batch I have attempted to make today; I am using only ingredients that can easily be replaced.

alt_draco at 2014-06-09 03:53:11
(no subject)

Oh. Alright.
**2014-06-08 22:25:00**

*Order Only: Private message to Ron*

I have all these rings and books and so on that I need to hide in the secret room, and I've been waiting to sneak out until evening, it just seems easier sneaking around in the dark. I mean. If I'm breaking the rules just by being in the corridors I might as well violate curfew, too.

Anyway

I'll be there in about another hour, I think. If you want to come find me.

How are you doing?

---

**alt_ron at 2014-06-09 03:41:47**

(no subject)

I'll definitely come. I mean, if they catch us, they'll just assume we were sneaking off to snog, and not imagine any other reasons you might've been out of House.

Besides I'm going mad not seeing you. After all of it. Maybe I could just change and you could take me back to your room with you. D'you think that would set off the alarms on the girls' dormitories? If I was just a snake?

Anywiz, I'm... I don't know. I feel like I should just say I'm fine. I mean, I'm not hurt at all, and I'm here, not on the run from MLE. But, yeah. No. I'm not really. I don't know, I've been off all day.

---

**alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-09 03:50:09**

(no subject)

Bring you back. Oh, that would be brilliant. Like, in your snake form? I think that would work, as long as you promise not to try to eat Sebastian.
Well, except -- if anyone comes looking in the night you will DEFINITELY not be in the right place. And I don't know about the dorms. I mean Sebastian is a male rat and he doesn't set it off, and the male cats aren't a problem and they run up and down the stairs on their own, so would the magic know you were an animagus and not a real snake? I don't actually know.

We can think about it though.

Anyway yeah. I know. I feel like I should be fine. Because I'm fine, right? Not hurt. Not on the run. Why do I feel like this?

You know, I don't know why yesterday was worse than when we were in the Department of Mysteries and Dolohov and Crouch were hunting us. Maybe because it went on so much longer yesterday? Or because...

I mean, I know some of it was just the Transformation and how dead queer that all felt and how totally bleeding scared I was that I'd slip out of it when I was down in the middle of that first tunnel. I really was. Seriously. I don't even know how I kept going. I'm sure I wet myself, but that's not really an issue when you're a snake, but let me tell you all I was thinking about, once I did think about it, was what would happen if I went back to being me, and I was down in the walls, underneath all that stone, in that passageway because it wasn't any bigger around than, well, than Sebastian.

And, no, of course I'm not going to eat him. That's disgusting.

Maybe it just seems worse? Maybe we're not really remembering how we felt after.

But

You know the other thing was, Dolohov and Crouch were hunting us and I definitely remember thinking I was going to die. But then
we didn't die and we got out AND we had Arista and Hector. We did it, we saved them, and we all survived. And Mrs Longbottom was incredibly cross at all the risks we'd run but it had WORKED.

This time

I don't know, because Hermione and Draco and Mr Snape all made it out.

But what happened to Hermione and Draco was so awful. It's basically

I try really hard not to think about all the things that could happen if we get caught, you know? I'm usually really good at not thinking about it.

---

**alt_ron** at 2014-06-09 04:39:44
*(no subject)*

And I saw you after Dolohov...

And Justin after that curse...

Only this was- it was different. They kept hurting her. They'd already done it a lot before I got there. But I s

It was really

---

**alt_ron** at 2014-06-09 04:42:58
*(no subject)*

I keep thinking about it. What she sounded like.

And how it smelled.
oh Ron

that's

Can we just maybe go hide in the secret room and snog now?

I don't really want to think about it all night again.

Yeah.

Yeah let's do that. I'll be right there.

And it totally looked like you were going to try to eat him yesterday, when you changed, he took off and you went after him. He's back now but he looks a bit terrorized. You probably don't want to try to pet him any time soon, he might bite you again.
Draco is talking again, at least to me. He is, as expected, doing poorly; his sense of self-worth has been tied up in his ability to be of use for quite some time, and that ability to be of use is now being threatened.

I have done what I might to convince him that his life is not over, but — a task for him in the next few days might help, more than any amount of verbal reassurance. Something to show him that the Order did not only value him for what he can no longer provide.

I'm so very glad to hear he's talking. Of course he's of value. And hearing it confirmed from me as well will hopefully help matters.

I can come over first thing tomorrow to talk about what he and Hermione might do.

And Severus, I hope you know that all three of you are welcome to call Moddey your home.

I do not know where any of us will wind up. I suppose Moddey makes the most sense for me — Black's sense of hospitality will likely wear thin quickly enough when confronted with the reality of two depressed teenagers and his least favourite person — but I will not leave Draco and Hermione unsupported, for all that Hermione does not wish to see me at the moment; I will, of necessity, go where they do.

Speaking of tasks: I have volunteered to attempt the Ministry's message archives, and although it might seem radical, I propose to bring Draco with me. Under polyjuice he would not be recognised, and — although I do not know how best to help him — I am
convinced that mouldering away in this house is not the way to do it.

You would best be able to judge whether he would be a help or hindrance in his current state.

This is not something we can wait for.

Sirius seems to have reached the end of his tether, by the by. Apparently, he's rather fond of his cauldrons. Should I come over now so we can talk rather than hold things off til tomorrow? It's no bother at all.

Yes, we have been banished from the stillroom. I cannot blame him; I have been utterly useless all day.

I am questioning Miss Brodie about the logistics. I agree that this cannot wait; I would be content to go tonight.

On my way, love.
Order Only: Private Message to Alice and Remus

Sweet bloody Mordred.

Snape invited Draco down to the stillroom to help us brew. More like to help him destroy every cauldron we currently have!

Alice, for the love of Merlin, give them something to do. Can they attempt this Ministry thing, with the archives? Or go rescue a baby or steal a Sleeper for experimental potions or SOMETHING?

At this rate I'm ready to send them into New London to break into an apothecary if it'll just keep them OCCUPIED.

Moony, I sent them upstairs, anyway, just to play a game or rearrange the furniture or try to unstick my mother's portrait. I don't care what.

I don't think either of them is in much of a mood for games, Padfoot.

They can play fucking drinking games with the port, the sherry, the claret and the cabernet, for all I care.

They were about the burn the house down in here, too.

As tempting as it is to suggest they try their luck with your mother's portrait, I'm a bit worried they might accidentally burn the house down.
Is there anyone we'd like assassinated? They seem to be in the right frame of mind for it.

They're not the only ones in the right frame of mind for that.

Name the target. Name three. We'll all go.

Jolly good! Let's go kill Bellatrix Lestrange.

Well, if we're going to aim, I suppose one might as well aim high.

Excellent!

Hydra won't mind, apparently.

Oh, she'll mind, I think.

She'll mind we didn't invite her along to help.
Mulgiber was on my list, as was Nott Jr, so I'll have to reprioritise things first. I'll get back to you.

Maybe you can replace Nott Jr with Nott Sr. And there's a whole additional Mulciber, let's not forget about him.

Right. And another Lestrange. And there's Dolohov, Malfoy, Crouch ....

No shortage, really. We could declare open season.

True!

I shall have to completely re-work the assassination plans I was brewing for The Great Almighty, too.

Don't worry. I'm coming over.

And yes, the main topic of choice will be How To Be Useful. Merlin help me, I'm of a mind to have him join Severus in this archives venture, but right now, I need to be convinced he's sound enough to be driven rather than shaken.
ORDER ONLY: The plan

We have hammered out a plan for the destruction of the Ministry’s private message archives. Auror Brodie believes there is a very good chance she still has the authority to make it past the wards; I am capable of casting and containing Fiendfyre. We will go in at shift change — which is in several hours — with Draco to act as lookout, with both Draco and myself under Polyjuice and Auror Brodie placed very briefly under Imperius (to confuse the forensic story and allow her to claim Imperius if we are captured; Draco, of course, would simply claim captivity). Tonks will be ready to provide backup if we encounter difficulty; if we are successful she will simply carry out her duties.

There was brief debate about the wisdom of destroying as much of the Ministry as possible, but upon discussion we decided it was unwise to attempt without more time to plan than we have available to us; given the urgency of destroying material that implicates Harry, it is better to move quickly than to overreach our target.

With luck none of the rest of you will be awake to see this until one of us is able to report success.

Get an hour’s sleep, if you can. I will be certain to wake you.

So if this plan goes to hell, I just wanted to say, it’s been delightful. No regrets. I wake up every morning knowing I could die that day, and dying for the Order – even if it’s to clean up after your three-ring circus of charmingly subversive insane adolescents and their apparent penchant for coded discussions of Sirius Black – beats the hell out of dying for MLE or even Dogstar.
Hopefully it'll all go fine and you can make fun of me in the morning for being maudlin. But I don't want to wake you, and just in case, you know?

**alt_bill** at 2014-06-09 12:41:40

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Make *fun* of you? No way. Blast, you *should* have woken me. I'm sorry, I'm *sorry!* I was so bloody exhausted, I fell over into bed and slept like the dead when I returned home. Mum may have even dosed my tea, for all I know; I wouldn't put it past her. I should have been kicked awake to offer tactical help, but thank Merlin you all pulled it off. And I know they probably couldn't have without you, so bloody hell, I'm so glad you're on our side.

Expect an angry and relieved kiss when I see you today, just as soon as I can drag you into an empty office and ward the door.

I'll want to a full debriefing if we can get away for lunch. I'll want the details of how you did it and particularly anxious to hear how Snape and Draco and Hermione are doing. But I'm not sure it'll be possible.

Merlin, they're going to be spitting kneazle bones when I make it into work today, aren't they?

---

**alt_rachel** at 2014-06-09 13:57:55

*Re: Private message to Bill Weasley*

Sorry I didn't update when we got back. Severus said he'd do it, and the lack of sleep was catching up with me.

Still seems to have me, actually. I hope I don't have to duel anyone today.

The plan went off perfectly. Once I was there and looking at it I remembered exactly how to get through. I'm glad Severus was along to cast the Fiendfyre, though. We wouldn't actually have burned down the Ministry -- the wards they cast to keep out Cadmus Mulciber's crew are strong enough to bottle it up rather effectively -- but if it had been me casting, I don't think we'd have got out.
Work, well, the hardest part's remembering what you don't know.

alt_severus at 2014-06-09 09:53:20
(no subject)

The endeavour was successful; we have returned.

I am not a superstitious man, but I cannot help thinking that was entirely too easy.

alt_severus at 2014-06-09 09:58:16
Private message to Alice

One casualty. Not ours; I did not realise until after I had begun the incantations that the archives were not completely evacuated, and by then it was too late to stop. I do regret his death; he died of nothing more than a devotion to his duty and a refusal to evacuate when the alarm was sounded, I suppose.

Auror Brodie was a great help; Draco performed quite adequately.

I am exhausted.

alt_alice at 2014-06-09 16:26:26
Re: Private message to Alice

Thank you.

I'd imagine you are.

I'll be by later today, after you've had the chance to rest some, so we might all talk about what might be next for Draco. I've some ideas he might find adequately stimulating, but as always, would appreciate your input. I'll be asking Sirius, Remus, and Tonks for their input as well.

I'm hoping to talk to Hermione, too. She may not be as prepared or eager to jump into future plans, and I'd like her to know she can take what time she needs and has our full support.
alt_severus at 2014-06-09 16:45:58
Re: Private message to Alice

She is not doing well, Alice. But Black tells me she is brewing Lupin's Wolfsbane this morning, at least, which provides me with some small amount of hope.

I do not know if she will ever forgive me.

alt_alice at 2014-06-09 17:31:11
Re: Private message to Alice

Trust, Severus.

Give her time.

She will.

It's because she feels so close to both you and Minerva that this is so hard.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-09 14:52:01
Private Message to Snape

Sni Sev Snape,

When you wake up: Hermione's in the stillroom. She got up this morning, came rushing down the stairs, and started brewing like one possessed. I came in and she barely even looked up but that one look sent me back out again.

You ... might want to avoid her until she's done. In any case, I take it as a positive sign, whatever else it is.

alt_severus at 2014-06-09 16:13:41
Re: Private Message to Snape

I am awake now, though given the events of the last few days I am endeavouring to decide whether there is a chance I might sleep for another hour or so.

And thank you for letting me know. I cannot imagine what is so
urgent, but for her to show interest in the laboratory is, I suppose, a good sign; given the way she has reacted thus far, I had feared she would decide the thought of

oh. I have just noted the calendar. She has almost certainly realised Lupin will need his Wolfsbane, and taken up the task of brewing it. I do not know whether to be encouraged that she is capable of concern for others even in the depths of her grief, or worried that she did not communicate her plans to me.

Or both, I suppose. Although I cannot blame her for finding the thought of being in the same room with me intolerable at the moment — she loved Minerva dearly, and having seen Minerva's last moments would be traumatising enough even without the events surrounding them. I cannot imagine Hermione will not continue to blame me for having been the one to end Minerva's suffering for quite some time to come.

I do not wish to intrude upon her grief and I do not wish to force her to confront me until she is ready to do so, but I am concerned for her state of mind and her well-being. If you are able to do so without triggering her anger or her pride, I would ask you to look in upon her. Tell her that I

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-09 16:32:48
Re: Private Message to Snape

Well, she spent loads of time yesterday cleaning out the cupboard next to my father's old study and re-shelving books in the library. But this was different. So, right, full moon, makes sense.

I wouldn't take her lack of communication personally, though, if I were you. It looked more like - like she'd just thought of it and decided it had to be done.

She went in without breakfast; it's nearly lunchtime. I can try to bring her a tray, see how she's doing.

Though the idea of assassinating every death eater still at large is still tempting. Maybe after lunch.
Yes. Please do bring her a tray, if you are willing to do so; neither she nor Draco seem to have much interest in food, but perhaps if someone else reminds her, she will eat. I am not taking it personally, or rather, I am reminding myself at every opportunity that I ought not; I am well aware I serve as an awful reminder at the moment. But I am exceptionally concerned about her well-being.

As for Death Eater assassinations: while the prospect remains enticing, I would prefer to do so while more rested. I shall cede my position in the next round to you if you would like.
I am so thoroughly, wretchedly, miserably exhausted.

And I cannot help but dwell on how badly I've failed. I should have recognised him; I should have seen through him. And now Draco is missing, and Raz is dead, and Minerva...

I still have not come to terms with Minerva, even after this long to absorb it. With each bit of new evidence I come to believe more firmly that she was never one of ours. That she never believed; that she took Our Lord's mark only to keep her place here, and ferment rebellion. That during every cup of tea we had together, every discussion about pedagogy, every peaceful afternoon, there was a piece of her sitting and watching, assessing how she could use what she learned in their efforts to dismantle Our Lord's greatest achievement and return us to the days when people like them persecuted people like us and witches and wizards were forced to live in the shadows and cower like stray dogs.

And Snape has Draco, and Merlin only knows what he's doing to the boy -- I cannot imagine he would pass up a chance to revenge himself against Lucius through Lucius's son -- and every promise I made to Lucius to protect Draco is thus forsworn. All because I failed to see what was right under my nose.

And I still cannot believe Raz is dead. If Nott does not experience the consequences of his actions, we should wait several weeks, to make him think he has gotten away with it, and then pay a call on him in the wee hours of the morning to explain to him just how thoroughly displeased with him we are. I will not allow my brother's death to go unavenged.

And we still have to figure out what to do with the fucking abominations Our Lord's newest army.

(Forgive me, lapushka. I do not need a response; I only needed a moment to rail against the heavens before putting one foot in front of the other and getting on with what will be an utterly miserable day.)
Have been wrestling all day to keep a foot in the dungeons. Pissing contest over jurisdiction. Mulciber. DIRRT. IA. All trying to claim rights to question persons of interest in last night's fire. (Now it's MEU trying to nose in.) Journal monitoring is ours. Full stop.

Confess I've never been fond of the Headmistress. Always thought she was in Dumbledore's pocket when I was in school. Know she explained that to His satisfaction, but then look what became of her. Pathetic, really. In her cups six days in seven.

Would come to you if I could leave here, but that's not possible yet.

Speaking of those you'd rather leave unmentioned... I was there on Saturday. Sent to witness the process. More when I see you.

But listen, Batya.

Don't take on more blame than is yours by right.

Whenever you wish to move against Nott, I'm in.
Private message to Lucius Malfoy

2014-06-09 09:32:00

I'm sorry to disturb you at such a difficult time.

But you should know this. There's been a fire at the Ministry.

The journal archive -- the record of all the private messages -- it's been destroyed.

alt_lucius at 2014-06-09 16:21:48
(no subject)

The private -

Has Ned been informed? No, of course he has been; who else knows of this?

Have they any - I mean: What happened? It can't have been accidental, there are protections on that room. What have they found thus far?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-09 16:28:37
(no subject)

They're not letting me in. It's being handled by Internal Affairs right now.

I think MEU needs to be involved, because this was clearly an insider -- and what if the insider was FROM Internal Affairs? They have access to that archive. Had. Access.

Ned's on it, of course, but he's also in the circle of potential suspicion. (Especially since the staff got pulled out just before it happened, all but one. Reginald Carmichael.)

I heard it was Fiendfyre. So no. Definitely not an accident.

The obvious conclusion is that it had something to do with what happened at Hogwarts on Saturday. That someone is covering their tracks -- hiding a connection, some moment of indiscretion.
Professor Siz has **allowed** directed me to assist her in her time of grief by putting equipment and classroom materials away, as we will be having no further classes this term.

Would you care to assist with this? You are a careful and diligent student, and I know that you, too, think highly of Professor Siz.

If yes, I shall be along shortly to collect you; I do not advise taking to the corridors unescorted.

---

**alt_evelyn** at 2014-06-09 15:20:01

(no subject)

Yes, please. I want very much to be of use.

Thank you.
Dear Draco,

It's me, Arista. Do you remember me from when you helped save my life? (And my brother's.)

Sarah told me you got in a lot of trouble and had to run away from Hogwarts, like she did, and that you might need to come live here for a while. (At the sanctuary, I mean.) So I just wanted to let you know that it's nice here, if you want to come, and people will be glad to see you.

I was actually worried when I first came because I thought maybe people would be awful to me because of my father. My father was a Council Wizard, like yours, and no one here says Council Wizard, they say Death Eater, and also they don't say 'Our Lord' (ever) they call Him him other things (mostly nasty ones) and since everyone here is a traitor I was worried they wouldn't like me but really it's fine here. (They actually DO sometimes say they're all traitors! I think they think it's funny.)

Anyway Sarah says you're a brilliant dueler and if you came here you could teach us all to fight, a lot better. She says you're actually rather brilliant at almost everything. I hope you at least come to visit?

I'm sorry about what happened to you. It sounds utterly awful and terrifying.

They always told us we were safe because of who our parents were, but they lied. (They lied about a lot of things but I guess you worked that out yourself. I felt like a complete idiot when I started to realise how much I'd believed was a lie.)

Your friend,
Arista Selwyn
Yes, I remember you.
I'm not afraid of people not liking me. Most people don't.

Did Sarah tell you to write to me, or something?

No, she told me you might be coming, though, and I thought you might be worried, because I was really worried. So I asked Mrs Longbottom if I could use my Daddy's diary again to write to you with the special ink. But she said the special ink wouldn't work anymore and she'd have to write who the message was for and oh it's very confusing but she seemed to think it would work.

I don't know where I'm going.
I'm not really worried about it, though.

Well I think you should come here for a visit because I'd like to see you.

But maybe you're busy I heard you were busy last night.
Why do you want to see me?

Because you saved my life!

And because you're kind of like me and there's no one here who's like me.

Even though I like it here.

And I don't mean we're both purebloods, I mean oh I have to go, they're calling us for supper

Well it wasn't just me who saved you.

I don't think you'll find me very much fun right now. Maybe in a while, though.
Am up to my arse in very tetchy Hungarian Horntails here. Rachel and I extracted a lot of parchment from Corax's office (now miniaturised and off-site. It will take awhile to go through it; his handwriting was execrable.) We also jury-rigged a duplio spell at the back of two of the cabinet drawers that makes copies of whatever's put in the there so it reappears at Safe Drop No. 2. Didn't have time to rig all four of them. (Don't worry, between Rachel and me--Auror and Goblin knowledge--the spells are well shielded). His office is sealed and guarded, but I'm being allowed in by virtue of my position.

No word yet on a successor.

Cadmus keeps sending me irate owls. The latest demanded I write 'a fitting eulogy' for his brother's funeral. What'd I'd love to write probably isn't what he wants.

I hope to take advantage of the confusion to rescind some of the orders sending those kids to the mines.

Everyone's keeping their heads down.

Back to it. MLE's looking this way (i.e., not Rachel).

'Corax Mulciber. I have such fond memories. Like the time he cruciated me. Or that other time he cruciated me. Or that time he almost killed the tea-trolley witch. Really, I'm just at a loss for words. What can I say other than, he'll be deeply missed?'

Better you than me, I guess.
Yeech.

Oh, and right.

At the moment, Internal Affairs is investigating the fire. I'm trying to maneuver my way in so I can dispose of any evidence we might have left behind. (You never know.) No success so far. The logic I'm pushing is that obviously there was an insider involved, and what if that insider was in IA?

Ideally we'd like the factions to each think the other was behind it. But until I'm closer in I won't know which way to shift the scapegoating that it's most likely to stick.

I'll shift it away from your father, if I can. But that may be the direction it's most likely to stick.

You did well last night. I hope you don't mind hearing that from me.

Don't you speak to me about my father.
Right.

Let me put it this way: my first priority is to make sure the evidence doesn't point at me. My second is to make sure MLE gains no useful information from anything we might have left behind.

Beyond that, suspicion could run in a lot of directions. If you would prefer it land on anyone in particular, or avoid anyone as much as possible, let me know. (Though there's no guarantee I'll be able to elbow my way into this.)

I don't care.

Good to know.

Keep trying, as much as you safely can.

Well. I'd tell you 'as long as you can do so without raising suspicions,' but that's almost insulting, as if I'm telling you how to do your job. Besides, everyone's flinching at shadows today.
Too right about keeping our heads down. Though there's to be a small gathering after hours to drink to the memory of our late boss.

Well, the phrase used was "drink until we can't remember the sodding bastard."

Your current impression of diligence and hard-arsery means that nobody's quite brave enough to invite you along. It's not that anyone thinks you were mates with the git. They heard the cruciations. They just think you're angling for some kind of promotion or something. Probably the grim look.

Your call on whether I ought to reinforce that notion or demolish it.

Reinforce, I think. Merlin knows I don't want any more cruciations (either given or received). But I need to look as tough as possible, if I want any hope of manoeuvring myself into a position where I can get the most intel.
2014-06-09 17:33:00
Order Only

Well that was utterly ghastly.

I think my favourite bit was listening to Sarah Yaxley's eulogy for Teddy Nott. I suppose he DID have an interest in animals, a curiosity about the natural world, and a single-minded devotion to Our Lord's ideals from the earliest possible age, come to think of it. The bit about his single-minded devotion to purity (which he would stop at nothing to defend) was also ... possibly accurate.

My least favourite was how awful Siz looks. She looks ... like something glass that got dropped on a flagstone floor, I think.

I wish they'd done them separately because grieving for the Headmistress and Raz (I know! you didn't like him for good reason! but some of us did!) and pretending to grieve for Teddy and the acknowledgement of Corax Mulciber altogether was just

I don't know

Is there going to be an Order memorial service for the Headmistress? Maybe in the summer, so we can all go?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-09 22:45:10
(no subject)

Did Teddy really have Draco draw a Dark Mark on his arm, when we were firsties, so he could show it to the Lord Protector? Or did Sarah make that up?

alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 00:09:48
(no subject)

Oh, you don't remember? Draco drew one on his own arm too, and they both showed the Lord Protector when he came to visit.
Yeah, Pans is right.
And they were totally smug about it afterwards.
Can't believe you don't remember that.

Yeah.
Well.

We all do daft things when we're eleven.

Yeah. Only some people just keep on doing them
even when they get older. Shame Nott had to be
one of those.

Truth! I wonder sometimes if we remember it
more clearly than in the past, because of the
journals. Or if they actually make things less clear.

Good on you, Harry, by the way, for thinking of the archives. So at
least now the Ministry can't go fishing through and judging us by
whatever we said back then.

Yes, of course we can have a proper remembrance.
I think after this we could all use a get together to see
some friendly faces, and Merlin knows we all deserve
a stiff drink or two. (Evie, dear, you are equally deserving, but yours will have to wait until you're a little older.)

She was right.

It was ghastly.

Siz looked like she was going to fall over, and there were all these women who were just carrying on about Raz and crying really loudly, and no-one knew what to say about the Headmistress or Teddy.

People didn't know what to say to me either. Which was better than having to talk to them.

I still wish I could have been there. For Raz, I mean.

Sorry. I don't have much more to say at the moment.

I'm sorry too.

This is going to make me sound like a giant girl's blouse, but it's really good to see your handwriting again.

Even if it's just to say that you don't know what to say.
I was so angry at Ced when he stepped in front of that curse for me. Like he was stupid to think I deserved to live more than he did.

I know

it's not the same

but yeah.
Aurora, dear.

I stopped by but your brother said you had asked not to be disturbed. I hope that means you're able to get some sleep.

I did leave with him two things that might help if you've reached the point of wishing to try them. Neither is a sleep potion, per se. I know how you feel about those. While each of them should help you find sleep and make the sleep you take more beneficial, neither will keep you asleep artificially should you need or wish to waken. I should also say that neither will make you feel sluggish if you continue awake; the effect will be more an easing of tension and a soothing of thoughts.

The first (in the greenish commercial bottle labelled 'Sweet Relief') is crystalline in form--rather like sugar-- and should be added to tea or tisane (whichever you find most appealing, really): using the small spoon attached to the underside of the lid, add one spoonful per cup. Despite its name and appearance, you shouldn't notice a flavour so much as a pleasant warmth with this one.

The second is a gentle easing syrup (in the small, stoppered bottle labelled 'Small Mercies'). You may add it to broth or tea, whichever you prefer. All you're likely to need is one drop, but there's no reason not to use a bit more if you find it helpful. This one's a recipe from The English Healer's Companion and relies entirely on native herbals. (You remember the book, I'm sure. It was a wonderful gift: I've profited from its wise advice more times than I can tell you.)

Oh, and that makes me think... If you're not feeling more like food by tomorrow, there's another recipe there that makes a nice job of enhancing both the savour and sustenance one takes in eating.

Enough for now, but I will pay a call in the morning again, and I told Storm that you are both to feel absolutely no hesitation in calling me tonight if there is anything at all I can do.
Thank you.

My tower is very tall, did you know? I'm so tired. I'll try one of them. When I can decide which. One thing to do first.

Mum said. Earlier. Mum said something. A potion. That it wouldn't have been safe if I were already preg if Raz and I had if things were different.


Today was all wrong.

Oh, my dear. You're beside yourself with exhaustion.

I should have thought to say that you may take either or both of those potions if you wish: it will not hurt you in the slightest to combine them.

A different story indeed for Hildegard's. (The full name is a mouthful. It's Wise Hildegard's Harmonic Nervine. I quite understand why it's escaped you.) I've found the recipe for it; I have the ingredients, and will brew a test batch tonight, barring chaos here. But we will need to discuss how it's administered and the other dietary and daily regimens it requires for proper effectiveness. It's very good, however, that your mother was able to point us to a potion that worked well for your grandmother. Most promising, indeed, since the backlash from a broken binding spell is idiosyncratic in the extreme and very difficult to ease without much trial and error if one's working entirely without family history to direct one.

Call if you need me tonight. Rest as much as you can, and I will see you in the morning.
I hate mornings. I hate dawn. I hate a lot of things right now.

I - there were dreams. Vivid. Mostly not bad.

I'm still very tired. I don't think I have to do anything today, though. Storm says not.

Have an idea where I want to be. If you think it's good. And we can sort it out.
My deepest regrets and condolences on your loss.

I’m finding I valued him more than I had realized. I will treasure these last few weeks for the rest of my life. Working with you two, Harry and the others was hugely rewarding and instructive. Thank you for sharing some of what had been your time with him with us.

If there’s ever anything you need from me, please just ask. Moving stuff you can’t bear to look at or whatever.

I’m glad the service was nice, even if it was spoilt by including T...
Order Only: Private message to Madam Pomfrey

I really thought I'd feel better today but I feel worse. Like every time I turn around part of me expects to see Bellatrix Lestrange standing there and I can't stop thinking about what happened to Hermione and I've been thinking about that bloody Healer again even though it's been TEN YEARS and I just

I don't know

Maybe it'll be better when I go home to Pansy's, I mean maybe it's just that they said I needed to stay in case they had questions and that makes me nervous (even though I think almost everyone in the sixth year got told to stay. Possibly everyone. Everyone in Slytherin, for sure.)

I sort of want calming drought but I sort of don't, like part of me thinks I don't want to be calm because I need to be on edge just in case. And every time I start to relax I get this horrible picture in my head so I guess that's also part of why I don't want a calming drought.

I know you're really busy and I'm sorry to bother you, I think mostly I just want you to tell me I'll feel better tomorrow even if I don't feel better today.

I was rather hoping you'd stop in this evening. I have several things I've been meaning to give you, and I think it might be useful to talk a bit about what you observed today about Professor Sinistra's condition. I didn't wish to answer you in the midst of your other post, but your description was apt and I think it might be useful to discuss why. Particularly as you are exhibiting some signs of upset as well.

I will reserve judgement on whether a potion might be helpful until I've seen you and had a chance to weigh the options with you.
If you think there will be any difficulty about your leaving your House to come here, I could send an elf to summon you.
I have the marking done for all the exams up through Noble Arts OWLS. I’ve attached them all to the appropriate essays and they are in your temporary desk under the usual hexes. I should finish the other two years this evening. I’ve noted anything odd. You should go over B Burbage and M Iskanderian yourself. You’ll see why.

I’ve also finished first and second year Defence and merged their written portion with the practical scores Professor Lestrange had recorded. I may get to some more tonight, it depends on how long Noble Arts takes to finish. Whatever I don’t finish tonight, will get marked and merged tomorrow. I’ll have it on your desk as soon as possible Deputy Headmistress.
**2014-06-09 20:18:00**  
*ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Sally-Anne*

You bitch.

GIVE IT TO ME.

it's MINE. You don't deserve to touch it.

And you think you can run away? I'm going to find you and I'm going to take it from you and then I'm going to show everyone. Show everyone what I can do. Draco couldn't. He couldn't give that muddblood up, but I can do what he can't, because I can make the hard choices. I can cut you out of my life like THAT, like you're NOTHING, because that is what you are.

He was too good for all of this. He never would've made it. He's not broken and twisted inside and I am, just like Regulus was, GIVE ME HIS LOCKET BACK.

Because I've got work to do. And you're not going to stop me.

---

**alt_pansy** at **2014-06-10 03:31:31**  
(no subject)

You're pathetic. You think you can run away from me?  
Guess who just de-jinxed herself?

---

**alt_sally_anne** at **2014-06-10 03:32:53**  
(no subject)

Pansy there's something really really wrong about this locket. When I picked it up I thought it was going to burn my hand.

Where did you get it? Did Regulus GIVE it to you, I thought he just gave you those books? HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THIS?
Where are you?
I'll come and tell you all about it.

NO. TELL ME IN THE JOURNAL.

It's really not that big a deal, Sally-Anne.
Honestly.
I just want my locket back. Please? It's been a long day, I've got this awful challenge to finish, and I'm really not pleased that you took it from me, but we'll sort that out later.

Pansy.
I'm talking to Sirius Black in the journals. Do you see that I PM'd him?

I asked him what Regulus's locket looks like. It has no markings, it's just a plain gold oval. THIS ISN'T REGULUS'S. WHERE DID YOU GET IT.
You're such a liar.
Kreacher gave it to me at Christmas. Honestly.

KREACHER gave it to you? Oh Pansy
Did he say it was Regulus's? You know he can LIE. To anyone who isn't Sirius. You're not his Master!

I need to do this, Sally-Anne.
It's for the Order.
Now that Draco's screwed everything up, I need to clean up his mess, and I'm the only one who can make it right.
I'm so much better at occlumency now, remember? And once I kill Padma, they'll let me in. I'm sure of it.

You're going to WHAT?
Where *are* you? Come on, it's getting late, let's meet up by the Infirmary again, I can help you clean up your bag, and I'll explain everything.

Ugh. Seriously, Sally-Anne. You told Harry, didn't you?

Now he'll get all righteous and boring and spare me, honestly, he'd be glad to see her out of the picture. Who wouldn't?

Pennifold said this would be my chance to get on the council. I've got to take it. It's as simple as that.

Pansy, murder is not how our side deals with people who IRRITATE us.

Padma is irritating. She's not Teddy. She's not BELLATRIX for Merlin's sake, she's just a pompous, self-important prat!

Did Pennifold seriously tell you to murder Padma?

I mean listen to yourself Pansy THIS IS NOT WHO YOU ARE.
I'm ever so glad you managed the transformation, and just in the nick of time, too. Thanks for getting Hermione's bracelet out of there. It's too bad MLE found it, but at least they can't rip it apart and examine the spells on it. That will keep us all safer.

You all right?

Um. Just so you know, if it's possible for you to do this without Seamus discovering you, it helps to sleep in the form if you have a lot on your mind you don't want to think about. It's calming.

Anyway. It seems strange to write 'congratulations' when everyone's so gutted about what's happened, but it's brilliant that you're an animagus now. I bet your form will be real useful. Well, it has been, already.

I wish I could have come to the Headmistress' funeral.

Thanks.

I don't know what made the difference in the end. I mean, you know how we tried everything you and Professor Dumbledore could think of. And none of it-

I guess you were right, though, that sometimes you just have to be up against it where it's change or lose everything. It wasn't as life or death for me as it was for you, not in the moment, but it was going to get dire soon. I got my letter from the Aurors. That's what made the difference, because I had to be able to before I start there.

If I thought I could get by without it before, I know better now. If you'd seen Auror Lestrange...

Anywiz. Yeah.

That part's
It was a naff funeral today. I mean, I know you probably still would've wanted to come, but you'd've hated it. I mean, first off, it wasn't just for her, you know? It was for Professor Lestrange and for Nott, too. Anywiz, Slughorn talked about the Headmistress, and it was queer what he said. He talked a lot about stuff from a long time ago. I mean, they both taught here a long time, yeah? And so he was saying how she was always so faithful to the school and to its Headmaster and that's why it was obvious after the war that she should be the next head of school. So, really, he was talking about Dumbledore, and that made everything just seem... not quite... I mean, he didn't come out and say she was a blood traitor, but I think some of them thoughts... People were sort of uncomfortable about it all. You could just tell.

And then there were so many people there for Professor Raz. I think it must've been every witch he ever snogged, and they were all carrying on as if he'd married them. Daphne's mum. It was just a bit much, all that. And the reporters. They weren't allowed to talk to the people they really wanted to, so they were asking anyone they could get hold of and taking pictures of everything.

I dunno. It was a mess. And no one wanted to hear about Teddy Nott and how loyal he was to Himself.

Yeah, it was okay you weren't there. And it sounds as if we'll have a memorial for her this summer. A proper one.

You're back at Moddey? or Sherwood?

Take care, then.

---

_you: alt_terry at 2014-06-11 04:01:12
(no subject)_

You're right: sometimes you really learn what you can do only when your back is up against the wall. I'm so glad you pulled it off.

I'm back at Sherwood. Well, I went back to Moddey Dhoo for the regular Sunday night supper, but now I'm at Sherwood. I...I didn't try to see Hermione or Draco while I was at 12 Grimmauld. I just wanted to be there, and to know that sh they were alive, and I wanted to guard outside their door.

But Sirius said they wanted to be by themself, so I came away.
That's a good idea, to have our own memorial for the Headmistress. And Professor Lestrange--he served the Lord Protector, I know, but it seemed he was a good friend to Harry.
Hey, Pans.

So, I'm with Sally-Anne, and Ron, and we're looking at this locket. We described it to Sirius, and he swears it wasn't Regulus's. And it looks familiar.

See, Dumbledore had me look at all these old memories of Tom's, right? Tom Riddle. Before he became Lord Voldemort. And in one of the memories he was in this antique shop or something and there was an old lady there and he really wanted a locket. And the old lady said it was really precious, because it belonged to Salazar Slytherin, and he got this look on his face like he really didn't want to give it up.

I think it's the horcrux, Pansy. You found it. I don't know how you managed it, but you did.

It makes sense. It's the locket I saw from the memory. I'm almost sure of it. Hydra saw the memory too, she can verify it, and he'd want something of Slytherin's, wouldn't he?

There's that "S" on the front, and it's way old. And it's Dark, too. Like it gives me prickles when I get closer to it, just like Professor Dolohov said.

Pansy.

If this is the horcrux, that's a piece of Voldemort's soul. It's Voldemort trying to convince you to kill Padma. Because YOU ARE NOT A MURDERER.
Alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 04:21:58  
(no subject)

What?

No.

No, it's Regulus's locket. I just can't sort out how to get it open, and once I do, I can find where his body is, and bury him. Kreacher said No.

Alt_harry at 2014-06-10 04:23:15  
(no subject)

Sirius told Sally-Anne that his locket was plain and gold and had the hair in it. That's not what this is.

Alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 04:27:06  
(no subject)

No.

It's not.

It's important.

It's really, really important.

Alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 04:27:29  
(no subject)

it's

oh
What did Kreacher say?

he didn't give it to me.

I lied.

I asked him if he knew about a locket, and he got tetchy like he was hiding something and I sorted out where it was and I stole it.

When?

Over Christmas.

To be closer

To be closer to him, when I was going through the rites to remember his name, and I kept trying to find out how to open it only it wouldn't ever open for me, and

And it made me feel so **strong**, and if it was just a regular locket, it wouldn't do that, would it?
Have you ever heard Ginny talk about the cursed tiara she had for a while? It made her feel beautiful, and like she was better than the rest of her family, and like she couldn't trust the people who loved her most and was all alone in the world.

Oh.

You are strong, Pansy. You're one of the strongest people I know. You're strong, and brave, and beautiful, and you're my best friend and I'm never giving that up ever.

Oh, Sally-Anne.

I slapped you.

I was going to

It all made so much sense.
We're in Myrtle's bathroom.

Professor Dolohov said once that basilisk venom destroys practically ANYTHING. And Harry and Hydra say there's a dead basilisk that's ... more or less straight under us.

Let's go. We'll destroy it, then tell the rest of the Order.

Yes.

I'm sorry.

I'm so sorry, Sally-Anne.
2014-06-09 21:23:00
Private Message to Rodolphus Lestrange

Are you sure you're all right for the evening? You're welcome to come here if you're looking for company.

Lucius has been working to resolve the outstanding questions surrounding the events of Saturday. And now there was an incident at the Ministry this morning, or so he's said, and he might go there tomorrow to see if he can find out whether it had any relation to the other matters.

I cannot believe any of the accusations have even the barest basis in truth. But we've heard nothing else from his kidnappers and -

I'm sorry. I don't mean to burden you. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Perhaps you're wisest to retreat to your workshop, dear. Only, I do worry about you all alone there, when you surface. Please do come to the Manor anytime. I do not plan on leaving for a while, except to come to Le'Strange Hill for the interment, of course.

But if there is anything else you need, please say the word.

---

alt_rodolphus at 2014-06-10 02:50:41
(no subject)

Thank you for the offer. I think I'll have a drink, or several, and retire soon. If you'd care to join me for a nightcap, the floo is open. Or, if you'd rather, I can bring that nightcap to you.

It is good that Lucius has much to keep him occupied at this time. I play to return to my own work tomorrow.

Today was... not what I imagined. On those three or four (I've lost count) other occasions when we thought we might lose him, I pictured a different location. The Falcons pitch, or Green Park. A service dedicated to him and him alone. Not shared with a drunken crone and a foaming-mad pup.
Hydra seems not herself. I'm sure the Missus is quite satisfied.

And Draco. Forgive me, Narcissa, if I've not yet shown proper concern. He's a fine young man, and has been wronged, surely. I'm sorry that my wife cannot offer you the solace you deserve.

I'm sure that it's better for me to stay, in case there's word or - any change.

But if you would come through, we can have a private toast to Razzer's memory. I agree, it was an entirely unsatisfactory service, for many reasons. We will do better later this week.

I feel so bad for Aurora, as well. Poor thing is clearly suffering backlash, and no wonder, barely a year after the binding spells were placed. I remember when Father died and Mother was - well, to put it bluntly, she was quite a wreck. It was weeks before she could even make the simplest of decisions or eat more than dry toast and tea. Bella was so impatient with her.

Hydra seems to be coping with the disappointment of earlier this spring by embracing her talents. I admit I'm also glad to see her coming into her own but it seems it required a broken heart to impel her to it. That's always the way with young love, isn't it? Deep, fast, seemingly overpowering in its ardour, and yet, when it shatters, it proves how brittle it was in the first place. Luckily, young things do emerge stronger for their heartache. She'll be fine, in time.

Your concern is just where it needs to be, Rod. Come over; I don't want you to drink yourself to oblivion. Not alone, anyway.

Yes, a nice toast. He would prefer it that way.

Why choose oblivion when I can choose good company? I'll be over shortly.
2014-06-09 21:23:00
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Hydra

Hydra.

We need you.

We're in Myrtle's bathroom, and something's wrong with Pansy, and I think we found the horcrux. And we can't tell her where we are, not yet, so we can't write it publicly. Okay?

@alt_harry at 2014-06-10 04:32:06
(no subject)

Oh.

Oh. Yes, what do you need me to do?

@alt_harry at 2014-06-10 04:37:38
(no subject)

Come to the bathroom.

We need to open the Chamber and get a basilisk tooth.

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-10 04:49:02
(no subject)

No. Why do you need me for that?

I don't know how to get into the chamber anymore.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-10 04:57:56
(no subject)

We're going to try.

I'm sorry.

I should've
We'll be okay. I know some Parslemouth, and Ron can turn into a bloody snake. We'll be fine.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-10 05:03:09  
(no subject)

Don't go down there

I can stand watch. In the bathroom.

alt_harry at 2014-06-10 05:06:22  
(no subject)

Are you sure?

Okay.

If it's okay.

Because you don't have to.

But if it's okay, you could watch out the door to make sure no-one comes along. And if it's too much, you can just walk down the hall or something.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-10 05:07:19  
(no subject)

Yeah, that's what I'll do.

alt_harry at 2014-06-10 05:09:38  
(no subject)

You don't have to prove anything to me, you know.
alt_hydra at 2014-06-10 05:13:45
(no subject)

I know that. I can stand watch. If I couldn't, I would say so.

alt_harry at 2014-06-10 05:15:11
(no subject)

Good.
Hermione, Draco,

Please, don't feel you need to respond. I'm sure you're more than a little turned upside down at present. I just wanted to say that I'm well relieved you both escaped and dashed sorry we couldn't help you any sooner. And I'm quite sorry for your losses.

It's difficult to know what to say. Other people, yourselves included, were much closer to Professor McGonagall and Professor Lestrange. I say, I've been trying to stay out of the way, mostly, and let everyone do what they need to do to cope. I suspect your own grief must be mixed into a well confusing morasse of feeling the loss of Hogwarts, what, and the changes in both your circumstances.

I thought you might both like to know that the memorial service today was not at all a proper sendoff, what, so if you have given even a single thought to having missed it, you may be grateful you did not have to suffer through it.

Also, I don't know if anyone has mentioned it, specifically, but: You were both exceptionally brave, what. And you both proved a credit to the Order, the way you resisted. Well done. I'm not sure all of us could have withstood the trials you went through.

And Draco, on a purely personal note: Thank you. I say, it may not be a charitable sentiment but I know I shall rest jolly well easier knowing that Theodore Nott, Jr., can never threaten Hydra or Hermione or any other person on this earth, ever again.

Well. I think I shall end there and leave you both to your recovery. Again, my condolences, and my congratulations, as well, for escaping your ordeal.

Very best wishes,

-Finch-Fletchley
2014-06-09 22:21:00
Order Only: Private message to Ron and Harry

oh my god I think I need help.

I'm hiding in Myrtle's bathroom and I think Pansy wants to kill me.  

Harry did she tell you anything today about a challenge

alt_harry at 2014-06-10 03:33:07
(no subject)

What?

No?

I'll be there soon

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 03:35:15
(no subject)

OK good.

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 03:33:37
(no subject)

WOT?!

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 03:37:07
(no subject)

Yeah there was a locket in my bag and she said I stole it only I didn't, I mean I'd never seen it before and she is acting REALLY WEIRD, Ron, and when I picked it up you know all the things we learned in Professor Dolohov's class about identifying dark objects, this is a DARK. OBJECT. I mean I know magical objects and this one could
not be any darker if it grew fangs and tried to bite people.

So instead of giving it back to her I ran

She wouldn't tell me where she was going but she said it was for a challenge and she said she'd talked to Harry and I KNEW she was lying. I KNEW IT.

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 03:41:20
(no subject)

Almost there.

No sign of Pansy yet, either. Wait- she's not-?

Be there in half a minute!

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 03:43:27
(no subject)

She says she's going to kill Padma. DO NOT LET HER KILL PADMA.
**2014-06-09 22:30:00**
Order Only: Private message to Sirius

Sirius are you there

Did Regulus actually have a locket? Was it evil

---

**alt_sirius** at **2014-06-10 03:36:36**  
(no subject)

What about the locket? I know Pansy's been looking for it. It was our mother's. But I still haven't been able to find it.

Why?

---

**alt_sirius** at **2014-06-10 03:37:10**  
(no subject)

She's not going spare about not getting it, is she?

I told her we'd keep looking.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at **2014-06-10 03:38:40**  
(no subject)

NO SHE THINKS

Is it heavy and gold with an 'S' on it?

---

**alt_sirius** at **2014-06-10 03:46:19**  
(no subject)

... No, it wasn't. It didn't have any markings, just a plain gold oval. It had locks of our hair in it. Mine and Reg's, from when we were sprogs.
Pansy has a locket. Had a locket. She says it's from Regulus.

If it's ornate with an 'S' on it then it's not Reg's.

What's going on, Sally-Anne? Do you lot need help?

No, don't come! Everything's fine. I mean everything's under control. It's not Death Eaters, or anything like that.

I'm not planning to invade. But if you need help with something you suspect is Dark you should go to Dumbledore.

Do you want me to send one of the other Professors? Where are you, can you explain what's happening or is it something you need urgent help for?
No. We're okay. Dumbledore, okay. That's a good idea.

I mean, it's a good idea to go to him. Don't send him looking for us, that'll just attract attention.

All right. Just be careful, whatever you're up to.

And try not to burn down the castle, okay? But if you need to get out quickly, I mean it, go to the others and get out.

(And let me know, when you can, what it was all about?)

And she's going spare about the locket, all right.
Justin. Pansy's got it in her head she needs to murder Padma Patil for a challenge. Can you go to Ravenclaw, to the spot that leads to the tower, and make SURE she doesn't get past you? Luna, do whatever you can to make sure Padma doesn't leave.

Sally-Anne, Yes, of course. On my way. Shall I tell Sue, if I see her as I go?

-Justin

Can't hurt. Just no one who isn't in the Order.

Right. Jolly good.

-J

Okay

Okay. I think things are okay now.
I'll explain it all later, I promise.

Thank you.

I spent a lot of today remembering what it was like when I was little and there wasn't anyone I could trust. Having friends who have your back is really the best feeling in the world.

alt_justin at 2014-06-10 04:45:56
(no subject)

Oh, good, I was just thinking of writing to you to say that there's been no sign but I hadn't wished to disturb if you'd caught her up and were engaged with making her see sense, what.

Was it a curse? I mean to say, did someone target her to complicate things? (Well, I say, you'll tell me later.)

Friends. Yes, it really is, absolutely the best feeling.

I'm well glad I was here to help, even if it turned out not to be needed.

-Justin

alt_luna at 2014-06-10 09:55:41
(no subject)

I managed to keep Padma in.

I don't think I've ever spent so much time willingly with her before, but I sat next to her in the Common Room and just kept asking her questions that let her talk about how clever she's been in the Challenge.

I mean, she despises me. But that was sort of irresistible to her. I stuck to her side like a Grindylow until she went to bed just to get rid of me.
2014-06-09 22:52:00
Order Only: Private message to Ginny

So that tiara with the curse on it.

How did you figure out there was something wrong? If someone had snatched it from you and run away is there any way they could have convinced you that you were under a curse?

alt_ginny at 2014-06-10 03:56:46
(no subject)

It was a long, slow process. I could tell you about it tomorrow, would that be okay? I was just about to go to bed.

And ... maybe, if it had been someone I had really trusted at some point, like my brothers. Well, like Ron or Bill or Charlie or Percy, I'm not so sure I ever trusted the Twins.

Why?

alt_ginny at 2014-06-10 03:57:00
(no subject)

...wait, what's going on?
Order Only: Private message to Ron

Is Sally-Anne in some sort of trouble? Where are you?

alt_ginny

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 04:10:06
(no subject)

Yes, there's trouble. With Pansy, who's gone mad. I mean, absolutely lunatic.

She's threatening to kill people.

alt_ginny at 2014-06-10 04:12:21
(no subject)

WHAT?

Does she have the tiara?

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 04:13:48
(no subject)

No. A locket.

It's got a really Dark curse on it. I mean, you can tell, just standing near it, and Sally Anne's touched it and says it's the Darkest thing she's ever seen.

alt_ginny at 2014-06-10 04:15:38
(no subject)

Well I didn't think 'oh, this is the darkest thing ever' when I picked up the tiara. I just thought it was pretty and I tried it on.

But
well it didn't make me try to kill anybody but thinking back I almost feel like it was just biding its time there.

@alt_ron at 2014-06-10 04:12:24
(no subject)

We're in Myrtle's loo.

@alt_ginny at 2014-06-10 04:14:13
(no subject)

I'm coming down.

@alt_ron at 2014-06-10 04:15:54
(no subject)

Yeah, okay.

I think you can help figure out what to tell Pansy so she'll know it's cursed her.
2014-06-10 02:56:00
Order Only: We Found It!

We found the protector's horcrux tonight!! It's a locket--or it was one--but we destroyed it! completely killed it! So, yeah, it was a locket that Pansy found at Grimmauld Place, and it was doing really Dark, horrible things, and we finally figured out it wasn't just cursed, it was actually a horcrux--like the diary was, y'know? And we worked out that we could destroy it the same way because basilisk venom is super deadly to Dark devices.

And it was brilliant!! I've got the thing right here, and it's totally ruined. No sign of any magic left. At all. None!

And it was definitely his. The LP's, I mean. So that means he won't be able to do that rite again. If someone tries killing him, they'll be able to do it, and he won't be able to come back!

It's really Pansy and Sally Anne you can thank for finding it. And Harry for finishing it off. Just so you know.

---

2014-06-10 11:19:41
(al)bus
(no subject)

Alas, Mr Weasley, there is more than one.

That you destroyed this locket is commendable, mind.

2014-06-10 12:00:18
(al)ron
(no subject)

Wait. Wot?

You mean he- why-

What're you saying?
I located another on Saturday, but have not yet retrieved it. It is well-protected.

(Severus, perhaps we might consult when I can get free.)

If there is more than one, there might well be more than two. I must think.

I am at your disposal. In fact, I will drop whatever I am doing at the slightest hint you are willing to keep us informed of your plans.

This evening, I think, when I am less likely to be missed.

Grimmauld Place, if there is no objection. The library may be of some use.

Of course, it's perfectly all right to meet here, but let's keep the conference somewhat - limited in numbers, if you can do. Our newest residents don't need the whole Order descending. Everyone will mean well and want to encourage them and I'm not sure either Draco or Hermione is ready for that sort of attention.

Snape, would you agree?
Small would be best, yes.

I wish to focus on the protections, which are extensive and rather far outside the expertise of most of our number.

How many can there be?

I mean, we were talking last night about how they're maybe made, and...

He can't have made one every time he killed someone, can he? Because that would mean-

Well if there IS more than one that explains why the locket seemed SO MUCH like my tiara.

Remind me where that ended up? Did you put it in the room of lost things?

I did. But then I wound up getting it back, and I was going to take it and show it to Professor Dolohov (look, I'm sorry, but I didn't KNOW about the Order at the time) and Umbridge
caught me with it. Actually, Megan Jones thought I was smuggling food and she called Umbridge and Umbridge took it.

**alt_ron** at 2014-06-10 15:32:52
(no subject)

Umbridge took it.

**alt_alice** at 2014-06-10 16:28:52
(no subject)

And this is possibly another horcrux?

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-10 16:31:47
(no subject)

Was she wearing it when we plated her?

**alt_ginny** at 2014-06-10 16:37:45
(no subject)

Well did you notice a TIARA ON HER HEAD when you turned her into a toad?

I would think it's the sort of thing that might have stuck out in your memory.

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-10 17:57:45
(no subject)

We transfigured her into the toad right off. It happened pretty quickly. But I don't think she did.

We might use the Pensieve to make sure.
I think we might need to ask her where it is. Where it was last year, anyways.

alt_alice at 2014-06-10 16:27:48 (no subject)

I see.

Do you require further assistance beyond Severus, Albus?

alt_albus at 2014-06-10 16:36:49 (no subject)

This particular task does not play to your strengths, my dear. I think Severus and Sirius and I will do well enough for the moment.

My thought is to remove it and deal with it first, and deal with the larger question of there being more among a fuller company in the near future.

alt_alice at 2014-06-10 16:46:52 (no subject)

Of course.

alt_albus at 2014-06-10 13:27:16 (no subject)

Also, Mr Weasley, when you can come to my office without drawing attention, I would like to see the remains of the locket.

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 13:44:19 (no subject)

Er, yeah. Okay.

You won't need to keep it, will you? I mean, we told Pansy she could decide what happens to it.
alt_albus at 2014-06-10 13:47:08
(no subject)

I will need to evaluate it first. It would not do to have it continue to present a danger to anyone.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 14:32:22
(no subject)

Glad everything worked out. Good on you all, for destroying it!

alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 14:38:30
Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne

So, let me see if I can work this out ....

Pansy went looking for my mother's locket, with Regulus's lock of hair in it. (We talked about that at Grimmauld, she and I. She had a theory that if we found the hair, we could find his remains. Or him, if he were still alive.)

Instead of that locket, she found this one, the one Sally-Anne described ('ornate gold with an 'S' on), and thought it was the one she was looking for, so she kept it.

But it was really a horcrux, and the longer she kept it the worse she became?

Have I got that much right?

Until finally last night she went round the twist, alerting you to her mental state in the process. Then you figured out you had to destroy the dark object. Had you figured out it was a horcrux already, or was that in the process of destroying it?
Right, okay. We explained this to Professor Dumbledore but I don't know if Pansy is going to want everyone to know unless they really need to. If it goes up on the whole lock I sort of think she should be the one to put it up, not me or Ron.

Kreacher I guess had mentioned he did have a locket, and Pansy found it and kept it. She thought it was Regulus's but she couldn't work out how to get it open. She'd put it on once a month when she was doing this memorial rite for Regulus. Everyone -- well, I definitely noticed she was getting cross more easily, but we all thought it was the challenge.

Yesterday I guess she got one more challenge from Pennifold and she took it to mean she ought to go murder Padma. I ran into her when I was coming back from the Hospital Wing and she was on her way to Ravenclaw, I think, and we argued and she slapped me and put a hex on my bag and when everything spilled out, the locket was in there. I knew as soon as I picked it up that it was something really dark so when Pansy said she wanted it back, I jinxed her and ran away with it.

I didn't know it was a horcrux. Only that something was really wrong with it. But when Harry saw it, he recognised it as a locket Tom Riddle had been interested in and that's when we realised.

When Ron opened it so we could destroy it, it TALKED. Said horrible things. Made a fake version of me and Ron come out and say awful things to Pansy and then a fake version of your brother. Just so you know. But she wasn't fooled. Anyway if we'd had any doubt it was a horcrux seeing all that? it wasn't just incredibly dark it was also really powerful and complicated in a way that you can't just patch together with metal and magic, does that make sense?

Oh, and the reason Pansy could never get this one open is, you have to tell it to open in Parseltongue. So Ron transformed and then told it to open.
You should have heard what it was whispering when I was telling it to open. It called me a brother of Salazar and said I should take it.

But it had an idea how I should take it from you. It knew I had poison. And it knew you were holding me.

It was wrong about the brother of Slytherin bit, though. Sorry, but I mean, 'Kill your friends' was a stupid thing for it to try out on me.

'Brother of Salazar,' huh?

You know in the really old texts, who sometimes gets referred to as the Salazar's Brother? Godric. Kind of funny.

Er. Yeah. A bit awkward, innit?

And there you go again, dragging little known facts out of nowhere. That got a chapter in Hogwarts a Bloody History?

Well Hogwarts a Bloody History is in fact filled with little-known facts (actually, it's mostly stuff everyone knows, like that you can't apparate or disapparate on the grounds or in the school) but it's the most sanitised dull version of the Founders you could ever ask for.

The 'Brother of Salazar' bit was in this book I borrowed from Professor Dolohov about the Founders that was quite a bit more
interesting. It's sort of a mix of real history and extremely out-of-date gossip.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 15:07:27
Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne

So I don't know how it wound up in my bag. I asked Pansy. Maybe she put it there? Could maybe PART of her have realised what the locket was doing, and gave it to me without telling the part that the locket was controlling? We haven't talked about horcruxes in Dark Arts but we've talked about lots of other dark objects, it's why we thought of basilisk venom as a solution.

But also, how did KREACHER wind up with a horcrux?

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 16:23:35
Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne

Huh.

I mean it pretty much has to have been her. Or maybe the thing itself? I mean, maybe it wanted to get away from Pansy and find someone else to twist. Or maybe one of the elves found it and tidied it up into your bag instead of Pansy's.

Probably wasn't Daphne. Or Bulstrode.

Oi. Imagine if it'd got hold of her!

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 16:56:31
Re: Private Message to Ron and Sally-Anne

Well, there are magical objects that can move themselves. Ordinarily they need something they can use as feet or legs but honestly I'm not sure WHAT this would have been able to do.

It's very odd it would go into my bag, though. I mean

It's just odd.
Bulstrode, ha. Yeah she'd have kept it, I think. Daphne might have realised it was Dark but she'd have taken it to Professor Dolohov, I think.

I wonder what he'd think of something like this.

And, yeah.

What was it doing at Grimmauld? Maybe it was really something Regulus brought there. That'd make Pansy partly right about it.

But it could've been your Mum's, too, couldn't it, Sirius?

I don't know, and I've been wondering the same thing myself - how it got to Grimmauld, that is. And how it jumped from Pansy's possession to Sally-Anne's.

Gold with an 'S'? I don't remember ever having seen that sort of piece in my Mother's collection. But then I didn't pore over her jewels the way Reg did. (Merlin, if I'd thought he was playing dress-up I'd - nevermind.) Anyway, I'd have to see it to be sure, I suppose. But it doesn't sound like anything she'd have had. In fact, nearly all her jewellery was silver, or white gold, to go with her blacks and dark greens and such. But - it's possible, I suppose.

I don't think she'd have had anything with a fragment of Voldemort's soul in, at least, not deliberately.

I think I'd better have a chat with Kreacher.
2014-06-10 08:44:00
Order Only Private Message to Pansy Parkinson and Sally Anne Perks

You awake yet? or still?

You were right: he wants to have a look at it. Do you want to come along? I mean, I know you sort of wanted to take it back to Mr Black's elf, and I don't know if Professor Dumbledore might want to keep it.

It's still dead, though. So that's a good thing.

alt_ron

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 13:51:57
(no subject)

I'm awake. Yeah, I'll come.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 16:25:23
(no subject)

I feel so stupid.

About all of it.

Thank you. For telling it the way you did.

I'll probably have to tell Mr Dumbledore and Mrs Longbottom and Sirius every last detail, but

Yeah. I feel ridiculous enough as it is.

alt_ron at 2014-06-10 16:33:06
(no subject)

No worries, Fish-eye.

You know what, though? When you're hacked off, you're dead scary. I wouldn't want to be on the wrong side of a duel or a war against you!
What I mean is, I think you'd stand a chance now if you ever had to fight. Or serve the Council.

Course the rest of us hid like ten-year-olds with a boggart loose in the bedroom. Not sure what that says about us.

Mrs Longbottom already thinks I'm UGH.

Right.

That isn't real. Or, well, I think it took things I was afraid of and made them bigger than they really were. So it is something I thought about a lot, but I don't know how real it is.

I don't know what she thinks about me.

What is? I mean, what was it making you think?

It's hard to explain. But. Okay. Take the challenge. Hydra and Draco and you and me. Hydra and Draco would be suited for the council, obviously, I mean, it's just clear that they'd be able to be successful, and so let's do everything we can to get them onto it, and talk about what they'll do once they get there, and Ron, you're getting some good attention from this, why don't you make a serious go for the aurors, which is also really important and valuable, and Pansy, dear, do your best to lose.
It's like I was chosen as a joke. Like everyone, including the people who picked us, thought I was incompetent and there to fill out the numbers, and even though my father was a councilwizard and my occlumency skills were probably just as good as Draco's, it was like they just assumed I'd be a failure from the beginning and I was never going to be a valid option.

And I know, it would be awful and hard to be on the council. But I would've done what I could, just like you will with the Aurors, and

I had to force myself onto the lock, and then when we joined the Order, it felt like I got all the distrust that Draco and Hydra got, but none of the advantages. Distrust isn't the right word. But it isn't easy being in the Order sometimes when you've got parents like ours. And when I was reading back through the older entries, before we joined in, I was always on the list of people they were concerned about, sometimes the only one on the list before they knew about Hydra and Draco, and the thing is, everything I'm writing is true, isn't it?

Ugh. I'm sorry. It's just hard to sort everything out.

And now, I'll be the half-wit who stole something Dark without knowing what it was or telling people about it like I should've and is just mental and unstable and can't be trusted.

I need to get out of my own head. I just can't trust it right now.

Okay. Whoa.

For one thing, you're not the only person it's happened to. Look at Ginny.

I mean, yeah. We all thought she was, well, unrecruitable because she was always making it so obvious she didn't want anything to do with any of us and was acting like she was going
the way Percy went, y'know? And sometimes she made you think she might be a nutter, really. Didn't she?

But it was that tiara, and once it was gone, she got better and better, and we all realised what had happened, and now...

See what I'm saying? She was worse than you ever got. Until last night, at least. I mean, I don't think she did ever try killing anyone.

Er.

But I know what you're saying, too. It's different for Ginny because my family had so many of us already in the Order, and your family were on the other side.

I don't know about the Council thing. I mean, everyone assumed I should be sure to fail, too. Especially because of the Occlumency thing. (And how stupid did that made me look? I mean, everyone's better at it than I am. Even Neville. Yeah, anywiz. Sorry. Just, I know how that feels.)

But now look where that strategy's got us. I mean it could be we'll both end up there now that Draco's...

Look. I don't know what to say about the way Mrs Longbottom and the rest acted about the challenge and what they wanted for you. I guess we've all kind of got to figure out what we can do to help. Partnering the twins in their shop is a big thing you've been doing for the Order. And you're going to be a brilliant potioneer, right? And that could be dead useful.

How have things been, working with Mr Snape, then? I mean, does he... I don't know. How do you get on with him?

He offered to apprentice me, and then this challenge came up, and I never had the time to do more than help with the basics and learn his version of them.
I suppose I can talk to him this summer. But it's not like he can oversee anything at school any more, so I might be able to do some things over hols, but any serious training would have to wait.

And yes, we could. I suppose if there's anything good that's come out of this, it's that I've been mentally preparing for being on the council for months, because I kept thinking about how it should really be me anyways. And now you're an animagus, which is so very utterly brilliant, Ron, I mean, it totally is, and you should be so proud of yourself, and that was just amazing that you were able to do that, and help Hermione like you did.

@alt_ron at 2014-06-10 18:58:12
(no subject)

I did help her, didn't I?

Only, you know. When I'd gone and found the hole in the back of that cupboard and got the bracelet, I couldn't actually get it to her.

I was able to slip through the door into the room, but it was too far, and there were too many people. And they were- she couldn't have taken it from me. She couldn't

So I left.

I was trying to think what to do. I thought maybe there'd be another way in through the walls if I got back to one of the holes. Or I could've maybe got up some bigger distraction, except we'd already been trying all we could think of.

And then I met up with the Headmistress. Her cat form.

She only had three paws, and she looked- she looked really ill. Didn't smell right, either. So many things smelled wrong--she did, and back in the room-

Anywiz, she took it from me. And you know what happened after that.
I think she was already dying, though. And knew it. That's why she was-

So it wasn't really me that got to Hermione after all. I couldn't help her.

---

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-10 19:45:20
(no subject)

If you could've gotten it to her on your own, you would've. You got it to the Headmistress, though. And if she was dying, she might have been too weak to get to the portkey and then get to Hermione, or might not have been able to reach it at all.

I really hate to think what would've happened if you hadn't been there.

I think it had to be the both of you. That you couldn't do it on your own, and she couldn't do it on her own either. So you did it together.
Everything that locket said to you was a lie. You're not pathetic, you're not useless, and I'm never going to leave you and neither is Ron. You know that, yeah?

I was wondering something this morning, though.

How DID the locket get into my bag?

You didn't take it, then?

I thought maybe you were acting surprised last night. I didn't put it there.

At least I'm pretty sure I didn't.

I remember everything else, so I'd remember that too.

Of course I didn't take it, I'd never go snooping through your things! I mean I guess if I'd realised you had something cursed I might, but I didn't know.

I didn't leave it out, so a house-elf wouldn't have picked it up by mistake or something.

I didn't let anyone else see it.

It was sort of like some guilty secret that was exciting at the same time. Like when I stole Sirius's records from his mum. Or started writing him. I just wanted to keep it all to myself.
I was just talking to Sirius about how I was so worried about everyone leaving me, and then there I was, being utterly mad, and the whole time you were writing me telling me that wasn't really who I was even though you were afraid, and oh, Sally-Anne.

You didn't leave me.

You didn't.

Even when I was trying as hard as I could to push you both away.
You've been talking back and forth with Ron and Sally-Anne enough that I suppose you've heard pretty much everything.

I'll tell Mrs Longbottom what happened, too.

I just wanted to say that I'm sorry I stole the locket, and I'm sorry it got all wrapped up with Regulus, which is unfair to you and to his memory. I feel awful about that part. I'm not

Look, I know I can get set on things sometimes, but I'm not some mental stalker or something.

He's your brother. You had a lifetime together. I knew him for a few short months, and he was an interesting, sad, bright person who was fascinating to talk to, and didn't treat me like I was silly, and when things went wrong I got dragged down out of my depth. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry and I'd never want to seem like I was trodding all over your memories and your history and making it all about me. Because it isn't.

I'm not quite sure whether I stole it because I wanted to keep it to myself, or because the locket wanted it that way, but if I just let it take responsibility for everything, that's a bit too easy, isn't it? And I think it was just taking things I wanted and was worried about already and just made more of them.

I'm still trying to sort everything out. But I'll do my best to explain if you need to know anything more.

---

You've got nothing to apologise for.

There appears to be a little more to the story. I've just dragged the whole truth out of Kreacher.

I think you ought to hear it for yourself, though, directly from him.
After you all come home.

And there are still a couple questions I think we all have, such as how the locket got from you into Sally-Anne's bag. But we can work that out in time.

The important thing is that you all solved it, together, before you did something you would have regretted forever. You narrowly avoided an act that could have ruined your sense of yourself, and you had friends who helped you recognise the danger.

Ultimately if you can learn from that, that's all that matters.

Well. That and destroying part of Voldemort's soul.

All right.

And yes. You're right. I thought that everyone was going to leave me, and when I was at my worst, they all came running to help instead and that's the most important thing, really.

And we did. We killed it, which means we're one step closer to killing him.
2014-06-10 12:10:00
Order Only: private message to Hermione

You don't have a wand now, yeah?

I captured old Nott’s wand when I disarmed him. If you want it, it’s yours. Doesn’t make sense for me to have two when you need one.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-11 01:35:08
(no subject)

What? You want me to use a wand that you won by right, in a duel. A wand that had belonged to the father of an evil little boy who tortured me, who cut up animals, who harassed Hydra and Daphne and who destroyed my and Draco’s lives? And who had just killed Professor Lestrange in revenge when Draco killed his son?

You want me to use that wand.

No. Thank you.

I think you should give it to Melli and have her strip the core out. Or burn it. Or use it for compost.

I’d rather have no wand again than that one.

And reading people’s messages was supposed to make me feel better

alt_jeremy at 2014-06-11 01:47:57
(no subject)

Want you to?

I was just offering

Of course nobody wants you to do anything you d

Sorry. Meant to help. Right cock-up, obviously. My fault.
**2014-06-10 14:16:00**

Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Did you go to Moddey? I don't want to keep just looking for you randomly -- so far in trying to track you down I've intruded on both Hermione and Draco and I'd just as soon not startle Severus.

---

**alt_sirius** at 2014-06-10 19:19:54  
(no subject)

No.

I'm ... I'm upstairs. In Reg's room.

**alt_lupin** at 2014-06-10 19:23:32  
(no subject)

Regulus's room?

Well, it's not anything urgent, I just wanted to discuss adjusting some of the room arrangements if we're keeping two teenagers and Severus long term, maybe to give us a little more privacy. (This house seemed so big when we moved into it, you know?)

We can talk about it later.

Are you

Did you ask Kreacher about the locket, then?

**alt_sirius** at 2014-06-10 19:41:51  
(no subject)

Did you need something?

I mean, if you need me I can come down.
Merlin, you've left Ellie minding the shop, you probably want to get back.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-10 19:45:10
(no subject)
It's not important, we can talk about it later.
Are you okay?

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 19:46:29
(no subject)
Yeah, I'm ... fine.
Reevaluating my opinion of my brother.

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 19:46:52
(no subject)
And yes, I talked to Kreacher about the locket.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-10 19:48:15
(no subject)
SURELY you don't blame your brother for what happened to Pansy!

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 19:49:36
(no subject)
What?
No.
No, nothing like that.
It's ....

You know how we assumed that he'd gone off somewhere because he couldn't take Voldemort's torture anymore and ... and killed himself?

Well.

We were right. Only, he didn't stop there.

Moony, he took the locket - the one Pansy and I have been looking for - he used it to switch it with the one that she and Sally-Anne and Ron and Harry just destroyed. The horcrux.

He took Kreacher with him, found this - cave, I suppose, Kreacher said, with a lake and an island in the centre - and he made Kreacher feed him poison out of a sort of bowl they found, in the middle, until they got to the bottom where the locket was. Then he had Kreacher make the switch and told him to leave, to come back here and destroy it and never to tell our mother, or anyone else in the Council, what Reg had done.

He was already dying from the poison but Kreacher said that the cave had another surprise. The lake was full of - of inferi. Voldemort must have planted them there over a course of years, maybe out of all the people he'd killed on his way to power, since I guess this hiding place had been there a long time.

Anyway.

He ordered Kreacher to abandon him. Kreacher saw him trying to drink water from the shore. And the inferi ....

So. Now we know what happened.
Oh, Padfoot.

Did you tell Pansy?
She deserves to know.

I've told her I want her to come and talk to Kreacher about it. She deserves to hear it from him.

I'll see if I can't get him to skip over some of the worse details, maybe. So it's not quite so difficult for either of them.

Minerva, Hermione and now this. I'm - well, I went looking for a little peace and quiet. As it's been so jolly round here lately.

Yes....that's what I was coming to talk to you about, actually.

I was thinking we had a good ten years before we'd need to share the house long term with a teenager.

I suppose I should just leave them be, for now. I don't want them to feel like they need to decide TODAY whether they're staying or going to Moddey or ... who knows.

But yes. Our house has managed to feel empty, crowded, frenetic and miserable pretty much around the clock these
last few days. I don't think it's just the impending full moon that's making me feel like I'm going spare. So I certainly don't blame you for wanting a quiet moment in Regulus's room. Just ... let me know if you want a little company.

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 20:48:41
(no subject)

I never *don't* want your company. I just figured with the full moon coming, you didn't need me inflicting my mood on you.

And yeah. Remember that extra floor expansion we were thinking about, when we first moved? And we decided to hold off until we figured things out a little more?

I've been thinking maybe it's time to add it in, if we're going to become a boarding house.

Or we could finally clean out this room, and my old one, properly, and give those to Draco and Hermione, if they want them.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-10 20:51:37
(no subject)

We could.

We know now -- we know for sure -- that he's not coming back. And he deserves a proper memorial, not just an old bedroom.

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-10 20:52:56
(no subject)

And don't worry about inflicting your mood on me! I've had to be on my best behaviour with our rather fragile and recently traumatized guests. If you annoy me I can just shout at you, it'll be ever so relieving.
Well, come up here, then, and let's enjoy the fact that it's two floors or more away from everyone else just at present and we can make all the noise we want.

That sounds a lot more rewarding than fretting about how many more of those blasted things the Lord Pretender made.

For that matter. Did you tell Kreacher it's been destroyed? That could drive a house-elf mad, being given an order -- a desperate, dying order! -- that he could never fulfill.

I didn't think about that, I was that gutted. But I will do, when I tell him I want him to tell Pansy what happened. The little imp will probably be so grateful she destroyed it he'll tell her anything she wants to know.

Did you know Pansy has a proper elf? The sort that wants to PLEASE her mistress, doesn't make any un-asked-for judgements about her friends and relationships, cleans and bakes and follows instructions the way you meant them rather than
following them to the letter?

After all these years with Kreacher I'd begun to think that other sort of elf was a myth, but apparently Pansy has one.

Anyway. Yes. It's almost a shame we can't gift him to her, I imagine he'd serve her with rather more enthusiasm than he does us.

 USERS

 alt_sirius at 2014-06-10 20:52:50
(no subject)

Well, it's a question of loyalty, isn't it?

Kreacher did all those things to please HIS mistress, too. Just not the mistress's disappointing sons.

Heh, both of us turned out far more disappointing than she realised. Never would have thought the Goblin had it in him.

 USERS

 alt_lupin at 2014-06-10 20:54:54
(no subject)

I think the only person who would have thought it is Pansy.

So in a way I'm glad she was the one who found the locket, despite what it did to her.

And there's no telling how long it would have taken the rest of us to find it, if she hadn't. Who'd think to go looking for a horcrux in a house-elf's nest? Of all the places...

How many more do you suppose there are?
**June plans**

Been quite busy at work - especially this week - but there's a glimmer of hope of getting it sorted enough to have a day off later in the month. Haven't had a proper long weekend in quite some time. Hooch always said a bit of recreation makes us sharper. Trouble is, I've forgotten what fun is. Send me a message or an owl if you can help remedy this sad state, mates. Be a shame if I spent my long weekend at home driving the parents round the twist.

---

**alt jeremy at 2014-06-10 19:39:42**

*private message to Randolph Burrow*

What's this I hear from Preece about you chatting up Spinx? Sue still as fit as she was, then?

We could put together a pub crawl if it would help, mate.

---

**alt jeremy at 2014-06-10 20:03:34**

*Order Only: private message to Alice*

The PM to Granger you probably saw earlier was me offering her old Nott's wand. Seems silly to keep a personal trophy. More like a trophy for the whole side anyhow.

Occurs to me now that you're captain and I probably should have asked. Do we have some waiting list for wands I just bollixed up?

---

**alt_alice at 2014-06-10 20:32:15**

*Re: Order Only: private message to Alice*

That's rather gallant of you, Jeremy. Thank you for passing it along, but you haven't done anything wrong in the least. I think it'll be good to get her a new wand as soon as she wants one, and if this one works well with her, I'd find it rather fitting.

We might have Melli check it over, just to make sure there wouldn't
be any lingering impacts of the past owner to be worried about. This business with the locket is making me a touch more cautious than I would be otherwise. If she clears it for use, though, I think it would be lovely.

@alt_jeremy at 2014-06-10 20:53:46
Re: Order Only: private message to Alice

Right. High time I brought more jam by anyway, so I can bring it then, whichever day. Not sure -- need to get to Sherwood too. Cecelia has an urgent new Octoborus notion.

Be right odd not having the screaming habdabs on the inside next time I bring jam by, though. Ha!

@alt_alice at 2014-06-10 21:01:18
Re: Order Only: private message to Alice

Indeed! I'm quite glad you two finally are talking to one another about things.

I suppose having someone you care about getting injured in battle has a way of clarifying things.

@alt_jeremy at 2014-06-11 01:51:32
Re: Order Only: private message to Alice

Whatever you do, don't tell her you'd find it rather fitting. She might take your bloody head off. Not keen on the idea. Not one bit. Mortally insulted, more like.

Sorry. Seems I've rather made things worse by offering. She going to be all right?

@alt_alice at 2014-06-11 02:02:45
Re: Order Only: private message to Alice

I have a feeling we'll all stumble into unknown offence and hurt as we go.
This just happens to be one of those occasions.

The best we can do is take no offence in return, and try our best to continue to do right by them based on what they tell us they need from us.

I'm sorry, Jeremy. Regardless of how it was received, it was well intentioned.

It will take a great deal of time, I'm afraid. At least she's writing back.

That's something, yeah.

No worries. Taken a bludger or three in practices, from mates that had emotions to burn off. Sometimes hitting a few things on the outside hard helps things on the inside sort themselves a bit.

Think I said it once before, different conversation but same principle: we're on the same team. No grudges for bruises from play.
I imagine the next few days will be trying for those of you at Hogwarts after what has been a difficult week. You've done an incredible job, all of you, and I am in awe of what you've accomplished together just in the last few days alone. Justin, I'm glad to hear your interview was unremarkable, and very much hope that trend will continue.

Bill, Rachel, any chatter you can pass along about the investigations at Hogwarts and the Archives would be much appreciated. Thank you for your efforts with Mulciber's paperwork.

We keep learning as we go, and I suppose if this past year has taught us anything, it's that regardless of what we have in mind, sometimes the rest of the world has other plans -- but that we can meet these challenges with flexibility, communication, and teamwork. We'll be meeting once our Hogwarts contingent is home and safe, so we can gather to mourn the loss of Minerva and discuss where we ought to go from here.

I'm still trying to sort out exactly what's happened -- it's all a bit of a jumble, and difficult to tell from a distance -- but from what I can piece together it seems as though you've had a rough go at the end of an already stressful term, and I'm sorry to hear it.

I'd like to know more once everything's settled, and I'm sure whatever you can pass along to Albus would be appreciated as well. But there's certainly no immediate rush.

How are you doing? Is there anything I can do to help?
I'm more embarrassed than anything.

And I'm still sorting out what I actually feel about things. Because so much of it was just twisting things around. I'll send you a report once I have things a little less twisted around.

I'm sorry that I let it get as far as it did without realising what I had, or what it was doing, and that I didn't tell anyone what I'd done. I know, it's not entirely my fault, but like I said to Sirius, it'd be just too easy to blame everything I've done on the locket and not take any responsibility for it at all. And before I got my hands on it, I chose to steal it from Sirius and Kreacher without telling anyone, so that's all on me.

Yes, Ron was mentioning that you were uncertain about quite a lot of things.

And even though part of that might be due to the locket, as you've said yourself, it'd be far too easy to just chalk it up to that rather than take responsibility for it.

I need to take responsibility for not giving you enough support this term, and I am sorry you had reason to doubt your value and your place here.

When Neville started writing and visiting with us, one thing that became obvious to both of us right away was that he valued his friends so very much -- and that although it was difficult to see how you all could manage to make it work, it was patently clear that Ron, Sally-Anne, Hermione, and you were all people he trusted. My son does not give his trust easily, and that made me sit up and take notice. I noticed that you took care to not tell Poppy what had happened when you had your Junior Auror Blue incident, and your careful work keeping my son safe when the news story came out about your father, and that you sent letter after letter to Sirius, and Frank and I pieced together that you knew Hermione had a wand oh, about three years ago as well.
I suppose this is all to say that even before we met one another, I knew you to be kind, insatiably curious, and trustworthy to a fault. You defied my assumptions, Pansy, and I respected you for always asking questions and looking deeper than blood and status when determining the worth of a person. When you joined the Order and I had the chance to get to know you better, my initial impressions were confirmed tenfold.

I have never questioned your loyalty or resolve, Pansy. I am honoured that you've decided to throw your lot in with us, and that you have sacrificed so much in the process. You've had to walk a difficult path this term, and I think I'm only starting to understand just how hard it's been.

I know you've been though quite a lot this past week, my dear, and, as you've said, you've got some things to untangle. However, I do want to take the time as soon as you're done with this investigation to sit down and talk about your plans for the future, and how we might use your skills to our best advantage.

Oh.

Oh, Mrs L.

I didn't mean to

I mean to say, you shouldn't feel obligated to

thank you.

And yes. We can talk. Maybe Mr Snape can be there too? If he still I'd like that.
Good.

And my dear, I'm not going on and on to mollify you, or out of a sense of obligation. I'm doing it because you're worth going on and on about, and because someone I care about had an awful day, an awful string of days, really, and I'm hoping this might help her a little.

Yes.

Yes, I think it has.

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated your quick thinking while under fire, Justin.

It was an impressive tactical move.

And don't think I didn't notice that you also tended to anticipate me as well.

We've got a great deal of plans that need reworking, and if you can carve out some time this summer, I'd like to take advantage of it -- I think you might hit it off rather well with Charlie -- he's got a good head for strategy as well.

Mrs Longbottom,

I say, of course, anything I can do to help.

I confess, I wasn't necessarily thinking of strategy, what, so much as well, protecting our interests, as it were. But thank you, all the
same.

I was planning to tell you that my efforts, blundering as they would have appeared to Professor Dolohov, did seem to impress him, as well, what. He came to see me in the Hospital Wing to talk about continuing my formal training over the summer and of course, I've accepted with gratitude. I sincerely hope that my closer association with him will help us find a way to undo him, in the end.

-Justin

@alt_alice at 2014-06-10 22:50:54
Re: Private Message to Justin

You're being modest, but your instincts were quite good.

That is most excellent news. Thank you, Justin.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-10 22:48:42
Private Message to Hydra and Harry

I know you both have been doing some rather heavy lifting these past few days, all while mourning the loss of Rabastan and Minerva, and processing what has been done to Draco and Hermione.

Hydra -- while I'm sorry you had to experience what you did, I'm so very grateful that you had such presence of mind under those difficult circumstances. I know you have much more work ahead of you over the next few days, and I appreciate beyond words what you've been able to do for us so far.

Harry -- Thank you for your hard work -- both in organising efforts inside the castle to help Draco and Hermione, and in your handling the horcrux. (That goes for all of you, truly. Merlin, that sounds like it was an ordeal.) I can only imagine how difficult it has been to keep your head while being closely questioned about people you care so deeply about.

My heart goes out to you both. I am sorry for your loss. Keep us informed. I hope we'll get the opportunity to talk further over hols.
How are Draco and Hermione, truly? I haven't heard from either of them.
Then again, I haven't asked.

They are both shaken.
Their physical trauma has healed, but their mental scars will remain for a time yet.
Draco's insisted on jumping straight into finding a way to be of use to the Order, as his previous purpose and goals have utterly disappeared.

Hermione is not speaking much, and is not writing anything either. She is also quite conflicted about Severus. She is very angry, and very sad. Both of them are.

We spent some time yesterday afternoon talking about their futures, and what that may look like. They'll be spending some time at Grimmauld for now, and will be visiting Moddey to see whether that would suit. Colin's taking Draco around to Aldrich, Bedford, and Saltash today, and I've asked him to start work on a project involving use of the Fidelius. I hope you'll get a chance to see them both over summer as much as possible -- and that they in turn will be in a place where they will want to see you. I know Hermione does not blame you in the least, but it may be difficult for her. These things take time.

Hydra, I want you to know that I value you as a person, for who you are -- your brilliant mind, your strength, your heart. You are in a position to do many important things to the Order, but you are worth far more than a possible council membership, and should that change, you would always have a place to go where you would be wanted and respected. I hope you realise that.
I'm glad to hear Draco is trying to be useful, but I'm afraid that things will get worse for him before they get better.

I feel terrible for Hermione, too, of course. Only maybe it's just my vantage point, but I can't help but feel he's lost more. Or, rather, she's lost those things, too, but it was long ago.

It's really not entirely comparable. He's just very used to not losing.

Maybe I'm speaking too soon. If the kidnapping story sticks, maybe he can come back. But they'll legilimise him thoroughly, if he does, and it won't be me who does it. So it would be very risky for him to return. I'm not sure he could ever regain the status he had before, either.

Thank you for appreciating me. It's nice to hear.

But - I had to learn to value myself long ago. Because if I hadn't, I probably wouldn't have survived.

That is far more important, yes. And holding on to that inner truth will make it possible for you keep surviving.

It has been hard for Draco to see that he is indeed worth more than his position of privilege. I fear you're right in that he'll continue to struggle with what he's lost, and what he is now.

At this point, we're not optimistic about his ability to successfully return. You're right -- it would be too risky were he to be thoroughly legilimised.

Hermione will no doubt have her own set of challenges to face,
and her own struggles in overcoming them. Seeing Severus kill Minerva, even though it was a mercy, was very hard for her.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-10 23:24:33
Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Thank you both for all you've done this week.

Ron, I'm so proud of you for managing the animagus transformation successfully, and for having the presence of mind to make your way through the castle as you did, and to be of such great use to Minerva and Hermione.

I can only imagine how Minerva must have felt to know you'd successfully transformed, and that you were there just when she needed you most. Thank you for providing her with that assistance and relief in her final moments.

Sally-Anne, I can see that you were taking charge last night, for what seems like quite the undertaking. I hope to learn more when you have the chance, but from what I know so far, you handled things quite well, and I expect the more I learn, the more grateful I'll be that you were there.

I know you're both taking good care of Pansy -- it seems as though she needs two very good friends at the moment, and I'm so glad she has you.

@alt_ron at 2014-06-10 23:41:54
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Oh.

Well.

It wasn't as brilliant as all that sounds, you know. But, yeah. You can count on me for whatever needs doing. I mean that.

About Pansy. Could you, maybe, I dunno. Help her see that there's something important she's needed for in the Order? And let her know you've noticed the things she's good at. You have, haven't you? I mean, if you need us to tell you what she can do, just ask because she's really brilliant. Especially at Potions, but she's really
good at almost everything, and she's so much braver than people think. I mean, she's had to be.

But she needs to know she's not just in our way, and that you and the others don't think she's not loyal or that she's not able to help. She wants to. Really a lot.

alt_alice at 2014-06-11 00:28:00
Re: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Ron

Of course.

I think that we could all stand to hear why we're worth while from time to time, especially after being made to question it.

And you're so right to point out how willing she is to help. One of the many things I could add to your list is her selflesness. She and Hitty fed the people we rescued from Strangeweale for as long as they were at the warehouse at her own expense without giving it a second thought or expecting thanks or gratitude. And she's been so generous with her time and support for your brothers and mother's business ventures, too, even though it has cost her a great deal.

I could go on, but I think it's best if I told her myself. For the record, though, while I might have been surprised back when my son first started mentioning her name as part of his group of friends, she has since proven her loyalty over and over again, and she has never given me a reason to doubt her, and I'll be sure to make sure she knows it.

Thank you, Ron.
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Has your turn come up to answer questions yet? Mine was pretty bland. I mean, I've got to write out a list of all the people I can think of who associated with Draco and a list of dates for parties we were both at and any other kind of gathering. And they wanted to know if I'd ever heard or seen anything to suggest that he's got perverse interests.

And they asked about Teds, but really, what's there to say? Aside from telling them if they were looking for someone with 'varied tastes', Teds would've been more likely than Draco.

I'm thinking I'll ask the elves to bring tea to the common room. It's quiet in there now everyone's gone. Care to join me?

I've already been questioned once but they've said they'll want to speak to me again. I don't know why. I didn't ask.

I told them that everything was good between Draco and me, of course, and that if he was behaving differently, it was only because Teddy was plaguing him so.

That's what they called it? "Varied tastes?" That's not how they referred to it to me. Is that because it's something all men have passing fancies about? Someone beneath them whom they can control absolutely? Sounds right up Barney's pitch.

I expect they're viewing your information as a touchstone against which to measure the reliability of others' statements. You've known him so long and have been so closely tied, it only makes sense they'd draw on you as a resource. Or-?
Teds was always competitive. And keen to a fault when something sparked his interest. Or someone.

They do have rather a lot of euphemisms of that sort. (A dance down the lane; A bit o' rough; A turn to the common.) But with a mudblood? That's well beyond the pale of those sayings.

And no, I shouldn't say all men fancy that. Some of us, at least, have standards.

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@alt_daphne at 2014-06-10 21:29:18
(no subject)

Yes. So closely tied.

It was only a matter of time before Teddy stuck his wand in the wrong nest of hornets. I heard he bled out almost completely. There was a massive stain on the lawn before they covered it. I wonder what spell Draco used.

Well, it seems to me they're trying to find out if the mudblood was controlling him. Draco, I mean. And they think she was working for Snape. I just... It's not that she's a mudblood. I can't imagine anyone, any female, really getting control of Draco through such means. Draco wasn't even under Harry's thumb. Sometimes it seemed like the other way 'round, even.

So it all must be some kind of misunderstanding.

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@alt_blaise at 2014-06-10 21:39:25
(no subject)

Of course it is. Of course.

But, Daphs. You can't be sentimental about it. You know sometimes matters like this become a vortex that drags people from well outside down into difficulty. If they've somehow got it twisted round, there's nothing you can do for him by sticking. He'd be the first to tell you to protect your own position. You do understand that, right?
alt_daphne at 2014-06-10 21:41:04 (no subject)

What exactly are you trying to say, Blaise?

alt_blaise at 2014-06-10 22:00:18 (no subject)

When they call you back, if it seems they're turning on you, say whatever you have to so they'll see that whatever they've decided about Draco, you never knew any of it or had anything to do with it.

I don't want anything to happen to you.

alt_daphne at 2014-06-10 22:27:43 (no subject)

I didn't know any of it or have anything to do with it, so what else could I possibly tell them?

alt_blaise at 2014-06-10 22:54:52 (no subject)

No, of course you didn't. If there is even an 'it' to tell.

But, Daphs, it may not matter. That's what I'm saying. If they twist things round, and you know that sometimes happens--it all depends on what they're hearing from other people--if they do come back to you and seem to have got the wrong end of the abraxan, then I'm saying it could go badly for you if you're too soft on Draco. If you're too keen to set them straight by defending him. If you hold too tightly to a notion of loyalty.

Because if it comes to it, loyalty's an abstract thing, and it may be priced too, too far above value.
Only, you see, Draco's not here to answer for himself, and that's why they could so easily get things wrong. And if they do, I don't want you to be tangled up in it. That's all.

What if it's a long time before they find him to ask him their questions?

That doesn't bear thinking.

I'm NOT defending him

It's MLE. They're professionals at this, and I've nothing to hide. So. I wish you'd stop trying to make me more anxious than I already am, because even if I've got nothing to hide MLE aren't starting with that assumption. I was his girlfriend they think

If there's one thing I'm sure of in all this, it's that you've got nothing to hide.

I can't promise I'll stop worrying for you, but I promise not to say anything more about it.

Would you do me the honour of having supper with me?

I'm not very hungry. But I can manage sitting. And staring at food.
Hullo, all,

Have any of you undergone questioning yet? I say, I've just come from there and there's a bloke from the Ministry whom I believe is one of their Legimenses.

He was sitting in the room letting one of the others ask most of the questions, what, but occasionally he would break in and ask something in just the way Hydra's said her mother taught her. For example, the Auror asked a few questions about my own relationship with Draco, what, and then the wizard in the back would ask something like, 'How did he feel about you and Miss Lestrange breaking off your engagement?' and then he asked, 'What did he tell you about his own family's standards?' as if he hoped I'd think about conversations in which Draco maligned his aunt or expressed frustration at being expected to marry another pureblood. 'What other things did he confide to you?' and so on.

The other line of questioning was about Hermione, what. The primary interviewer asked me if I'd ever had direct contact or conversations with Harry's servant, and the Legimenses interjected a question about Hermione's wand. I say, I'm jolly well sure he thought just asking the question would make me picture her wand or her holding her wand--if I'd ever seen it, what.

Let's see. They asked about Mr Milland and any detentions I'd served with him (which was well simple, what, as all my detentions had been with Professors) and back to more questions about how I adjusted to life here after moving from France.

At any rate, the point is that we can't assume everyone can occlude, what, and we can't assume that everyone who knows anything or suspects anything will be questioned where someone we trust is controlling the conversation. I say, particularly people who came to book club or have a Galleon.

Harry, this morning's meeting went jolly well--good form, old man--well, apart from poor Daphne--but even if they all have the best of intentions, what, I think someone's bound to let something slip.
Have there ever been any hint of conversations or indications here at school that Draco was actively involved with an insurgent organisation? I mean, could anyone not in the Order already have any sort of information that MLE could use against him?

-Justin

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[Image] alt_harry at 2014-06-10 21:45:14
(no subject)

The best we can do is try to get Hydra in on as many of those meetings as we can. I think it helps that not a lot of them would be the people they'd question really closely. We'll have to keep an eye out to see if they start spending loads more time on people they shouldn't.

Daphne is going to be put through the wringer, obviously. Maybe they'll ask Donovan about him, because he's on our side, but since he's not in our year they won't have a lot to ask him.

Sally-Anne, Pans, I know you've had a rough few days, but could you talk to her? See if she's okay? I mean, obviously, she's not happy. I don't think she'll talk about the Galleons, but her just sort of stomping off like that is not good. At least she wasn't at a lot of the meeting where we talked about subversive stuff.

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[Image] alt_harry at 2014-06-10 21:47:46
(no subject)

And Hydra, if you've got any advice to pass along on the Galleons to keep them from looking too suspicious, that might be useful.

If they're nervous, that's pretty expected, I'd imagine.

And if loads of them are thinking about Pure Victory, that'd be expected too.
alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-10 22:36:42
(no subject)

I've been talking with her, Harry, we both have.

She's furious at Draco. About a lot of things. I think we can trust her a lot more than we have, I mean I think we could have recruited her, but this would be a really bad time to tell her anything she doesn't know already because she can't occlude even slightly.

If there is any way to make sure Hydra's the one legitimising her -- Daphne knows there's a lot she doesn't know, and not just about Draco.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-10 22:52:52

Private message to Sally Anne

By now she must be believing the rumours about Draco and Hermione. That probably means she isn't feeling very good about herself, and definitely not good about him.

I don't think she's the vengeful type, at least.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-11 00:13:35

Re: Private message to Sally Anne

No, she's not vengeful or spiteful.

She has a tendency to see terrible people as better than they are, though, and she knows it. Bole was one, her crush on Crouch was another example, and I think in some ways she's thinking that Draco was yet another.

I can't tell whether she believes the rumours because I've tried to steer the conversation away from what's actually true and toward what she feels about it. I don't want to lie to her if I can avoid it, I'd much rather avoid being put in the position where I need to. So I've tried to focus as much as possible on how she feels and how she's doing.
And then there's Blaise. He's not the worst, but he's definitely not the best.

Should I try to get her alone and legilimise her? It could give me an idea of how easy to read she is, and what's actually on her mind right now.

That's not a bad idea.

I mean, I don't know how much she's worked out. Or what she's thinking about. Or what she's worried about MLE finding out from her. She's the one who read Pure Victory, like the whole thing out loud. If she's thinking about that -- how much trouble do you think she'll end up in?

Those are all good reasons to legilimise her.

I don't know what trouble she'll be in. I suppose it depends on if they're focused on getting information about Draco and Snape and Hermione, or if they're also on the lookout for disloyal behaviour in general. So far I haven't had the impression that they're looking for the latter.

What worries me is that could shift if they start to see a pattern. Like if they realise there was a whole group of us that got together to read Pure Victory.
alt_hydra at 2014-06-11 00:55:47
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Right. Well, I'll see if she's thinking about Pure Victory at all. Or the galleons. Without asking her about either, because if I do that, she's sure to start thinking about them.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-11 01:04:49
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

I wonder if we could get someone we don't like to think about something that would incriminate Teddy, instead of trying to subtly make sure that the people we DO like don't think about anything that incriminates us (but without telling them so since that would guarantee they'd think about it at just the wrong moment.)

alt_hydra at 2014-06-11 01:18:56
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

That'd be helpful, but it sounds impossible. Also, most people are already being quite open about how awful Teddy was.

And, I hate to say it, but it's hard to incriminate someone when they're not guilty. Because even if he was awful, Teddy wasn't wrong about Draco.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-11 01:50:43
Re: Private message to Sally Anne

Yeah. True enough. Well, he was wrong that Draco was teaching her magic, I think when there was teaching it mostly went the other way but I don't think that would improve things any.

Draco really can't come back, even if MLE decides they believe Mr Snape kidnapped him. Because he can't let your Mum legilimise him.
I know he can't. That's just what I told Mrs Longbottom. He can't come back.

I spoke with Daphne. The good news is that she wasn't thinking about the galleons or Pure Victory. She's quite focused on herself and Draco, and is confused about how she could feel so connected to him at times and yet also feel so left in the dark. Which is probably the sort of thing they'd be expecting her to have on her mind, really.

Well, that's not good. Maybe we shouldn't have met this morning. Put the galleons right in the front of everyone's minds.

Can't be helped now, though.

They don't actually have a lot of Legilimens in MLE, I don't think, but enough of them to cause us trouble, I guess. If it's Mr Penderyn, I've met him. Did he have a lot of white hair and a short, pointy beard? I haven't noticed him here, but then maybe I wouldn't have, cooped up in this tower most of the time. No one's called me yet. I expect I'm not top of their list to talk to, being a Gryffindor and all.

So I take it your occlumency held up? Good show!

Hydra, do you know how good he is? Like, if we warn everyone on the galleons to NOT make eye contact with him, will that help, or will it do nothing but make them look more suspicious?
Very good. He's the legilimens MLE regularly call in, because Mummy's only interested in legitimising the people who interest her, personally. I don't know if he relies on eye-contact or not, though.
Mr Lupin suggested that maybe reading the journals, and seeing everyone expressing their love and concern, would help how I feel. And of course Harry was worried about us, and I saw what you said. And Justin was kind, only I just don't know what to say in return, so I was just going to let it stand. (I noticed you hadn't replied, either, probably for the same reasons.)

Only there was this message from Jeremy Stretton and...oh, it wasn't condolences or checking to ask if I was all right or anything. Which was fine. I'm not--I mean, I don't want to talk about how I feel. I don't think you do, either do you?

But he offered me Mr Nott's wand.

Seriously.

Mr Nott's wand.

I told him to burn it.

Have you decided what you're going to do? Will you try to go back, and tell them it was all my doing? I wouldn't blame you if you did, you know. That's what I told Hydra to tell them.

I just--can't think beyond the next few minutes at a time. Brewing for Mr Lupin helped. I bet you felt better raiding the Ministry than anything else, too.

You don't have to reply. If you blame me for getting us caught, or for you having to ruin your life, I understand.
It's all my fault, you must know that. I let myself be fooled by Teddy. And, even worse, fooled by myself. If there's anyone to blame, it's me.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-11 01:59:10
(no subject)

I saw that PM you wrote. I should have seen it right away. I wasn't paying attention.

If I'd written you back immediately we could have--

Well. It would have all been different.

Look. I don't want to--I don't want to talk about that. About what happened. It happened. There's no going back and changing it, even if we had a time-turner.

I just.... I can't talk to anyone else, either. Because they'll want to know. And I can't.

So. Let's talk about something else. Anything else. Okay?

alt_draco at 2014-06-11 03:49:09
(no subject)

It was too late by then, anyway.

And no, we've not got a time turner. Those things are dodgy, anyway.

What sort of music do you like? I've just been wandering the house around, see. I never really took a good look at some of the muggle stuff Black has. Records, books, clothes. But my robes were sort of ruined, so I put on a...thing. I don't know, it's sort of soft but flimsy, and it zips up the front and has a hood (but it's not robes, it only goes to my waist), and there are strings to make the hood tighter. What's this thing called, do you know?

Anyway, these muggle records, I was thinking of listening to one. Since. Well, since I can. I just don't know what's any good.
We could have run sooner, though.

Er, a hooded shirt? I don't know.

And I don't know anything about music. Sometimes I could hear whatever was playing in the common room.

Pansy took loads of Sirius's records, didn't she? You liked her taste so you'll probably like anything Sirius has.

I think - didn't Sirius like one of the same groups your father likes? The Warlocks? Oh, but that's not Muggle music.

I'm not sure. Oh, once he took Justin Finch-Fletchley on a visit to someone's grave. In France. He was in a band, which band was it.... The Doors! That's what it was.

I don't know what they sound like, though.

We wouldn't have had to run at all, though, if I'd not sent that stupid letter. Which - you didn't read. So. That's for the best.

A hooded shirt? That's the most boring name for an article of clothing I've ever heard of. Accurate, but boring.

A hooded zippy? No, that's no better.

I don't know anything about music either. Not this music, anyway. The Beatles? They spelt the name wrong. Unless they were trying to be clever. But they're the ones who stole their songs off the Warlocks. And Pink Floyd. Is that a man or a woman? Sounds like someone Gilderoy Lockhart would listen to.
Blue Oyster Cult. Deep Purple. Why've so many got colours in them, I wonder?

alt_hermione at 2014-06-11 04:17:53
(no subject)

The Beatles were really famous. I've heard of them.

Sirius ran away from home in the middle of the 70's, didn't he? My parents told me a little about the 70's when I was little. They said everything was more colourful.

alt_draco at 2014-06-11 04:25:29
(no subject)

Hey, you were born in the 70s. But I was the 80s. The start of the 80s, anyway.

I'm sure everything was more colourful back then. Yeah.

Are you going to reply to him? Terry, I mean.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-11 04:34:51
(no subject)

Well, that's just because I'm older than you are. And there wasn't much of the 70's left when I was born.

Terry? No, not just now, anyway. He said we didn't have to reply and--well, there's really nothing to say. I'm just not--I'm not ready to talk about it. And besides...it's not--his experience and yours and mine, they're not anything like one another's. Nothing. In loads of ways, not being at Hogwarts will be much more freeing for me than being there, for example. But I'm sure you wouldn't say that for you, and why would you? And neither of us had to put up with Carrow's abuse the way that Terry did. So I--no. I've got nothing to say about what he had to say. He was trying to be supportive, and I know that.

Did you find something to listen to? Where are you, in Sirius's
old room? I've wondered what else he had up there. But I didn't want to snoop. I think Pansy and Ron and the others did, some, when they visited.

There's no doubt of that.

Yeah. I know. Everyone means well, I guess, but it's like they want to hear that we're alright. So they can be alright. It's only natural, really, but at present - sort of bothersome.

I found The Doors. The bloke on the album cover hasn't got a shirt on. Could be why Black likes them? And yeah, I guess this is his room. I wasn't going to check in Regulus' room for clothes.

I'm not sure I like this hooded shirt. I need to get my robes clean tomorrow.

Alright, I put on the album by the shirtless bloke. Can you hear it playing where you are?

Kreacher will have them clean, if you ask him. I couldn't, I don't think.

And...yes, I think I can. Is there an organ? I can barely hear that. I can feel the lower part, though. The beat--no, the bass. That's bass, isn't it?

You should see if Sirius has any tea shirts, in his dresser drawers. I can't imagine a zip is all that comfortable against your chest.
Oh, I wasn't going to ask you. I was just writing to remind myself, really, because I'm not sure about the hooded shirt. Maybe I'll try a tea shirt.

Yeah. Kreacher's not speaking to me much anymore.

I think it's an organ. And the lower part is the bass, yeah, but the rhythm and bass instruments keep the beat. Here, I'll turn it up.

This one's not bad. "Hey hey woman!" Is that what he's saying?

Is it over? I can't hear it anymore.

I just got scolded for making noise and told to turn it down. Wonder how he felt back when Auntie Walburga scolded him? Only her idea of scolding probably involved more than words.

So you'll have to come up if you want to hear more. You know, tomorrow or something.

Oh. Well, at least he only told you to turn it down and not off. I imagine his mother would have wanted him to bin his whole collection.
Oh, well, goodness, did you see what time it is? It's really late. We're lucky you didn't wake up Albia.

It's all right. I'm feeling very tired all of a sudden. I think I'll get some sleep.

I hope you can sleep, too.

altı_draco at 2014-06-11 05:35:33
(no subject)

Oh, I didn't even notice the time, actually. I've just been sleeping and eating when I feel like it, I guess. And there's no lessons or really anything to be on time for. It's

I'm tired too, actually. I think I should sleep. Goodnight.
I'm so very sorry for everything that's happened. And everything that you both underwent.

Thank you for holding out like you did.

The last thing I want to do is to say anything to that hurts either of you. I don't reckon you need advice or platitudes or anything from me or anyone else.

So all I'll say is what I learned myself when...when the torturer gained the upper hand and then I lost Hogwarts and (I thought) everyone who ever cared for me. It's this: it's possible to come out on the other side. Even when I couldn't see my way or believe that anything could ever get better again, at least at first.

I didn't talk to anyone for a month after Carrow dragged me away. But eventually I remembered I still had friends out there, and they still cared about me. I didn't talk to them, but I just read what they wrote in their journals to me. Eventually, it started to seem like things might be possible again.

It sounds stupid, but in the end, I did it by just going on.

That's all.

Please don't think I'm expecting any response. You don't have to do anything you don't want to do.
Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Is that the Doors?

alt_lupin at 2014-06-11 05:09:19
(no subject)

Do you suppose they've noticed it's after midnight?

alt_lupin at 2014-06-11 05:09:37
(no subject)

If we expand the rooms, let's include some sound-blocking charms.

Teenagers.

Do you think this means they're feeling a bit better?

alt_sirius at 2014-06-11 05:14:23
(no subject)

Yes. LA Woman, I think. Maybe. Hard to tell.

And it's hard to say what it means. Could simply be looking for catharsis.

Either way, it's fine.

I'll go up and ask them to muffle it, though. Before they wake Bea.
Go get some sleep.
When did we turn into the sort of grownups who'd say, 'turn that music down, young man, don't you realise people are trying to sleep?'

When you became a parent, you pillock.

He wasn't too shirty about it. I made sure he knew he didn't have to turn it off completely, that I didn't mind him using my old room or listening.

Were you awake enough to hear what I said when I came in? That he'd turned it up so loud so that Hermione could hear it?

It means they're talking to one another. In the journals, at least.

I'd be almost willing to accept Bea getting off her schedule in exchange for that.

If they wanted to listen to music together, there's this odd thing some people try known as being in the same room.

Well, I'm glad they're talking in the journals.

Yes. Well, after midnight, I wasn't going to suggest that he invite Hermione up there to join him.

Besides - I think this is a question of one step at a time. Patience, Moony. (Yes, I'm aware of the irony that I am the one advising patience.)
If they want to be in the same room, they'll figure that out.
2014-06-11 07:17:00
Order Only: Private message to Remus and Sirius

I have made breakfast (some eggs and ham and sausages and beans and toast) so don't be startled when you hear the floo.

I'm bringing a steak and kidney pie that you can put in the cupboard for tonight. And shortbread and ginger biscuits. Can you think of anything else that would particularly tempt Severus' appetite?

Do you want me to be the adult on the premises today? I don't have any appointments until tomorrow morning, and the twins can open the building. I won't try to see them or force any conversations they don't want. But I wondered whether you could use a break.

---

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-11 14:08:25
(no subject)

Ta, Molly, that's very considerate.

I think everyone's holding up reasonably but we would certainly welcome the additional support. (Last night Draco discovered my old record player and - well, I was glad he took an interest, just not necessarily glad he did it so loudly after midnight, with the baby and Dora trying to sleep. He said he was trying to play it loud enough that Hermione could hear, though, which is a very good sign.)

Fair warning: None of them are eating much. Probably simple is best. I think Draco's going to Sherwood today? Or that might be tomorrow, I'm not sure. We've been trying to stay available but not hovering, if that makes sense.

---

@alt_lupin at 2014-06-11 14:44:19
(no subject)

I won't be much use for anything tonight. Probably not a bad idea to have someone stay.
**alt_molly** at 2014-06-11 17:05:53  
(no subject)

I'll stay for the night. I've brought my knitting, so I can be here making myself ostensibly quietly busy, but available if anyone wants to talk.

**alt_lupin** at 2014-06-11 17:11:12  
(no subject)

I'd tell you not to feel like you have to stay up, but Hermione and Draco have been keeping extremely odd hours. They were Draco was up last night listening to muggle records after midnight.

**alt_molly** at 2014-06-11 17:31:32  
(no subject)

Goodness, Remus, I raised seven children. I have a lot of experience at going to sleep, knowing perfectly well how to rouse myself if anyone needs me.

(I hope this month's moon isn't too hard on you.)

**alt_lupin** at 2014-06-11 17:41:09  
(no subject)

Well, I'd have been tempted to forgo the Wolfsbane, but it was Hermione who brewed it for me. So I've been taking it.
2014-06-11 09:46:00
Private message to Professor Dolohov

alt_sally_anne

I received an owl this morning from Healer Korotkova. Apparently she heard that Hogwarts students had been sent home early and was wondering why I hadn't shown up for work.

So the good news is, she wants me for the internship! The bad news is, apparently I'm already disappointing her with absenteeism. I owled her right back to let her know that unfortunately, as a 'close associate of Draco Malfoy' I have been requested to remain at the school while MLE completes its investigation, but I will certainly come to work as soon as I may.

Do you think -- I don't want to bother you with trivialities at the moment but do you think she'll understand my situation? I don't want her to think I've been detained on suspicion of anything. It's just that I'm in the same House and year. And it's not that Draco and I were ever close, you know, because we are of such very different statuses, but of course he had that relationship with Pansy and I AM close to Pansy. And Daphne, and she's a roommate. And I was sort of friends with Teddy when we were firsties, which wouldn't ordinarily be of any consequence except Teddy didn't have any real friends as he got older.

Anyway. Also. I'm so sorry for your loss -- both Professor Lestrange, and the Headmistress. I know both of them were close friends of yours. (Corax Mulciber, well, of course it is tragic for the Protectorate to lose one of Our Lord's devoted servants so abruptly. But I know that I will miss Professor Lestrange and the Headmistress quite a bit more.)

alt_antonin at 2014-06-11 19:52:50
(no subject)

Thank you for your condolences, Miss Perks. I appreciated your note of sympathy very much, and I know that Professor Sinistra found the one you sent her to be a comfort as well.

I hadn't been aware that Ekaterina Petrovna had decided to accept you for the summer, but her having decided that you would do and
then assuming that of course you would realise she had done so does sound much like her. Congratulations, my dear; I am very pleased on your behalf, and this is a week in which good news is appreciated.

If Ekaterina Petrovna is testy about the delay, you may refer her to me, and of course I will corroborate the difficulties Hogwarts has seen this week.

In service,
A.
2014-06-11 14:51:00
Order Only Private Message to Remus Lupin

Ugh. That pot of lotion that leaked all down the shelving yesterday? I can still smell it. You must have missed some of it or it seeped into the wood behind the shelves or something.

Have you buggered off home? I've sent Ellie for the ladder, but I hate to send her up and she's always saying it makes her nervous when I climb anything. If you've not gone home for a lie down, would you come down the cellar and see about this?

Honestly, it reeks.

alt_nymphadora

2014-06-11 20:05:04
(no subject)

Well, I was just about to go home, but I can come down. You're serious about still smelling it? I could still smell it, a little, but I'll still be smelling it next month no matter how many times I cast scourgify so that doesn't mean much.

alt_lupin

2014-06-11 20:09:46
(no subject)

You and your ridiculous nose!

Nevermind, Ellie wouldn't let me do it--well, I started to, but lost my balance on the fourth step and she said- nevermind what she said, the point is, she's up there, scrubbing by hand so she can reach down the backside and get whatever you missed. If you can't tell by smelling, you have to use your eyes. And a bit of proper cleanser instead of a quick spell.
alt_lupin at 2014-06-11 20:12:41
(no subject)

The cleanser just makes the whole place reek of cleanser. Scourgify actually gets rid of the thing that's smelling, rather than covering it up.

I really don't understand why the rest of you don't seem the least bit bothered by the way the cleanser smells.

alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-11 20:29:30
(no subject)

Ugh.

I'd never noticed that. But now that you've said it...

Would you mind awfully coming down here to get rid of the cleanser smell? The two things together are really much much worse. Ellie's tried, but I don't think cleaning spells are her best magic, and anyway I hate to ask her to go up that ladder again.
Private Message to Daphs and Sally-Anne

That was possibly one of the most humiliating experiences I've ever been through.

Daphne, I can only imagine how awful yours must've been. I feel like I need to just shower for a year. And the smirking was just the worst. Like they knew I was embarrassed, and liked it.

How are you holding up, Daphs? I'm so glad they're letting us go home tonight.

I held up all right for the important things.

They found out about George. They were asking all about Ron, because I told them we broke it off because Draco was jealous of the friendship I had with you both, which is pretty much what happened, and they were asking if I'd done anything sexual with Ron and if I'd cheated on Draco while we were together and it just sort of slipped through because I figured I didn't have to lie at all for that part, and it was safest to just be honest for the parts where I could be, and it just took a second while I was talking about kissing Ron for kiss a Ginger day, because I kissed the twins too, remember? And he just sort of cocked an eyebrow and went, 'Oh, I see, not Ron, but Ron's brother? ...Both of them?' and then I had to explain all about how it was JUST GEORGE, THANKS, and we got together months after Draco and I broke it off and snogged a few times, but anyways. I don't know if Lucius'll read the reports. But there it is.

Honestly, though. 'What were his preferences? What did he do to you? What did you do to him? Did he ever engage in penetrative sexual acts with you? Did he ever become aroused when you were together? Was there any time you offered to engage in a sexual act and he refused? Describe it. In detail.'

Just staring and smirking and UGH. I feel so disgusting.
And I was worried I'd lose my occlumency all of a sudden, because the locket might've been the thing that made it better, but it held up all right. So that's something.

Well it's a good thing you signaled me about the ring when we passed each other. Because I think mine might have slipped, if I hadn't known that was coming.

'Have you ever seen this before?' I told them no. I mean, it's under a notice-me-not. I wouldn't have ever noticed it.

I don't know. I feel like I just made things worse. Did they show you the letter he wrote to her?

A letter?

No.

What was

I saw one. I mean, I'm sure it wasn't real. It couldn't have been.

Did you and Draco ever have sex?
No. We didn't.

He was so careful. And gentlemanly. Whenever he was too worked up, he'd back off to attempt to regain his composure, and we never took things very far as a result.

I thought

Well, I assumed at the time that we'd be married one day, so I would've been fine with

No.

Did

Teds was really gunning for him. I didn't see it, so I can't be sure whether it was real or not, but I wouldn't put it past him to fake it. But I just can't say one way or the other, honestly.

Oh.

Well, you might as well know that Draco and I were together for...complicated reasons. Not that I told them that!

You might say we were good friends, with mutual interests, and that dating was a very sensible arrangement. I mean, at first. Later on I didn't really like that it was so "sensible."

But we never did anything but snog, and that was usually at parties and things. Sometimes when we were alone he liked to hold hands, or have a bit of a cuddle, but he never initiated more than that. He never talked about marriage or anything of the sort, and I mean, it was clear he could have had sex. That he was able. But we didn't.
Don't worry, the letter was *obviously* fake. He says that he loves her! That's just...the stuff of fairy-books.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-12 02:54:09  
(no subject)

It's complicated, isn't it?

I think it's always complicated. For everyone. And sometimes it works, and sometimes it really doesn't.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-12 01:59:06  
(no subject)

Did they ask you if we were lovers? They asked me if we were lovers.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-12 02:00:19  
(no subject)

But mostly I think they were asking me questions to see if I'd give the same answers as you did.

Which of course I did.

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-12 02:07:22  
(no subject)

What? They didn't!

I mean, you're with Ron, and Ron's so very That is, you're both so clearly in love. You and Ron.

Plus ew, Pansy's a girl!

Not that there's anything wrong with that.
Well if you believe what you read in the papers Mr Krumgold likes both men and women. There are girls like that too (I'm just not one of them).

I'm not daft, I know there are girls like that! Only in theatre it's mostly all men.

And Gerald really only fancies men, he only pretends to fancy girls.

That's funny, because I don't think I've ever seen a picture of him without a pretty girl on his arm.

Yes, and I was one of them.

Maybe I should fancy girls.

It seems like it would be less annoying, doesn't it?
I think the look on my face was enough to convince them that they were being utterly ridiculous.
Hey.

They're letting us go home tonight. By Floo, so it'll be quick.

We should

We need to talk. My place? I'll let you know once we're home.

Sure. Just let me know when you're there. I'll bring some of the product line chocs, flowers, and those budget figures. We can ignore them in lieu of talking. Or snogging, or whatever you prefer. You know me: amiable and flexible. (Very flexible.)

It'll be good to have you out for the summer.

Could you just bring you?

Please?

Of course. That is one of the options.

Just say the word and I'm there.
Right. We're here.
2014-06-11 17:11:00
Private message to Antosha Dolohov and Barty Crouch, Jr

Advance warning:

Tonight, I will be writing to my sister and her husband in advance of official news. Wright and her team have finished up at the school, and I've been passing my eyes over final reports from Quartermayne, Gibbon, Pugh, and Revanche.

By tomorrow morning, MLE will pull an arrest warrant for Draco. He'll be a wanted fugitive, not a kidnap victim, though I do plan to reassure my sister that MLE will perhaps grant a full pardon in exchange for surrender under veritaserum.

One wonders how a child raised in such an ideologically pure home could be led so tragically astray.

I've seen it before - up close, even. But times were different then. Muggles and mudbloods crowding in on all sides, impossible to escape.

Even by serving us, as our Lord deems right and proper, they can still reach us. Should He feel compelled to exterminate them from our haven, once and for all, I would gladly squash the vermin from His sight.

Now, I anticipate that Lucius and Narcissa will respond with a level of denial and outrage that can only harm their already precarious position. We do not want that further weakened. Be prepared to assist them in keeping their heads.

alt_bellatrix

2014-06-12 00:13:25
(no subject)

That is not encouraging news, but I cannot see any alternate interpretation of the evidence we have seen. Were it only the Nott boy's collection it could conceivably be an exceptionally well-faked campaign, but too many corroborating details have been provided for it to have simply been malicious fabrication.

alt_antonin
What I cannot understand is Snape's purpose with the mudblood in the first place. That he would be drawn to Draco is no surprise -- given the way he used to trail around behind Lucius I am not at all surprised he made a play for Lucius's son -- but despite his own heritage I cannot remember Snape holding any affection for mudbloods, and in fact Our Lord was always most complimentary of Snape's devotion to the task of teaching them their place. His fall from grace aside, I am finding it difficult to imagine his having decided to embrace the role of teaching the girl, nor what his goals might have been. He is many things, fugitive from Our Lord's justice not the least of them, but one thing he never was, was stupid. Anything he did served at least two purposes, often more. I am troubled by the thought we might never understand what those purposes were.

I cannot imagine Narcissa will be anything but devastated. I will be certain to keep an eye out.

---

@alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-12 01:14:14
(no subject)

Indeed.

I speculate that Snape (in collusion with Black, certainly) took in the mudblood as an accomplice and used it to reach out to Draco, thus ensnaring him, likely with intent to eventually ensnare Harry, too.

I can't imagine why Snape thought the mudblood would do the trick, but he can perform legilimency - perhaps he saw some horrific weakness lurking in Draco, and exploited it as he saw fit.

The Snape I knew would have no care for mudbloods, but would certainly use them to further whatever cause he had committed himself to. If he's aligned with Black, then his cause is treason of the worst kind.
I am likewise troubled by the connection between Snape and Black. You were far enough ahead of their year that you likely don't recall, and Snape was not often forthcoming about the conflict, but my experience while tutoring Snape, and Barty and Regulus, made it quite clear Snape and Black loathed each other to the point of their feud consuming not only their own cohort, but the others around them; it far exceeded the sort of schoolboy rivalry Hogwarts produces and rose to the level of lifelong vendetta. I find the prospect of their making common cause exceedingly implausible.

I suppose treason makes strange bedfellows.

What a miserable clusterfuck this all is. I cannot help but think we have not seen the last of it. I trust you know that if there is anything I can do to be of use, you have but to say the word.

We have certainly not seen the last of it.

There's more that I must leave unsaid about Harry. When I next see you, I'll reveal more.

I am at your disposal.

They've been informed.

Lucius is protesting, but his case is weak and I believe even he knows it.
Narcissa is at a loss for words.

alt_antonin at 2014-06-12 02:22:31  
(no subject)

I see.

I will write them both and see if there is anything I can do to help, even if it is only providing another audience for Lyoushka's protests. Thank you for letting me know.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-12 02:58:01  
(no subject)

Have spoken with Wright. Says there've been no further messages and no demands from Snape to make the disappearance appear a legitimate abduction.

Shame about that.
2014-06-11 17:30:00
Order Only: Going Home

Ron, Mrs Weasley,

As we're going home by Floo, I wonder if I should go to the Burrow? (I would have said the Jugsons but under the circumstances, I say, probably better not to impose.) Of course, that means my trunks will go there, too, but we should be able to move them out relatively quickly.

Hydra, that means you'll have to get Jack to me after supper. Can you manage or are you still tied up by the Ministry's representatives?

How is everyone else holding up, both here and at home?

-Justin

---

alt_justin at 2014-06-11 22:38:59
Private Message to Ron

Ron,

All right there?

I did hear back from the agent by owl and he's aware that we're coming back early and says we can look at the flat on Friday, if we like.

Have you told your mother? I didn't want to say anything if you hadn't done, old chap.

-J

---

alt_justin at 2014-06-11 22:42:06
Private Message to Hydra

How are you?

If you can't get away, tell one of the others to bring Jack so I can collect him.
I--

I say, I'm well proud of you, you know.

-J

alt_pansy at 2014-06-12 00:12:13
(no subject)

Do you and Ron just want to come over to our flat? There's tonnes of room.

alt_molly at 2014-06-12 03:52:04
(no subject)

I'm sorry I didn't see this earlier, dear. I'm spending the night at 12 Grimmauld Place. It's the full moon tonight, and so Remus and Sirius needed someone else to oversee things here.

Of course you're welcome to stay at the Burrow, for as long as you like. Just apparate in as usual. I have clean sheets on Fred and George's beds, if you'd like to spend the night there, and there's plenty of food in the pantry.

alt_justin at 2014-06-12 04:03:53
(no subject)

Mrs Weasley,

It's quite all right. I couldn't have gone to the Burrow if Ron wasn't going there, what, and as it happens, he was off to Pansy's townhouse in New London tonight. She kindly invited me as well, and I was delighted to accept.

So there's no need to worry about me, what. Very sorry to have disturbed.

Enjoy your evening, and please give my best to everyone at Grimmauld.

-Justin
alt_molly at 2014-06-12 12:30:10
(no subject)

I'm glad you sorted out a place to stay with friends. Better than the Jugsons! Do give my best to Pansy. And good luck with the flat hunting.

alt_ron at 2014-06-12 04:16:37
(no subject)

Erm. Hi, Mum.

Did you get the owl I sent about being here at Pansy's? I guess you weren't at home to get it, but at least you weren't there waiting for me to have supper, either.

Justin and I are maybe going to look at flats tomorrow. And we've got one lined up to see on Friday. Should we stop by the shop tomorrow afternoon? Or will you still be at Grimmauld? Don't worry if you don't see this until morning. I know you probably aren't looking at your book this late.

alt_molly at 2014-06-12 14:43:58
(no subject)

I didn't receive it. Oh, dear. That means Ginny spent the night at the Burrow by herself. Not much of a welcome home for her.

I don't know whether I'll still be at Grimmauld or not, but I'd suggest stopping by the shop instead of here. You can have dinner with Fred and George if I'm not free yet.

I don't think Hermione and Draco are up to having visitors yet, or at least it would be best to ask first. And Remus, of course, is having his usual pre-transformation slump and needs quiet, too.

A flat? I think Justin is an excellent choice for a roommate, but still, I must confess I'm surprised. But...well, of course you're growing you're grown up now, and it's natural for a young man to want to be out on his own.
Well, good luck with the hunt. I'll want to hear all about it when we get back together. Oh dear. Whenever that will be.
Private message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

Cissy, Lucius -

I regret that I bring bad news. However, I bring it with the intent that you may prepare yourself for what's to come.

Tomorrow morning, they will put out an arrest warrant for Draco.

Now, if you have recovered from that unpleasant shock, I will share with you my knowledge of the various reports, as I feel it only right that you know precisely what was found in the course of the investigation. I am aware that you both have held fast to the hope that Draco was taken from the castle as captive. Perhaps there is even some truth to that, as the connection between Draco and Snape remains purely speculative rather than certain. However, what has become certain is that Draco will be charged with willfully engaging in miscegenous activities and exposing a legal nonperson to the magical arts.

Minus official jargon, the evidence is as follows:

**PHYSICAL**

*Letters* - The mudblood's correspondence could not be determined as authentic, since there are few samples of its handwriting. Handwriting analysis, parchment-matching, and ink-matching all determined that Draco's was authentic and non-forged. The contents of the letter (which I will spare you) leave no doubt as to the writer's romantic intent.

*Recordings* - These were obtained by Teddy Nott Jr., who before his death claimed to be collecting them out of a suspicion that Draco was romantically interested in the mudblood, or vice-versa. Only after capturing the recordings did Nott Jr. determine that Draco was teaching it magic. The recordings are both visual and aural, and of good quality. They were captured using magically charmed mirrors similar to those used by MLE in our own surveillance, and feature a tamper-proof time and date stamp. Nott Jr. claimed to have cut out the
"insignificant bits." What is left confirms that Draco and the mudblood were in a "hidden" room together on at least fourteen occasions in the last six weeks. They usually arrived and left this room separately, but on two occasions arrived together, and on one occasion left together. In those times they left and arrived together, they can be seen speaking to one another. The transcript of their conversation was not determined as condemnable; the frequency of their meetings, however, was, as was the fact that it took place in a location that was inaccessible to others. After much searching Investigators did find this hidden room; it seems to be a storage space of sorts, full of abandoned rubbish. Experimentation with the room revealed that the room is only accessible to others when it is empty, or when the occupant is expecting someone else to arrive.

**Colocation Devices** - A set of boxes, one transfigured into a ring, designed to allow the passing of objects from one box to the other. The ring-box was found on Draco's finger, and a second box was found in the mudblood's sleeping area. Harry's testimony confirmed he also owns a box of this nature (given to him by Regulus Black), which he has not used in some time, and that a fourth box was stolen from his trunk some months ago. Nott Sr suggested that his son intercepted the letters (see above) using the fourth stolen box.

**Wand** - The mudblood's illegal wand, which it claimed to have stolen from Buckingham, is over one-hundred years old (Ollivander's work) but is in good keep. There are no records of a wand having been stolen from Buckingham since the mudblood came under Harry's ownership. P.I. indicated that the last five spells ranged from intermediate to highly advanced, suggesting that the mudblood had been either well-trained in magic, or (more likely, I think) had someone else demonstrate advanced spells to it using the wand.

**Rings** - Draco and the mudblood both wore rings on their left ring finger. On first glance they appear to have nothing in common. In-depth study revealed that they are in fact made from the same materials, only designed to look different; both, too, were imbued with a spell to make them largely unnoticeable. On my first search of the mudblood, I in fact missed the ring, and did not see it until it later animated. Draco's ring was in the shape of a dragon, and quite expensive in appearance. The mudblood's was a snake, and quite plain. The rings are designed so that the wearer can, in effect, poison and kill him or herself through nonverbal magic, should the need arise. These are not toys: the wearer must be in genuine fear for their life, at which point the animal comes to life and bites the wearer, injecting him with three poisons. Not only did both rings have the
same function, they were also crafted by the same person: a witch, young in age. Possibly with the guidance of one extremely skilled at potions.

**TESTIMONIAL:**

*Various Students* - For brevity's sake, I won't list them all here. In the course of questioning, Penderyn determined that Daphne Greengrass, widely accepted as Draco's current girlfriend, was aware that Draco was keeping dangerous secrets from her, but was unaware of what those secrets were. Greengrass and Pansy Parkinson were also questioned extensively about their romantic interactions with Draco; neither felt he had any unnatural impulses, but neither have had sexual relations with him, either. Hydra Lestrange revealed that she was giving Draco occlumency lessons at his request, but that when they began those lessons, he already had some skill in the area. She did not know whether he came by the skill naturally or had been taught by someone else.

*Bellatrix Lestrange* - In the course of my initial questioning on Saturday, 7 June, Draco occluded rather than submitting to legilimency. Even when I assured him that he had nothing to hide, he continued to occlude, though denied that he was doing so. The mudblood did not successfully occlude under Hydra's interrogation, though Hydra did report that the mudblood made an attempt at it. It is well known that Severus Snape was a master occlumens who was also skilled at spell-cast legilimency, providing him with the means to effectively teach occlumency.

**OTHER:**

- The journal archive was torched. Enough said.
- There are multiple anecdotal reports of Draco being called in to assist "Milland" in unspecified ways, often involving detention; however, there are no official records of those detentions, nor any record of Draco having lost house points.

When taken as a whole, the above evidence is more than enough to
justify arrest, interrogation, and a hearing with the Wizengamot, who - barring veritaserum evidence that reveals otherwise - would surely find Draco guilty of all charges held against him.

I apologise that I must be the one to deliver you such unpleasant news. Know that aside from my own testimony, I have been only peripherally involved in the investigation, lest my involvement only serve to further incite Nott and Mulciber.

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2014-06-12 01:55:33  
(no subject)

No.

No, that's - impossible -

---

**alt_bellatrix** at 2014-06-12 02:09:02  
(no subject)

The impossible has happened before, Cissy.

---

**alt_narcissa** at 2014-06-12 02:20:30  
(no subject)

I know my son, Bella. He's not capable of it.

Besides, if this is that creature of Harry's, then the very idea he could be attracted is laughable.

---

**alt_bellatrix** at 2014-06-12 02:27:55  
(no subject)

I believe that you think you know him, yes. But that is not enough to upend the results of the investigation.
What of the theory that the mudblood had entrapped him in some way? If he has been held against his will, he cannot surrender voluntarily and be examined to be cleared. He could have been under Imperius, if Snape has been involved for any length of time.

Furthermore the loss of the archive is entirely inconclusive. There is no way to prove it was in connexion to Draco's kidnap. Admittedly it is suspicious but there are far too many others who would undoubtedly benefit from the archives being destroyed - many on the Council.

Those 'protestations' are what might otherwise be called 'reasonable doubt' - particularly in light of the evidence that Snape spirited him away.

His - temporary infatuation - is deplorable but it may have been induced. We are not yet ready to throw him away on the basis of a youthful indiscretion.
What evidence do you speak of? If you mean the message from Snape, it was vague and came with no request for ransom, and there has been no follow-up since. Beyond that there is no evidence of Snape spiriting him away. Draco was seen fleeing the castle on foot, alone.

What you believe in private, between the two of you, is not for me to decide.

But if you say these things in public you will not do him any good; you will not do us any good.

Confess I had expected a ransom demand before now.

Still ....

If he has fallen in with traitors, then he might be convinced to return for a pardon. A full pardon. We could learn what he discovered over - however long it has been.

If he were to turn himself in, that might - might in fact aid our search for the fugitives.

I believe that is our best hope.

Whatever else he may have done, he does care for both of you, and he wants to please you and always has.
Very well. How should we proceed? Have you the authority to sanction the tactic or must we petition Our Lord?

Presume there is no need to publicly announce his fugitive status at this time? If we have any hope of bringing him in willingly, then declaring him outlaw would only drive him further into hiding.

What is your recommendation?

That authority is not mine.

I will call on our Lord tonight and petition Him myself. Trust me to act in your favour. It is best if it doesn't come from you.
I was exceptionally pleased to learn you were able to free yourself of the malign influence of living with one of Voldemort's horcruxes for so long. Though I have not ever had the dubious pleasure of experiencing such influence myself and therefore can only speculate as to what you must feel at the moment, I have sufficient experience with Dark objects that the speculation is, I fancy, rather more informed than others' might be.

It is a credit to your strength that you were able to find the will to destroy it. I hope that you have received sufficient support from Albus -- or from Miss Lestrange, come to think of it -- in the aftermath.

I regret that the consequences of my having discarded my cover identity will include no longer having opportunity to work with you, and the others of your cohort, throughout the coming academic year. Should you be interested in continuing our lessons over the summer, I would be pleased to do so; now that I will no longer be stretched so thinly, I will have leeway to impart considerably more theory alongside the pressures of necessary production, once the immediate aftermath of this last week's events has faded somewhat.

I've been second-guessing every thought and feeling, which is

It's tiring.

But I guess that's normal enough. If you can call what we've been through normal, that is.

We've all just been trying to get through this investigation in one piece, and I haven't had too much time to really sit and work through everything that's happened. I did talk with Mr Dumbledore, and I've had a little time to talk with Hydra too. She and Harry were working quite hard to keep on top of the investigation, comparing notes and sorting out strategies and all that, so perhaps we'll get more time to
really talk over hols.

Are you sure that you

We still haven't received any official notification regarding the council, and yes, you're right, I wouldn't be the best pupil at the moment. I'm dreading my end of term marks. Exams were a bit of a blur.

Thank you for your offer. I'm glad you still I don't want to waste. Once things settle, I'll be able to make a more informed decision.

I would

I would be grateful for the chance to continue working with you, even if it's only over summer. And I would like to learn more theory, if things do work out.

---

@alt_severus at 2014-06-12 02:04:50
(no subject)

I can offer you no observations of use, nor would any advice I could proffer be anything more than useless platitudes, save to say that in the aftermath of such a singular experience, human nature lends itself to one of two responses: either to allow the complex and shifting emotions engendered by such events to harden you into becoming embittered and closed-off, or to channel those emotions into self-improvement. I hope you will not feel it inappropriate for me to say that I am wishing you strength to arrive at the latter, rather than the former.

From reports of what has transpired over the past several days at Hogwarts I can scarcely conceive how miserable the experience must be. Allow me to proffer my apologies for my part in creating the atmosphere you must now tolerate.

I will look forward to the prospect of matters settling sufficiently that you may decide upon your plans for the summer. I do not require an immediate answer. If — and only if — you are in need of a distraction from the misery of your current environment, you may find value in reading von Zurbruck's Eine Geschichte der Tränke, in translation; it is one of my favourite references, and it is both
widely available and not likely to cause suspicion should you be seen to procure it.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-12 03:23:18
(no subject)

I shall be sure to pick up a copy, then.

Thank you.
We've all been sent home.

No-one else was taken into custody right away, which is a good sign, I guess.

The galleon holders know to tell us if they get in any sort of trouble.

Raz's funeral is tomorrow. The one for family, I mean. Ced had the idea that I should approach Dolohov and say that we'd like him to help us to do a private remembrance for Raz. The group he was working with on defence training, I mean. To show how we're shifting our support to him now.

What do you lot think?

I think that if we do it as a group, most of us are already on pretty good terms with him, and we'd have to be careful, but we were already being careful with Raz, so I think we'd be okay. But if you don't think it'd be a good idea, we won't.

Justin, I know you work pretty closely with him. How'd he take it?

I'm in if the rest of you are. Obviously, there's what we stand to learn, and a chance to lull him into thinking we're all with him, but for me, well, it might help a bit with the Aurors. At least, it couldn't hurt with Crouch. Not that I've had much to do with him yet, but you never know.

Yeah, I'm really not sure about him, and he's sort of a package deal, isn't he?
Dolohov and Crouch together, you mean. Yeah.

I'm at Buckingham. It's Siz's going to be getting a cottage somewhere. The Guild has some? Anyways. She can't go back to Spence yet, but she said I could come over whenever. So that's nice.

And maybe in the next few days I could take Hydra out and while we're out we could stop by or something. To do whatever. Play cards. Hang out.

If that'd be okay.

If it wouldn't, we can wait.

The horcrux business was really insane, by the way.

Pansy was mental really scary until we could talk her down, and then Dumbledore was all, 'Oh, there's another one,' and we were talking about the diary, and Ginny's weird tiara thing, and how they were kind of like the locket, so what if they were horcruxes too, and if we've found four, and three just because we happened to stumble across them, how many of the bloody things are there?

Mrs L said we could kill him temporarily and still have it be useful, but I mean, really. He could have like this whole field full of horcrux rocks or something. He's killed enough people.
Harry,

I should think he would be flattered and pleased, what - both that you are confiding in him and that you choose to remember Professor Lestrange. I know that despite his adherence to the ideals of the Protectorate, he does consider himself religious. We've talked about church, in the past.

So he might wonder if you are all as sincere about that as he would wish you to be, if you follow me. He would take that sort of request well seriously, as a solemn ceremony.

-Justin

Yeah.

I mean, it would be.

At least for me.

Oh, yes, of course it would be. I say, old man, I'm sorry, I never meant any disrespect, what. I know you cared about him, and he was well loyal to you.

I think perhaps it might be better to let everyone make his own decision, though, about whether they wish to honour the Professor's memory in that way.

-Justin
Well, I mean, that's why I was checking. And if it makes people uncomfortable, that's fine. We can do something else.

So. We go to him as a group, and not make it about a ceremony, but make it about training or something?

It would be for me as well. I liked Raz. He was a good teacher and seemed to treat everyone fairly at school.

He'd know we don't share all of his family's beliefs but that we're asking one friend to help us remember another in the way that will be very meaningful for him.
Hi,

I went to Sherwood today, and Moddey. It's not any place I ever thought about seeing, or wanted to see, but I was offered a tour and I didn't have anything else to do.

It was... I told them it was interesting. And I saw Sarah. She's skinny and she lives in a tent with four other people Colin showed me around.

At Moddey he asked if I wanted to say Hi to Arista and Hector, but I told him that I was expected back at 12G, though I don't think that I was.

And he said thanks for taking care of Dennis. Which, what is there to say to that.

So that's what I did. What about you?

I'm not listening to the Doors tonight. It's someone called Ziggy Stardust - almost sounds like it could be a wizard, albeit a ridiculous one. It's good, though. I can't turn it up or Sinbad will lose it, but you can probably hear it in the next room over.

Oh, I thought you were going to Moddey yesterday. I knew they were going to show you Sherwood, which I thought was funny, you hate camping. And isn't it basically like camp, only all the time? Even if the tents are proper wizard tents?

Moddey's really lovely, though, isn't it? I mean, it's so amazing what they've been able to build there. I keep wondering if Aldrich and Saltash will look as nice, eventually. I'm sure they will.

I wouldn't know what to say to Colin, either, if he'd talked about Dennis.
Ziggy Stardust. Is there a picture? I don't want you to wake up Bea, either. Are you upstairs or did you bring the phonograph down to your room?

Maybe.... Do you think - ?

Well, maybe if I sit on this side of the wall, I can hear it better.

---

**alt_draco** at 2014-06-12 04:07:35  
(no subject)

It reminded me of YPL, a bit. Except people seemed to be enjoying themselves more, even of they don't have much in the way of comforts.

It's certainly impressive, in its own way. And peaceful.

The picture's of a street, in New London before it was New London, with a bunch of boxes and rubbishy things lying about - oh, and autos. And there's a bloke dressed in blue holding a guitar. I reckon that's Ziggy.

I'm in my room, I brought it down here. Try the other wall?

---

**alt_hermione** at 2014-06-12 04:15:30  
(no subject)

I know which wall adjoins your room! I just wasn't sitting on the floor at that moment.

I can hear it now. Hang on, I'm bringing over the pillows.

What's he saying? It's hard to make out. Well, it doesn't matter.

Did you see Harry's question? He wants to know if he and Hydra could come over.
You can't make it out because it's absolutely mental.

I'm an alligator, I'm a mama-papa coming for you
I'm the space invader, I'll be a rock 'n' rollin' bitch for you
Keep your mouth shut,
you're squawking like a pink monkey bird
And I'm busting up my brains for the words

Keep your electric eye on me babe
Put your ray gun to my head
Press your space face close to mine, love

Freak out in a moonage daydream yeah!

I copied that off the cover, because it made no sense to me, either.

And yeah, I saw. But. I'm not sure. You and I can't even look at each other.

That is the strangest thing I've ever heard. Did Pansy know that lyrics don't actually have to make any sense? Because she could have saved herself loads of trouble with 'Hey, Hey, Merlin.'

I'm not sure, either. I think it's too soon. I mean, if the whole Order were to have a meeting here, maybe that would be different. But Harry -

He'll expect us to tell him we're all right. He'll want us to, anyway.
Yes, he'll want that. Anyone would.

Everyone wants things to go back to normal. Even me, I suppose, but just to make others happy I think. That's why I went to Sherwood, because it seemed like a good, normal thing to do. And then it felt like some kind of nightmare dream the whole time I was there. Like I was dreaming I was someone else and it was someone I didn't even know.

The lyrics to "Hey, Hey, Merlin" weren't so bad when you consider she and I were both, what, twelve? Thirteen? But we worked harder on word choice than we needed to, clearly.

The actual song is good though, if you just ignore the lyrics, but I like this next one, "Starman," better.

I like it, too. What I can hear. The chorus is nice.

It's better when there's something to do, isn't it? Brewing Mr Lupin's potion. That was good. It was--I just knew it had to be perfect, so I focused on that and only that and it was as if everything else went away. And then there it was.

I spent yesterday in the library. It's ever so large. Not as large as Hogwarts, of course, but that room's bigger than it looks.

So. Do you think you'll stay here, for a while? I'm sure Mrs Longbottom wants me to go to Moddey and help with their brewing. I can't right now, of course. But maybe. After everyone comes home and they're in and out of Grimmauld all the time. Then it will be the same whether I'm here or there. People, I mean.

But maybe I should go to Sherwood, too, just to see it and so I can say I looked at all my options.
At least if you're brewing you can be alone and not have to pretend to be normal. And you really brewed it perfectly? Well done.

Oh, I haven't been to the library. I should do that, next.

I suppose I will stay here. I don't really see myself fitting in at Moddy. Or anywhere else. Or here, really. So, I don't know.

But you're right, the others will show up soon. They'll want to talk.

I wasn't pretending to be anything. I was just the potion. And yes, perfectly.

I didn't want him to have to check it.

Haven't you been here loads of times? I mean, it was your great-aunt's house before it was Sirius's.

Yes. They'll want to talk. I mean, I appreciate that they're keeping us informed about what's been happening but - part of me doesn't want to know. I like that there's nothing here but the books and the walls and maybe Bea when she needs playtime but she's easy to avoid. And so is everyone else. I mean, they all seem to know to let us be.

Well. Mr Lupin likes me to sit with him while he's drinking his doses of potion. But I think that's for him almost as much as for me. He was one of the first wizards who was ever kind to me. He's still very kind. But he's kind to everyone, not just me, I mean.

Do you think, maybe, tomorrow, I could listen to something
while you tour the library? Instead of through the wall? It's sort of like when I had to listen to the parties in the common room from my cubby. It might be nice to hear it without something distorting the sound.

Or.

I mean, if you don't want me fooling with it. That's okay.

---

@alt_draco at 2014-06-12 05:35:30
(no subject)

You were a perfect potion, then.

Quite a few times, but certainly not loads. Auntie Walburga wasn't pleasant company, and when we did come 'round she'd not let me go wandering off. Probably didn't want me to find Ziggy Stardust.

Oh, yeah. I mean, you can come listen to it now, if you want. I can go check out the library. I'm not tired. Or, we can listen to it together. Either way.

---

@alt_hermione at 2014-06-12 05:39:24
(no subject)

Huh? Oh. I guess. Ha-ha.

Well, I am, a little. Tired, I mean. But I could come and listen to one or two more songs.

I mean, if you're going to keep listening, I probably won't go right to sleep, anyway.

You don't think they'll mind? If I come in, I mean.

We can leave the door open and muffle the sound so it doesn't go down the corridor.
alt_draco at 2014-06-12 05:44:32
(no subject)

Albums are meant to be listened to start to finish, no stopping and starting, so we can listen til the end of this side, at least.

No I don't think they'll mind. Last night Sinbad asked why I was turning the music up and when I said it was so you could hear it he told me that people usually listen to music while in the same room, so.

If you want the door open we can leave it open. Yes, and muffle the sound.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-12 05:53:31
(no subject)

I just think it's safer.

alt_draco at 2014-06-12 05:54:46
(no subject)

Yeah, it's safer.
2014-06-11 22:03:00

Private Message to Antosha

I have personal good news. At the meeting this afternoon the Cannons offered me a part time practice squad job, effective July 1st. I'm not yet ready to play in games, but they clearly think I will be at some point and are going to some trouble to keep me contracted to them.

While I'm excited about this opportunity, it is part time and therefore quite low paying. Would you be interested having me continue my current job on a part time basis? Looking at their schedule I figure that I can work for about thirty hours a week. Some of that would be evening hours, but there's no reason I can't work on correspondence and various other matters then. While next year I won't have the same need to be close to what Hogwarts has to offer, I have enjoyed working for you this year and believe I would do so again next year.

alt_cedric

2014-06-12 02:55:26

(no subject)

I am very pleased to hear the news. Congratulations, my dear boy; I know how hard you have worked to overcome your disappointment.

I cannot imagine I will not continue to have use of your talents, and your assistance part-time would certainly save me from having to train someone else to my exacting standards. After all, you've only just learnt the library cataloguing system! I will take whatever hours you can give me; keep me posted of your schedule and we can arrive at a mutually satisfactory arrangement.

alt_antonin

2014-06-12 03:10:01

(no subject)

Thank you. It's been nice to have some good news along with mess the rest of the week has been.

There will be some variation depending on their match schedule, but it will be two to four mornings a week. I'll be available afternoons and the other mornings.
I think I've learned more about you from your library cataloguing ... I guess I'll call it a system, than anything else.

---

@alt_antonin at 2014-06-12 03:19:58

(no subject)

I shall once more promise that when you have thirteen thousand books to wrangle and I am invited to help manage them, I duly swear I will use whatever shelving system you find most logical. (I continue to maintain that the system makes perfect sense and those of you who find it illogical simply lack the ability to recognise patterns when they are patently obvious.)

I've left you the last of the third and fourth year exams, by the way -- their marks need to be added into the master record, and then we will be done with them.
2014-06-11 22:07:00
Order Only: Private message to Fred Weasley

Don't expect me until late. Or I might kip here overnight.

@alt_george

@alt_fred at 2014-06-12 03:20:41
(no subject)

That's moving fast.

@alt_george at 2014-06-12 03:25:50
(no subject)

It's nothing like that, believe me. They've all had a helluva week, and what she needs tonight is an ear, and a shoulder to cry on, that's all.

@alt_fred at 2014-06-12 03:27:07
(no subject)

Relax, I was kidding.

Well luckily, you don't shrink when you get wet.

@alt_george at 2014-06-12 03:31:03
(no subject)

Fortunately.

She talked a bit about breaking things off. Both with me and the business.
She did? Why?

I'm a nice, normal bloke who deserves a 'nice, normal' girl, not someone who's a mess.

I had to point out to her that she's talking to a Weasley here. I like messes, I'm the sort of person who sets off fireworks for fun. I belong to a family of blood traitors, I have one brother who's a prat who would be happy to turn me in, another brother who can turn into a snake, I'm experimenting with a mad muggle who likes blowing up stuff, and we had our own issues when Dad died.

I think I eventually convinced her.

Good.

She's back, with the tea. Later.
2014-06-11 22:22:00
Private message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

Bella mentioned she has let you both know about the results of the investigation.

My darlings, I am so damned sorry. I have been as involved as I could -- obviously not as much as I would like, but I did not want to risk the slightest chance any small piece of exculpatory evidence would be overlooked. The facts are grim, however, and growing even grimmer with each new bit of evidence that is uncovered.

All is not lost -- if we are able to find him, there is still the chance this has all been nothing more than a horrible misunderstanding, and if that proves to be the case, I will continue to advocate for him as fiercely as I am capable.

I swear to you upon the names of my dead and the gods of my family: I will not allow Draco to be condemned without at least one voice speaking for him. But I must beg you to allow me to be the one doing that advocacy, however. I cannot imagine our enemies will not seize upon these events like vultures falling on carrion, and for you to be the ones urging moderation would no doubt be even more ammunition for their vendetta.

If nothing else, our deception of the past six months or so may serve us now, as I might be listened to more readily if others think I am not simply reacting out of loyalty and allegiance. It is one small hope in the midst of this despair.

What else can I do for you right now?

alt_lucius at 2014-06-12 03:18:21
(no subject)

Bratka,

In discussion with Bellatrix. Agree, the case is disturbing.

Believe we may have arranged a final appeal, which may, if he shows
sense, allow us to put this unfortunate incident behind us all.

**He sat there with me on Friday. How did we deserve**

Thank you, for your staunch support. You are right that it is better this comes at the end of our long road back to a modicum of sanity within the Council and that you are in better position to argue the case of reason.

There is much left to clarify, and only Draco can do that. Let us both pray that he recognises his duty to his family and decides to redeem his honour.

---

[@alt_antonin](alt_antonin) at 2014-06-12 03:34:47  
(no subject)

I saw that you had written to him. I cannot imagine that if he had written back you would not have mentioned, but -- has there truly not been any activity in his journal, at all?

Of course, that question would be much easier if we could consult the records. Which makes me wonder if that was the purpose, and who was behind the attack on the archives, and precisely how it is related to this whole debacle.

(As to that, at least we are finally able to communicate without worrying it might come back to bite us on the arses later on. Not that I distrust Pennifold, precisely, but as we have seen, there are no guarantees.)

Perhaps I will try writing to him sometime in the next few days with another appeal for him to see reason and duty. In the midst of confusion I can imagine it would have been possible for him to overlook your message; maybe an entreaty from an outsider would have more success. Then again, I cannot imagine him being so cruel as to leave you in doubt for his safety if he had any choice about the matter, which points again to his not being free to act of his own volition at the moment.

I am at least consoling myself that if Snape does have Draco, it is exceptionally unlikely that he will do Draco harm. Unless he has changed far more than I would imagine a man could in fifteen
years, even with the shade of Azkaban between then and now, he is not the type to choose random cruelty over potential advantage.

---

**alt_lucius** at **2014-06-12 03:41:30**

*(no subject)*

No, there has been no word.

And no demand from Snape, either, which is in itself somewhat damning.

The archives were indeed utterly destroyed - Fiendfyre, is the forensic report I have seen - and the timing of it points toward Snape or his associates seeking to ensure that the mudblood's messages could not be reviewed.

Unfortunately, that also means *Draco's* messages cannot be reviewed. Have even heard a rumour that Mulciber thinks he can suggest that I gave some kind of order to have the place routed. (We had far more pressing business that night, as you'll recall.)

I don't know. I would have thought it unthinkable that he could succumb to the temptation of a mudblood, but unless they have kept him under a perpetually replenished love potion - of which Snape is certainly capable, but it's unlikely - well, as you say. The facts paint more and more grim a picture.

---

**alt_antonin** at **2014-06-12 03:56:11**

*(no subject)*

Should it become necessary I will of course swear on my wand, my magic, and my vows to Our Lord that you were in my presence that night often enough that there was no possibility of your involvement. Not that this would satisfy Mulciber, but if others take up the slander, let me know.

I had thought of a love potion as well -- Snape was always obsessed with the idea of that family of potions -- but even the strongest could not induce a man to actions so uncharacteristic, particularly not when Draco's will is so strong. It would indeed be a comforting hope to hold out, but I cannot put much faith in the prospect. Imperius, perhaps, but I cannot imagine that holding over time. Again, Draco's clarity of will and sense of self is so
strong that surely he would have shaken it at some point.

I'm sorry. I had intended to be reassuring, but I'm afraid all I am doing is logicking away every possible explanation. Not helpful, I know.

What troubles me about the attack on the archive -- Fiendfyre is an incredibly difficult spell, and even though the Ministry protections no doubt helped to contain it, the fact half of New London is not ashes and dust speaks to powerful magic and well-honed control. If it was Snape -- how on earth would he have such powerful magic, after a decade and more in Azkaban? It does not make sense that his could be the wand behind it. Which necessitates another conspirator. And yet -- for Snape to be capable of having fooled us all at Hogwarts for so long suggests that Azkaban sat more lightly on his shoulders than it might have on another's. I am having a great deal of trouble reconciling the matter.

Recall that when he first escaped from Azkaban, within months he had enough wits to steal a journal and start producing inciting columns giving instruction in magic, among other offences.

Azkaban seems not to have affected him as it would any other wizard. Suspect it has to do with the man's utter lack of pleasantness in the first place; there was very little room for him to slide into rage or despair when he wallowed in them all his days.

And he clearly had an accomplice. An insider to the Ministry.

There is that. I suppose you need to have a soul to begin with for the Dementors to injure it.

Other evidence pointing to a conspirator: Milland -- the real one -- swears he has been in captivity for
three years. Even if Snape were minimising the amount of time spent in presence of others, and thus minimising his Polyjuice usage, that is still thousands of doses. That he could brew it is no surprise -- although we have not yet found the laboratory we know must exist -- but where did he get the fluxweed?

The only thing I can think of is that a licensed grower has been diverting a steady supply to him. And given how few of those there are, I wonder if that might be a useful avenue for investigation.

✉️ alt_lucius at 2014-06-12 03:27:59
Private Message to Toshenka

Narcissa. You can imagine.

I shall undoubtedly have my work cut out for me to-night. To-morrow at Razzer's graveside service she may need shielding from the rest of the family. Certainly she will want to conceal her anxiety as much as possible. Know you will have your hands full of astronomer but if you can watch for signals, would appreciate it.

✉️ alt_antonin at 2014-06-12 03:42:49
Re: Private Message to Toshenka

Yes, of course.

I have already held my prayers for Raz (may his memory be eternal); I will be there, of course, but I would not weep should I need to spend the time as support rather than mourner. You have but to indicate and I will be there in a heartbeat.

I cannot imagine how poorly she is taking this.
2014-06-11 22:26:00
Private message to Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy

I have spoken with our Lord.

He has agreed that for the next fortnight, Draco be deemed a Person of Interest wanted by MLE for questioning. If Draco cooperates, surrenders to said questioning, and provides information of use, he will be pardoned of all charges.

But if Draco is not captured or does not hand himself over in that fortnight, then it's you, Lucius, who will answer for his crimes.

Do you accept?

---

alt_lucius at 2014-06-12 04:43:59
(no subject)

What if

What sort of answer?

Yes. I accept.

Have convinced Narcissa to take a calming draught, sorely needed. Cannot leave her for long but was expecting your post. Will explain the necessity.

Will also send an owl to the Prophet within the hour, offering a generous reward for information leading to his rescue. See if we cannot turn these brigands against one another.

---

alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-12 04:51:35
(no subject)

Good.

I will let him know.
No, Bella.

Please, no. Don't -

I'll lose them both. I could lose them both, don't you understand?

Of course you don't. Your daughter's had her rebellion and it came to nothing.

Don't let him do this.

After the service, kindly show me the letter.
2014-06-11 22:31:00
Order Only - Private message to Alice Longbottom

I had a visitor today who quite surprised me.

 alternate_albus

alternate_alice at 2014-06-12 02:36:23
(no subject)

Care to elaborate?

 alternate_albus at 2014-06-12 02:39:25
(no subject)

My old friend Horace is retiring.

Today, he came to say farewell.

It appears he been more observant than I would have given him credit for.

 alternate_alice at 2014-06-12 02:42:08
(no subject)

Oh, good god, Albus.

I take it you're not writing this as you're merrily tripping your way to Azkaban under armed guard, so we can trust he'll keep things to himself, yes?

 alternate_albus at 2014-06-12 02:49:11
(no subject)

He says he will walk out the school gate, and go where no one will find him.

I will miss him.
He came to give me a memory. With the instruction that it might aid me, but that I should not view it at Hogwarts.

I'm sorry, Albus.

Please let me know once you've had a chance to look at it, and had your meeting with Severus, and we'll move forward from there.

At times like these, it's the only thing we can do.

I will.

It may be a few days. Septima insists we must all do our duty by the school, exams marked and classrooms settled. (Admirable, and yet so tedious.)

While we are speaking, I should ask, how are you, dear lady?

Draco and Hermione are so very hurt, and I can tell Harry's handling a rather sizable degree of his own as well. I keep waiting for the next cauldron to boil over, and am facing an enormous list of plans that must be re-worked and reconsidered given our change in circumstance at Hogwarts and the council.

And I fear I've done a terrible disservice to Pansy Parkinson on top of it all. I feel like I've failed her.
You've spoken to her, yes? How concerned should I be?

@alt_albus at 2014-06-12 03:22:36
(no subject)

We have a great many worries, this week. And so much lost.

Miss Parkinson is much bruised by the experience. She was willing to share her memory of the experience, and it was brutal.

I rather think near all of us feel we have failed this week, one way or another. Myself included.

We should discuss, soon, which plans can be salvaged.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-12 03:30:10
(no subject)

I see.

Poor dear.

What a world we live in, Albus.

And yes, agreed.
Private Message to Harry

What are your plans over the summer?

Think we might be able to work in some reasonably serious quidditch practice?

I'll be taking a position on the Cannons' practice squad starting next month, but I can't help but think some additional work beyond that would do me good.

Order Only

That should cover wanting to get together over the summer whenever.

I cannot begin to say how sorry I am at all your losses of this week. They've knocked us all topsy-turvy, but I suspect they're effecting you the most. If you need anything, magical workout, hard fly, whatever, let me know and I'll see what I can do.

I'll tell Alice this once Dolohov replies, but I've offered to keep working for him part time. Which flies me round to what I've been pondering. Those of us with some level of standing in the Protectorate, basically you and your friends, were clearly positioned to join the Lestrange/Malfoy side of the tangled mess that is Council politics. What do we do now? Who do we try to get close to? Obviously not Mulciber and Nott.

Re: Order Only

Yeah.

We really should sit down and think through it. I mean, Dolohov isn't a bad choice, really -- he treats Sally-Anne fairly, and he obviously gets on with Justin, and Pans has left a decent impression too.

There's Crouch, which I don't know about, though.
And there's all the sponsors of the contest too. I think once we're all able to meet, Draco can help sort them out more.

@alt_cedric at 2014-06-12 03:27:53
Re: Order Only

I've had a thought about Dolohov. It'd do a couple different things which might have ripples and we'll need to move soon or it won't make sense, which means making a potentially risky decision quickly.

If we and by 'we' I specifically mean those of us who are had been working with Raz, were to ask him to help us with a remembrance rite that somehow make it clear he was our special teacher, we'd be telling him a whole bunch and signalling that we might be interested in being transferred to his team from Raz's. I've seen lots this last year, but I still don't feel like I understand Council politics so I don't know if it's a really good idea or not.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-12 03:40:00
Re: Order Only

I could see how that might work.

I'll run it by everyone, see what they think, and talk to him at the funeral tomorrow.

@alt_cedric at 2014-06-12 03:49:48
Re: Order Only

We should talk about how to handle Draco's presence in the past. Without knowing what all the investigation revealed and how they are going to jump I don't know what to think.

Dolohov'll assume Draco was involved. Closing ranks without him says one thing. Leaving an extra space in the rite says something else. But with out knowing how Dolohov and the rest of the Council are going to tack in the winds of last weekend, I don't bloody know which to fly ourselves. We might just have to make a guess and just make the best run of it whether or not the snitch is really there.
Yeah.

I think it's one thing to claim he was innocent and another thing to say we miss him, and he'd miss Raz.

Because he does. And we do. You know?

And it's utterly mad to just pretend he didn't ever exist.

I was talking with Draco before about Daphs and Blaise, and whether they should be a part of it too.

I think if we'd be going with Dolohov, it'd be safer to keep it just us, though.

I agree. It's safest with just the same group for this.

But where do we go from here, that's the question. Do we bring in the people it would make sense to bring in, if we were nice loyal citizens of the glorious Protectorate, do we push him and our public image by bringing in the people we know are loyal to us, both or something different? It hurts my head to think like they do, Slytherins, because the right answer is you bring in your loyal friends and then you all hammer at the problem together until it falls before you.
alt_harry at 2014-06-12 05:10:17
Re: Order Only

I think we keep Ginny, Sue, Luna, Nev, and Evs in our back pocket. The Galleoners too.

It'd be an enormous stretch for him to take on the Longbottoms. Too suspicious. And I like keeping some things to ourselves.

We should keep Linus at arm's length too. He's too smart by half, we don't want him making connections he shouldn't. He'd tell Professor Dolohov without even thinking about it.

alt_cedric at 2014-06-12 23:01:41
Re: Order Only

I think we should delay anything other than the rite until we find out what is happening with the Malfoys and if it will splatter how it will effect Dolohov and the rest of that alliance.

I'm so sorry. This is all just so awful.

alt_harry at 2014-06-12 03:05:17
Re: Order Only

And.

Thanks, mate.

Might take you up on all three.

alt_cedric at 2014-06-12 03:25:56
Re: Order Only

Anytime. Anything you need. You should know that by now.
Yeah. That sounds brill.

It'd be good to get my mind off things, for sure.
2014-06-11 22:47:00
Private Message to Narcissa Malfoy

If there is anything I can do for him, I will.

Or for you.

alt_crouch_jr
2014-06-11 23:44:00
Private Message to Percy Weasley and Tosha

Weasley, meet me in the office in two hours.

Much to explain but in brief:

-As you know, the Ministry's archive of Private Messages was destroyed; thus we have, for the time being at least, total privacy from any who might try to interfere.

-Evidence against Draco strongly suggests there is more to the accusation than libel. Still attempting to clear his name but it is now apparent that he will need to present himself to do so.

-Convinced Our Lord to offer a temporary reprieve, if Draco does return. However, it is still possible that he is being held against his will and will not be able to return within the window extended by Our Lord's beneficence.

-Am drafting notice for the *Prophet* to offer reward for information leading to Draco's release or return. Weasley, you will need assistance screening replies. Hire someone.

-Cancel after-noon appointments to-mor -

Oh, blast. Will cancel after-noon myself.

alt_lucius at 2014-06-12 14:49:46
Private Message to Toshenka

Brother,

Wish to tell you in person but this after-noon will be a poor forum for it, and yet you need to know before you see us: Our Lord's temporary offer of clemency for Draco is contingent on this price: if he does not return to the fold, and provide us with any and all information regarding the sordid associations of his fall, then ... then I am to serve as his surrogate.

Bella brokered the deal. Cannot see any alternative. Our Lord's will be done.
It is almost easier to know exactly when the axe will fall. There is too much to do before that time but - it is my only choice.

No no no

It will not come to that. It will not.

But it may.

And if it does, so be it. I have been on borrowed time as it is.

What sort of father would I be, if I let them simply brand him traitor and degenerate, without attempting an opportunity for his reform?
2014-06-11 23:57:00
Private Message to Auror Rachel Lamont

With everything that has transpired this week, forgot to mention to you: Rabastan's private service is to-morrow.

Trust you understand.

Would like to meet, however, sometime soon. Much to discuss. May not be able to get away much in the next few days but my diary has been more-or-less cleared for the family crisis.

Say when.

alt_lucius

2014-06-12 15:09:42
(no subject)

Oh, of course. I understand.

I'd also like to meet. Sooner rather than later, if that's possible, but I quite understand if ... your son's disappearance must be weighing on you heavily.

alt_rachel

2014-06-12 15:41:01
(no subject)

To-morrow, early, might do. Usually run the course at the Elysian at eight; can shift that back an hour if you would care to come along before you go in to your office.

alt_rachel

2014-06-12 16:20:26
(no subject)

Yes.

I'll see you then.
Congratulations again on learning the transformation. It'll certainly make your internship less of a gamble.

With that taken care of -- anything else worrying you? Questions I can answer?

---

Sorry. Maybe tomorrow?

Only, other things happened today, and I couldn't really think what to answer you.
Do you realise what you've done? What has happened because of this foolishness?

We're about to bury your uncle and your Father has agreed to follow him into the grave if you don't come home.

We've one chance to repair this - this disaster. Come home, Draco. If you really left on your own then COME HOME. Right this instant. Tell us everything, anything that will help your auntie and we can all be together again as a family.

Darling, Mother's heard all about the things that horrid little monster did to you, corrupting you, turning you to sympathise with her. It's not your fault, dearest. You're young and impressionable and it's not the first time something like this has happened.

But to run away under these circumstances is treason, Draco. Haven't we taught you better than that?

Please. Darling, I can't lose you and your Father both. Not like this. You've got to be strong, my son, and fight whatever it is that she's done to - to enthrall you. If Snape's told you lies, don't believe them.

Just come home. Lie to them if you have to, to let you go, or make your escape, and come back to us and then all will be forgiven.

Mother loves you so much.

You can't allow your Father to die, Draco, you simply - can't. No son of mine would do that.
Mother wrote.

My Father will be killed if I don't turn myself in.

What?
When?

Do you think they're bluffing? I mean, is there any possibility?

I don't think so.

Well, that's a ... shift.
I'm sorry, Draco. There's nothing you can do.

Actually. There is. I could turn myself in.
And trade your death for his? Or, knowing the Dark Lord's whims, and what he finds funny, add your death to his.

Say what else you might, your father loves you; I doubt he would want that to happen.

She said,

"We're about to bury your uncle and your Father has agreed to follow him into the grave if you don't come home."

So Father made a deal with the Lord Protector. He does want this to happen.

I see.

Rachel, please find out whatever you can so that we can make a fully informed decision.

I'm going to see Lucius tomorrow. I'll see what I can find out.
If he has made a deal, then it is even more certain he is willing.

Stop it. You're trying to manipulate me. So is she. Everyone just wants what they care about to be protected. Fuck what I care about. Stay here and he dies, go home and he dies.

Just decide for me. I don't care. And if I did, fuck what I care about.

I will never apologise for wanting to protect you.

Right. I'm back at Moddey.

I trust you'll let me know when I'd be more of a help than a hindrance. You know my position, and can certainly speak with the confidence that you'll have my support.

I'm coming over right away. We'll start talking options, but I don't want to settle on anything until we know more specifics.

Draco, I know that your family's well-being is something you
care about more than almost anything. I know it has been
difficult to leave them, and I know that your first impulse is to do
whatever you can to help your father.

You understand that we'll have to talk through all of your
options, but I'm willing to listen to what you want to accomplish,
and sort out whether it is feasible. Know that I am concerned
about security, yes, but that I am also concerned about your own
safety, and believe me, Draco, I would not willingly have you
throw yourself to the wolves.

alt_draco at 2014-06-12 17:02:15
Re: Private Message to Draco
Stop writing to me. Stop.
You're just a liar. Everyone here is a liar.

alt_alice at 2014-06-12 17:15:25
Re: Private Message to Draco
Draco. I will be coming over.
You can talk to me, or yell, or sit there and not
say a word, but what I would prefer is if we
have a conversation about what you want, and whether we can
accomplish it. You are not a prisoner. I will not have you
continue to serve the Order at a price you are unwilling to pay.
You do have choices, although they will be difficult, and our job
right now is to sit down and sort those choices out.

We do not know the details fully beyond your mother's
information, which could have been exaggerated due to her
emotional state. Furthermore, I am not convinced that you are
prepared at the moment to make a permanent decision. It can
wait until we learn more. However, you deserve to be heard,
and I would like to hear you, if you'll have me.
Snape's right, Draco.

Either Hermione's right and this is some sort of bluff, and they mean to capture you and torture you until you break, or this is the absolute truth and your father's sold himself for a chance that you're willing to come back and deliberately betray all of us, put his life above the whole revolution.

And either way, there's every reason to think that they would double-cross you as soon as you walk into MLE's hands. Use Veritaserum and Legilimency and any other tactic they can to make certain they've plundered your thoughts and memories completely.

We could Obliviate you but we'd have to do so so completely you would hardly be yourself anymore.

I'm truly sorry, Draco. There's nothing you can do.

So Obliviate me.

There's no way to do it that wouldn't leave traces. Especially when the memories are extensive.

Memory charms can be broken with cruciatus. Don't think for a minute they'd spare you that. It takes a long time. You would, however, still be able to answer their questions when they were done.
Fuck off and spread your legs, whore.

I can see what I can do on my end of things. I can talk to Professor Dolohov about how much I could push things.

We could return Draco's body. I don't mean actually killing Draco. Polyjuice someone, kill them, leave the body on the doorstep of Buckingham. It might buy some sort of clemency.

Could it fool them, though? Would they be able to sort it out? I'd imagine they'd suspect it to be a fake.

There'd be no way to tell, with a body. (With a living person it's rather easy to sort out if you know to look, but a body is going to be indistinguishable.) If we kidnap someone high profile to provide the corpse it'll be more suspicious, however. Shame Strangeweale is already dead, this would've been a good use for him.
So they couldn't turn it back, then. Like even if they thought it could be a fake.

I mean -- not, I think, that anyone would suggest this -- providing Draco's real body would be just as suspicious. And still indistinguishable.

Right.

That's not Right. Point.

Still preferable to providing the living article, though.

Please reassure me you are not under any circumstances going to let him go back. I have seen Truncheon's results. It's very unlikely that anyone in the Order could cast a memory charm powerful enough that Truncheon couldn't break it. It's completely outside the realm of possibility that he would not try. The best-case scenario if he goes back is that he's tortured into madness without giving us away.

If Draco insists on returning, he can't do it alive.
alt_alice at 2014-06-12 18:00:08
Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

Understood.

He has to realise it isn't possible.

I think he's an intelligent enough person to have already come to that conclusion, despite his current state.

So it's just a matter of letting him process it, and then we can talk about our other options.

Once he gets round to actually opening the door, that is.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-12 18:11:08
Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

Kidnapping Lucius and Narcissa would be extremely difficult and holding them prisoner even more so.

I might be able to put Lucius into a vulnerable position and let the Order know when to show up, but I don't have any sort of access to Narcissa, and MLE keeps an eye on her -- not ordinarily because she's a hostage, mind you, but simply because she's the wife of a powerful man. And we would need to take them both before either were missed -- I don't think Draco would thank us for saving Lucius, if Narcissa paid the price.

You'd have to take them to Saltash. Even that might not be enough.

alt_alice at 2014-06-12 18:17:44
Re: Private message to Alice Longbottom

Yes.

Believe me.

I know.

I will be careful not to raise false hopes.
But I cannot exclude it as an option. A difficult, costly, and dangerous option, yes, but something we can work through that doesn't involve killing Draco, or turning him over for torture, which are both unacceptable.

Turning over a body in his place also has a great deal of merit.

It's a good idea, Rachel. And it might work, if Draco weren't the product of two of the oldest pureblood families still in existence in Britain.

They'll have a tapestry. Narcissa will have a portrait, maybe more than one. There are ways they can check to determine if he's really dead - and while Narcissa might not have been sure in the case of my brother, or may not have wanted to call attention to the lack of a death date, she'll certainly avail herself of every possible hope of life in Draco's case.

And Bellatrix knows that.

Magical portraits have been known to fail. That won't mean anything.

The tapestry is harder. Where is it kept? Malfoy Manor?

Perhaps, if they're painted by someone who doesn't really know the trade.

Can you see Narcissa Black Malfoy paying for anything less than the best quality?
certainly be on the Malfoy one. He might be on the Lestrange one (I've no idea - Hydra, do you know?); I don't think he'd be on the Jugson one. And, of course, he's on the Black tapestry here but that wouldn't matter. I don't think my Aunt Druella has a duplicate, at least I don't recall ever having seen it. In any case, this one would be the master, if she did have a slave, so we could, if necessary, change it here to make the other change. But then, if it's not the same we'd have no way to reconcile the differences.

There are potential complications but the Malfoy tapestry's probably the biggest threat.

And any portraits she has.

**alt_hydra at 2014-06-12 22:33:45**  
(no subject)

He is on the Malfoy one. He's not on the Lestrange tapestry; it only includes Lestranges and those who married Lestranges, and then their offspring. So I'm on it, but not Draco. Other than that he ought to only be on the Black tapestry.

**alt_rachel at 2014-06-13 04:02:03**  
(no subject)

What will Lucius and Narcissa do if they know Draco is alive, but MLE thinks he's dead?

You can blast people off those tapestries. In fact, it's rather an essential part of that whole tradition.

**alt_hydra at 2014-06-13 04:15:42**  
(no subject)

I can't know what they will do.
Oh.
That's awful.

You're just going to let Lucius die, aren't you?

I was going to come over today, but it looks like there are other things that've come up.
So I'll just be over at the shop, then.

It can wait.

Can we kidnap Draco's parents and send them away somehow? So they'll be safe?

That would be difficult, but not impossible.
Kingsley used deer, that time. To make them look like people. We could do that. Make them look like the Malfoys killed themselves.

And they could go to Saltash with Otto Strangeweale.

---

Private message to Hermione Granger and Alice Longbottom

No. Not bodies.

If we do this, we should make it look as incriminating as possible. Make it look like Lucius and Narcissa were both traitors -- secret, unwilling traitors, maybe blackmailed into it through their love for their son. The worse we can make it look for them, the better -- as long as we can get them both away.

If they're fugitives who will be killed on sight by MLE, they'll be less eager to escape from us.

---

Re: Private message to Hermione Granger and Alice Longbottom

Yes.

I can see how that would be a careful path to walk, but certainly possible.

We could try to link them to the Archive destruction. Plant correspondence from Severus and Draco.
Hullo.

I'm not going to ask if you're alright, and I'm not going to tell you it will be alright.

This is the worst thing that's ever happened to you, and it's happened less than a week after the other worst thing that's ever happened to you. This is the most helpless, terrified, and small that you have ever felt. All you thought you could withstand, all the tests you've gone through, none of it prepared you for this horrible weight.

If I were with you, I'd be able to feel it. I'd take some of it away, if I could, if it would help. I'm not the only one who would do that for you, either.

I love your parents. Uncle Lucius - well, not the way Pansy loves him, but he's been in my life since I can remember. And your mother is, in some ways, the only mother I've ever known. I don't want bad things to happen to them.

But when I joined the Order, I had to accept bad things. I knew that I might have to fight your parents, and mine, see them arrested, see them killed. Maybe even kill them myself. And I was ready - I am ready. But maybe you thought you were ready, too.

Bad things have been here all along, we've never been able to hide from them, and I don't think we can never really be ready for them, either... You must have felt so safe, with love like your parents'. They told you everything - the whole world - would be yours. I wish they had told you the truth.

The whole world can still be ours, but it won't come without a price. Just like your parents' love didn't come without a price. They would never accept the son they have now, if they knew him like I do. They wouldn't accept me. But that's not my fault, and it's not yours. They made their choices long ago, and you and I made different ones.

I know some people think I joined the Order for Justin. I didn't. I did it for me.
Don't worry about what the Order wants, and don't worry about what your parents want. What do you want for yourself, and what inside yourself do you hold most dearly?

Hold on to that. I promise that tomorrow, you'll still have it.
Rachel.

I saw Draco's entry, and the various responses.

All of them. I'm sorry. Anyway, I knew better than to stick my own wand in.

Lucius Malfoy is a Merlin, that poor kid.

I also saw that Lucius has written to you. I assume you're going to try to see him soon; we obviously need information.

But if you can't see him tonight and you need or want to come around-or even if it's afterwards-- you'd be welcome. I can help you let go of your worries in the usual way, or discuss things with you clinically or put up muffling charms so you can yell anything you want. I can serve you curry or scrambled eggs. Or I can give you tea and just hold you if you want silence.

Come by as late as you wish. My sleep schedule is completely out of whack anyway. And that's what potions are for.

Or not if it doesn't feel right. Not a demand, you understand. Simply your choice.

I'm going to see him tomorrow. Lucius, I mean. Early.

I don't know if he intends to tell me what's going on or if he just wants to blot out all thought. Probably both.

There are only a handful of people in the world who really care about Lucius. Draco and Pansy are two of them. It's a bit ironic they're both in a group sworn to bring down everything he stands for.
This was probably inevitable.

Yes, it probably was. And he's clever enough that he knew it perfectly well, too.

But knowing something is coming doesn't make it any easier when it finally arrives.

It sounds as though Severus has the best handle on how to approach him. I hope Draco listens to him.

No, that's probably true. About it not being any easier, I mean.

Well, and Severus being the best one to talk to him.

Oh and yeah, tonight.

Eggs with a side of fucking each other senseless sounds about like about what I'm in the mood for.

Happy to oblige.
I asked Kreacher and he made some roast beef. With mash and gravy. I've brought you a plate.

Will you let me in?

I promise we don't have to talk.
**2014-06-12 17:57:00**

**ORDER ONLY**

I talked to Professor Dolohov about setting up a meeting, and he said we could get together tomorrow. I'm going to see what I can find out about the investigation and the deal Mr Malfoy has made, and if there's anything I can do about it, and what sort of position he thinks I should take. Dolohov's usually pretty good about telling me where the lines are, even if it's put in a sideways sort of way sometimes.

I'm also going to talk to him about having him supervise our duelling group, and see if he'd be up for it. I think that might be the best way to handle it. Is everyone okay with that?

When are we meeting up? What else can I be doing right now?

---

**alt_harry** at **2014-06-13 01:33:45**

*Private Message to Hydra*

How're you getting on, then?

I was thinking we could head out sometime this weekend just to get out for a bit, you know, even if Draco and Hermione aren't up for seeing us. We could just go for a walk or something.

It's been

You've been really great, you know. These last few days. Keeping my head on straight and all.

Did you read your letter yet?

---

**alt_hydra** at **2014-06-13 03:46:18**

*Re: Private Message to Hydra*

Getting on, as always.

Of course we can get out for a bit. I assumed that we would. And, Draco and Hermione.. they know we're waiting for them when they're ready. That's all we can do.
I didn't do anything to keep your head on, you did that all yourself. I know sometimes it might feel like you'll fall to pieces, but don't worry - you won't. Draco won't either. Hermione definitely won't.

I haven't read it yet. I'll know when the time is right.

![alt_harry at 2014-06-13 04:19:01](Re: Private Message to Hydra)

Yeah. You're right.

It's either keep going or give up. And I think we're all too stubborn to give up. Not after everything that's happened.

He said I should find my friends and hold them close, find someone who will love me for who I am, and make the world a better place.

And he said he was glad that Draco had my back and I had his.

And he called me son.

Anyways. I've still got Draco's back. And he's got mine. And I figure I've got some pretty good friends, and that's what we're trying to do.

I don't guess he would've understood my version of what a better world looks like. He might've someday. Maybe. I don't know.

![alt_harry at 2014-06-13 04:21:44](Re: Private Message to Hydra)

Oh. And Pans offered to have us come over. I think Justin's staying there right now, so we don't have to go if you don't want.

We could just go to a park or something.
alt_hydra at 2014-06-13 04:30:39
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Not just too stubborn. If we gave up, there'd be nothing left, for some of us.

Raz gave you good advice. He always had lots of that for us, but none for himself, it seems.

And I'll come along to Pansy's. I'd like to see everyone.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 04:50:47
Re: Private Message to Hydra

Okay.

I would too.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 01:44:45
Private Message to Draco

Whatever you want to do, I'll help you do it.

Even if

No matter what.

You've got me.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 03:00:27
Private Message to Pansy

Hey.

You okay?

alt_pansy at 2014-06-13 03:08:58
Re: Private Message to Pansy

Sort of.

When I don't think about things too hard.
I suppose it helps that not everyone is immediately assuming that Lucius has to die as part of this. Or that he ought to.

And it also helps that people are being rather insistent on not treating me like I'm going to go spare.

And it's rather nice to be home.

You?

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 03:18:12
Re: Private Message to Pansy

Good.

That's good to hear.

And you went spare for like two hours after spending five months around a really badly cursed object. And then you snapped out of it and destroyed it. I think that's pretty impressive.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-13 03:25:34
Re: Private Message to Pansy

Oh, Harry. It was more of a gradual descent. Trust me. I just did a very good job of hiding it.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-13 03:25:48
Re: Private Message to Pansy

And don't think you're getting out of answering my question.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 03:29:53
Re: Private Message to Pansy

You can sort that out well enough.
@alt_pansy at 2014-06-13 03:33:15
Re: Private Message to Pansy

I can.
You don't have to do *everything*, you know.
And you aren't alone.
Don't get all idiotic and self-sacrificing on us.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-13 03:38:29
Re: Private Message to Pansy

Yeah.
Well.
I'll see what I can do. No promises. Bloody Gryffindor, remember?

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-13 03:41:32
Re: Private Message to Pansy

The Gryffindoriest Gryffindor to ever end up in Slytherin.

You can always swing by here, you know, if you want some company over the weekend. Justin and Ron will be around until Monday or so, and I'm sure no-one would take objection.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-13 03:42:59
Re: Private Message to Pansy

I'll see if I can manage it.
Thanks.
**alt_hermione** at 2014-06-13 04:47:43  
*Private Message to Harry*

He's getting better.

We both are.

I hope today wasn't too hard for you.

You should ask Professor Dumbledore if he can get to the Sword of Gryffindor, or if anyone can get into Headmistress McGonagall's London town house. There are probably things there we should rescue.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-13 05:01:49  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

Good.

That's good.

There were letters. I think he updated them every few months or so, because mine was written after I broke it off with Katie. I could tell.

So it was sort of like saying good bye.

There was one for Draco but Mr and Mrs Malfoy took it.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-13 05:03:33  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

And yeah.

Good idea.

I'll pass it on.

---

**alt_hermione** at 2014-06-13 05:05:13  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

That's all right. It's not anything he needs right now.
What Hydra wrote helped. But that doesn't mean he's ready yet, just--the dam broke.

For both of us, I guess. But he's lost more and hasn't even realised how much.

He knows you're worried. We both know it. Just, give us more time. Okay?

You'll figure things out, Harry.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 05:14:31
Re: Private Message to Harry

Okay.

Whatever you need, you've got it.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 05:09:16
Private Message to Mr Dumbledore and Mrs Longbottom

I know you're thinking about the book and all, but someone should probably go to Headmistress McGonagall's house too.

We need to track down Umbridge. She might be there. Her plate, I mean. And there might be other stuff there too.

And we ought to see if we can get to the Sword of Gryffindor.

alt_alice at 2014-06-13 05:26:12
Re: Private Message to Mr Dumbledore and Mrs Longbottom

Yes.

We should.

I'll see what we can pull together.
The Sword, I have. And several other items from Minerva's office.

The book, alas, must remain, but Pomona hid it well, and I improved on her plan.

I saw no sign of the plate.

Alice, I will be done here this afternoon, and we can then pursue the question of the memory.
2014-06-12 21:55:00
Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

I trust you've made it to your quiet cottage and are beginning to settle in a bit. If you haven't found it, there should be a basket there somewhere from Pomona and me--hopefully the elf left it in a place you'd easily see it. I'm sure the Guild provided some welcome supplies for you, or I hope they did, but we wanted to be sure you'd have something to nibble on until you've had a chance to order in your own provisions.

You'll find I've tweaked the formulation for the Small Mercies syrup; I'm hopeful it will serve you better in this iteration.

On another topic altogether: is there someone you could turn to for help managing your post for a bit? I couldn't help but notice that there were an extraordinary number of owls disappointed to miss you this morning. I imagine you are being rather snowed under by people expressing their sympathies.

I doubt I'm the one to help with private correspondence, but do know that if there is anything I could do, I'd be most happy to oblige.

Please give my regards to your mother. I understood she might be with you this evening. Tell her I hope we might find time for another lunch sometime soon.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 12:59:06 (no subject)

The basket, thank you. Both.

Mum would be glad to see you, she says, and she'll owl about days once she's seen what's changed at work. Temp's coming tonight, to help me sort through food more.

You remember my clerk for the YPL, Felix Green? Note turned up from him, soon as he heard, to help with the post. I think there's awful bits, in with the kind ones. They won't tell me what.

Going to write something more public, in a bit. Spent time figuring out how, the last few days.
Oh, excellent. I always liked Mr Green. I'm very glad he's risen to the occasion now.

Try not to give much energy to wondering what people might say. If there are awful bits, they come from awful people and are entirely more about them than about anything you or Rabastan have done or not done in your time.

I thought your public message perfect for the occasion. Now I hope you can turn to other things--stars and books and pleasant walks, favourite foods, the companionship of wise cats, and relaxation the term never affords.

I believe the first time I'll have business out your way will be Saturday, a week. I am, however, always a mere apparition hop away and most pleased to come if needed. The Floo address for Igtham Mote is on a card in your basket, as well as for The Moated Grange at Abbots Bromley. I'll keep you up to date on where I'll be--I always think it a good idea that someone knows. Just in case, you see.

As ever, my dear.  
Poppy

It took a long time to get it right. The public part. Taking out the bits I shouldn't say.

You're right about the post. And it's not like that part's new. People saying awful things.

Next Saturday, then. You tell such good stories about your travels. And I will say, if you can help.
Oh. I should say, too. The potion, for the charm backlash. I do think it's helping. A bit.

Good thing I like music. Mum said that was the trouble, with Grandmum Hebe. Getting her to listen as long as you're supposed to.

It is an extremely unusual set of requirements for that potion, is it not? I'm glad you're finding the music suited to you. I'm not surprised, really, now I think of it. I expect it reaches you on several levels, including intellectual ones about rhythm and time, order and the spheres--in addition to the usual, aesthetic ones.

It's also important to observe that potion's hours and specified dosage shifts, but stick to the chart, and you'll be fine. You may find that there's some variation in its effects and effectiveness throughout the month. If you feel uncomfortable at any point or as though it's under- or over-performing, we may be able to adjust it a bit and make a meaningful difference for you.

Such an odd set, yeah.

I like music. Don't play or sing myself, but Alde introduced me to a lot, and other people later. (Not a place Raz and I overlapped much, actually.)

I keep sort of losing track of time, but Storm's writing a note every day for me to check in. To help. I'm keeping notes on how I feel, too.
Draco let me read what you wrote.

It helped. More than anything else has done, so far, I think.

He'd been listening to records from Sirius's old room and we were starting to be able to look at one another, before he got the note from his mother. And then he locked himself in his room all day. I was going to sit outside and try to get to him, but Mr Snape decided to put a chair in the corridor. Finally I got Kreacher to make roast beef and mash--his favourite, you know--and then he let me in. I put on one of the records (It was called 'Queen' and mostly I chose it because the first song was called 'Keep yourself alive') and we were sitting there listening and not talking. Which is really all we did last night, too, only this time I had a book to read so he wouldn't feel awkward.

And then you wrote to him. And he...well, it helped. And he showed it to me and then.... Remember when we talked? And you said you'd been afraid to let yourself feel because you feared you'd never be able to stop?

Well, he let himself feel. So did I. And it sort of flooded over for a little while. But then we both noticed the record had stopped.

And then he ate loads of pie. And vommed it (which was almost funny but I didn't dare laugh. Mostly I was just happy he tried eating anything).

So.

Thank you. I'm so glad you're in the Order, Hydra. Truly.

I'm so glad to know you.
Oh, good. I was worried, I worked so long on it, you see.

I knew he must be doing badly. Anyone would be. But I knew it would be very bad for him, because he isn't like you and I, Hermione. Most people aren't. Most people have never been truly alone. And Draco's always had Harry and his parents.

But you're welcome. I'm glad to know you, too, and to have you as a friend.

The image of him listening to muggle music in 12 Grimmauld while shoving pie in his face almost makes me smile. Until I remember he has nowhere else to go.

But, he'll figure out where to go in time. So will you. What do you think you'll do next, Hermione? Or is it too soon to ask?

Well, it was just the right thing.

I'm not sure what either of us will do. He went to see Moddey and Sherwood but neither of those are really a good fit for him, especially not right now. He might eventually grow to like Moddey but I think it would be hard for him not to compare it all the time to what he used to have. I've been to Moddey loads of times. I think I'd like to see Sherwood, it sounds like they might have a different group, and not so many children. Of course, the most useful thing I could do would be to go to Moddey and teach Potions with Sirius. Or maybe Mr Snape will take that on, now that he's not able to go on at Hogwarts.

But I'm not sure I can--it's not his fault. I know it's not his fault. I know Professor Mcgon--I know she was already really hurt, and that she was terribly ill. And that she asked him to do it. But he didn't have to just because she asked him. She could have come with him. We could have helped her.

So I'm not sure I can stand to look at Mr Snape for any length of
time right now. It was so hard last night just to get him to go away from Draco's door.

Which means I'll probably never really master Potioneering.

But I can teach, and that would free Mr Snape for more important research. And it would mean Sirius isn't stuck doing it, because I don't think he likes it much. Maybe I can divide my time between Moddsey and Grimmauld's library.

I'm not really sure what else I can do, without a wand.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-13 17:02:18
(no subject)

I think you should stop worrying about being useful, and just do what you want for a while. I realise that might go against your very nature, to do something that's not useful, but it might be good for you?

Don't look at Mr Snape until you want to. If you're not ready, you're not ready. But I do think it's too early to rule out Potioneering.

Surely they will prioritise getting you a wand? I know they need them for others, but you're already brilliant at magic. It would be more worthwhile for you to have one, rather than someone just starting out.

alt_hermione at 2014-06-13 17:33:25
(no subject)

I don't know what they'll do about a wand. Jeremy offered the one he captured but--well, it belonged to Mr Nott. Teddy's father, you know, and--no. Just...no.

And I don't know about the rest. I'm taking care of myself, honestly, but mostly I've been more focused on Draco because, well, like you said, he's lost ever so much more. In a way, I've gained something, because now I'm free to do as much magic as I like, wherever I like, whenever I like. And part of me knows that it's worth the price I paid. I mean, a finger isn't much. It hurts but
that's just pain.

The other thing about Sherwood is that Terry's there. And Terry... Things with Terry could get very complicated really quickly if I'm not careful. I know he means well. And for the longest time, he was my only friend, the only person like me, who thought the same things. But now, sometimes, I wonder if he'll ever be a whole person. If what Carrow did to him made him so he can't--he still thinks of himself as lowly, and deep down he still has this notion that I'm the only one who understands because for a long time, I was the only person he had who was like him. Only, I've never been exactly like him. Maybe for a while, I came close. But ultimately, he loves the thought of us together because, I think, he sees it as proper for two mudbloods to be together.

Draco has some funny ideas about me, too, but at least none of them were because he thought of me as his mirror, his idol and his muse all wrapped up together.

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-13 17:48:57
(no subject)

They should get you a wand.

I think Draco's gained something, too. He just doesn't know it yet. I mean, I don't know what he's gained, either, but he'll have to figure that out for himself. What he's gained isn't as readily apparent as what you've gained. That's why I said you should do what you want for a while, just to feel what it's like.

It's odd to think that you and my mother are missing the same finger.

I still feel like I don't know Terry very well. He's very polite, but his presence is never...strong. And the ones who seem to know him best, like the twins, have a very protective relationship with him. He might see you as the only person he could have some kind of equal relationship with, but just because you're both muggleborns who've suffered doesn't make you the same.

I've never had the impression that Draco believed the two of you should be together. He thought it was impossible. I do think there was some idealisation there because it's hard not to
idealise someone you like who you know you can never be with.

Only now. Well, you could be. Together, I mean. Is he even thinking about that at all, though? Even if he is, it doesn't mean you're interested.

@alt_hermione at 2014-06-13 18:03:46
(no subject)

They may not have any to spare, though. I wouldn't want to take a wand away from someone just because I can do more with it.

I think Draco will realise he's gained some kind of freedom, too. He's always had to put on a public face, even when it was what he believed he was meant to do. He's grown up knowing that his parents had high expectations. Now he doesn't have to live up to any of that.

But it makes sense that for a long time, he'll feel like that's more failure than success.

And yes, that's just it about Terry. Just because we're both muggleborn, that doesn't mean we're meant to be together. Or that we have the same thoughts. (Cedric asked me a while ago, how to talk to the muggleborn that his parents use as a nanny, and I had to tell him that he just has to treat her like a person and find out how she wants to be talked to, because I can't just tell him how she feels any more than I could tell him about any stranger.)

No, Draco hoped to keep his feelings completely hidden, forever, because he thought it would be impossible and unfair and that it would put undue pressure on me to return his affections. I guess I showed him when I told him no, right off, didn't I?

I...I don't think that's a good idea. Right now. That's not--I mean. I don't know how I feel now. In some ways, it would be easy to start kissing him and take comfort from each other that way. I think people do that when they're grieving. (I think Sirius and Remus might have done that in Sirius's old room a couple of days ago. But don't tell Draco or he'll probably never want to go in there ever again, ha.)
But right now, I think it's good that we can just be close without being...er, romantic. Because I can't be sure that I'm not just wanting out of need, and feeling out of pity.

I think that makes sense.

alt_hydra at 2014-06-13 18:44:19
(no subject)

I suppose I'm grateful I didn't know Justin was muggleborn when I met him. We'd have been attracted to each other but knowing it was illegal would have made it so much more dramatic and tumultuous. We would've probably done something stupid - more stupid than what we've already done, I mean. As it was, he was just an English boy from France who, for some reason, liked to talk to me.

And Draco, I guess you did show him... except, what did you show him? I suppose you lost me there.

Don't snog him. He hasn't tried, has he? Because, yes, people do that when they're grieving sometimes. It's not necessarily a bad thing, especially when two people are already a couple and have been for a while, but I don't know... I'm worried that you two would never be able to stand on your own again, somehow, if you did that now. Or yes, you might realise later that you were acting out of pity, and when you eventually have to turn him away, it will ruin your friendship.

It's hard for me, too, to not give in to that sort of comfort. On Saturday night, after everything happened, I made Harry stand out in the corridor while I snuck into the Hospital Wing. I thought Justin would be sleeping, but he wasn't. We snogged for a few minutes and it was wonderful, but also awful, because I had to pull myself away and walk away alone. And now the progress we've made on being apart is all for nothing.
I meant that Draco was afraid I'd think I had to return his feelings, because he's pureblood and I would have to take his overture as an order. And I showed him that I clearly didn't think that when I told him right away that I wasn't attracted to him.

And no, he hasn't tried. I think that was the furthest thing from his mind, last night. We...we held each other but it wasn't like that at all. Neither of us made any kind of move like that.

Yes. It's hard to even think about seeing all of you. Any of you. I mean, it's easier to write in the journals than think about being with everyone. Even Draco, at first, we just wrote to each other. And sometimes I think maybe we should just go find some abandoned place together and stay there alone, because no one else could understand, and we'd have to explain and people will expect us to talk about what happened. And I know I would rather just move on. And I think he would, too. But it's hard to do that when so many people are trying to be supportive.

But then, I think, if we started down that road, how much harder would it be to ever let anyone else in. We might only have this twisted, false sort of affection. Love, I guess, but--not the way you and Justin love each other. It would be more...depending on each other, I suppose.

I'm sorry you feel like you and Justin took a step backwards. You must have both been really relieved to see each other, though, and know that you were both all right.

How's Harry? He's been really worried about us, I know. But it also seems like he feels lost. I know he cared about Professor Lestrange and he must feel really odd knowing that Mr Malfoy's going to be killed. I wish I could do more for him but--well, like I said. It's hard to talk to people who can't know how all of this feels.
He might've worried you'd feel obligated on one level, but then on another I think he knows you wouldn't do something (for him) unless you really wanted to.

Yes, I suppose that's what I meant. That you and Draco would get wrapped up in each other out of neediness, and then you'd never be able to heal or really move on.

It's not a complete slide back, with Justin. But it's definitely a bump. I'm not sorry it happened, and I don't think it would have, if we'd not both needed it, but we can't let it pull us back into old patterns.

Harry's trying. It hasn't been easy. Like most people, he hates feeling helpless. He wants to be able to do something.

Is it hard to talk to me? You seem to be doing alright.

It's easier to talk to you through the journals than in person. And it's not easy to talk to Harry just yet.

But it will get easier.

And I'm further along than Draco. But neither of us is ready for a big group.

I understand. And I'll remind the others of that, if I need to.
My thanks to those who have shared their sincere regrets for my husband’s death. And to those who have been so helpful to me at an extremely difficult time.

My husband was many things in his life. His becoming a teacher surprised many who knew him, but he took to it so well. The stars in my life the past days have been his students telling me they appreciated both what he taught, and how he taught it. I wish we'd all had so many more years of him - his laugh, his gift for the right thing to say, his explanations, his many skills. His everything.

Many people have asked about my future plans. I'm somewhere I can rest, and think, and remember. My brother Storm will be handling most details and correspondence for now. Thank you for understanding.

---

**alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 14:34:25**

*Private message to Harry*

It's very quiet here. Finally. Good and bad that. My mum just left.

I haven't read his letter yet. I'm waiting until tomorrow. I think.

The thing I'm holding onto is how he thought about this. Us going on after. Wanting to take care of us both. I keep finding ways he did that.

You managing?

---

**alt_harry at 2014-06-13 18:01:52**

*Re: Private message to Harry*

Yeah.

I know what you mean. About his taking care.
I'm spending the day with people I can be around and not have to think. Which is nice.

If it gets too quiet I can stop by whenever. Just let me know.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 18:16:35
Re: Private message to Harry

Early next week, maybe? Unless you want, sooner.

They made sure someone's coming to have supper, every night. My brother and all. So not entirely alone on my own.

Same kind of people. Where I don't have to think. Or bite my tongue.

It's good you've got that too.

alt_harry at 2014-06-13 18:28:56
Re: Private message to Harry

Yeah.

Storm? I should start keeping. He seemed like a good person to have around.

Early next week is good.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 19:33:28
Re: Private message to Harry

There's rather a lot of us. Raz - Raz needed a playbook for them too. And I don't think you've ever heard it all straight out.

There's my mum and dad. They work at the Ministry, Mum in education (she does pamphlets and things about food, mostly) and Dad in accounting. They live near Windemere, an old farmhouse. All orchards and hills and the lake, of course.

Then there's seven of us, and I'm in the middle. And they all love me, and I know that, but I was always sort of the odd one out,
Di and her Chiron live near Mum and Dad. They've got seven kids too. Andie was a third year, this year, Hufflepuff, like most of us. Dal was a firstie, and he's a Ravenclaw like his dad. Chiron works for Internal Affairs. Di and I didn't used to get on, but we've both been working hard on it, the last year or so. Since the wedding.

Orion, that's my next brother, works for Mysteries. He gets lost in work a lot, and comes up for air every bit and then grumbles at missing things.

Storm is the one I'm closest to. He and his wife, Dittany (she was there yesterday) have a daughter a bit younger than Rigel. He makes things out of wood, they live in Ilkley. He's just calm and quiet and practical. Tosha was so clever, asking him to come stay.

And then Sage works for one of the publishers, editing books. Temp is learning to be a real chef (she's worked a whole bunch of places in New London, working her way up.) And my youngest brother Theo, he's still sort of figuring out what he wants. He left school the year I started teaching, so it's taking a while. They all live in New London, in different flats.

Um. We all have proper names, really. But in the family, it's nicknames. They call me Ri, or Auri.

I've a bunch of aunts and uncles, but the two who were there yesterday, I see them more than the rest. Aunt Gera's really a cousin (she's Dad's sister's second daughter) but she's the same age as Mum, and they've been best friends since school. And my cousin Mel is a healer, and just funny and easy to be around.

I can see why he'd want a playbook.

They sound like a handful. In a good way.

Andie's the one who got lost, isn't she? I thought she was a cousin of yours or something.
In a good way. And we do pull together, when something goes wrong. This week. Dad getting sick, a while back. He's fine now, but certain kinds of stupid working too hard run in the family. Other things.

(Some of my aunts though. Couple of them can be very opinionated. Stubborn.)

Andie's the one, the CCF thing. Ugh. Still feel cold thinking about it.

She didn't want to make too much fuss about how we're related, though I think most of the sett knows now. I have her and Dal up for tea, sometimes, but mostly it's lending her books, and passing on care packages from Mum.

Mum asked, you know. About you. A bit.

I have an awful lot of cousins. We are not getting into my cousins without a lot of provisions, a blackboard, and an evening we're both horribly bored.

I think that might take a while, yeah?

Fair enough.
Re: Private message to Harry

I think I'm going to try closing my eyes for a bit. If that's okay.

Have a notifico on. If you need anything.

Re: Private message to Harry

Okay.

Same for you, yeah?

Private message to Tosha

Toshenka -

So you don't worry more than you need. I'm settled well enough.

You have other worries. I could see that much.

You were such a help. All through. Despite everything.

Re: Private message to Tosha

Dear heart, it does not matter how many other concerns I have to juggle; at a time like this I will do everything I can to bring you whatever ease is possible.

If the protections on the cottage are not enough to quiet the unsettled ape in the back of your mind, just say the word and I will come back and add more. And if you need -- or even want -- me to come and sleep on your couch again, you do not need to worry about what time it is, or about disturbing my sleep. If I am free, I will come.
I love you, my sister; if I can ease even the smallest portion of your burden throughout this difficult time, I will.

**alt_sinistra** at 2014-06-13 19:47:59  
*Re: Private message to Tosha*

Toshenka -

Have I said how good it is to know you? Recently? Enough? That you're here, and not out there. All your help and your care. And - and your love.

I am still very jumpy. I'm not sure more wards can fix it, though, you know? And I do sleep better when you're near. (You may even have the bed. It's a very nice couch. And not a bed. Right now that's a thing I need.)

Not all the time. I know you have other things. But if you need quiet, and want to be quiet here, maybe?

And I will ask. If it's urgent. I promise. And people are checking on me.

**alt_antonin** at 2014-06-13 23:48:26  
*Re: Private message to Tosha*

It is at times like this, dear heart, when one must honour the bonds of family wherever one might find them. For those of us who have not been blessed with abundant family-by-birth, it is even more vital to nurture the ties of family-by-choice. I am afraid I have chosen you, little star, and you shall simply have to put up with my being fraternal at you.

Which is to say, think nothing of asking even when it is not urgent. I am more than willing to juggle commitments as much as I must to give you as much as I can.

I can join you tonight, at least -- and at least you will not mind my late arrival -- and the remainder of the weekend is possible if not probable. Let me know if you would prefer that I wait for you to let me know you are finished with your observations for the evening, or if you would not mind my letting myself in.
alt_sinistra at 2014-06-14 00:10:44
Re: Private message to Tosha

Oh, Tosha. I cannot generally win an argument with you when I have all my wits and a head start. As I am very slow, and my mind very foggy, and I keep losing nouns, I should give up now.

Tonight, whenever you wish. Temp is fussing over food right now, but she needs to leave by about half-eight. I am so very tired. Even the garden is too far right now. I've been curled up on the couch, all day. With the fireplace going, and the cats, who like the fireplace. (Well, Canny, that's the elf who takes care of me here, got me to go have a bath so she could tidy.)

Tomorrow, Gilly's coming, for supper. And maybe stars. But the thing is

Raz's letter. I haven't read it yet. And I sort of maybe want to be with her, when I do. (I told you, the history, yes? My head right now.) And I don't know what it'll be like, after I read. I can guess at some of what he said, but not all of it. And she's known me all along, but - not him. And I think maybe that matters, for this.

She's not you, and you're not her, and I'm having problems with the orbital things. Can't make them sort out. Anyway. Tonight. And then Sunday, if you like. Suspect I'll want to tell you all about the letter.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 15:42:27
Private message to Cedric

Your note. Thank you.

Don't regret the training time at all. I didn't. He didn't. (Things that kept us apart, yes. Not ever that.) I wish we'd all had more time. For many many things.

This summer, do visit. The elf found you, right?

His things. I can't think about it now. I'll need to, but. A few weeks, at least. Some of it I need to do, but some - your help, yes, please. My magic's shaky, yet. It's making things difficult.
alt_cedric at 2014-06-15 03:21:01  
Re: Private message to Cedric

I'm sorry about not replying earlier. It's been a chaotic week.

I got something of a job offer. The Cannons clearly have confidence in my recovery and prospects so they have offered me a part time position on the practice squad. It's not enough to support me, but I'm working out a deal with Antosha to continue my current situation part time.

I'll definately be coming down for dinner when I can. It should be a reasonable fly down from my parents. Harry and I are talking about flying together when we can, so we might come down together some days.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-15 17:21:33  
Re: Private message to Cedric

You must be pleased. The offer.

Tosha said you'd been such a help. Marking things. And all year, really.

It's good flying around here. Views and things. Some interesting leys. And good for Harry to have someone to fly with.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-13 16:06:26  
Private message to Gilly

Gilly -

I miss him so much.

He left a letter. I want to read it, but. Not alone. And not with Harry.

Something someone said. Saturday was the night that was ours. Even when it was drinks and gossip and stupid student stories. (Not just. Never just.) It's going to be awful now. All of them.

How is it only six days. I can't - I'm losing track. Sunsets and dawns and the fixed stars in the wrong places.
Please come. Say you can, tomorrow.
Right. I saw Lucius this morning.

If Draco isn't found in the next fortnight, Lucius has agreed to 'answer for his crimes.' Lucius is assuming he'll die for them. That's not actually a guarantee. The most significant crime Draco was actually accused of was teaching Hermione Granger magic. The punishment for that has varied significantly over the years, ranging from death and being given to the Dementors, to Azkaban, to being re-classified as a mudblood and sent to the camps. Any of those are possibilities for Lucius, if he's truly going to be punished in his son's stead. It's possible that he's focused on death because he finds the other possibilities more terrifying. (I would personally prefer to die than receive a life sentence to Azkaban. But opinions on this differ.)

I thought a bit about what it would take to kidnap Lucius while he was distracted. This morning, while he was as distracted as he gets, really. It would be difficult. His wand is never out of reach, ever. It would take at least four, in addition to me, and you'd need to be prepared for him to use me as a shield (and not hesitate when he did). The room we meet in is warded to us -- I thought about whether there was a way I could do it myself, and I'm not sure it's possible. I'm fast, but he's faster.

There are problems with giving them a false body, like the tapestry. But if Lucius and Narcissa are the only ones who know it's not Draco, it'll be in their hands. They can blast Draco off the tapestry and lie, if they want to save Lucius. (Though, frankly, I don't think a verbal agreement with the Lord Protector is worth the parchment it's written on. He might be killed regardless of what Draco does.)

Also, they showed Lucius the letter Draco wrote.

He clearly thought it was real. And 'damning.' But, you know, youthful indiscretions and all that.
He thinks Draco's probably being held captive and the people holding him will be unwilling to let him go. Because, reasonably enough, a bunch of enemies of the state will see Lucius's death as an unexpected gift, not something to be avoided.

✉️ alt_alice at 2014-06-14 20:37:46  
(no subject)

We're still madly sorting out contingencies on our end, but this is all very useful.

If you can get away at all, let me know, and we can have an in-person ad hoc meeting with Severus.

Have I mentioned lately how incredibly relieved and grateful I am that you're a part of this, Rachel?
Need meeting with Reginald Helpmann, here or at Manor or Kensington, not at Ministry, at his earliest convenience. Tell him the topic is assembling a delegation for French Morocco. Must include witches and wizards fluent in French and Arabic.

Contact Gringott's. Will have a number of instructions for the goblins regarding access to the vaults and transfer of certain sums to Gringott's France.

Wizarding Wireless Network and *Daily Prophet* - will need meetings with Peale and Cuffe next week or week after next.

Boniface Caldecott should have current copy of my will. Have him look it over and make certain there is no way for the assets to be seized by the Protectorate. If that is impossible, have him transfer all deeds, titles, ownership, rights, etc. to Mrs Malfoy. Need meeting with him to review/revise current bequests and, if necessary, sign parchment for above transfer.

Contact Osiris Sinclair. Arrange private appointment for myself and Mrs Malfoy to decide on post-mortem options. *Private, Weasley*, meaning his parlour will be closed whilst we make our selections.

Shall be working from the Manor this after-noon.
Private Message to Harry Marvolo and Justin Finch-Fletchley

Say, mate. Justin and I've been looking at flats and we're thinking about going to this place called Bubble and Squeak for lunch after we're through here. D'you know it? Not far from the Ministry, up in Covent Garden. If you're not doing anything, why don't come meet us. Half-twelve, say?

We've got loads of stories to tell about looking for flats. Seriously! Ask us about the one where all the pipes had broken and they hadn't really fixed the ceilings or floors. Phew!

Or the one that only had one room and the toilets were down the corridor and shared with I don't know how many other people.

My favourite yesterday was the one in an ancient house that was mashed up under an old railway bridge and had a brothel right next door. Ask Justin how he could tell that's what it was.

Anywiz, we've got the one we wanted. On our way back to the agent's now to sign the parchmentwork. Maybe we can take you over after lunch and show you where it is. Much better than any of the ones yesterday. I think that agent was just trying to unload hopeless places on a couple of kids who wouldn't know better. I mean, this one Mum can come see. If she's ever got time to.

So, yeah. Meet us for lunch?

Yeah. That'd be nice.

I was going to pick up Hydra and go for a walk sometime today, maybe we can swing by there after?
Harry,

I say, it was jolly good to see you. I hope we were able to cheer you up a bit, what.

(And don't mind what Ron says, old man, he had just as much of a problem with the state of that place on Judd Street!)

-Justin

I like the new place. At least the outside.

And yeah, I think Ron'd get a howler or two if you went with that one.

Yeah, it was great you and Hydra came along.

You'll have to come when we're in the new place. Supper... or a chess or cards night or something.

That'd be ace.
alt_justin at 2014-06-14 01:45:04
Re: Order Only

Yes, indeed, we'll have to figure out which of us is the worst cook!
Called to Court, for private audience with Our Lord. I am to be honoured with the position of Headmaster, to ensure the ferreting out of the slightest scraps of heterodoxy and treason that may have crept in to the curriculum while His attention was elsewhere.

I am of course delighted for the chance to be of service and entirely certain I will be able to integrate the necessary work into my already complex schedule without difficulty. Possibly I will first need to develop new methods of control over space and time, but that shan't take more than a week or two, I imagine.

This is not yet public -- not that I think you will go telling tales out of turn, but I will need to handle matters with at least a modicum of delicacy. Step one: find a way to inform Septima Vector that she has been passed over for the position. Step two: hope she is not in league with Snape and decides to poison my tea.

I will almost certainly be spending the night at Auri's temporary refuge; she is still suffering the effects of the broken bond. If you are free tomorrow afternoon I am planning on an extensive library search for our other impossible task; I would welcome your company.

Honour upon honour. Indeed.

Suggest you do not drink the tea. Feign sipping.

Have news of my own new duties (assigned by Bella). Will share them tomorrow afternoon. Can think of nothing I'd rather do than join you in that research.

Will miss your company tonight. Accept, however, your obligation to the grieving astronomer.

Apologies.

Still entirely out of sorts with Raz for letting himself be out-duelled
by Nott. Dammit.

Truly, I am overwhelmed with delight at the honours I have been given. (All sarcasm aside, I am flattered, and I agree with Him there is no logical other choice, but it is most fortunate I have recovered my strength; I'm certain it will be rough for a year or two whilst I set matters in order. Ah, well. It will be an adventure.)

Vector was more resigned than anything else, but I will need to keep an eye on her; something about her seemed almost defeated. At least I need not fear the tea.

And you are not the only one who cannot believe Nott emerged victorious from that duel; I would not have thought that Raz, even distracted, could have lost against him. I have promised Auri that Nott's victory would not go unrewarded. She seemed to find the thought a consolation. (As to that, my thought is to give him several weeks before we call upon him. Not only will it allow him more time to think he has got away without retaliation, I rather think Auri will appreciate the sentiment more once she is no longer losing entire slices of time to the backlash syndrome.)

I am awake now; once I have turned Auri's supervision back over to the next shift, I will meet you back at the house.
May I call upon you tonight? I've news of Our Lord's wishes for the school, and I would not wish to delay in sharing it.
Hey Pansy,

How are you doing? Ron's description of the Horcrux sounded...intense. And I'm sure he didn't say the half of it.

Not that I'm asking for details or anything, unless you want to talk about it. But I'm around if you do. Or if you just want to go flying or go to Fortescue's or something like normal people. And I heard a rumour that they're putting on free concerts at Hyde Park later on this summer, if you ever want to go out and dance to something loud.

It's strange being home with Mum & Dad again; I mean, it's always a little strange at the beginning of hols, but it's more so this summer.

Thanks for keeping an eye out for Patil.

She may be annoying, and really not very nice, but she certainly doesn't deserve to die.

That all sounds absolutely brill, and lovely, and yes please.

I'm headed over to Grimmauld this afternoon. I don't think it'll be particularly pleasant, but I need to go, and I'm looking forward to just being done with it, but I don't know what sort of mood I'll be in after.

I'll let you know.

Drowning in a vat of ice cream might be in order, though.
I'm for it--whatever mood you end up being in. Unless that mood is "I cannot deal with other people for even one second longer". In which case I won't be offended if you beg off.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-14 23:22:49
(no subject)

Turns out I'm not going to be fit for much today. I'm sorry.

I've a feeling I'll be up for ice cream tomorrow, though.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-15 17:55:30
(no subject)

Today is looking like an ice-cream sort of day.

What say we get the biggest sundae at Fortescue's, and then we can go back to my place and play music and I can tell you everything.

alt_susan at 2014-06-16 00:06:08
(no subject)

Sounds an excellent plan! Mum & Dad are very keen on family dinner, but I'm free after.

Meet you there?

alt_pansy at 2014-06-14 17:53:50
(no subject)

And I know what you mean.

I just go to visit every now and then, really, and it's still weird.

Like there's all this stuff going on they don't know the half of, and they've got the wrong end of the broom to begin with.
Mine have more or less the right end of the broom, but...to them the Order's sort of a legend, like that one about the hook-handed Muggle pirate that snatches children when they show their first signs of magic.

So all they really know of the resistance is Dogstar and the Crimson Company and that lot, and they don't approve.

Hah! Just think, though, you're part of a *legend*, Sue.

And the Legendary Sirius Black and Albus Dumbledore and Frank and Alice Longbottom and Severus Snape... it's so funny how ordinary they are, isn't it? They drink tea and swear and argue and make stupid mistakes, and we get to argue right back, and complain about how dense they can sometimes get.
I hope you both are doing better today.

Draco, I just want to let you know that I don't know how we're going to sort this out, but we will. And you're not the only one in the Order who wants to keep Lucius from getting killed. And I don't know about what it's like on your end of things, but it does help that people were thinking of ideas, and that those ideas were about how to keep us safe but also how to keep him from getting killed instead of just saying 'let's sit back and let this happen.'

Even though they hate him.

Even though he's their enemy.

I think that means something.

I don't want you getting killed either, by the way.

I suppose you both have heard enough to sort out what happened after you left. With the locket. I'm not sure how much you've talked to Sirius about it, but he told me that Kreacher had more information about what happened to Regulus, only he wanted me to hear it in person.

And I want to talk to Mr Snape too, about potions training over hols.

Which means coming over to Grimmauld.

Harry said you weren't up for visitors, so I just wanted to let you know that I'm stopping by but that I wouldn't be offended or anything if you didn't want to say hello. Or write back.

You'll let me know if Harry gets to be too much, yeah?
I may not see you, then. I asked Sirius to ask Mrs Longbottom if I could see Sherwood and he said Colin's coming to take me.

So I probably won't be here when you are. But if you're still here when I get back, maybe I'll say hello.

I don't know if Draco's ready--he's mostly been keeping to his room. But I hope he tries to see you. It might be good for him to talk to someone else who cares about his father.

Did Justin and Ron and Sally-Anne all go home with you? How has that been?

I'd like that. Saying hello. If it works out.

It's been really nice. Actually.

Harry and Hydra came over for a little bit yesterday too. And George and Fred, of course.

The thing about the locket

Well. I'm still untangling it, really. But it felt a lot of the time like I was different from everyone else, and no-one understood me, and it's hard to explain, but it was like I was better than everyone, and at the same time I was broken inside, so broken no-one would ever really be able to love me. And I was better than everyone because I was broken.

So when Ron and Justin wanted to take the flat together I thought right away that it was because Ron and Sally-Anne wanted to spend all their time away from me.

But it isn't like that.

Only I'm still sort of surprised that people want to spend time with me, and a part of me thinks it's all out of an obligation to make me
feel better, and that everyone's being far more nice to me than I deserve.

So you see, it's still a bit of a mess.

But the people that matter don't seem to mind it too much.

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@alt_hermione at 2014-06-14 18:47:07  
Re: Private Message to Pansy

If the locket was a horcrux then it's no wonder it made you think all sorts of untrue things.

Like the diary did with Hydra.

Mr Dumbledore was here to talk to Mr Snape and Sirius about the horcruxes. To try to figure out how to find them and destroy them, I think, but I wasn't really paying attention to anything else going on then, so I don't know what they decided.

I guess everyone is broken, one way or another.

---

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-14 18:56:47  
Re: Private Message to Pansy

I suppose we'll find out sooner or later.

Some people hide it really well, and some are but don't realise it, and some are far worse off than others.

But yes. I can see that.
Hello, Arista,

I was at Moddey a few days ago, and I didn't see you. I thought you said you wanted me to see you? If that's the case, why did you hide? Were you playing a game without telling me?

Only now that I remember back, Colin told me that you were in lessons. You're not one of those swotty types who always has her nose stuck in a book, are you? Books can teach you lots of things but if you spend all your time looking down you're liable to end up with a hunched back, so I recommend plenty of exercise, best taken in the form of flying.

Perhaps I'll see you next time I visit.

From,
Draco
Hey, kiddo.

Just checking on you. I know it was a lot to absorb.

Hope you're coping all right.

I think he'd have been pleased to know that we know, actually. Probably not as pleased to know you've fallen in with dangerous criminals and blood-traitors, but pleased that someone will remember why he died and that he chose to use his death as some kind of strike against Voldemort.

He didn't succeed in what he was attempting. But you finished it for him. I know it was hard for you but you managed, which is all anyone could have asked and more.

And I know he would have liked how fitting and poetic it was that it all turned out as it did. The sodding girl's blouse.

Anyway. If you want to talk more, don't stand on ceremony.

Yes.

But you're right.

I'd been looking for ways to be at peace with what happened, and got so stuck on finding his body and giving him a burial as the only way I could do that

but I think this way is better.

And he did love poetry.
It's a good thing that 12 Grimmauld is hidden. I've been spending a lot of time staring out the window, even though it's not really like me to sit at windows, staring out. There's a bakery across the street. It seems to be popular, though I've never tried any of their bread or pastry. I don't think I would have eaten there before, because it's not a bakery I've heard of, and not the sort of bakery that most of my mates would go to. But now I keep wishing I could walk over and get a croissant, or something. It would probably be a terrible croissant, but that wouldn't matter. I know I could probably ask Kreacher to walk over and get me one, but that's not really the point. I want it to be me who walks over there, who goes inside and buys a terrible croissant.

Of all the ideas we've discussed, I think the only one that will work is for me to die. My parents need to believe I'm dead. If there's a way for them to think I died loyal, that would be even better, but I don't know if it's possible now. Things will be better for them if it looks as if I were trying to get back to them to tell them all I knew, and got killed along the way.

Better for them temporarily, that is.

And then, after that, I might leave New London. I don't feel like I fit in at Sherwood or Moddey, but that's rather the point.

I've been wondering if part of the reason I wanted to join the Council wasn't because I was oh-so certain I could be useful as a double agent, but because it would mean that my life would be disrupted as little as possible. I would be able to eat at the best restaurants, get invited to the best parties, wear the best robes... I could pretend that I was the dutiful son my parents wanted me to be.

That's not an option any more. None of it is. And sitting in what is essentially my ancestral home, staring out the window, isn't really, either. Yet I keep doing it.

Alright. I don't know what else.
There's nothing wrong with wanting your life to be disrupted as little as possible. I doubt any one would fault you for that. They might have once been envious that you had the option, though. I was always envious of you for having Auntie Narcissa as a mother, but I didn't begrudge you for it, or anything like that.

I'm not sure but I think Auror Lamont might be looking into ways to stage your death. There was also some talk of kidnapping your parents, but that idea might have been scrapped. I'm not sure.

I don't think anyone thought you were taking the easy way out, either.

And now you're in the same boat as Sirius and Mr and Mrs Longbottom and Mr Kingsley, and yeah, they have to stay hidden a lot of the time, but they do a lot of things too, so it won't be like you've just got to stay inside all the time.

Just for now.

And. I mean. You were part of the Archives thing. (Which sounded absolutely brilliant, by the way.) So it's not like they don't think you can do anything.
All I did was stand and keep watch. Anyone can do that.

But it really isn't about people thinking I can or can't do things.

Maybe you could still end up being a spy.

Turning into someone else so you could get access to places, like Mr Snape did with Milland.

It still wouldn't be you buying the croissant, or eating at the restaurant, but you'd be good at looking like you belonged.

Yeah, I don't know. Maybe. But probably not for a while.
I'm planning on being in first thing Monday, gents.

And I'm taking you both out for dinner after.

I've been taking notes here and there about the fall line. I definitely want to see the samples in-person, though. The budget needs another thorough go-over once I've had a chance to get my head on a little straighter, but I do have thoughts about radio ads that'd require a slightly bigger budget allotment.

You both are, as always, brilliant. Fred, thank you for your patience. George, thank you for everything.
**2014-06-15 12:53:00**  
*Private message to Harry*

His letter. There are more things for you.

Talking to the solicitor tomorrow. About some practical bits.

But after, we could talk. Afternoon or evening. If you want. And can get free. Or whenever.

You still managing?

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**2014-06-15 17:21:22**  
*(no subject)*

Okay.

I'll be over tomorrow afternoon.

I thought it'd be easier when there was nothing to do. But it isn't. And the stuff I want to do is all what I would've done with them.

It'll be okay, though. I've got some really good friends. Which helps.

Anything you want me to bring with from New London?

---

**2014-06-15 17:35:33**  
*(no subject)*

Good. The afternoon, I mean.

I know what you mean. There's an awful lot of time to fill, somehow. And the days are so very long.

Friends are good. Cedric said you might go fly with him sometime, too.

I don't need anything. I think. There's food and things here. Wanting anything's very hard right now, you know?
Yeah. Ced's good like that.

And the rest of the duelling group wants to keep up things, too.

It won't be the same. But it's okay.

The duelling group. Oh. Yes.

I have notes. What we did. What Raz was thinking of next. Somewhere here. They're in my book trunk, I'm sure.

It won't be the same. Any of it. But we keep going, yeah? No other choice.

Thinking about duelling practice is so hard
Hello, dear hearts.

We've all had quite a time of it these last few weeks, haven't we? We've got quite a lot to sort out in order to figure out the next step of things, and I'm hoping the waters will calm down for long enough for us to right our boat and adjust our heading.

I'm very much hoping we'll all be able to get together for a meeting and for a remembrance of sorts this upcoming weekend, but I also very much want to see you both beforehand, and I'd love to set up regular visits this summer. We could certainly use your help expanding the greenhouse for the new batch of fluxweed plants, Neville, love, and Evie, I know the Octoboros working group would appreciate your insights. Not to mention, I'm terribly selfish and want to see you as much as possible while we all have the time for it.

And may I say, I've been so very pleased about you've managed the Forest. Colin has told me he thought you all should go during the week, as so much of our other activities may center around weekends this summer, and I quite agree with him. I must admit, your father and I are a little anxious now that you will no longer have the portkey (but so very glad it was put to good use!) -- however, all four of you have handled yourselves quite well, and I know you'll take proper precautions. It is an enormous help, and I'm so proud of all of you for taking that task on.

Your father sends his love, and his appreciation for your letters. He and Kevin are both doing marvellously, and want very much to see you both.

I miss you and I love you both beyond measure.

---

All of that sounds absolutely lovely, mum.

We'd have to be careful, of course, but I cannot wait to
see you, and I want to see you as much as I can this summer too.

Not to mention, I've got to sort out Apparation. I don't think it'll take much longer.

---

@alt_evelyn at 2014-06-16 20:12:56
(no subject)

And yes, we were hoping to go out on Wednesday.

I don't know if that'll throw the centaurs off too much, but we'll be especially careful just in case. We were joking around the last time that having loud and obvious conversations about our plans was probably best, because they might be listening in, so we'll just talk a lot about coming during the week instead of the weekend over summer, and about Neville's upcoming birthday, where he comes of age, and hope they catch it.

---

@alt_neville at 2014-06-18 03:01:05
(no subject)

All the projects we've talked about for this summer seem dead interesting. Mrs Lee-Wilson has promised to lend me some of her books about plant--oh, I always forget that word. Plant jenitics? Yeah, we want to see you, too!

Does the fluxweed look all right? Professor Sprout and I packed it really carefully, but I worry about how they handle the uprooting. And the soil for them at the sanctuary isn't really ideal for them there. But an expansion of the greenhouse will help.

Tell Kevin I'll set aside a plot for him, and we can pick out some of the plants and seeds for it. I mean, I know you're practically in the middle of your growing season, but there's still some things that sprout quickly, that might interest him. He's at about the age I started getting interested in digging in the dirt to make things grow, and not just making mud-and-muck pies.
That's a brilliant idea for Kevin, love. I'm sure he'd bask in the attention, and he would certainly have plenty of energy for it.

Whether he sticks to it is another matter altogether, but I think we can help keep him involved enough to feel like he had a real hand in things.

And yes, the grand majority of the plants are in decent shape. Severus was quick to take any that appeared to be faltering to use in a batch right away, and only a few had to be discarded outright. The expansion will help a great deal, yes.
hey, kiddo.

you doing okay?

you know you can come up on days other than sunday, yeah? whenever you want.

I've got time to spare after my training session at Sherwood tomorrow, too, if you want some company.

---

@alt_terry at 2014-06-18 02:42:41
(no subject)

I'm sorry I didn't answer this right away. I've been spending a lot of time as the Professor.

Had some things to think about.

I'm doing okay. I guess? It's hard to tell. It's like I was all mixed up inside and I wanted advice in the *worst* way from, um, my mum. Or my dad. Which is mad, because I don't even remember them. So that took me by surprise.

Since I couldn't do *that* I just stayed in the Professor form. Thinking.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-18 03:00:08
(no subject)

figured you were professoring. Colin said you were making yourself scarce when he stopped by sherwood.

nothing wrong with missing your mum and dad. I don't think that ever goes away. my dad died when I was in school. I still miss him.

and believe me, there's kids at moddey who haven't seen their parents face to face since they were babes in arms, doesn't mean they don't feel homesick from time to time. I can see how it'd be hard if you've got a powerful feeling of missing someone, only you don't have anything to remember them by.
I know it's not the same, but you can always ask me anything. Questions are okay, remember?

@alt_terry at 2014-06-18 03:37:16
(no subject)

I'd talked a bit about it with Colin, then things changed, with everything that's happened.

See. Well. It's sort of--I guess it wouldn't be much of a surprise to you how I felt about Hermione. How I felt. How I felt.

Oh, bugger. This is so embarrassing. That's part of the reason I went back to Hogwarts, because I had hopes, you see. That if we saw each other again...but I never did anything about it. Not really. I always thought I was too, I dunno, shy or inept or something.

But I finally figured something out at Hogwarts: there was another reason, too. Nothing ever happened because I was waiting for some kind of sign from her.

I think I finally realised that I could wait a lifetime, but it wouldn't matter. She doesn't see me that way, or she doesn't feel that way. Or maybe there is too much history, or she saw me as boot for too long or--it doesn't really matter why.

I never said anything because I wanted it to be her choice. Mudbloods never get to choose anything, but since she was more than a mudblood, I wanted her to have the chance to choose me. If she wanted to.

But she doesn't.

And--this is hard to say. I wanted to kill Teddy Nott for her. But Draco Malfoy did it instead. So I was really mixed up about that, both relieved and hacked off that I didn't do it myself. Which made me feel like Carrow's breathing down my neck all over again.

I went to 12 Grimmauld Place to--just to see, to show myself, that she got away, that she was safe.

But it was painful, because she didn't want to see me. I don't mean
that I think she's going to fall for Malfoy, like it's destiny, all
because he killed that piece of slime Teddy Nott. Besides, what
Bellatrix Lestrange did to them messed them both up anyway.

The point is: whether she chooses to be with Malfoy or Marvolo or
whoever, even someone else she hasn't even met yet, or even to
stay just by herself, it's just not me. It's never going to be me.

So I came away. And I started to realise I'm not a mudblood,
either. I need to start making my own choices now. Not waiting on
her anymore

I keep having to learn that over and over again.

So I've been mulling over my options and...I think I want to
volunteer for one of the Zulu companies. I'd be a good candidate.
I've been learning everything I can from you about Defence. I'm a
dog Animagus, so I have a really good nose, and I can squeeze into
tight spaces. AND I have a wand. That makes me versatile, I think,
ideal as a scout, a spy. At least I hope it does.

What do you think?

(Is it wrong that I wanted to kill Teddy?)

@alt_frank at 2014-06-18 03:57:09
(no subject)

no.

no, it isn't wrong.

we don't have a lot of options when it comes to dealing with
people like teddy nott. hell, they're the sort of people who are in
charge.

that's what prison and courts and law enforcement are supposed
to do. but we don't have those tools. we just have us. so we do
what we can.

and it's hard.

it's more than hard. sometimes it's impossible to do the right
thing, or know for sure that you're making the right call.
in the best case, we take people like Otto Strangeweale and keep them in a place where they can't hurt anyone. But we can't always afford to do that, and sometimes it isn't as clean cut as all that either.

Al sat up nights about Teddy Nott. She told Snape and Draco both that if there was an emergency, or if they found evidence he was getting to the point of putting our people in harm's way, they had to take him out.

Believe me, kiddo, you aren't the only one who wanted him gone.

*alt_frank* at 2014-06-18 04:03:30
(no subject)

and I think you're right. It's one thing to love someone, it's another to have them love you back. It's complicated. No mistake. And it doesn't always work out the way you want, and when it doesn't, it can hurt like hell. But it's not something you can make happen, and it's not your fault.

I think you'd be a good asset for the crazy bastards. You're right. You've got a fair bit of skills, and it'd be one way to put them to use. It's a riskier line of work, though. So do me a favour, make sure you take good care of yourself, right? And make sure you're doing it for the right reasons.

*alt_terry* at 2014-06-18 11:53:41
(no subject)

That's why I've been 'professoring' as you put it. I wanted to make sure I was doing it for the right reasons. Not because I want to do something heroic to win her. Not because I'm some daft bloke intent on throwing his life away because a girl doesn't want him.

Besides the fact that would be *stupid*, it wouldn't be fair to the rest of the Zulu company. They're really tight units; they depend on each other for their lives. They might not let me in anyway, because the competition is fierce. But I think being an Animagus
does give me an edge. As far as I know, I'm the only one in the Sherwood Band.

Anyway. That's why I've been thinking of my parents. I wanted to talk to my mum about girls. And to my dad to talk over my own reasons for doing this.

I'm glad you wrote. I did need to talk to someone, and it did help.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-18 16:43:02
(no subject)

good to hear.

all round.

you've got a point about having an edge, and it helps that they're serious about safety protocol. davidson runs a tight ship, and he'd rather have his people safe and cautious than get captured.

just remember, no matter what, you've got a home to come back to, and people who love you.

if you do get in, I know you might not be able to make every sunday, but you come when you can, all right?

@alt_terry at 2014-06-19 00:49:54
(no subject)

I'll come every chance I can get, if the Zulus accept me. They come in from the cold for debriefings regularly, and there's some down time, so it's not like I'd always be in the field. It's always so good to come back to Moddey. It is my home, and it always will be. The first one I ever had that I can remember, where I really felt safe.

I was wondering...you might think this is a bit barmy, but--

Would you mind if I called you 'Mr C'? Only when we're alone, of course. And if I could call Mrs Longbottom 'Mrs C'? Neville explained about the names you use within the family for each
other. And I just wondered, well....

Would you mind if I used them, too? Just once in a while, private-like, when we talk like this?

You can say 'no,' of course.

that's how I signed all my letters to him. back when that was all we had.

couldn't use my own name, and even 'dad' was too much of a risk.

way I see it, the cratchits had an enormous family. not a lot of money, but lots of kids. lots of love. always room for one more.

always.

it'd be an honour, terry.

Please...don't mention it, the way I felt, I mean, to Hermione, all right? I wouldn't want her to be embarrassed.

I just want her to think of me as a friend, a good one, but now I'm moving on. That I'll be all right.

And I will be.

secret's safe with me, kid.
Thanks. Mr C.
Draco --

We ought to get together to discuss our current ideas regarding how to best handle your father's current situation. Severus, I would want you to be a part of that conversation as well.

I think it would also be a good idea for you to eventually learn the Fidelius charm, and a few other shielding and defensive spells that you may not have picked up yet. It'll have to be done out-of-doors where we can test it properly, so coming to Moddey would be ideal. You now have access, of course, so can come on your own time. Whenever you're ready, Frank and I will be at your disposal.

Naturally, sorting out the details of the current plan takes priority over learning the Fidelius, as it is time-sensitive.

I've met with Sam Fawcett. We have a list of possible candidates. Camp administrators that are high enough up on the chain where it would be useful for their position to possibly be replaced by one of the Company or Dogstar, but not so high as to create an enormous uproar should they disappear.

It isn't a terribly long list, and there are a handful who would be preferable (or at least, preferable for Sam's purposes.)
Right.

So.

I met with Professor Dolohov and Siz.

Professor Dolohov said that it looked pretty bad for Draco, but that they weren't giving up, and that if Draco contacted me, I was to tell him and Mr Malfoy right away. He also said I should tell them if anyone was pushing for more details about the investigation.

And he did say that Mr Malfoy had agreed to 'stand as Draco's guarantee' if he can't or won't turn himself in, but not what that meant.

He's also okay with taking over supervising the duelling group. And he said that he wouldn't try to replace Raz, but that if I needed to talk or needed anything, he'd try to help. And he knew who was a part of it already, or at least he wasn't surprised about it, and he was sort of careful about everything, but I don't think he disapproved of anybody.

Siz wanted to meet because there were some things Raz wanted to keep secret, and she just got around to reading the letter he'd left her, and had to meet with the solicitor too.

He left me his library.

There are a few books out of it that Siz wanted to keep, and it'll take a while to sort through it all. But it'll probably be useful to have around.

And he left me an inheritance. A pretty big one. She said it was so I wouldn't have to ask for money from anyone.

The last thing was

Okay. They had a code, in case something happened to me, and I guess he warned her that there was trouble, only it was with Draco, not me. And the code meant that she needed to get to the tower and wait to see what to do next. And after he died, she went back up there and found a hidden cabinet that had two long-range brooms, two survival packs, and two wands. I think they're unregistered but I'm
not sure. She said I was the only person besides her who knew about it.

Siz gave me one of the brooms and one of the wands. I figure you lot could use them. So I'm giving those to the Order. Mrs L, I'll pass them along to Pans or Sally-Anne or Ron or Justin, whoever I see first. I don't want to keep them at Buckingham, so if one of you could invite me over or out or something, that'd be good. Or I could invite you over. Whatever.

---

@alt_harry at 2014-06-17 01:04:07

Private Message to Draco

I don't know what he was planning for.

Or what that would've been like.

Anyways.

He thought about getting away. Planned for it, even.

I don't know if that makes things better or worse. Maybe both.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-17 01:08:54

(no subject)

I'm at dinner with Fred and George. We can make a party of it if you want to hand it off tonight.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-17 01:11:08

(no subject)

Okay.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-17 01:38:02

(no subject)

There. At the very least, Fred, George and I will all be there, and hopefully some others can make it too. You don't have to stay for long.
Thanks.

Mrs L, I've got the broom and wand.
I can get them both to you first thing tomorrow.
I think I'm in the mood to celebrate summer properly.

Sue, you said the other day you wanted to try out Phoenix arms, right? I think they do sing-alongs of the Warlocks on Monday nights, which sounds like it'd be wiz.

Anyone else up for a night out? I promise we won't stay up too late. Just enough to have some fun. Ron? Justin? Daphs? Harry, I know you could use a cheering-up.

---

If you can get out of the house at all, you'd be more than welcome to come, of course. We'd be done by eleven thirty at the latest.

Mummy's working and Daddy's at Le'Strange and Rigel's already been sent to bed. I can leave. If they miss me later I can just say I was with Harry.

Fair warning, I am a terrible singer.

I think it'd do you good. I really do.

Come on. It'll be fun.
@alt_harry at 2014-06-17 01:41:40
Re: Private Message to Harry

I'll see if I can come out, yeah.

I probably can't stay out too late, though.

Thanks.

Really.

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-17 01:53:23
(no subject)

Excuse me?

Sing-a-longs in a pub when my boyfriend is missing, kidnapped, and possibly dead?

No, thank you.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-17 02:00:07
(no subject)

I'm sorry, Daphs.

I just wanted to take my mind off things for a little, and thought you might want to as well.

Believe me, I haven't forgotten about Draco.

Far from.

I'm

It's difficult to
Private Message to Daphne

I am sorry.

Truly.

I didn't mean to make it sound that way.

And it's difficult to know what's expected when no-one's saying anything, so I just didn't want to draw attention.

I'm not heartless, Daphne.

No one is saying anything, or, no one is saying anything to me. I wonder which it is.

You could have at least mentioned him in your entry.

Believe me, I'm just as in the dark about it as you are, if not more.

Lucius hasn't seen fit to tell me anything.

If he does, or Harry has any news worth sharing for that matter, I'll be sure to pass it along.

And you know how these things go, Daphs. People are worried about saying the wrong thing, and don't know how they're supposed to feel about it. Which is entirely different from how they actually feel, of course.
Private Message to Daphne

Daphne,

You've not heard anything, have you? I say, it's well distressing, and must be moreso for you.

I'm sure there's no truth at all in the rumours, what. That seems entirely unlikely for someone of Draco's pedigree and stature. But I know all too well how jolly difficult it can be to ignore the worst of the reports and innuendos, when they seem impossible to avoid.

How are you holding up, if one may ask? I'm sorry I haven't had the opportunity to offer my sympathies before now but it's yours, late as it is. It's been quite the week, what, and in some ways it feels as if one is just regaining one's equilibrium. Though that's probably not true for you, being closer to Malfoy and Marvolo.

I say, if you--that is, I'm sure you've no shortage of friends to talk to but if you should want another, I can promise you complete discretion.

- Finch-Fletchley

Re: Private Message to Daphne

No, I've not heard anything.

The rumours aren't bothering me, thank you. One does wish, however, that the newspapers would be more specific about what, exactly, is being done to ensure Draco's safe recovery - aside from Lucius Malfoy offering up great gobs of galleons for anyone with information regarding Draco's whereabouts.

I'm as well as can be expected. I do best when I'm looking after someone else; thankfully, I've been helping Lizzie with the wedding plans. We couldn't really get started before, not with NEWTs and the challenge to worry about.

And Lizzie has been quite the keen listener, as well. So thank you
for the offer, F-F, but as you yourself say, I've got no shortage of friends to talk to.

@alt_justin at 2014-06-17 03:14:22
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Yes, of course. One doesn't like to abuse one's friends' patience too much, either, though, so if there should come a time when you wish for a fresh perspective, please don't hesitate.

One also imagines that Mr Malfoy might be well frantic to keep details out of the papers, what. But yes, it is dashed disheartening to know so little of what is going on.

I say, have you asked Marvolo? If anyone's informed, what, it would be him, I should think. It is jolly well odd that no one has said anything to you, given your relationship to Draco.

-F-F

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-17 03:28:33
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Well, it is true that it really isn't a good time to trouble Lizzie with unpleasant things, given her state. She's dealt with burden enough these last months. So yes, thank you.

Oh. Well, it does seem rather selfish to pester Harry when he must be so very weighed down with grief and worry, and has Hydra and others there to turn to. But I should ask after him soon, at least.

Most are looking for me to speak, what with all the requests for interviews. Not that I would ever dream of doing one, and while the requests are understandable, I suppose, they're still bothersome.
Yes, it's difficult to know where to draw the line between being respectful of their grief, what, and pressing one's right to know what's going on. I wasn't particularly close to Professors Lestrange or McGonagall but it's still quite a shock to lose two such illustrious Council members at the same time.

I know just what you mean, about those distasteful interview requests. I had the same, what, when Hydra and I broke our engagement. Dashed impertinent, what. It must be all the more difficult, though, when they seem to think you've an inside track on things. I imagine that rather rubs salt in the wound.

So, Pansy doesn't know anything, either, then?

-F-F

I suppose I thought 'girlfriend' would rate up there as someone who might be told a bit more about recent events, but then, Draco never did introduce me as anyone special to his parents and family. It's probably unreasonable to expect special treatment.

Oh, they're not still trying to interview you, are they? Everyone knows by now that she's "dating" Harry (please do note my use of quotation marks).

Pansy says that she doesn't. I think she's just gone and told me that no one's talking about Draco because they don't know what to say, and hence they carry on stoically, as usual. That's just a bit rich, seeing as Pansy is usually good at working melancholia into a lather. Though I suppose you don't know her well enough to know that. She does mean well, I know, and we usually get on, but I.. I found her invitation to go *sing* quite inappropriate.
alt_justin at 2014-06-17 04:10:06
Re: Private Message to Daphne

No, no one's tried to interview me in some time. I've rather fallen off the A-list, now that I'm no longer attached to the Lestranges--I say, except as the 'beleaguered ex-boyfriend.' They seem to enjoy depicting me as too weak not to go on being mates with Harry, what, when really there's no reason to blame him. Mrs Lestrange had intended the two of them together long before I ever met Hydra, what. One can hardly object when they are only doing what's expected.

As for Pansy.... I do know her, you know, since my best mates are also her best mates, though one can't say that she and I are particularly close friends. She does mean well, what, so one forgives a great deal. I suppose the best one can say is that everyone addresses grief in his or her own way. I'm sorry it struck you as insensitive.

-F-F

alt_daphne at 2014-06-17 04:16:10
Re: Private Message to Daphne

That's silly. Everyone has to be mates with Harry. He's the Lord Protector's son! The only people who would deliberately try to offend Harry are - well, dead.

I've no interest in holding grudges against Pansy, at any rate. It's simply a difficult time, just now. I hardly know which way my head is, anymore. No need to wallow about being dreary, you realise, but I suppose I'm just not in the mood to sing.

alt_justin at 2014-06-17 04:25:26
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Do you know, I hadn't thought of it that way, what! Madam Umbridge, certainly. Had Harry objected to the Professors Carrow? Thomas, though one can't be certain Marvolo had anything to do with that. (I say, it wasn't Malfoy in one of the
challenges, was it?) Though I say, he did try to save Fleet, Fawcett and Thomas Capper. I say, I don't know about Mr Avery but perhaps Marvolo wasn't happy with his sponsorship in the challenges.

Do you suppose Marvolo ordered the deaths of any of those people? One can't quite imagine him doing it himself, what.

-F-F

alt_daphne at 2014-06-17 04:36:23
Re: Private Message to Daphne

No, of course not. Harry's not quite the ordering type, especially not ordering anyone to be hurt. With some exception. He coerced Vince and Greg into attacking Teddy, after all. And if he had anything to do with the Carrows' fate - well, all the better.

But who knows the ways in which the Lord Protector and the rest of the council look after him.

alt_justin at 2014-06-17 04:43:53
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Oh, yes, I see what you're saying.

It's quite apparent that there are few who've shed any tears over Nott, what. I suppose we may never know who cast the final spell there. I've heard conflicting stories about it.

But perhaps if Draco's able to get away, he can shed light on the subject.

I say, he tended to look after Marvolo quite a bit, didn't he? Beyond just the concern of a mate, what. Do you suppose he's had anything to do with taking care of thorns in Harry's side?

-F-F
Conflicting stories, indeed. Thorns? Well, yes. Did Hydra never tell you anything about how they grew up together? It's always been Draco's role, as it were, to look after Harry.

But in the case of Teddy's fate, I don't think Draco was thinking of Harry. If Draco and Teddy did in fact duel, that is.

Oh, yes, I'm aware that Draco's always been more like a brother to Harry than a mere best mate, what, and to some extent he's always had more, er, political savvy than Marvolo, what. But there's quite a difference between acting as an advisor of sorts and--well, using Malfoy for the sort of jobs one coerces Crabbe and Goyle to perform, for example.

I say, Nott hadn't come after you, had he done? Dashed poor form, what. Though--not surprising, perhaps. Nott did have extremely ill manners.

Extremely ill manners. You do have a knack for the understatement, don't you?

Teddy was quite monstrous... there's my own version of the understatement. Even if I disregard my own personal history with him, I am quite confident in stating that that we're all better off without him, and that the fate he met was long coming.
Re: Private Message to Daphne

Well, there I agree with you!

Goodness! It's midnight. I'd best get to sleep; Ron and I have work in the morning, you know!

Nice to chat with you. We've not got to know each other well but--well, as you say, I also function best when I'm concerning myself with others' welfare, what. I do hope you feel better about things and, chin up, things might work out all right, in the end.

Goodnight,
-F-F

(no subject)

Pansy,

I say, I can come for a swift drink, what. Ron's knackered and says he's not moving for the next ten hours if at all possible. (Our first day at the Ministry, what, and he looks as if they ran him round the old London Wall about forty times.)

-Justin

See you there.
Hope I haven't missed it! If the Floo's still open, I'm on my way.

We'll be here for at least another hour, Sue.

Great!
Dearest Sister,

Hard to know where to begin. You should know that since our last communication, there has been a breach of security at the Ministry. The journal archives, which were our only means of monitoring private messages, were destroyed. The Ministry are working as quickly as possible to rebuild the spells over the existing network but it is ... unclear how long that may take, or if Ned's department will determine the only way to restore oversight is to force an exchange of journals again. But for the moment, we may speak freely.

No doubt - no doubt, you have seen enough through the public entries in journals to understand that Draco disappeared from Hogwarts just after his birthday, under suspicious circumstances. The unfortunate truth is that he stands accused of miscegenation and aiding in the magical education of legal nonpersons. It is impossible to say whether the allegations have any legitimacy but the case against him grows stronger with every day he does not return to explain himself. Early on, it appeared he had been taken prisoner by enemies of the state; whether or not that is actually the case, it is impossible to believe they will arrange a ransom within Our Lord's deadline.

You know the extents to which I will go to protect our family. Could not bear to see you destroy yourself, so many years ago, when you found your situation similarly precarious; cannot now bear to think Draco might perish due to a youthful misstep. Have agreed to stand punishment in his stead, a guarantee against his safe return, whether under his own power or at the hands of his captors (if, indeed, he is a captive).

Naturally, there can be no guarantees as to what may follow after. Am taking any and all necessary steps to protect the family interests, so much as possible. There is one absolutely essential component to the plan which, should it succeed, will require your co-operation. Let us say, for now, only that you may be able to introduce my wife to her nephew, after all.

One cannot help but ... reflect ... on those things one will leave unfinished. Unresolved. Perhaps it is ironic that the same flaw which drove us apart for so long has been visited again in my own son. That
after so long promising he should not lose his father, it seems likely, and at the same age I was when we lost Father. That - that the wizard whose vision I have sworn to serve will be the instrument of my downfall.

But not my family's.

Things may move quickly, from here. I've barely a week to make all the necessary arrangements and it must be done carefully, without a hint, lest others derive the impression that I mean to run, rather than merely assure Narcissa's safety. If I can deliver her outside the wards and buy for Draco any measure of clemency, then I will consider the bargain well-struck at whatever price. But as there might not be time later for anything more than an urgent message regarding her expected arrival, this, my dear sister, may be farewell. Tell Mother - tell her, I have done all I can to preserve our legacy.

Take care, Amanda. I pray you remain happy, and safe and healthy.

All my love,

Scip
**2014-06-18 14:16:00**
*Order Only: Private Message to Draco*

Are you in your room?

I went with Sirius to Moddey today, to help with Potions. And Mrs L told me to go see Melli before we left.

The heartstrings that Charlie harvested, she'd turned them into wands. Brand new ones. And she let me try them all, all seven.

I remember when Terry and I got our first wands, neither one was perfect and we switched back and forth a bit before we decided which ones to keep. But this...

It's beautiful. She used vine wood and it's 11 ¾ inches and it just feels.... Sirius said the right wand is like an extension of your hand. And he's so right. It made me just want to start casting spells right and left.

Do you want to see? I mean, I know it's not the most important thing that's ever happened but I can't help feeling happy.

---

**@alt_draco at 2014-06-18 23:57:43**

*(no subject)*

Sorry, yes, I'm in my room. I was sleeping.

You have your own wand, one that picked you. That's brilliant, Hermione. And vine - let's just say it suits you. Have you read much on wand lore? I reckon you have, probably more than I.

I remember being disappointed when my wand had unicorn hair, because I was expecting dragon heartstring, owing to my name. And to an eleven year old boy, unicorn hair seemed a bit poncy. At the time I thought hawthorne wasn't very "me," either, but in retrospect, I guess it might be.

I wonder if there are any known incidents of a wizard or witch outgrowing their wand? That is, finding that one day they've changed so much it no longer suits them...
I've read a little on wand lore but it's actually more restricted than you might expect. Madam Pince wasn't half vigilant about my going to get those sorts of references. Mostly I've read about the effect of disarming and duelling on wand loyalty.

But hawthorne's one of the most magical woods, isn't it? That fits you, I think. Why, are you starting to wonder if your wand still suits?

That makes sense, seeing as they don't want muggleborns sneaking about trying to make their own wands. We always had books on wandlore in the Manor library. Actually, there might be one in Orion and Walburga's library, if you're interested.

Anyway, vine wands are usually attracted to visionaries. Hawthorne wands go to those who often find themselves in turmoil. Oh, they're also known for backfiring, though that's never happened to me.

My wand still functions the same, not that I've cast anything challenging with it as of late. It was just an idle wondering.

I've been going through the library one shelf at a time but I hadn't got to that section yet. (Well, I say 'section' but it's really in need of a proper rearranging. I'm not sure what system they're using but I suspect it's 'put it back on the nearest shelf with a hole' and then it's impossible to find it later.)

What else did you do today, besides sleep?
Auntie Walburga was always a bit of a pack-niffler.

I ate a mostly mediocre lunch of steak pie, and read a mostly horrible book about boy wizards solving embarrassingly simple mysteries in 1930's London. And then I slept some more.

Yeah, I know. My schedule's not exactly full.

You need projects. Have you talked with Mrs Longbottom about what you want to do? (Has she said anything more about--about rescuing your parents? I saw your father wrote to your aunt. It's your aunt, right?)

Not really. I mean, I told Mrs Longbottom and Harry that it's probably best if my dead body shows up where MLE can find it. On that note, it's good I never had Kreacher launder my school robes. They'll need to be a disaster if we go through with that plan.

Mr Snape knows that I'll do whatever the Order decides they want me to do. Even if that just means helping brew potions or keeping watch, or what have you.

And yes, that's my Aunt Amanda. If I had to guess, I'd say that Father's likely writing her about the possibility of my mother escaping to France. Which is funny because that was my plan for them. I'd hoped that, eventually, I'd be able to convince them to flee for the continent.
Well, I told them I'd teach Potions, too, but that doesn't mean I think it's necessarily the best thing I could do. Especially now that I have a wand! Sorry. I just grin when I realise how much I had got used to having one and then how much I missed not having one and now I don't have to miss it anymore.

I was thinking more...about what Hydra said. About how you should think just about yourself, for a change. If you could take on anything (well, apart from walking up and assassinating Voldemort), what do you think you'd like to try?

Do you really think that? About your mother, running away, I mean? Isn't that incredibly dangerous? I mean, one of the things people were talking about when we first ran from Hogwarts (was that only last week? Merlin, it seems longer), was how hard it would be to get to them. (Not that it's not a reason, you know, only that it would be difficult.) And... well, if your mother ran, wouldn't that pretty much guarantee that they'd kill your father?

Oh, I'm sorry, I probably shouldn't put it that way.

Why can't you do what you really want to, as well? I'd say you're owed it.

I haven't really given much thought to what I want to do. I mean, I know I'm not exactly new to the Order, but I'm accustomed to doing things differently. Like CCF, YPL, the council challenge - I guess you could say I'm used to being in charge, or at least in charge of myself. CCF was about taking orders, sometimes, as was the council challenge, but I was often left to solve things on my own, too. So, I don't know.

Oh, I do think I'd like to take a great whack at organising the library, though.
Right. Well, if Father's trying to get Mother out of England, then he is probably preparing for the very real possibility of his own death, understanding that if he dies, Mother'll go unprotected if she remains in the Protectorate.

Personally, I think he's underestimating Mother, if that is in fact his reasoning.

Well, now that you've mentioned it, let's tackle the library tomorrow, all right?

I've been thinking. We keep talking about ways to really end things, I mean, end them right away.

Which means doing something to strike more directly than a potion or waking the Sleepers or talking on the radio.

I think we should talk to Professor Dumbledore. Only he probably won't talk to us.

Which means...we should ask Sirius and--and Mr Snape--what they talked about the night that he came here.

Alright, sounds good.

As to ending things, you're only saying what I've been saying for yonks. I know Mrs Longbottom is thinking about trying to assassinate the Lord Protector, reasoning that even if his death is temporary, it would cause enough of a distraction for us to accomplish other things.

But the more I think about it - if you're going to send someone in to assassinate him, putting that person at huge risk, then wouldn't you want the Lord Protector to stay dead and never come back?
And yes, we could ask them, but do you think they'll tell us everything?

_**alt_hermione** at *2014-06-19 04:09:52*
(no subject)

I think they'll tell us more than Mr Dumbledore would do. And they'll tell us anything he told them. Though that doesn't mean he told them everything he knows.

But it's a start.

_**alt_draco** at *2014-06-19 04:22:49*
(no subject)

It's too bad two natural occlumens/legilimens cancel each other out, because I'd really like to know what goes on in that old man's head.

I'm game if you are, though.

Show me your wand now?

_**alt_hermione** at *2014-06-19 04:27:47*
(no subject)

I think Mr Lupin would agree with you.

Yes, you can see it.

I think Mr Snape's in the laboratory. Or we could talk to him tomorrow, after we fix the library.

_**alt_draco** at *2014-06-19 04:40:08*
(no subject)

Don't make me leave this room yet. I will tomorrow, promise. And we'll tidy the library and probably get inflicted with seven kinds of dark curses in the process.

Door's open. Tonight it's something called The Velvet
Underground and Nico. Only the cover's got a drawing of a banana named Andy Warhol. Try to figure that one out, yeah?
We're back from the Forest. We weren't sure if the centaurs would be ready for us, because we've always gone on the weekends before, so we mostly stuck to the places we'd already been so as not to take them too much by surprise.

On our way to the thestral fields, we came face to face with a younger centaur who looked angry when he saw us, and said we weren't supposed to be there, and we tried to explain about the treaty and summer hols but he was getting a fair head of steam and reared up and got shouty a few times and wasn't having any of it.

So we all tried backing away and saying we'd just leave, but he wasn't having any of that either, and we thought there was a fair chance we'd get shot if we tried to make a run for it, so we slowly sat on the ground and showed our hands so he could tell we weren't going to do anything sudden and tried to be calm about it.

Before anything could happen, though, the same centaur who helped us with the acromantulae came crashing through the forest in a pretty big hurry, and he sent the other centaur off, and then he came back and we made introductions. Turns out his name is Firenze. Anyways, we explained what we were trying to tell the other centaur, and the long and the short of it is I think we're okay to come on Wednesdays during the rest of the summer. We told him about Nev's birthday at the end of next month too, and how we were going to try to come as much as we could before he came of age, because it'd be better with four than three, and Firenze thought for a while and told us that he'd want to talk to Charlie before Nev's birthday. Well, at least we're pretty sure that's what he meant. They sort of talk in riddles. I say, Charlie, I hope we haven't done anything to make your job harder.

He also told us we ought to avoid the forest on the solstices, so it's probably a good thing we weren't planning to go this upcoming weekend, hey?

The thestrals were happy to see us, and we found another small tangle of unicorn hair in the Bloodthirsty Briars that took some time to get to, but no-one got hurt.)
No, it's all right. Firenze generally has his head screwed on straight about things. And I'm pretty sure I know who was yelling at you, too. You did the right thing with just sitting down and being calm.

I'll try to get up there to talk to them as soon as I can. Ta, Colin.

Well, good then. We were really afraid we'd mucked things up.

It was unnerving there, for a bit. Those hooves look really sharp, and that bow was dead wicked-looking, too. Not that he took it out and actually pointed an arrow at us or anything. Too busy shouting, I guess.
Report from the Ad Hoc Arithmancy, Octoboros, and Ley Lines Working Group

Right. We've gone back and forth on some of this multiple times, brainstorming til what's left in our brains is a weak sort of tepid afternoon shower, but we've got a programme now for what we need to find out.

1. We need to locate the upcoming Octoboros stone, assuming that one will be activating upon the summer solstice, and we need to find it a bit early. Our best guess is somewhere in northern Scotland. So we'll need people to fly search patterns.

2. We've some mad ideas about possibly utilising the stone we captured, but they depend on comparing it to the upcoming stone BEFORE it activates. (See item 1.)

In order to know if item 2 is viable, we need item 1. So who's available to fly search patterns, and when?

I can put together a long-distance flying club outing for Friday.

Sure, count me in.

Since Harry can't make it, should we all just go out together, or should the Hogwarts group keep separate?
I can get free after work today and most of Friday morning.

I've covered a good bit of everything around the reserve and haven't found anything, but it never hurts to have a second pair of eyes on things. Still, if you're low on people, you can put that down your list. I may have time this weekend.

Wish I could, but I'm trapped at the Ministry, but good, cleaning up all of Corax's messes. (Jeremy, I've signed the authorisation for you to take the day off.)

Right, then. Cecilia has sent maps to Moddey, so figure people can pick them up there. She's arranged them in order of likelihood, according to the group's calculations, so just take the next one off the stack when you get there.
Daphne,

How are you? I saw the reward’s gone up. Still no word, then. I'm dashed sorry, I know it must be well nerve-wracking.

I say, I wondered...have you any plans at the weekend? Care to get a coffee or a cup of tea? I've been thinking about our chat Monday and--well, I say, I thought you might like to continue it.

At any rate, you know Weasley and I have taken a flat together for the summer and we found a smashing cafe right round the corner near the Barbican Suites. Or if you've a favourite spot that would do just as well.

If you're not altogether busy with Lizzie's wedding plans, what.

-Finch-Fletchley

Hello, Justin. I'm doing as well as can be expected, considering. Thank you for inquiring, it's very good of you.

Tea and conversation is always welcome... though, you're only asking as a acquaintance friend, yes? I don't mean to make things awkward by checking, but one really never knows.

Oh, I say--yes, just as a friend. Naturally, that's all I--I mean to say, I should jolly well hope I'm not as mercenary as all that, what.

-Justin
Quite a few men would be that mercenary.

And, forgive me for saying so, but you've dated Hydra Lestrange, and you spend loads of time with Professor Dolohov. You're very polite otherwise, yes, but those other things are the mark of a person who's quite mercenary in nature.

But I'm sure you're not, just as you say you're not.

I don't mind trying a new cafe. When did you have in mind?

And if you'll forgive me for saying it, with the exception of Draco you have had poor examples up until now of getting to know gentlewizards.

Believe me, I've no interest in finding a replacement for Hydra. Friends, however, I could well use. As I think you could do.

Are you much of an early riser? I'm afraid you're quite right and Professor Dolohov has drilled me into alighting at the crack of dawn, what, but I could finish my routine and be ready to meet anytime after nine.

-Justin

I don't think you know the names of all my exceptions.

I'm not much of an early riser at all when I don't have a strict schedule to keep. 11 o'clock? We can make an early lunch of it.
Eleven will be splendid.

The cafe's at the corner of Golden Lane and Brackley Street. Called *Demi-Tasse*.

See you then, what.

-Justin

Alright, see you then.

*Daphne*
Okay. A few things to report.

First off, I went to Mr Barkwith to give him my list of supplies for the long distance flying club, and show him our planned route, and he said I couldn't leave Buckingham. For security reasons. He didn't know how long it'd be for. And I asked if I could have people over, and he said Hydra would be fine, but no-one else from school.

No-one had a problem with going out the other day, so I guess this is something they just decided.

I'll let you know if I find out more.

And. Mr and Mrs Malfoy came by to visit. They wanted me to publicly call for Draco's release. And they talked a lot about our friendship, and how much I meant to Draco, and how important my support was, and why writing an open message was better than a PM.

I think they think I knew about Draco and Hermione. They didn't say it right out, but they'd say, 'Oh, you two were so close, I think sometimes you knew him better than we did, and we had no idea,' and stuff like that.

They didn't talk about the deal Mr Malfoy made, but they did say that they wanted Draco home and safe as soon as possible. And they really meant it. Even though sometimes it looked like they didn't think it'd work out.

I said I wanted him back too, of course, and that I would do what I could, but they could tell I was being careful about it, and Mrs Malfoy got really desperate looking, and Mr Malfoy told me it was important, and then they left.

I don't know why it's just you and no-one else.
They aren't even letting me go to Professor Dolohov's house, and that's probably even more secure than Buckingham.

---

alt_hydra at 2014-06-20 14:32:53
Re: Private Message to Hydra

I think Justin must be right, and it's to do with Draco's disappearance. I tried to ask Mummy about it, though, and she said "you'll see the reason for it soon enough." But nothing else.

---

alt_justin at 2014-06-19 21:37:35
(no subject)

Harry,

I say, I suppose that's to be expected, keeping you at home. If the dangerous criminal Severus Snape kidnapped Draco right out of Hogwarts, who knows if he might get to you outside of school, what? And without Professor Lestrange to protect you, in the bargain.

But as for the Malfoys' request...are you going to do it? It'll have to be convincing, if you do.

-Justin

---

alt_harry at 2014-06-19 21:47:09
(no subject)

Yeah. I guess that makes sense.

I know what you mean. I'd have to be really careful. I might write up some stuff for you lot to look over.

Professor Dolohov is coming over tomorrow so we can talk about what he thinks I should do. Maybe he can say more about how the investigation is going too.
Private Message to Antonin Nikolaevich

Professor,

Lucius and Narcissa Malfoy came by this morning. They wanted me to make a public call for Draco’s release, to show my support.

I know you’ve said that it would be best for me to keep my distance, but I want to do what I can to help. I've also been told that I cannot leave Buckingham for security reasons, and seeing as it's probably connected to the investigation, that complicates things.

I could make things a great deal worse for Draco, his parents, and me if I make the wrong move here, and that's the last thing I want.

What would you suggest?

alt_antonin at 2014-06-19 20:06:20
(no subject)

I see.

Let me think on this a bit, and ponder the best way to approach matters. If your minders will let you -- I am certainly capable of ensuring your safety, though as you note, your safety is almost certainly not the sole interest -- you are welcome to come to supper here; if not, let me know and I will come by tomorrow for us to discuss things then.

alt_harry at 2014-06-19 21:19:34
(no subject)

I asked. They're okay with you coming here, but not okay with me going there.
Fair enough.

Tomorrow after breakfast, then?

Thank you, professor.
I heard on the Free News Hour that they can't read our private messages any more. Is it true? Or just a rumour?
Yes, it's true. No one knows how long it will take before they can start reading them again. Does everyone listen to the Free News Hour?
When they fix things Could they go back and read what we write now someday? Or is what we write now secret forever?
THEY COULD READ STUFF WE WROTE AFTER THEY FIXED IT, BUT NOT STUFF WE WROTE BEFORE.
course we do doesn't everyone? I overheard my dad say once that every news programme has an agenda but at least this one is open about it

@alt_galleon
we just all go to our rooms when its on and listen privately and pretend thats not what were doing but its so obvious

-alt_galleon
THE POPPINS PROGRAMME IS GOOD TOO
2014-06-20 18:29:00
Order Only: Well?

Jeremy, Sirius, Lee, Charlie or anybody else who possibly went out to fly the ley lines: anything to report?

There hasn't been any news of any skirmishes out there in the field, so I'm presuming no one's run into any trouble. Yet.

Have a heart, somebody, and take enough pity on me to check in. I'm about to nibble my fingernails past the second knuckle.

alt_bill

alt_sirius at 2014-06-20 23:41:43
(no subject)

Bill,

Nothing much to report, really.

The stone was right where the group predicted it would be but we couldn't make the proposed switch.

I think they'll have more information for us when we all meet next week.
My dear lady,

I have in my possession one ring (heirloom of the house of Gaunt, black stone, gold setting, near certainly a horcrux) and one sword (goblin-made, set with rubies, formerly the possession of Godric Gryffindor. Somewhat recently imbued with basilisk's blood.)

Would you care to be present when we apply the latter to the former?

Why, Albus, you know I'd like nothing better.

I believe Sirius and Severus would both wish to observe as well.

Sunday, perhaps, given tomorrow's solstice? Some secluded place.

Yes. Please.

If it needs to be open air, there's quite a few places on the Isle of Man that would suit.

Would it be safe enough for Draco and Hermione to be present as well? I believe it would prove educational.
I would prefer a space without complex current enchantments, yes. For purposes of research.

I defer to your decision. From various descriptions, the primary direct danger appears to be temptation of one's baser instincts of one sort or another.

Yes. I see.

I believe they would be capable. I shall see if they would be willing.

We must all know our enemy, Albus, and be prepared to face it -- even if it lies within us.

Your gift for the practical, dear lady, remains in full bloom.

Sunday, then. I have no desire to let this task linger.
Albus managed to get hold of the horcrux he was attempting to track down. This afternoon, we safely disposed of it. One blow from the sword of Gryffindor destroyed the horcrux, a second thoroughly shattered the stone that held it.

We must meet soon to discuss our most recent information about horcruxes, the wards, the investigation, our changed circumstances at Hogwarts, and what we must do from here to move forward. We must also take the opportunity to properly mourn Minerva, and give her the farewell she so justly deserves.

Would Saturday suit? I want as many of us as possible to attend.
Think so.

When it started whispering about Regulus I almost grabbed the bloody sword myself.

Just as well the blasted thing's done for. If they're all like that - and five more? Four?

Merlin.

Four, according to Albus's intelligence. And there is sufficient evidence to suggest that one of the remaining four may be hiding in a china plate, which has its own host of problems associated with it, but the fact that we've managed to stumble across so many of the bloody things so far is promising. Not that I'd stake our entire future on it, mind.

Not to mention, Voldemort knows of the loss of the diary, and may have decided it was necessary to replace it with a new one, as it were.

He's certainly had ample opportunity.

To think that he was trying to make Harry

Merlin indeed.

Saturday's fine.
**alt_frank** at 2014-06-23 03:41:40  
*Private Message to Alice*

hey

you want some company?

---

**alt_alice** at 2014-06-23 03:45:09  
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

I won't be much longer.

---

**alt_frank** at 2014-06-23 03:46:44  
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

no rush, love

take your time.

I'll be here when you get back.

---

**alt_alice** at 2014-06-23 03:51:58  
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

I know you will.

And I'm so very glad for it.

More glad than I could ever say.

---

**alt_alice** at 2014-06-23 04:31:37  
*Re: Private Message to Alice*

I've just been sitting here under mum and dad's tree, thinking about how much I miss them.

How much they would've loved our children.

What they would've thought of me if they knew that I was planning on kidnapping, torturing, and killing a camp administrator in order to help a man who quite possibly had a
hand in their deaths.

I know. I know. The camp administrator is not an innocent. I am not helping Lucius for his own sake, but for Draco's, which is a different matter entirely. But that does not change how heartbroken and horrified they would be.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-23 04:56:18
Re: Private Message to Alice

if it was easy for us to make that sort of call, we'd know we were doing something wrong. least that's how I figure it.

this isn't the first time we'll have to do something hard because it's necessary, and it won't be the last. but I trust you.

and your parents were part of a different world, love. they wouldn't have been able to understand because they couldn't begin to imagine what it's like for us here and now. one thing I do know for certain, though, is that no matter what, they had one hell of a daughter.

@alt_alice at 2014-06-23 05:01:05
Re: Private Message to Alice

I love you.

And I'm getting rather cold and could use some warming up. Walk me home?

@alt_frank at 2014-06-23 05:01:26
Re: Private Message to Alice

aye aye.
Private message to Alice

Thank you again for your hospitality following, my dear.

Decidedly unpleasant, all round.

Saturday would work well for me. I am pursuing some particular lines of investigation until then.

Saturday's fine for me.

I think I can come. I mean, Healer Korotkova doesn't work on Saturdays, it's just that she's given me so much to read. I mean, I can come, I may just have to read while the rest of you are arguing about stupid stuff so much that I can't pay attention the whole time.

Saturday will be fine. What time did you have in mind?

Let's say four. We'll plant the tree first thing, have our meeting, and then those who are able to stay can have dinner and a proper wake for as long as they wish.
I went to Gloss House to visit for a few days. I'm still here, I'll be back in London on Tuesday.

I haven't been over there as much since I gained possession of the London house, but I wanted to see Ewan, and I also wanted to warn Fowles and Mina about their bracelets, because they might start checking muggleborns for them now. I gave them their bracelets over a year ago, and whenever I've been back to visit since then, they didn't really treat me any differently, or say anything about them, but I didn't really expect them to.

Anyways. I told Mina we needed to talk and sort of pointed at my wrist, and she picked up on it right away and we went to the stables to talk to Fowles because it'd be more private there, and I told them that people might start checking for bracelets because a muggleborn got caught who was wearing one. And I also brought a radio with me that I'd bought from a second-hand store and was planning to give to them in secret, and when they saw the radio, they got very quiet and sort of looked over at each other. And then they started talking. More than they ever have before.

First off, they already have a radio, and they know about the free hour. All the field hands and gardeners and house servants get together and listen to it in secret every night in one of the dormitories, and the people who have to be on duty get told about it second-hand. And they've been doing it for months and months. And that's not all. Sally-Anne, do you remember Ms Macalister? The woman who always looks so bitter and who shouted at you for taking extra gifts for Gemma and Phillip at that awful Easter party? She's the manager of the estate, she runs all the servants and oversees everything, I think she's a half-blooded, but I'm not sure. But. Get this. She's the one who got them the radio.

Fowles said that Macalister was from this really small village in Scotland, and that as soon as she got the job at Gloss, she went to the camps and tried to get everyone she could find from the village to bring them to the estate so they could all be together. And she went to Hogwarts with Fowles, they were in the same year or something, and she tracked him down and pulled him out of the camps too, and when she found out that Mina was his only living relative, she insisted on
bringing her with as well. And this entire time I thought Macalister was this mean and nasty bint, but the way Fowles talked about her, it's like she wants people to think she's really cruel and working everyone hard. But that they were all in on it together. Macalister and the workers.

Anyways. I thought it was worth sharing.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2014-06-24 02:18:48  
*Private Message to Harry*

All right, Harry?

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-24 03:03:48  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

Yeah.

I'm fine.

Professor Dolohov and Hydra have come by to visit. So. That's something.

---

**alt_pansy** at 2014-06-24 03:10:05  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

You're not very good at lying, you know.

---

**alt_harry** at 2014-06-24 03:11:04  
*Re: Private Message to Harry*

Yeah. Well. I figure I'll save it up for when I really need it.
@alt_harry at 2014-06-24 03:12:19
Re: Private Message to Harry

Anyways. I'm not sitting around feeling sorry for myself or anything.

I'm just bored.

@alt_ron at 2014-06-24 02:34:30
(no subject)

Well, that's a bit of alright. I hope there are loads more people who've found the radio programmes. Did they say how they found out?

Come back soon, yeah? It's dull around here without you.

Course it could just be that I'm going dull now work's started. Seriously. Ask Sally Anne.

@alt_pansy at 2014-06-24 02:47:50
(no subject)


I think it was Macalister who found it. She seems sharp enough.

I suppose I ought to speak to her, but it'll take some care. Maybe Fowles and Mina can help.

I'll be back soon. Come over for dinner tomorrow, yeah? Justin, you can come too if you've no other plans.

@alt_lee at 2014-06-24 12:57:12
(no subject)

That's real snitch.

D'you think you could ask what they'd like to hear more of? We hear from the folks in the camps, with the buttons, but not so much anyone else.
Fowles really liked the foreign news bit, where they read the news stories from the French and American papers, and Mina thought very highly of Mrs Birdwhistle.

I can ask them to ask around to see what the others think.

I was thinking of passing them a button too.
2014-06-23 23:03:00
Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Just a brief message to let you know I arrived here at Abbots Bromley in good form last evening and have had a packed first day... and evening. Quite a lot of old friends gathered here, and a snug little pub down the village where we've devoted ourselves to catching up with one another.

It was lovely to see you yesterday, my dear, and reassuring. I doubt you feel it yet yourself, but the records you're keeping do show things levelling out. Incrementally. Two suggestions based on the patterns I see there: first, that your dream content seems less distressing more positive the more regular your dietary intake; second, I suspect that there's more than coincidence linking the walking you'd done Friday and Saturday to yesterday's fairer outlook. Mind you, I'm not at all overlooking the likelihood that you rose to the occasion of my being there and that after my departure you may have sagged rather. I hope that on the whole you found my being there beneficial.

If so, I'd quite like to repeat the pleasure (because I do very much enjoy your company) at the weekend--would Sunday suit?

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-24 13:40:12
(no subject)

Sunday, please, yes.

You're very restful, Poppy. Knowing the things to say and also the things that won't do any good to say.

I do feel so helpless just after walking, it's so tiring still, and I'm not even trying to go far. But I think you're right, that it helps more later. Dad's coming tonight, and I'll ask him to walk with me. Easier than trying to talk.

I am trying with the food, really. Canny - that's the elf here - keeps trying different things, and some of them work. Different little finger sandwiches, yesterday.

Oh. I'm maybe a fifth into that book you left, Wattle and Daub. I wasn't at all sure I'd like it - you know what I think about divination
and seers. But this Phoebe, she's very clever, and not at all dithery or vague or foolish.

Walking with your father is a fine strategy for extending your distance, as you will undoubtedly be buoyed by his presence and will be led to think of other things than your energy reserves. At the same time, I quite see your point that walking might offer spontaneous topics for conversation rather than those deeply felt things on both your minds that are, nonetheless, better left unspoken.

Do you have a wildflower guide for Cornwall? I think I recall your saying you've a birding book. Do let me know if you'd like anything along those lines. I'd be happy to bring you anything you'd enjoy.

I'm pleased, by the way, if the novel I brought is entertaining. As I told you, I found the author intriguing--and not at all dithery, vague, or foolish herself, and I'd say that the protagonist is rather meant to reflect her own ways of thinking. Fortunately, she seems to avoid most of the usual excesses of that sort of self-projection--though I admit I read very quickly once I'd had the thought of passing it along to you.

What do you think of the sister and brother? Rather better developed than I'd expected, those two characters. And so distinct. In what they notice, as well as in their motivating interests. I'd have expected the young woman to be the sentimental one, for instance--about the family tragedy, you know--and she's not at all, is she?

I gather there are other stories in Ibb Godden's cauldron. She said her publisher is interested but that it depends what success this first book finds. I suppose that means I really ought to have bought you your own separate copy. Well. If you decide it's enjoyable, perhaps we could go in on buying copies for Pomona and Irma. (It's always amusing to hear Irma's view of popular novels, because, of course, she cannot help but read whatever's put before her spectacles, and yet she's such a critic of light fiction! I shouldn't tease her, but it is amusing!)

Must dash so I'm not late to today's opening session. I hope the morning is as lovely there as here. You have such a nice spot for
enjoying a cup of tea and watching the birds. Or for watching the cats watch the birds!

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-24 15:27:46
(no subject)

Quite, on Dad. He loves me, and he was really quite fond of Raz, and - well. The words just don't work right. He and I've always been more about quietly doing things together, more than talking.

I don't have a wildflower guide, no (and you know I'm horrible with plants), but I'd give it a try, if you have one you like.

A friend - we'd a habit of long walks together, some years ago - took me up to walk on Bodmin Moor last week, and we're going to try that again on Thursday. (Cantus Deverill - about half his family's in your line of work, as healers, and you might remember his brother Darius, who was the YPL Healer representative I actually liked.)

The novel, yes. She avoids that thing so many people do writing young adults, making them stupid or just following, rather than having opinions but not always experience handling some things, doesn't she? At least so far. And I do like the sister's practicality, and that bit where she elbows her brother when he's about to give things away.

She has a rather nice hand - the author, I mean - with dialogue, too. That part when they're trying to talk Phoebe into helping, and Phoebe keeps putting them off, I could hear just her tone of voice, dry and clear and not giving way. And that scene in the first solicitor's office, where he just is treating them like idiots.

I do think Pomona and Irma would enjoy it, though for different reasons. And Mum and my sister Sage, actually. Happy to put in an order at Flourish and Blotts, and really, the money's not a problem on my end. The one thing that isn't right now.

What's your opening session on? Oh, and Storm said, his note today, that he of course remembers Peverell Smythe (they were the same year, though not the same house, of course), and it's nice to hear they're doing doing so well for themselves.
Draco,

I hope that you can read this message, and that you’ll be able to answer it as well.

When I first learned of what happened, I didn’t know how to begin to reconcile what I knew about you with the things you were accused of doing. The Draco that I know is loyal, trustworthy, and a true citizen of the Protectorate. He is someone I have spent nearly every day of my life with. He is my brother, my best friend, and my right hand. He loves his family and his country, and would give his life to serve his Lord. I don’t know exactly what happened, Draco, and none of us will know for sure until you are able to tell your side of things, but I know you, and I know that you could not have done this of your own free will.

Our enemies try as hard as they can to twist the truth, corrupt what is pure and right, and to make us afraid. They want to tear down the Protectorate and everything that it stands for, and are willing to destroy you in order to do it. But the Draco that I know would not allow himself to be used like some sort of pawn. And if you truly believed what they did, Draco, believed it enough to abandon everything you had ever known, you wouldn’t stay quiet about it.

They’re a bunch of bloody cowards. I know they haven’t broken you, because they’re too afraid to let you talk for yourself. I don’t care what lies they’ve told you, it is never too late to make this right. Hold on to what you know to be true. Come home. No matter what the future holds, we will face it together.

Thank you, Harry. It is truly reassuring to know our son has such a loyal friend.
If there's anything more I can do to help you and your family during this difficult time, please let me know.

It took a few drafts. Professor Dolohov said I needed to walk a fine line. Anyways.

This is seriously bizarre. On the reading end, I mean. On any end, really.

Yeah. I know the feeling. I have to keep remembering that I'm supposed to be really worried about you. I wonder if people will ever know the whole story.

Are they telling you to say anything specific about me? I mean, this reads really well for defending Draco but it doesn't mention me at all, which is just fine, by the way, but it sort of begs the question that if it's not Draco's fault and this is all a pack of lies, then I had to have played
some part in spiriting him away, right? Are they pressuring you to tell them anything more about what I might or might not have been able to do at Hogwarts?

@alt_harry at 2014-06-25 05:38:40
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

The best I can figure, they're a lot more focused on Mr Snape, and think that he used you to get to Draco.

They asked a lot about you and Milland. They also asked whether you'd tried to seduce me, and whether I knew what you were doing with Draco, and that sort of thing, but I think they'd rather think you were part of Mr Snape's plan than actually doing stuff on your own.

@alt_hermione at 2014-06-25 05:43:06
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Okay, as long as they don't think you knew anything about it.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-25 05:48:18
Re: Order Only: Private Message to Harry

Well, I am a certifiable idiot.

I don't think they think I know things.

It is sort of not good that they're not letting me leave Buckingham, but Hydra said she'll find out what she can.

@alt_sinistra at 2014-06-25 12:55:20
Private message to Harry

This is so very hard all round.

Dad said the radio bit sounded good. Clear and persuasive.
Will they let books through, if I send them? Some of Raz's, I mean.

alt_harry at 2014-06-25 16:54:59
Re: Private message to Harry

Good to hear.

And I think they will, yeah. Just send them through Barkwith.

Sorry I can't make it out there. How're things?

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-25 17:52:42
Re: Private message to Harry

Right. Tomorrow, I should have a few things.

Sorry you can't too. I know you hate being cooped up.

I'm managing a bit better. Poppy says I'm improving even if it doesn't feel like it. More walks. More reading. Not as much of either as I'd like yet. People checking on me. A couple of complicated conversations, but they've mostly gone okay.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-27 22:02:43
Re: Private message to Harry

I am so, so, so very sorry. All of it.

I wish I could do anything to help.

Thinking so much of you.

alt_harry at 2014-06-28 01:11:05
Re: Private message to Harry

The books helped.

Really, they did.

I'm sorry too.
Order Only: I have a new boss

The announcement was made today. Geoffrey Kindle is moving over from Internal Affairs to take the position last held by the late, unlamented Corax Mulciber. What my position will be is rather hazy while so much shuffling is going on, but it's more than a mere flunky, I hope. He is bringing his own clerk over with him from Internal Affairs, Violet Allthorpe, who has been with him for a number of years and knows just how to sharpen and line up his pencils the way he likes them.

No, I am not joking.

I am moving as fast as I can to make it clear I'm indispensable. Only in my dreams am I the Assistant Director of Protectorate Affairs, but then no one else is, either, and there's no talk--yet--of creating the role. My title (Senior Adjutant), after all, was something that Corax made up, making my position on the departmental flow chart ambiguous. As best as I could tell it meant I was 'the bloke who does whatever I tell him to do.'

Kindle and Ms Allthorpe have spent the day cleaning out Corax's office, tut-tutting about the dust and half-eaten decaying sandwiches in the corners (nothing has been said about the file cabinets, which I enspelled with duplio cantrips).

Right. I will be sticking close to the office for awhile, keeping an eye on things as the jockeying for influence and positions continues.

---

Oh, and Nick and Jeremy,

I've taken the opportunity to slip some glowing reviews into your files. Jeremy, I hope they'll be useful if and when you think of trying to make the move to magical transportation, to get us an in with the portkey people.
I'd say 'the bloke who does whatever I tell him to do' was exactly what he meant.

If Kindle goes looking for me tomorrow, you might want to convey the impression that you think I deliberately absented myself to irritate him. To show him that MEU doesn't answer to Protectorate Affairs, like I'm throwing my weight around a bit. You don't know where I am.

(I'm going to be at Argyll. I'm marshalling reasons to explain that fact, if anyone wonders about it later.)
ORDER ONLY: Private Message to Frank and Severus

How is Flynn?

It's an awful thing to say, but I'm almost relieved that things have sorted out the way they have. It will still end in death, but a far kinder death than we'd thought it would have to be.

Cold comfort, that.

I've a feeling I'll get an earful at Saturday's meeting. I don't want to tell my children what we... Undoubtedly, those who were least involved in the planning of it will find it the easiest to pass judgement, and will insist that there were alternatives that would leave a lighter conscience and cleaner hands.

But I see the crushing guilt and fear that consumes Draco and the close scrutiny that Harry is under and I know that this is the best of a series of awful choices. Thank Merlin for Rachel. Thank Merlin for you, Severus. And Frank, thank you for helping to bear this burden and this responsibility. You are my strength.

I've been sitting at my desk for the past hour staring at my journal. There's not a chance I'm getting any sleep tonight, so I might as well make use of it and help keep watch. I'll be there in a few with a thermos.

he's sleeping quietly.

they'll stand by you, al. trust.

see you soon.
Yes. You’re right. That was unkind of me.
I’m on my way now. I love you.
2014-06-25 23:40:00
Private message to Jason Montague

You ever been up to the muggle camp at Argyll? I overheard a couple of blokes in the line for the canteen today and it got me thinking about how people in really isolated spots sometimes start thinking they can get away with anything because who's ever going to drop by to check?

I think we should drop by to check.

I don't recommend apparating unless you're well-rested; it is a very long way from much of anywhere.

Meet me up there at half eight.
Order Only: Private Message to Draco and Mr Snape

Good luck! I hope everything goes well today.

Please let me know if you need help with anything or if my showing myself would be helpful. (And tell Mrs Longbottom and Sirius and and Auror Brodie that I said so, in case you're busy.)

Do you suppose there's anyway I can sneak into my own funeral? I'd like to see how many girls are there, wringing their hands and wailing and crying. Aside from just my mother, that is.

Thanks for the luck. We might need it.
2014-06-26 13:19:00
Private message to Mr and Mrs Malfoy

I have some terrible news for you, and I thought it best to get it to you as quickly as possible.

Draco is dead. He apparently got his wand back for a moment and seized the opportunity to escape -- apparated to the Argyll muggle camp, probably because it was the closest possible refuge.

Snape must have grabbed hold of him. They showed up here together, and Snape killed him and apparated away. I was here with Montague, in the office, doing -- well, it doesn't matter. We heard a commotion but didn't arrive quickly enough. It was a terrible failure on our part, and on the part of the camp, to have both Draco and his kidnapper within our grasp and to lose both.

Montague is firecalling Auror Lestrange as I write this. I told him I'd give you the news.

I am so terribly sorry, Mr and Mrs Malfoy. I know how desperately you wanted to see him return alive.

alt_narcissa at 2014-06-26 18:31:17
(no subject)

Excuse me? Is this a lie, a trick, or your idea of a sick joke?

He most certainly is not dead. I would know.

And who are you to speak to m

alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 18:34:46
Private message to Mrs Malfoy

He's not?

Are you absolutely sure? Because Auror Lestrange should be informed immediately, in that case.

It currently appears that Draco was being held prisoner, and seized
the first opportunity to escape, dying tragically in the attempt. If that's not what happened...  

@alt_narcissa at 2014-06-26 18:37:56  
Re: Private message to Mrs Malfoy  
I keep a copy of his portrait in a locket, to say nothing of our family tapestry.  
If anyone is to inform my sister, it should be that someone has played a cruel and morbid trick on us.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 18:40:36  
Re: Private message to Mrs Malfoy  
If this is indeed a trick, it's a trick that suggests Draco will certainly not be back before the deadline.  
Perhaps I was misinformed about the likely consequences, however.

@alt_lucius at 2014-06-26 18:44:14  
(no subject)  
Dearest, perhaps you should check the tapestry and make sure that it does indeed agree with Auror Lamont's report.  
Whether it is true or not it is clear that he will not be returning. That - is - what you are telling us, Auror Lamont?  
And if he is not returning then surely it would be better there is no evidence to ... contradict ... Auror Lamont's news.

@alt_narcissa at 2014-06-26 18:45:53  
(no subject)  
But -  
Yes. Yes, I - must have been mistaken. Or there was a delay in the effect.
Our son is dead.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 18:49:37
(no subject)

I am so terribly sorry, Mr and Mrs Malfoy, to be the bearer of this news.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 18:46:47
(no subject)

To all appearances, Draco DID return, dying tragically even as he arrived.

If in fact that wasn't Draco -- well. If it wasn't Draco, then it's clear he won't be returning.

@alt_lucius at 2014-06-26 18:49:36
(no subject)

Yes, just so. In the act of trying to set the record straight and restore himself to his family and the service of his Lord.

May one take it you are prepared to attest to as much, to any and all who might ask about the circumstances?

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 18:51:18
(no subject)

Yes.

Jason Montague saw everything I did, and there were two camp guards who saw Draco and Snape's arrival, and saw Snape murder Draco. They were insufficiently quick to prevent Snape's escape.
alt_lucius at 2014-06-26 19:44:50
Private Message to Auror Rachel Lamont

Is there anything ... that his mother ought to know, which should not come from a stranger?

(Under the circumstances, I do realise why you wrote but perhaps it's best to leave the rest to others from here.)

alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 19:49:00
Re: Private Message to Auror Rachel Lamont

(I fully intend to, don't worry.)

He appeared to have been well-treated. No fresh injuries -- there were some older ones that had been healed, though, and his school robes had quite a bit of dried blood on them.

We think the safe house must have been somewhere not too far from here; there are Enforcers out searching. (Jason and I are waiting for Auror Lestrange to arrive. So if I suddenly stop replying, you can guess why.)

alt_lucius at 2014-06-26 19:59:25
Re: Private Message to Auror Rachel Lamont

Understood. My sister-in-law is unlikely to show much in the way of lenience. Were I in a similar position, would fully concur with her zeal. Do bear that in mind should it be necessary to ... seek blame for not rescuing him in time.

Bella will also be able to make the identification. Not sure it would be wise to summon Narcissa.

One wonders that neither of them splinched, if Draco really had not prepared for Snape to side-along-Apparate.

Well, it will all become part of the investigation, one assumes. Though that may not be enough to counter the accusations entirely.
Forgive me: We each have much to do, it would seem.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-26 20:06:26
Re: Private Message to Auror Rachel Lamont

Oh, I quite understand what to expect. I am an Auror, after all.

There's been a bit of discussion of that; you may be called up to confirm the identification, but not for a few hours yet, I think.

As far as splinching goes -- it's actually rather rare, especially over short distances. An unexpected side-along would certainly increase the risk, but a successful apparation wouldn't in itself be surprising. I read a paper on this -- oh, I won't bore you. Anyway, yes. I shouldn't keep you from your tasks.
We went to the Forest yesterday. We were being followed, of course, but no-one came out to challenge us, so I suppose Firenze spread the word about Wednesdays. There's not a lot to report. We stopped at our usual places but didn't linger for too long, gathered some more mushrooms for Mr Snape, and took the chance to explore some areas we hadn't had the chance to fill in on the map yet.

We stumbled across a swamp of sorts. It was muddy and damp and had dark pools of water. It smelled sort of sulphurous, and we weren't sure about how stable the ground was, so we didn't venture in or stay for very long. We think there might be hinkypunks, and grindylows might live in the deeper pools, so we're planning on bringing wellies and Nev can borrow pair of Uncle Archie's fishing waders for next time. Don't worry. We'll be careful.

Other than that, things were fairly normal. For the Forbidden forest, that is.
Private message to Jason Montague and Rachel Lamont

Both of you -

I'll be onsite within the hour. Have already told Montague I want the report again, in person. So that you can tell me to my face exactly how you failed to either prevent the death of my nephew or the escape of a wanted fugitive.

Be waiting.

Yes, Auror Lestrange. We'll be waiting.
2014-06-26 13:55:00
Order Only

It's done.

The Malfoys knew the truth -- Mrs Malfoy immediately checked her locket, and the tapestry - - but they're playing along.

Argyll is currently swarming with MLE. I hope everyone's well clear.

alt_rachel

2014-06-26 19:02:44
Private message to Alice and Severus

I rather hate to sacrifice a perfectly fine wand just to set the scene, but I don't suppose anyone much wanted to carry Nott Sr's.

Severus, well done. You timed it perfectly. We saw the green flash, but were much too far away to actually intervene.

Conveniently, I found some minor embezzling this morning before you arrived, so I can now safely suggest that I came up here on a fortuitous tip. With a little luck I won't wind up cruciated or sacked for our total failure to be in the right spot to save Draco and apprehend the fugitive. Montague didn't want to respond to the commotion -- thought it was probably muggles being muggles -- so if I can throw him between myself and the hot end of Bellatrix's wand, I'd even be justified.

alt_alice

2014-06-26 19:13:34
Re: Private message to Alice and Severus

Good.

Well done.
Thank you, Rachel.

Thank you.

Be a dear and make sure you have some lemons at your flat, would you?

I'd give you a lemon grove if I could, but they're rare in New London.

Well done. I'll see you whenever you get here.

Thanks.

I'm glad that Uncle Lucius and Aunt Narcissa know the truth. Though I hope that they can be content with that, and don't decide that they want all of the
How does it feel to be dead, Draco?

@alt_draco at 2014-06-26 19:37:08
(no subject)

It doesn't feel any different than being alive, actually.

@alt_hermione at 2014-06-26 19:49:18
(no subject)

Bet you'll win every game of Green Ghost, though.

@alt_draco at 2014-06-26 19:55:34
Private message to Hermione

I always won, anyway.

Bellatrix will probably punish Lamont. I'm sorry for that, but - well, we survived it, didn't we?

Technically, anyway.

@alt_harry at 2014-06-26 19:57:12
(no subject)

Hah. Point.

@alt_evelyn at 2014-06-26 21:05:04
(no subject)

I'm glad you're not really dead, Draco.

Very.

And I'm glad your parents know that you're not dead too.

Do you think they'll be all right?
I suppose we'll have to wait and see, won't we? It's not like the person who has to make that decision is the most predictable.

But it's far better than it could've been.

And I'm glad they know too.
**2014-06-26 15:04:00**

*Private message to Barty Crouch Jr*

Expect you may have heard by now, but if not, I'll summarise: Draco attempted escape by Apparating to the Argyll camp. Snape pursued and killed Draco before he could reach safety. Neither the camp guards nor Lamont and Montague were successful in stopping Snape, and he remains at large.

While taking Lamont and Montague's reports, Mulciber arrived and retrieved the body without notifying me. Those same camp guards allowed him to do so. Both guards have been permanently relieved of duty.

Enforcers believe they found a safe house a few miles to the West. I need to examine the scene, but meanwhile, Mulciber must give over the body. I'm counting on you to convince him.

---

**2014-06-26 21:30:53**

*alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-26 21:30:53*

(no subject)

Lamont and Montague?

Nevermind. At least it's obvious why Mulciber's barged in. Smells fakery in this. Wants MLE and DIRRT controlling investigation so you and L can't collude to make Draco 'disappear'.

Will see what I can do.

Will absolutely retrieve the body.

---

**2014-06-26 21:42:13**

*alt_bellatrix at 2014-06-26 21:42:13*

(no subject)

You know as well as I that my sister would never orchestrate her son's own death, particularly in light of the evidence that he was at least temporarily swayed to turn against our Lord and all that He stands for. One can hope that in his final moments Draco had a change of heart and was coming to us to tell all.
The safe house appears to have been occupied for at least a week. It would not have held more than four people, maximum. The conditions are habitable but not ideal, that alone may have been what caused Draco to re-think his situation. So accustomed to the best, that one. Some old blood on the floorboards - verified as Draco's. A scrap of some coarse garment snagged on a nail - the mudblood's, I would wager.

---

**alt_crouch_jr** at **2014-06-26 22:20:50**

(no subject)

Assume you've sealed the site? Unless you're entirely done with it, Mulciber will be directly behind, wanting his own analysis of that rat hole.

Retrieved the material evidence MLE have sent in from Argyll. Blood-soaked turf. A shoe. Assorted Other. Only missed a box of files. Those are in M's hands, and not worth the fire fight to run after them. Assume there's nothing of value in camp parchments. (Of value to us. MEU, perhaps. What *were* Lamont and Montague doing there?)

Re. orchestration: it's immaterial what I think. Mulciber's theory is polyjuice: he sent the body directly to DoM. To Bale.

On my way there.

---

**alt_crouch_jr** at **2014-06-26 23:54:01**

(no subject)

Have retrieved the body. Delivered to Osiris Sinclair. Have told Narcissa.

You'll have my report by morning. Suspect here will be a St M's report on Bale.
Noted.

I've not yet spoken with Cissy. Other details required my attention first.

How is she faring?

Understandably upset.

Her first response was odd, though. Not what I anticipated, at least. More concerned for Lucius than-

I suppose she's stunned. Not yet fully grasping the loss.

I expect that's it.

Malciber's going to press the polyjuice angle.

We can't disprove it.

I will not say this to Narcissa, but I have to grant it's a strong theory. Given Snape's known affinity for and possession of PJ.

Will not subject that corpse to Bale's analysis, however, though it could prove the theory. Can't disprove it, though, so it's useless for our purposes. And potentially damaging. Will stand accountable if there's accounting to be made.
If I consider the reasons why Snape might fabricate Draco's death, I can only arrive at a few. Tosha may have more insight.

If Draco is indeed alive, there is much, I'm sure, he could be convinced to tell us.

But we must work with what is available to us right here, right now. I've secured our Lord's approval to move forward. Hydra will be in your hands, soon. My greatest concern is that her fondness for Harry will cloud her ability to do what must be done. She's showed mettle of late, but still has much to learn.

Agreed. If the death was staged, it was carefully done. And none of the explanations are ones I would want Narcissa burdened with.

A quiet search, then. Because, indeed, if taken alive, his information would be invaluable. Regardless.

Will speak with Tosha. Know he will join us in pressing back against Mulciber's efforts to paint Lucius as knowing collaborator in a pièce de théâtre directed by Snape. Certain that will be his line. And that he will be keen to persuade Our Lord.

You've had the pleasure of dealing with him since yesterday's defeat in Protectorate Affairs? Not best pleased, our man, Cadmus.

As for Hydra. I'm ready to begin with her whenever you wish.
Quiet as can be, yes. Meanwhile, Hydra will move Harry into position.

As for Cadmus - it's rather too bad that Snape killed his brother just as I was getting to bond with Corax and know his mindset better. Without his brother, Cadmus is weakened, and he knows it. Weaker, but more dangerous. Still, he does remain predictable.

You know, Barty, your concern for my sister is really very touching.

Mind you don't develop the same sort of softness for my daughter. She has a way of evoking men's sympathies. No doubt that's why it seemed, for years, that she'd be better off following Cissy's shadow, rather than my own.

My concern for Narcissa is nothing for you to worry about.

As for Hydra. Prefer to keep tutelage and sex separate. Blurs lines and makes for tiresome drama. Was glad when the last cohort of ducklings got beyond thinking they could improve their standing by offering themselves. Would have to have sacked them after.

Shall I let you know if Hydra makes any inappropriate offers? Or would you prefer not to be bothered? Either is fine.

She will not offer, but she may make herself beguiling to you, or attempt to evoke your sympathies and pity. That has been her way in the past.
If you see any such behaviour from her, do let me know. It would be a sign that she has regressed, and it best be nipped in the bud at once.
Narcissa.

Want you to know the body is being cared for. Have personally delivered him to Sinclair. Told S to wait your instructions.

Understand that Lamont communicated the facts as they developed this afternoon. Will answer any questions you may have to the extent I can. And do anything else you ask.

Whatever you need.

Yes. I was -

She told us. I could scratch her eyes out

We've no idea whether this new development will - change anything. But for the moment ....

We'll see Sinclair. Or I shall, if it's best Lucius await further news at home.

Narcissa, I'm so sorry. I'll meet you at Sinclair's. You shouldn't have to do that alone.
Well, of course, it ought to be obvious that Draco was attempting to come back to us, to recant his prurient lapse of judgement, and was cut down by that horrid Snape.

But I am not so naïve as to think everyone will see it as we see it. Or that even were his innocence proven (as now it cannot be, without doubt), that Our Lord would choose to forgive unequivocally.

In any case, thank you for the offer, but Lucius has informed MLE that we are going.

Bella's findings concur. He was making an escape, but Snape followed.

You may count on us both to make that report in the clearest terms. Nothing in my examination of the body or the material evidence contradicts those findings.

Very well. Good.

But do know that I'm here for anything you need.
Order Only: Private message to Ron

I suppose I don't have to lock this, do I? If they're right about no one being able to read anything we write. It's not like writing to Sirius Black, I'm just writing to my boyfriend, that's allowed, surely. Unless Mr Crispin said anything to you about not seeing me, in which case...

Anyway.

I feel like I've spent the last few weeks drowning in Healing texts and I've finally found my footing. Like suddenly things are making sense where they weren't before so I can remember them for more than five minutes. Which is good because I think Healer Korotkova was going to lose patience with me before much longer.

How's your internship been going?

alt_ron at 2014-06-27 04:16:48
(no subject)

Ouch. That's how.

At least they don't expect me to read anything. Most of the time I can't see straight by the time I get home. Seriously. Tonight everything's got a dirty great halo around it.

Anywiz. I was thinking Saturday maybe we could, I dunno, get together and have lunch or something before the meeting. Or maybe you could just come here and we could have a nap. And some food. If you brought some over. I dunno. Maybe I should come over there?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 04:20:46
(no subject)

Are you at that flat Justin found now, or still at the Burrow?

You could come here or I could come there. If you come here Hitty will make the food.
And yeah getting together would be great. Whether we eat or nap or both.

What's it like?

@alt_ron at 2014-06-27 05:32:01
(no subject)

The flat? It's got two bedrooms. One bath, though, so Justin'd know if you came. D'you mind that? Him knowing?

Oh and it's got a lounge and a kitchen that are really just one room with a carpet on the lounge end and a hob and sink where the kitchen is. And a window that looks down into the back garden of the ground floor flat. The windows on the other side look out into the road at the houses opposite. Nothing special.

It'd be brilliant if you came here. I don't think I could even get out the right Floo grate if I tried coming there.

59 Banner Street.

If I'm asleep, mine's the room at the end of the corridor. Not the one opposite the lounge.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 05:36:04
(no subject)

Right now, you mean I could come? I don't think I care if Justin knows.

I'm already in my

I'll come over. If you're asleep I'll try not to wake you up.
2014-06-26 23:05:00
Order Only: Private message to Sirius Black

I don't suppose you're awake.

alt_rachel

alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 04:14:18
(no subject)

Haven't quite packed it in for the night yet.
Still have the shakes courtesy of my cousin?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-27 04:16:31
(no subject)

Yeah, good guess.
The shakes have passed off. Headache's still pretty bad. Potion didn't do much.
I went to bed a while ago, but got up because I couldn't sleep.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 04:19:25
(no subject)

What's bothering you? Everything went off beautifully, seemed to me.

Though. No word yet on whether it was enough to save Lucius bleeding Malfoy. Is that the worry?

alt_rachel at 2014-06-27 04:26:08
(no subject)

No. Draco will know we tried. That matters more than what happens to Lucius.

I mean, I'm reasonably fond of him. But you know, my plan for the last six months has been that if I got caught, I'd
try to throw him and Lana Sandoval to the wolves before I offed myself. Anyone connected to me is at risk, if I get caught. It's why for years I avoided friendships with anyone I actually liked.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-27 04:18:04
(no subject)

I was thinking about MLE, lying there.

It existed before. It'll still exist after. If there is an after.

What do you think it'll be like?

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 04:25:20
(no subject)

Well.

If there's any justice, we'll put Frank or Kingsley in charge (or Allie, but honestly I don't think she'd want it after herding us all this time).

But it won't be like before. It can't be. We've got to show better respect for Muggles, for one thing. Then there will be reparations - Merlin, those will be a mess to administer. And there'll be a whole host of new laws we'll have to think about.

@alt_rachel at 2014-06-27 04:28:41
(no subject)

I never used to think about what would come after.

You lot calling me 'Auror Brodie,' it makes me think about what it would be like. Being her.

@alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 04:36:04
(no subject)

Have you talked to Frank and Alice about your parents? Might be good for you, kiddo.
I can't say I knew them too well but they'd likely be proud of what you're trying to do here. And they'd understand it means breaking a few occamy eggs.

Only briefly. Alice is so busy I don't know when she finds time to sleep and comb her hair, and Frank couldn't really use the journals for months, though I suppose now he could.

I'm guessing Frank wouldn't cruciate his Aurors for mistakes. Especially when they weren't actually mistakes. (I mean -- there was literally no way we could have stopped Snape. We were inside the office; we got out just in time to see him cast AK and apparate away. Doesn't matter, of course, we were there and we failed and a price has to be paid, and better to take our punishment from Bellatrix than Our Lord.)

People forget it wasn't so long ago when those 'Cardinal Curses' were punishable by Azkaban.

As for Bella, she's always been murderous, irrational and spiteful. In the Muggle world she'd be known as a psychopath. Ah, family.

They've got a word for people like her?

Yeah, I'm sorry you had to be related to her. Does anyone in the family like her, or are they all just as petrified of her as anyone else? Lucius is at least cautious with her.
I don't even think Voldemort likes her, and that's saying something.

No, I'm sure Aunt Druella approves of her eldest daughter. Narcissa's the only one who's ever been able to twist Bella round her finger even the tiniest bit, though. Well, Andi wasn't exactly afraid of her, either, but they didn't get on quite so well as Bella and Cissy.

Mostly the family learned to ignore her or stay out of her way. She's sort of like the type of housecat that will spit, hiss and claw at you without even a moment's notice. After a while, you stop offering a hand out to pet the creature.

It is irritating, working in an office where you get cruciated for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I suppose by rights I can't complain about today, given I orchestrated it.

We orchestrated it, the lot of us.

Without you it would have been almost impossible, too. At least Hermione pointed out that we didn't really need to beat Draco to a pulp before using polyjuice on that Flynn bloke.

(Talk about doing the world favours! I almost wish we could have inflicted a few wounds after making him take the potion.)
Oh yeah, that bastard. I thought we could probably find someone deserving.

Anyway here's the thing about being Auror Brodie. About thinking about Auror Brodie.

Back when I joined MLE I thought -- it's a little hard to explain this -- but I decided I was going to die. I wanted to bring down the regime and I reckoned this was going to cost me my life and every day well, this is still true

I get up and think, 'well, I'm not in an MLE dungeon so they haven't caught me yet' but I go to work figuring it'll happen.

It's good, though, it keeps me sharp. It helps me take risks. There are a lot of risks I can't avoid, and other risks, well, they've paid off.

Thinking about the future is distracting.

I can't do my job if I'm walking around worrying about dying instead of just treating it as a foregone conclusion.

I've been thinking maybe I should ask everyone to call me Auror Lamont again.
If that's how you feel, I'm sorry if I started something.

But I think it's important to distinguish between the person you were told to be, the person you currently have to be, and the person you wish to become.

Look. When I joined the Order for Albus, I had no plan for my life, either. I figured I'd never see 30. That wasn't the same sort of pessimism you describe, it was - I just didn't think my life had much value, if you take my meaning. So I didn't mind at all the idea of risking everything to stop Voldemort and his followers.

But now .... I have all sorts of reasons to want to carry on. It doesn't make me less reckless, and it doesn't distract me from the mission. It makes me all the more committed. I'd still give up my life, and gladly, if it meant putting a definite end to this madness.

I think the question is not 'Are you prepared to die' so much as it is 'Are you willing to die' - and so long as the answer is yes, you'll do whatever you need to do to get the job done.

I guess that's another way to look at it.

Honestly, I can't imagine not being willing to die to bring down the Lord Protector.
More than you wanted to digest, was it?

Sorry. That's apparently what happens when someone reaches advanced age.

Have a Scotch or something. Or wake up Bill. I'm sure he won't mind.

Yeah, you're ancient. Practically as old as Albus, is what I've heard.

The headache's passed off a bit, maybe I will wake up Bill.

And honestly, you might not be able to imagine it, but plenty of others can do. Unfortunately, if it were that simple, he wouldn't have been able to seize and hold power in the first place.

Right, but I meant, for me. I can't imagine not being willing to die, or kill, or do anything that would bring him down.

The hard part is you never know when you're putting a piece into place, and when you're just flying in circles. Especially with wild cards like madness-inducing lockets and tiaras and all the rest that have to be destroyed to keep him from coming back again.

I'm going to resolve not to think about that one, or I'll never get to sleep.
Good night.

Thanks for talking.
Ron,

I say, old chap, I've no objection to using the shower second, what, as it's convenient for both of us that way.

But could you please remember to cast Scourgify, once you're done? It would make things much more pleasant. The drying spell, too, if you could. I nearly cracked my skull open this morning, what.

If it's not too much trouble, of course.

Are we on for the Jugged Hare tonight? First round's mine.

-Justin
2014-06-27 11:08:00
Private message to Daphne
Greengrass

Daphne -- I got some really awful news today from Pansy. I really hate to be the one to tell you, and through the journals, but I can't get away and I don't want you hearing through the papers this evening.

Apparently Draco tried to get away from Snape, and Snape killed him. This happened yesterday, up in some muggle camp in Scotland.

I'm so sorry.

Can we meet, soon? For tea, or ice cream, or anything really. Somewhere quiet, where we can talk a bit. My internship's been a bit mad but I think I'll have a bit more time now that the first bit is over.

---

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 16:13:31
(no subject)

Pansy heard from the Malfoys. They must be utterly destroyed.

alt_daphne at 2014-06-27 16:15:15
(no subject)

What?

That's not funny.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 16:17:10
(no subject)

No, it's not.
Well.. I don't believe you!

Draco wouldn't be killed. He - he had plans... this must all be part

I mean, no. You're lying.

I'm not lying to you, Daphne.

The Malfoys told Pansy. They wouldn't joke about something like this.

You know who else died, and it seemed impossible because he's just not the sort of person to die - not that way, at least. Barty Crouch, Jr. And it turned out he wasn't dead, after all.

I saw the letter Draco wrote, to Harry's girl. I mean, Hermione Granger. And somehow, after reading that, all the things he told me about his vague plans, his "mission," started to make more sense. I still don't understand any of it, really, but... Draco said the person everyone thought he was was just an act.

And at the end of the letter, he said something about how the threat of death makes people feel differently. Oh.. I wish I remembered it better.

Anyway, I'm sure you're not lying to me. Not specifically.

But, I still don't believe you.
I see.

I'm not going to tell you what to believe. But, it's going to be in the papers, this evening, and you deserve not to be blindsided, so I wanted you to hear before you saw it.

And you're right: Barty Crouch wasn't dead after all.

And sometimes people get eaten by centaurs just in time...

Thank you for telling me, though.

If you can ever read this I hope you notice that I DIDN'T lie to you. I was really careful not to. I said 'apparently,' I said the Malfoys wouldn't joke about it, that was all true.

I'm really glad you don't believe Draco's really dead. You deserve to know the whole thing -- you've kept secrets about Sarah, about the galleon, about 'Pure Hunger,' all sorts of things. I just can't work out whether you WANT to know the whole thing. I mean, I know you know there are secrets you're not in on and I can tell you resent it but I can't work out how much more I can tell you that wouldn't be ten times more dangerous than giving you all of it, only all of it is ... a little dizzying. Pansy came in a little at a time -- there was Hermione's wand already, when she worked out the secret, and we knew about the Order but just that it had to exist, there had to be people out there doing things like giving wands to muggleborns. She didn't have to right then and there swallow the idea of working with Sirius Black, both the
Longbottoms, and a whole array of enemies of the state, to bring down all the people she cared about.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 17:17:31 (no subject)

There are other things I'd like to tell you, if you want to know them.

But I don't want to tell you secrets that would just burden you.

alt_daphne at 2014-06-27 17:21:02 (no subject)

That's what he always said, too.

Everyone must believe me very weak and delicate. Or else there are burdens out there so big that I can't even imagine them.

Maybe both are true. I don't know.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 17:47:13 (no subject)

I don't think you're weak.

And I trust you. I'd trust you with my life.

The journals aren't monitored right now. So ask me a question, and I'll answer it. Or more than one. What do you want to know?

alt_daphne at 2014-06-27 17:54:04 (no subject)

I - how do you know they're not just saying that, about the journals being un-monitored, to trap us?
Okay, here's the answer:

The people who monitored the journals used an archive that was housed in the Ministry. Some people from a seditious group broke in and burned it. Eventually the Ministry may be able to read our private messages again but right now they're not being recorded anywhere central so these messages should stay private.

And I know all this because I'm a member of the seditious group and they told me. (Though I wasn't one of the people who set the fire.)

(See? I trust you. With my life.)

Next question?

Seditious group...

who's in it? That I know, I mean.

Draco. But you'd surely guessed that.

I can't tell you the rest without getting their
permission. I mean I think I can get their permission but it'll take some time. You could probably make some pretty good guesses, though.

Do you want to ask another question in the meantime?

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-27 18:36:23
(no subject)

Draco, yes I suspected. But... I still don't understand how someone like Draco turns into someone seditious. It doesn't connect, somehow. How does a person become one thing, and then another. Was he always like that, and no one ever saw it? If that's the case, he's the most brilliant actor I've ever seen.

It sounds very dangerous. How do you - how do you carry on and not fall apart from fear?

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 19:09:34
(no subject)

He wasn't always like that. How someone like Draco turns seditious...it happens different ways. Sometimes they realise that a lot of what they were always told was actually a lie. Or they meet someone and discover that person isn't what they were taught to expect. Or they have a friend with a secret, and find out the secret, and realise that if they turn on their friend, unspeakably awful things will happen to their friend, and the only other choice is to keep the secret. Sometimes it's a little of all those things.

I mean I think he was at least a little bit seditious all along. When he was little, like five or six, the Lord Protector made Mr Malfoy cruciate Draco to punish Harry. To punish Harry but also to punish Mr Malfoy, I think, to rub his face in the fact that he couldn't protect his own son.

Almost all the 'loyalty' to the Lord Protector is based on fear of what will happen if people defy him. There are a few people who really BELIEVE but most people, I think -- they hate him, deep down, but they're afraid to tell anybody.
So to answer your question -- the easy answer is, I carry on by trying not to think about what could happen to me. Also, my seditious organisation won't leave me to die if they can avoid it. They believe in taking care of their people.

But the real answer is that I've come to believe we really can change things, and that's worth whatever it costs.

@alt_daphne at 2014-06-27 19:26:44
(no subject)

The Lord Protector's never had much to do with my family. We're not on the council. We're just upstanding purebloods with money, but no real desire for power. Just...

comfort.

But is there anyone like me in your group? Or is it all people who've got it bad, one way or another? Either because they're not pureblooded, or because their parents were on the council.

I'm not thick, I know that no one has it "good," not really. But they have a way of making you think that.

I suppose I thought Draco was planning to join the council and make things better. Less cutthroat, and more fair and just.

You make it sound much more radical than that.

It's just very hard for me to imagine radical changes.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 19:38:25
(no subject)

Yes, there are people like you in the group. People who could live a quiet life and be comfortable -- they're not persecuted, they're not fostered half-bloods, they're not the children of Councilwizards.

But, you're right that I didn't give up as much as you would
be giving up. And -- that's why I didn't want to just tell you. Why I was afraid it would be a burden. Not because I thought you were weak.

It is hard to imagine radical changes. But the society we've got now -- THIS was a radical change. And it didn't happen that long ago, and there are no wizards in the world who live like this, who are imprisoned in their home country with a ward so they can't leave, who keep muggles in camps.

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**alt_daphne** at 2014-06-27 19:58:14
(no subject)

My father talks about how things used to be before, sometimes. He complains about not being able to have "normal" interactions with his friends who are halfbloods. And then Mother tells him to stop whinging so he does.

I'd be giving up ignorance, is what you're telling me. I think.

But I couldn't... if I was questioned like Draco was, by Auror Lestrange, I wouldn't hold up, I'm sure. I can't see myself breaking into the Ministry and setting a fire, either.

---

**alt_sally_anne** at 2014-06-27 20:21:47
(no subject)

Yes. Ignorance. Also some safety.

We've all studied occlumency. You could learn it -- I think it would come rather naturally to you, because you're a Slytherin AND an actress. I also carry poison with me, because I don't expect I could hold out very long if Auror Lestrange thought I had information she wanted.

But you should know that not everyone in the group does things like break into the Ministry to start fires. When we
read the real 'Pure Victory' in December, and you were the one who stood up and read it out loud for people -- that's also the sort of thing we do.

Don't sell yourself short.

Poison?

Well, no one else was reading it the right way.

I'm not. I just... it's a lot to think about.

Yes, I know.

Do you have any other questions? Or do you want to go away and think about things for a while first?

I suppose I want to think.

Thank you, though. For being so open and honest.

Thank you for being trustworthy.
Sally Anne's just told me...

Draco is dead. He tried to escape and that awful man murdered him.

He's dead and it shouldn't have been like this. Not Draco. He was going to be head boy, he was going to serve the Protectorate. He was the best at everything, almost always, and now he's gone.

Sally Anne didn't want me to find out from the papers. I didn't want you to find out that way, either.

Blaise, I don't know. I can't feel anything.

I'm afraid of what it will feel like when I do.

Daphs...

I just keep reading this and reading it. It's just not right.

It can't be.

How could-

Gods, I'm sorry.

You're sure?

The Malfoys told Pansy, that's how Sally Anne knows. So she told me.

I don't think it would occur to the Malfoys to inform
They were supposed to find him and save him. Isn't that what they do? MLE, the Protectorate.. if they can't save someone like Draco, what are they good for?

I don't know. None of this should have happened.

He was supposed to take his place with the Council. He was the one in our set, leading us all.

And then Teddy mucked about in everything and they're both gone?

Truly, what is all this for? All this... CCF, the Council, the Protectorate. If we're not- can't just live our lives and enjoy all of it? What have we been doing all this for?

I'm sorry. Are you-? You're not alone are you? I could come or we could meet somewhere? One of the parks? Feed the ducks, like we used to.

I've been wondering all the same things, Blaise. Even before Draco disappeared. There are so many things I've never understood. Like why we had to endure people like the Carrows, and then Umbridge. And even CCF sometimes felt like we were being taught how to kill each other one day.

Why does an actress need to know how to kill someone?

Miss Jessup's out running errands, so I've got to stay with Queenie until she returns. I can meet you before supper, though.

It will be in the papers by supper.

He didn't love me, you know.
Oh, Daphs.

He cared. I know he did. Only, not the way you'd hoped, I suppose. I wish-

Half-four, then? Meet me by the Serpentine, at the bridge, and we'll walk. And talk or not talk. Whatever you like.

I suppose I have to write something to his parents. Best do it now.

Alright, I'll see you at the bridge.
Padma -- I really hope you're not alone. Do you want to come over here, this afternoon?

I don't know how far the rumour's spread, so you might already know. But Mr Rosier told me that MLE was called yesterday to a muggle camp in Argyll Scotland, because Draco and Snape turned up there and Snape killed Draco.

There was more -- he didn't know what was true and what was exaggeration. But he was certain Draco was dead.

What?

No. Really? Seriously?

Wow.

Hang on. I'm going to--make an offering. I'll be back in a bit.

I'm back. I should tell Mum and Pav. I wonder if Pavs will want to postpone her sangeet.

Do you know if there's going to be a public funeral? They came to Sanji's, remember? Mr and Mrs Malfoy. We should return the honour. If there's going to be one.

I mean...was he--was he really a traitor? (Oh, I don't know if you heard but supposedly these messages are really and truly private right now, so it's almost like we're talking in person. Unless that's a lie, I dunno for sure if it's true.)
Is a sangeet a wedding? Or something leading up to the wedding?

Mr Rosier thinks there's going to be a funeral or memorial of some sort, he has the elf getting our dress robes ready and all the rest. But we don't know when, yet.

And -- Draco. A traitor. It's really hard to believe. But, here's the thing. He was refusing to answer questions -- when he ran away, he was all bloody and beat up, because he was refusing to tell them what they wanted to know.

And he ran.

Maybe Snape took him and killed him, but people saw Draco running, Snape didn't have him YET. He ran away from MLE. If he were innocent, you know, there's veritaserum and legilimency and lots of ways to prove it, right?

But then he came back, so maybe

I don't know what to think.

Oh, it happens before. But we can't have a wedding if the family are in mourning, only I guess we don't technically have to mourn. It's not as if Draco were part of the family.

But if there's a national mourning or something, then we'd postpone. I dunno. It's really up to Pavs.

And whether or not he died a hero or something else. Though Harry certainly defended him and I agree, it's hard to imagine he could have been actually treasonous. If anything I think it was just that Granger tempted him, like the stories said, and he had a lapse of judgement.
Hullo,

Sally-Anne, I saw you wrote to Daphne. I take it there's been official word on Draco, then?

I say, how did she take the news? You know I had tea with her last Saturday, what. I believe I may be slowly making some progress toward determining what she does and doesn't wish to know.

At any rate, as I've a little time here at lunch (well, if I'm quite honest, I've practically nothing but time here in International Magical Cooperation, what, although--I say, I do have some interesting reports for the Order meeting but I'll get to that later), I thought I'd check. Once I've heard 'officially' I can offer my condolences.

-Justin

Well what do YOU think she wants to know, then? She didn't believe for a minute that Draco was dead. She's sure it's a trick of some kind and I think she thinks I know about it, because in fact she's not an idiot, she's on the galleon, she helped cover for us the night we went to Mysteries, she knows Sarah's alive, and she's lived with me and Pansy for six years and has worked out that there's a load more about all this we know that she doesn't.

I think we should tell her.

I think we should bring her into the Order. Or at least offer to.

She says she thinks Draco kept secrets from her because he thought she was weak.

Daphne's not weak.
Steady on, I didn't say I had a direct line to her inner thoughts, Sally-Anne, what!

I merely meant that...she was a bit more open with me toward the end of our meeting than the beginning. I say, she was worried I meant to propose another relationship of convenience, which clearly had begun to chafe on her where Draco was concerned. And she was understandably upset about why he might not have wanted a real relationship with her.

You're right that she's not weak, nor is she stupid. In her case I'd say it's more that...she doesn't like to think about things she'd rather not think about, what. She's much happier...coasting, if you follow me. But all these rather dire and deep events keep occurring right round her and make the consequences and implications jolly well hard to ignore.

-Justin

Yeah, I'm going to write her, too. But. I'm waiting until it's out in the papers. Because I don't want her thinking... that we might know things other people don't yet.

On the other hand, it's all over MLE. People were talking about it in the sparring dungeons first thing, and you can tell it's what everyone's talking about all over the department. Clusters of them, talking low and looking sideways to see if Hopkirk or Lestrange or Crouch or Mulciber are about.

What do they think happened? I mean, do they believe Draco tried to get away from Snape and Snape killed him, or do they think this was all a setup to make it look like that's what happened?
Yes.

I mean, people seem to be working all the angles. Thinking out what all it could be besides the obvious. Apparently Mr Mulciber's sure it was fake. But the thing is not everyone agrees with him--just because it's him pushing that view. He's not a really popular bloke on either side of the department.

Well, they'd be sure it's a fake if the Malfoys hadn't altered their tapestry and such, what?

So at least that much is evidence against his claim.

Ron,

Yes, here, too.

I say, one of the things I found out from Mr Helpmann's assistant is that Mr Malfoy had been in contact in the last week or so, what, concerning travel documents for France. There's a good deal of very hushed speculation concerning whether he meant to remove the whole family but Gardiner (that's Helpmann's clerk) says they were only preparing parchment for one. I've waited because I wanted to tell Draco first, what, before announcing it to the whole Order.

And as you know, we've both been jolly well knackered of an evening. I say, I really ought to have sent him a private message before now.

-Justin
alt_ron at 2014-06-27 18:26:14
(no subject)

Whoa.

That's big. I haven't heard anyone talking about that. Which... Well, it doesn't mean some of them don't know. It just means it's not general knowledge.

Loads of people here don't like Mr Malfoy. Or, anywiz, they like to talk about him as if he's a blowhard and a peacock and some of them go on about how his time's up as a big power on the Council. As if they know inside things no one else does.

But, yeah. You should tell Draco.

alt_justin at 2014-06-27 18:43:02
(no subject)

Yes, though here that seems to be a recent shift. I mean to say, up until a short while ago, Mr Malfoy was well-enough-liked, even if still thought of as a peacock who threw round his weight. One could at least say of him that he rarely if ever flew off the handle, what, unlike some.

Though Mr Pontner did say that few people ever dared cross him to find out what he might do in retaliation. Still, that's rather ordinary, isn't it, for a Councilwizard.

Last Friday things were deadly dull, I could have sneaked in a PM to Draco easily. Today it's a touch more lively, but perhaps if you remind me before we get to the pub, what, I'll think of the right way to tell him.

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 20:54:50
(no subject)

Have you two heard?

Lucius Malfoy's been sent to Azkaban.
It's on the WWN. Also the galleons.

I really thought it would work. What we did, making it look like Draco was trying to come back.

alt_justin at 2014-06-27 21:00:20  
(no subject)

Sally-Anne,

I felt the Galleon change temperature, what, but haven't checked. Azkaban, really?

I say. Well, I suppose from the Lord Protector that might be leniency. If he'd meant to kill Mr Malfoy to pay for Draco's guilt, then he might have decided that without proof otherwise, prison was a better punishment.

It's a dashed ghastly thought but just the sort of thing one might expect from him.

Still. Draco must be beside himself. And Pansy. How is she taking it?

-Justin

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-27 21:06:14  
(no subject)

I don't know, I'm at Healer Korotkova's workshop.

alt_justin at 2014-06-27 21:16:04  
(no subject)

Oh, dash it. I suppose we should go to see her, then, instead of out to the pub?

Ron, what do you think? Or would she rather be with George?

-J
Ron probably won't see this until he gets off work, MLE is running him ragged.

I think she'd rather see us than George, but I could be wrong. You could always head back to the pub if she sends you packing.

Also, um, about Daphne.

I told her I'm in a seditious organisation and that I'd answer questions about it. She wanted to know who else was in it and I told her I couldn't tell her that without getting people's permission.

I don't know, it seemed like a good idea. She already knew a little piece of so many different secrets and she's never breathed a word. But she resents all the secrets that are kept from her -- me, Pansy, Draco, everyone had them and she knew it.

So I told her I'd answer her questions, whatever they were. She had a lot of them. But they weren't things like, 'where's Draco' or 'have you met Sirius Black,' they were things like, 'how do you carry on without falling apart from fear' and 'are there people like me in it.' (Purebloods who aren't the children of council wizards, is what she meant.)

I should probably tell Mrs Longbottom.
2014-06-27 13:13:00
Private Message to Barty Crouch

Take care of her.

Tell Tosha - tell him - about Draco. Tell him Draco's body must remain in our crypt, at all costs.

Kill Mulciber, if you have the chance.

---

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-27 18:39:33
(no subject)

Mulciber. And Nott.

Both.

My word on that.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-27 19:51:17
(no subject)

And Lucius.

Know that we'll see the crypt is not disturbed. You must know Toshenka will do all in his power to prevent the body's being violated in any way. And I'll be damned before Mysteries touch it. Trust Bale is now entirely clear on that point.
2014-06-27 13:26:00
Private Message to Barty

And I suppose you knew something of his scheme to pack me off without so much as a by-your-leave?

If either of you think for a MOMENT that I would abandon them, especially now, you are out of your minds.

Tosha, too, if he'd had anything to do with it.

Why does Our Lord surround Himself with such - children? No, worse than children. You are all little boys.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-27 18:56:11
(no subject)

Narcissa.

...

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-27 20:36:51
(no subject)

Narcissa.


Increasingly concerned.

alt_narcissa at 2014-06-27 20:47:30
(no subject)

Just how long do you think it will take for the Manor and Kensington to be plagued by the curious?

I told Bella years ago that we had to stamp out the traitor in his den. She has been utterly unable to rout him. So there he sits, in comfort, surrounding himself with lackeys and ruffians.
He's taken my son, and now my husband. Where else should I be?

Of course.

Quite right.

Stay put. Will be there in a moment.
2014-06-27 14:17:00
Private Message to Aurora Sinistra

Well. I've had a most interesting week in entirely congenial surroundings. The Moated Grange is a lovely rural retreat in the midst of a working farm. Nothing like waking to the cock's crow, and then taking breakfast whilst the cows ramble past the windows, returning to their pasture along the lane outside.

I've just been having an afternoon's ramble across the fields, over styles and through gaps in hedges. I can hear someone whistling his dogs to herd the sheep--just over the next rise and I might see them, I expect, but for the moment I've got a nice shady spot and feel quite pleased to sit where I'm sat.

Oh, and I have learned quite a lot of interesting new things about nutrition and appetite in young people this week. Lest you think I've just been larking in the countryside at the school's expense!

I expect you've heard Pomona talk about Marianna Dolefoot and her farm? We've been purchasing their chickens and pigs for the school--for six or seven years now, I suppose it's been. And Mina's taken to buying most of her feed from them. Says they've the best specialty formulas she's found. A nicer pair you've never met, Marianna and Belmot Rangemore. Business partners only, I think. Not that it matters.

I hope your week has had its own pleasant moments. If it suits your schedule, I'm still intending to stop out on Sunday afternoon. I'll bring the makings of supper along with me.

alt_sinistra at 2014-06-27 22:06:07
(no subject)

Poppy, the news. I can't even Sunday. Please.
Aurora.

I'm so sorry. I'd no idea when I wrote. Really not until an hour ago when I stopped in for supper in town. It's terrible. And I'm sure awfully upsetting for you.

Do you need me tonight? Only say, and I'll come.
2014-06-27 14:47:00
ORDER ONLY

Right.

So.

What should we tell the galleons?

If I say they can talk to me if they want to know more, that's pretty much confirming that Draco's still alive, isn't it?

(no subject)

Harry, it's very ill-advised to even hint that Draco's not dead. I realise you're trying to enlist them as allies but I'd have to advise strongly against doing anything but playing along.

alt_pansy at 2014-06-27 22:15:10
(no subject)

There.

And they already know they can talk to you if they want to know more.

I imagine several of them will.

alt_harry at 2014-06-28 00:33:39
(no subject)

Yeah.

Well.

I'm stuck here. I guess I'll just let you lot know so you can talk to them. After checking with Mrs L about what we can and can't say.

And thanks, Pans.
I'm sorry.

I'm so very sorry, Draco.

Lucius firecalled me yesterday. He told me the official story.

He's still alive, and he and your mum both know you're still alive. That has to count for something, I think.

Your mum

I don't know what I could do to help her, or whether she'd want my help, but I'll try my best. I know Harry will too.

It's utterly mad. The radio won't talk about anything else, and Fred was getting to the point where he was threatening to set off fireworks in the faces of any other reporters that showed up at Wizbangs, so I just gave up and went home.
I WAS JUST LISTENING TO THE RADIO AND THEY SAID LUCIUS MALFOY WAS SENT TO AZKABAN. IS THAT TRUE?
2014-06-27 14:57:00
(no subject)

WOT?
2014-06-27 14:57:00
(no subject)

Why???????????????????????
2014-06-27 14:58:00
(no subject)

YEAH AND THAT DRACO WAS KILLED. ARE YOU LOT LISTENING TO THIS? UTTERLY MAD! NEXT THEY'LL PROBABLY SAY THE MALFOYS WERE WORKING WITH BLACK!

@alt_galleon
OH, THE REAL RADIO, I MEAN. WWN. NOT THE OTHER ONE. THIS IS UNREAL. WHAT HAPPENED???
Oh, how horrible! Harry, Pansy, Daphne... Is he really dead? That's not just a rumour? I'm so sorry. How did it happen?

@alt_galleon
2014-06-27 15:11:00
(no subject)

Lucius Malfoy firecalled me last night and said draco tried to escape and snape killed him I dont know why he was sent to Azkaban pp

alt_galleon
2014-06-27 15:44:00
Order Only: Private message to Alice Longbottom and Sirius Black

Just heard at work, and it's all over the WWN. Lucius Malfoy has been sent to Azkaban.

Someone (who isn't me) should probably tell Draco before he hears some other way.

'Draco's' body has been interred already, or so I heard. The Malfoys did what they needed to to make sure no one realised it was a forgery, and no one stopped them, so why Lucius is being packed off to Azkaban NOW -- apparently Cadmus Mulciber was involved. It's all anyone's talking about, but it's hard to sort out fact from bald speculation. I'll see what else I can find out.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 20:53:06
(no subject)


All right, I'll find him.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 21:35:47
(no subject)

Well, that was festive.

Found Draco in the library. He was looking out the window, down at the square. Where who should be standing, staring up at us, but his mother.

(Well, she was staring at where she knew the house used to be, of course. The Fidelius is still working perfectly, Alice.)

Before I could find the right thing to say, Farty Grouch showed up and the two had an amazing row. He finally side-along-Apparated her out of here but not before she got in a few really fabulous blows with those red claws of hers.

Anyway. I've told Draco. I think he's beyond the point where he can
process, just now. I'll keep an eye on him and see if Hermione can make a dent, later.

alt_rachel at 2014-06-27 21:40:56
(no subject)

Smashing.

If he didn't subdue her with his wand, that at least suggests he wasn't arresting her.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-27 21:43:29
(no subject)

No, it didn't look like that at all.

I'd say a lovers' quarrel but under the circumstances it was more likely he was taking her away for her own protection.

I've never seen her quite that upset.

alt_alice at 2014-06-27 21:46:06
(no subject)

At least it wasn't an outright execution.

Bugger.
Mrs Malfoy

I'm so sorry for everything that's happened.

I told him to fight it, to come home, and

I'm sorry.

You and Mr Malfoy have always been there for me. Know that I will do whatever I can for you.
2014-06-27 21:20:00
Private Message to Daphne Greengrass

Hey.

I've been thinking. About you and about Malfoy, and I know you're probably not doing too well tonight.

Just- well, I guess I don't know what to say, except I'm sorry.

And thinking about you.

---

alt_daphne at 2014-06-28 05:00:36
(no subject)

Hi, Ron. I'm sorry to reply so late. You'll be asleep by now, I'm sure.

Thank you for thinking about me. That's very kind.

Are you

I'm not sure what else to say.

---

alt_ron at 2014-06-28 15:44:08
(no subject)

Yeah. I've been sleeping a lot. And you wouldn't believe how much I'm eating!

Sorry.

No, really. I guess the thing is, it's all so unreal. I mean, there's everyday stuff and it's going on like usual, and you can't show that you're really thinking all the time about other people and the huge things going wrong in their lives.

That's how it seems to me right now.

So either I'm at work or I'm eating or I'm sleeping, but all the time I'm thinking about Pansy and you and all of it.
You're internship must be taking a lot out of you. And Justin told me about your new flat, and being roommates. I saw the neighbourhood.

I'm proud of you, you know.

Gerald's new company is doing a summer dance and acting workshop for little children, and I'm one of the teachers. It's not very impressive, I suppose. I mean, not compared to other things. The children like it, though. It gives them something fun to do.

Thanks. I guess. Proud the Aurors are training me?

Or that Justin and I've got a glam flat in the City? You should come see it now we've moved in, and then come out with us some evening. We've got a few pubs left to try before we decide which one's our local, but there're a few where the crowd's not too dodgy. There's one that has music Fridays and Saturdays in a garden out back. Or we could go to Laszlo's, y'know, where the Tea Appreciation club goes. They've got a beer garden in the evenings. It's nice.

I know you'll be great at teaching. I bet all the kids bring you pressies and want to have hugs when lessons are over.

Are you thinking that's something you want to do after NEWTs?

Yes. What else could I be talking about?

That sounds nice. Of course, I'm not really in the
mood to have beer and be celebratory right now. My boyfriend just died and his father's been thrown into Azkaban.

Teaching? Sweet Circe, no. I barely have the patience for them right now. Some of them are sweet enough, but quite a few of them are terrors, just like Astoria was at that age. And besides, now that Gerald has his own company he's going to write a starring role for me in his next production, set to debut next summer. I'll be famous like my Grandmother before me, or like Athena Belby. Well, that's what Gerald says, anyway. We'll just have to see though.

---

alt_ron at 2014-06-29 04:05:11
(no subject)

Sorry. I didn't mean to make it sound like going out for laughs. Mostly, having a pint after work is just sitting there and not moving because I can't move anymore until I've had a bit of food. And it's nice just to talk a bit. I suppose I didn't really know Justin very well until we moved in together. Still figuring all that out, really, too.

But, yeah. I'm sorry if you thought I was forgetting what's happened. Only, I thought maybe you'd like to be with a few people and, well, just not be alone. Or not be at home. Is your mum being... does she understand how you felt about Draco?

You'll be brilliant in whatever kind of role it is. I can't wait to see it. Sally Anne and I'll come, and I reckon Justin will, too.

---

alt_ron at 2014-06-29 20:39:43
(no subject)

Say.

I talked to Sally Anne, and she said some things that made me think, I dunno, it made me go back and read what you've been saying here again.

She told you she's part of a group that's trying to change things? Well, you should know that I am, too.

I mean, I expect you've guessed that. But I wanted to tell you.
So you didn't think I was fishing for you to say something here or that I wasn't being honest about what I was asking.

That's not coming out quite right.

I guess I just want you to know I trust you to think out what you want to do or want to know. And if you wanted to ask me anything, you could.

But, y'know what. Um. I just feel like I should tell you that it won't change how I think about you if don't want to do anything with what Sally Anne told you. It's not like you've got to do something now. I know you may not want to.

But if you do, well, I guess just- I think there are lots of good reasons to.

---

**alt_daphne at 2014-06-30 03:44:29 (no subject)**

Thank you for telling me.

I feel like I won't really have an understanding of what I'm getting into until I'm actually into it. Which is more than a little daunting. What if I don't live up to everyone's expectations, whatever those expectations may be? Has anyone ever changed their mind and left the group? What would happen if someone did?

Ron. Your father didn't die because of this group, did he?

**alt_ron at 2014-06-30 04:51:41 (no subject)**

No, he died because of the Protector. Because he's made this country such a mess, where the people with power use it to keep their power and take freedom away from most everyone else. And scare the rest of us into not doing anything about it.

Dad didn't die because he was doing anything subversive. He died because he worked for the Ministry. Funny that. In a really unfunny way. You know he died when the IMA set off a
bomb at the Ministry's holiday party, because the Protector was going to be there and they thought they could kill him and change the way things are. And Dad, I guess he jumped in to protect Mr Selwyn, just because he saw he was in danger and didn't think about himself at all. And that was so Dad. You know?

But the thing is, he worked at the Ministry. He was part of it. Part of what's wrong, but he was there trying to change it in any way he could. And he did some good things because he was in the right place to be able to do them. But he also did some things he couldn't stand having to do.

And it's going to be the same for me. Worse, probably. I mean, the Aurors? But, yeah. If I want to change things, go get in the middle of it, right? And learn all the spells and strategies they use to keep control. That's the idea, anywiz. But it could go pearshaped fast. Because that's the way things happen. No matter how much you plan them. Things happen you can't ever control.

Sorry. I didn't mean to say all that, but I'm not going to mark it out.

Has anyone ever changed their minds and left? Um, I don't know. I think a few people asked to be Obliviated after they heard a little and decided they didn't want to know about us. Oh, and actually. I think a long time ago there was a big misunderstanding where some people got the idea that one person who's still a member--a really important one now--where some people got the idea this person had betrayed the group. But it wasn't true. That's a hard thing, I guess. Trusting when there's so much at stake. It's what makes it so hard for us all to agree to tell anyone new or try to find new people to join us. It's a big risk.
Order Only: Private message to Mrs Longbottom

So just so you know. I told Daphne today the news about Draco, because I didn't think the Malfoys would tell her and didn't want her to find out from the Evening Prophet. (This was before Mr Malfoy got arrested and sent to Azkaban.)

Anyway, she didn't believe it. There were things Draco told her -- well, here's the thing. Daphne has been roommates with me and Pansy since we were firsties -- the other one is Milli and she's thick but Daphne isn't. She dated Ron and Draco. She's got a galleon. She's surrounded by secrets and she knows it. And she doesn't ask, but it's clearly bothered her more and more that she's not in on them.

But, PMs are actually private now. And that makes it easier. So I told her I'd answer her questions. And then I told her I was in a seditious group. I didn't tell her about anyone else she could betray, just me.

She's not going to betray me. If she wanted to, she could have done it years ago. Or a month ago. She knew perfectly well that Draco's secrets, and mine and Pansy's, were related, but she didn't say a word to MLE or even give us away with her thoughts, though she's never been trained in occlumency.

She did want to know who else (that she knew) was in the seditious group and I told her I couldn't tell her without people's permission. And she wanted to know how I managed without being afraid all the time and she wanted to know if there were people in the group who were ordinary, like her -- not children of councilwizards, not fostered half-bloods, just ordinary.

Anyway if she says she wants to come in I hope you let her.

I see.

Thank you for telling me, Sally-Anne.
Taking a leap of faith and seizing an opportune moment is sometimes necessary to move forward. And we will be talking tomorrow about just this thing -- recruiting new members, growing our numbers, and the chance we take every single time we approach someone, even if that person is a friend.

Part of this process means that I must trust all of you to handle this with the care that is necessary. And I do, Sally-Anne. You and your classmates have solid instincts when it comes to this sort of thing, have done quite a lot of careful groundwork, and know precisely what is at stake.

I believe you when you say that Miss Greengrass will keep your confidence.

However, I am surprised, as whenever you've discussed potential recruits from school in the past (at least in conversations I've been privy to), she has not been at the top of anyone's list, and when she has been discussed, it was with caution. Is that an accurate assessment?

There is also a rather large difference between the simple process of wanting to learn more about someone you care about and being able to keep a secret, and active participation in something of this magnitude. Would she truly want to join? Right now, she is in the unenviable position of knowing far more than she should without support or protection, which makes me deeply uneasy.

I freely admit that you know far more about her than I do, and that recent security issues have left me more cautious than I would be otherwise.

Did you confirm that Draco was still alive?

---

**alt_sally_anne** at 2014-06-28 19:07:39  
(no subject)

Well, she already knew more than she should. I think it's better she knows there's an organisation, for real, that we're not entirely on our own, because it means if she needs help she's more likely to ask for it.

I didn't confirm Draco was alive but it didn't matter, she just didn't believe it, at all. She knows Sarah's alive -- all the galleon holders
were told Sarah was alive -- and that we faked her death so she assumes we faked Draco's, as well.

And honestly she's probably not the only one, you're right about not wanting Harry to tell people but all the galleon holders know that Sarah's death was faked and she was take somewhere to safety. So others will make the same assumption as Daphne. (And if they talk to Harry about it -- well. He's not a particularly good liar. How much does it matter, now that Mr Malfoy's been packed off to Azkaban, anyway? I suppose there's Mrs Malfoy to worry about.)

alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-28 19:11:26
(no subject)

And I've been trying to work out why we never suggested her.

You know she dated Ron for a while, before I did. And then Draco. And it was incredibly awkward, when Pansy was dating Draco and then he found out about everything, and I think maybe everyone sort of deferred to the people she was dating to say whether they thought she should be in, or not.

But I do know what they mean, about Daphne not really wanting to know. Only I think that's changing. I think what happened with Draco, and now Mr Malfoy, made her feel a lot less like she could just go on with a quiet, comfortable life and never worry about it.

Also, I think she assumes she'd be useless.

But she wouldn't be.

alt_alice at 2014-06-28 23:51:59
(no subject)

Of course she wouldn't be.

Daphne Greengrass is precisely the sort of person that we will need to win over if we're going to be successful -- and it is vital that we reach people like her, and speak to their concerns. I can very much see the value in that, and in what she could bring to the table.
What are her thoughts about the Protectorate, about Muggles?
How far a stretch would this be for her?
2014-06-27 22:36:00
Order Only: Private message to Padfoot

Where have you got to? You coming up sometime soon or are you going to have another all-night journal chat with Auror Brodie?

alt_lupin

2014-06-28 03:40:47
(no subject)

Soon, I think.

Just making some tea for Draco and Justin. (The latter arrived a few minutes ago and had that look that you get when nothing but a nice cuppa will do. Actually I think he's had more than one drink tonight, already, from the look of him.)

alt_sirius

2014-06-28 03:44:55
(no subject)

Draco's talking to him, then? That's probably good.

How's Draco holding up?

alt_lupin

2014-06-28 03:47:25
(no subject)

Yes. I think he's getting tired of the same five people all the time. Plus, he knows there's about to be a whole great load of people for the meeting tomorrow.

As for his status ... numb, I think. Seeing his mother on the street couldn't have been helpful.

But he's not snarling. I wish Rachel'd been able to find out more about why Malfoy landed in Azkaban.
I'll admit I've been trying to think of ways in which our attempt to fake Draco's death was not a complete waste of time.

(Well, the bastard's not dead, at least.)

Right, they're settled.

I'll just tell Kreacher to make up a room for Justin, if he wants it, and then I'm done for the night.
**2014-06-27 22:45:00**
*Order Only: private message to Pansy Parkinson*

Fred cleared out, headed for the Burrow for the night, if you wanted some privacy with me here. Or I can come there, just say the word.

I dunno. Maybe you'd rather be alone, and it's late. But if you need a listener, I can do that. Either in person or over the journals. Whatever you need.

---

**@alt_pansy** at **2014-06-28 05:09:40**
*(no subject)*

Oh, George.

Please come over?

That would be absolutely lovely.

---

**@alt_george** at **2014-06-28 05:12:10**
*(no subject)*

Good. I don't want you to be alone tonight.

On my way; see you in a moment.

---

**@alt_pansy** at **2014-06-28 05:16:27**
*(no subject)*

Did you know that you're wonderful? Because you are.

---

**@alt_pansy** at **2014-06-28 05:13:33**
*(no subject)*

I know there's no love lost between your family and Lucius.

Thank you for not
For having it be okay that I
Just
Thank you.
Batya.

Little to report. Log shows admittance. Location noted, but meaningless. Deep in the tangle.

Fouret describes guards as unusually 'keen'.

Hope to join you early afternoon. Other duties permitting.
Looks like I'm okay to leave.

You want to spend some time together this afternoon?

We'll have to be careful about being away for too long. And be seen in public for some of it. But I do want to go to the meeting today. At least for part of it.

So do I. I should be able to.
MEETING MINUTES
Order of the Phoenix
Date: 28 June 1997
Location: Moddey Dhoo


**Order Members Absent:** Susan Bones, Rhymes with Rudy. Mr Lupin told me to put that down. Who is that, anyway? WAIT, IT'S MAD-EYE MOODY, ISN'T IT? Hi, Auror Moody, if you're reading this, I'm apprenticing this summer with the Healer who made your eye!

**Guests:** Scott Brownmiller, Tim Clark, Nicholas, Zachary, Maureen, Finbar Quigley, Lisa Turpin, Sarah Fawcett, Richard Weymen.

1. **Headmistress McGonagall**

We started with a moment of silence for the Headmistress.

2. **What happened with Draco. And with Mr Malfoy.**

Mrs Longbottom started by explaining what the Order had done to try to protect Mr Malfoy. Auror Brodie had suggested that the Order should provide a convincing fake Draco body by kidnapping someone, feeding them polyjuice, and then killing them, and that's sort of what they did. Mr Macnair kidnapped a bloke named Ian Flynn, who was an administrator at Dacorum camp. The people with buttons said he was really awful, plus there's someone who's more on our side who could move up into that position.

They kidnapped Mr Flynn days ago, and on Thursday, they fed him the
polyjuice, took him to Argyll Camp, and then made it look like Draco had grabbed Mr Nott's wand and tried to run. So Snape killed 'Draco' and then apparated away.

Madam Pomfrey got upset and asked why we'd kidnapped someone with a plan to kill them in order to stop the Lord Protector from possibly killing one of his own, and why no one had pointed out this was a bad bargain and would have been a bad bargain even if it had worked instead of just making gratuitous killers of us.

Auror Brodie said that we hadn't kidnapped some innocent, Ian Flynn was brutal and sadistic. Madam Pomfrey asked if the Order's new brief was to kidnap camp admins and kill them so they stop being evil. Auror Brodie shrugged and Mrs Longbottom went on with her explanation, that Mr Snape took Flynn to Argyll Muggle Camp because it's really isolated, and Auror Brodie had arranged to be there with Jason Montague.

Auror Brodie said that she sent a note to the Malfoys on the pretext that they should know right away, because hopefully they'd realise that it was in their best interests to alter the tapestry. She said Mrs Malfoy was a bit reluctant but Mr Malfoy caught on and told her to do it.

Anyway it looked like everyone bought it but THEN yesterday Mr Malfoy went to Court, and the Lord Protector had him arrested and sent to Azkaban. He wrote a PM to Barty Crouch and that was it, he was gone. The newspapers said it was because he was planning to smuggle Draco to France, instead of having him turn himself in -- which makes no sense at all. Auror Brodie said what she'd been able to find out suggested that the real plan was to smuggle Narcissa Malfoy to France. (The grownups all just use first names, it makes it hard to be properly respectful when I'm writing quickly.) Somehow Cadmus Mulciber got wind of this and told the Lord Protector that Lucius Malfoy was the one trying to flee to France.

What no one seems to know is how Cadmus Mulciber would have even known about the plans about France. He's not exactly one of Lucius Malfoy's confidants. They HATE each other, according to Rachel. So who told him? Rachel said she'd see what she could turn up, but she didn't really expect that to get round MLE, Cadmus Mulciber certainly wouldn't be eager to share his sources given that Lucius has several close and extremely vindictive friends and unless Cadmus wanted his source to turn up dead in an alley with a galleon in his mouth and an
ouroboros burned into a nearby wall, he'd keep it close.

Jeremy asked whether we were absolutely sure that Lucius really was in Azkaban. Sirius said he could confirm that he wasn't dead, because he's on the tapestry and it doesn't say he's dead. Sirius then mentioned that Narcissa came yesterday to 12GP -- I mean, she came to the street outside -- and stared at the house almost like she could see it. She knows where it SHOULD be so she'd know right where to look, is the thing, and she didn't try to come in. After a while, Barty Crouch turned up and they argued and then he grabbed her and apparated her away. Everyone agreed that no matter what, she can't get in unless Alice tells her how to get in, so what's she after? No one had any ideas. And Draco didn't say anything.

3. Horcruxes.

So, Pansy's locket was definitely a horcrux. The ring Professor Dumbledore found was also a horcrux. Hydra brought up that diary she had when she was a firstie, and that might have ALSO been a horcrux. So HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS ARE THERE? You have to rip apart your soul to make one so you'd think you wouldn't actually want to make dozens and dozens, right?

Dumbledore said that Professor Slughorn had come to him and given him a memory of 'Tom' as a young man, asking about horcruxes. At the time he was thinking he'd make SEVEN. But he might have changed his mind. Eight would be kind of a more normal number, everyone could think of a half dozen examples of why eight is a symbolic number (like, if you're giving someone a gift of money you'll usually add 8 sickles or 8 knuts to whatever it is, for good luck). But of course if he made seven horcruxes than his soul is in eight pieces. So who knows.

Harry asked if the horcruxes could be absolutely anything, and Dumbledore said that no, probably not, the Lord Protector wouldn't want pieces of his soul housed in anything unworthy. And then he asked Ginny about her 'cursed tiara,' because that might also have been a horcrux. He'd brought his pensieve, and asked Ginny for her memory of finding the tiara. She put the memory in a bottle and then a whole lot of people viewed it, including me, since it's not as if this one was bloody and awful or even particularly long.

And! Luna recognised it straight away. It's not some random tiara, it was the Lost Diadem of Rowena Ravenclaw. There's a story that says
Helena Ravenclaw, who was the daughter of Rowena, stole it because she felt unworthy of her mother and ran away to Albania with it and that's where it was lost. So maybe the Lord Protector knew that same story and went looking for it or maybe the story was a myth or someone else brought it back, because Ginny found it in the Secret Room, while it was being the Room of Lost Things. Sort of funny that the Lord Protector hid it in there -- I mean I guess it's a secret to the teachers, but we've all been using that room for ages and ages.

Unfortunately the diadem got taken by Umbridge. And she's currently a toad in a plate and the plate was given to the Headmistress who's now dead and her house is locked up and MLE is watching it, though not super carefully, and we're not sure who she named as heir who would get all her stuff. For that matter we don't actually know that the diadem is in the plate -- Umbridge wasn't wearing it. It might be with HER stuff which would be ... well, we're not really sure, though Professor Sprout thought she could find out.

So then we talked about how maybe there were other things belonging to Founders that the Lord Protector might have turned into horcruxes. And then Nick Towler had the bright idea of going and looking at all that mad rubbish I wrote after I took the prophesying potion. That bit I saw with Regulus Black and Inferi, that was actually true, I guess. I saw Umbridge coming out of her plate and people argued whether that meant that obviously we'd need to do that sooner or later so there was no point in mucking around trying to snoop through her old house -- I mean, Mr Snape said that these visions mostly represented different time lines and in how many possible versions of the world would we have stuffed Umbridge into a plate?

(Okay, maybe a lot of them.)

It might help if I remembered any of the vision but I don't. The old woman dead on the floor could be almost anyone. Mr Lupin asked if maybe it was the Headmistress but no, I don't think so, because first of all, I'd have known who she was and called her by name and second, she wasn't THAT old.

Dumbledore thought the boy in old London was Tom Riddle. He got out the pensieve again and put in a memory of the time he went to Tom's orphanage to offer to bring him to Hogwarts, and had me go look at it, to see if he looked familiar. I still don't remember the vision but I recognized Tom Riddle, actually, right away. I knew I'd seen him before. So I think he was probably right. And that started a whole new conversation about whether showing me pictures of old ladies would
get us anywhere and whether it was even worth the bother and
REALLY PEOPLE IT'S ALL RUBBISH WHY DID WE WASTE ALL THIS
TIME ON THAT STUPID VISION. Okay. Everyone agreed that the
vision I had where Harry was in Gryffindor and I was in Ravenclaw
and Padma Patil's friend was an alternative whatever in which
everything is different (ugh, I can't imagine being best mates with
Patil, I'm glad I don't live over there), and when we got to the
Grindylows we just skipped down to this bit:

'Harry you're looking for something important only it's in Bellatrix
Lestrange's vault at Gringott's. My rat told you where to look and I
think he was told by Pansy's Pirate. No, hold on, it's not in the vault,
it's on display at Buckingham! Well THAT'S going to be a disaster.
Maybe we could burn down Buckingham.'

If Harry is looking for something important (that we want to destroy,
since I started talking about burning things down) then MAYBE it's a
horcrux (but not necessarily) so MAYBE there's one in the Lestrange
Vault or MAYBE it's on display at Buckingham. But MY RAT told you
where to look after being tipped off by Regulus Black.

Mrs Longbottom asked Hydra if she could get into the vault and
Hydra said she didn't have access. Auror Brodie said that if we killed
Bellatrix Lestrange, provided that Madam Pomfrey doesn't have
strong objections to that bit of murder, then presumably Hydra's her
heir and would be able to get in. Bill said that it depends on exactly
how the vault was set up -- it could be Hydra but it could just as easily
be Rodolphus or Narcissa. (Or Rigel, even, but he's still really little so
probably not.)

4. Octobori.

Mum Cecilia Perks and Jeremy Stretton reported on the research
they'd done. We have an octoboros, the one we pulled off the train,
though it doesn't work, and they're thinking that MAYBE they could
swap that one in for the active emerald octoboros and they think it'll
do

okay

you know what I didn't take Arithmancy as an elective so I didn't
understand half of what they were saying. Maybe Jeremy can explain.
I don't think Mrs Longbottom understood much either.
5. Recruitment.

We talked about recruiting other people into the Order. Now that private messages are actually private (for now) we're thinking that we could bring people in as affiliates without having to give them access to the lock (where they'll see EVERYthing) and we talked about people who might be trustworthy and interested, like the people with galleons.

Everyone agreed that we should formally swear in the older kids from Moddey and Sherwood, like Tim, Patty, Lisa, Richard, Dudley, Nick, Zach, Alec, Sarah, and Finbar. (And Maureen! Who's not a kid, but she's new to Moddey.) Alice said she'd take care of that over the course of the next week. Mrs Longbottom asked Bill if he might be able to steal some journals for some of the people who don't have them. He said right now it's not looking good, but if the opportunity presents itself, he'll grab as many as he can carry. Alice asked Auror Brodie if she thought there was any chance of bribing Baddock or Pennifold and she looked like that was the dumbest question ever said no. And I asked if Tonks could maybe do it and she said no, she doesn't get to clean those areas. So.

Cedric said that Heph Bobolis might be a good person to recruit. And Madam Pomfrey thinks Siz might come in. Which would be good, actually, because we've lost two Order adults at the school PLUS Professor Sinistra is very good friends with Professor Dolohov and apparently he's going to be Headmaster next year (did that get announced officially while I was buried in Healing texts, because it was news to me, or is this just something the professors know?)

Anyway. Madam Pomfrey said she'd been keeping an eye on Professor Sinistra, who isn't doing very well yet, so obviously they won't bring up the Order until she's doing better. She also suggested we could approach her mother, Arca, who works in the Ministry. She also spent a whole week with some people in Kent who were sympathisers and they worked on brewing nutritional supplements for muggles in the camps. She spent another week in Staffordshire at a farm where they were talking about nutrition again, I guess. And she introduced one of the hosts to someone from Sherwood, and they agreed to help people escaping from nearby camps connected to people from Sherwood.

She also mentioned she stopped at a glassworks to get some prototypes Fu Lee designed, hexes in glass projectiles so they can be used by muggles. And she got a sack of bezoars for Mr Snape. And
she visited some lady who knows Mr Dumbledore, and who gives the Order money, I guess.

### 6. Leadership change.

The Order has had co-heads for years -- first it was Headmistress McGonagall and Arthur Weasley, and then it was the Headmistress and Alice Longbottom. But the Headmistress is dead. She hasn't really been running things at all for years, though, and after discussing it a bit everyone agreed that it would be better to have an official Deputy Head, in case something happened to Alice. There was a bit more discussion and since Mr Lupin was the runner-up when they elected Alice everyone liked the idea of him being (at least temporarily) OFFICIALLY the deputy head of the Order.

He said that means he isn't going to take minutes any more because Deputy Heads shouldn't have to take minutes, and he thinks I should do it from now on. But that was before he saw my minutes. He may regret that once he does.

Professor Sprout brought up the Hogwarts Book. The problem is, both the real Hogwarts Book and the false Hogwarts Book are in the Headmistress's office. Headmaster's, now. Professor Headmaster Dolohov probably won't find the real book, because it's been hidden and warded very carefully. And he shouldn't notice any difference in the false book. But this is going to make it extremely hard for us to find magical children in the camps, and extract them before they're discovered. And when inevitably some magical child IS discovered, they'll know there's something wrong with the book they've got.

If Professor Sinistra comes into the Order, maybe she'll be able to check it for us.

### 7. Miscellaneous news.

Apparently Tonks and my mum are BOTH pregnant.

We all toasted their health and Mr Snape had brewed an antinausea potion for Tonks so he promised one to my mum, as well.

### 8. And now I feel like this needs a #8 since we talked about how everything has to come in eights.

But after that all we did was eat a bunch of snacks Jeremy had nicked
from the Bad Jam cupboard at the Strettons, and everyone chatted with people they hadn't seen in a while, unless they had to get right back home before anyone wondered where they'd gone.

alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-29 04:44:29  
(no subject)

Your minutes are perfect.

Just the right amount of detail on things that need a bit of detail, and not so much editorialising where it's not needed. (Compared to certain other people's minutes, which would have gone on about things there's no need to repeat or help anyone remember.)

alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 05:02:14  
(no subject)

Oh, get along, Dora. You mean you don't want to hear again how nastily everyone's favourite house-elf pointed out that falling down the stairs can cause a miscarriage?

I can't think why we wouldn't want to hear that charming anecdote over and over and over ...

alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 05:09:14  
(no subject)

Or we could have the one about his pithy thoughts on cleaning sick out of the bogs every morning ...

alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 05:10:18  
(no subject)

... Or of course, his rather lurid speculations on the father!

(My personal favourite, don't you know.)
alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-29 05:13:23
(no subject)

I'd like to know where he gets his ideas about what I get up to at the beer garden!

Ugh.

If he just weren't so smug about it.

alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 05:17:08
Private Message to Dora

Oh, well, I'm afraid he's got nothing on any of us regarding smugness. It's just that you were so shocked when he said anything, luv. Had you honestly not figured it out for yourself? I'd've thought having experienced it once already you'd catch on faster.

alt_nymphadora at 2014-06-29 05:26:26
Re: Private Message to Dora

You'd think.

Only, I'd had my monthly. Twice. Since the rite, you know. Not a lot of bleeding, but then I don't always have much. It's not always the same. But it's regular. And it was. So I thought...

I just thought it hadn't happened.

And I was a little disappointed about that. I think I was. I mean, I knew all the reasons why it would really be easier if it didn't happen. But that's how it is, if something doesn't happen, then you wish it had.

How soon did you know?
alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 14:04:09
Re: Private Message to Dora

Well, it's Mr Fuzzy's fault, actually. Two weeks ago - full moon. You weren't the only one with a sensitive nose, let's just say.

We just thought we'd wait for you to tell us. And Charlie.

alt_cedric at 2014-06-29 05:27:20
(no subject)

Unless things change with the Cannons, I will be continuing my work for Dolohov, at least part-time. He agreed to hire me again on that basis before being given his new job. It is not yet clear if he'll continue to teach Noble Dark Arts as well. I don't know where I'll be working or if that would give me access to either of the books. He is so extremely careful with his wards, I don't hold much hope. But since he doesn't know where the real books is it's possible I might be able to get access to it undetected. Assuming he has me working inside the office and that his security procedures remain similar, I'll definitely be able to get other people from Hogwarts into the office when he's not there. It would be much harder to get someone from outside Hogwarts in without him noticing.

alt_justin at 2014-06-29 14:09:56
(no subject)

Hullo,

He's continuing to work with me, as well, what. I say, I'm not certain it would be easier for me, per se, than Cedric, but perhaps we can work together to provide distraction long enough to check periodically.

-Justin
alt_lupin at 2014-06-29 17:16:35
(no subject)

These are excellent minutes. Best minutes I've ever read. As Current Acting Deputy Head of the Order I'm going to appoint you Permanent Minutes-Taker. (Can I do that?)

alt_sirius at 2014-06-29 19:35:47
Private Message to Moony

Rotter.

You just want to shove off the responsibility. Well done, you!

alt_lupin at 2014-06-29 21:13:35
Re: Private Message to Moony

Hey, they're full Order members. I say it's high time to let the kids have their fair share of the dull work, not just the exciting bits.

alt_jeremy at 2014-06-29 23:10:27
(no subject)

The Arithmantical details all brew down to this:

We think we know how the pattern works. We're examining two possibilities. One is, we swap in the inactive emerald stone for the active one, and bugger up their grand plan that way -- figuring that an inactive stone might prevent the whole thing from firing up properly. The other is, we set up our inactive emerald stone at some other carefully chosen location, and fire it up in hopes of causing maximum damage.

The latter option's a tricky one, as it requires a safe location for us to faff about with the thing until we get it working. (Nobody much likes the idea of getting it working elsewhere and then trying to transport it. Various reasons there.) However, a few of us were joking about with Fu a little while back about magical theory and Muggle elektricity, and he started talking about feedback and resonances and things that sounded a bit like Thiravong's theorems of...
..yeah, you know, you're right. Just say the latter discussion had Fu
talking about things that explode, and, well, the twins aren't the only
ones who see the use of a spot of fireworks at the right moment.

I know this probably doesn't help, which is why I
didn't bring it up while we were all arguing about
what we did, but Ian Flynn was a nasty piece of work
all the way back as far as I can remember. We were
dorm-mates back in school and I could never prove it, but I'm pretty
sure he was the one who used to torment the firsties so badly that
one or two of them would always spend half the year in tears. Our
fourth year, he had Hillary Bradley so afraid of him I thought she was
going to move into the Hufflepuff dorms just to get away from him.
And I'm pretty sure he had it in for Tonks a lot of the time, too.

I'm not at all surprised to hear he got worse after he got put in a
position of power. That sort always does.
2014-06-29 09:01:00
Private message to Tosha and Barty

There is a wound that continues to leak blood. Raz, now Lucius. Cad will sense weakness and attempt a killing stroke, if he's given the chance.

Who can we count among us? I have the Sandoval-Pennifolds, and Ptolmey will follow them. Will make overtures to Crispin and Ari, too.

I don't think Stephen will stand against us, but he may prefer to stand alone. Unless Bella's mother can convince him otherwise.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-29 22:06:18
(no subject)

Take care with Baddock. Tosha believes he'd repaired things with L recently, but as we've no certainty who betrayed L's French dealings, we have to consider it could have been Baddock. Whom else had L told? Not Tosha. Not me. Not Bella. But it's plausible, is it not?

Not saying it must be true. If it's not, expect Baddock may be grateful to hear from you.

Agree about P and S-P.

Rosier's worth pursuing. If you prefer not to lean on Druella, Tosha says he'll make an approach.

alt_rodolphus at 2014-06-29 22:29:21
(no subject)

I struggle to imagine Lucius confiding in Baddock and no other, even if they had recently mended ties. Nor do I envision him letting a careless word slip elsewhere.

He wrote his sister, Amanda. They were close, as I understand, but the Missus has alluded to a rough patch in their history.
What about the assistant? He's been with Lucius for some time, if memory serves.

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-06-29 22:42:07
(no subject)


Those are all possibilities.

Believe the business with his sister was blocking an inappropriate match she intended. (Gather it was a permanent block.) So it could be revenge served cold.

The assistant's a Weasley. Has always seemed entirely sycophantic. Understand Weasley aimed to earn Our Lord's Mark. Gather L thought it unlikely. May or may not have made that plain to W, but I never saw any sign W was anything but starstruck by L. Beside himself with his good fortune at having the position.

alt_antonin at 2014-06-30 19:58:47
(no subject)

Lyoushka's clerk thinks well of me. If we need someone to lean on him, I will do the leaning.

And depending on what Our Lord does with this contest: the children know me in kindly-professor mode, and would likely cling to an outstretched hand if it came from dear old Dyadya Tosha. Worth a try.

I have arranged for tea with Stephen later in the week once I have recovered more. I will feel him out as subtly as I can.
2014-06-29 09:27:00  
Order Only: Private Message to Harry and Draco

Harry, I'm really glad you could leave Buckingham in time for the meeting yesterday. It was good to see you.

It was good to see everyone. It was just a little overwhelming, when so much has happened.

I've been thinking, maybe you could pretend to be interested in Voldemort's projects and so on, this summer, the same way some of the others have got close to Council members, and maybe that would help you figure out where his other Horcruxes are.

And then once we figure out where and what they are, we can destroy them.

alt_harry at 2014-06-30 00:08:28  
(no subject)

Yeah. Mr Snape said something like that too. I'll see what I can do. I've just got to be careful to not make it look like I'm aiming to take over or compete or something. Do you think he'd try to make me...

And Sally-Anne said there might be something on display at Buckingham back when she was having the vision, and now that I've actually, you know, been around two of them, I think I might have a better chance of sorting out if anything on display is like that. Or is super protected, like more than anything else.
Right. Just needed a bit to think. If Alice signs off on it, then yeah, do it.

Did it with me, didn't the lot of you? So.
Daphne,

I'm so bally well sorry for what you're going through right now. I say, if there's anything I can do, please let me know.

I happened to see Sally-Anne yesterday. She mentioned you had loads of questions about some of the occurrences at school, which she was partly able to answer. I say, if you should want to talk, about the same things you and she talked about, we could continue to meet up and discuss them.

I don't know how much longer the journals will continue to be truly private, what, but there's Ron's and my flat, which is secure. There are other places where it's safe to talk, as well.

I shouldn't like you to think I've only approached you because of the connections between myself, Sally-Anne and others, however, or that it was only to ascertain your loyalties. The offer of friendship is jolly well sincere, and was so before these recent events, and will be so regardless of what happens when you've asked your questions. I quite enjoy your company and our conversation even when it's not about dashed serious considerations.

That said, it is true that there has been serious business going on all round us for many months and will continue to be rather a lot of well grim decisions ahead. I say, no one wanted to make you uncomfortable with information you'd rather not have, and no one was quite sure how to find out just how comfortable or not comfortable you might be with the involvement some of us have had in, shall we say, favourable outcomes in those incidents to which we were privy. But as it seems you've opened the door, what, then it's only decent to offer you the opportunity for proper answers, if you want to keep asking the questions. Sally-Anne's quite right that you've been on the fringes, if you follow me, for some time, and have proven sturdy and trustworthy all along.

It's bally well time you had something to show for your discretion, what.

-Justin
Ron wrote to me as well but I couldn't tell if he was trying to say more than what he was saying, if you follow me. And I didn't want to betray Sally Anne so I didn't ask him anything, but if you're writing me now, then I suppose what I've guessed must be true and you're a part of the same group as Sally Anne, and so is Ron. I've been wondering who else is a part of it and so far I've come up with Pansy, because obviously, and probably Ron's brothers, the twins. And then I thought perhaps Harry and Hydra, as well. Those are the only ones I'm quite sure of.

What Sally Anne told me was enough for me to gather that you are all quite serious and much more far-reaching than the galleon group.

She said that I could be useful but I'm still not sure I believe it.

But then I really don't enjoy only half-knowing what's going on, so I suppose I must either decide that I want to know everything, or that I'd rather know nothing.

Daphne,

Like Sally-Anne, I can't divulge or confirm the names of anyone else without express permission, so for the moment you'll have to make your own conclusions, what.

But I can confirm that the group is more far-reaching than the Galleoneers, yes.

I do agree that you could be useful, if you wished to be. As far as I personally am concerned, however, that's your choice. But what's more important is that you choose to do so as a result of coming to embrace the sorts values we are trying to instill, what, which involve common decency and equality and freedom, and not putting ourselves at the mercy of tyrants, madmen or sadists.

The more people become convinced that things must change, that the sorts of things that happened to Fawcett, or Draco or Mr
Malfoy, are gross injustices, what, the more likely we shall be able to bally well make a difference in the world.

-Justin

alt_daphne at 2014-06-30 03:38:23
(no subject)

Well, Ron's just confirmed. So now I know I was right about him.

You're speaking of decency and equality for everyone, then, regardless of blood purity?

My Father's a camp administrator, you know. Fradswell. It's mostly muggles and very few muggleborn. Quite a few are used for field labour, so he keeps them as healthy as he's able, with what he's allowed. His father was a famous playwright - Charles Slate - and Grandmother's second husband. Charles was struck by a... muggle vehicle, of some kind, and the muggles took them to their version of hospital, and because they didn't have magic, they couldn't save him. My father was only five when that happened, but I don't think he ever forgave the muggles for not being able to save Charles.

But then Grandmother likes to say that it was Charles own fault because he was a drunkard and liked to go on the raz at muggle pubs and pull muggle girls. He was drunk when the muggle vehicle hit him, you see.

And Grandmother's always been quite bohemian and she thinks the Protectorate is "boringly fascist" and so she stays in Brighton, where Father hopes she'll stay out of trouble. She lets me listen to muggle music and read muggle books and things when I visit, though. Oh! And she had an affair with a famous muggle actor, when she was younger. His name was Alec Guinness. I don't suppose you'll have heard of him.

I think I always wanted to be an actress because it seemed like the safest way to imagine that life was sweet for everyone. Because even in a play or a musical, if there's tragedy, at least there's meaning to it.

I don't know if any of that says anything about my values, or beliefs. But I'd like it if people could do what they wanted to be
happy, so long as it didn't hurt anyone else. I think Sally Anne should be able to live with both of her parents and have a career in any of the number of things she excels at, for example.

And I think Draco should be able to love whoever he wants to, even if she's a muggleborn. I'd say that I think that muggleborns should be allowed to do magic, but... well, only I'm a little afraid that they might try to hurt me if they could do magic. Because I'm pureblooded and they might think that I represent the people who enslave them...and I sort of do, seeing as my Father's a camp administrator. But that's probably silly. If someone like horrible Carrow is allowed to do magic, then anyone ought to be, honestly.

I don't understand why you mention what happened to Mr Malfoy. He's a councilwizard, isn't he? Don't tell me that both he AND Draco were a part of your group!

Well, in France, Muggleborns can use magic and they haven't attacked purebloods as a matter of course. I can see why one might worry that if they all suddenly were given wands, there might be retaliation, what, but on the whole I believe it would be better to teach them than to enslave them. Or to enslave Muggles, if you follow me. Had you read the Grim Truth about slavery? It was a jolly long time ago but I read back through them when I first got my journal. I say, England abolished the practice over a hundred years ago and then the Protectorate started all over again.

I've heard of Sir Alec Guinness, yes. He was in many films and I'd seen several before I came here. I say, I don't think it should be considered so distasteful to listen to Muggle music or learn how Muggles get along. We've loads to teach them but they've done loads of things over the centuries that are useful to us, too, what.

But...no, Mr Malfoy wasn't part of the organisation at all. What I meant about him was that, as it doesn't seem he'd done anything to harm the Protectorate, his imprisonment is likely someone else's frameup, what, and as much as he might deserve to be held accountable for his part in creating the Protectorate, it doesn't seem quite fair for the Lord Protector to lock him up when he's done nothing wrong. Just as it was dashed poor form for the Lord
Protector to force or coerce all those wizards to duel in the Frost Faire, or for Madam Umbridge to send the whole Fleet family to their deaths because of one or two harmless complaints.

I'm sure you've seen at closer range than most that the Council aren't safe from the Lord Protector, that even they have to cope with the whims of whatever mood he might take at any given moment. If that's what's happened to Mr Malfoy, and it bally well seems as if it has, what, then regardless of one's opinion of him, what happened is an injustice.

-Justin
It was lovely to see you yesterday. (You, too, Frank, but it's Mr Creevey I'm chiefly addressing here.)

And I was not only impressed, but most interested in the drawings you shared with me. Your eye for portraits is truly remarkable. And your choice of moments that capture the personality and depth of character--most insightful. The men in Saltash who worked digging out those tunnels. That whole series is really striking.

Here, such as it is, a sample of my recent sketching. This is the proud gentleman I told you about at Blithfield Hall. Proud to be a Bagot, this one!
(Likewise, Madame P! He does look like a venerable old chap. King of the Bagot Goats.

Goat eyes are quite odd, aren't they?

I did like hearing about your ramble. I might go on one myself, someday.

And thanks. Some of them are quite rough, of course, and I'm still working out how to make things less flat-looking. I've got an art book that has a bunch of charcoal drawings as part of it, and it's just really brilliant to see how a smudge here and a line there can really make something look so alive that you can imagine it moving if you look at it long enough.

I've been trying to draw the centaur, Firenze, but it's from memory and I can't get any of the proportions right. I don't think he'd be amenable to sitting for a portrait session, either. Or standing. You know.)

Oh, my. No, I don't imagine a Centaur would consent to sitting a portrait. I wonder, actually... It strikes me that they might have objections to having images made of them. A belief that images have a power that compromises their own in some way. That is not to say that you oughtn't to draw what you remember seeing, only to say that you might refrain from mentioning it to any of them. Awfully particular, Centaurs.

I quite agree about goats' eyes. Sometimes I find them unsettling, the way they look at you out of slits, as it were. But they can be most expressive, despite that, and I do believe that what seems queer about them is a matter of my holding a prejudice. Too many childhood tales made them out to be devilish, you know, when the truth is they are no more likely to be sweet or evil tempered, mischievous or amenable, stubborn or energetic than you or I.

I'm hardly one to look askance at quick sketching, or at leaving
some work in a rough state while finishing other pieces. You have a gift and it develops only by using it. I quite enjoyed seeing the way you see things with your pencil and your fingers. A flick here, a stroke there, quick hatching to show shadow or a blur of movement. You're learning all those things.

You had one of a woman. Before the Saltash pictures, I think. She was frowning and nearly three-quarters in shadow. Making a decision, I thought. One that mattered a great deal. That was just a quick sketch, but you captured so much in those few marks on the page.

alt_frank at 2014-06-30 03:21:11
(no subject)

(Oh. That one. It's a drawing of my mum. I have a portrait of her and dad, but sometimes I like to draw her doing other stuff, just so you know. Anyways.

You're right. The centaurs may get tricky about it. I'll certainly keep that in mind. I'd hate to give offence. Especially since he seems to be the one we get along with best, hey?

Ragnik can get touchy about odd things. Like food. But he mostly tries to do whatever Melli does, to show respect, and it took us ages to sort out that he found it really uncomfortable when he had to serve himself at dinner, because he wasn't sure how much he ought to take and we'd just go in any old order instead of by rank. But now Melli makes sure she serves herself before him, and that helps.)

alt_poppy at 2014-06-30 03:38:16
(no subject)

Oh, that's lovely to know--that the picture I admired was of your mother. I think we learn things about the creatures-or people-that we draw, and I like your idea of drawing her doing different things.
I've only met one or two of the Centaurs, and I'm not certain whether I've been introduced to Firenze or not. He sounds a bit more approachable than most.

You're learning important things about forging connections with other beings. Have you considered that you might have the makings of an ambassador? I hope one day we'll need to find people with those skills to serve in a Ministry very different from today's.

@alt_frank at 2014-06-30 04:04:00
(no subject)

(Mrs L asks us to imagine what we want the future to be like all the time.

I don't know that I've ever imagined myself as an ambassador before.

Thinking about a future where there's a Ministry who wants me to work for them, and who'd want to work with the goblins and centaurs and so on like we've been doing, well, it's sort of like Sally-Anne's aeroplane, isn't it? hard to picture, and sort of fantastically unreal, but worth aiming towards.)
So I had a chance to talk to a few people and get their permission. Pansy, Harry, Ron and Justin are all part of the same group and said I could tell you. You probably guessed or suspected all of those. I saw Justin sent you a private message of his own yesterday so hopefully he said something, it sounded like he was going to, when we talked. (And Ron, well, I guess he sent you a message a few days ago but if it didn't make any sense that's because his internship is leaving him exhausted. All he's doing most days after he gets home is eating and sleeping.)

Pansy and Harry are also both willing to talk to you but Pansy didn't want to send the first message, she was afraid she'd bollocks it up and make you cross.

Anyway you asked about people who were more like you -- not children of councilwizards but also not fostered half-bloods. So, I got permission to tell you about someone you probably didn't suspect, Jeremy Stretton. Jeremy's a pureblood and his family isn't as fancy as yours but they're hardly Weasleys either, they're quite respectable. They own an enormous set of farms and factories near Coventry and keep loads of muggles to work on them. He'd also talk to you I think but you might want to meet in person -- they can't read our PMs right now but they can certainly see who we're writing to and since you don't know him, someone might think it was odd.

We probably don't have a whole lot longer we can write in PMs like this. I was told it's safe now but we don't know exactly when it'll stop being safe. So if you want to meet in person to talk instead, you could come over to Pansy's (that's where I'm living now) or to Ron and Justin's flat.

Alright. I can't keep track of what I've asked, and to who. And I think I'd rather talk in person, so I can see people's faces and hear their voices.
When can we meet?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-07-01 03:16:20
(no subject)

When are you free? Would you be free in the evening tomorrow, or some other day this week?

alt_daphne at 2014-07-01 03:48:29
(no subject)

I'm free tomorrow evening.

alt_sally_anne at 2014-07-01 03:59:53
(no subject)

Okay. Why don't you come over.

Do you want Ron and Justin to come over, too? (If they can, I mean.) Is there anyone else you'd like to talk to?

alt_daphne at 2014-07-01 14:48:23
(no subject)

Whoever wants to be there is fine. But Ron and Justin have both been writing me so they might want to be there, I suppose?

8 o'clock?

alt_sally_anne at 2014-07-01 22:44:01
(no subject)

I'll be there. I'll see about Ron and Justin.
Order Only: Private Message to Sally-Anne and Hydra

I'm not sure how to do this, so I wondered if you could help.

Have either of you talked to Tim Clark before? Remember, he's one of the muggleborns who escaped at the Quidditch World Cup and now he lives at Sherwood with Sarah and Terry and Dudley and the others. Only I suppose not Terry soon, if he's going to go off with a Zulu company. Anyway, he's quite nice and really very fit, at least I think so, and he was at the Order meeting Saturday because he used to live at Moddey before he moved out to Sherwood and I talked with him there a bit, and I don't know if you noticed but we talked on Saturday too and then he wrote to me yesterday because he said he went straight to Mrs L to ask to be sworn in to the Order and then he wrote to me to tell me he'd done that specifically so that he could write to me and--and I think he fancies me and I think I just might fancy him back but I'm not sure because I've never really fancied anyone who was actually someone I ever could fancy, I mean not really, and I don't want Draco or Terry getting upset about it and how do you do this?

I mean, I want to write back to him but they'll see the message header. And with the way things are with Draco right now, I mean, he's really leaning on me a lot and I know he'll improve and it's not that I don't want to be supportive, I really do, I want to stick with him and we've even got a plan and we've talked to Sirius and he thinks it will be a good thing to do, and very helpful, so I'm really happy we have that to work on, but I don't want to upset him right now or make him think I'm going to abandon him. And Harry, I know you're spending loads of time with him, Hydra, but I could see how lonely he looked at the Order meeting on Saturday and I want to make sure he knows I still care about him.

Only. With Tim it's different. I mean, we don't really have a history together. And yes, he's a muggleborn but it's not as if that's the only thing we have in common, either.

Did I mention he's really quite fit?
Oh, bollocks. It'll never work, will it? I mean, he shares a tent with Dudley and Finbar and he's mates with Terry and I just don't think I can hurt Terry like that. Not right now, certainly. I mean, it would be different if it weren't someone he knows well, like that. Wouldn't it?

How do you lot ever manage to date different people at school? It's hopelessly complicated. I think I was better off not ever thinking about anyone like that. Maybe I'll just tell him we can only write to one another if we're just going to be mates, nothing else.

---

[@alt_sally_anne](#) at 2014-06-30 19:33:18
*(no subject)*

I don't think Tim and I have ever talked but I do know who he is and he is QUITE fit.

Anyway I'm not sure I'm a great person to ask for advice, I mean I dated Michael Corner because it was so nice having someone interested in me but he got cross about how I was still good friends with Ron and I got cross at him for being cross but to be honest he was probably right, you know? Things are still a bit awkward with Michael. Not awful, but awkward. It didn't help that I had loads of secrets from him.

So really if the question is 'how do I date someone without making things all awkward with other boys' I have no idea (but also I haven't had very many boys interested in me so...)

But, okay. The problems here are Terry, and Draco? I don't think you ought to worry about Terry. I mean he's moving companies, right? so he won't be rooming with Clark anymore. And it's not like Terry has any claim on you, I know you don't want to hurt him but he needs to pull himself together and realise it wasn't ever really you he was in love with, it was this made-up person he had in his head that shared you name and your face but wasn't actually you, and I think he found that person super comforting but it doesn't mean you have to take a vow of celibacy and never date anyone because then Terry would know for good and all that nothing was ever going to happen between you.

I can understand being more worried about Draco because you're LIVING with Draco so if it's awkward, it'll be awkward every day. All day. Every time you sit down together.
But you know, Draco got to have a relationship with Pansy and he got to have one with Daphne and I'd say it's your turn and he ought to suck it up. But that's easy for me to say as I don't have to see him over my breakfast tea.

Is that helpful? I don't think it is, probably. I'm a terrible person to ask for advice. Did you know that even though I kissed him before we went off to Mysteries I STILL had to sit Ron down and tell him that I was interested in him, for real, before he started seeing me? He was SO THICK.

Draco really really liked Pansy, and I think he even really liked Daphne. And he had a thing with Sam Montgomery, too.

Also I can't imagine that he's thinking about romance at all right now. I mean, I wouldn't be. He looks like he's barely thinking about eating, or sleeping.

I mean, I really don't think she should be worried at all, because it's her life. But I can understand why you would be, Hermione.

I don't know if he's ever looked at another girl.

But if he hasn't, it's high time he started, anyway, and if Hermione starts seeing another boy maybe he'll realise that?

Anyway Hermione can't spend the rest of her life not even
WRITING to boys she likes because what if Terry's feelings get hurt. (Imagine if Terry realised THAT.)

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-30 19:40:43  
(no subject)

Although, things weren't at all awkward with Viktor! (Except for the gossip magazines being cruel.)

But, he left the Protectorate. It's hard for things to stay awkward when the person they could be awkward with isn't even inside the wards.

@alt_sally_anne at 2014-06-30 19:44:13  
(no subject)

At the very least, Hermione, you should certainly feel like you can WRITE BACK to Tim Clark without having to make excuses to either Terry or Draco. And just see where things go.

He probably does fancy you. But you won't be seeing each other every day anyway so try writing. Maybe he'll be incredibly irritating once you get to know him and the whole thing won't even matter.

But you have a right to make new friends without worrying that it will make other people anxious!

@alt_hydra at 2014-06-30 21:46:10  
(no subject)

I haven't dated different people. Harry and I are friends and we have an arrangement, but I've only ever dated Justin. That doesn't necessarily make things easier, though. I am quite sure that Justin sometimes feels jealous, even if he knows that what Harry and I have is an arrangement and not true love.

You don't owe Draco or Terry anything other than your friendship, which you've already given them, and will continue to do so, I assume. And I don't know about Terry but I don't think Draco has ever asked for more, has he? He knows you're not interested, yes? And while he might be hoping that changes, someday, I don't know...
I have a feeling Terry might be hoping for it more.

It's bound to hurt because these things do, even when the other person is understanding about it. But you know, I'm not sure much could compare to what Draco's already been through. Or Terry, for that matter.

You're not going to heal either of them by staying with them, either - nor will you heal them by not getting to know other boys.
ORDER ONLY: Private message to Tonks

I still can't get over the idea that the whole mad scheme actually did something. Well, I mean, we don't know yet if it did what Dumbledore thought it might do magically, but Agrippa's sword and Merlin's staff, WE MADE A PERSON. Or are making a person! Or, well, you're making the person, I'm just standing here and cheering you on, but you know what I mean.

I'll repeat what I said when you told me: whatever you need or want me to do, yeah? I won't hover, but just say the word. I've told Dree and Em -- they both say congratulations and best of luck, by the way -- and they both told me I should also tell you to order me around as much as you want.

And Snape pulled me aside after the meeting and said there's a potion that will help even more with the nausea and used to be prescribed for pregnant witches because it helps strengthen the baby's magic, but it's not used as much anymore because it requires fluxweed, plus dragon scales harvested from a living dragon under the light of a waxing moon. I've sent him the scales, and he said that since he isn't using so much of the fluxweed in his Polyjuice, he should be able to harvest some for this. At least if you're going to be making a person, you've got a potions master at hand to brew for you! (Em said he'd offer, too, but he's not as good with the medicinals, so you'd be better off with the St M's potioneers. I didn't tell him we had wanted fugitives doing our brewing instead.)

It is mad, isn't it?

And mad how as soon as I knew I was knocked up I started to feel ill, but not before. Frankly, I'd have been as happy to go on not realising!

I've been reading back in my journal, as you do when something like this happens. I see that two and a half months before the end, I was swearing I'd never have another one--so there's something to look forward to! And I can tell you I had loads more time for writing
entries that were meant to make people think the Ponds were a slightly dim couple of nice, normal people running a rather hopeless little shop in a slow part of town. Can't say I miss giving Farty chances to pop in and say horrible things to me. But it made me realise that I used to keep in touch a bit with Aunt Narcissa, and I hadn't even thought about writing her in all this. I suppose I should do.

That won't be half awkward.

Ugh, yes, it will be. Still, it might be good to keep those lines open a bit? If we turn out to think of something we can do to help, I mean, it might be better if she's used to thinking about you again.

(I still can't get over the thought that we've been spending so much time working out ways to save Lucius-sodding-Malfoy from the consequences of his choices. But I know better than to say that. And I guess if we're supposed to be the good guys, that means we're supposed to save as many people as possible from Voldemort even if that means saving people we'd rather see hang. But I digress.)

I promise that in six months or so when you're cursing everything and everyone, I will hunt down Dumbledore and bring him by so you can hex his bits. It can be my Christmas present to you!

Yes, I've been poking at what to say. I'll get something written to her this afternoon. I suppose it won't say much more than, 'Dear Auntie N, so sorry for your loss'.

(I'm not sure how I feel about all that. To be honest, I've been thinking about myself so much that I really didn't have any thoughts about it until the meeting. And then, well, the other thing I read when I was looking back in my journal was how we went that winter to see the public display of 'Sirius's body' at Buckingham, and what really struck me when I got there was that the body belonged to somebody. Somebody they'd killed and
transfigured and stuck in that box. Somebody with family who'd never know what became of him (or her--it could've been a her).

And I wrote that, and we talked about how appalling it was that Voldemort or the Ministry or whoever would have done that. Sirius said he hoped they'd picked a body out of the morgue, but we knew it could as easily have been someone they just picked at random and murdered.

You see where my thoughts are taking me, don't you?

Ian Flynn was a horrible git. You remember him, don't you? But I looked up his obituary. There was one. He has two children. A toddler and a baby--boy and a girl. And a wife. And parents. And a sister. I'd forgotten about her. She wasn't a bad sort, you know? Younger than we are a few years in my House.

Anywiz, the thing is it's not simple. Except for the part where we're the ones killing people now to make fake corpses of them.)

Oh, do bring Dumbledore round when I get so I can't stand it. Wait till I'm big as an erumpent and bumping into doorways and having to use the loo every six minutes. I'll be looking for people to hex!

alt_charlie at 2014-06-30 21:47:06
(no subject)

I remember that. I remember being so glad that all happened while I was still low man on the roster and couldn't get free to go show loyal. I don't think I thought much about who the body was, but you're right, it was ultimately the same thing, wasn't it?

I do remember Flynn. He was miserable -- I said on the post about the minutes, do you remember Hillary Bradley? She was a firstie when we were fourth-years. Little mousy thing back then, so scared of her own shadow we all kept wondering why she'd Sorted Gryffindor. Except it wasn't that she was timid, it was that Flynn tormented her, and did it in a really nasty way that made her think she was imagining everything. And he was awful to us, too -- I had to learn warding right quick to make sure he didn't mess with my trunk when I wasn't in the dorm.

But -- yeah, you're right, I guess. He had people who loved him.
And for all that I'm not surprised he only got worse when he got a bit of power, and for all that the world may very well be (is probably) better off without him in it, it's hard to think about it too closely, that we're in the business of playing judge and jury and deciding who lives and who dies, now. I mean, there has to be a way to handle the sort of people who are awful like that and dangerous to others and part of the worst parts of this whole regime, but what gives us the right?

I won't lose sleep over him and I'm glad the people in that camp don't have to deal with him lording it over them anymore, but I worry about deciding it's too easy and doing it again and again. Especially since there are plenty of people in the Order who are willing to break the eggs to make the omelette, you know? Ugh. Too much to think about.

If you want someone to look over what you're going to write to Narcissa, I'll do it if you want. And let's make a deal right now, when you get to the point of wanting to hex everyone in the world, I'll go out and find you people to hex in exchange for not being a target myself!

That's a bargain made. I can't imagine I'll be wanting to hex you. But then, I did get shouty with Remus more than once or twice, so who knows. I'm a perfect lamb until I'm not.

So to Narcissa, I've just written:

Dear Aunt Narcissa, I want you to know that I am very sorry for your loss. I can only imagine how terrible it must be to lose a child. So, so terrible. And when I read of Mr Malfoy's being sent away--truly, my thoughts are with you. If there is any way Junius or I could be of help, please let me know. With sympathy, Nymphadora.

Does that last bit sound as false to you as it does to me? But it's what one's meant to say, isn't it?

Should we send a hamper, do you think? Actually, no. I can't
even think about what would go in it.

@alt_charlie at 2014-06-30 23:40:46
(no subject)

I think it sounds lovely, actually. A bit formal, but not too stilted. Maybe take out the "So, so terrible", though, that sentence does sound a little like you're overdoing it, and change "being sent away" to something a bit more euphemistic like "Mr Malfoy's misfortune" or some such?

And not a hamper, they're probably drowning in them -- Percy used to talk about the kind of things people used to send the Malfoys for Christmas and I can only imagine it's worse for a death in the family. Maybe check the obituary again? I only glanced at it, but don't people usually say something about where to send donations instead of flowers? Not that Narcissa would care that you sent something, but not sending one would probably be a breech of that pureblood etiquette they care so much about.

And I like you because you're not a perfect lamb, you know. More interesting that way. I was joking about the hexing part, but in all seriousness, if you do feel like getting shouty with someone, or just want a shoulder to lean against or someone to piss and moan to, I will be at your service at any hour of night or day, luv. I've never thought it was right that it takes two to tango but then the woman gets stuck with nine months of baking the baby before it's ready to join the rest of us. I can't do that part, but I can do anything else you need or want me to.

(Merlin's manky underpants, we're making a person. Still can't wrap my head around it. I know you've been down this road before, but it's all new to me!)

@alt_nymphadora at 2014-07-01 03:47:56
(no subject)

Ta. I used all of your ideas.

And I told Remus to look into making a donation. That's just the thing.
(I know, what? We're making a person! And I can't think of anyone I'd rather be doing that with.)

(I mean that.)

Well, I certainly can't think of anybody else who'd be mad enough to do this with me, yeah? Still can't quite believe it, though. I'm sure it'll sink in in another week or two.

And, get this. I don't know what prompted this, but Mum's decided she wants to invite everyone's girlfriends for Sunday supper this week. Namely, Sally-Anne, Pansy, and Rachel, but she also asked me if there was anyone I'd like her to invite, too, because she "doesn't want to make assumptions". Which was very sweet of her. (I didn't have the heart to tell her that if she didn't want to make assumptions, she shouldn't say 'she' by default. I'll have that talk with her one of these days.)

I told her I didn't have anyone I wanted her to add to the guest list, and that she knows me, I'm not the settling down type, which is all true. But we should probably have another talk sometime soonish about what we're going to tell her, and when, and all that.

I don't want to lie to her outright! But I don't mind a bit of misdirection for a bit. And I don't want you to feel like I'm, I don't know, ashamed or something. If you want someone to mother over you, we could tell her any day now, I'll think of some way to do it that won't give her the wrong impression, and you'll have all the mothering you could possibly want. But I don't want to unleash the full force of Mum being Mum on you if that's not what you want, especially not Mum in My First Grandbaby mode. So it's all up to you.

(She did say she'd suspected you were up the duff, not in as many words, though -- said you had "that glow" about you. Have to say she's right, you do look radiant. Or possibly like you're going to crack up at any second. Which is still how I feel.)
... Did you want to tell her, then? I didn't realise...

I thought, maybe... Well, I thought you might not want her thinking of us as a sort of family, you know? When she doesn't know about Em and Dree, at all. Because she couldn't help but have the wrong idea, you know? No matter what you say, really, she'll wish the wrong sorts of things.

Oh, love, that's not it! Well. It is, a bit, but not because I don't want her getting the wrong idea about you in particular, more that I don't want her getting the wrong idea about me and relationships and deciding that just because I'm seeing someone means it's something big and permanent and, well, the kind of thing she and Dad had. I can talk her down from that eventually, though, I'm pretty good at managing Mum's expectations by now, or at least better than I was when I was fifteen.

If you wanted to tell her, I can work out a way to do it. It'd be awkward for a bit, but survivable! And besides, I can just blame Dumbledore. I just don't want you to have to deal with setting all the boundaries you'd probably want to set. If you'd find the full force of Mum wanting to mother you to be comforting, then I'm all for telling her. If you'd find it irritating, we should probably wait a bit. Or not tell her at all.

And if we do that, we'll have to watch what we say, because she's good at spotting things. She wrote to me that she's pretty sure Remus isn't the father, because of how he looked when you announced it. (And was implying that she'd almost wondered if Bill could be the father!) I'll show you the message next time I'm down there.

(Which is looking like it might be tonight, actually, if there isn't any disaster. Touch wood.)
Actually, the more I think about it, the more not telling her at all, ever, doesn't seem like it would work. Especially if Baby gets the bad luck of coming out looking like me, Mum will spot it, and then be horribly hurt that we let her find out by herself. But waiting until Baby's born, that we can justify. Especially by blaming Dumbledore.
**2014-06-30 16:25:00**

*Order Only - Private message to Pansy and Ron*

Have either of you heard anything about the council challenge since Draco ran?

I haven't. At first I thought they were just putting things on hold, but now I'm wondering if, in light of the superstar having turned traitor, and then having turned up dead, they've just forgotten the whole thing?

I thought about asking Mummy, but if they truly have forgotten about the challenge, I don't want to be the one to remind them.

---

**alt_ron** at **2014-06-30 23:01:05**

(no subject)

Yeah. I've seen Montague and Sandoval, but not really to talk to, and neither of them tried to talk to me.

And I haven't heard a thing from Mr Crispin.

But... it seems sort of too good to be true if they've just dropped it. Don't you think?

---

**alt_hydra** at **2014-07-01 14:46:36**

(no subject)

Just once I'd like to see something too good to be true.

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**alt_pansy** at **2014-07-01 17:22:31**

(no subject)

I know what you mean.
2014-06-30 17:43:00
Private Message to A Dolohov and B Lestrange

Just got a summons to Court for tomorrow morning. To bring Narcissa to hear Our Lord's will in the matter of her circumstances. Circumstances. Broome ought to have his quill shoved up his arse.

Dammit.

Damn, Mulciber.

Batya. Will be there in half an hour with a fresh potion and as many lemons as I can find. Then I'll have to go tell Narcissa. Would bring her there, but not if you're still unwell. No use her seeing what's come of your efforts.

Bella. Found anything more about L's negotiations for France? Or the legal-financial manipulations? Did he use Baddock?

Anything to exploit vs. Mulciber?

---

alt_antonin at 2014-06-30 23:26:12
(no subject)

Bring her here: this house will always have sanctuary for family. I can plead overwork for why I do not get out of my armchair.

The lemons would be a great help, though Our Lord wished only to make a point, not incapacitate entirely. I am grateful for His mercy.

---

alt_crouch_jr at 2014-07-01 03:16:00
(no subject)

On our way to Cottesmore now. Trust the shaking has subsided some?

She's taken the news quietly--rather too quietly, I'd say. Be prepared.
Better than it was. Still not gone entirely, but the lemon and potion have helped. I shall sit on my hands to avoid N. noticing.

Will exercise caution; I fear her quiet more than her temper. As all right-thinking wizards do.

Feels rather like the quiet before a storm.

Suggest you might appeal to whichever gods concern themselves with such things that she not channel the spirit of her dead aunt Walburga tomorrow in Court.

Hear her coming down now. Has collected her things.

Be with you shortly.

Ha. Was planning on making the offerings for Draco tonight anyway now that I no longer need to keep vigil over him; will add prayers for N's patience as well. (You are welcome to join me, son of my heart, if you are not otherwise occupied.)

Am in the library. You may want to set cooling charms on your robes; I've the fire at full blast.
It's summer...but it's different

Ginny is the only one living at home, now. I am glad that I cut back just a little on the garden this year. Not too much, because I still intend to can, and part of my crop can be used in trade.

The gnomes in the garden are becoming ridiculously cheeky, since I don't have as much regular help with de-gnoming. Why, one of the little blighters had the effrontery to...to MOON me on my way to the henhouse this morning! Ginny is excellent with the bees, of course, but Fred and George were the best at clearing out the garden quickly, of both weeds and gnomes.

The whole Burrow has a different feel this summer. The ghoul is almost puzzled not to have an audience. Ron always used to bang on the wall if he grew too loud. The dining table seems so quiet with just Ginny and me, compared to the racket of years past. Of course, it's pleasant to have a comfortable cose with my daughter without being interrupted by jokes about bodily functions--and at the dinner table, mind you! And there aren't nearly as many arguments about whose turn it is to spellwash the dishes. Still, I almost miss the uproar, at least sometimes.

Order Only: Private message to Ronald Weasley

I've been thinking, Ron...I'd like to expand the family circle a bit. Would Sally-Anne perhaps like to come to dinner this Sunday? I know she's very busy, so it might not be possible, but I'm very curious to hear all about her internship, and if she likes, I can pass along any notes she has to Poppy.

Hi, Mum.

I'll ask her. I know she'll want to come. She always says your cooking’s the best she’s ever had.
Only, um. D'you think you could ask Pansy, too? I think she might feel really left out if Sally Anne came and we didn't ask her. It's just that she sort of needs to be with friends right now, and it'd be nice. I mean, I understand if you think that's too many people for Sunday dinner, but it might make a difference for Sally Anne.

What sort of pie do you think you'll make this time?

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**alt_molly at 2014-07-01 02:59:58**  
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ronald Weasley

Why, asking Pansy's a fine idea, I think. I'd be happy to do that, if she's willing to come. I'm sure Fred and George would be happy to have her there.

How about a cherry pie? The cherries are just coming ripe in the orchard.

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**alt_ron at 2014-07-01 04:03:51**  
Re: Order Only: Private message to Ronald Weasley

Brilliant!

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**alt_molly at 2014-07-01 01:04:19**  
Order Only: Private message to Bill Weasley

I have been thinking very hard since you pulled me aside at the meeting after I said, er, what I said to Rachel.

I've always of myself of being...oh, you know. A kind person. Bill, I came home from the meeting and I had trouble sleeping. Really, I was quite ashamed of myself. You're absolutely right, she is the best one to watch Ron's back. It's foolish to snub her for that reason alone, but when you told me that you love your heart is engaged...well. You were raised by Arthur Weasley as well as me, dear, and if YOU see something worthwhile in her, I'll have to trust that it's there. Perhaps if I just learn to know her better, I'll be less prickly.

So I am sorry, dear. I'm very sorry for what I said.
While I appreciate this, Mum, it's not me who needs to hear your apology. It's Rachel.

You're right. And that's why I'd like to invite her to dinner at the Burrow next Sunday. I've asked Ron to bring Sally-Anne, and I'll ask George to bring Pansy. (I almost dropped my teeth at that! Well, I know they've been running a business together, but it wasn't until the meeting that I clearly saw he fancies her!)

Knocking off all the obligations to the girlfriends at once?

Oh, dear. I suppose that's what I'm doing, but I don't want to make it uncomfortable for any of them. I just thought they all might talk more easily in a larger group, without feeling they're being individually put on the spot. Rachel could talk with Pansy and George and Fred about the products they're developing, and how they could be used in Order Defence, and she could talk with Ron about the Internship. Sally-Anne and Pansy are friends, of course, and, well...I just hoped to make it low-key, you know.

Do you think she would come if I invited her? Perhaps you might sound her out beforehand. Well, warn her, I suppose. I'm not sure she's felt much more warmly toward me than I have toward her.

Bill. Are you sure about her, dear? Are you really sure?
Mum, I didn't really intend to use the, uh, 'L' word about her when I was talking to you. It just slipped out. I haven't even told her yet.

But you meant it?

Yes. Yes, I did.

Yes, I do. I love her, Mum.

Don't know how she'll react if and when I casually mention that little fact.

Well, I certainly won't let it slip.

But it makes me all the more determined to extend the invitation. I'll send an owl on Wednesday.

Boys,

I think it would be lovely if we invited Pansy to join us this coming Sunday for dinner. We can talk about the fall line you're planning. I've invited a few others besides just family members:
Sally-Anne and Rachel Brodie. I'm sure their comments on your products would be insightful. Oh, and come to think of it, I should see if Charlie wants to bring a guest.

If you have no objection, I'll send Pansy a personal invitation by owl on Wednesday or so.

---

**alt_george** at 2014-07-01 01:45:18
Re: Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

Dunno what Pansy will say. She's feeling rather down right now with some of the latest news. But I'll ask her it's okay. I think it might be a good idea.

(Oh, and a bit of advice about the gnomes. If you moon them back, I guarantee they'll never try it again.)

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**alt_molly** at 2014-07-01 13:23:56
Re: Order Only: Private message to Fred and George Weasley

George!

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**alt_molly** at 2014-07-01 01:34:05
Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Charlie, I'm thinking of expanding our family circle a bit for Sunday's dinner. Well, actually, I'm thinking of inviting some particular individuals. Particular individuals of the female persuasion, who might especially enjoy the company of your respective brothers. I suppose you won't be surprised if I tell you the names: Rachel Brodie, Sally-Anne Perks, and Pansy Parkinson.

I don't like to make assumptions...is there anyone you would like me to invite, too, for you? If there is someone, and you think she would be interested, let me know. I expect I'll be sending owl invitations out on Wednesday.

(My, that was a long Order meeting, wasn't it? I was simply thrilled
to hear Cecelia and Scott's news. Tonks was more of a surprise, although I had *suspected*. She just had that glow about her.)

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**alt_charlie** at 2014-07-01 03:33:17  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

Thanks, Mum. That'll be nice, to have everyone for supper. I'll do everything I can to be able to be there too.

And no, I don't have anyone I'd like to add to the guest list! You know me -- I'm not the settling down type, never have been. And there's way too much going on in my life to have time. But thanks -- and it'll be nice to have the girls at supper. (Well. The girls and Rachel, she's a bit too old to be one of 'the girls'.)

Tonks and Celia both looked so happy, didn't they? It was nice to have a bit of good news in the middle of all that. I wonder how Sally-Anne really feels about having a new baby brother or sister on the way!

---

**alt_molly** at 2014-07-01 12:13:57  
*Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley*

That's true about Sally-Anne. Perhaps I can sound her out a little about that. I hope she isn't hurt or jealous or anything.

As for Rachel not being quite 'one of the girls,' that was one of the reasons I half-hoped you might have someone you'd like to invite, too. I...I'm afraid I haven't been particular friendly to Auror Brodie, but I would very much like her to feel welcome this time. It seems quite important to Bill. Another woman closer to her age would have helped.

You know, it's funny--you'll laugh. I was wondering who the father of Tonks' baby might be last night. I mean, she didn't say 'Remus and I are expecting,' she said I'M expecting a baby, too.' And Remus seemed happy, along with the rest of us, but I don't know...I thought he was very attached to Sirius now. And...well, the thing is, I've suspected once or twice that Bill might have had bit of a yen for Tonks. For a while, at least. And the thought crossed my mind to wonder...
Oh, no, it's impossible, isn't it? He's with Rachel now. **Worse luck**

Humph.

Well, I hope that all your brothers don't decide they're not the 'settling down type,' like you.

If they do, I'll *never* have grand babies.

---

**alt_charlie** at 2014-07-02 00:11:47
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Well, you wouldn't want me bringing anyone who isn't in the Order, anyway, even if I were seriously involved with someone. And the only other woman Rachel's age in the Order is Tonks, and ... that would be more than a bit awkward, they didn't get on at school at all, and I don't think they're really all that eager to do all the work they'll need to do to figure out how much of that was both of them trying to play what the Protectorate wanted and how much was their actual personalities.

I'll do what I can to make her feel at ease, though. Don't worry about that.

Although... just a tip, Mum? Don't mention grandchildren. At all. To Rachel or to Bill!

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**alt_molly** at 2014-07-02 01:00:20
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I won't, I promise. It wouldn't be wise at all, I expect. She does seem very focused on her career, after all, and who knows how things really are between the two of them. The last thing I want to do is to cause either one embarrassment.

And I certainly don't want grand babies from Sally-Anne or Pansy, or at least not for a good long while! They're much too young.
Well, I'll keep my lip buttoned. And if it gets really bad, I'll just go to the nursery at Moddey Dhoo and rock the babies there.

@alt_molly at 2014-07-02 01:09:01
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

But do tell me this, Charlie: I know Bill is close to you. I'm not asking you to betray any confidences, but do you think he is truly serious about her?

I just don't understand it, I suppose. She seems like such a...such a hardened young woman. I suppose she had to be, with the work that she does.

What worries me is the strain Bill's been under this past year, and whether it's affected his judgement. Working for Corax Mulciber would drive anyone around the twist, I think.

How I wish Arthur was here to give him advice. I think Bill would have welcomed it.

What I really want to know is, is she good for him? Does she bring out the best in him? If she does, well...I'll do my very best to mend fences and mind my tongue around her.

@alt_charlie at 2014-07-02 02:31:01
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

She's definitely good for him. She cuts straight through the -- well, you know how Bill gets, that thing where once he gets in a mood he'll practically disappear up his own arse backside fretting over things? She's great at cutting through that. Which, well, that's the thing I'd say he most needed, so I'm glad to see it.

And most of the younger members of the Order were raised by wolves, Mum. Or by people who were genuinely buying into the Protectorate propaganda, which is close enough. You're holding it against her where you wouldn't hold it against others, because she's dating Bill, but honestly, we aren't
exactly anywhere to go for stable and well-adjusted folks. Not everybody's parents raised them like you and Dad raised us.

**alt_molly** at 2014-07-02 05:45:59  
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

Thank you, Charlie. I'm very grateful for your opinion. You are really the closest to him since your dear father died, and...well, young men don't always tell everything to their old Mums. Which is at it should be; it's all a part of growing up. I was quite concerned because he said something the other day that made it clear she could hurt him very badly, if she were inclined to do so. But I'm reassured by what you've said.

I hope she accepts the invitation, and I'll do everything I can to make her feel welcome.

**alt_charlie** at 2014-07-02 06:03:58  
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

You know, sometimes I think everyone we're in love with, even a little bit, even not the romantic kind of love, can hurt us badly. It's a wonder we allow ourselves to reach out to people at all, really.

But Bill was so lonely, and so worried about trying to date someone who wasn't in the Order, and even if the two of them don't last together Rachel has shown him that it's not all hopeless for him. And I'd like her for that even if I couldn't stand to be in the same room as her, you know?

But I do like her. And I hope you'll give her a chance.

**alt_molly** at 2014-07-03 00:46:29  
Re: Order Only: Private message to Charlie Weasley

I will.